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Marking 15th anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks

Lower honors loved ones lost

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

SUNSET BEACH — Lower Township honored those who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001, with a solemn sunset flag ceremony led by Mayor Michael Beck on Sunday evening.

Beck acknowledged 38 years of sunset flag ceremonies held by Marvin Hume, who passed away last year. The casket flag of Paul Pansini, a New York City Engine Company 10 firefighter who lost his life at the World Trade Center, was flown during the ceremony. When Engine Company 26 needed an extra man on 9/11, Pansini answered the call. Beck said Pansini served at Engine Company 10, the closest firehouse to the World Trade Center, for 11 years. His widow, Janice Pansini Gomez, and their three children were present for the Lower Township ceremony.

Firefighters from Lower Township's volunteer fire companies, West Cape May and Cape May Point attended the ceremony along with members of the Lower Township, Middle Township, Wildwood and Cape May police departments.

More than 60 Red Knights, an international firefighters motorcycle



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The casket flag of FDNY member Paul Pansini was flown during the 9/11 ceremony Sunday at Sunset Beach in Lower Township. Below left, retired Coast Guard Fire Chief Chuck Burk. Below right, members of the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company.

club from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, attended the ceremony.

West Cape May Mayor Pam Kaithern spoke of the phrase "united we stand,

divided we fall." She said the phrase re-emerged after 9/11. Kaithern asked the crowd to join hands and observe a moment of silence "for all who gave."

"We will always remember for united we stand, divided we fall," she said. Commander Joseph

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South Jersey Gas will convert city to high pressure

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — South Jersey Gas will install new mains and service pipes to much of the city this fall and winter to convert their operation from low pressure to high pressure.

During a City Council meeting Sept. 6, South Jersey Gas Construction Manager Wes Becker said the project would use about 30,000 feet of pipe for gas mains and smaller pipe for 400 service lines to homes. He said the first phase of construction would not start until after Columbus Day.

The second phase would begin in November on some select streets but not on heavily traveled streets until after January, Becker said.

Phase one will stretch from Madison Avenue up Michigan Avenue to the Wawa at Texas Avenue,

according to Mayor Edward Mahaney.

Phase two construction will take place in the central part of Cape May including Madison Avenue, Sewell Avenue, Lafayette Street, Perry Street and a portion of Beach Avenue from Perry Street to Patterson and down Patterson Avenue.

A map of the construction areas is available in the City Clerk's Office and will be placed on Cape May's website.

Becker said phase three construction would run from Beach Avenue up Broadway through West Cape May. In Cape May, construction will take place on First Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue between Broadway and First Avenue, Mahaney said.

"The reason behind this work is the Board of Public Utilities after Hurricane

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Cape May beaches hit hard by tropical storm

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While Tropical Storm Hermine had a minimal effect on the city's weather the first weekend in September, its higher-than-normal waves and tides eroded some beaches here.

"We were fortunate although in one respect we did have a considerable amount of erosion," City Manager Bruce MacLeod said.

He said erosion varied from beach to beach. Poverty Beach suffered erosion, MacLeod said.

"We have some aerial photos that we were able to capture from a drone of both prior to the storm event and then after the storm event, so we are able to make vi-

sual comparisons," he said.

The city has not quantified how much beach it lost from the storm, MacLeod said, adding that some beaches have suffered some scarping.

Hermine did not produce any major flooding or significant wind damage in Cape May.

The city is scheduled for beach renourishment in the fall from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. MacLeod said the city notified the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Coastal Engineering of the erosion. "They've indicated together with the Army Corps of Engineers they will make some additional reviews

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Parking on tracks at Welcome Center delayed yet again

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A project to create parking spaces along unused tracks behind the Welcome Center is facing another delay.

During a City Council meeting Sept. 6, City Engineer Tom Thornton, of Mott MacDonald, said he has been trying to schedule a meeting with Tony Macrie, president of Cape May Seashore Lines, which has a lease agreement with NJ Transit to use tracks in Cape May County. Thornton said Macrie has not been

returning his phone calls.

City Solicitor Tony Monzo said legal counsel for Cape May Seashore Lines reached out to the city but the "communication breakdown" appeared to be with Macrie.

He said a staff member from his office was trying to get all parties scheduled for a meeting on site at the Welcome Center to determine any issues.

Monzo said a question was raised by NJ Transit as to whether the paving at the Welcome Center could have an effect on the rail lines. Thornton said the state De-

partment of Transportation, NJ Transit and Cape May Seashore Lines have been difficult to contact.

"The issues as presented to me seem very minor in nature and shouldn't be difficult to resolve," Thornton said.

He said he believed the project should move ahead quickly following the on-site meeting.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said if Macrie does not respond in a timely manner, "let the administration know in Trenton."

"This is for the public good

and it needs to be resolved. The city has a contract to make improvements over there and the project was engineered at the request of NJ Transit so that it would not impede or harm rail transportation in any way including from an operational standpoint," Mahaney said. "All the improvements being made would not prevent the service from coming in and resuming and the improvements that are being proposed are improvements that have been made in other

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A 'communication breakdown' between Cape May Seashore Lines owner Tony Macrie and the other parties involved is causing a delay in efforts to add parking spots to the site.

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