

Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 22 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, June 1, 2011



Visit the West Cape May Strawberry Festival June 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cape May Harbor will turn 100 this year

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – With the 100th anniversary celebration of the Cape May Harbor right around the corner, it's important to understand the history of the harbor and how it came to be.

Born and raised in Cape May, Jack Sayre recently spoke about the harbor's ecology, economy and advent at the Nature Center on May 17. Sayre was also featured in a

'Nothing has changed except where man has changed it.'

– Jack Sayre lecturing on Cape May Harbor

video called "Grandfather Speaks," in which he spoke about the harbor.

He said during the late 1800s, Cape May was almost

unrecognizable compared to what it is today, having no harbor, jetties or even paved streets. What many people may not know, is the fact that

the harbor is man made. According to Sayre, 90, dredging for the harbor began in the summer months of 1903.

It wasn't until 1907, four years after dredging for the harbor began, a group of Cape May residents got together and went to Washington D.C., one of which being Sayre's uncle, Louis Sayre. According to Sayre, they were there to get permission from the U.S. Congress to construct jetties

that would form a solid inlet at Cape May.

Later that year, the U.S. Congress passed the Rivers and Harbor Bill allowing the construction of jetties at the entrance of the Cold Spring Inlet and the dredging of a channel between them. He said before the jetties were formed, Cold Spring Inlet was just a tidal stream, but when construction began, an enormous amount of sludge was

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WCM talking court consolidation, again

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Board of Commissioners went into closed session last Wednesday to discuss the option of consolidating the West Cape May Court with the Cape May Municipal Court.

Commissioner Ramsey Geyer, who is spearheading the fact-finding process, said no conclusions or final ver-

money would be saved by consolidating the courts, but he said hopefully there would be savings between 50 and 60 percent. He said court costs depend on several factors, such as criminal and non-criminal cases, which vary in the amount of time spent in court and the cost.

"It's hard to determine the actual savings. It's very complex," Geyer said. "But we're not at a point of crunching numbers – we're at a point of seeing whether other munici-

'I think there's always opportunities for consolidating and sharing services.'

– WCM Commissioner Ramsey Geyer

dict has been made on the matter, but the board is simply discussing the feasibility and possibility of consolidation.

"We're tossing around some exploratory ideas," he said. "No decisions have been made."

One idea is to use West Cape May Borough Hall as the primary court room, considering its size and access. Geyer said one of the problems faced with a switch like this is personnel issues, such as clerks and other court room staff.

Geyer said as of now, it's difficult to figure how much

palities would like to consolidate."

In October 2010, a similar discussion was had between the board when Judge Dave DeWeese announced his retirement. Geyer proposed the possibility of consolidating with Cape May or Lower Township temporarily until a new judge was hired. Around that time, Mayor Pam Kaithern said she had doubts a new judge could be found before DeWeese retired. However, the borough hired Judge Dorothy Incarvito-Garrabrant as the

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Patrick Hyland/Cape May Star and Wave

The past meets the present

World War II Coast Guard veteran Al Balsis of Cape May, left, and Captain Bill Kelly, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May, share pleasantries after the Memorial Day Service at the the Veteran's Monument in Cape May, Monday. See more photos on page A12.

BTF submits plan for payback

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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CAPE MAY – The Beach Theatre Foundation (BTF) has recently announced a plan to repay their \$100,000 loan to the city – a lone given to them in 2007 in order to purchase a year's lease for the Beach Theatre.

According to BTF President Steve Jackson, the plan they submitted to the city would allow the BTF to pay back the money before the original maturity date of October 2012. The BTF leased the theater from Frank Investments for the 2008 season, so it could be repaired and possibly saved from demolition. The BTF borrowed the \$100,000 from the city out of a \$600,000 Small Cities Development Block Grant it administers for the state. The

money is available to loan to businesses to promote economic development and employment.

"The BTF has been approached by donors who have signed pledges with the request that we establish a plan for them to commence making donations to the BTF and for it to remit such donations to the city in payment on the loan," BTF President Steve Jackson wrote in a letter to City Manager Bruce MacLeod.

Jackson said there were between 25 and 30 donors, who pledged to make a wide range of donations. He said about 40 percent of those pledging money were members of the BTF board. Jackson said he was the main donor, pledging to contribute \$25,000 in order to pay back the loan.

"Upon the approval from the city, the foundation would notify all pledgors behind the loan of the new repayment option," said.

He said everyone involved has already made the commitment to contribute the tax-deductible donations and he hopes the city will approve the new plan.

"There has been a concern as to whether people will pay it back, but I've made it clear that it will be paid," he said.

Jackson said the BTF leased the theater for a total of 18 months. Using the loan from the city, they leased the theater for an entire year, and were then given the option of leasing it for an additional six months with a payment of \$50,000. Jackson said during the year they leased the prop

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Carriage company is still waiting for its day in court

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A case involving the Cape May Carriage Company's use of a pesticide to keep flies off their horses won't be heard in municipal court until August.

According to Bob Morgan of the carriage company, the case was scheduled to be in Cape May Municipal Court on May 25, but the court allowed a delay for personal reasons.

In September 2010, the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) wrote 26 citations for the use of a product called C-EM-DIE on 13 Cape May Carriage Company horses. C-EM-DIE is a pesticide used to keep biting flies

off livestock. Morgan and his wife, Beverly Carr Morgan, said the product was registered with the State of New Jersey when it was purchased. Manufactured by Rockland industries, the product was dropped when the business was bought by Chem-Tech Ltd. Chem-Tech had a similar product and did not register C-EM-DIE. According to Morgan, it is lawful to continue using a product purchased while it was registered with the state.

Morgan said the Department of Agriculture overseas livestock in New Jersey. On Sept. 24, 2010, the DOA conducted a field investigation and concluded, "These horses are in excellent condition."

"The SPCA is still pushing

the issue," Morgan said. "The state said there was no problem."

According to Morgan, the Department of Environmental Protection said it would register C-EM-DIE for use in New Jersey. Furthermore, he said he has a PhD in Chemistry who would testify the product is safe to use on horses.

Regarding the charges, Morgan said there are discrepancies in the SPCA report. He said the SPCA agent claimed to have witnessed violations on Sept. 5 and 6, but did not write the citations until Sept. 16, 2010.

"If their business is prevention, why not write the tickets immediately?" Morgan said.

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Cape May Point Lighthouse is a busted beacon, for now

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The lighthouse at Cape May Point State Park has long been a navigational aide for vessels entering or leaving the Delaware Bay.

But for the past two or three weeks, the lighthouse has given off no light. According to PO2 Crystal Kneen of the United States Coast Guard, the light is presently extinguished – using lighthouse-keeper jar-

gon. "We're waiting on a part for the motor," Kneen said. "The system is so old it takes a little longer to get the part."

Kneen said the Cape May Point Lighthouse is the only working lighthouse the Coast Guard maintains in the area. She said there is no anticipated timeframe for the lighthouse to go back online. She said the Coast

Guard is re publishing the fact that the lighthouse is not working in the Coast Guard's local notice to mariners. Kneen said boaters can call any harbor or Coast Guard station in the area to get current notices.

Notices to Mariners are broadcast on VHF Channel 22A.



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