

# Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 42 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2011 50¢



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### TIDES October 2011 Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low
	A.M.	P.M.
19	1:07	1:23
20	2:12	2:26
21	3:19	3:32
22	4:22	4:35
23	5:18	5:33
24	6:11	6:28
25	7:01	7:20
26	7:51	8:12

First Quarter, Oct. 4  
Full Moon, Oct. 12  
Last Quarter, Oct. 20  
New Moon, Oct. 27  
Apogee, Oct. 15  
Perigee, Oct. 27

## Dead vegetation on Elmira Ave. part of a restoration project

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Broad sections of dead vegetation along Leaming Avenue and Elmira Street in West Cape May are the result of spraying to control invasive plant species, Suzanne Treyger of the New Jersey Audubon Society said. Treyger, the local coordinator for the Cape Island Habitat Restoration Task Force, said porcelain-berry vines and Japanese knotweed were sprayed and killed to prevent further spreading of the invasive plants.

Treyger said the planning stages for the control effort began in winter 2010, but



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a section of dead vines and other vegetation on Elmira Avenue in West Cape May is part of a restoration project.

the group started its management projects this year,

with extensive surveying of invasive species in the spring. She said the task force has partnered with groups who own large portions of property on the island like the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Nature Conservancy, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Division of Parks and Forestry. These organizations have worked with CIHRTF to make sure these plants do not take over more of the local habitat. Besides working with government and non-governmental agencies, the task force also encourages private landowners to get involved.

Treyger said the list of invasive plant life on the island

also includes: Japanese honeysuckle, mugwort, the common reed (phragmites), sweet autumn clematis and kudzu, which she said has been referred to as “the vine that ate the south.” She said vines like the porcelain-berry and kudzu grow rapidly around trees and smaller plant life and end up smothering them. “Cape May County has the highest number of non-native invasive plants in New Jersey,” Treyger said. “It’s a major conservation concern.” She said Cape Island is fortunate with regard to the kudzu because it has only grown in small patches so far.

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## Beach revenues and expenses top \$2 mil.

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – With beach tag sales likely reaching over \$2 million in 2011, it raises the question of whether it takes that kind of loot to operate and maintain the Cape May City beaches.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, the primary income for the beach utility budget comes from beach tag sales, with the exception of some revenue coming from items like bank account interest and selling off assets, such as beach equipment.

From January to September, the city collected \$1,951,235 from beach tag sales. Beach tag sales halt in September when lifeguards go off duty and the beaches are no longer being cleaned. The city still has pre-season beach tag sales in December to look forward to, which will be counted as 2011 revenue in the budget.

In 2010, the revenue from December sales topped \$71,000, so MacLeod said it is safe to assume they will make over \$2 million in 2011 – making it a record year.

MacLeod said the city was fortunate to collect the amount it did January through September, considering the loss in beach tag revenue during Hurricane Irene, which they figured to be around \$50,000.

As for the beach utility, MacLeod said it functions the same as the sewer and water utility, where the revenue should be equal to the

expenditures. If the city collects more than it spends, the excess funds are placed in the surplus.

According to MacLeod, around 55 percent of the spending in the beach utility budget is for salaries, wages and other expenditures related to the beach front, including lifeguards and the beach tag program. MacLeod said there are 90 to 95 lifeguards employed each summer and usually around 60 beach taggers. There are typically around 65 lifeguards working each day and around 35 taggers.

MacLeod said other expenditures include some miscellaneous operating expenses, purchasing equipment, and this year, some extra money was added for 2011 USLA Lifeguard Championships held in Cape May.

The city appropriated \$1,235,200 for salaries and wages and operating expenses for the Cape May Beach Patrol and the beach tag operations in the 2011 budget.

In 2010, Cape May appropriated \$1,180,050 for salaries and wages and operating expenses for those two departments, and so far spent all but \$55,965.

MacLeod said the city might spend more of the remaining funds since leftover funds will not be put into the surplus until 2012, and more payments may need to be made. He said all excess revenue is put into the sur

Please see **Beach**, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## A very Victorian Halloween

Above is just one of the entries in the annual scarecrow-making contest sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities on the grounds of the Physick Estate on Washington Street. See more photos on page A10, or better yet, go see the display.

## Carriage House tearoom to close early

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Carriage House Tearoom and Café might not be steeped in debt, but it is losing money, MAC Executive Director Michael Zuckerman said.

Zuckerman announced last week that the tearoom would close two months early as a cost-saving measure.

