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CAPE MAY COUNTY HERALD

October 20, 2021

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Published every Wednesday. 1508 Route 47, Rio Grande, NJ 08242

Vol. 55 No. 42

Analysis

Highest Paid Police Chief? Wildwood

By VINCE CONTI

COURT HOUSE - Cape May County has 11 municipal police departments, the largest being Ocean City, with 59 sworn officers, and the smallest being West Wildwood, with five. Each department is headed by a police chief.

In 2019, the Herald looked at the salaries of the men and one woman who held those police chief positions. Reader interest has led to an update on that information for 2021.

It is worth noting that four of the 11 chiefs were appointed between 2019 and 2021, and another three were new to the position in 2019. The longest-serving chiefs in the county date to appointments in 2015.

Data for this update comes from the state pension system, as of June 30, 2021, and 2018 statistics on sworn officers maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

New Jersey Law Enforcement

The structure of law enforcement in New Jersey is distributed across more law enforcement agencies than any other state, with three exceptions. New Jersey has 531 law enforcement agencies for a state that is 11th among 50 in population,

47th in total area, and first in population density.

The only states with more law enforcement agencies than New Jersey are Pennsylvania, with 1,074, Michigan, with 609, and Texas, with 570. New Jersey has more FBI-recognized law enforcement agencies than California, New York and Florida, all more populous states.

This is part of the New Jersey tradition of home rule. It can lead small boroughs, like West Wildwood, with a 2020 census population of 540 permanent residents and a total area of less than half a square mile, to maintain a separate municipal police department.

Chief Salaries

The state pension system provides salary data for the previous four quarters of activity. The data currently available runs from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. It represents the salary, as of June 30, 2021.

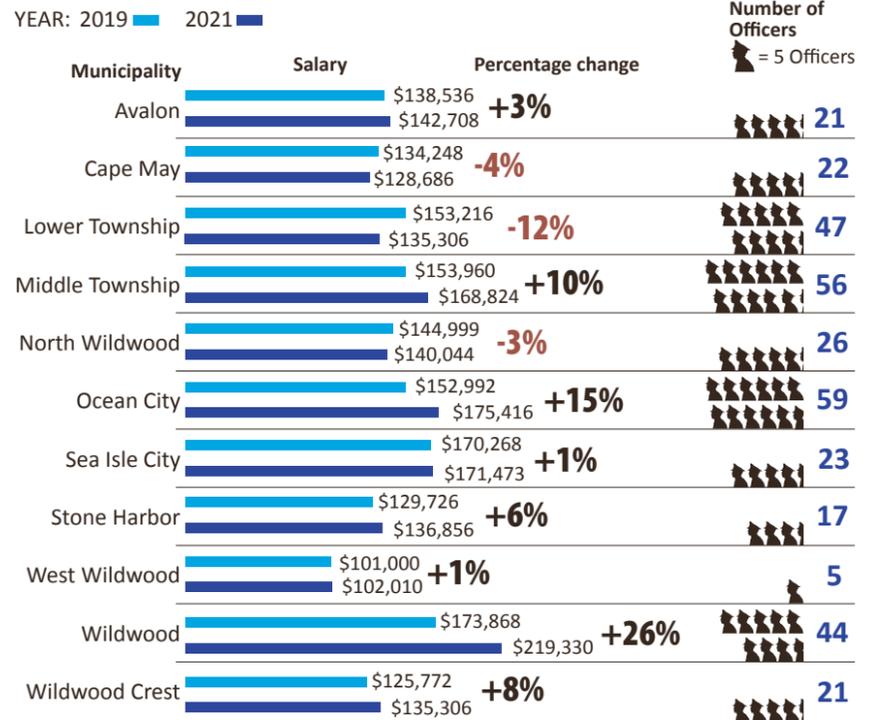
For police chiefs across all 11 municipal departments, salaries total \$1,806,501, with the highest being in Wildwood, at \$219,330, and the lowest being in West Wildwood, at \$102,018.

