

Candidates state positions

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The more information provided, the better it's going to be for you as taxpayers," she said.

School-funding formula

On whether the city should continue attempting to reduce the funding formula with the Lower Cape May Regional High School District, Hendricks said the city has spent far more money on legal expenses connected with the demotion of former police chief Robert Sheehan than withdrawing from the school district.

She said it really did not matter what she thought as a council member, she must follow the mandate of voters.

"You need to make sure you're asking the other people on council that same question because I would only be one vote," Hendricks said.

Furlin said he supported the vote of the people to change the funding formula. He said while school taxes were based on property values, the number of members on the school board was based on the student population from a given town.

The cost of legal fees to change the funding formula was known before the public voted, he said. Furlin suggested Cape May residents take more pride and interest in Lower Cape May Regional High School district.

Beach safety

With more than 50 known, serious beach injuries occurring since beach replenishment began, a question asked the candidates their opinion on how to provide safe beaches for residents and visitors.

Hendricks said as a council member, she would seek the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Protection and institutes of higher learning. She noted Cape May was the first city to sign on to a beach-replenishment program and had a responsibility to work toward a solution.

"The corps is looking to do something, they just want us to be demonstrative in our efforts to ask for help," Hendricks said. "The fact is the city has to recognize that just talking about it, when residents bring it up, is not going to solve the problem."

Furlin said once the city starts moving sand, it would bear some liability for accidents that may happen. He said he thought the city should be doing all it can to solve the problem.

Old ordinances

The city has old ordinances on the books that cannot be enforced because its staff is overwhelmed by the summer tourist population. The candidates answered a question on whether ordinances should be reviewed and some removed from the codebook and whether they would provide leadership on a committee to get them reviewed and updated.

Furlin described the city's confiscation of bicycles parked on the Promenade as a "horrible experience."

He said ordinances needed to be looked at from a tourism point of view since tourism provides nearly half the city's revenue. Furlin said he would volunteer to be on a committee to examine ordinances.

Hendricks said she kept hearing about "image" and "brand" when it comes to ordinances for beach safety. She said she "felt for the people" when it came to a lack of enforcement and selective enforcement of ordinances.

"The six people that had their bicycles taken asked if I would meet them because they needed help," Hendricks said, adding the bike owners felt victimized but still love Cape May.

Hendricks said she would serve on a committee to examine old ordinances. She said she was tired of ordinances that selectively hurt people, whether it was bike owners or the owner

Roger Furlin

Slogan: "Progress Through Unity."

Furlin is a retired engineer, a graduate of Drexel University with a master's degree from Penn State University. He worked at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, Pa., as a department director and also as director of information systems engineering at the Naval Air and Warfare Center.

Furlin and his wife, Heather, have been residents of Cape May for 20 years. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Cape May, where he was director of the monthly Jazz Vespers program for five years and an elder of the church. For six years, he served as technical director of Fine Life, an inspirational musical theater group, and managed Harpoon Henry's restaurant until 2010.

Furlin and his wife are volunteers at the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities. Furlin is a longtime member of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May. He has served on the group's municipal committees and workshops such as the mayor's advisory committee, permit parking committee, a Federal Emergency Management Agency hurricane-preparation workshop and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture dunes ecology workshop.

Furlin was appointed to the city's Historic Preservation Commission in 2011 and last year to the Zoning Board to coordinate the activities of the two boards. He currently is vice chairman of the Zoning Board.

(Information from League of Women Voters)



FURLIN

Patricia Hendricks

Slogan: "Cape May, Our City, Our Choice, Our Future."

Hendricks' early life offered her a taste of politics. As a Girl Scout, Hendricks was not content to salute the 48-star flag at her scout meeting. Determined to get a new flag, she wrote to her U.S. senator. The letter not only yielded the Girl Scout troop a trip to Washington, D.C., to receive a flag, but later the chance for her to volunteer in the senator's re-election campaign.

That experience planted a seed, and she later was elected as student representative on her town's city council throughout high school. While attending George Washington University, she was awarded a Junior Federal Fellowship at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Given her interest in public service, she chose to teach social studies in the Washington, D.C., school system. During her tenure, she was selected to teach former President Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy.

Hendricks was the first female commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May, 2015 president of the Cape May County Board of Realtors, a member of the New Jersey Realtors Board of Directors, a trustee of the Educational Foundation and Governmental Research Foundation. She is first vice president of the Cottagers Association of Cape May. In 2011, Hendricks was named Outstanding Realtor of the Year by the Cape May County Board of Realtors. As a member of Cape May Kiwanis, she volunteers for educational fundraising projects. She and her husband have been Cape May residents since 1985.

(Information from League of Women Voters)



HENDRICKS

of a bar who is "drawn through the wringer."

"I don't want to see an employee crucified for comp time when it's otherwise widely approved," Hendricks said, referring to police Lt. Chuck Lear.

Mercantile license fees

Investors purchase large homes and convert them to whole-house rentals, which are not charged sales or tourism taxes, and purchase a mercantile license costing only \$125. A question asked the candidates what they would do to increase funding to the Tourism Utility to offset tourism costs.

