

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008 50¢

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AUG / SEPT TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
8/28	6:36	6:59	12:21	12:16
8/29	7:29	7:49	1:21	1:12
8/30	8:17	8:34	1:59	2:03
8/31	9:02	9:17	2:42	2:52
9/1	9:44	9:58	3:23	3:38
9/2	10:25	10:38	4:02	4:24
9/3	11:06	11:19	4:41	5:09
New Moon	8/30 & 9/29			
1st Quarter	7			
Full Moon	15			
Last Quarter	22			

Final meeting held about Convention Hall design

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - There was no new design for Convention Hall presented at what Mayor Edward Mahaney said was the "third and final" town meeting regarding the Convention Hall project.

Those who came out to the Cape May City School, Tuesday, expecting to see a

new façade resembling the 1917 Convention Hall destroyed by a 1962 storm were disappointed.

"There are a lot of people in town who are going to be upset," resident Jim Wyatt said.

Wyatt, a member of the Convention Hall Committee, said at the previous town meeting there were those who said the architect, Martin Kimmel of Kimmel Bogrette

was "not getting it." He said people were calling for a replica of the 1917 design. But Mahaney said that design had been considered and rejected.

"First of all, in all honesty, we took your suggestion very seriously," Mahaney said. "But not everyone in the room wanted the 1917 design."

Mahaney said a survey of the community did not indi-

cate support for a 1917 replica design, and engineers did not support the design. The city had engineers review a 1917 replica design and they advised the city not to go with it because of potential problems in the event of storms. Mahaney said city council was now in favor of going with Design No. 5, the design with arched windows and entryways presented at the Aug. 14 meeting.

"There were three council people who supported what I supported. You're telling me the entire city council wants what's up there?" Wyatt said.

"Yes," Mahaney said. The city provided a handout listing their findings and conclusions, thus far, on the Convention Hall project. It was determined the new Convention Hall should be

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Happy Labor Day!

As the summer season draws to a close, so does the popular West Cape May Farmer's Market. Pictured are some of the many activities and venues like face painting, above left, flowers, vegetables and other produce, above, and the traditional JB's North Carolina style Bar-b-q, left. The next big festival in West Cape May will be the Lima Bean Festival in Wilbraham Park on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

Ocean swimmers should literally 'watch their backs'

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Jersey Shore is a popular vacation destination mainly because people want to experience relaxing on the beach or playing in the ocean. But what many people don't realize is the ocean can be a dangerous place, particularly for those not acquainted with its force and unpredictable nature.

The Cape May beaches are not immune from the force of ocean waves, which eroded city beaches for years before the Army Corps of Engineers began a 50-year beach restoration project. Now the beaches are ample, but the restoration had a downside,

according to Fire Chief Jerome Inderwies Jr., who oversees the city's Fire/Rescue Department, which includes the ambulance service. Inderwies said he has been noticing a significant number of C-spine injuries. There have been 17 C-spine injuries identified as occurring this summer on Cape May beaches.

A C-spine injury refers to injuries occurring to the neck, or cervical vertebrae, which can be "fractured or displaced if the neck is twisted, compressed, or hyper-extended. A fracture (break) or displacement of the cervical spine (C-spine) can cut or press on the spinal cord" (from about.com: first aid).

The leading cause of C-spine injuries is motor vehicle accidents at 53-percent. About 10-percent of C-spine injuries are sports related. According to Inderwies, a three or four-foot wave can knock a person onto the ocean floor with the force of someone lifting you over their head and slamming you to the ground.

Captain Buzz Mogck of the Cape May Beach Patrol said there are typically two ways people receive C-spine injuries.

One is caused when people are careless or unaware of the power of ocean waves, and they simply turn their back on the ocean.

"Sometimes when walking out of the ocean a wave smacks them in back and

jerks their head back injuring the neck," Mogck said, "but more often it happens with boogie boards."

Boogie board riders enjoy catching waves and riding them to the beach, but the board can strike the shore-break where the sand drops off rather suddenly, and it is like running into a wall. Mogck said this is particularly a problem at high tide, when the waves are crashing into this wall of sand. The boogie board rider is thrown into the sand and a C-spine injury can result.

"This happens more with people who are visiting than with locals who are aware of the shore break," Mogck said.

