

Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, August 3, 2011 50¢



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CMBP women take third in OC, B1
Lou Rodia on fishing, B2
Globetrotter Buckets Blakes in Wildwood, B6

CAPE MAY
Community Events, A4

TIDES
August 2011
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low
3 A.M.	11:26	5:00
4	12:20	5:48
5	12:32	6:39
6	1:31	7:36
7	2:38	8:37
8	3:50	9:42
9	5:00	10:46
10	6:02	11:45

Moon Phases
New Moon, Aug. 1, 30
First Quarter, Aug. 8
Full Moon, Aug. 15
Last Quarter, Aug. 23
Perigee, Aug. 7
Apogee, Aug. 21

WCM residents, mayor concerned about speed

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – After receiving multiple complaints reporting a high number of speeding drivers, Mayor Pamela Kaithern is trying to get more police coverage on borough streets.

Kaithern said considering it is summer, the Cape May Police Department could be lacking the numbers to cover the borough. Kaithern said the CMPD, which provides police services to West Cape May and Cape May Point, likely focuses mainly on the pedestrian and tourist traffic

'I've called Cape May and asked them to please up the enforcement.'
–WCM Mayor Pam Kaithern

in the busy sections of the city.

Kaithern said, aside from the complaints from citizens, statistics show that more traffic violation tickets are handed out in West Cape May than in the city and commended the police department for that. However, with the num-

ber of people who have expressed concern by phone and at borough meetings, something more needs to be done.

She said the most problematic streets were Stimpson, Bayshore, Stevens, Park and Broadway. She said because West Cape May serves as a

sort of short cut out of town to place like Lower Township and as a way to avoid exiting Cape May City traffic, people are speeding through to get to their destinations.

"It's really a borough-wide issue though," she said. "We need more enforcement."

Broadway resident Tom Douglass has come to the past two borough meetings with complaints about speeders on his street. At the July 13 meeting, he said he would like to see more police presence on Broadway, because no one seemed to be slowing down to the posted 25 mph speed limit.

Douglass said at one point, he even had to pull a child out of the street before they were hit by a car that was coming too fast.

"At my age I won't be able to do that again," he said. "If I had been any slower, that kid would have been dead."

He said he has seen people doing at least 10 or 15 miles per hour over the speed limit on a regular basis on Broadway.

Douglass asked Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado if there was any section in the shared services contract with

Please see Speed, page A2

'Dead horse' is revived in Twp.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Township Manager Mike Voll has apparently had enough about the Lower Township Rescue Squad – an issue a woman two weeks ago called a "dead horse."

"You've kicked this horse enough – let it go," he said.

Voll said he took exception to remarks uttered during the last two Lower Township Council meetings, suggesting he didn't respond appropriately to complaints going back to April 18 of code violations.

"I was there from day one," he said, "and I've been monitoring it daily."

Cardinal Avenue resident said he thought the township was slow to act when neighbors voiced complaints about the condition of the Rescue Squad's property at Georgia and Main in Villas. The residents complained of an overflowing dumpster, derelict vehicles, and private vehicle maintenance going on inside the publicly subsidized facility. Most of the discrepancies have been taken care of, but residents are still voicing objections to the way their complaints were handled. He said an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request revealed the Lower Township Rescue Squad had been cited nine times between 2003 and 2009. Weber said each time there was a complaint, the code enforcement officer issued a citation and the problem was

remedied.

"This time that didn't seem to be the case," Weber said.

Weber said it appeared that Voll simply called the Rescue Squad and asked them to take care of the problems mentioned by neighbors.

"In this instance, our particular problem was not handled the same way as every other problem," he said.

"I treated the Rescue Squad like every other person in town," Voll said.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said he was in the manager's office when Kathy McPherson was manager, and said he saw her handle problems with a phone call. Mayor Mike Beck said the call should have been to the code enforcement officer. He said the problem is continuing to be an issue because of the way it was handled.

"With the nine previous issues, in 10 days we had a resolution," Beck said.

Councilman Glenn Douglass said there were complicating circumstances to this situation. He said at the time of the complaints in April, the code enforcement officer was on vacation. He said the construction official, who would have filled in to investigate the matter was called out of town on a family emergency. He said the combined factors amounted to a month's time.

