



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## ARTISTS CO-OP HOSTING MINI-ART SHOW IN MARCH

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# Sorantino contradicts city's firearms officer

Testifies she was unaware she, Sheehan, Lear failed to qualify for firearms in '09



SORANTINO

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During the second session of a disciplinary hearing March 4 for police Capt. Robert Sheehan, testimony from former Police Chief Diane Sorantino contradicted testimony from Cape May police Officer Doug Henderson regarding fear of retaliation from the com-

mand staff and conversations regarding officers not taking firearms qualifications during a 90-day window.

During the first day of the hearing Feb. 27, allegations were raised that Sheehan was targeted for a firearms qualifications time frame violation while two other senior officers with the same violation were given a pass. Allegations were also raised that Sheehan was

targeted by "malcontents" to advance themselves in the ranks of the Police Department.

At the earlier hearing, Henderson, the department's firearms officer, stated he was afraid to report two senior officers failed to qualify in firearms qualifications for fear of retaliation.

An issue was that Sheehan qualified on the gun range

in 2009 at the county Police Academy twice but the qualifications were not separated by a three-month gap, thus disqualifying him from carrying a firearm by state Attorney General guidelines.

According to Hearing Officer Richard Williams, a retired Superior Court-Appellate Division judge, the proceedings were not judicial but an administrative hearing

on a disciplinary matter.

Henderson returned to the witness chair and reiterated he had spoken with Sorantino in 2009 and in 2010 about the command officers violating the 90-day regulation.

"Do you know if Gallaccio was aware of the 90-day window requirement of the firearms qualifications?" asked

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## One last hurrah for Old Man Winter

An average of 5 inches of snow fell on Cape May on March 4, perhaps the last for the season. The Emlen Physick Estate on Washington Street, operated by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, has experienced 100 winters since the death of Dr. Emlen Physick on March 16, 1916.

## MUA to give Lower \$240,000 for budget

By BETTY WUND  
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — After a closed session at the end of a March 2 meeting, Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority commissioners approved a resolution

to give \$240,000 to Lower Township.

Funds will come from two sources. An amended 2016 budget will give \$150,000 to the township and \$90,000 will come from the 2015 amended budget. The money will be turned

over to the township for inclusion in the 2016 municipal budget.

A request for \$205,000 was approved by resolution at the Feb. 17 Township Council meeting. The MUA commission reviewed the resolution of the town-

ship's request for \$205,000 in closed session and increased the amount. In 2015, Lower Township approved a budget with a 1.9-cent local purpose tax increase using a \$205,000

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# JCP&L states it has located all contamination

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Following a March 2 story in the Cape May Star and Wave in which Allen Hatheway, who is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on cleanup of former manufactured gas plant sites, questioned if the remediation of the Lafayette Street property as proposed by Jersey Central Power and Light addressed the entire problem, the power company has responded.

Hatheway said he was concerned it was highly likely more hazardous material lurks underneath nearby properties.

The Star and Wave is providing this response from JCP&L, which was sent as an email. According to JCP&L spokesman Ron Morano, since 1985, JCP&L has been conducting environmental investigations at and in the vicinity of the site in cooperation with and under the direction of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and since 2012 with a Licensed Site Remediation Professional, who has direct oversight of all remediation activities associated with the site.

As a result of years of extensive remedial investigation, JCP&L knows where impacts to soil exist —

horizontally and vertically — with minor data gaps to be completed as part of the upcoming work, he stated.

Morano said there is no known or suspected off-site deposition associated with the former site. The site was about 1.2 acres in size and based on the quantity of contamination identified onsite, it is believed that the materials were deposited within this area, he stated.

In the earlier story, Hatheway raised the possibility the gas plant may have constructed a well that punctured the protective clay layer, which would allow contaminants into the aquifer.

According to Morano, JCP&L has confirmed there are no impacts from MGP (Manufactured Gas Plant) materials in the deep aquifer beneath the underlying clay unit. This was confirmed in 2008-09, through installation and sampling of deep monitoring wells installed in the aquifer beneath the clay unit, up gradient, adjacent to, and downgradient of the site, he stated.

Significant remediation work has been completed over the years and communicated to the public accordingly, stated Morano, who said the activities include removal of impacted

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Councilman Shaine Meier wants the Cape May Post Office to install a ramp to improve access for the elderly and disabled.

# Meier wants post office to build a ramp

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Councilman Shaine Meier is upholding a campaign promise to get a ramp built to offer easier access for seniors and the disabled at the Cape May Post Office. Currently, postal patrons must climb steps to enter the building.

"I'm extremely disappointed with every city councilperson and mayor that's ever sat at this table since 1990,"

"I have received little to nothing in support. It's a civil rights issue. People with special needs, including senior citizens, have a right to be self-sufficient."

—City Councilman Shaine Meier

he said. "The problem is our post office is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant."

Meier said he wrote letters to officials in Washington, D.C., and the local postmaster. In his letter to Cape May



Postmaster Peggy Clifford, he said he wished to form a partnership with the Cape May Post Office to achieve the goal of having a ramp installed at that location. Meier also stated a well-known engineering firm would do the work for free.

He said he was confident he could get building materials donated for the ramp project. He said he closed his letter to Clifford offering to

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