

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007 50¢

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NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW			
	am	pm	am	pm	
12/13	9:57	10:23	3:14	4:20	
12/14	10:38	11:10	3:59	5:02	
12/15	11:24		4:51	5:48	
12/16	12:03	12:16	5:50	6:37	
12/17	1:02	1:14	6:56	7:29	
12/18	2:03	2:17	8:06	8:23	
12/19	3:05	3:22	9:15	9:19	

Philly traffic jams may be good news for CM

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

CAPE MAY – Philadelphia area traffic jams may be a curse for commuters, but the Cape May Tourism Commission's attitude is let'em sit in traffic, where they may end up staring at a billboard reading "Discover Cape May."

Tourism Commission mem-

ber Bob Steenrod said the city is negotiating for three billboards near the Philadelphia bridges. He said the city used billboards on I-95 last year with the "Discover Cape May" message and an 800 number and got a good response. Drivers who are stuck in rush hour traffic jams become a captive audience for the billboards, which feature a beach scene with a lifeboat, a small light-

house and the web address www.discovercapemay.com. Steenrod said the city had two billboards last year, but the billboard owner offered Cape May a better deal for 2008.

Also for the new year, the Tourism Commission is looking for a public relations firm to replace the MWW Group, which promoted the city for the past 21 months.

Steenrod said the commission has received three pro-

posals from different PR firms, recently. He said either individuals or firms had contacted the city after reading that the Tourism Commission was not renewing its contract with the MWW Group and would be looking for a firm that could market Cape May more aggressively.

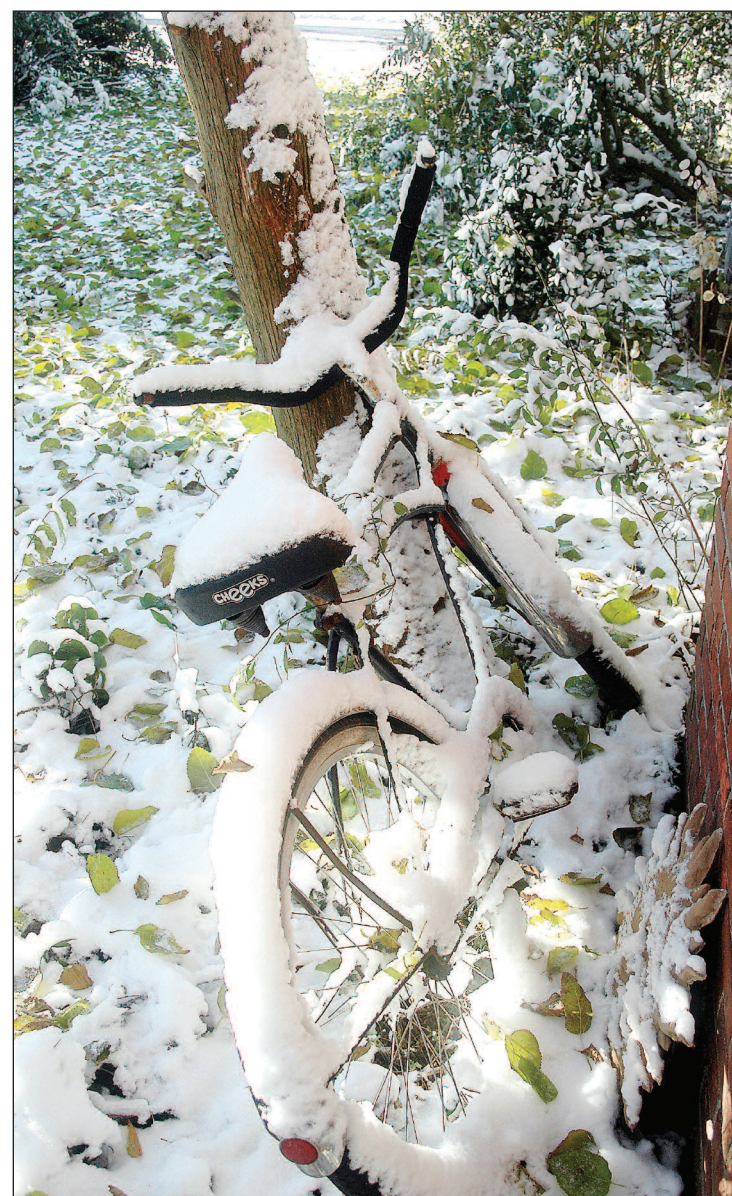
Steenrod said he had hired a firm to create a press release to publicize the ongoing

improvements on the Washington Street Mall, but that was a one-time deal.

