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### OCTOBER TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
10/18	12:51	1:23	6:28	7:57
10/19	1:57	2:26	7:33	8:57
10/20	3:09	3:31	8:46	9:53
10/21	4:13	4:31	9:55	10:44
10/22	5:09	5:26	10:57	11:31
10/23	5:59	6:18	11:55	
10/24	6:47	7:08	12:17	12:49

## Judge dismisses Concerned Taxpayers lawsuit

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Superior Court Judge Valerie Armstrong dismissed the lawsuit filed against the City of Cape May by the Concerned Taxpayers of Cape May as not having any legal basis.

In the 30-page written opinion, Judge Armstrong said, “There is nothing before the Court to even remotely suggest that the ordinance was

enacted for an invalid purpose.”

Armstrong ruled that there were no violations of the local bond law that enables the city to decide financing for general improvements.

Armstrong was quoted in a Cape May City press release as having said despite the plaintiff disagreeing with the policy and wisdom underlying the bond ordinance and the city’s process leading up to its adoption there is no

basis to keep this litigation alive.

The taxpayer’s group claimed the city was violating its own bond ordinance by using taxpayer money to fund repaving of sidewalks on the Washington Street Mall.

The group also claimed the city was having mall revitalization sub-committee meetings in private without the watchful eye of the public.

The heart of the complaint is the dispute over the pro-

ject’s funding.

The Concerned Taxpayers of Cape May believes the property owners along the mall should pay for the revitalization project because they benefit with increased property value.

The original city code required the abutting property owner to finance sidewalk repairs; “sidewalk” is defined as the area for pedestrian use between the property lines and the curb.

The Washington Street Mall is essentially all paved which leads to confusion where one property ends and another begins.

The pedestrian Washington Street Mall revitalization project intends to repave the entire walkway in brick adding new lights, water fountains and shrubbery.

“This is a clear victory for the City of Cape May and it

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## Planners finish vision for Cape May makeover

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The Rhodeside and Harwell planning firm hired to help create a vision for Cape May’s revitalization effort wrapped up its efforts with a presentation at Convention Hall, last Thursday evening.

Elliott Rhodeside told the sparse crowd the firm had worked for about 15 months on a “Public Realm Vision Plan” to show what could be done to upgrade the city’s public areas.

The firm participated in its first public meeting in Cape May on July 17, 2006, giving initial impressions of the city, conducted some inventory and analysis of public space, and requested feedback from the public.

On Oct. 24, 2006, Rhodeside and Harwell took part in a second public meeting, pre-

senting their case study analysis and conducting a public survey.

On Feb. 13, 2007 the firm presented preferred plans based on the survey results and presented a series of design guidelines.

Rhodeside and Harwell returned Oct. 11 to present refinements of the overall vision. Rhodeside highlighted guidelines recommended for five study areas including Beach Avenue at the Cove, the Convention Hall area, a segment of the promenade, the city’s gateway near Cape May Harbor and the downtown.

“We created coordinated design treatments for each district,” Rhodeside said.

Of the five, Rhodeside said Beach Avenue was the most important element. The firm recommended a median be placed in certain areas of the

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Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave

### Les Rea’s Harvest Fair

Call her a rose between two thorns, but Mia, age 1, center, and twins Rocco and Peter Capuzzi, age 2, certainly enjoyed a day of hayrides, pony rides, pumpkins, animals and more at Les Rea’s Farm last Saturday.

## Cape May Point renews village designation

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY POINT – The Point is renewing its village designation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Office of Smart Growth to remain eligible for grant money from the state.

Cape May Point was the eighth municipality to obtain a village designation when first declared a village in 1997, now the 10-year designation is due for renewal.

The board of commissioners voted to continue the plan endorsement and village designation at its regular meeting Aug. 9.

Mayor Malcolm Fraser said the plan endorsement process was “endless” and the commissioners are drowning in paperwork to complete the designation plan for the ultimate purpose to benefit the community by receiving grant money and entitle the borough to streamlined permit reviews and coordinated

state agency services.

Commissioners further discussed the village plan at its regular meeting on Oct. 11, commissioner Joe Nietubicz was absent.

Fraser met with the DCA, Department of Environmental Protection and the Council on Affordable Housing in Trenton in January and submitted the formal application in August. The borough received a response in September requiring proof of public par-

ticipation in the plan endorsement process.

Fraser said there have been four public surveys at the Point since 1979 and many opportunities for residents to contribute opinions at borough commissioner and planning board meetings. Fraser said there is more than ample evidence of public input.

Jim Smith, planning board chair said the current village designation would expire in January 2008.

The state requires a state-

ment of community vision for the next 20 years. The borough is all R-1 zone and intends to remain that way with no planned commercial developments.

The Point meets the basic definition of “Village Center” because it is almost entirely surrounded by natural area with 597 homes, a year-round population of 240 residents and it is not located near major transportation connec-

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## GOP Senate, Assembly hopefuls focus campaign on fixing budget and fighting the sale of roads

By **ERIC AVEDISSIAN**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

For State Senator Nicholas Asselta, representing the First Legislative District is all about serving the community he grew up in.

