Cape May approves outdoor seating rules

Nixes per-seat fee, instead will impose $25 surcharge on all mercantile licenses

Cape May taps Young as new city manager

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY — Neil Young was appointed as the new city manager of Cape May at a City Council meeting May 2. He has been serving as interim city manager since January, following the December 2016 retirement of Bruce MacLeod.

Young

In January, Mayor Chuck Lear and City Council appointed a Manager Search Committee that solicited and interviewed candidates, reviewed applications and interviewed people who matched the pre- determined qualifications. The members considered the applications of 40 candidates before narrowing the field and inviting candidates for interviews. From the pool of finalists, the search committee made recommendations to Lear and council, and six applicants were brought in for interviews.

Lear noted the city was fortunate to have a strong candidate pool and thanked the search committee for its diligent work.

“We interviewed several impressive and well-qualified candidates and Neil was always among them,” he said. “The municipal services background, his successful career as

INSIDE

Cape May’s new administration inclined to support wheelchair ramp at post office.

Page A2

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY — City Council passed an ordinance to regulate private property blocking public access rights on the beach with a family, feeling safer and knowing that plans are in the works for more. However, some are being blocked by private property and other issues.

By JACK FICHTER

VILLAS — Councilman Tom Consalvo said he has received a number of comments on new beach access paths along the bay but with ease. The latest comments are complaints from residents that there is no path in their neighborhood. "Almost all love them and are thanking the township for doing them, especially here in Villas," he said. "We’re hearing stories about how it is new easier to get to the beach with a family, feeling safer and what a wonderful job the township workers did.”

He said he has received a new type of complaint on the beach access paths. "Why didn’t the township do my street or any other street nearby mine?" Consalvo said he has heard, "The reason we didn’t do them all is that we didn’t own those street ends.”

The township created new beach access at 922 Beach Ave, beach access and boardwalk extension, beach chairs and umbrellas, as well as beach access to Historic St. Peter’s Church. "The law requires that the beach access we do be on a public access right of way through private property," he said. "Plus we had to see how they worked and what the public thought of them." Consalvo said. "Now we know, we can go from there.”

See Beach paths, Page A5

Guidelines vs. standards for historic body up for debate

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY — City Council voted against introducing an ordinance that would have tightened regulations from the city’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on solar panels, wind turbines and satellite dishes, clarified HPC’s guidelines so standards and lowered the possibility of appeals of HPC decisions by the Zoning Board.

During a meeting May 2, the ordinance failed in a 3-2 vote with council members Bea Pesce-Ross, "yes" votes. Ficsher said references to installing wind turbines increased at an earlier meeting were removed from the proposed ordinance.

Prior to 2002, architectural considerations were written into city codes as guidelines,” he said. “In 2002, the adopted and published design standards surviving Department of Interior design standards in an effort to clarify guidelines and establish criteria for applicants coming before the HPC.”

He said the ordinance corrected city codes that reference published design standards as guidelines rather than standards. Applicants can appeal HPC decisions they are unhappy with to the city’s Zoning Board.

See Guidelines vs. standards, Page A2

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Cape May Star and Wave

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

U.S. Coast Guard to the rescue

A helicopter search and rescue demonstration was held Saturday, May 6, on Cape May Harbor as part of the Cape May County Coast Guard Festival. The event, at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, included ship, bay and harbor tours, live entertainment, children’s activities and cultural and historical exhibits. See more photos on A8.

Jack Fischer/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

See more photos on A8.

Private property blocking plan for new beach paths

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE May

Washington Inn

See Outdoor seats, Page A3

By JACK FICHTER

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The beach paths being created in Lower Township are so popular that plans are in the works for more. However, some are being blocked by private property and other issues.

See Outdoor seats, Page A3

For more photos on A8.