



## New bids for Convention Hall are delayed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

*'The contractor thought there were instructions in one section that required one thing and in another section something else was required.'*

—Bruce MacLeod, Cape May city manager

CAPE MAY – The city was scheduled to accept bids on the new Convention Hall project, Tuesday, but has put off receiving the bids until Thursday, June 3. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the decision was made after a question was raised Friday, May 21, regarding the bid specifications. "Because it was so close to the bidding date, our response required us to issue

an addendum to the bid specs, and based on that, we had to postpone receiving bids until June 3," MacLeod said. MacLeod said a new, prospective bidder raised a

question regarding the requirements for the demolition at the site.

"The contractor thought there were instructions in one section that required one thing and in another section

something else was required," MacLeod said.

That one thing was related to the Solarium, which MacLeod said the city renovated in mid-1990s for about \$400,000. The city proposed

moving the Solarium and received just one bid from a contractor for moving it, at a cost of \$180,000.

"That one bid was almost half the investment from the 90s," MacLeod said. "Then we would have also had to do site preparation work, the water and sewer connections, and so on. We estimated another \$200,000 to prepare the site to receive the building, so we didn't think it was in the city's best interest to try and move the Solarium."

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## Cape May County selling confiscated goods on website

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – By now people have become so used to QVC the name is synonymous with home shopping. If things go right, perhaps they will start looking to CMC to meet their shopping needs.

CMC is Cape May County, which on May 22 posted more than 1,000 confiscated items on the GovDeals.com website. Freeholder Director Dan Beyel said the items were part of one of the largest stolen property schemes ever uncovered in Cape May County. Beyel said the online auction through GovDeals would take place over several months. GovDeals works the same way as eBay, where buyers post bids on an item in hopes of getting a good deal. GovDeals was established as a venue for municipal governments to sell their surplus property online. Previously, local governments, including the county, would have to hold conventional auctions, which meant storing items for months and sometimes transporting them to an auction site. The online auction process can be used all year long and the buyers must arrange to pick up the items they buy. Interested buyers will be able to access GovDeals through the county website, www.capemaycounty.gov.net.

The value of the items being auctioned is estimated at \$290,000, but with cash and gift cards, the value of the stolen goods reached \$380,000. The theft was uncovered after a months-long investigation by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. Economic Crime and Major Crime Units. The investigation led them to Thomas Moran of Dennis Township, who had allegedly been hoarding items he stole from retail stores over the past decade.

Some of the items, many in their original,

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Seen around Cape May

As our photographer wandered around Cape May recently, he caught some All-American favorite sights; such as: a baby, above – Grace May Diaz-Burns who was enjoying a french fry; some dogs, below right, Annie and Abbie owned by Dina Badagliacco of Hammonton; and below left, some apple pie. See more Cape May photos on page A10.



## Sosson and son unite for SOMA art show

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The SOMA NewArt Gallery was filled with wooden bicycles and painted busts of Marcus Aurelius on May 22, to showcase the work of mother and son Harriett Sosson and Max Samuelson. The exhibition, which opened May 22 and will continue through June 20, features Samuelson's work creating original wooden-framed bicycles and Sosson's latest collage pieces, which largely feature the busts of Roman sculptures, urban backgrounds and vintage tin toys. The collages in Sosson's "Re-



Inventing the Romans," are inspired by Sosson's trips to Europe, and are compiled through a combination of cut-out photographs from books, her own photographs, and any painting she does to alter the images.

For collaging you, "see things in patterns."

"It's like if you're a composer, and as you're composing after a long period of time, you have certain

rythms," Sosson said. Sosson says the images within these collages are meant to be contrasting, yet blend together.

"I like the juxtaposition of Renaissance art slapped against a

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## Reform, jobs on freeholder platform

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Republican Freeholder candidates Gerald Thornton and Susan Sheppard unveiled a plan for government reform and job creation for Cape May County.

Dubbed "CMC21 – A Positive Vision for Cape May County in the 21st Century," the proposal calls for governmental unity, working together to reduce waste and expanding their economic base and creating employment opportunities.

Thornton and Sheppard propose organizing a convention of government officials in Cape May County – including county, local and school – to discuss ways of sharing services, consolidating and eliminating duplicate services. The convention, which would be held at the Wildwoods Convention Center, would "lay the foundation for broad government reform for decades to come," according to a statement issued by the campaign.

The plan would also focus on the Cape May County Airport in Lower Township as a business park. More than ten years have passed since the county leased the airport to the Delaware River and Bay Authority with the promise of luring businesses to the area.

Thornton and Sheppard propose to work with local officials and the state government to create incentives for businesses to locate to the airport. The proposal states that solar and wind energy infrastructures shows great promise and growth and the county should attract "high-paying, clean jobs to our county."

Thornton said the airport has had potential for many years but has remained neglected. He said the proposed Fishermen's Energy of New Jersey windmill project planned off the coast from Atlantic City would be an ideal catalyst for business development at the county airport.

"It's a great opportunity for us here to have a non-polluting industry that will generate jobs. The

freeholders have been in favor of the offshore power because it's really worthwhile," Thornton said.

Sheppard said both the county and municipalities should look into sharing services, consolidating and avoiding repetition.

"From a municipal standpoint, we really don't have the knowledge of what the county is proposing and the county really doesn't know what the municipalities are proposing or what they desire. I find it amazing that there are so many services and so many resources that are being duplicated. I don't understand why if we just have a think tank we could think outside the box and save an awful amount of money," Sheppard said.

Thornton said the county funded a study on shared services years ago but it was ignored.

He said the county senior center on 3304 Bay Ave. in Ocean City, which is being moved to a new facility in the community center

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