

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 18 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 75¢



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Committee files petition to recall Mahaney

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A committee filed a Notice of Intent to Recall Edward Mahaney as mayor Monday. The Recall Committee consists of Charles F. Hendricks, Thomas H. Keene and MaryJo Pinelli, all of Cape May.

The committee cited four reasons to recall Mahaney. A news release cites the mayor's "flagrant violation of the Faulkner Act in that he has and continues to conduct himself in ways that violate rules set forth in Title 40:69A, Council/Manager form of government after being warned

about this."
"He has been aided and abetted by City Manager Bruce MacLeod and City Solicitor Anthony Monzo and a willful City Council," continues the release.

In addition, the committee cites Mahaney, Deputy Mayor Terri Swain and Councilwoman Bea Passagno for casting "unlawful votes to rescind Robert Sheehan's position as chief of police, which is in direct violation of his contract."

The release notes Sheehan is now suing the city for its retaliation for his whistle-blowing activities.

"Moreover, according to the county

prosecutor: at a City Council meeting on March 24, 2015, the mayor falsely stated and implied that Chief Sheehan was under criminal investigation, had failed to cooperate in the investigation and used the term 'theft' of city or taxpayer monies to describe the investigation," states the release.

"The mayor and council's collective actions have done untold damage to the city's reputation and the morale of our police department while subjecting taxpayers to the burden of



MAHANEY

unnecessary legal costs," stated the committee.

The release also states the mayor has wasted tax dollars by approving highly questionable one-source contracts to Temple University, "overseeing the disastrous construction and operation of Convention Hall costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and needlessly increasing the city's annual legal costs to well over \$750,000."

According to the committee, the mayor has supported drastic funding

cuts during the last two years to an "already understaffed fire department, which was already in direct violation of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) staffing standards."

"The current council stalemate over the need for a comprehensive study threatens public safety by gambling with the lives of Cape May firefighters, residents and visitors. This has the potential for a massive lawsuit against the city every time those fire trucks respond to an emergency," stated the committee.

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Coast Guard Community Festival set in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is gearing up for its first Coast Guard Community Festival on May 8-15. The event celebrates Cape May County's designation as a Coast Guard Community.

At its April 21 meeting, City Council approved a resolution designating the first full week of May each year as Coast Guard Community Week, and establishing the Coast Guard Community Festival. The resolution notes Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) is the fifth-largest Coast Guard base in the world and the nation's only recruit training center.

Only one other county in the nation is designated a "Coast Guard Community." The designation extends five years and will receive a review from the Coast Guard at that time, according to the resolution.

"The Coast Guard's involvement in Cape May County dates back over a century to that of its predecessor, the United States Lifesaving Service," states the resolution.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the county's designation as a Coast Guard Community was the result of an arduous

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Recruits get sweeping orders



Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Nature Center of Cape May Director Gretchen Whitman gives instructions to Coast Guard recruits at the start of Clean Ocean Action's biannual beach sweep April 25. The goal was to remove trash, plastic items and debris from Cape May Harbor and area beaches. See more photos on A8

Cape May sues, seeks ruling on police monitor

By JACK FICHTER
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CAPE MAY — The city has asked the county Superior Court to determine the extent of the county prosecutor's authority over noncriminal matters pertaining to the administrative functioning of the police department.

County Prosecutor Robert Taylor placed a monitor in the Cape May Police Department to handle all communication between City Manager Bruce MacLeod and Capt. Robert Sheehan, the city's former police chief who was demoted by a vote of City Council. Cape May has filed a lawsuit not seeking damages but seeking a legal determination of whether the city government has the right and responsibility to govern and supervise its police force, according to City Solicitor Tony Monzo.

Monzo said having a monitor has prevented MacLeod, who is the appropriate authority by statute, from having administrative control of the police department.

Monzo said the city hired special counsel to handle matters pertaining to the issue. He said attorney Todd Gelfand, of Barker, Gelfand and James, asked him to read a statement at City Council's April 21 meeting. It stated the city believes that both fed-

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MacLeod, Monzo should withdraw, prosecutor claims

By JACK FICHTER
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CAPE MAY — In his answer to Cape May's lawsuit against him, county Prosecutor Robert Taylor stated "The city has intentionally violated Attorney General Guidelines and has unclean hands so it is not entitled to any equitable and/or injunctive relief." In addition, the reply states: "The city should be estopped due to its illegal conduct in violating clear Attorney General Guidelines on internal affairs investigations, including holding a press conference releasing confidential information to the press and public after being warned not to do so."

The answer also notes the prosecutor is the chief law-enforcement officer of the county and exercises supervision over all law-enforcement agencies in the county under state statutes.

"The criminal business of the state and county includes making sure civilians, even city officials, do not interfere with the operations and investigations of the police department, which could hamper the detection of crime in the county," it states.

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Sunset Beach's Marvin Hume dies at 94

Held flag ceremonies for veterans at beach for decades

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SUNSET BEACH — Marvin Hume, who led flag ceremonies at the beach for more than four decades, passed away April 25.

Hume, 94, will be remembered for the summer sunset ceremonies that raised and lowered the casket flags of veterans who served our nation. From Memorial Day through mid-October, Hume was a constant fixture at the flagpole on the property he purchased in 1973.

Hume, a Navy veteran, told a CBS reporter in 2010 he began the nightly ceremonies after promising the man he bought the property from that he would continue to raise and lower the flag. Hume said he initially started it to honor several friends who lost their lives in World War II at Pearl Harbor.

"I happened to be in the right place at the right time," he said in the interview.

Word of Hume's patriotism grew by word of mouth, resulting

in a waiting list of families wanting to honor their heroes. At any given sunset ceremony, hundreds of people lined up to pay their respects to the fallen.

When asked if he thought he would retire from conducting the flag-raising ceremonies, Hume replied, "You go out there and there's no two alike." When asked how long he would continue the summertime ritual, the Cape May County patriot was very clear.

"Til I drop," he said. "That's what keeps me alive."

Hume was adept at folding a casket flag at the conclusion of the nightly sunset ceremonies, a skill he passed onto his young employees.

Hume was a Cape May-area resident since 1986. He was a 1938 graduate of Collingswood High School and attended the University of Pennsylvania until entering the Navy during World War II. He worked as a tool and die maker at McDonald Aircraft

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