

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 51 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK
Real Estate Resource



'CHINA BOB' WRITES BOOK ON TRAVELS

Page A3



8 06605 93062 5

Voters reject Cape May's school-withdrawal bid

District says it's time to go back to educating children; Cape May says its time to go to court

'This should be game, set, match. I think it's time to mend fences and to work toward maintaining the quality education we have, to recognize that we are only feeding lawyers.'

— Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Voters in Lower Township and West Cape May voted overwhelmingly against Cape May's bid to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District, while voters in Cape May voted in the majority to leave the district.

The vote was 5,078 against Cape May leaving the school district, with 470 voting in favor of the initiative. That equates to 91 percent voting against the withdrawal and 8 percent

voting in favor of such an action.

Voter turnout averaged 31.34 percent from Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township, a total of 35 voting districts. A total of 5,549 ballots were cast out of 17,705 registered voters.

In Lower Township, 4,611 voters, or 98 percent, voted against Cape May withdrawing from the district, while 59, or 1.5 percent, voted for the withdrawal.

In Cape May, 393 voters, or 72 percent, approved of the withdrawal, while 151, or 27 percent, rejected the

idea.

In West Cape May, 206 voters, or 92 percent, were against the withdrawal, while 17, or 7 percent, voted in favor of the proposal.

Voters were advised by the administrations in West Cape May and Lower Township prior to the election to vote against the ballot question unless they wanted to see an increase in their property taxes.

West Cape May Mayor Pamela Kaithern stated if Cape May were suc-

See **Voters reject**, Page A2

'In the two elections, on both questions we received 70 percent affirmative votes. As far as I'm concerned, that's a mandate for the new council to continue this.'

— Cape May Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman

Having a ball on Hospitality Night



John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A happy group from Ocean County attended Cape May's Hospitality Night on Friday, Dec. 12, on the Washington Street Mall, where they encountered Santa Claus outside the Winterwood Christmas store.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Members of the public meet with FEMA representatives to discuss the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps on Friday at Cape May Convention Hall.

Open house offers public answers on FEMA flood maps

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Homeowners with questions about flood zones and insurance stood in a long line at Cape May Convention Hall waiting to talk one on one with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the county and a number of municipalities.

An open house was held Dec. 12, allowing homeowners to learn their flood risk and look at a new FEMA flood maps.

FEMA released updates to the flood hazard maps known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Cape May County in June. The FIRMs identify areas that have flood risk. Insurance companies use FIRMs to determine insurance rates for buildings and their contents. Lenders utilize the information to determine insurance requirements.

FEMA representatives were seated at long tables with their computers at the ready to answer questions from the mostly senior citizen crowd. Several mayors and construction officials were

also in attendance, armed with a number of maps.

Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city was pleased to host the event for the benefit of all county residents. He said 16 FEMA representatives were available to talk with the public, as well as four Department of Environmental Protection staffers and private consultants.

Mahaney said homeowners were determining in which flood zone their home was located, what mitigation is available and if they needed flood insurance, what they could do to keep it at the lowest possible rate.

"The maps that are being discussed today are the preliminary maps that will ultimately be to a 90 percent accuracy point, the final FIRM maps that will probably go into operation some time in 2016," he said. "This is the last opportunity for the individual municipalities and the individual property owners to look at these maps, to make any appeals that need to be made, to adjust any in-

See **FEMA**, Page A4

Budget-savvy students earn \$2,500 at LCMR

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Not every 16-year-old knows how to balance a checkbook or save money in a 401K account, but that will never be said about students in teacher Lee Pierce's Consumer Economics class at Lower Cape May Regional High School.

The class was awarded a \$2,500 grant Dec. 12 from H&R Block. Pierce accepted the check for the class after his students placed in the top five in the H&R Block Budget Challenge, a two-month national personal finance competition that involved more than 11,000

high school students throughout the nation.

The H&R Block Budget Challenge is a free teen financial-literacy program developed in the form of an online game for the classroom that simulates real life as an adult. Students were challenged to pay bills, manage expenses, save money, invest in retirement and pay taxes. All of the participating classrooms and students played against one another in this "learning-by-doing simulation."

"They're rewarded for good financial behaviors and then they're penalized for being late

See **Challenge**, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Cape May Regional High School Consumer Economics teacher Lee Pierce and student Matt Donohue discuss the H&R Block Budget Challenge.

WASHINGTON INN

Serving Dinner Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday, Dec. 20 from 5 pm

Open December 26th through January 3rd

New Years Eve Celebration

New Years Day Wine Celebration! All wine list wines 40% off

801 WASHINGTON STREET + 609-884-5697 + WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM