

# Hendricks believes City Council needs strong organizer, reformer

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Charles F. Hendricks became the fourth candidate for City Council, submitting his nominating petitions to the City Clerk on Sept. 2.

His slogan, registered with the city, is "Reform now: End business as usual."

In a news release, Hendricks said he decided to run for one reason: "to identify and speak out on the important issues facing the city and what must be done at the council level to address them."

"My candidacy starts as an effort to spur others to recognize and respond to issues necessary to reform city government," he stated.

On his list of crucial issues: — Sewell Tract disposition, in which the city leadership supports state regulators and the developer over local residents

— Cape May Convention Hall, where finances remain hidden and flood insurance coverage remains costly and inadequate

— Lack of transparency in government that stifles accountability

— Tensions in commercial/residential neighborhoods due to bad planning and poor code enforcement

— Threats to historic preservation in which heritage is being lost site by site

— Impassable seasonal traffic

and inadequate parking, crying for a solution

— Old-school cronyism in city contracts wasting taxpayer funds

— Unresponsive and exclusionary government in which "leadership" is exercised by dictate and collegiality is all but unknown

— Weak municipal cost controls

On the topic of the city's attempt to withdraw from the Lower Cape May Regional School District, Hendricks told the Star and Wave that a maximum amount should be set that Cape May pays the school district instead of an ever-increasing tax rate. He said Cape May should have at least one more seat on the regional school board.

Hendricks said he is an expert on organizational restructuring and authored "The Rightsizing Remedy," published in 1992.

"My qualifications are based on hard-nosed and specific experience," he stated. "I am a Wharton MBA graduate who has over 45 years of management consulting experience focused on organizational, productivity and compensation studies for local governments and school systems, including



HENDRICKS

Ocean City (Maryland), Virginia Beach, Los Angeles, Miami Beach and Philadelphia."

He founded and serves as president of Concerned Citizens for Sewell Tract Preservation, a not-for-profit organization that he called "the last line of defense against unwarranted development in a 100-

acre tract that threatens our wetlands, endangered species, flood control and historical designation status."

Hendricks said he was running a campaign based on issues, not personalities.

In 2013, Hendricks served on the city's Advisory Committee to Study Shared Parking in Cape May, which determined it was not a solution.

Hendricks and his wife, Tricia, have been visiting Cape May since 1985, when they purchased a home on Trenton Avenue. They became full-time residents in 2012 after selling their Chevy Chase (Md.) permanent residence of 34 years. They have one son, Charles Jr., who resides with his wife, Lauren, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

A field of five — Hendricks, Shaime Meier, Bea Pessagno, Jerry Inderwies Jr. and John van de Vaarst — are competing for three council seats.

# Meier believes lifelong residency would be a plus on City Council

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Shaime Meier is the fifth and final candidate to submit petitions to run for three seats on City Council in the November election.

He presented his paperwork to City Clerk Louise Cumiskey on Sept. 2.

Meier, 28, is a lifelong resident of Cape May and the son of a U.S. Coast Guard officer.

His campaign motto is "Lifelong experience and dedication."

"I gave the commencement speech at Cape May Elementary School," he said.

Meier is meat manager at Westside Market in West Cape May and working toward a bachelor's degree in political science.

This election will mark Meier's third run for City Council.

"The reason I get involved is because I want to have more of a say in how things are run in Cape May, especially from the point of view of someone who grew up here and has seen the town change," he said.

Meier said some people running for council lack familiarity with Cape May.

He has served on the city's Zoning Board for four years, serves as president of both the Village Green Association and Greater Cape May Historical Society and is a board mem-

ber of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May. Meier also is a member of the Kiwanis Club.

"The No. 1 thing I've focused on in the last two elections is to maintain the city's National Historic Landmark status," he said. "As a member of city government, I could assure the city also follows its own rules."

He cites vinyl railings on the Promenade as an example of noncompliance.

Meier said wood along the Promenade is falling apart, especially on the east side of town. He is also calling for sidewalks along Elmira Street for the safety of pedestrians.

A big issue for Meier is the city's post office not being handicapped-accessible. He said all of the city's churches are ADA compliant, even though most are key historic buildings.

"It kills me to see that people in walkers can't get up there," Meier said.

He said a postal official told him the building is not required to have an ADA-accessible ramp because the North Cape May Post Office provides a ramp. Meier suggested the city find funding to build one.



MEIER

On the topic of Cape May's move to dissolve the Lower Cape May Regional School District, of which Meier is a graduate, he said students do not deserve to be penalized due to funding issues and squabbles between municipalities.

Meier said he supports Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman's work on the issue.

"As long as it doesn't impede on the students' ability to learn, I'm definitely in favor of making sure the funding formula is fair," he said.

Meier said the bigger issue is the amount of time and money the city has spent on the topic in the past year.

"I don't want it all to be done in vain by just throwing it to the wayside," he said.

On the topic of a year-round economy for Cape May, Meier acknowledged properties in the city are too expensive for young families.

"It's tough to have a year-round economy when the majority of businesses are geared toward the vacation crowds," he said.

A field of five — Meier, Bea Pessagno, Jerry Inderwies Jr., John van de Vaarst and Charles Hendricks — are competing for three council seats.

# Cape May's school-withdrawal referendum scheduled for Dec. 9

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Interim Executive County Superintendent Richard Stepura has set Dec.

9 as the date for a referendum that will allow voters in Cape May, Lower Township and West Cape May to cast a vote on whether Cape May should be allowed to withdraw from

the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

Cape May Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said the state approved the referendum and Stepura set the date for a spe-

cial election. Polls will be open from 2 to 9 p.m., according to Wichterman.

Who will pay for the cost of holding the election remains a question. Wichterman said Lower Township and West Cape May do not want to share the cost of holding the special election since Cape May requested the referendum.

He said Cape May's special attorney Vito Gagliardi pointed out that historically when special elections are held for school district dissolutions, the cost has been borne by the regional district.

Wichterman said County Clerk Rita Fulginiti was not able to find any correspondence from past years to concur with Gagliardi's conclusion. He said Gagliardi forwarded informa-

tion to Assistant County Counsel James Arsenault, who is looking into the matter.

A conference call has been scheduled with the three municipalities and Arsenault Sept. 10.

"Hopefully, we can get this thing settled without having to go to court, which will simply add some more cost to this," Wichterman said.

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our community come alive," Maloney said.

The model was built from the Lifesaving Station's original plans, which were drawn in 1876 for the centennial

celebration in Philadelphia. After the exposition closed, the Victorian-era structure was removed from the fairgrounds in Fairmount Park in 1877 and moved to Lower Township. Ultimately it was christened as U.S. Lifesaving Station No. 40 at Bay Shore and the structure was staffed by trained rescuers for decades.

Maritime Museum records indicate that the structure was moved closer to Cape May Lighthouse in its later years, but was lost to storm damage in the 1950s after many years of active service.

Maloney said he planned to meet with the commanding

officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, pointing out the U.S. Lifesaving Service was one of the agencies that were merged into the modern-day Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard is very interested in this project, and we hope to have their involvement in all stages — including re-enactments, once the station is rebuilt," Maloney said.

The Seaview in Cape May has planned an Oct. 4 fundraiser for the project; the Cape May Cottagers' Association hosted a fundraiser earlier in the summer.

More information is available on the organization's website at 222.capebaymaritimemuseum.org.

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Let's Be Cops R 11:25, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00  
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November Man R 2:15, [10:00]  
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles PG13 11:40, 4:50, [7:25]  
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