

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 25 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008 50¢

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JUNE / JULY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
6/26	1:35	2:21	7:48	8:26
6/27	2:32	3:21	8:40	9:34
6/28	3:37	4:22	9:36	10:41
6/29	4:44	5:23	10:35	11:46
6/30	5:50	6:23	11:34	
7/1	6:53	7:20	12:46	12:33
7/2	7:52	8:15	1:43	1:31
New Moon			July 2	
1st Quarter			July 9	
Full Moon			July 18	
Last Quarter			July 25	

Fond memories highlight mall rededication

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city was celebrating the rededication of the newly renovated Washington Street Mall, Saturday, but it was the stories of the first mall opening that stole the show. Former Mayor Bruce Minnix said he wanted to save a group of trees around the new mall that otherwise might be cut down to make room for parking spaces. The trees still stand in what became Rotary Park between

Lafayette Street and Lyle Lane. Another former mayor, Frank Gauvry, who helped cut the ribbon for the original mall, good-naturedly chided Minnix saying, "You didn't save my cherry tree." "How many of you people were here 37 years ago?" Gauvry asked the crowd. "Good. I don't like to repeat myself," he added. Gauvry said he was asked if the original Washington Street Mall project caused as much concern as the

just completed project, which gave the public walkway a complete makeover, with a level, red brick walkway, fountains, historic looking lighting, new benches, and so on. Gauvry said he was told tearing up Washington Street to make a pedestrian mall would be the biggest problem he would encounter. "I promised I would give it more thought," he said. Despite opposition from the public and Washington Street merchants, Gauvry said the option was for the

city to continue "lurching along" as it had been doing for 200 years. Gauvry said there had been a history of opposition to changes to the Washington Street business district. "When they were paving Washington Street for the first time people were against it saying the sound of the horses' hooves would keep them up at night," Gauvry said. "Now we have the most successful publicly owned mall in the country."

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The day: June 21, 2008



Saturday, June 21, 2008, marked the Rededication Ceremony of the Washington Street Mall. Above left, former mayor Frank Gauvry, Lee O'Connor as George Washington, Steve Protasi and Mayor Jerome Inderwies arrive at the ceremony by carriage. Above, Gauvry speaks of the first dedication held June 24, 1971 when he was Mayor of Cape May. At left, the ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured, left to right, are Washington Street Mall scholarship winner Patrick Miller, Mickey Blomkvist, Frank Gauvry, Steve Protasi, Mayor Inderwies, George Washington, Honorary Mayor Bob Heinly as Dr. Emlen Physick, and mall scholarship winner Lindsay Vendetta. See more photos, page B2.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp and Christopher South

Foreign worker house shut down for fire violations

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The state fire marshal's office closed down an alleged illegal boarding house at 649 Broad Street, Wednesday, leaving perhaps two dozen foreign workers without a place to stay. State and city fire officials, along with the Cape May police and the code enforcement officer visited the property owned by Waclaw Berczynski, June 25, and inspected the property. As a result, about 19 workers were forced to gather up their belongings and move out. Berczynski said he had 10 renters on Tuesday, and another two moved in Wednesday, for a total of 12. Workers said as many as 30

were living in the house a couple of weeks ago, but the number was down to 25. A State Division of Fire Safety "Notice of Unsafe Fire Violations," dated June 25, 2008, was attached to the front door of the house reading: "This premise, 649 Broad Street, Cape May, New Jersey, is unsafe due to violations of the Uniform Fire Code and its use or occupancy has been prohibited by the fire official, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. It shall be unlawful to enter such premises, except for the purpose of making the required repairs, until the fire safety hazards have been removed and entry is permitted by the fire official, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety."

Berczynski said police and fire officials showed up at 649 Broad Street at around 10 a.m. "They came without warning, there were no violations, and they threw these young people out on the street," he said. Berczynski said the house had been condemned, but as of about 2 p.m., Wednesday, he had been told of no violations. "They just knocked at 10 a.m. and walked through the house like Gestapo," Berczynski said, referring to the secret police of Nazi Germany. "I grew up in communist Poland. Communism was better (than this)." Berczynski said he believed someone high in the state or city government was responsible for Wednesday's events.

"They can do anything they want. You can be arrested for having your bike on the sidewalk," he said. "Last year they did this. They do whatever they want. Something strange is going on." On July 17, 2007, Walt Larcombe from the Division of Fire Safety conducted an inspection of 649 Broad Street, Cape May, referred to as "Berczynski's Boarding" on an inter-agency request form. Larcombe noted:

"Various fire and housing violations. Mercantile license for full house rental. Actually a 'Boarding Home' – 20 occupants from Russia, building has 18 bedrooms, six baths, four kitchens." The city construction officer Bill Callahan also performed an inspection with code enforcement officer John Queenan. Callahan noted in his inspection reporter there were 18 to 20 people living in five different

rooms. According to the report, none of the rooms had common areas, some did not have smoke detectors, and none of the rooms had fire extinguishers. Rooms had hot plates and small refrigerators, and a small kitchen area with a hot plate appeared to be set up under a first floor stairs. The report highlighted electrical violations as well, say

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College coaches at LCMR camp

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA – A football camp for second to eighth grade boys will feature a different college coach every day. Lower Cape May head football coach Mike Wilson said. Wilson is heading the Jersey Cape Instructional Football Camp at Lower Cape May Regional High School, July 14 to July 17. Former coaches at Jersey Cape football camps have included college head coaches, including: Gordy Combs from Towson University, Rocky Hagar from Northeastern University, Ray Monica from Kutztown University, and Jay Accorsi from Rowan University; assistant coaches Tom Doddy, Rowan

University; Joe Dougherty, Lafayette College; Phil Petite, University of Delaware; Chris Hewitt, Rutgers University; and Marwan Maalouf, an assistant coach with the Baltimore Ravens of the NFL. Wilson was the strength and conditioning coach at LCMR two years prior to being named the head coach. He played football at Lower Cape May Regional and Towson University. "We're just trying to get the kids at a young age and keep them interested in Lower Cape May football," Wilson said. The camp, he said, is an effort to try and learn who the younger football players are and to let them know who the high school coaches are. "We also get our kids to

interact with them," Wilson said. Lower Cape May football players will be assisting the coaches with the four-day camp. Wilson said one of the goals of the camp is to encourage young people to stay with the sport, particularly the junior high school students, many of whom do not continue to play in high school. Wilson said there are a lot of reasons for the drop off in kids playing sports in high school, and some of the reasons are not positive or productive. "It's not just the beach and work. It's the same distractions as at any high school – girls, drinking, drugs. They are up against this every day," he said. Please see Coaches, Page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May Police assist foreign student workers, moving their belongings to another location in Cape May, after the State Division of Fire Safety closed the house where they were staying at 649 Broad Street. The house is closed until fire violations can be corrected.