



**Happy Fourth of July from the staff of the Cape May Star and Wave.**

## Abrami family donates rare, historic items to CM museum

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After purchasing their historic 808 Sewell Avenue summer home in 1989, the Abrami family began finding numerous artifacts and documents scattered throughout the house, some dating back nearly 200 years.

On Friday, June 29, the family officially donated the extensive collection to the Greater Cape May Historical Society, strengthening the already rich history of Cape May. Brothers, Phil and Anthony Abrami donated the items in memory of their parents, Philip and Vera Abrami, who recently passed away and who were responsible for keeping the collection in the family for so long.

Colonial House Museum Curator Laurie Thomas said she was thrilled to have such an eclectic and diverse collection of Cape May's history donated to the museum and was amazed it hadn't been lost.

"People normally find things like this and toss it out thinking it's junk. It's great they recognized how important this all was to Cape May's history," she said of the Abrami family.

The collection contained



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Above, a collection of valuable items donated to the Greater Cape May Historical Society by brothers Phil and Anthony Abrami.

deeds, maps, photos, tintypes, work orders and other materials dating from the early 1800s to the 1960s. Historical Society President Harry Bellangy said perhaps the most significant piece in the collection is an original copy of the investigative report done by Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, commonly referred to as the "Pinkerton Report," on the 1878 Cape May fire.

Bellangy said there were several copies of the report written up in 1879 when the investigation was completed. This particular copy, dated

July 10, 1879 was addressed to Joseph Q. Williams, the mayor at the time. Williams served four terms as city mayor and lived at 223 Perry Street, according to Thomas.

Phil said the report was an investigation of the Nov. 9, 1878 five-day long fire that swept through Cape May aided by strong winds and faulty firefighting equipment. All together there were 35 acres of devastation and ruin. Seven major hotels and more than 30 cottages and bath-houses were lost.

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## Single stream recycling is coming

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority is urging all 16 municipalities to back a plan to change over to single stream recycling.

Richard Barron from the CCMUA told Lower Township Council the move would likely increase the level of recycling and save tax dollars.

The county currently has a dual stream recycling process by which metal, plastic and glass containers are put in one container and paper fiber materials are put in another. The items are also separated in recycling trucks designed with two separate collection compartments. In a

single stream system, all the recyclable materials would be commingled and separated at the recycling facility.



Barron said the dual system has been successful in Cape May County, but the technology has caught up with the MUA and the facility is due

for an upgrade. The 23-year-old plant was modified about eight years ago, but they are now seeking to put several million dollars into converting to the single stream system. He said the recycling contractor supports the change because they know the system will make money.

Barron said there are a number of verifiable studies that showed the value of converting to single stream recycling. He said in one study, Camden increased their tonnage of recyclables collected by 28 percent. He said the increase might not be as dramatic in Cape May County.

"Cape May County does a pretty good job of recycling," he said.

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## Borough opposes legislation allowing events on farmland

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution opposing legislation A-323/S-2074 "as written," currently in the New Jersey Senate, regarding special occasion events on preserved farmland.

The special occasion events, including weddings and other lifetime milestone events are intended to promote agricultural tourism, according to the legislation being sponsored by Assemblyman Ronald Dancer (R-12th Dist.), Assemblywoman

Celeste Riley (D-3rd Dist.), Assemblywoman Alison McHose (R-24th Dist.) and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Matt Milam (D-1st Dist.). The legislation recently passed through the New Jersey Assembly by a vote of 79-0 and was sent to the Senate.

The legislation says that special events on preserved farmland are allowed to be conducted provided that the income generated from all the events for the calendar year together account for less than 50 percent of the annual gross income. This information must be submitted and certified with the county agri-

cultural development board annually.

The legislation also states the special occasion events can occur Friday, Saturday, Sunday, federal or state holidays and any other day of the week with the approval of the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC).

At the June 27 regular meeting, Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said he didn't want to vote on opposing the legislation unless amendments were made, as he did not oppose the entire bill.

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Above, the 19th century style Schooner Wolf spent a day in Cape May Harbor, June 26, on its way to New London, Conn. The crew has been making stops along the way from Key West, Fla.

## Schooner Wolf in Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Like something out of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island," a 19th century style ship sailed into Cape May Harbor last week and docked in the South Jersey Marina.

Offering free tours to the public, the Topsail Schooner Wolf has been making its way up the coast from Key West, Fla., since mid-May and on Tuesday, June 26, the vessel arrived in Cape May. The following day, numerous people came to take photos, meet

the crew and tour the designated Flagship of the Conch Republic.

Adm. Finbar Gittelman, First Sea Lord and Supreme Military Commander of the Conch Republic Navy, served as captain of the Schooner Wolf on this particular international voyage. Gittelman was one of the original builders of the ship in 1982 and 1983. He said it was modeled after the blockade-runners that sailed the waters of the Florida Straits, Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean in the 1800s. With Gittelman at the helm, the Schooner Wolf has

sailed extensively through the Bahamas, Caribbean and Mexico. Gittelman has logged over 150,000 nautical miles since he first sailed a wooden craft across Biscayne Bay when he was just 8-years-old.

He has been a part of the Conch Republican Navy since its inception in 1982 and said one of the missions of the military outfit is to defend the honor and territory of the Conch Republic, also known as Key West or the Florida Keys. The Conch Republic also has an army and air

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## 'Mogck Beach' named for Beach Patrol Captain

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Like any other warm and sunny Sunday in June, Capt. Harry "Buzz" Mogck of the Cape May Beach Patrol walked out to the beachfront at Grant Street to a crowd of people. However, this time the mass of about 200 people wasn't there to sun bathe or swim – they were all there to honor his dedicated service to Cape May.

Mogck had just finished having breakfast with his family, who got out to the beach before him and joined the surprise ceremony that officially designated the portion of beachfront near the Lifeguard Headquarters as "Mogck Beach" in his honor.

Mogck is a Cape May native who has been a part of the Beach Patrol since he left the



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Above, Cape May Beach Patrol Captain Harry "Buzz" Mogck, shown with Lt. Harry Back, Lt. Geoff Rife, Lt. Bill Keller, Lt. Pete Pietras at the lifeguard headquarters where the beach named for him.

U.S. Army in 1967. He said he wasn't sure what he was going to do for work, but had some friends who convinced

him to take the lifeguard test and training. He has never

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