



Winery owner AMP'd up about meeting notification

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Willow Creek Winery owner Barbara Wilde claims she was not informed of a Thursday, April 19 meeting at Borough Hall, attended by Assemblyman Matt Milam (D-District 1-), concerning farm management practices.

At the Wednesday, April 25 regular meeting, Wilde said she was unaware of the meeting until it was nearly over. Mayor Pam Kaithern mentioned the meeting before Wilde made her comments, saying it was an "informal gathering" attended by herself, Milam, Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado and

stakeholders in the community. She said the meeting was regarding legislation and how it affects farms and residents in the borough. Corrado said those stakeholders included Curtis Bashaw of Beach Plum Farm, longtime West Cape May farmer Les Rea and residents of Stevens Street.

Kaithern said the group expressed their thoughts and opinions on the municipality's response to the State Agricultural Development Commission (SADC) concerning the On Farm Direct Marketing Agricultural Management Plan (AMP) draft. The SADC has been seeking comments on the draft from municipalities, the public and the owners



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the new Willow Creek Winery building has been part of discussions regarding West Cape May's Agricultural Management Plan (AMP). The owner claims she was not notified of a recent meeting which included other stakeholders.

of farmland. The document clarifies terms in the Right to Farm Act and puts forth standards a commercial farm would need to meet in order to receive right-to-farm pro-

tection for retail farm markets and agriculture-related activities and events, whether they be educational or recreational.

Kaithern said the borough submitted a letter to the SADC addressing their concerns on the draft. Along with the letter, comments from Beach Plum Farm and Willow Creek Winery were also submitted. However, Wilde claims an attachment with her letter regarding agritourism in New Jersey was not submitted.

Even though Wilde's comments were submitted to the state, she was still distraught having been left out of the meeting with Milam, other farmers and residents. Willow Creek Winery Director Kevin

Celli said he arrived at the meeting as it was ending, given the late notice. He said he requested minutes from the meeting, but was told none had been taken.

Corrado dismissed the notion that Wilde was not informed. He said he personally told Wilde's attorney, Marcus Karavan, about the meeting as he did the attorney representing Bashaw. Corrado claims he even sent a text message during the meeting, asking Karavan why Wilde wasn't in attendance.

"I traditionally deal with (Karavan) when talking about Willow Creek Farm, the same way I speak with Bashaw's

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New master water meters are coming

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council awarded a \$213,419 contract to Garrison Enterprises, Inc., of Vineland to replace two master water meters.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the meters are located at Canning House

meter installation. MacLeod said it mainly involved the laying of topsoil upon completion and Garrison agreed to do so at zero cost to the city.

It is believed the meters could be responsible for the more than 17 million gallons per year of unaccounted for municipal water in West

'We're trying to eliminate variables that could be causing the problem.'

– Mayor Ed Mahaney

Lane near the city Public Works yard, and in West Cape May at Wilbraham Park. He said the meters were originally listed as separate bids, but Garrison Enterprises was the low bidder for both, leading the city to combine them into one contract. MacLeod said the city received bids from two companies, but Garrison was the lowest bidder and a reputable contractor. MacLeod said the city has used the firm for projects in the past.

Construction and installation of the Wilbraham Park meter will cost \$108,069 and the Canning House Lane meter installation will cost \$105,350. Both meters were previously selected. MacLeod said the bid contract contained landscaping required for the Wilbraham Park

Cape May, which purchases its water from the Cape May. The borough has been trying to find the cause for 121 million gallons of missing water between 2003 and 2009, which is valued at approximately \$695,000. The Wilbraham Park meter has been the primary focus of the water loss. At the April 11 West Cape May Board of Commissioners meeting, it was announced that the new meter should be installed in June.

Cape May resident Kate Wyatt asked council if replacing the meters would solve the water loss issue in West Cape May. MacLeod said it may or may not solve the issue, but the city committed to doing it and there could

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Peter Nero concert is costing \$150 per ticket

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council authorized an \$85,000 contract to hire Peter Nero and the Philly Pops Orchestra to play the premiere concert in the new Convention Hall, May 26.

For \$85,000, the city will get a two-hour show featuring 65 musicians, said City Solicitor Tony Monzo. According to Monzo, the city made sure Nero and his music group were familiar with Convention Hall and that it met their requirements for the concert.

