

# Spinners bring mighty sound to Convention Hall

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Billboard magazine calls The Spinners “the greatest soul group of the early '70s.” As they take the stage Aug. 1 at Convention Hall, they bring a mighty collection of hit records.

The Spinners are no strangers to the region. They recorded their hits in studios in Philadelphia and a million-selling live album at the Latin Casino in Cherry Hill. While the Spinners are often associated with Philadelphia, they had their beginnings in Detroit as five high school buddies forming a Doo Wop quintet.

Original member Henry Fambrough, the group’s baritone, recalls the group’s first hit, “That’s What Girls Are Made For,” was first played on radio in Philadelphia in 1961. The group signed with Motown Records in 1964 but did not

receive the star treatment. The tide turned when Stevie Wonder offered a song to the group in 1969, according to Fambrough. The record “It’s a Shame” was released in 1970 and went to number 14 on the Billboard chart. He said the group’s record contract ran out at the same time. Aretha Franklin suggested The Spinners sign with Atlantic Records, the label with which she recorded. At the time The Spinners signed with Atlantic, a producer named Thom Bell also signed with the label and requested to produce the group, Fambrough said.

Bell and the group had actually crossed paths 10 years earlier. “When we worked the Uptown Theater, he was the keyboard player for the band that played for all the acts that came through there and he said that when The Spinners came through there, we had a harmony

that nobody else was singing,” Fambrough said.

A big part of the sound of The Spinners in the 1970s has been attributed to the distinctive vocals of Phillippe Wynn, who seemed to improvise much of each song.

“Everything you hear Phillippe do after the verses is him, from the top of his head,” Fambrough said. “When we recorded ‘Mighty Love,’ they just wrote the verses, everything else he did.”

He said Wynn recorded most songs in just two takes and Bell “was willing to turn him loose and let him go.”

The Spinners had a huge hit with Dionne Warwick, “Then Came You.” Fambrough said Warwick had requested Bell produce an album for her.

“I think he told her he couldn’t do an album at the time but he could pair her up with The Spinners,” he



The Spinners are scheduled to play at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, at Cape May Convention Hall.

said.

The record was the first No. 1 for both Warwick and The Spinners. Their fastest-selling single was “The Rubberband Man,” which Fambrough said shipped gold from its release.

The Spinners’ live show features all their hits.

“The people come to hear what they play at home,” said Fambrough, noting the group had 12 gold albums.

He said he never gets tired of performing the group’s hits.

“The songs are so great. You listen to some of the stuff that’s out there now, people tell us our music is clean,” Fambrough said. “Anybody can listen to it.”

The Spinners are scheduled to play at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, at Cape May Convention Hall Aug. 1. Tickets are available at discovercapemaynj.com or at the box office. For more information, call (609) 884-9565.

## Cape May short five cops, ex-chief says

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here and the department was not prepared for such an occurrence.

On June 8, five supervisors and Capt. Robert

Sheehan were in Trenton to take an exam, Boyd said.

“You decided that anybody can fill the chief’s position, so you take supervisory people and allow them to take the test,” he said.

Boyd said a threat was posted on Facebook of a gun in a school somewhere in Cape May County on June 8.

“There was no supervisory or administrative personnel in Cape May City or Cape May County to assist with that complaint,” he said.

Boyd said officers had to place a call to supervisors who were in Trenton to take the test to determine how to handle the situation. MacLeod asked if it would have been right to ask one or two of the officers to stay behind and not have the opportunity to take the test.

The department needs command and supervisory structure, Boyd said. He said it took City Council 15 minutes to unlawfully de-

mote its chief of police but it could not hire one police officer in seven months.

When Chief Diane Sorantino retired, the city hired a full-time Class II officer, Boyd said. He asked if the city currently has a full-time Class II officer.

MacLeod said the department does not have such an officer.

“Now you’re down six people,” Boyd said.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said that statement was “not exactly right.” He said an officer retired and believed he was well enough to pass a physical and return to duty. Mahaney said when the Class II officer was hired to replace Sorantino, the retired officer was returning at the same time.

“We didn’t want to dis-

appoint either person and brought him back with the understanding, the police

department was told they would not have a Class II because they were putting this other officer on,” he said. “It wasn’t as if we eliminated anything.”

The department wound up with an extra officer, Mahaney said. MacLeod said the department is authorized to have 22 positions and three spots for superior officers. He said having an injured officer does not give the city the luxury of hiring a replacement.

Boyd said those interested in a position on a certified list are notified they have a specific number of days to respond by letter if they are interested in a position. He said upon receipt of the letters, the police department could begin the interview and background check processes.

MacLeod said there was

a flaw in the initial Civil Service request for a certified list. He said letters to the candidates did not go out and on the day the individuals would have been declared ineligible, there was a scramble by three or four candidates from a field of 10 to rush in at 3:30 p.m. and try to submit a letter.

The certification list was canceled and the city waited for Civil Service to process the request for cancellation and give approval to order a new list, MacLeod said. He said the city received a new list and responses from candidates, and the police department was going through its process for new hires.

Boyd said the police department consists of one administrator and “no supervisory people in upper positions.” He said one person is responsible for the hiring process.

MacLeod disputed that, saying other officers are involved in the process.

### TIDES : July-August 2016


DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
27	2:14	2:59	8:19	9:11
28	3:22	4:05	9:20	10:19
29	4:30	5:08	10:21	11:23
30	5:36	6:07	11:22	
31	6:35	7:02	12:22	12:19
1	7:30	7:52	1:16	1:13
2	8:20	8:38	2:06	2:03
3	9:07	9:22	2:52	2:51

### MOON PHASES

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