Furlin said whole-house rentals were not on a level playing field with the rest of the room-rental industry. He said whole-house rentals do not receive fire inspections or a safety inspection for the number of people allowed to stay in the house.

The price structure of mercantile licenses needs to be examined and be based on the maximum allowable occupancy of the whole-house rental, Hendricks said.

Hendricks said the cost of all mercantile licenses should be relative to the size of a business or whole-house rental. She said a license for a two-bedroom house rental was the same as for

a seven-bedroom house.

Public/private partnerships

A new partnership was announced for upgrading Rotary Park. The candidates were asked what role the city should have in such partnerships.

Hendricks said the city has a number of partnerships, including with the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, Center for Community Arts, Audubon Society and Fund for Cape May. She said the role of the city in public/private partnerships should be as manager with total fiscal control.

"The role of the city should in no way be diminished, which could easily place the taxpayer at risk," Hendricks said. "Especially when it comes to ongoing maintenance of these projects."

Such projects should involve the Planning Board and Shade Tree and Historic Preservation commissions, Hendricks said. She said no special interests should be attached to projects.

Furlin said he believes public/private partnerships are a terrific idea, part of what his entire campaign was about,

"the unification of city government with the citizens of Cape May to make improvements and progress." He concurred with Hendricks that the city should have control of the partnerships.

New sources of revenue

On what new sources of revenue the candidates envision for the city, Furlin said the city should do all it can to expand and enhance the tourism industry since it provides the city's principal revenue source.

"Cape May's demographics are changing, and we need to take a serious look at how our tourist industry is changing also," he said.

He said the long-term tourist to Cape May tended to be the "older generation" and the city was not quite attracting the younger generation as much as it did in the past. Furlin said the antiques market does not have the same appeal to the younger generation. He said the city needs a 20- to 30-year plan.

"We also have to look at our own internal structure and what we need to do to attract younger entrepreneurs to set up businesses in our town," Furlin said.

He said the number of young business operators in Cape May could be counted on one hand.

Hendricks said she favored intergovernmental service agreements and privatization of some services. She said cities are expected to do more with less, so the city needs to find alternative service providers. City revenue has reached the point where there are few additional sources of revenue available, Hendricks said.

She said she would consistently ask her fellow council members to focus on what the city needs and "not pay out for a litany of wants."

Robert Sheehan

The candidates concluded the forum by taking questions from the audience.

Former councilman Bill Murray said Cape May has been incurring some "extraordinary legal fees." If elected to council, would the candidates vote to reinstate Sheehan as chief of police and dispense with current litigation?" asked Murray.

Hendricks said if she were elected to council, if it hadn't already been done, the first resolution that she offered or seconded would be to reinstate Sheehan as chief of police. She said the city needs to admit it made a mistake and "realize the entire town is behind them."

Furlin said he would not vote to reinstate Sheehan. He said he did not know what litigation was outstanding.

"I could not with a clear conscious make a decision without knowing what the facts are, and they are not available to the public yet. I think it is extremely irresponsible to make a decision without knowing what all the facts are," he said.

Furlin said he would like to see it happen, noting it has caused the city "an awful lot of grief." He said as long as there is open litigation, facts cannot be revealed.

Something positive

Deputy Mayor Terri Swain asked the candidates for one positive thing they would do for Cape May.

Furlin said he would continue to press for progress through unity, the theme of his cam-

paign. He said the city should resolve issues before they become problems.

Hendricks said she would foster volunteerism and work toward community groups being permitted to use Convention Hall without paying heavy fees. She said she would work diligently with Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education to get the school's swimming pool repaired.

Combining schools

On whether Cape May City Elementary School and West Cape May Elementary School should be merged into one school, Hendricks said both communities would be heartbroken to think their school would be closed. She asked which school would close and "who is going where?" She questioned the reality of combining the schools.

Furlin said it was an idea worth considering with both schools experiencing declining enrollment. He said if the

schools were combined, the remaining school could be considered to pull back the seventh and eighth grades from the Lower Cape May Regional School district.

"If we do that, we can get more of our own students back in our own backyards," he said.

Public safety

Furlin spoke of the need for sidewalk repairs in Cape May due to tripping hazards. He also called for more signs indicating emergency evacuation routes from the city. If one bridge is closed, visitors don't know how to get out of the city, he said.

Hendricks said she visited Victorian Towers last week and met three residents with their arms in a sling due to falling on the sidewalk in front of the same house as they approached the post office. She said they also expressed concerns about sidewalks not being cleared of snow in winter. Hendricks said the city needs to start a list of needed repairs.



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22	3:35	4:00	9:27	10:13
23	4:40	5:02	10:34	11:09
24	5:38	6:00	11:36	
25	6:32	6:55	12:01	12:33
26	7:23	7:47	12:52	1:28
27	8:13	8:38	1:41	2:21
28	9:02	9:29	2:30	3:14

MOON PHASES
Full Moon, Oct. 27

Cape May Star & Wave

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 161 Number 43

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc., 801 Asbury Ave., #310,
Ocean City, N.J. 08226

Published Weekly (52 times a year)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$39 a year; \$70 for two years; \$20 for six months.
Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave, 600
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