Council also approved a \$20,445 contract with Light Action Inc., which will provide the stage lighting and

sound for the Peter Nero concert. The bid includes Hauser Audio of Philadelphia as a subcontractor. Councilman Bill Murray said the contract contained a stipulation that a Steinway grand piano would be rented for the show, as well, and asked if that was included in the Light Action contract. MacLeod said it was not and the rental would cost \$2,800.

Former city mayor Jerry Gaffney asked council how much the concert would cost overall. Mayor Ed Mahaney said around \$110,000. Murray said he wanted to be certain the city would not take a loss by putting on the concert. MacLeod said he anticipated

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Loyalty Day in West Cape May

Above, third grade students from Maud Abrams School in Lower Township are shown pledging allegiance to the flag at the annual Loyalty Day ceremony every May 1. Students from Cape May and West Cape May Elementary Schools also took part.

LT manager rides a trash truck for a day

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Instead of jumping on the bandwagon, Lower Township Manager Mike Voll jumped on the trash truck recently.

Voll said just a couple weeks ago he went out on a

Voll said he was in favor of putting three employees on a trash truck rather than two, mainly because of overweight cans. By ordinance, the cans are not supposed to exceed 30 gallons capacity and not weigh more than 50 pounds. However Voll said he feels it is better to have two men to



township trash truck to see what Public Works employees have to deal with.

"It was a very eye-opening experience...and a lot of fun," Voll said.

Voll said it was two Fridays ago (April 20) that he worked all day on the trash truck.

"I got a good idea of what is being put out," he said.

empty cans if they turn out to be heavy.

"I want the proper protection and equipment to do the job in a safe manner," Voll said.

Sometimes that requires having enough people to do the job safely. Voll said he is

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Four candidates face off in Point election

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Cape May Point has four candidates vying for three seats on the borough's Board of Commissioners in the May 8 municipal election.

Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk, who is running for her second term, is joined by George "Skip" Stanger, Leonard Gramlich and Robert Moffatt.

Not running for reelection are Mayor Carl Schupp, who has served the borough for 12 years, and Commissioner John Henderson, who stepped up to fill a vacancy on the board.

VanHeeswyk, a Central Avenue resident who also serves as deputy mayor, is the borough's commissioner for Revenue and Finance. That department includes the offices of the treasurer, chief financial officer, tax collector and tax assessor, but it also includes planning, zoning, construction, and the administrative offices.

"At the Christmas party it makes a nice, full group," she said.

VanHeeswyk said she ran

the first time because she is interested in maintaining the character of Cape May Point. VanHeeswyk went to work making sure the Point was in compliance with state regulations, and during her term the borough received Plan Endorsement certification from the state in 2009. The certification was reviewed in 2011 and extended until 2019.

"I think my number one initiative in the next four years is for Cape May Point to have a higher level of respect and interaction among commissioners and property owners," she said. "I would like to know and understand what everyone wants."

VanHeeswyk said that includes having more people show up at commission and planning and zoning meetings.

VanHeeswyk has found herself involved in activities outside the borough, now serving as president of the Cape May County League of Municipalities. VanHeeswyk said knowing the "who, what and how" to get results from other levels of government can result in

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Marie Nicole's cooks up excellence just over the bridge

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD CREST – People often think of Cape May when looking for a dining experience with gourmet fare and an all-embracing wine list at the South Jersey shore, but Marie Nicole's of Wildwood Crest gives any Cape Island restaurant a run for its money.

Located at 9510 Pacific Avenue on the very southern tip of the Wildwoods, Marie Nicole's has been serving the Crest and visiting tourists for over a decade. For eight consecutive years, the restaurant has won an Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator and has also in the past been recognized as a "Best of the Shore" in Philadelphia Magazine. Having about 100 selections of wine in stock ranging from \$30 to about \$400, it's no

surprise wine connoisseurs vote Marie Nicole's as one of the best. As for the food menu, patrons might notice some changes this summer since owner James Barnabei decided to add a new culinary maestro to the mix.

Taking over the reins in the kitchen this year, as the restaurant prepares to open seven days a week in late May, is executive chef Chris Burner. It's certainly not the best last name for a chef, but don't let it fool you, because Burner's 11 years of experience in the restaurant business has taught him how to cook each dish to customer satisfaction.

He spent many of those 11 years as a sous chef in some of Cape May's fine dining restaurants, giving him an idea of what South Jersey epicures desire. Of course,

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