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### DECEMBER 2010

#### TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
12/9	10:09	10:40	3:37	4:30
12/10	10:53	11:28	4:24	5:15
12/11	11:38		5:12	5:59
12/12	12:18	12:26	6:05	6:44
12/13	1:11	1:18	7:03	7:29
12/14	2:05	2:12	8:03	8:14
12/15	2:58	3:08	9:02	9:00
12/16	3:48	4:02	9:58	9:45

New Moon	12/6
1st Quarter	12/13
Full Moon	12/21
Last Quarter	12/27
Apogee	12/15
Perigee	12/25

## La Mer owner wants to share parking quota

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Gus Andy has owned the La Mer Beachfront Inn located on Beach Avenue since 1969 and claims to have never had a problem with his parking situation until now.

For the past couple years, he has been planning to rebuild the existing Pier House Restaurant and add more units to the hotel, such as a new laundry and maintenance room as well as a storage area. This construction would add seven extra spaces to the parking lot that already has a capacity of 173 vehicles.

However, the Cape May Planning Board has repeatedly turned down his proposal to make the changes because they believe it will create an insufficient amount of parking on the property. Andy does not believe this is the case at all.

In 2009, on July 3, 4 and 5,

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## Lower council shows its manager the door

Ward 2 Councilman Wayne Mazurek said he was left out of the process.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Manager Kathy McPherson informed township council of her decision to retire at the end of 2011, and to stop working on June 30, using accrued leave time.

The majority on council responded by voting to have her leave by March 4, instead.

*‘I don’t think that’s the way government should be run.’*

–Ward 2 Councilman  
Wayne Mazurek

“I don’t think this is the right thing to do,” Mayor Mike Beck said. “After 36 years she has the right to say when she is leaving.”

At Monday’s Lower Township Council meeting, Councilman Tom Conrad asked to go to closed session

modifications. However, council voted 3-2 to approve a separate resolution (not part of the consent agenda) accepting the McPherson’s retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2011, but with her stopping work March 4.

Solicitor Anthony Monzo highlighted the terms of the agreement, indicating McPherson would take terminal leave and would keep all her benefits. McPherson signed the agreement in closed session, prior to the vote.

Township resident Joe Winters asked council if

McPherson had been coerced into taking an earlier retirement. Councilman Glenn Douglass and Conrad, who voted to approve the agreement, each responded that it was a negotiated agreement. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare, who also voted to accept the agreement, declined to answer Winters saying he did not want to be cross-examined.

Winters then lambasted council saying they didn’t care about anyone, telling Lare directly, “You sold out

Please see **Door**, page A2

## Fire Knockdown Tool demonstrated for county firefighters

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT-HOUSE – A new and innovative tool that can be used by both fire fighters and law enforcement, called “The Fire Knockdown Tool” or Dry Sprinkle Powder Aerosol (DSPA-5) was put to the test in a live demonstration last Wednesday at the Cape May Fire Academy.

The DSPA-5 is a handheld device that was designed to put out fires almost instantly in order to save lives and lower property damage. It has a pin located on the side of it that is pulled to arm it, much like a grenade. It is then thrown into a room engulfed with flames and releases a non-toxic powder that literally sucks the heat out of the fire in seconds. This removes one the three essentials of the fire triangle, which are oxygen, fuel and heat, helping firefighters enter the building or room safely and save significant time.



The DSPA-5 (Dry Sprinkle Powder Aerosol) fire fighting tool.

“Time is of the essence,” Sea Isle City Fire Chief John Mazurie Jr. said.

Mazurie was the fire fighter who deployed the DSPA-5 during the demonstration. Safety officials from all over Cape May County came to see the fire knockdown in action.

The fire team used their training facility, setting wood pallets and a small haystack on fire inside the room. Using thermal imagery, the onlookers were able to watch on screen what was happening in the room and see the temperature rise inside. When the room reached over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, Mazurie threw in the DSPA-5. “It was like throwing a horseshoe,” he said. “Anyone can use it.”

Almost immediately, the temperature started to drop and went down below 400 degrees as the knockdown tool sprayed the non-toxic substance withdrawing heat from the room. The fire was

Please see **Tool**, page A2

## HPC design standards at odds with alternative energy systems

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – As time steadily marches on, Cape May struggles to hold onto its past. In many ways, preserving Cape May’s past is what assures residents and businesses that the city has a future.

However, there are times when historic preservation and modern needs, or wants, come into conflict.

On Tuesday, Charlotte Todd, chairman of the Environmental Committee presented sample ordinances for city council to consider while its own alternative energy ordinance is being written. In the same meeting, Solicitor Anthony Monzo presented city council with some recommendations from the city’s Historic Preservation Commission that, if adopted, would limit or ban some

forms of alternative energy use in Cape May.

Todd supplied sample ordinances borrowed from other communities, which Cape May could use as a model for its own ordinance. Todd said fundamentally there are two reasons for adopting the use of alternative energy sources and systems – saving energy and saving money.

According to Todd, the New Jersey State Senate passed a bill in June saying local ordinances should not restrict people from using alternative power to meet energy needs. The only exclusions, she said, are height and visibility.

Monzo said the recommendations from the HPC are that the HPC does not believe windmills (wind turbines) are appropriate anywhere in Cape May; and secondly, that the use of solar panels should

Please see **Odds**, page A3



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## West Cape May Community Parade

The cold came just in time to make it a genuine Christmas Parade. See photos on page B1.

## DCA commissioner, Van Drew tour two local B&Bs

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

State officials speak to owners about restrictive, ever-changing fire regulations.

CAPE MAY – The idea of putting a sprinkler system or enclosed fire-safe stairwell in a historic Victorian home may seem outrageous, but those could be the two options for bed and breakfast owners in Cape May unless something is changed.

On Tuesday, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa and State Sen. Jeff Van Drew toured two local bed and breakfasts that have had trouble with fire code violations in the past couple of years. They also met with other concerned B&B owners who have been having the same problem.

Grifa and Van Drew first visited the Inn at the Park on Washington, where owner Mary Ann Gorrick said she feels as though she has been harassed by officials and members of the Division of Fire Safety for the past few years.

“Up until three years ago we were fine,” she said. “Now we have all these fire code violations.”

Even though there is a fire escape on the third floor as well as exit signs with emer-

gency lights, smoke alarms and three fire alarms located throughout the house, Gorrick said she was told multiple times that her B&B does not meet the fire code requirements. They said her antique staircase should either be enclosed with dry wall or she should install a sprinkler system.

“It’s both expensive and ruins the integrity of the home,” former president of the Cape May B&B Association Elan Zingman-Leith said. “If we all have to install sprinklers or enclosed stairwells, most of the B&B’s will close because of the cost and hassle.”

Zingman-Leith has been a B&B owner for the past 20 years. He said there was a meeting held on the topic last year with state officials, but nothing had been accomplished afterwards due to a change in leadership. He said the requirements in the fire code are supposed to be proportional to the risk, and a Victorian B&B Inn has no more risk than the average

home. “No one has ever been killed in a B&B fire in the state of New Jersey,” he said.

Zingman-Leith said the solution to the problem is very simple. He said change the B&B Inn fire code from an R1 to and R3, which is that of a B&B Home.

Please see **B&Bs**, page A3



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa, left, and State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, speak with Anita Dierk, president of the Cape May Historic Accommodations Association while touring two Cape May B&Bs. The owners are complaining of overly restrictive fire regulations.

## Nutcracker Children’s Tea

December 11th & 18th  
11:30AM Tea & Show

A Holiday Tradition with the  
Jersey Cape Dance Academy  
for children of all ages



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