

# Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 17 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, May 1, 2008 50¢

## INSIDE



### SPORTS

Tiger boys lacrosse shuts down OC's top scorer, **B2**

Lady Tigers softball team defeats Wildwood 21-8, **B2**

### ARTS

'Buy-A-Brick' program benefits Cape May Stage, **A13**

### NATURE

Tog season comes to close, see who's catching what, **B5**

MAY TIDE TABLE					
	HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm	
5/1	4:54	5:29	10:57	11:28	
5/2	5:48	6:19	11:44		
5/3	6:40	7:07	12:23	12:31	
5/4	7:31	7:55	1:17	1:18	
5/5	8:22	8:44	2:10	2:07	
5/6	9:14	9:34	3:03	2:57	
5/7	10:07	10:27	3:57	3:48	

### DON'T FORGET!

**CAPE MAY METERS GO INTO EFFECT MAY 1!**

**INSIDE: Health and Fitness Guide**

## Three with mayoral experience running for mayor

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - When Cape May voters go to the polls, May 13, they will choose a mayor from three individuals who are already familiar with the job.

Mayor Jerome "Jerry" Inderwies has been mayor since 2001, William "Jerry" Gaffney was mayor from 1999 to 2001, and Edward Mahaney was mayor in 1995 to 1996.

Inderwies moved to Cape May in 1967 and started

working at Kindle Ford, then located in Wildwood. He later managed Halbruner and Hanson Ford on Sunset Boulevard in West Cape May.

In 1979, the city hired Inderwies in its Community Development Program for the redevelopment of homes, and he later transferred to the Department of Public Works. He became superintendent of Public Works, as position he held for 19 years.

He ran for office in 1972 and won a four-year term as councilman.

"I ran on a reform ticket to reestablish Victorianism in

Cape May," he said.

Inderwies said one of the first accomplishments in that administration was to acquire the Physick Estate and save it from the wrecking ball. He said he is very proud of that, and of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. He said during his service the firehouse was built at Washington and Franklin, as well as the bandstand in Rotary Park.

In 2000 he was elected as councilman and in July 2001 was appointed mayor by council and has been mayor under two forms of govern-

ment.

Inderwies said there are almost too many things to name, which he takes pride in, which have been accomplished while he was in office - including many miles of road work.

"There are so many things that don't all come to mind," he said.

Inderwies said the city is now automating its water meter system so they can be monitored from a central location, saving labor.

Inderwies said the mall renovation was a major accomplishment, completed ahead

of schedule, and set to be dedicated in June. He said the Convention Hall project would have much public input, and he doesn't anticipate it taking three years to complete it. He said night meetings would be held so the maximum number of people could attend.

He said they would be open, public meetings, and he feels he has had "wide open city government."

"Any documents you want you can get through clerks office," he said.

Please see Mayors, Page A2



**Going Green**  
Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave  
Students from Maud Abrams Elementary School along with Kiwanis Club of Cape May members and Lower Cape May Regional's Key Club payed homage to Earth Day by creating a "Peaceful Playground." Above, Alex Druzinski helps to plant a tree on the school property. Below right, Emily Fournier, Destinie Marsden, Jordan Melo and Orren Stewart plant flowers at the school. Cape May's Spring Festival included a Home and Garden Show which featured many "green" exhibits including that of the Nature Center who offered free trees to visitors like Maurice Hight, above right.



## Candidates answer questions on water rates, room taxes

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Candidates for mayor and a single council seat in Cape May gathered on April 17 at Cape May City Elementary School for a Meet the Candidates night sponsored by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May and moderated by the Cape May Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

The first half of the Star and Wave's report appeared in the April 24 edition. This is the second and final part of a two part series:

The seven city council candidates were asked if they would address "peak season" water/sewer rates, which are

at least twice as much as the regular rates, and a burden on some rate payers.

Jeanne Powick said she would want to look at the price structure closely and see what drives the cost. She said the city should look at the impact of increased density on water/sewer usage, and see what the impact would be "down the road."

