

# Prior will bring Elvis to your door on Valentine's Day

By KRISTEN RILEY  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY - With the jet black hair, long sideburns and signature dark sunglasses, he's hard to miss.

He rides Asbury Avenue in the Doo Dah Parade, croons to a hermit crab on Martin Z. Mollusk Day and navigates the back lagoons for Night in Venice.

He's Ted Prior, but in Ocean City, he's better known as Elvis.

This Valentine's Day, you could find him waiting at your front door.

On the most romantic day of the year - and the week preceding it - Prior will sing love songs at houses, offices, businesses and restaurants around Cape May and Atlantic counties. The king will sing to your queen - or king - from Feb. 7 to 14.

"I love Valentine's Day," said Prior.

Prior has been a self-proclaimed die-hard Elvis fan since he was a teenager. For the past 25 years, he has performed under the name of EL-LIVE, but don't call Prior an impersonator. He prefers the title of Elvis performer or tribute artist.

"Everything is real," Prior said. "The hair's real, the sideburns are real. I sing and I play guitar."

Prior will sing at any location, and he already has bookings set up to sing at houses, restaurants and people's jobs. In most cases, his performance is a surprise for a loved one, and Prior's manager, Neil Regina, works with public locations to keep it that way.

"If they want it to be a surprise," he said, "we can coordinate it."

There are three different packages fans can choose from. Package one is two songs and one rose for \$75.

Package two is two songs, one rose and a 30-song CD of Elvis love songs (sung by Prior) for \$100. Package three is two songs, the CD and a dozen roses for \$165. Flowers are from Bayside Floral in Somers Point.

"Basically, it's to keep the music alive," said Regina.

"And to have something that nobody's done before," added Prior.

Singing Valentines aren't new, Prior admits, but to have Elvis sing them is something novel, at least in South Jersey. There is a list of suggested songs, but Prior is up to try anything - as long as it's a love song.

"I'm not going to do something like 'Hound Dog,'" Prior said. "These are romantic songs."

Requests so far range from "The Wonder of You" to "Unchained Melody" to "Pledging my Love." The Elvis Romantic CD features

30 love songs covered by Elvis, including "Separate Ways," "Just Pretend" and "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You."

Prior also stressed that this is not going to be a boombox and lip sync type of deal. He sings and plays guitar - everything's live and everything's Elvis. In fact, celebrities like Johnny Cash, Carol Channing, Arlo Guthrie and Mickey Rooney have attested to the fact that Prior was the best Elvis performer they had ever seen.

"If your significant other did this for you, wouldn't that be a great memory?" asked Regina. "Anybody can give candy or flowers, but to give Elvis as a Valentine is pretty special."

To book your Elvis singing Valentine, call (609) 601-8722. Bookings can be from Thursday, Feb. 7, to Thursday, Feb. 14.



Ted Prior

## Hall

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Kurkowski said the city could then send out requests for proposals to top architects, including Kimmel Borgette.

Kurkowski's last, but not the least of his recommendations, was to insist on spending no more than \$10 million to replace Convention Hall.

Inderwies said the city should try to see if the project could be done for less, and Deputy Mayor Niels Favre agreed with the idea of capping the spending at \$10 million.

"I have said we have one shot at a new Convention Hall and it should be the best we

can get for the lowest cost," Inderwies said.

Former mayor and councilman - and candidate for one of those positions - William Gaffney said he was going to repeat a call for a public referendum on the Convention Hall project, which he made at the Jan. 24 meeting. But in

light of the developments at yesterday's meeting, Gaffney simply praised the decision to take another year for the project.

Favre cautioned against not acting expeditiously over the next year, and Inderwies said the project should not be delayed more than the year

he recommended.

Councilman David Craig asked if the city was losing any bookings due to the previous announcement that Convention Hall would be demolished in December 2008. City manager Lou Corea said the city had to stop taking bookings several

months ago and would now need to let people know the facility would be available for another year. Leases for some individuals would also have to be revisited.

With the one-year delay, a new Convention Hall should be open for the season of 2011.

## Cats

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contract with the city of Cape May, saying it would renourish the beaches every other year.

Craig said the city is now in

the fourteenth year of that contract, and the sand has been replaced; however, endangered species have started to nest on the beach.

Council agreed to place a resolution to adopt the Beach Management Plan on the Agenda for the Feb. 19 meeting.

## Douglass

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that what the committee is interested in is not always what the public is interested in. He said the committee is holding another meeting at

the end of this month, and he has until April 7 to turn in petitions for the 2008 campaign.

Douglass said his decision

would not impede what council is working on now.

Besides Craig, at-large Councilman Robert Nolan is also up for reelection.

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Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical (USPS 519020)

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:** By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi: \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price: \$.50 per copy.

**PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE:** Weekly, every Thursday.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

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