"It was an unfortunate circumstance of a township employee not being there,

Please see Horse, page A2



Patrick Hyland/Cape May Star and Wave

Arrrrrrrrrrr....treasure!

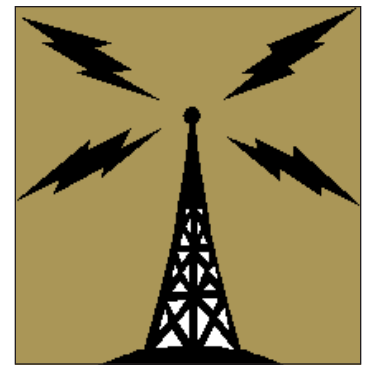
Hundreds of children took part in the annual Captain Kidd Treasure Hunt held on the beach in Cape May, July 31. Children in three age groups dug for buried treasure – including three golden treasure chests. See more photos on page A12.

WCFA celebrates 5 years

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Center for Community Arts radio, WCFA-LP 101.5 FM is celebrating five years on the air with its volunteer hosts, community programming and eclectic blend of jazz.

Station General Manager and CCA Executive Director, Bernadette Matthews, said the station can be heard from Cape May Point to Cape May Courthouse and Avalon, having about a 20-mile low-powered radius from Lafayette Street in Cape May City,



where the station is located. Matthews also hosts the Thursday night radio show, "What's Going On" and

brings the community up to date on local events and happenings. She said the station was created by Drew Butkocny in 2006, who saw a radio station as potential support for the CCA's mission of community building.

"What better way than this communications vehicle," Matthews said.

They put together a group of volunteers, who act as both engineers and on-air talent, and started as soon as they could. According to the radio station website, start-up costs

Please see WCFA, page A2

With a cluck, cluck here...

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – A Lower Township resident is seeking to have an ordinance changed to allow people to keep chickens and ducks.

Claire Nagel, a Shore Road resident, addressed Lower Township Council, Monday, and said the township ordinances require one acre of land per animal. Using a Middle Township ordinance as a model, Nagel told council she believes the change would help preserve the rural character of the community.

"It would also enhance the fresh food supply," she said.

Nagel, who currently owns six brown chickens, said she would like to see the township allow chickens and ducks, but not roosters. She said any food products derived from the poultry would be consumed by the owner and not used as a source of income. She said her proposal also

includes a requirement to provide 3 sq. ft. of indoor space per animal, and 5 sq. ft. of outdoor space for each chicken or duck.



Township Manager Mike Voll said he visited Nagel's property and found it to be very clean, with no noise and no odor.

Mayor Mike Beck said his

concern would be those who would not take proper care of the animals, which would generate complaints.

Nagel said her "brown" chickens are actually Rhode Island Reds. She said part of her interest in raising the chickens stems from her interest in producing food locally.

"Even though I'm not planning to sell the eggs, it's really part of the development of the local food market and the local economy," she said.

Nagel said she bought the chickens at Smeltzer's in Cape May Court House, which is where she gets the chicken feed. She also bought the lumber and chicken wire for the coop and run locally.

Nagel is also a vegetarian and interested in the organic movement. She said she is raising the chickens organically, but has no intention eating them. Her friend,

Please see Cluck, page A2

Borough is considering fees for false fire alarms

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners has been evaluating a fire department ordinance from Salem, N.J., wondering if a similar ordinance could be used for the borough fire company.

Salem's ordinance authorizes the charging of fees to recover certain costs associated with services provided by the fire department. According to West Cape May Commissioner Ramsey

Geyer, the ordinance pertains to repeated false alarm situations in which the fire company or department uses up time, equipment and fuel to arrive at the scene where they do not need to be without being reimbursed.

He said to be considered a repeated false alarm offender, there would need to be three or more calls in a year's time. Often, faulty alarm systems are to blame.

Geyer said Mayor Pamela Kaithern brought this ordinance to the attention of the

board about two months ago as a potential revenue stream for the fire company. The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company has been trying to bring in extra funding for state-required equipment and to train more recruits, so Kaithern believed this ordinance could possibly be of some help.

Kaithern, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke and Geyer all said the ordinance would need some changes if

Please see Alarms, page A3



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