

# Cape May Star and Wave

156th YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, April 8, 2010 50¢



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APRIL 2010 TIDE TABLE				
HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm
4/8	4:22	5:00	10:37	10:47
4/9	5:16	5:49	11:24	11:38
4/10	6:03	6:31		12:04
4/11	6:46	7:09	12:24	12:41
4/12	7:26	7:45	1:07	1:15
4/13	8:04	8:20	1:47	1:49
4/14	8:41	8:55	2:26	2:22
Full Moon			4/28	
Last Quarter			4/6	
New Moon			4/14	
1st Quarter			4/21	
Apogee			4/8	
Perigee			4/24	

**INSIDE:**  
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April 16-18  
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## They're outta here! Light piers to be removed

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Two vinyl light piers placed on the small bridge coming into Cape May as beacons of welcome have gotten the boot after critics said they were not welcome in this National Historic Landmark city.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said on Tuesday the light piers would be removed after coming to an agreement with Historic Preservation Commission member Tom Carroll, one of the most outspoken critics of the light piers. Carroll was quoted as saying, "They make a mockery of Victorian design."

Carroll will now head a committee of five community members plus Councilwoman Terri Swain, who will research an alternate plan for erecting distinctive markers for the city's main entrance. Carroll said he asked Curtis Bashaw, Dave Clemans and Hilary Pritchard to join the committee. Bashaw penned a 900-word letter printed in last week's Star and Wave saying the light piers were not appropriate for Cape May and suggesting the city be held to the same standards city residents are held to when altering their properties.

Mahaney said realtor John Fleming would also be on the committee because he lives near the Schellenger's Landing Bridge where the light piers were placed.

Councilwoman Terri Swain asked to be city council's liaison to the committee.

Various designs for the light piers were presented to city council in public meetings, where no objections were voiced by members of council or the public. A final design was accepted as part of the city's Gateway Project, which was funded with a grant from Cape May County.

The project also includes pavers and planters created at Texas Avenue and Washington, Texas and Lafayette, and Lafayette and Sydney. The \$252,000 project also includes new lighting and landscaping. Mahaney said the city has spent all the money allocated for the Gateway Project, and said



One of two offending light piers.

city council feels the landscaping and streetscape upgrades are an improvement. He said people were

taking issue only with the light piers.

After the light piers were installed some individuals criticized them, referring to them as "outhouses" and "port-a-potties." Critics said the light piers were tacky and out of character with Cape May. Additionally, they were constructed from vinyl materials, which are prohibited in the city's Historic District.

"At some point we want to put the best foot of the city forward," Mahaney said.

Mahaney said he originally wanted to leave the light piers in place until the Gateway Project was finished, but instead decided to go ahead with plans to

Please see **Piers**, page A2

## Parking Committee might have solution for parking permits

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – A Parking Committee set up by city council seems to have hit on a solution to a conundrum which resulted when the city tried to offer on-street parking permits to the elderly and infirm.

City council attempted to create a parking permit for residents who had no off-street parking and who did not have the ability to create any. The concern was mainly for elderly residents who risked not being able to park near their home every time they went out. Council enacted an ordinance in July 2008 creating the on-street parking permit, which would reserve a space on the street for the permit holder.

In October 2008 the city began issuing permits but then stopped in April 2009 when it learned, while a larger number of people qualified for the permit, few of them met the spirit of the law.

Committee member Kate Emerson said the ordinance was intended to provide relief to residents who had no off-street parking and who, with the increasing number of tourists over the years, now were less and less able to park.

The city issued 44 permits up to April 2009, with only 10 going to year-round residents. The other 34 were purchased by seasonal residents or second homeowners who rented their properties. The city amended the ordinance last April to restrict the permits to permanent residents and single-family homeowners. A lawsuit was filed by a condominium owner and rather than defend the lawsuit, city council repealed the ordinance in July 2009.

Committee member Bill Murray said the individual sued under equal protection statutes after obtaining a permit and then having it revoked by the April 2009 amendment.

