

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 23 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009 50¢



**INSIDE**



**SPORTS**

The thrill of a first skydive, **A16**

Little League update, **A15**

Fishing report: blackfish, sea bass dominate, **B2**

**COMMUNITY**

Animal Outreach Pet Food Drive begins, **A4**

LCMR premiers radio show with CCA, **A5**

**ARTS**

East Lynne opening 'Alice on the Edge', **A11**

**JUNE TIDE TABLE**

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
6/4	6:15	6:45	12:04	12:03
6/5	7:03	7:27	12:54	12:47
6/6	7:48	8:08	1:41	1:29
6/7	8:31	8:47	2:24	2:10
6/8	9:12	9:26	3:06	2:49
6/9	9:52	10:04	3:46	3:27
6/10	10:31	10:42	4:25	4:06
6/11	11:11	11:21	5:04	4:45
1st Quarter	6/7			
Full Moon	6/15			
Last Quarter	6/22			
New Moon	6/29			
Perigee	6/23			

## Fisherman's Memorial emphasis of Harbor Fest

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Harbor Fest plans to play tribute to those who make their living on the seas surrounding Cape May, this year. According to Harbor Fest committee member Mark Allen of South Jersey Marina, the sinking of the scallop boat Lady Mary has renewed concern for the safety of our local fishermen, and a special remembrance is planned for Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m., which includes a wreath laying and memorial service at the Fisherman's Memorial. Six crewmembers died when the boat sunk, March 24.

A service will be conducted by local clergy and accompanied by the Coast Guard band, followed by a bonfire and fellowship at the nearby Nature Center.

On Saturday, June 20, which is the second annual celebration of seafood and song - the sea, its culture, and its ecology. Most of the land-based activities will take place at or near the Nature Center.

On Saturday there will be a street festival with prepared fresh seafood, live entertainment, street vendors, educational displays, crafts and art.

There will also be, according to Allen, "Perhaps the most popular of Saturday's

Please see Harbor Fest, Page A2



The Fisherman's Memorial on the harbor is a place dedicated to fishermen lost at sea and their families. Many leave tributes at the base of a stone marker bearing their names. Harbor Fest plans special activities during Harbor Fest after the recent sinking of the Lady Mary.

## DEP, Stockton have 45 days to work out agreement

Site may become an environmental center or face demolition

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Richard Stockton College have agreed to work out a solution in 45 days, allowing the college to establish an Environmental Sciences campus at the former Ponderledge.

If no agreement is reached, demolition could begin on remaining structures.

Stockton expressed interest in using the approximately 250-acre site as a satellite campus for environmental studies and according to elected officials, the DEP is not opposed to the idea.

However, according to State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, the parties have to

come to terms that satisfy the use of the property, which was purchased with Green Acres funding.

"Basically everybody agreed it's a good idea and it should be explored. It was a very positive meeting, but it is a difficult challenge because the land was purchased with Green Acres money," Van Drew said.

The senator said Green Acres funds are used to purchase land to maintain as open space. Any development by the college could violate the conditions of using Green Acres funding unless an exemption is made.

"We have to work out a very specialized agreement," he said.

Van Drew's Cape May County office was the site of a meeting on May 15, which included Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr., Assistant DEP Commissioner Amy Cradic, Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare and Councilman Wayne Mazurek, as well as township professionals and other college representatives. By the end of the meeting the parties vowed to

come to an agreement in 45 days or the DEP would proceed with the demolition of structures on what is now considered a state Wildlife Management Area.

"They just have to work out the technical details of it. The purpose of Green Acres funding is to maintain open space. And they have to decide what to do with the immediate site," he said.

Van Drew explained there are other issues besides the main building, which Stockton would like to rehabilitate for an educational building. There is a swimming pool and other dilapidated recreational facilities needing to be removed.

"There is concern about the dangerous condition of buildings and the pool. So they have to work this out in a timely way," he said.

Van Drew said the agreement would include maintaining open space and public access to the grounds. The difficult part, he said, is working through the funding mechanisms. If all fails the DEP is ready to award a contract

to demolish the buildings.

