

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 32 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009 50¢



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### AUGUST 2009 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
8/6	9:03	9:15	2:51	2:43
8/7	9:38	9:49	3:23	3:21
8/8	10:12	10:22	3:55	3:58
8/9	10:46	10:56	4:26	4:37
8/10	11:21	11:31	4:57	5:19
8/11	11:59	5:32	6:06	
8/12	12:11	12:45	6:12	7:02

You can tell the full moon is upon us.

Full Moon	8/5
Last Quarter	8/13
New Moon	8/20
1st Quarter	8/27
Perigee	8/19
Apogee	8/31

## Stockton, NJDEP sign agreement on Ponderlodge

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - State Sen. Jeff Van Drew said the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Richard Stockton College signed a memorandum of agreement, Tuesday, to allow the college to begin work on a satellite campus in Lower Township.

According to Van Drew, the memorandum of agreement was signed by the NJDEP, the state attorney general's office, and finally by Stockton president Herman J. Saatkamp Jr. "This is certainly a plus for the township, the county, the state and the pursuit of environmental studies - it's a very positive development," Van Drew said. "This puts Lower Township on the map. Environmental issues are on the cutting edge of what's going on in world, and now some of that will take place here in Cape May County."

The agreement allows the college to utilize about 10 acres of the former

Ponderlodge Golf Course, which is now known as the Villas Wildlife Management Area. The state bought the golf course several years ago for about \$8.4 million to preserve as open space and convert to a wildlife habitat. The site still has a number of buildings remaining from its days as a golf course, and they have been a target of vandalism, including one major fire.

Van Drew applauded the decision, which will allow the college to have a presence on the property.

"I was around for the county college fight. A decade ago we didn't have a community college and now we will have a branch of a four-year college - that shows we're truly moving forward," Van Drew said.

According to Van Drew, the NJDEP will next issue a permit so Stockton College can go in and start cleaning up the property and rehabilitating the

main building from the former golf course and turn it into a center for environmental studies. Van Drew said the permit would be issued soon,

before the college could begin any work.

Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said the township was very pleased with the news of the agreement.

"We are ecstatic over the Villas Wildlife Management Area and Stockton joining forces. This is nothing but a positive for the township, and we're looking forward to the meeting on Aug. 25," he said.

The township announced on Monday it would host a meeting with Van Drew on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed agreement, that announcement coming one day before the agreement was signed.

"I personally want to thank Sen. Van Drew, who was the driving force in the negotiations," Beck said. "He kept his finger on the pulse the whole time."

Beck said the agreement was monumental for the township, having a positive and lasting impact on Lower Township.

*"We are ecstatic over the Villas Wildlife Management Area and Stockton joining forces."* -Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck

but it would take about another six months to work out the details of a long-term lease. Van Drew said he expected the lease to be for a symbolic amount, such as one dollar.

"No one is looking to make money here, it's just to have an agreement," he said.

He said the college is making a considerable investment in leasing about 10 acres of the 250-acre site, and the agreement needed to be finalized

## Replenishment at Cove not in plans

Army Corps of Engineers says beach not a priority

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Cove Beach has moved 200 to 300 yards out to sea, and it's not coming back in the immediate future, government officials said.

According to Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod, neither the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection nor the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers felt there was a need for an emergency beach fill.

"Based on their review it does not appear there is any need for any emergency beach replenishment for that location," MacLeod said.

This summer, full moon high tides and southeasterly winds have been taking their toll on the Cove Beach, a popular spot with locals. However, the high level of erosion has threatened to take away the entire bathing beach and remove a dune

formed at the west end of Beach Avenue, returning it to a condition it was in about 15 years ago.

"It was not until 1995 that the city started putting life-guards at the Cove," MacLeod said. "The beach started to appear and people were taking advantage of the beach. Now 14 or 15 years later the beach is disappearing."

Ed Johnson of the Cove restaurant said he remembered when there was the rock jetty at Third Avenue (a paper road at the end of Beach Avenue) and on the other side was the ocean. He said he and friends used to climb up the pilings, which have reappeared due to the erosion, and dive into about eight feet of water.

Nostalgia aside, the beach has been moving back toward the Lower Cape May Meadows, which is the site of an Army Corps Ecosystem Restoration project.

According to Dwight Pakan, the Army Corps of Engineer's project engineer for the restoration project, the ACOE would monitor the erosion but there were no plans to



The Cove Beach has suffered significant erosion this summer, but government officials say no beach fill is planned but they will continue to monitor the situation.

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renourish the beach.

The Third Avenue groin, or jetty, is the dividing line between the Cape May beaches renourishment project and the next beach fill project, which runs from the western side of the jetty through Cape May Point.

"Technically the Cove is in

the Lower Cape May Meadows project," Pakan said.

