

Transparency promise put to test

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setting up a meeting with Dr. Andrea McCoy, M.D., chief medical officer of Cape Regional Medical Center, and paramedics from the city's fire department and beach patrol.

The city hopes it can address sharp drop offs on the beach following a storm, DeSatnick said. Reports on beach replenishment from regulatory agencies do not include the human element, he said.

The floor was opened to questions from the public. Mark Allen, writer of this newspaper's The Other Side column, noted two derelict boats were rotting away in Cape May Harbor. Allen said the Shannon Marie washed ashore after a storm. He asked if the city intended to remove the boats. Lear said the city's solicitor was researching the issue.

Gretchen Whitman, director of the Nature Center of Cape May, suggested removal of one of the boats could be tackled on Earth Day (April 22) when U.S. Coast Guard recruits and a number of volunteers will be cleaning up the harbor. Resident Emily Dempsey asked council if the La-



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May City Council members Roger Furlin, left, Bea Pessagno, Patricia Hendricks, Shaine Meier and Mayor Chuck Lear field questions from the audience during the first town hall meeting scheduled by the administration. Lear and Hendricks won election in November promising a more transparent process of governing with input from residents and other stakeholders.

fayette Street Park upon completion would maintain the name of Wise-Anderson Park as a portion of the property had previously been known. Meier said in his opinion, the entire park should be named Wise-Anderson Park. Resident Steve Haas

commented on peeling paint on doors and the white picket fence of the city's post office. Hendricks said she and Meier recently met with Cape May's postmaster, who stated it had been 17 years since the lobby of the post office had been painted. She said she asked the postmaster if volunteers could paint the lobby but was told it was

not permitted. Resident Deanna Brown asked whether the post office was any closer to obtaining a ramp for the handicapped. Meier said the fact the lobby has not been painted for 17 years despite requests from postmasters was an indication of future plans for that site. Hendricks said she met with a grant writer

who works with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance who suggested obtaining a consultant. She said council may consider a resolution to request an ADA-compliant post office. Resident Jesse Lambert asked whether bike paths in Cape May could connect to the Lower Township bike path. Hendricks said a bike path from the Coast Guard

base to Cape May City Elementary School was approved for grant funding. Interim City Manager Neil Young said a plan had not been developed to connect Cape May and Lower Township bike paths. He said West Cape May would need to become involved in a project to tie Cape May into the Lower Township bike path.

TIDES : April 2017

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	4:03	4:46	10:20	10:29
6	5:09	5:46	11:20	11:31
7	6:06	6:38		12:12
8	6:56	7:24	12:26	12:59
9	7:40	8:06	1:15	1:41
10	8:21	8:44	2:00	2:20
11	9:00	9:20	2:42	2:57
12	9:37	9:56	3:22	3:32

MOON PHASES

First quarter, April 5 • full moon, April 11

Marking history

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vation of documents, dedicate plaques and memorials and presents scholarships, Vivian said. He said the organization has a goal of placing a plaque in each of the state's 21 counties with only three remaining. "We're hoping people will learn a little a more

about the great history that's right here in Cape May," Vivian said.

Many of the officials and the media walked outside in the rain and wind to witness the actual unveiling of the historical marker, east of the terminal building at dockside.

According to the program brochure, "In 1631, officers of the Dutch West India Company ship 'The Whale,' acquired 16 square miles of land including this site from the Leni Lenape 'to carry on the whale fishery and cultivation of grains and tobacco.' However, it was not until the mid-1600s that whalers

came from Long Island and New England during whaling seasons, then year round in the 1860s to establish the first settlement. It was located along the bay from the site north and known variously as New England Town, Cape May Town, Portsmouth and Town Bank.

Settlement was encouraged by Dr. Daniel Coxe, London investor and governor/primary landholder of West Jersey, who acquired 95,000 acres from the Lenape in 1688. 'I have settled a town and established a fishing for whales which are very numerous about Cape May.'

Development of the county accelerated in 1692 when Coxe divested to the West Jersey Society, Cape May County was established and land was sold to whaler yeoman, cooper, carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers and others.

As whaling declined in the mid-1700s, the county's economy shifted primarily to livestock, timber products and oysters. Encroaching waters washed away most of the original settlement by the late 1700s.

Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton noted the original site was probably about two miles out in Delaware Bay.

Lower police targeting distracted driving

ERMA — Lower township police will be cracking down on distracted drivers during April, as part of New Jersey's "U Drive U Text U Pay" enforcement

campaign. Through April 21, the high-visibility initiative will target motorists who engage in dangerous behaviors such as talking on hand-held

cell phones and sending text messages while driving. "Distracted driving is a serious issue on our roadways," said Gary Poedubicky, acting director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

Despite the fact that using a hand-held cell phone or texting while driving is illegal in New Jersey, the practice appears to be widespread. In a recent survey conducted by the FDU Public Mind Poll for the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, 67 percent of respondents said they "very often" see people driving and talking on a hand-held cell phone. 42 percent of respondents said they "very often" see drivers texting.

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Pictured left to right: Front Row: Chick Pinto, Janet Bossi, Lou Petrini
Back Row: Ronnie Morel, Vinny D'Alessandro, Craig DeGenova, Josie Henry

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