

# Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 41 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## GARRETT FAMILY PRESERVE OPENS TO PUBLIC

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# Partisan vote derails new police station in Lower

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Following more than two hours of testimony from professionals and pro and con opinions from the public Monday, a resolution to move forward to build a new police station in Villas failed 3-2 with the vote falling along party lines.

Republican councilmen Erik Simonsen and Tom Conrad cast “no” votes, derailing the project, while Mayor Mike Beck, Deputy Mayor Norris Clark and Councilman James Neville,

all independents, voted for the project.

Beck said the resolution could be passed with positive votes from three councilmen but the township would not move forward without four votes since expenses would be incurred requiring a bond ordinance.

“There’s no sense moving forward with a bond ordinance and charging the township for a situation that we’re not going to move forward with unless we have the fourth vote,” Beck said.

On Sept. 15, a move to dissolve the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority also was defeated by council

in a 3-2 vote along party lines.

On Monday night, Simonsen made a motion to amend the police station resolution before it could be voted upon, with Conrad offering a second. He produced a copy of Robert’s Rule of Order marked in the chapter pertaining to amending a resolution on the floor. Township Solicitor Ron Gelzunas requested a brief adjournment.

When the meeting reopened, Simonsen read the proposed amendment. It stated that information was not yet available on: final cost figures for construction of a new police station,

final number and configuration of parking spaces, final approval from the administrative office of the courts to move municipal court to Villas and final placement and cost of a dispatch center.

The amendment stated the possibility of entering into a shared-services agreement with the county for renovation of the existing public safety building at the airport, as the county is considering moving the office of emergency management to that location. The amendment failed in a 3-2 vote along party lines, with Beck, Clark

and Neville casting “no” votes.

Council then voted on the original resolution to move forward with the police station, which fell in a 3-2 vote, with Simonsen and Conrad voting against it.

Earlier in the meeting, Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana endorsed building a new police station next to the township complex in Villas. Township Manager Mike Voll showed photos of water stains on ceiling tiles and mold growing on air condition-

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# Sea Glass Festival too crowded for Convention Hall

Patrons forced to wait in line outside until others leave site

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The North American Sea Glass Festival on Sept. 27-28 at Convention Hall drew such large crowds that patrons had to line up on the Promenade to wait to enter the building to avoid filling the hall beyond allowable fire code limits.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the event saw capacity crowds both days from the time doors opened at 10 a.m. until nearly the end of the day.

“At some point, like any other building, there is a capacity limitation for fire code and on Saturday morning, early on, there was some concern we had reached our allowable fire code capacity,” he said. “We did have some review in conjunction with the state Fire Marshal as well as our fire department and Convention Hall staff, and we did come to some agreement on the level of crowds’ allowable maximum occupancy for the building based on the number of exhibitors and exhibit space that was occupied.”

MacLeod said once a maximum occupancy was estab-

lished, a system was set up for when Convention Hall was filled to capacity. When 20 patrons exited the building, a group of 20 were allowed to enter the building. He said all day Sept. 27 and until about 3 p.m. Sept. 28, patrons were waiting in a line outside. The wait sometimes reached 45 to 50 minutes, he said.

The city estimated close to 3,500 patrons entered Convention Hall Sept. 27 and about 2,500, Sept. 28, MacLeod said.

The event was the ninth annual Sea Glass Festival and the first time it was held in Cape May. MacLeod said the event has been held in various locations in its history.

Valerie Weston, vice president of the North American Sea Glass Association, said beautiful weather and the fact so many want to visit Cape May as a destination combined to produce a larger than anticipated crowd, especially Sept. 27. She said after 1 p.m., waiting time to enter the hall was reduced to about 20 minutes.

“The last two or three festivals had only had about 2,500 guests total over the weekend.”

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# Slow gallop into autumn in Cape May



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Dot Kruysman drives a Cape May Carriage pulled by Tootsie on Oct. 3 on Hughes Street in Cape May. Mild weather has kept trees green and visitors coming to the city late in the week and on weekends.

# Assembly panel advances measure promoting breweries and wineries

TRENTON — A bipartisan resolution sponsored by Assemblyman Sam Fioocchi, R-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, to promote the state’s winery and brewery industry and patronage of local restaurants cleared the Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee last week.

“This is about promoting a major growth industry and encouraging tourists to enjoy all New Jersey’s wineries and breweries have to offer,” Fioocchi said. “It’s about economic

development and putting New Jersey first. This is a win all around.”

The measure, AJR-80, designates the second full week in May as “New Jersey Beer, Wine and Spirits Week” and the last Wednesday as “New Jersey Restaurant Day.”

“The greatest challenge facing the industry is getting these products noticed by consumers,” Fioocchi said. “The craft brewing industry and our wine producers compliment many of our restaurants.

Designating a weeklong celebration will help these thriving small businesses get the exposure they need to grow and succeed.”

New Jersey is 10th in the country in wine production and has a growing brewery and brewpub industry. There are currently 48 wineries, 28 breweries and two distilleries that are licensed and operating within the state. Much of the promotion currently has been left up to the industry itself.

# Lower MUA approves raises, promotions for four workers

By BETTY WUND  
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Two weeks after a 3-2 vote of Lower Township Council stopped the dissolution of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), the authority’s Board of Commissioners, in closed session, approved raises for employees retroactive to a Sept. 3 meeting when resolutions were tabled.

Sharon Otto was promoted

to office supervisor and James McDonald now has the title of lab tech and computer/IT support. Each will receive \$5,000 more.

Two crew employees cited at the last meeting will get promotions as well as raises. William Dunn was promoted to senior water repair with a \$5,000 raise. Donald Embs was promoted to sewer crain operator with a \$5,000 raise.

The commissioners, except for Jack Sparks, approved the

promotions and raises. He contended that with the upcoming election, dissolution of the MUA after Jan. 1 might go through. Staff salaries could be an issue that would affect the takeover, he said.

“My answer is no, and I want to explain,” he said. “If in fact the township absorbs the MUA, everyone will be taken in at their present salaries. I did that (voted no)

See Promotions, Page A2

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