Steenrod also said Cape May had recently received the benefit of being listed by travel experts Frommer's as one of the top worldwide destinations for 2008. Cape May is actually grouped with other shore communities including Ocean City, Wildwood,

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First snow of the season



Top left, a family enjoys a brisk walk on the beach near the Cove during last Wednesday's snow. At left, a white throated sparrow rests amid snowy branches Thursday morning as the Cape woke up to a winter wonderland. Above, even an old bike looks like a work of art when covered with snow.

Photos by Leslie Truluck and Christopher South

'Soils Analysis' should decide whether piles go in or not

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

CAPE MAY – Cape May construction official Bill Callahan said when deciding whether or not pilings are necessary for construction projects, two things need to be considered – the composition of the soil below and what kind of structure is being built above.

Callahan said an architect or engineer will present plans for a construction project, and that every construction

project in Cape May is required to have a soils analysis performed. The soils analysis indicates what is needed to support the structure on that kind of soil.

"If you are going to build a dog house that's one thing, but if you are going up three or four stories we need to know the foundation won't sink. All that comes from soils report," Callahan said.

So if pilings are needed, they are driven. However, Callahan said new construction projects are actually rare in the Historic

District. "It's rare that you have a total building torn down in the Historic District. Most of the work is rehab," he said.

Last week, Jerry Gaffney told city council it should consider banning pile driving in Cape May because of the potential for damage to neighboring structures caused by the vibrations from driving pilings. At that time, there were questions about what was contained in the city's ordinance concerning pile driving.

After Mary Ann Gaffney

raised the issue at the HPC meeting, Callahan said HPC chairman Skip Loughlin came in to discuss the ordinance. "Our ordinance is pretty concrete, and we are very particular with that," Callahan said.

The current ordinance, adopted on April 19, 2004, prohibits pile driving and demolitions from the Friday before Memorial Day until the day after Labor Day, with exceptions made for waterfront pile driving under certain conditions.

The city code describes pile driving a nuisance by virtue of the noise, unsightly conditions, excessive debris, and "damage to other property,"

as well as for the silt, sand or sediment that runs into city streets and storm sewers (Section 194-17. Findings of fact).

Besides attempting to con-

"If you are going to build a dog house that's one thing, but if you are going up three or four stories we need to know the foundation won't sink. All that comes from soils report."

– Bill Callahan, construction official

trol a nuisance during the summer season, the stated objective of the ordinance is to prevent the silting or clogging of streets and gutters, and to "prevent damage to adjoining neighbors' proper-

ties" and to prevent damage to curbs, sidewalks and streets. Contractors are responsible for preventing the accumulation of sand, silt or other debris and keeping streets and gutters clean of the same (Section 194-20. Pile driving activities) and to "take whatever actions necessary to prevent damage to alleys, streets, gutters, curbs and adjoining property" that may be caused by pile driving equipment.

The law also requires contractors to carry a \$1 million general liability insurance policy to cover death, bodily

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The driver of this truck missed a curve in the road at the end of the Garden State Parkway and took out two utility poles and the traffic control box. The driver was essentially unhurt.

Driver checks map, hits pole

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

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Just before noon on Tuesday, the driver of a Ford F-250 pickup truck missed the curve at the end of the Garden State Parkway and ended up taking out two utility poles and the traffic control box near the intersection of Route 109.

The location has been the scene of numerous accidents including several fatal accidents over the years.

According to New Jersey State Trooper Michael Ward from the Bass River Barracks, the driver indicated he was not familiar with the area and was checking a map when he ran off the road,

barely missing a steel utility pole but clipping off a road sign.

The truck then continued across a lane of traffic before clipping off a wooden utility pole, smashing the traffic control box, and running over guy wires and flipping over on the driver's side. The truck traveled about 200 feet before clipping a second utility pole and coming to rest at the guardrail.

The driver, who was wearing a seatbelt, unhooked his restraints and managed to kick out the back window and exit the vehicle. According to emergency personnel on the scene, the driver first refused treatment but rescue personnel managed to convince the driver to allow them to trans-

port him to Cape Regional Medical Center to be checked out.

The driver signed himself out of the hospital before 1 p.m.

The investigation was handled by the New Jersey State Police. Lower Township Police initially responded to the accident, as well as the Cape May and Cape May County fire police. Fire fighters from local fire companies and the Lower Township Rescue Squad also responded.

Traffic signals were knocked out in the vicinity due to the accident. Crews from Atlantic City Electric, Verizon, and Comcast responded to the scene to restore service.