The Republican and Vineland resident said he has a “more diverse background” than his Democratic rival, Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew. Asselta, a fifth generation resident of the district, said his family emigrated from Italy in the 1870s and built businesses in Cumberland and Cape May counties.

He said working in various family businesses put him in contact with a variety of residents and broadened his understanding of issues.

“I’ve seen so many legislators who prepare themselves in high school, go to law school, come out and become a politician. I did just the opposite. I did things in business and education and that brings a lot of life experiences that prepared me for this job better than most,” Asselta said.

Asselta’s family owned a large farm and his father was a police detective who later ran a federal agency, Housing and Urban Development, when it was founded in 1964. His father also had a construction company where Asselta and his two brothers worked.

The family also owned several small businesses including a restaurant, diner, pool

hall and fish market. Asselta said he learned the importance of communicating with people and the difficulties and challenges of running a small business.

“At 12 years old I was in charge of the pool hall. I would have to open it, lock it up and go home and do my education and sports I was involved in,” Asselta said. “It seems like with every issue I have some kind of connection to – and some kind of knowledge of and roots in – and I think that’s important for whoever runs at this type of level of representation.”

Asselta was first appointed to the Assembly in 1995 to fill Rep. Frank LoBiondo’s term when LoBiondo, a former assemblyman, won his congressional seat in 1994. Since then, Asselta has served 13 years combined in the Assembly and Senate and currently sits on four committees: Housing and Urban Affairs, State Government Committee, Health Committee, and Senate Budget Committee, which he calls “the most important committee” in New Jersey.

He said his latest battle is getting re-elected and fighting a Democratic machine operating in Camden County. Asselta said with Republicans the minority party in New Jersey, gaining seats would be a big boost for the GOP.

“Experience is important in Trenton and I think the relationship that you build with the executive branch no mat-

ter who’s the governor because most of those people in that agency stay there,” Asselta said. “I’m in the minority, I’m not going to get a lot of bills passed, so we’ve really geared our office towards the constituent service aspect and we do a fantastic job.”

Asselta summarized his political philosophy as a “moderate Republican.”

“I believe in issue by issue and not political party. I never aspired to be in leadership, even in the Assembly which I could have been.

When you’re in leadership like Jeff is you’re stuck with doing things you never want to do,” Asselta said.

Much of the Republican campaign focused on a proposal by Gov. Jon Corzine to sell the state’s toll roads and other public assets in order to pay down the state’s debt. Asselta said the sale could net \$15 billion to \$30 billion and give an outside entity control of three of New Jersey’s major toll roads.

Asselta said he’s concerned prices of tolls could rise, or more toll stations built, after

an effort by the New Jersey Department of Transportation to limit the number of toll booths in some areas of the Garden State Parkway.

Asselta, along with First Legislative District Republican candidates Norris Clark and Michael Donohue, vehemently oppose selling the toll roads, as do Van Drew and the two Democratic Assembly candidates, Assemblyman Nelson Albano and Matt Milam.

“This is the last available option for them to fix the

budget in a short period of time,” Asselta said. “It is killing them (Democrats) not to give out millions of dollars every year to districts their people are representing.”

Asselta said he secured money for pet projects in his district, like an air conditioning system for Cape May’s Convention Hall and a building for historic Wheaton Village during the 1990s when the state’s budget was prospering. Now that the

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## Clark, Donohue say it’s time to cut waste

By **ERIC AVEDISSIAN**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

Republican Assembly candidates Norris Clark and Michael Donohue say they’re the ones to cut the size of state government and wasteful spending better than their Democratic challengers.

Clark and Donohue believe the state’s budget deficit is a telling sign things have been mismanaged in Trenton under a Democratic majority and they’d like to take a crack at getting the state on sound financial order.

Clark manages sales and marketing for his software company, NewsFutures, and for Morey’s Piers in Wildwood. He is active in many civic organizations

including the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Literacy Volunteers and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape May and Atlantic Counties. Clark and his wife Athena live in Lower Township.

Clark said he was a Republican booster supporting Goldwater in the 1960s and Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. In the 1990s, he became an independent and supported Ross Perot, even serving as Perot’s national spokesman during Perot’s 1996 campaign. He said he recently registered as a Republican.

Clark said his political philosophy falls in line with the Republicans – “limited government with personal responsibility.”

“If we had limited our

state’s spending in the last 10 years to inflation costs and centers of population growth, it would be \$8 million less in spending,” Clark said. “We’ve had no political courage to try and deal with the problems in the state. All we’ve had is tax more, tax more, tax more instead of cut.”

Clark said he’d review the nonessential state employees and reduce the size of state government through attrition.

Donohue, a Dennis Township resident, is a municipal prosecutor for Stone Harbor, Avalon, Lower Township and West Wildwood. He served on the Stone Harbor Council and on the Public Works Committee and Health & Welfare

Committee in that municipality. Donohue and his wife Jeannemarie have three children.

Donohue said he’d support the arts but in a fiscal crisis, legislators might not fund things like the arts and cuts will have to be made “across the board.” He said there needs to be tax incentives for small businesses to relocate in New Jersey and criticized businesses leaving New Jersey because of unduly tax burdens.

“We have to get our fiscal house in order and we can’t do it by raising taxes,” Donohue said.

Clark, who helped start the Cape May Music Festival and will work to bring Radio

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