

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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CAPE MAY POINT HOSTS WOMENS CHAMPIONSHIP

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Cape May to foot legal bills

Taxpayers will pay defense of manager, clerk

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved resolutions providing for the legal defense of City Manager Bruce MacLeod and City Clerk Louise Cumiskey. At a July 22 council meeting, former mayor Jerry Gaffney asked why special legal defense was needed for MacLeod. He said he believed MacLeod had been served with a subpoena. City Solicitor Tony Monzo said he could not comment on any investigation.

Gaffney noted attorney William Subin had been hired by the city to represent MacLeod. He asked what was Subin's hourly fee and if the attorney would also charge a retainer.

Monzo said Subin would charge \$150 per hour with no retainer. Gaffney asked why it was necessary to obtain a special attorney to represent MacLeod and whether any charges were filed against him. Gaffney asked why Monzo could not represent MacLeod.

"When a city employee is involved in any matter that involves actions that may or may not have been conducted within the scope of authority, there's no ability for that specific individual to utilize the city attorney because there may be acts that were committed that were outside of the scope of authority and it would really destroy the attorney-client privilege



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Resident Patricia Hendricks asked Councilwoman Bea Pessagno to make good on her promise to ensure any elected or appointed city official under investigation should be asked to step down. 'I don't know if anyone at this table is the object or target right now of an investigation,' Pessagno replied.

by having the city attorney involved in that representation," Monzo said. He said if it was determined

an employee took action outside the scope of his authority, the city may have to take an adverse position with the em-

ployee, so the same attorney cannot represent the city em-

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OPRA watchdog sues city for failure to comply

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Harry Scheeler Jr., a journalist and watchdog of municipalities' compliance with the Open Public Records Act (OPRA), has sued the city for failure to comply with his requests in a timely manner.

Scheeler filed a lawsuit July 27 against Cape May with the

state Government Records Council for the city clerk failing to respond to an immediate release request within the statutory time frame, failure to release records by an extension date and failure to disclose redactions.

Scheeler has set his sights on the city of Cape May, requesting copies of employee time sheets showing comp time and demanding an accounting of

how much the city has spent on legal bills this year.

He asked for the immediate release of all bills from the solicitor, conflict solicitor, special appointed solicitor and labor counsel, including purchase orders for document shredders for the past five years.

Scheeler has filed about 90 lawsuits regarding OPRA abuse in New Jersey as high

as the Governor's Office and never lost a case.

The public records Scheeler is seeking center around the city's claims of alleged comp time abuse by Cape May Police Lt. Chuck Lear that resulted in Robert Sheehan's demotion from police chief to captain. City Council has refused to reinstate Sheehan to police chief

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Oat honored for a lifetime of lifesaving

Cape May Point Beach Patrol chief began his career in '66

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — High tides, low tides and rip currents came and went while a generation of children who played in the sand as toddlers advanced to middle age, all while Bill Oat guarded the beaches.

Oat was honored at a reception July 26 at the Chalfonte Hotel for his 50 years as a lifeguard. The celebration was attended by the crew of the Cape May Point Beach Patrol — where he serves as chief — as well as family members and many friends.

Oat began his half-century of lifesaving at the age of 16 in Avalon in 1966. In 1983, he joined the Cape May Beach

Patrol, where he served as a lifeguard, section chief, lieutenant and EMT. In 2006, Oat moved from Cape May to Cape May Point, where he first became a medic and within two years a lieutenant.



OAT

Oat has been involved in the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) as a competitor, a competition judge and attended board of director meetings that take place twice a year at various locations throughout the United States.

Cape May Point Mayor Bob Moffat opened the event by reading a letter of congratulations to Oat from Chris Brewster, president of the USLA.

"Perhaps neither you or

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West Cape May moving forward with bike lane

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Engineer Ray Roberts presented a plan for a bike lane on Myrtle Avenue during the West Cape May Commission meeting July 22. The plan would make the Wilbraham Park area safer with the addition of a full-length sidewalk and a 5-foot-wide bike lane.

According to Roberts, of Remington Vernick & Walberg, the plan calls for

a sidewalk on the house side of the street from the CVS parking lot to Broadway. He noted that in investigating the project, he found that Myrtle Avenue was taken over by the county in 1919 by resolution at the request of the borough. That resolution would make it a county road. Although there is no mention of an approved resolution in the borough records, it is on the county road maps, he added.

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Ferry vessels play vital role in study of conditions in, on Delaware Bay

By CAREN FITZGERALD
University of Delaware

LEWES, Del. — As families make their way down to the beach each summer day, a pleasant breeze moves over the sand to greet them. Known as the sea breeze, this gentle air current originates over the open water and is driven toward land by changes in surface heat and pressure between water and land.

According to Dana Veron, associate professor of geography in the University of Delaware's (UD) College of Earth, Ocean and

Environment (CEOE), the sea breeze serves a greater function than just cooling a lifeguard's brow. When the sea breeze blows, it cools the coast and often drives insects away from the beaches. It also alters wind speed and direction, affecting conditions crucial for generation of electricity via wind power.

Veron is investigating what atmospheric and marine factors influence sea breeze and how researchers can predict when sea breeze will occur. "Ultimately, the ability to predict sea breeze presence could help us forecast how

and when wind turbines, clean sources of renewable energy, will produce the most and the least energy," Veron said.

Wind turbines carry great potential for generating clean energy. The UD wind turbine in Lewes, for example, generates enough energy annually to power the entire Hugh R. Sharp Campus, including laboratories, offices and academic buildings, with surplus energy left over at certain times of the year. In the first two years of

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The University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment is researching factors tied to sea breeze and wind energy through the Cape May-Lewes Ferry monitoring project.



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