




INSIDE



SPORTS

Fishing report: The misunderstood sea robin, **B8**

CAPE MAY

City celebrated July 4 with parade. Photos **B1**

ARTS

'I Hate Hamlet,' review, **B3**

JULY 2010 TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
7/8	5:27	5:58	11:05	
7/9	6:24	6:50	12:21	12:00
7/10	7:18	7:40	1:12	12:54
7/11	8:11	8:30	2:02	1:48
7/12	9:02	9:19	2:50	2:41
7/13	9:53	10:08	3:38	3:35
7/14	10:45	10:59	4:26	4:30
Last Quarter	7/4			
New Moon	7/11			
1st Quarter	7/18			
Full Moon	7/25			
Apogee	7/1,28			
Perigee	7/13			

Downed wires: Whose line is it anyway?

Five months after storms, Cape May littered with wires



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Winter storms that hit the east coast left wires down all over the city – many of them were left in a haphazard manner – others wound up and taped to poles to keep them out of the streets and off the sidewalks; but still leaving the issue unresolved. Add to that coils of wire unnecessarily left on poles by cable contractors (orange cable, top left) and you have a city-wide eyesore that was not being addressed until pointed out to utility companies by the Star and Wave.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Riding around Cape May one could easily find loose wires coming off utility poles around the city. Sometimes they were loosely wound or coiled. Sometimes they were a snarled mess. Sometimes they were wound up and fastened to the pole with tape, perhaps by a neighbor who wanted to keep them off the sidewalk and out of the grass. At other times they were very neatly coiled and bound, and then fixed to the pole...but for no apparent reason.

During an informal survey, the Star and Wave was able to locate 37 examples of downed or excess wires around the city, but to the untrained eye there was no way of telling

'We felt that when second home owners started coming down...the problem would be taken care of.'

–City Manager Bruce MacLeod

whether there was danger or simply an unattractive situation left over from the winter storms.

The first step was to record, as much as possible, the locations of the downed or excess wires and provide them to the city along with photographs.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he was aware there were still wires down around the city, but the city's general sense was the problem would take care of itself, for the most part.

"We felt that when second home owners started coming down they would reach out to

the various companies and the problem would be taken care of," MacLeod said. "Obviously those lines are for some kind of service."

Last week, MacLeod said he thought as the July 4 week-end approached, residents would have called Comcast cable, Verizon telephone service or Atlantic City Electric to report a problem. MacLeod said the electric company would probably be able to identify who the lines belonged to – the phone, cable or power company.

MacLeod said the list provided by the Star and Wave

would help the city reach out to the three companies and get the matters resolved. He said he didn't know if any of the downed lines were carrying power or a phone signal.

"If they were attached to a pole and detached from a building we could only assume they were a live wire," MacLeod said.

MacLeod said he asked Public Works to secure a line by the former Vance's Tavern, saying he thought it could become a safety issue – particularly for children walking along Lafayette Street to Cape May City

Elementary School.

"But again, we thought the problem would correct itself. Based on the information you collected we will reach out to the three companies to see if we can get this remedied," MacLeod said.

The wire near Vance's Tavern was moved out of the street but is still touching the ground.

MacLeod said while the wires were unsightly, a lot were on private property.

Almost all the wires identified by the Star and Wave were attached to utility poles, which are between the curb line and the sidewalk.

MacLeod said there were two other events that would likely lead to the resolution of some problems. One is that

Please see Wires, page A2

County offers hot weather safety tips

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – High temperatures and humid conditions this time of year have the potential of making outdoor activities and non air-conditioned facilities extremely dangerous and uncomfortable. The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management wants residents to know the signs and to take necessary precautions.

"Exposure to extreme temperatures for an extended period of time could cause cramps, exhaustion,

heat stroke and even more serious conditions," said Cape May County Emergency Management Director Frank McCall. "Taking precautions and following simple guidelines can minimize the dangers of a heat wave."

The county Health Officer Kevin Thomas said prolonged heat and humidity can present a serious health hazard, especially for young children, the elderly and



Cape May Star and Wave
Bank sign on Bayshore Road in North Cape May shows what people feel – it's hot.

Please see Hot, page A3

City calls special meeting to introduce \$3.15 bond ordinance, Friday at 1 p.m.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council has scheduled a special meeting, Friday, to introduce a bond ordinance for the additional \$3.15 needed for Convention Hall.

After a closed session meeting, Tuesday, Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said a special meeting would be announced for July 9 at 1 p.m. for the purpose of introducing a bond ordinance of \$3.15 million to augment the construction of the new Convention Hall facility.

"Then there will be a public hearing on this ordinance on July 20 at 7 p.m. as part of the regular business meeting," Mahaney said.

City council went into closed session after its regular work session meeting Tuesday afternoon. At the meeting city council heard public opinion for and against the Convention Hall project as designed, and for which the voters approved \$10.5



Image Courtesy of Kimmel Bogreeth Architects
A rendering of the current design for Convention Hall, for which the city needs another \$3.15 million.

million. The current design calls for a larger facility, which will most likely require the demolition of the Solarium. The new two story structure would also be moved closer to Beach Avenue.

Chamber of Commerce president Bill Causey urged council to move forward with the project, saying any fur-

ther delays would cost the city more down the road.

Tom Carroll, speaking as vice-president of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, compared the city's investment in the new Convention Hall to the purchase and restoration of the Physick Estate. He said at the time a lot of money was invested in a "great

unknown" and it paid off appreciably. Referring to the Convention Hall project he said, "The location is right, the time is right, I urge you not to get gloomy about the future but build for the future and the future will come to us."

Others were not as poetic about the existing plan. Jeanne Powick suggested the redesign would compromise the integrity of the seawall and would endanger the city. She said if there is a sense of urgency about building a new Convention Hall, then a smaller one could be built in less time. She told the three new members of council they campaigned on the issue of scaling down the Convention Hall project, and she warned of petition and referendum if they did not heed the public's desires.

Barbara Skinner said she agreed with Powick, and warned city council not to violate the Doctrine of Public

Please see Bond, page A3



Where's the wine bar? @ WASHINGTON INN

Cape May's new hip, relaxing and comfortable meeting place
before dinner, after dinner, for dinner
flights of wine • dinner and small plate menu

ALL Oysters \$1.00 NIGHTLY 5 – 7 the wine bar

801 WASHINGTON STREET • 609-884-5697 • WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM