

Free workshop for parents on substance abuse Oct. 27

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — With funding by the Greg DiAntonio Memorial Fund, local agencies collaborated to present "Preventing Substance Abuse for those with Mental/Learning Disabilities by Developing an Emotionally Intelligent Classroom & Household."

Agencies involved include the Department of Human Services, Cape May County Healthy Community Coalition, Cape Assist, Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition, Cape Counseling Services and Lighthouse Church.

In this free workshop, Dr. Buzz Mingin will provide tools to proactively and reactively navigate at-risk youth.

"Part of substance-abuse prevention is providing parents and educators with effective tools, skills and resources," said Natalia Wilber, Cape Assist Healthy Community Coalition Coordinator. "No one's immune from stressful family situations, so anyone can benefit from these workshops."

Light refreshments will be available during the workshop, which is scheduled for 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Lighthouse Church,

1248 Route 9 South in Cape May Court House.

For more information, call Wilber at (609) 522-5960 or email natalia@capeassist.org.

Mingin is a recognized national speaker specializing in children and adolescents with behavioral and emotional disorders. He has several published books, is the president of Buzz's Bookworm Inc., a comprehensive support center for students with behavioral and emotional afflictions and director of World Karate Studio, a comprehensive martial arts program that teaches social skills and behavioral management to disabled children and adolescents.

Mingin has a master's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in education, is a state-certified school social worker, a professional development provider for New Jersey Department of Education, a qualified expert witness for New Jersey Superior Courts, a certified forensic counselor by the American Board of Forensic Counselors International and contracted with many public and private schools throughout New Jersey.

Furlin diatribe

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corrupt activities and cannot be trusted," he said.

An audience member called out "great timing." Another called Furlin's speech "bulls—t."

Furlin said for those who thought "this is some of kind of conspiracy, I did not talk to any council members about this, this is my own product, my own evaluation of what occurred." He blamed Boyd for bringing up the topic of the enabling resolution for Lear's retirement at an earlier meeting.

Meier said the county Prosecutor's Office looked into the overtime matter and found nothing illegal occurred. He said he read thousands of pages of depositions, with his two favorites being Rusty Chew's deposition and Chief Diane Sorantino's. Meier said the city clerk also signed off on Lear's overtime pay.

"It's happened for years with other police officers such as detectives," he said.

Meier said Lear received no more than what he was entitled to and worked a lot of hours including nights, weekends and during storms.

"I think this is a character assassination of a person who is running for mayor a couple of weeks from now," he said.

Meier said MacLeod was well aware of Lear's overtime hours.

"Shaine, stop. Shaine, stop," MacLeod said.

Meier said Lear was forced out so a new police chief could be hired without having to "jump over two senior officers, they only had to jump over one senior officer."

MacLeod said the matter was sent back from the county Prosecutor's Office to the city to be handled as an administrative matter.

Meier said a least a dozen officers in the department received comp time.

MacLeod said the possibility of disciplinary action was raised, a hearing was begun with a retired judge but Lear opted to take a settlement.

Meier said he believed the comp time situation was nothing more than a catalyst to demote former police chief Robert Sheehan.

During public comment, Boyd called Furlin's comments "politically motivated garbage."

"I have to say one thing, that's the most I've heard you speak since you've been sitting at that table," Boyd said.

Boyd said he didn't imagine there were more than two people in the audience that didn't think Furlin's comments were not totally politically motivated. He said Furlin's misrepresentations about Lear were disgraceful.

Boyd said MacLeod sent Lear a letter telling him to no longer claim overtime pay, with the letter serving as the sole reprimand. He said Cape May police detectives received comp time for periods when they were standing by, not working.

Former mayor Jerry Gaffney asked if Furlin were aware council approved an agreement with Lear that resolved the situation.

"Mr. Monzo, how could you allow Mr. Furlin to bring this back up, a matter that has been resolved by all members of council?" he asked.

Gaffney said he took issue with Furlin using the word "corrupt" after Lear served the city for 37 years on the police force.

"You're referring to that

man three weeks before an election when he's running for mayor?" asked Gaffney. "Is that a coincidence, sir?"

Furlin blamed Boyd for bringing up the topic of council's resolution at an earlier meeting. Gaffney said Furlin had no defense for his actions. He said Furlin tarnished the reputation of a fine man and he knew what he was doing.

Resident Tom Keene said he could not believe the mayor and council would allow Furlin's comments a few weeks before the election. He said Furlin ran for office on a platform of being a man of unity.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said Furlin did not consult with him or inform him he would bring up the matter. He said had he been informed in advance, he would have told Furlin not to do it. Mahaney said candidates should run on their merits and platforms and not politics.

Keene called Furlin's actions "disturbing."

