

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 38 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, September 18, 2013 50¢



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Parade Lady Charlotte Daily built a Christmas tradition

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – What started as a spur-of-the-moment 30-minute parade down Broadway nearly 48 years ago, has become the largest and perhaps most anticipated parade on the island, stretching for miles and lasting roughly 2.5 hours. The West Cape May Community Christmas Parade is a beloved annual tradition, founded and organized by lifelong Cape Island resident, Charlotte Daily, also known as “the Parade Lady.” Daily was recently recognized by the Cape Women’s Resource Fund, Inc., as their 2013 Women’s Equality Day honoree for her many accomplishments and contributions to the borough. Cape May County Freeholder Kristine Gabor presented Daily with



Freeholder Kristine Gabor and Charlotte Daily with her award

a plaque at the 22nd annual Women’s Equality Day Tea, hosted by Cape Women’s Resource Fund Trustees, Aug. 26, at Borough Hall. The special event also celebrated the 93rd anniversary of Women’s Suffrage and the Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Daily said she was thrilled and surprised to have been selected as the honoree. “I was flabbergasted,” Daily said of the event. “So many people came out to congratulate me. I was so honored.” Daily not only founded the West Cape May Parade, she also served as the West Cape May Borough Clerk for 22 years as well as other borough positions like tax collector, court clerk and water and sewer bill collector. “I organized the parade, so I guess they thought I could be organized as the clerk,”

she said. Daily’s daughter, Jeanette Urquhart, said her mother was once offered a job at the county level, which would have meant a higher salary, but didn’t want to stop serving West Cape May or have less time to dedicate to organizing the parade. “She loves the people, loves the community and loved serving it,” Urquhart said. “Mom has done a fantastic job with the parade and doesn’t even get paid for all of the work she does for it. She just enjoys doing it.” Daily said she has had a love for parades ever since she was a child. To this day, she will still stop and watch a parade, no matter where she is or what it’s for, and tunes into parades aired on television such as the Mummies Parade, Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Disney

Parks Christmas Day Parade. The West Cape May Christmas Parade was born simply out of Daily’s desire to show off her 4-H club’s float on Cape Island after winning \$100 for having the best float in the Sea Isle City. “That was like \$1,000 back then,” Urquhart said. “We were able to send all of the 4-H girls to camp with that.” Daily said because the group was so proud of the award-winning float, they were anxious to be in the former Cape May parade. She said the parade was cancelled that year due to weather, which she was not willing to accept. She and her late husband, Gene, spent \$45 on coffee and hot chocolate for participants, which were just a few local fire companies like West Cape May and Rio

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Report on economic development in Lower

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The township’s Economic Development Advisory Committee gave a public report on ideas they have been working on to improve economic conditions in the township, including changing the township’s name. Committee member Ernie Utsch spoke on the idea of brand names and their instant recognition. “The name Cape May is used a lot, but ‘Lower’ is not so recognizable,” he said. He said a much smaller municipality, Cape May Point, has more name recognition value, and is associated with the Cape May Point Lighthouse, which is actually located in Lower Township. He said within the township there are many places and businesses carrying the Cape May name, including: Cape May

Crossing, North Cape May, Cape May-Lewes Ferry, the Cape May Fishing Fleet, Cape May Winery, Cape May Brewing and the Cape May Canal, which is entirely in Lower Township. He said people play off the Cape May name because of its standing as a resort for hundreds of years. Utsch asked council to consider efforts to change the name of Lower Township to Cape May Township. Mayor Mike Beck said it might require a referendum, and he was interested in getting public input on the matter. Rick Weber of South Jersey Marina, commenting on Utsch’s presentation, said the real test was whether or not he could see (the name Lower Township) across the front of a sweat-shirt. “The answer is no, I can

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

First Seagrove Songfest held

Above, Dave Macomber performs as part of the first Seagrove Songfest held at Cape May Point, Sept. 14. The event brought singers and singing groups from area churches to perform music on the Point’s Pavilion Circle. Cape May Point was founded as a religious retreat community, and the circle was the site of a large pavilion used for Christian worship services. See more photos, page A10.

Local residents attend flood insurance meeting

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Cape May and Lower Township joined forces at Township Hall on Monday, Sept. 9 to educate residents on available funding options for elevating their homes following Hurricane Sandy. The room was packed with residents hoping to learn more about the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The program provides reimbursements for

elevating someone’s primary residence, if necessary. Athena Sarafides of the NJDEP (Department of Environmental Protection) gave a presentation at Township Hall, explaining to residents the requirements and application process of the grant program. The HMGP will award up to \$30,000 to qualifying residents for elevating their homes. According to the FEMA website, the program provides grants to state and local governments for implementing long-term

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Three incumbents run for WCM Board of Commissioners

WEST CAPE MAY – Mayor Pam Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke and Commissioner Carol Sabo will seek reelection in the Nov. 5 General Election for the West Cape May Board of Commissioners. “We will run as a team on a platform including continued prudent Borough operations which contributed to the recent unprecedented reduction in property taxes for most owners in West Cape May. Taxpayers enjoyed one of the few reductions among New Jersey municipalities,” Sabo said. “We operate efficiently and utilized new revenues to offset taxes and not add



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave Above, the three incumbent candidates for West Cape May Commission, Commissioner Carol Sabo, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke and Mayor Pam Kaithern.

unnecessary expenses,” Kaithern said. “The funds realized from the recent sale of a liquor license will help hold the line on taxes for the next 10 to 12 years. A second liquor license is available for an additional decade of savings. As one of the few communities in the state to reduce taxes, we are proud of our efforts and will strive for continued efficiency,” Kaithern said. “Listening to our residents is key to our governing process and to the community we serve. We are mindful of maintaining the wonderful small town quality of West

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