

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT: Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Long Branch council to meet today on Comcast contract

By **CAROL GORGA WILLIAMS**
COASTAL MONMOUTH BUREAU

LONG BRANCH — The City Council has scheduled a special meeting today to gather public comment as members of the city's administrative team begin to renegotiate the city's long-standing agreement with Comcast, one of the providers of local cable services.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers on the second floor of city hall on Broadway.

This meeting follows a session convened by the city's Cable Commission in which three members of the public attended. That session also was to solicit public input about Comcast services.

Councilman Brian Unger and others want the city to press Comcast to provide funds or technology so that the city council and other meetings can be broadcast live and posted on the Web for home viewing on televi-

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sions or computers.

City hall already has a high-speed fiber connection able to carry a full-motion video signal.

Administration officials say it may be difficult to press Comcast for many concessions this go-around because the last time the city renegotiated, Comcast had a monopoly on service in the city. Now, it provides services to about 9,000 households, but it is losing ground to other providers like Verizon's FIOS.

While some people say they

would prefer the convenience of viewing public meetings on their electronic devices and believe it could add to the transparency of city government processes — others believe it would simply provide a larger stage for partisans to act in a disruptive manner.

Furthermore, the cable commission, which runs the city's local access channel 20, has recently completed upgrades, and members say they already are able to broadcast a tape of a municipal meeting, providing the tape is of good quality.

Such tapings could be done by volunteers, thus eliminating the need for either Comcast or the city to provide a budget for such programming, officials said. There is at least one private service where meetings are being broadcast and is available for a fee.

Comcast's contract would be finalized by the end of the year, officials have said.

Vietnam vet offering free

HOLMDEL — To better prepare student applicants who wish to apply for a scholarship program, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation is hosting free, Veteran-led guided tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. every Saturday through April 11.

The foundation will accept applications and essays until April 17 from graduating high school seniors who plan on continuing their education at a college or trade/technical school.

Those seniors who wish to apply must submit an application, proof of acceptance to a

GOP candidate

BELMAR — Wanted: A Republican candidate to unseat Democratic Councilman Matthew J. Doherty in the November election.

Anyone interested in running as a Republican in the June primary election is asked to contact Gregory Dempsey, acting chairman of the Belmar Repub-

HEEL PAIN! What Can I Do?

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TOP PODIATRIST OF 2008

The classic story is a patient goes to the doctor complaining that the heel hurts when the patient first gets out of bed in the morning and after getting up after periods of inactivity. The problem can last for months, become chronic and finally, the patient is forced to go to the doctor.

This condition is called Plantar Fasciitis or heel spur syndrome. It is caused by an inflammation of the strong ligament along the bottom of the foot. In most cases,

conservative care can solve the problem and the heel gets better.

If left untreated, a heel spur will develop and could require surgical removal to relieve the pain.



Dr. Robert C. Lillie
Surgeon Podiatrist

Recently a procedure called EXTRA-CORPORAL SHOCK WAVE THERAPY (ESWT) has proved to be a good method of resolving heel pain without surgery. ESWT is done in the doctor's office and takes about 15 minutes.

ENDOSCOPIC PLANTAR FASCIOTOMY is a simple small incision surgery done under local anesthesia that works well in certain patients. Doctor Lillie has treated thousands of patients with heel

spurs in his 27 years in practice. If you would like to speak to Dr. Lillie call the office and he will call you back as soon as possible or make an appointment to be evaluated.

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Joni Del Sardo, M.S., CCC-A
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YOUR RISK



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Att

IN CASES

All drivers are expected to maintain a safe distance from the vehicle front of their own so that a vehicle can be brought to a safe stop without drivers' viewing distances. At the same time, there is a theory in vehicle negligence called "suicide emergency doctrine," which involves circumstances in which drivers confronted with a perilous situation provides little or no opportunity to react. This emergency situation compels drivers to act instantaneously to avoid injuring both themselves and the passengers in their vehicle. Under such circumstances, if injury or any damage occurs to a third party, the person driving the car will not be considered negligent.

When you've been rear-ended, vital that you call a lawyer right away. Don't let the perpetrator start building defense around the sudden emergency.