Jack Wichterman said there was nothing that could be done about sewer rates, which are dictated by the county, but he said the local water rate structure could be revamped.

"We could give a reduced rate to seniors using 5,000 gallons or less (per quarter)," he said.

Harry Bellangy said an

effort should be made to ensure the rates are not including hidden costs. He said he would also like to see the operation of the water utility go to the lowest bidder, and not necessarily be a function of public works.

Terri Swain said Cape May has been a leader in the state in terms of providing water via the desalination plant. She said she believed Cape May could once again become a leader in providing a more equitable rate to users.

The mayor candidates were asked their opinion of the Convention Hall project and what they thought could be done to contain the costs.

Incumbent Mayor Jerry Inderwies said in the final analysis Convention Hall

must be replaced. He said an architectural engineer was hired and several renderings for a new structure have been provided. But Inderwies said he was also in favor of delaying the project for a year so the down payment would not have to be put in the 2008 budget.

William "Jerry" Gaffney said a plan should have been developed with full public input.

"There should have been no committee - city council is a committee," he said.

Gaffney said after a cost analysis, every element should have been put out for bid. He said it was not right to award the contract to the architect without bidding the contract.

Dr. Edward Mahaney said the problems of Convention Hall are due to poor long range planning, and the result was "demolition by neglect." He said it would not be three years before a new Convention Hall would open.

"We have to move quickly with a plan, get a design, and look for funding to take the burden off the taxpayer," he said.

Mahaney also believes the current site is not the best for the new structure.

Council candidates were asked if they would appeal to the state legislature to reassess the city's affordable housing obligation.

"There are no jobs to even support affordable housing,"

Bellangy said.

He said the housing market in Cape May is not affordable for many, but added that he was happy city council had taken steps to require affordable housing be built in Cape May, where the least expensive home on the market is \$335,000. Swain said the city need to review the Master Plan and look at how much empty space could be used for affordable housing. She said some of the second and third floor units above Washington Street Mall businesses could be rehabilitated for affordable housing.

Wichterman said the city should not be saddled with

Please see Questions, Page A7

## LT may compete for police service

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Police Chief Edward Donohue sent a letter to West Cape May Mayor Pam Kaithern advising her of the resources available to her community if they shared police services with the township, rather than the city of Cape May.

In the letter, dated March 19, the subject line reads: "Possible Consolidation of Police Services between the Township of Lower and the town of West Cape May."

Donohue stated in the letter he was asked to provide a

manpower analysis to Lower Township manager Joe Jackson to show if such an arrangement were feasible. Donohue said he considered year around police service to both West Cape May and Cape May Point, since Lower Township police pass through or by those communities when responding to calls for service at SunsetBeach, Sea Grove Avenue, the Higbee's Beach area and the Cape May Point State Park.

Donohue said he told the Jackson and Lower Township Mayor Walt Craig he could effectively police the additional area with three more officers and another vehicle. He said the department

would soon have 47 officers when one individual returned to work, and three additional would bring the number to 50.

During the season when the department hires Class II officers, there would be an additional 10 officers on staff.

Kaithern said the bottom line on the police services contract is level of service and price.

"If we have two forces that have proposals you have to weigh out what they have to offer," she said. "That's our responsibility as a board of commissioners to evaluate the offers."

Kaithern said the idea of using Lower Township Police

to patrol the borough is not a new idea.

"There has been talk for a long time," she said. "In 2001, Lower expressed an interest...and this is not something Cape May is not aware of."

As far as service, Donohue believes Lower Township has a lot to offer. Besides the number of officers, he said the LTPD employs an aggressive Traffic and Community Services Unit; bicycle patrols and police motorcycle traffic patrols; a six member Detective Division with highly trained and skilled investigators equipped with the lat-

Please see LT, Page A13



## West Cape May celebrating Loyalty Day

WEST CAPE MAY - The Borough of West Cape May will be holding its annual Loyalty Day celebration, Thursday, May 1 at 12 noon in Wilbraham Park. Loyalty Day is a special day for people to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the West Cape May Borough Hall, 732 Broadway.