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CAPE MAY

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JULY 2010 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
7/15	11:38	11:50	5:14	5:28
7/16		12:34	6:04	6:28
7/17	12:45	1:32	6:56	7:31
7/18	1:43	2:33	7:51	8:37
7/19	2:46	3:35	8:48	9:44
7/20	3:53	4:37	9:47	10:49
7/21	4:59	5:35	10:45	11:48
Last Quarter	7/4			
New Moon	7/11			
1st Quarter	7/18			
Full Moon	7/25			
Apogee	7/1,28			
Perigee	7/13			

Lifeguarding 101: many rescues over 3 days

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May lifeguards were forced to rescue 101 people over the past weekend after distant storms created rip currents on Cape May beaches.

On Friday, July 9, the Cape May Beach Patrol pulled in 41 people who had been caught in rip currents, either one at a time or in combinations. The activity settled down on Saturday, when there were only two rescues, but it picked up again on Sunday when 57 victims were

‘The ocean is one big entity, and it doesn't take much to start mixing it up and get it moving.’

– Valerie Meola, meteorologist

rescued during work hours. The lifeguards made one additional after hours rescue Sunday, when a swimmer was caught in a rip current and taken about 150 yards from the beach. This victim was turned over to EMS due to a suspected head injury. According to Lt. Harry Back of the CMBP, the victim was

conscious, alert, oriented, and had the use of all his extremities, but complained of head or neck pain.

Cape May Point Beach Patrol Chief Pete Pietras said their rescue numbers were not outrageous, but higher than normal. On Friday they counted four rescues, one on Saturday, and on Sunday

there were seven.

“That is higher than what we've been dealing with,” Pietras said. “Our water was rough, but it wasn't that bad.”

According to Back, the rip currents off Cape May beaches are the result of a low pressure system off of North Carolina.

“We had a little south swell

generated from a storm off North Carolina,” he said. “Anytime we have a high volume of water flowing into the beach it has to find a way out.”

Back said rip currents often form near rock piles (jetties) where the extra water coming in is stopped. It all has to go back out, and when it finds a channel it goes rushing out.

Back said storms far away generate these swells of water, which eventually arrive in New Jersey. He used the example of

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Heat wave might have killed fish

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Public Works employees removed about 500 pounds of dead fish from Lake Lily Monday, apparent victims of the summer heat.

While many people went to the water to seek relief from the recent heat wave, the fish had no escape.

Francine Nietubicz, president of a group called Friends of Lake Lily, spoke to a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife. She was told this happened about seven years ago, and they suspect a low level of dissolved oxygen was the reason.

“The hotter it is the less oxygen in the water, and the more oxygen the fish need; so it was almost a perfect storm,” Nietubicz said.

According to Nietubicz the problem became very apparent Sunday night. She said on Sunday afternoon there were a couple hundred laughing gulls flying over the lake, dipping down, although they couldn't tell what the birds were doing, Nietubicz and her husband, Commissioner Joe Nietubicz, went to a movie and when they came home they had many phone messages on their answering machine.

On Monday, Public Works began the unenviable task of removing the dead fish. Nietubicz said she initially thought there was just one kind of fish affected.

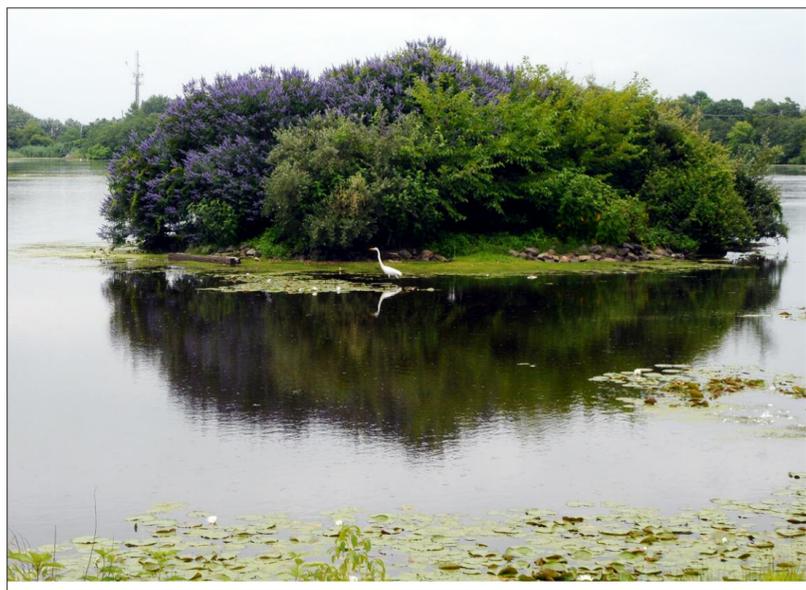
“I thought, from looking at surface, they were all the same kind and the same size. But (Monday) we learned there were fish from two inches to 18 inches and all different species,” she said. “I was astounded at the size of some of the fish.”

Nietubicz said they hadn't seen ospreys this summer, which would hunt for larger fish. She was also astounded by the number of fish in the lake.

Nietubicz said she talked to a number of people who suggested the kill might be due to a low dissolved oxygen level. When it turned out that all kinds of species were killed, it rather confirmed that suspicion. There are other possibilities that would have to be confirmed by testing.

Nietubicz said the area had been through kind of a dry spell, and rains could have washed fertilizer, herbicides, and road grime into the shallow lake. She said there are 27 municipal storm drains that flow into the lake. It's also possible someone dumped a chemical into a drain not thinking of the

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

A lone egret fishes near the island in Cape May Point's Lake Lily. On Monday, hundreds of dead fish were cleaned out of the shallow lake. The low dissolved oxygen levels due to the heat are suspected as being responsible. A DEP official said the same thing happened seven years ago in Lake Lily.