Resident Dennis DeSatnick said he was surprised the mayor or City Solicitor Tony Monzo did not stop Furlin's commentary since it covered personnel.

DeSatnicks grill mayor

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slope of our replenished beaches," the mayor stated in the email.

"Really?" replied Anita DeSatnick.

"Yes," replied the mayor. "That's what the studies had shown."

The audience groaned. She read an Aug. 16 email

from Kim McKenna, director of sponsored programs for Stockton University Coastal Research Center, to Dr. Paul Cowan, emergency room director for Beebe Medical Center, copied to Mahaney and City Manager Bruce MacLeod. In the email, McKenna stated Cape May was holding a public information meeting Aug.

25 "to discuss the upcoming federal beach replenishment project."

"Silly me, I thought that the whole purpose of that meeting, when we first requested it, was about beach safety," Anita DeSatnick said.

She said beach safety was not brought up at the public meeting until her son brought up the topic.

She read an Aug. 23 email from Farrell to MacLeod and Mahaney in which Farrell requested a copy of the 2015 Lifeguard Association injury report sheet "where there were 373 lost children worked into an actual injury report and 5,911 calls but just one hospital admission data sheet to have as a slide in my back pocket should the question and answers allege that there were multiple injuries on the beach all the time." The email continued, "Or your people could be

ready with a response, 'Yes, we report all injuries to a fault perhaps and this is the data on a visited number of a half a million people who went to the ocean in Cape May City.'"

Farrell stated bicycle injuries statistics were of a magnitude greater "and the most dangerous part of any visitor's week in Cape May City."

Anita DeSatnick quoted from a story on Cape May's surf injuries from the October issue of Philadelphia Magazine.

"Mahaney thinks the loudest voices complaining about beach safety aren't Cape May residents or even regular vacationers. The mayor notes that the ring leader of Cool Cape May is an out-of-towner who only vacations here once in a while," stated the story.

She said she and her husband joined the efforts of their son to discover the cause of surf zone injuries one year ago after a youth became a paraplegic after diving in the ocean.

Mahaney said the Philadelphia Magazine writer told him she came to Cape May because of what she read in Exit Zero and the Cool Cape May blog.

Anita DeSatnick said the writer also came to Cape May because a family member was injured on the beach

here.

"I would like to say publicly I personally take offense at that particular statement and believe that you have disregarded and disrespected my family's efforts on beach safety," she said.

Dennis DeSatnick said he stated 14 months ago he did not want beach safety to become a political issue.

"Every wall has been put up in front of me for 14 months, it's not been addressed properly," he said.

Dennis DeSatnick said he knew from Day One that the Aug. 25 public meeting was not going to be a beach safety meeting but instead a beach replenishment and slope report. He said the first question related to beach safety did not occur until 90 minutes into the meeting when Chad DeSatnick approached the microphone. MacLeod then allowed an hour of questions on beach safety, Dennis DeSatnick said.

"What I noticed was the Army Corps of Engineers, the DEP, Mrs. McKenna, Mr. Farrell, none of them were prepared to talk about beach safety," he said.

He said there was a way to maintain the surf zone to make it safe and the city was still not listening to the professionals who are capable of trying something that might work. Farrell stated

statistics from the U.S Lifeguard Association, Dennis DeSatnick said.

"When I stated numbers to the Army Corps of Engineers, I was told they were anecdotal," he said. "But realistically, they were the actual accident reports from our beaches."

Chad DeSatnick tracked beach injuries from 2005 to 2015 reporting more than 500 injuries with some mislabeled as possible spine injuries. The beach patrol improved their record keeping this year, said Dennis DeSatnick, with more specific information such as shoulder, back or neck injuries.

He said he was concerned with statements he has heard for the past 14 months and back to 2008 where it was stated, "We're working in close conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and the DEP to change the template for next year's replenishment program."

Dennis DeSatnick asked the mayor if he recalled making that statement. Mahaney said a change was made in the template in 2011 that did not work. The template has not been changed for the 2016 beach replenishment based on the paperwork, Dennis DeSatnick said.

Mahaney said the Army Corps had to conduct an on-site study before work is started this year.

Dennis DeSatnick asked professionals be brought in to work on the project and the date and time of Beach Safety Committee meetings be advertised.

TIDES : October-November 2016

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
26	5:50	6:03	11:37	
27	6:35	6:47	12:07	12:25
28	7:15	7:27	12:47	1:10
29	7:52	8:05	1:25	1:51
30	8:27	8:42	2:00	2:30
31	9:02	9:18	2:33	3:08
1	9:37	9:54	3:06	3:46
2	10:12	10:30	3:39	4:24

MOON PHASES
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- Zack Mullock

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