

Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 24 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, June 15, 2011 50¢



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SPORTS

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Lou Rodia:
Striped Bass have a place in history, **B2**

CAPE MAY

New beer brewery, **A3**
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TIDES June 2011 Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low
	A.M.	P.M.
15	8:13	2:01
16	9:04	2:52
17	9:53	3:41
18	10:42	4:28
19	11:29	5:13
20		5:58
21	12:25	6:42
22	1:11	7:26
Moon Phases		
New Moon, June 3		
First Quarter, June 10		
Full Moon, June 17		
Last Quarter, June 24		
Perigee, June 15		
Apogee, June 27		

Sexual assault suspect arrested in Cape May

CAPE MAY –Cape May Police arrested Luis Torres-Sanchez, 19, of Cape May and Mexico, in connection with a sexual assault that occurred in June 2010.

According to Police Chief Diane Sorantino, Torres-Sanchez was arrested June 8, shortly after the incident was reported to the police. Sorantino said the alleged incident occurred in Cape May, and the victim is a juvenile under the age of 13. Torres-Sanchez is charged with Aggravated Sexual Assault, a first degree crime, Sexual Assault and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Torres-Sanchez was committed to the Cape May County Correctional Center in lieu of \$250,000 bail set by the Cape May County

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Harbor Fest, Friday and Saturday, June 17-18 – Cape May Harbor Nature Center is focal point of Harbor Fest

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – For the past 20 years, the Nature Center of Cape May, with its extraordinary view of Cape May Harbor, has been instrumental in educating people of all ages about the ecological and environmental aspects of the area. It's no wonder the Nature Center, located on Delaware Avenue, is the prime location for this weekend's Harbor Fest.

"The harbor, I think, is something the city should highlight. There aren't many places around with a harbor."
– Gretchen Whitman, Nature Center

According to the Center Director Gretchen Whitman, the Nature Center was one of the non-profit organizations that played a major role in making the Harbor Fest cele-

bration a reality nearly five years ago. She said abandoned and sunken vessels dotted the harbor area, which were not only unsightly but also represented safety haz-

ards for beach walkers and participants in Nature Center programs during low tide.

The organization teamed up with local non-profits, commercial fishing companies and harbor-based businesses to form the group, Harbor Partners. Together, they cleaned up the harbor through donations and sponsorship and also rallied support from state representatives in the process. Soon after, the Nature Center and the Greater Cape May

Chamber of Commerce partnered together and organized the first Harbor Fest. Many of the Harbor Partners helped out as well.

Whitman said the main purpose of the festival is to bring awareness to the harbor and its importance to Cape May.

"The harbor, I think is something the city should highlight," she said. "There aren't many places around with a harbor."

Please see **Fest**, page A2

Township hands out about 101 citations

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – At a recent township council meeting, Councilman Glenn Douglass said the township had been cracking down on code violations for properties in the township.

Douglass directed the matter to Township Manager Mike Voll, who said yes, the township had recently written about 100 citations. "We always get a spike this time of year," Voll said, adding that the majority of them were for grass not being cut.

"Summer residents don't get here until Memorial Day or the beginning of June, and by then they have high grass," Voll said.

Voll said he asked the zoning officer Bill Galestock to help out identifying problem properties because code enforcement officer Walt Fiore was on vacation.

"Bill Galestock went out and really pitched in and wrote 100 different violations," Voll said.

Voll said most of these citations do not end up in municipal court.

"We send them a letter. If that doesn't get results we then knock on their door and

ask them to take care of the problem. We don't want to take them to court," he said.

Voll said he is very concerned about the appearance of the township.

"If anything, as manager, I'm concerned about cleanliness," he said.

The issue is not grass alone, however, as people put out items the township does not pick up on trash days, such as bulk items, construction debris, tires or electronics.

Voll said he encourages residents to call Public Works when they see a problem. He said he is more concerned about getting eyesores removed.

"If you put it to the curb we will pick it up. There is no reason people should have to look at an eyesore," he said.

Voll also said people should know they can take bulk items to the Recycling Center, where it doesn't cost them anything. The Recycling Center accepts: household trash, rigid plastics, paper/cardboard boxes, metal, appliances, air conditioners, emptied lawnmowers, grass clippings, branches and leaves (go to www.townshipoflower.org for restrictions).

Please see **101**, page A4



Patrick Hyland/Cape May Star and Wave

The pipes, the pipes were calling...

...at the Historic Cold Spring Village, Saturday, when they held their 7th Annual Celtic Festival. The event included song, dance, story telling and other events of a Celtic nature. See more photos on page A10.

Liquor licenses discussed again

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners again discussed the possibility of selling the borough's Class C (consumption) liquor and Class D (distribution) licenses as a source of revenue for the municipal budget.

According to Mayor Pam Kaithern, the two licenses were approved by a voter referendum several years ago; however, the licenses were put on a shelf ever since because they were not sold. Kaithern said there have been inquiries about the availability of those licenses



and asked Commissioner Ramsey Geyer and Deputy Mayor Peter Burke if they

thought the licenses should be put back out for public bid and what the minimum bid should be.

"I don't see any reason why we can't put it back out there, but I have no basis for what the minimum bid should be," Geyer replied.

Geyer said because most of the restaurants in West Cape May do not offer alcohol and there are no distributors in the borough, there is no need to have the licenses.

"We have them but no one is using them," he said after the meeting. "It's a small community where most restaurants allow people to bring

Please see **Liquor**, page A2

Video saves city on sewer repairs

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A study done on the sewer main system at the north end of Washington

once the pipe was cleaned and the city hired Video Pipe Services of Newfield to go through the piping with a camera system. Instead, the cameras revealed there were



Street, in the vicinity of Sidney Street and Texas Avenue, showed a much more cost efficient way of making repairs.

An original plan of slip lining the 650 feet of sewer pipe was found to be unnecessary

just three areas of the sewer that needed only minor repairs. The rest of the piping system was in solid condition according to City Engineer Ray Roberts of the

Please see **Sewer**, page A4

Point mayor opposes Seaside Tax District

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Mayor Carl Schupp said he wrote to Assemblyman Matt Milam and voiced his strong opposition to a bill aimed at creating a Seaside Tax District.

The bill, A-2657, sponsored by Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (District 15-Mercer), would create a Seaside Lodging and Rental District. The district would include all rentals three-quarters of a mile from the ocean. All rentals would be taxed 7 percent, with 5 percent going to the state and 2 percent going to the municipality. Of that 2 percent, one-third would have to be dedi-

cated to tourism promotion.

Since July 2003, in places like Cape May, hotel and motel lodging has been taxed 14 percent – 7 cents sales tax



and another 7 percent accommodations tax, of which 2 percent goes to the municipality. Whole house rentals are not taxed.

According to Schupp, the entire Borough of Cape May Point would be encompassed in the new district, and he

views it as a potential headache for the borough.

"Enforcing it would be a nightmare," he said.

Asked if the state itself is not responsible for enforcing tax laws, Schupp said the state has a way of making enforcement a local matter.

"I wrote to (Assemblyman) Milam and strongly objected to the bill," Schupp said.

The borough recently raised the rental permit fee to \$150 plus another \$50 for a fire inspection. The \$200 is good for rentals of one or two units. Three of more units carry an extra charge.

In other business, Commissioner Anita Van Heeswyk said the state has allowed them to replace the Shade Tree Commission with

Please see **Point**, page A2



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