

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**MAYS LANDING** – Authorities arrested a man last night and charged him with the murder of his wife, whose body was discovered near a creek off of Spruce Avenue in Egg Harbor Township yesterday morning, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

John M. Hilyard, 48, of 136 Bridle Path Drive in Egg Harbor Township, allegedly strangled his wife, Chun Hilyard, 45, of the same address. At 7:40 a.m. Wednesday morning a jogger called Egg Harbor Township police and reported the discovery of a body near Fenton Mill's Creek. Later that same day, the suspect went to the police department and reported his wife missing. An investigation of that report, along with the discovery of the decedent, led to Hilyard's arrest, Prosecutor Housel stated.

Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park conducted an autopsy yesterday afternoon and determined the victim died of asphyxia due to strangulation, Prosecutor Housel said.

The Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit with lead Detective Michael Mattioli and the Egg Harbor Township police conducted the investigation

Hilyard is in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$1 million full cash bail. His initial court appearance will be today at 1:30 p.m. before Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo.

The couple's three children are currently staying with family.

**\*\*\*These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.