



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Political ads bother the candidates, too

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY - The First District Legislative race is getting hot with each side lobbing accusations of negative campaigning.

Republican First Legislative District Senate candidate Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt and Assembly candidates Kristine Gabor and Sam Fiocchi face incumbent Democrats Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Bob Andrzejczak in the Nov. 5 general election.

On Sept. 26, the GOP candidates held a conference call with Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21), Senate Minority Leader Senator Tom Kean, Jr. (R-21) and reporters over a Democratic ad in another newspaper asserting the state ethics commission didn't find fault with Albano's conduct from a 2012 traffic stop.

New Jersey State Police Trooper Randal Pangborn pulled Albano over on Route 29 in Hamilton Township, Mercer County on Feb. 21, 2012. According to Pangborn, Albano was driving 71 mph in a 55 mph zone.

On Feb. 27, 2012, Albano sent a letter on his official legislative stationery to New Jersey State Police Superintendent Colonel Rick Fuentes addressing the incident. In the letter, Albano claims Pangborn treated him disrespectfully, and tried explaining he was driving with a temporary registration of his vehicle's back window. Albano said Pangborn kept asking for the registration, and that two other troopers arrived and blocked his car in.

Albano also requested an internal investigation into the

incident and Pangborn's conduct.

In April, Albano withdrew the complaint and paid his traffic ticket.

The Newark Star-Ledger obtained a copy of Pangborn's dashboard camera video of the traffic stop. In the video, Pangborn does not repeatedly ask for Albano's registration, nor are any other troopers seen.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards voted unanimously 8-0 on Sept. 17 to investigate a complaint filed by Dennis Township resident Ed Beck

against Assemblyman Nelson Albano's letter accusing a State Trooper of improper behavior following a 2012 traffic stop.

Beck's complaint, filed in June, alleges Albano misused his power when he called for an investigation into the State Trooper's conduct.

The Van Drew for Senate campaign paid for an advertisement, which resembles a news article. The ad bears a headline "Ethics Committee Declines to Find Fault Against Albano."

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CM Point's Stanger resigns as mayor

Temporary appointment made to fill seat

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - The Cape May Point Board of Commissioners, on Thursday night, is expected to announce their temporary appointment to replace Mayor George "Skip" Stanger Jr., who resigned effective Oct. 1.

Stanger was elected in May 2012 and his four-year term was extended to November 2016, when the commissioners voted to move the municipal election to coincide with the General Election.

Stanger said he decided to step down because a bad back was making it difficult for him to do the job the way he thought it should be done.

"I really felt like I should be in the office at least two, and preferably three days per week. I couldn't do it," he said.

Stanger, 71, said he has had bad back for a long time and had surgery in 2001.

"It's been pretty good off and on, then I started experiencing bad pain down both legs," he said.

He said on a recent drive down from their farm in Stow Creek Township, Cumberland County, he lost feeling in his right foot and had to pull over and let his wife, Judy, drive the rest of the way to their Alexander Avenue home.

"I just decided I couldn't do this anymore," he said.

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Angry residents pack two municipal meetings

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - The scene outside the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA) administration building was of concern for those attending the Oct. 2 board meeting. Some 50 to 75 persons stood in small groups quietly holding signs alleging misconduct on the part of Matt Ecker, LTMUA executive director.

No one was stopped from entering the building, and it was only after the start of the meeting that the groups filed into the meeting room with signs in hand filling the chairs and lining the walls of the hall.

Nels Johnson, board chairman, asked that all comment be reserved for the public portion of the meeting. He also added that anyone causing a disruption would be removed from the room if they did not cease and desist.

Several matters of business were addressed. The board accepted the retirement of Elisa Giangiacomo. Ecker added that she started as a lab tech many years ago and retired as plant supervisor. He asked the board to thank her.

The MUA budget was presented. The sewer and water rates will not increase according to acting Chief Financial Officer Steven

Testa. Approval by the state is necessary.

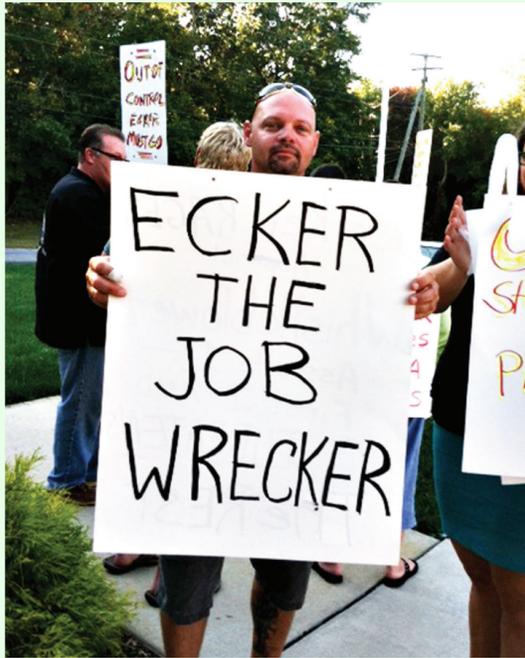
The matter of a written request by the Cape May Beach Property Owners Association for residential status for water connection and rates was next on the agenda. Presented at the last meeting and reviewed in closed session, the request was denied. A letter will be sent to the association with the decision.