Council introduces \$3.5 million bond ordinance for hall project

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council, which includes three members sworn in on July 1, introduced a \$3.15 million bond ordinance July 9 to appropriate more money for the Convention Hall project.

The ordinance was moved by Councilwoman Terri Swain and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, and authorized the issuance of bonds or notes for \$2,992,500.

Voters approved a \$10.5 million bond ordinance in November 2008, but all the bids received have exceeded that amount. City council rejected 11 bids in May and received another nine bids on June 3. Council has not taken action on the June bids.

Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca made a statement with her vote, saying, “I'm not selling anybody out, I'm not a traitor.”

“I'm simply casting a vote to have you help me make a decision that will affect the city,” she said.

The 5-0 vote introduced the bond ordinance, allowing for a public hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20.

“I'm not name calling,” Fiocca said, referring to comments made at the July 6 regular meeting, suggesting the three newly elected council members would be betraying the voters who

elected them on the promise of scaling down the project.

“I'm just trying to make the best decision for the city,” Fiocca said.

Councilman Bill Murray said he was likewise voting for the introduction of the bond ordinance because it was part of a process that allows for the public and the governing body the opportunity to discuss and vet the issue.

“If you are afraid to stand up and speak on the issue, call me,” Murray said.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. voted yes, saying the process has been in the public purview for the last two years in what he called an open and transparent process. He said there has been a public portion at the end of every meeting for public comment and questions.

Swain and Wichterman, voted yes but did not comment prior to the public portion of the meeting, when former councilman Jerry Gaffney told city council he was not a business owner or operator.

“I'm just a taxpayer, senior citizen on a fixed income,” he said.

He said he hoped, instead of a meeting to introduce the ordinance, the architect or engineer would have been part of a meeting where they were discussing down-sizing the project.

“Three councils have been fooling around with this. I say build it on the same footprint, a plain vanilla

building with two floors, and save the solarium – it's a waste of taxpayer money to tear it down,” he said.

Gaffney predicted the project as designed would have problems with the engineering and permits.

“We will see a hole in the ground for the next couple of years,” he said.

Gaffney also asked if the city has the grant promised by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) in writing.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he had been in touch with CRDA in the last two weeks and was told the funding was still in place up to \$3 million.

“This is one of the few revolving grant programs being awarded,” he said.

Tom Carroll, vice president of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, said MAC is still very much in favor of the project.

“We would hate to see a multiple-year delay,” Carroll said.

Carroll was referring to speculation that redesigning the project to make it smaller would result in the project being delayed for several years. All the while, cultural interests in the city are suffering.

“This is the kind of facility we need,” he said.

Chamber of Commerce President Bill Causey clarified comments he made regarding chamber support

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County offering discount drug cards free to county residents

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY HOUSE – The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced Tuesday a free discount card for prescription drugs and other health-related items.

County Communications Director Lenora Boninfante said the card is provided by United Network of America, and made possible by pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies.

“The idea is to help the uninsured and underinsured save on health care costs,” Boninfante said.

The card is being made available to any Cape May County resident, who will be able to use it to save up to 75 percent on prescription drugs.

“They say the average savings is 30 percent, but it could

be as high as 75 percent,” she said.

Boninfante said the prescription discount card is available to all Cape May

whitening, vitamins, diabetic supplies, Lasik surgery, dental plans and hearing aids.

Boninfante said the Cape May County Rx Card is available at the Department of Health, the Cape May County Department of Aging, all county Senior Centers and at Cape May County libraries. Residents can also print a free card, search drug pricing, and locate participating pharmacies at

www.cmchealth.net. “It has been the county's intent to make this kind of card available to residents. There are a variety of discount cards out there, and we looked at them and thought this worked best,” Boninfante said.

Residents only have to show the Cape May County Rx Card with a valid prescription at any of the participating pharmacies.

Rx Prescription Drug Card

NAME: _____

RxMNR ID: Customer's Ten (10) Digit Phone Number
OR Initials & Last 4 Digits of Phone Number

RxGRP: NUCAPEMAY RxBIN: 610709 RxPCN: 7777

PROGRAM: UNA RX CARD - UNITED NETWORKS OF AMERICA

POWERED BY:

NOTE: This card is being provided to you at NO COST. There are no forms to fill out. Simply take this card into a participating pharmacy (see back) with your Rx to qualify for discounts on medications. You also have access to other value added programs listed on back. Each family member must have his/her own card. This card has been pre-activated for immediate use! To obtain information and to print additional cards visit www.capemaycounty.gov/ret.

Cape May County Rx Card

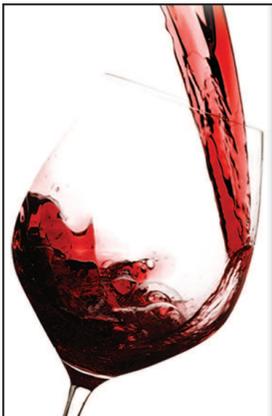
Sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders

Customer Service (CSR) 877.321.6755
Pharmacy Helpline 800.248.1062
THIS PROGRAM IS A POINT OF SALE DISCOUNT PLAN

County residents, regardless of income, age or insurance status.

“This is not an insurance card,” Boninfante said. “The card is pre-activated so it can be used immediately.”

Boninfante said if someone has a prescription plan the card does not apply to items that are covered; however, discounts might apply to non-covered items or services, such as eyeglasses, teeth



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A: A sampling of three different wines...

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