Of the 11, three are at salaries lower than the position commanded in 2019, but in each of those cases, the current chief was appointed to the position in 2021.

In Cape May, the chief's salary, at \$128,686, declined 4% from 2019. In North Wildwood, it is \$140,044, or 3.5% lower than in 2019. In Lower Township, the salary of the

(Page A8 Please)

CAPE MAY COUNTY POLICE CHIEF SALARIES



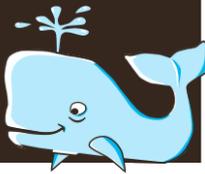
Note: Cape May covers West Cape May and Cape May Point. Note: NJ State Police cover Upper Township, Dennis Township and Woodbine. Percentages are rounded.

Source: NJ Pension System; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Herald graphic/ Krishna Mathias

SPOUT OFF!

You asked the question. We got the answer.



Early Voting Begins Oct. 23

By ERIN LEDWON

COURT HOUSE - Those wanting to vote in the Nov. 2 general election have more options than ever this year, with three ways to cast their ballot.

They can either vote by mail, take advantage of in-person early voting at one of three sites, or vote the traditional way at their polling place on Election Day.

"Any voter who received a mail-in ballot should vote that ballot and return it as soon as possible before the close of the polls on Election Day," stated Cape May County Clerk Rita Rothberg, via email.

Completed mail-in ballots can be returned to the Cape May County Board of Elections, 10 Mechanic St., Court House, via postage-paid mail, dropbox or in person, according to the clerk's election website.

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before 8 p.m. Nov. 2 and received by the Board of Elections on or before Nov. 8.

Ballots placed in one of the county's 12 secure dropboxes must be there by 8 p.m. Nov. 2. A list of locations, which was updated Sept. 28, 2021, is available on the state's website, at <https://bit.ly/3ADrG2X>.

Voters who want to return their mail-in ballots in person to the Board of Elections Office must do so by 8 p.m. Nov. 2.

In-person early voting will take place Oct. 23-31, at any of these three sites:

- Court House Library - 30 Mechanic St., Court House
- Lower Township Library - 2600 Bayshore Rd., Villas
- Upper Township Library - 2050 Route 631, Petersburg

Voters can cast their ballots on a voting machine between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday (Page A20 Please)

Oct. 9 - Oct. 15, 2021

CAPE MAY COUNTY COVID-19

New reported cases: **173**

Active cases: 345	Hospitalizations as of Oct. 18: 8	Deaths this week: 3
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Sea Isle City Votes Down Community Center Construction



Provided

Concept plans for the new community center, in Sea Isle City, were presented in an April 24 video.

By CAMILLE SAILER

SEA ISLE CITY - Sea Isle City Council's Oct. 12 meeting drew a larger-than-usual crowd of residents, and the atmosphere was charged with anticipation as the council deliberated approval of proceeding with a \$20 million proposal to construct a new community center, at the site of

the former school at 4501 Park Ave.

Despite impassioned pleas during public comment to support the proposal, the council voted down the project's advance to construction.

Mayor Leonard Desiderio addressed the benefits of the long-vetted and discussed community (Page A8 Please)

Herald Seeks Reader Support

RIO GRANDE - The Herald's website has transitioned to subscription-only access to news content, urging readers to join the cause and support local journalism.

Herald website users must now have a subscription and be logged into their Herald user account to access news content. The price for a digital subscription is \$50/year - less than \$1/week.

The Herald continues to offer unlimited, free access to all other areas of our website. So, Classifieds, DoTheShore, events, obituaries, Spout Off - everything except content in the news section and e-Editions - remains free and unlimited.

As it has been, the Herald's print edition is available free at locations throughout Cape May County each Wednesday; though, we are now seeking a nominal (\$1) payment at select locations - e.g., Wawa and Acme stores.

We are also inviting local businesses (e.g., restaurants and residential communities) to support the Herald's journalism with bulk local delivery subscriptions - at \$10 for 25 copies (less than 50 cents per copy) - as a service to (Page A20 Please)

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