

Cape May loses jazz festival events; moving to LCMR

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — What may be the biggest jazz event in years, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra will appear as part of the Exit Zero International Jazz Festival on Nov. 6-8.

The headliner shows normally held in Cape May Convention Hall will move to the performing arts center at Lower Cape May Regional High School in Erma.

Festival promoter Michael Kline said the show "dropped into our lap." He said his associate producer works at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

"We thought this was going to

happen around 2017 in the fall but the Lincoln Center had some stuff set up for the fall that they had been working on for a while in New York that dropped out, so we got our offer in really quick and they're here," Kline said.

Marsalis will play two shows at LCMR's performing arts center, at 6 and 9 p.m. Nov. 7.

"The two headliner shows on Friday and Saturday night are both at the high school, we just needed the extra room," Kline said.

The high school's performing arts center has almost 500 more seats than Convention Hall, he said. Kline said from a production standpoint, Lower Cape May Regional was an

upgrade from Convention Hall. He said his production costs were lower when doing shows at LCMR.

Kline said the festival runs all weekend, including shows at Carney's, Cabanas and Althea's.

"Cape May Convention Hall were really using this festival almost as a club venue," Kline said. "We're doing one show in there on Friday night and then three shows on Saturday."

Among the other major performers are Grammy Award-winner Terri Lyne Carrington's Mosaic Project Soul and Love; Bettye Lavette, Pat Martino and Marc Cary's Harlem Sessions.

Kline said by moving to the re-

gional school, for the first time, the festival will control ticket sales. He said when a promoter rents Convention Hall, they must use the facility's ticket seller.

Shuttle buses will run from Convention Hall to Lower Cape May Regional for the Marsalis concerts.

TEDxCapeMay returns to the Jersey Shore for its fourth season Oct. 18 for a full day of diverse performances and presentations under the provocative theme: "Truth Be Told." The TEDxCapeMay program features 12 speakers and performers, each challenged with presenting a novel "idea worth spreading" in 18 minutes or less.

TedXCapeMay organizer Norris

Clark said the event was moved to Lower Cape May Regional for more available seating. Attendees are served lunch, which limits use of Convention Hall to only 350 seats, he said.

Clark said the Tedx conference turned away people in the past due to a lack of seating. He said the price was a little better at the high school, too.

Shuttle buses will run from Cape May to the high school, Clark said. For more information, visit tedx-capemay.com.

Tickets can be purchased online at exit0jazzfest.com or by calling the Exit Zero International Jazz Festival at (609) 849-9202.

Bike Lane

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As in a presentation to the commissioners at the last meeting, there is a question of the minimum width of the street to allow for parking and a biking lane. The plan would also straighten the road.

"We would like to have a consistent width to the road," Roberts said. "A minimum of 8 feet is required for parking lanes."

By the proposed plan, a 5-foot bike lane would be designated on the same side of the street as the sidewalk. Parking would remain on both sides of the street. The plan would require taking 6 inches from the park side of the street to leave an adequate width of 33 feet for the whole length of the street. The driving lane would be 11.5 feet, less than the required 12 feet, at the narrowest point if

nothing is taken from the park.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke expressed concerns about plantings on the edge of the park. Roberts told the commission that taking 6 inches would not interfere with the gardens, only necessitate the removal of shrubs that are now at the curbside. The plan would also improve the ramp access for the handicap-accessible parking spaces. Roberts received the approval of the commissioners to move forward on the plan.

In further comment, Burke noted that the first stage of tree trimming to increase the sight lines at the intersection of Central Avenue and Park Boulevard has shown an improvement.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said she has sent a second request to the New Jersey chapter of the National Arborist Association for information that would

help with the administration of the new ordinance concerning tree preservation.

A closed session followed. The commission announced the closed session would concern the water loss mediation with the city of Cape May. The com-

mission reported that negotiations are ongoing and no action is being taken.

"We understand that no action was taken at (Cape May City Council's) last meeting. We are in a holding pattern," Kaithern said.

OPRA

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despite requests of the public and the county Prosecutor's Office pressing no charges against him.

Scheeler requested and received time sheets from the city he said indicate widespread use of comp time among the city's management, including City Clerk Louise Cummiskey. Council approved the hiring of an attorney to provide Cummiskey with legal defense. (See related story this edition).

Scheeler provided the media with copies of email correspondence between himself and City Solicitor Tony Monzo. Among the records he has obtained was a copy of the arrest report of Monzo's son on an alleged burglary at Collier's Liquor Store on Christmas Eve 2014.

In an email to Scheeler, Monzo demanded to know Scheeler's source of information inside the Police Department of an alleged email to Sheehan from Monzo asking charges to be dropped for his son following his arrest. Monzo said action would be taken against Scheeler for copying to the media what he termed a false and defamatory statement concerning the alleged email concerning his son's arrest.

Scheeler replied he was invoking the Shield Law as a blogger to protect his current and future sources. He threatened personal legal action against Monzo if he did not stop what he called his bullying tactics.

"I gave him a 2013 case where a judge refused to force a blogger to honor a subpoena by the prosecutor's office for their source," Scheeler said.

In another email to Monzo, Scheeler said he had established the City Clerk's Office could not competently handle an electronic OPRA request without the threat of litigation and him providing case law. He said he caught the clerk's office using Wite-Out to redact information, which he said is illegal.

"I always go after a town's legal bills because they are almost like a crystal ball of what's going on in the town and any wrongdoing or political influence by the solicitor is going to be exposed in those bills," he said.

According to Scheeler, the City Clerk's Office has requested extensions of time to provide public records, which Scheeler deemed a denial. He said in his 21 years of examining public records, he had never had so many people contact him for assistance as have residents of Cape May.

Scheeler said he had zero tolerance for a custodian of public records who blocks a basic, uncomplicated request for public records whether it is due to incompetence or defiance.

In an email to Monzo, Scheeler said there seems to be a strange and remarkable concurrence of events surrounding the arrest of Monzo's son and the systematic dismantlement of the city's Police Department.

In an email to Scheeler, Monzo claimed Scheeler's requests for documents amounted to harassment of Cummiskey. Monzo said at some point it would be necessary to address the matters through a denial and resolution through the state Government Records Council

or court.

Scheeler also requested the date of hire and salaries of Cummiskey and Deputy City Clerk Patricia Harbora and their OPRA training certificates from the GRC or New Jersey League of Municipalities.

On July 22 in an email, Scheeler warned Cummiskey to stop defiantly defying OPRA laws or he would litigate each and every violation. He reminded Cummiskey any fines would come out of her pocket, not the city's funds.

Scheeler said the City Clerk's Office asks for time extensions to provide documents but does not honor the extensions.