

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 46 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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U.S. NAVY BAND WILL PERFORM IN LOWER TWP.

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Republicans sweep Lower Twp. Council election

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Republican organization candidates Tom Conrad, Dave Perry and Erik Simonsen swept the Nov. 4 Township Council election, retaining two seats and gaining one from the independents.

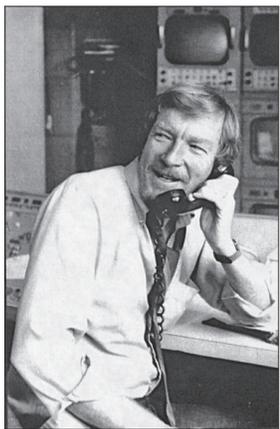
A number of votes by council this year have been split 3-2, with the three independents — Mayor Michael Beck, Deputy Mayor Norris Clark and Councilman James Neville — voting in the positive and Conrad and Simonsen voting in the negative. The Nov. 4 election changes the balance of power on council, with three Republicans now able to produce 3-2

votes in their favor. In a news release, Cape May County GOP Chairman Mike Donohue stated: "In Lower Township, we were faced with opponents who were backed by remnants of the old regime, Trenton lobbyists, big-money developers and the Democratic state senator. Lower Township voters rejected all of that in a big way. Tom Conrad, Dave Perry

and Erik Simonsen will form the new majority in Lower Township and follow through on their promise to bring the township back together." Deputy Mayor Norris Clark, who works for the state's largest lobbying group, spent the past two years attempting to convince voters that belonging to a political party, especially the Republican Party, was wrong and

corrupt, Donohue continued. "It is the worst kind of politics to smear entire groups of people based on their political affiliation. I think this turned off Republicans and Democrats alike. That showed in the overwhelming rejection of what the Lower independents offered the

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Bruce Minnix was a former mayor of Cape May and founder of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Founder of MAC, Minnix dies at 91

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Bruce Minnix, a former television director, mayor and founder of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, died Sept. 5 at the age of 91 in North Conway, N.H.

Minnix is credited with helping save the Emlen Physick Estate from demolition by a developer and encouraging the preservation movement that turned old Victorian homes in Cape May from possible teardowns into bed and breakfast inns.

He was instrumental in the city receiving National Historic Landmark status. After the 1962 Nor'easter, Cape May residents seemed anxious to tear down old Victorian homes and replace them with modern motels. The city applied for an urban renewal grant from the federal government, the first one awarded for preservation. He met Carolyn Pitts, who was hired to create an inventory of Cape May's historic buildings. The Physick Estate had been abandoned for a decade and had the appearance of a haunted house.

A group was organized to save the Physick Estate that included Minnix, Pitts, Fred Kuhner and a young Coast Guard officer,

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ALL-STAR SALUTE TO VETERANS



Students from Eileen Oleksiak-Hall's third-grade class at Maud Abrams School participate in Cape May's Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 along with the color guard from American Legion Post 193, background. See more photos on B8.

Cape May taps Meier, Inderwies, Pessagno

By PHIL PIZZI
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — There were many familiar faces in Cape May City Council chambers on election night as about two dozen residents waited for the results.

Former Mayor Jerry Inderwies and his wife, Lydia, were there to support their son, checking results of the absentee ballots on the Cape May County election website. As it turned out, the top three vote-getters via absentee emerged as the victors when the vote totals were announced by City Clerk Louise Cummiskey at about 8:45 p.m.

Jerry Inderwies Jr. was elected to council with the most votes at 631, or 24 percent. Bea Pessagno was second at 599, or 23 percent, and Shaine Meier was third at 591, or 22 percent.

John Van de Vaarst received 386 votes and Charles Hendricks finishing the field with 374 votes.

Inderwies Jr., the city's retired fire chief, said he was delighted with the election results and was looking

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City has year for school's part of park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a 25-year lease of land owned by Cape May City Elementary School for part of a Lafayette Street park during a special meeting Nov. 7, but not before a number of questions on the agreement were asked by Councilman Bill Murray.

Consultant Jim Rutala said the lease was one more step in a long journey to develop the park. The project will create recreational space from the school to St. John's Street and include a trail to Cape Island Creek.

He said City Council approved an access agreement with Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) in 2009 to use land the utility owned for a municipal park. JCP&L inherited the property through acquisitions that once housed a coal-gasification plant that left wide-

See **School part of park**, Page A7



Cheryl Gulish/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Leaving tracks in the sand

The discovery of railroad tracks on the beach between Higbee Beach and the Cape May Canal following heavy wave action had social media buzzing last week with speculation of the origin of the rusty rails and a few remaining cross ties. According to historian Ben Miller, the tracks were built by Bethlehem Steel and used to carry munitions onto the beach for testing during World War I.



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