During the public comment section Don Embs asked if the Sunshine Law is being followed. He had come to the building on two occasions, last month and this month, and found that the agenda for the meeting was not available 48 hours before the meeting as required by the law. Emily Oberkofler, board secretary, commented that she was not aware that Embs had come into the office.

Some board members had little to say about how little or how much they knew of the allegations against Ecker and of an investigation by the Cape May County Prosecutors' Office. Thomas Frisoli, board member spoke.

"I spend a couple of hours at night (before each meeting) studying the agenda and notes. I just got this one today without notes. I am not happy with this," Frisoli said. "I would like to table this whole meeting."

Nels Johnson, chairman,



Betty Wund/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a resident protests at the Lower Township MUA meeting Oct. 2. On Monday, some of the same signs were seen at the township council meeting.

determined that was not possible.

Frisoli continued by saying he wondered why employ-

ees who were considered good workers for months and might be considered for bonuses again, were sudden-

ly not considered good.

He said he received a certified letter as did others on the board. He was approached by Jania Bailey and Jesse Matsinger. He said he gave them suggestions. He said that if that makes him the "bad guy" so be it. Until relieved of his position he will stay in the position he added.

Harrison Biting added that he was told that there was a new policy that no one could go back into the yard even board members. He asked who makes policy. Biting questioned why an employee could change policy. Frisoli added that the change in policy coincided with the Labor Day rumors of firings. He was told he could not go into the yard and speak to the employees the Tuesday after Labor Day. Ecker said that he made the change because of the ongoing county prosecutor's investigation.

MUA employees' case presented by lawyer

During the public comment section of the Oct. 2 Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA) meeting attorney Michelle Douglass addressed the board.

Douglass was representing five employees of the LTMUA who have griev

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Cape May City Council continues discussion on 'resort' houses

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City council has appointed a 10-member advisory committee to research an ongoing issue regarding rental homes used for large celebratory events.

Mayor Ed Mahaney announced the formation of the committee at the Oct. 1 regular meeting. Members appointed were Mahaney, Deputy Mayor William Murray, the zoning official, the police captain, Code Enforcement Officer John Queenan,

City Solicitor Tony Monzo and City Manager Bruce MacLeod. Three members of the community - Bonnie Pontin, Mary McKenney and John VandeVaarst were also appointed.

Mahaney said there have been numerous complaints regarding noise from these rental homes during large events as well as parking issues. He said the city hopes to balance the property rights of the homeowners while preserving the quality-of-life for other residents and visitors. He said any proposed changes to city code or ordinances

will result in a public hearing.

"We respect the property rights of the homeowners," Mahaney said. "Times change, needs change and quite frankly the economy's changing and people are looking for new ways as owners to gain revenue and people are looking for great destinations like Cape May to come to and to have an affair and keep the cost as reasonable as possible. But, in fairness to the whole community, we have to look at this issue to see how it should be handled from several different standpoints."

Mahaney said the ultimate

goal is to make Cape May "affordable and acceptable to everybody" and hopes to have new stipulations regarding resort houses in place by the next summer season.

Monzo said there are a number of issues to discuss in terms of the rental homes such as fire safety, ADA compliance, parking and taxation, although he said the city has not yet looked at what could be subject to additional taxes. Monzo said other shore communities are also dealing with a similar situation.

"It's kind of a grey area right now between residen-

tial use and commercial use in terms of these rentals," Monzo said. "So, I think the number one objective is to create a bright line, at least a brighter line, that tells us when a whole house rental becomes of commercial use."

Monzo said Avalon is currently in the process of creating a clear definition of the term "resort house," which is a residential home that's used for commercial purposes. He said Cape May City Council needs to discuss the topic thoroughly, especially from a zoning standpoint, to see what is fair to all residents.

Mahaney said the committee will be looking at seven primary issues regarding resort homes, which are zoning, construction permits and approvals, licensing, noise issues, nuisance issues, parking availability and finally, alcohol consumption on public streets. He said public safety would also be discussed.

Councilwoman Terri Swain said there needs to be enforced occupancy levels established for these resort houses. Monzo said it would

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH AT 9:00AM
CAPE MAY CONVENTION CENTER

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Local Business support needed and always welcomed for scholarship fund.