"Hopefully they'll be striking an agreement. The goal is worthy enough that the effort, whether they succeed or not, is worthwhile," Van Drew said.

At Monday's Lower Township Council meeting, Lare said the DEP and Stockton would be meeting in Trenton this week. He said Stockton was ready to invest the money and the DEP supported the project, but echoed Van Drew's remarks saying it was a matter of working out technical aspects of the agreement. A decision, he said, should be coming within the next 30 days.

"We will know in a relatively short period of time," he said.

Beck said he's afraid the buildings would be demolished if no agreement is reached, but he acknowledged the buildings would have to go.

"Our concern is safety. You just can't keep that building there. Everything needs to be buttoned up - put a fence around it or something," he said.

## Cape May quiet in winter

Police report shows mostly property checks

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A lot of people know Cape May is a quiet town in the winter, and a lot of people wonder what the police do during what are considered the slow periods of the year. It turns out much of their time is spent protecting property in Cape May, monitoring traffic and assisting fire and EMS services.

A review of the Cape May Police Department's monthly reports for the first quarter indicate they spend a fair amount of time protecting property, with motor vehicle stops, EMS assists, responding to alarms, with assisting the public rounding out the top five.

The police did between 500 and 600 property checks per month, with the highest amount coming in January

(619), tallying up 1,666 property checks in the first quarter.

According to Captain Robert Sheehan, who prepares the monthly police report for the city, property checks are a mixed bag of incidents.

"Many times people will contact us and say they will be away from this time to this time and ask us to check on their property. So we go out to check there are no break-ins, no broken pipes. We also check businesses on the mall to make sure they were not broken into or just left open," he said.

Sheehan said the department knows its serious calls are limited, which is good, so the Cape May Police Department has become service oriented.

"And the community expects us to serve them," he

said.

He said Cape May has also come to the point where there are more summer homes than year-round residences, and people can take comfort in the fact that the police will go out and check on their property. He said a lot of people did not come around during the winter and they might not find a problem until spring. They can request the Cape May Police to check on their property and perhaps identify a problem, such as a broken pipe, before it becomes too serious.

"It started with collecting emergency contact information. That was a big help. If people had a broken pipe in the winter we might have to look up the property owner on a tax map and then find just a P.O. box. With this sys

Please see Police, Page A9



Jennifer Kopp  
Star and Wave

## WCM dedicates garden to Reeves

West Cape May Elementary School dedicated its community garden to Gerry Reeves for his many years of service and dedication to the school. Reeves has been active at West Cape May Elementary since the 1960s. Pictured at right is Cindy Smilyk presenting a plaque to Reeves. The students have already harvested Swiss chard, scallions, lettuce, snow peas, radishes and more. Considered a "community garden" the elementary school is asking for help from community members over the summer to maintain it.



## Pow wow coming to airport

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - A representative of the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation met with Lower Township officials last week to discuss holding a pow wow at the Cape May County Airport.

Urie Ridgeway of the tribal nation said the group was looking for a pow wow site and approached the township about a location. The township sought and obtained permission from the Delaware River and Bay Authority to use some of the airport grounds for the event, and on

May 28, Ridgeway, Councilman Thomas Conrad, assistant to the township manager Eileen Kreis and

**"Our event is more like a homecoming."**  
- Urie Ridgeway

local resident Jane Roop visited the airport to find the best location for the pow wow.

In the end, Ridgeway said he hoped to be able to use a grassy area near the entrance of the airport, which would be visible to passing traffic.

What the pow wow is,

according to Ridgeway, is a way of passing on Native American culture to the young. There are demonstrations of music, dance, handicrafts, as well as food vendors.

"The pow wow actually started as a spin off from the Wild West shows," Ridgeway said. "Now it incorporates a lot of tradition and spiritual aspects. And it's a way to introduce the circle to our young ones. Often they don't learn about being Indian until the pow wow."

Ridgeway said most Native Americans now live in urban

Please see Pow Wow, Page A2