Pakan visited the Cove on July 31, walking the narrow beach with Randy Wise, coastal engineer from ACOE, Bill Dixon from NJDEP, MacLeod, Mayor Edward Mahaney, city solicitor

Anthony Monzo. Pakan said the Cove was not a matter of concern for the ACOE at this time.

"The beach is going to accrete (build up) and erode over a period of time," Pakan said.

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## Beaches keep lifeguards, rescue personnel busy

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The beaches are really what attract people to Cape May and Cape May Point, with estimates saying on any given day there are between 20,000 and 30,000 people on Cape May beaches.

According to Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. the beach accounts for most of their ambulance calls this time of the year.

On Friday, July 31, all three of the Cape May Fire

Department's ambulances were tied up with calls coming in about three minutes apart for an individual suffering a seizure, a possible C-spine injury and a broken leg.

Around 3 p.m., a 911 call was placed about a broken leg at the First Avenue Beach. Inderwies said a woman in her late 50s was wading in shallow water when she was knocked down by a wave and broke her femur, the strongest bone in the human body. The woman was in excruciating pain, Inderwies

said, and was a priority.

About the same time a call came in about a seizure which was related to a pre-existing medical condition, and on Jefferson Beach there was a call about a possible C-spine injury. A C-spine injury refers to an injury to the neck, or cervical spine area, and may include a loss in motor functions or sensation. Inderwies said the victim at Jefferson Beach complained of back pain and was trans

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## Boat ordinance questioned

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Local marina owners expressed concern, Tuesday, over a proposed ordinance establishing a registration system for boats moored in Cape May Harbor and creating a procedure for removing abandoned boats.

Initial concerns were that the ordinance would require all boats docked at private marinas to register with the city, but the registration requirement itself became an issue as the Tuesday city council meeting progressed.

Ernie Utsch of Utsch's Marina said he hoped the city would not require his customers to register with the city. City officials said that

was not the intent of the ordinance, which was to register boats mooring in the harbor and channel.

Rick Weber of South Jersey Marina also questioned the notion of having people register with the police department within 24 hours of anchoring.

"I wish you would consider a registration requirement that is not too harsh or stringent. It doesn't make people want to come back," he said.

Weber suggested the city tell people if they are going to leave their boats unattended for 24 hours or more to register with the city.

The city decided to ask boat owners to register their boats so they could identify the owner in the event the boat

appeared to be abandoned. Weber said the bottom line is the only ones who would not register their boats would be the ones who would abandon a boat. Deputy Mayor Niels Favre later said the ordinance would "...make 99 percent of those who would do what they are supposed to do make up for those who wouldn't."

However, Favre said the ordinance was designed to eliminate an eyesore and safety hazard in the harbor.

"This was not intended to be onerous on the boat owners," he said.

Favre said the real problem was no one wanted to pay for the removal of abandoned

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Members of the Cape May Beach Patrol carry a potential C-Spine injury victim to a waiting ambulance. Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies, Jr. said the boy was transported to the hospital as a precaution. There were about 20 such injuries in July alone.

## Bait vending license nixed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council apparently is opting not to consider an ordinance to allow a bait shop owner to peddle his wares near Poverty Beach rather than potentially open a can of worms.

Two weeks ago, Richard Orth, owner of Cape May Bait and Tackle in West Cape May, asked Cape May City Council to allow him to sell bait and tackle from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., and again from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., daily on Wilmington Avenue near Baltimore Avenue.

On Tuesday, Mayor Edward Mahaney said he had listened carefully to Orth's presentation and thought about it and came to the conclusion he would not support his request.

"City council spent the better part of a year planning the

vendor ordinance. It's fair and equitable, has clarity, and still there are enforcement issues," he said. "I don't want to open a loophole that will be cause for revision."

Mahaney also said he was concerned about allowing a vendor to encroach into a residential area, especially at the times Orth wished to operate. Mahaney said he couldn't see the feasibility of a rotation system if other vendors also wished to sell bait and tackle. Additionally, Mahaney didn't think street vending bait and tackle would substantially help Orth's business.

"If Mr. Orth is counting on this to save his business, I don't think he will be successful," Mahaney said.

Two weeks ago Orth said he was looking for a way to boost his business.

"Business is going down. I'm not trying to get rich, I'm just trying to survive," Orth said.

Orth said he wanted to vend, not in the summer, but in the spring and fall when strippers were running. He said it would not interfere with tourism, and there would be no parking meters involved. Hot dog vendors on Beach Avenue are charged the parking meter rate for two spaces per day based on an eight-hour day.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said he had trepidation about the request two weeks ago, and that was why he asked for a trial period. Now after looking at the draft ordinance, Favre said he also would not support the ordinance.

None of the remaining council members, Councilwomen Terri Swain and Linda Steenrod, and Councilman David Kurkowski supported amending the vendor ordinance either.