Annual exhibit focuses on area’s black history, culture

**By CAIN CHAMBERLIN**

CAPE MAY – After City Council Manager Bruce MacLeod presented the 2014 Cape May Budget, the annual exhibit on the town’s African-American history opened at the Cape May Courthouse. The series, sponsored by the Center for Community Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC), is one of the many events throughout the year that highlight the black-owned businesses that once flourished in what is now historic Cape May.

“Cape May has a long history of black-owned businesses that once flourished in what is now historic Cape May, and presenters at the 20th Black History exhibit at the Public Library on Washington Street were highlighting that history and community,” said Center for Community Arts Coordinator Linda Brown, who unveiled the exhibit.

Called “The Way We Were…” the exhibit was on display at the Courthouse on Washington Street, as part of the Cape May County Historic Preservation Month. It will run through July 2014.

African-American history is highlighted through Cape May, West Cape May, Lower Township, and Wildwood through the annual exhibit.

According to the Center for Community Arts, this year’s theme is “The Way We Were…”

The exhibit focuses on the business community and its prosperity as well as the lives of black Cape May residents in the first half of the 20th century.

“Each section is explained and the reader is given a different perspective,” said Sandi Jensen, this intriguing exhibit’s Executive Director.

The annual exhibit is a part of the 2014 Black History Month observance, which is titled “The Way We Were…”

The first exhibit of the series is “The Way We Were…”

**Official answer to the council’s town:**

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

LOWER TOWNSHIP – There are many blind alleys before you get to the door that lets you in.

Typically, when the governing body, or council, has a meeting, people in Lower Township have to ask to get on the agenda at council meetings and have decisions made.

For the most part, people don’t see the mayor, council, or manager doing the bulk of their jobs, but only see them on a public meeting, normally as part of the consent agenda.

“Any bill you have in your house, we have,” Pirare said.

Pirare said the township cannot pay any bills until the Lower Township Council listens to the requestors. The council does not have the power to request an agenda.

The agenda for each township budget includes several resolutions that are considered to be routine in nature, such as paying the bills on the bill list, which amounts to payments for phone bill, postal services, supplies, and general utility spending.

If a council member requests that an agenda be brought to them, they are authorized by Lower Township Council.

The council votes on consent agenda resolutions as part of the consent agenda. The manager that approves the agenda, which includes the public meeting, normally as part of the consent agenda.

“By the time this council’s town, there are normally two full weeks of work to bring to them one piece of business,” Pirare said.

The council votes on agenda resolutions as a group, with each member casted a single vote. The council’s agenda, which is referred to as the regular agenda. Any of the resolutions on that part of the agenda are voted on individually.

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**Cape May Star and Wave**

BY CAIN CHAMBERLIN

CAPE MAY – At City Manager Bruce MacLeod presented the 2014 Cape May County’s budget, to which Anderson-Loes-Castillo commented, “The budget is up to a 2-cent tax rate increase for this year, is raised by Feb. 15.”

This budget is used as a guide for the people looking to the future, which is how and why a council’s resolution of conclusions of MacLeod’s presentation.

The budget will not increase the property taxes unless recommended it be increased as it is.

The County’s 2014 tax rate, which is raised by Feb. 15, will be up 2-cent tax rate of $0.20 per $100 of assessed valuation. The town rate would go up from 20.7 cents to 22.9 cents. This is property value.

The budget also projects that Cape May County’s budget of $16.6 million represents 63 percent of city spending, as the city manager has separate budgets for the Beach Utility, the Water and Sewer Utility, and the Tourism Utility. All four budgets combined, as well as the county’s budget, will spend over $26.6 million in 2014.

MacLeod said the $6.7 million Beach Utility budget, which includes revenue from the Beach Parking Lot, is up over 2013.

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