The exception is Cape May resident Chad de Satnick. De

Satnick was 24, and had been surfing for 19 or 20 years, when he experienced a C-spine injury. De Satnick said he was aware of the break, because he was on the beach patrol when the beach restoration program began in 1993 of 1994. He was surfing at the north end of the beach, and he remembers the waves

were really good that day. "I rode the wave in further than I should have," de Satnick said. "I knew I was in a bad spot."

De Satnick saw the beach to his right and he tried to dive through the wave, but he was picked up by the wave and

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Changes in store for commission

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
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CAPE MAY - Mayor Edward Mahaney said the operation of the Cape May Tourism Commission would probably become more formalized than it has been in the past, and spending commission funds would be more limited to functions of the Tourism Commission.

At the last Tourism Commission meeting, Aug. 11, one of the newer commission members, Dagmer Chew questioned the apparent lack of a formal budget, asking if the commission had a spending plan or if they were just "winging it."

"Do you have a budget?" Chew asked. "If you have a budget I would love to see it." Commission member Bob

Steenrod said the commission's budget is represented as a line item in the city budget, and periodically the city's chief financial officer, Bruce MacLeod, provides the Tourism Commission with a spreadsheet outlining their expenses.

Commission member Mary Stewart, who along with Steenrod served with the previous administration, said the largest chunk of their budget goes toward the public relations firm. Stewart said other expenses are discussed by the commission.

The Tourism Commission receives \$65,000 per year from fees attached to cost of a mercantile license. Additionally, the commission has received grant money to augment the money from mercantile fees.

On Aug. 11, the Tourism

Commission was voted to pay two bills authorized by the previous commission: one for Paramount Air Service for a banner ad, and another for Beach Boys Builders, for some brochure racks for the Welcome Center.

Asked the work at the Welcome Center was bid, Stewart said the commission did not have to get bids for jobs under a certain dollar amount. She said the commission also does not solicit bids when advertising.

"Everything we do has to be approved by the total commission," Steenrod said.

The previous commission approved the expenditure for Beach Boys Builders, owned by Louis "Skip" Loughlin, who is Steenrod's lieutenant on the Cape May Fire Police, and who previously served with Steenrod on the Historic

Preservation Commission.

Mahaney said he would like to see that any tradesman being given the opportunity to bid on jobs like this.

"The Tourism Commission and I would expect all the craftsmen type business be given opportunity to provide bids for services, and to ensure we get the maximum quality for the lowest price," Mahaney said.

Councilwoman Terri Swain, who is now the chairperson for the Tourism Commission, said she would like the commission to "do the necessary bids and have the right person doing the job. It's hard because this is a small town."

Swain said the Tourism Commission could make sure procedures for hiring businesses is fair and the process

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Henry Hudson committee will likely be 501-c-3

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
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CAPE MAY - Mayor Edward Mahaney said he supports the idea of moving ahead with a celebration to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to the Cape May area, but he said he wanted to know the city's obligations before any commitment was made.

Mahaney said he was approached by certain members of the anniversary committee, who expected the city to provide fireworks for the celebration. Mahaney said a fireworks display would cost about \$17,000.

"If we are going to do that we need to put it in the budget now," he said.

"I tried to put the kibosh on the fireworks," Deputy Mayor Linda Steenrod said, expressing concern for setting off fireworks over a town with so many historic, wooden structures.

Steenrod said the committee had talked about setting up a 501-c-3 charitable organization to take over the planning and management of the anniversary celebration because it was suggested they could draw larger donations and sponsors. Mahaney advised, however, that a member of the governing body not be one of the signers on the application for non-profit status.

Steenrod showed council two possible logo designs for the 400th Anniversary celebration provided at no cost by a New York artist. She said New York would be having its own 400th Anniversary celebration, and she was hoping New Jersey would be on board as well.

According to an article prepared by former Cape May city manager Fred Coldren in 1992, a Dutch East India Company boat captained by Henry Hudson struck a shoal near the mouth of the Delaware Bay on Aug. 28, 1609. Although there is no evidence Hudson and his crew set foot on what eventually became Cape May, anchored on the shoal waiting for the tide to come in, he is considered Cape May's first overnight guest.