Zuckerman said the tearoom was started about 12 years ago as an in-house operation. At the time, he said the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities was the only historical operation trying to run such an operation. He said by contract, the Old Grange Restaurant at the Historic Cold Spring Village is contracted out to a private business.

“The norm is to lease the space out to an outside concession,” Zuckerman said.

However, MAC was in a position to attempt to run the tearoom on their own, because their Chief Operations Officer Bill Ten Eyck had a restaurant background. The tearoom became an opportunity for Ten Eyck to use some of his background to help the MAC organization.

Zuckerman said initially the tearoom was a marvelous amenity to the Emlen Physick Estate, where MAC makes its home, but it was never a moneymaker.

“At the best of times, it was a break-even operation,” he said.

Zuckerman said MAC was helped through the first half-dozen or so years MAC had

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## Point gets extension on Master Plan review

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Commissioner Anita Van Heeswyk said the state has granted an extension of the time required to complete a review of its Master Plan for land use.

Van Heeswyk said she had a meeting with the Office for Planning Advocacy, and reported the borough had made excellent progress toward obtaining Plan Endorsement. Plan Endorsement is a voluntary process, which promotes consistency in planning on a statewide level. Benefits to municipalities include priority status on state grant lists. “Cape May Point is making excellent progress, not just meeting deadlines,” Van Heeswyk said.

The state has granted the extension to 2015, Van Heeswyk said, and the Planning Board must now review the state’s action and make its recommendation to

the board of commissioners, whether to accept the extension or not.

Van Heeswyk said Cape May County is reviewing its Water Management Plan to see if there is an adequate water supply for the municipality as it relates to its Master Plan. Van Heeswyk said the Point has municipal water supplied by the city of Cape May, and the Point is completely sewered.

Commissioner John Henderson said 2012 Beach Tags are now available in a stocking stuffer form. The tags are \$24 each and come in a gift box, and will be mailed for an additional \$5.20. Questions may be addressed to cgarrison@capemaypoint.org. Stocking stuffer tags are on sale from Nov. 5 to Dec. 10.

Henderson said the Point is close to awarding a contract for emergency cleanup. The borough received two bids, and would probably award a contract at the next borough meeting, Nov. 10.

Henderson said the contract is for cleaning up tree limbs and other debris from public property after storm events, but it would not include debris on private property. He said the contract does not cost the borough anything until there is an event. Then the borough would be billed on the amount of debris carried away.

Mayor Carl Schupp said in 2009 the borough began its pursuit of getting natural gas service to the Point. He said South Jersey Gas received its CAFRA permit last month for the line installation work, and by the end of the month would begin installation starting at Sunset Boulevard and Sea Grove Avenue.

Schupp said the borough has also applied for a grant to repave a section of Lake Drive, which has not been resurfaced for 15 years. Resident Tom Maye asked when Lincoln Avenue would be resurfaced. The commis

Please see **Point**, page A2

## WCM to lower cost of liquor licenses

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Board of Commissioners is considering reducing the minimum bid for two unsold liquor licenses by \$150,000 each.

The licenses, one distribution license and one consumption license, were offered two years ago, but there was no interest in purchasing them. The distribution and consumption licenses were offered with minimum bids of \$750,000 and \$650,000, respectively, but might now be lowered to \$600,000 and \$500,000 before going up for sale in November.

At the Oct. 12 meeting, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke suggested reducing the minimum bids by \$100,000

to \$150,000. Commissioner Ramsey Geyer agreed and said lowering the bids could spark more interest. Mayor Pamela Kaithern said there are members of the business community who are interested in purchasing the licenses, especially if the minimum bids are decreased. “If businesses indicated it will help, then that’s good,” Geyer said, of lowering the minimum bid.

“Obviously, it appears we should consider lowering this some,” Burke said.

Geyer asked Burke and Kaithern what the liquor license sales would be used for in the borough. Kaithern said the money would be put into a dedicated trust and the principal and interest would be used over the years. Burke said the potential \$1.4 mil-

lion would be used for property tax relief in future years, which was specified in a voter referendum.

“Do we need to sell them at all at this point?” Geyer asked.

Burke said the licenses didn’t necessarily need to be sold this year, but if the market changes, which it has many times over the years, the licenses could gain or lose value.

“It’s a crapshoot,” Burke said. “There’s no way to determine whether the value will go up or down.”

Geyer said the borough would be fine as long as the board had the right to reject all bids. Burke said the highest bid should be acceptable, because the borough won’t

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# WASHINGTON INN

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