The Parking Committee was established to see if it could find a way to rewrite the ordinance in a manner where it would not be challenged in court. Councilman David Kurkowski said the committee contacted state Sen. Jeff Van Drew, and they had met with representatives from the state Office of Legislative Services. City Solicitor Anthony Monzo said that office would review a new ordinance and give an opinion as to whether it might stand up to a challenge.

Emerson said the committee heard several objections to the on-street parking permit program:

- Rental properties were obtaining the permits, which was not in the spirit of the program.
- Spaces marked as reserved for permit holders were vacant for long periods of time, while others

Please see **Permits**, page A2



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## Easter Stroll in Cape May

Young ladies ages 7 to 9 pass before the judges in the Easter Stroll, held Sunday on the Washington Street Mall. Contestants in nine categories, ages infants to adults, took home prizes for displaying their Easter finery. See more photos plus Kiwanis Egg Hunt photos on page A10.

## Lower block party on June 5

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

LOWER TOWNSHIP – A chamber of commerce-led initiative is scheduled to bring a block party to Bayshore Road in June as a fundraiser and a way to bring the community together.

Sherrie Hemingway, president of the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce, said the block party is a cooperative effort between the chamber and municipal government.

"Lower Township is providing a lot of help," Hemingway said. "They applied for the road closing permit. Because it's a county

road we needed that. They are providing bleachers, port-a-potties, police ... everyone has their own little part. It really is a whole community effort, but we couldn't do on our own without the township."

Hemingway said the block party is related to the chamber's Bayshore Road Beautification Project. The chamber has been trying to come up with ideas to beautify Bayshore Road. The first idea floated was purchasing flags or banners to hang from utility poles – festive looking flags, perhaps with holiday themes, as are seen in other communities.

"We have a few other ideas. We want people to feel good about the community, and we (the chamber) wanted to put more into the community," Hemingway said.

This first year they are trying to get many people involved.

"We want to do a big local program," she said.

The block party is scheduled to be held on Bayshore Road from Village Road to Tennessee Avenue, on June 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (June 6 rain date). There is a \$65 registration fee for vendors who register by April

Please see **Block**, page A2

## Hirsch family says the tradition is back at Harry's

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The Hirsch family believes people have liked the restaurant that has long been part of the Montreal Hotel. Now family members hope people will be wild about Harry's – the name the restaurant will take when it reopens May 7.

The Hirsch family has operated the Montreal Hotel since it was built in 1965, and opened an adjoining restaurant in 1971. It was the Montreal Restaurant, then the Promenade, and later the



Café Promenade.

When the new sign goes up it will proudly say "Harry's – Ocean Bar and Grille," and

feature a likeness of its namesake, Harry Hirsch.

"They gave me a special

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Larry, Harry, Jonathon and Joey Hirsch across from what will be Harry's, on Beach Avenue.

treat," Harry said.

His son Larry said the family surprised their father by renaming the restaurant after him. But it seemed a natural thing to do.

"He has a relationship with a lot of people," Joey Hirsch said.

Joey said it was the Café Promenade for more than 20 years and they have a lot of repeat customers at the Montreal – people who have come to know the restaurant – and Harry. The Café Promenade has been what the Hirsches described as a "comfortable family restaurant."

rant."

"It's based on my grandfather himself," Jonathon Hirsch said. "A comfortable place, good food at a good price."

Harry's will carry many of the same items people have come to expect from Café Promenade, but there is an interesting assortment of items on the menu.

There is comfort food most families enjoy – meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, chicken potpie, as well as an assortment of burgers. However, there is also a variety of seafood items, as befit-

ting a restaurant with an ocean view, such as crab cake or "Grilled Ahi Tuna" sliders, fried calamari, "Spanish Garlic Shrimp" and teriyaki glazed salmon. There is also a raw bar featuring U-Peel Shrimp and Oyster Shooters.

Meat eaters might enjoy the rib eye steak, meatloaf, or grilled pork chop, which Jonathon said has been a customer favorite.

"We're getting back to the wholesome, goodness of Cape May," Jonathon said.

The Montreal Hotel has just

Please see **Harry's**, page A2



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