

MUA

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have now," Jackson said. "Our anticipation is that we don't see anyone losing their job over this. Most of the people will be absorbed under the township or we might have to transfer someone to a position other than in the MUA," Craig said. "The majority of council has weighed the pros and cons and we feel it is in the best interest of the township and the rate-payers," Craig said. The MUA will most likely become a Department of Water and Sewer, separate from the Public Works Department, Craig said. Craig said the priorities of the township are to identify the areas in Lower that are most in need of water service and to find grant money through the state and federal government to assist residents with costs. "The bottom line is that it (the MUA) can become a revenue-generating department," Craig said. He explained as a separate authority, the MUA "wouldn't necessarily have access to the money available that would benefit the township and the rate-payer in terms of stabilizing the rates and the enhancement of additional hookups and services."

"We've talked to several townships and boroughs that have assumed control of their MUA and it would appear that with most of them the rates stayed the same and in some cases the rates actually went down." Jackson contacted other municipalities where the MUA was dissolved, such as Stafford Township, to use as an example. "The consensus was that in each case when the MUA was dissolved the local government prospered better with the dissolution of their MUA," Craig said. "First we will need to bring in an RFQ (Request For Qualification) and an attorney or law firm with expertise in this area." Craig said the ordinance to change the MUA into a department would probably be presented in late January or early February. "There's no intention of selling the water to the American Water Company," Craig said. "There have been rumors of intent to sell it out to the county MUA, with absolutely no truth to that. "That should at least allay some of the fears of the workers that their positions are in jeopardy because I think peo-

ple know when companies come in they reduce staff and that's not our intent," Craig said. "By virtue of the fact that we are a township, we have access to larger sums of money to be able to expand and enhance the services of the utility department," he added. "The illumination of some of the duplications of services such as the professional service contracts will save several thousand dollars immediately." "The report by the state in 2001 reported that the overall savings could be well in excess of three quarters of a million dollars per year," he said. "The issue of information came up and at one point we indicated that we have been asking for information for over a year and we don't seem to get it." Craig said the township faces contamination from volatile organic material and salt-water intrusion of particular wells. "This is a situation occurring that should have been handled in a pro-active manner and I guess we have always taken water and other issues for granted, and now



Santa's visit to West Cape May Elementary School

Each year on the last day of school before Christmas vacation, members of the West Cape May Fire Department visit each class offering goodies to all. The highlight is, of course, a visit from Santa Claus who arrives by firetruck. Pictured are the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class with teacher Ms. Grassi and firefighters Tim Wiedman, Aaron Reeves and Kathy Elwell with Santa.

here we are in a reactive mode," Craig said. "Hopefully we can turn the MUA around at some point in

the future so that it's not in a reactive mode and so we are acting proactively to ensure future expansion and potable

water throughout the township."

Lady

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but music is one way I really enjoy relating to people."

Sea Isle City, where he learned piano from his former babysitter and landlord Race Hoover, a concert

pianist from Woodstown. "My first memories are of being shown music notes and piano keys. I can't remember

a time when I didn't know how to play," he said. Doubling as a sculptor, LaManna designed the art-

work for two of his album covers.

"Golden Key Enterprises." "Lady Fair" is available at Mariah's, Tommy's Folly at Congress Hall, The Whale's Tale in Cape May and on his Web site www.SteveLaManna.com where quotes from fans are posted.

LaManna produced the albums on his own label, One fan describes LaManna's music as "pure music played passionately."

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