



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## QUILT SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED

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# LTMUA's Loper challenges board to fire him

By **BETTY WUND**  
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA) Superintendent and acting Director Craig Loper challenged the Board of Commissioners to fire him during a July 2 meeting.

Following closed session, Loper said that based on rumors, he believed he was disliked by the board and challenged the board to fire him.

"I am not going to let the political games between the MUA and the township get in the way with me providing clean, safe drinking water

to the public," he said. "If you don't like me, figure out a way to fire me."

Loper has been with the LTMUA for more than three years. He acknowledged that his relationship with the board has not always been good. There was no comment from the board.

Villas resident Frank Serraco held up a paper he had picked up at the back of the room next to meeting agendas. The paper listed a number of reasons for not dissolving the MUA.

"Is this the board's?" he asked. Commissioners did not acknowledge having composed the docu-

## Lower Township mayor accuses Republicans of using LTMUA for political contributions.

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ment or placing it next to the meeting's agenda sheet available to the public.

Among the issues the writer stated was the \$1 million projected to be saved if the MUA were dissolved

is "phantom money." It also stated that if the MUA were dissolved, employees would lose their jobs; there would be pay cuts and a number of senior workers would be forced to retire. It also stated that water rates would increase if the township sold the LTMUA to a private company.

The board did not comment on the paper's content.

In his report, Loper answered questions on the condition of wells. He said Well 7 contains too much iron, and would be back in service when the proper chemicals are added. Several wells need new equipment to be up to standards. That

should get done shortly, Loper said.

In other business, a contract for restoration of Bay Drive was awarded. Work is to start Sept. 2. The road will not be totally closed.

After a second round of bidding, the job was awarded at \$320,000, which is the budget estimate. The job will be done with specifications of 7-foot-wide paving, not the original 8 feet as specified.

It was noted that Clubhouse Road would be totally closed after Sept. 2 for road restoration.

The meeting continued with a

See LTMUA, Page A3

## Cape May gets look at FEMA's flood map

Final map will set rates for federal flood insurance

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

CAPE MAY — The city has received preliminary flood maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that show small differences from preliminary work maps released last summer.

The final maps will set the federal flood insurance rates.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said he had a conference call with FEMA officials June 30 concerning the newly released maps. He said city officials would study the maps, which include Cape Island Creek.

FEMA also produced a flood study that Cape May will examine with its technical professionals and produce a response, Mahaney said. He said the city would inform FEMA what impact the study would have on future construction, flood-prevention and

See FEMA map, page A2

## Cape May celebrates America's independence



The Fralinger String Band makes its way along the parade route July 5 during Cape May's Independence Day celebration. See more photos on Page A8.

## Booker runs on Promenade amid run for full term in Senate

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

CAPE MAY — Corey Booker likes to run. He successfully ran for U.S. Senate, winning a special election last fall to succeed Frank Lautenberg, who died in office.

Under a clear blue sky July 5, Booker made a campaign stop here and ran a portion of the Promenade, making a loop through the Washington Street Mall back to Beach Drive with local residents, supporters and volunteers. The run ended at Coffee Tyme on Beach Drive, where runners received a free cup of coffee or other drink. He

posed for photos with supporters before and after the race.

Mayor Edward Mahaney joined Booker outside Sunset Pavilion along with Cape May Police Chief Robert Sheehan and four Class II officers on bicycles.

Mahaney said it was Booker's second visit to Cape May; he first came in January. He said Booker wanted to see what life was like here in the offseason and learn about the fishing industry and the Coast Guard's importance to the city.

Booker called Cape May "an extraordinary place." He told runners the ground rule for the run was "they must have fun."

"This is not a speed run," Booker said with a smile. "As you all blow passed me, I will smack talk. I'm a United States senator, but that is not beneath me."

Before the run started, Booker had all participants raise their hands and yell "Cape May."

"People who sweat together, stick together," he said.

Booker said that when he was first elected as a city councilor in Newark, he had a lot of fun trying to run every street in the tiny district he represented. He acknowledged he could not run down every street in New Jersey.

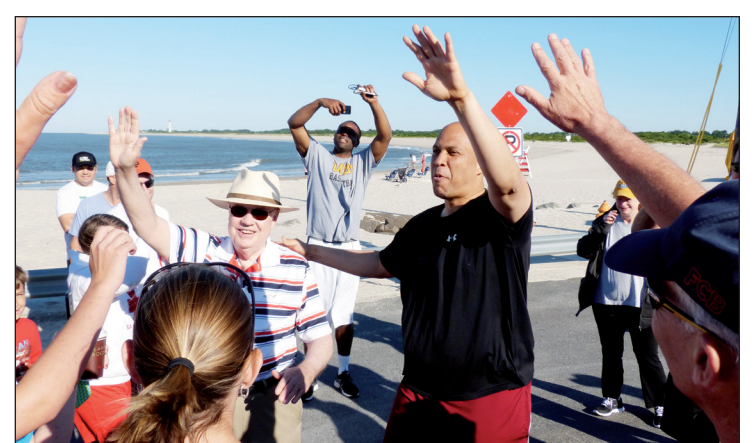
Booker said it became his

tradition during campaigning to try to combat his fatal attraction to cupcakes.

A big challenge is the rising cost of health care, Booker said. He said both houses of Congress agreed if everyone was more proactive in preventative health care, they would have healthier, more fulfilled lives.

Later in the day, Booker rode in Cape May's Independence Day Parade. He appeared at a fundraising dinner at Congress Hall the previous night.

Booker, a Democrat, will face Republican Jeff Bell in November for a full term in the Senate.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney, left, and Sen. Corey Booker prepare for a run down the Promenade on July 5.



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