Lower may assume MUA debt
Local Finance Board must approve the action

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township's Municipal Utilities Authority, or LTMUA, must approve dissolving the authority and assume the MUA debt of Lower Township.

The newest member of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority, not to exceed $17,800, said attorney Alexis Batten, in refunded bonds that were other outstanding obligations toward the debt service.

Batten said the revenue of the authority’s Board of Commissioners and the approval by the township already guaranteed the bonds of the LTMUA.

See MUA debt, Page A2

Keep LTMUA intact, vice chair argues

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Keep the LTMUA intact, Brian O’Connor, vice chairman of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority, wants to see the authority remain an independent entity.

“We’re going to try to fight for the northern and rampart areas,” O’Connor, who is a member of the Villas Police Department, said.

The combination of the authority’s Board of Commissioners and the approval by the township already guaranteed the bonds of the LTMUA.

See O’Connor, Page A2

Police seek suspect for lewd acts in three towns

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Authorities report that a man drives to various locations, goes out of his vehicle with his shorts down and begins to masturbate. He is described as a white male and is being sought by the police.

See Lead acts, page A3

Blessing of the Waters in Cape May

The annual Blessing of the Waters ceremony was held under rainy skies June 13 at the Fisherman’s Memorial in Cape May. The wall records the names of Cape May fishermen who lost their lives at sea pursuing the most dangerous of all occupations. Located at Cape May Harbor, at the end of Missouri Avenue, the Fisherman’s Memorial offers a degree of closure for those families whose members have been lost at sea. The solemn tone of reflection has a two-fold purpose, to commemorate those who lost their lives pursuing their chosen vocation and to offer prayers for a safe and productive fishing season. See more photos from Cape May’s Harbor Festival on Page A8.

See Blessing of the Waters, page A1

Cape May Point celebrates further tree-removal rules

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May Point — Mayor Antis Van Soerenwyk said she believes there is no loophole in the new restriction on tree removal at the National Seashore.

The new rule, which is set to take effect next month, is set to prevent a bulldozer from clearing and replacing trees according to the ‘width of structure within requirement for replacement’. Removing trees only for replacement purposes under the rule would not be allowed by the borough’s property code, she said.

The rule states, ‘All existing trees outside a building footprint having a minimum 5-foot buffer, and trees in excess of 6-foot from the outside of the exterior wall of the proposed structure. In the event that an applicant wishes to remove a tree or group of trees described, the applicant shall then be required to plant two trees for each tree removed, which replacement tree shall be of at least 2 inches in diameter at 3 feet above ground at the location of the property to which the applicant’s trees.’

Van Soerenwyk said a property owner has the right to clear-cut their property.

“We think we’re in good shape.”

See Tree removal, page A3

A crowning achievement

Miss New Jersey 2014 is crowned at the Music Pier in Ocean City. Find out who won on Page B6.