

Historic Kiwanis Clubhouse is a Cape May landmark

The clubhouse of the Kiwanis Club at 1041 Beach Avenue is a local landmark. Passersby often comment on its unique handsomeness. The watchtower which crowns this architectural jewel particularly draws attention and offers a clue to its history. Erected in 1890, replacing a previous one from 1868, the building is the former Cold Spring Lifesaving Station No. 136 of the United States Life Saving Service, one of the ancestors of the U.S. Coast Guard. Many such stations line the treacherous coast of New Jersey during the 1800s. Locally there was another one

just waterward of the Cape May Lighthouse, with other all along the barrier islands along the Jersey Cape. The locations were selected to provide overlapping fields of view from their watch towers. The name Cold Spring comes from the name of the inlet into Cape May's harbor, which was in turn named for the famed Cold Spring inland and north of it (just off Route

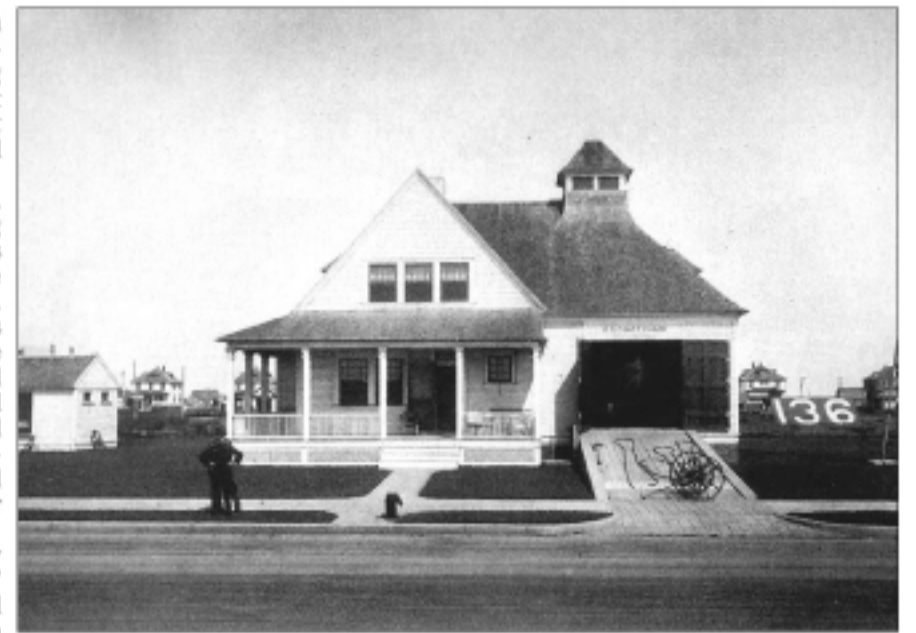
9 today). From the station valiant and intrepid men launched surfboats through a long shed door (now four windows) down a ramp and into Neptune's Realm to row on perilous rescue missions. Inside the clubhouse today there is still a trap door between the second and first floors which used to be the site of a firehouse - like pole down which the men slid rushing to the boat and rescue. It was dangerous and rugged work. In 1903 the extension of Beach Avenue eastward as part of the East Cape May

revitalization efforts necessitated the moving of the station a bit inland at Philadelphia and Beach Avenue. In 1915 the U.S. Life-Saving Service was absorbed into the U.S. Coast Guard. By 1939 advances in rescue methodology and technology had made this and other such stations obsolete and it was put up for sale. Spearheaded by Charles "Nick" Swain, who would go on to be a club legend, the Kiwanis Club of Cape May, which had been organ-



Kiwanis Kolumn

By R.E. Heiny



The original Kiwanis Clubhouse, pictured above, was built in 1868 and rebuilt in 1891 and served as a Coast Guard Lifesaving station.

ized in 1823, purchased the building at auction for \$120. As part of the sales agreement the building was again moved, at the cost of an additional \$100, to its current location. The Cape May Kiwanians thus became the first club with their own clubhouse. Thus the building has a second claim to historic significance. Maintenance of this historic structure has been an ongoing challenge. Recently a team including Al Conly, Jim Hall, Arnie Pittman, Jim Waldie, Harvey Williams and Jim Wyatt completed exten-

sive renovations of the second floor. In its early years as the Kiwanis Clubhouse, the building was also home to local Boy Scout and Cub Scout groups. During World War II it was used as an observation and communication center by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Navy. Today it is available for rental for family and group functions. Like the Kiwanis Club of Cape May itself, there is more to its clubhouse than one first realizes.

Community news briefs

Cape May Kiwanis Pet Parade Set for Sept. 13

CAPE MAY - The Cape May Kiwanis Club of Cape May is sponsoring a Pet Parade to be held Saturday, September 13. Registration and judging will take place at the Cape May Kiwanis Park on Madison Avenue at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., respectively. This marks the return of this event to its original location - The Kiwanis Park. Additionally, the parade route will once again go through town, instead of being held on the elementary school grounds. The parade will start at Kiwanis park go south on Madison Avenue to Columbia Avenue then onto Jefferson Street to Corgie Street, back to Madison Avenue, and end at Kiwanis Park. Dogs, cats, farm animals, birds, rabbits, guinea Pigs, reptiles, dolls and decorated doll carriages, costumes, decorated bicycles and floats welcome. A new category called "decorated stuffed animals," such as teddy bears

has been added. Please note all animals must be properly restrained, with leashes, harnesses or cages. Registration starts at 10 a.m., judging begins at 10:30 a.m. and the parade starts at 11 a.m. Rain date is Saturday, September 20.

Chorus rehearsals at Middle Township High School

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP - The Angelus Chorus, a group of over 50 members, will begin rehearsals at Middle Township High School on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. An invitation is extended to anyone who loves to sing and has time to participate in our concerts. If you have any questions, call Edie at 465-4904. Practice is every Monday evening when schools are open, and provide concerts in the area during November and December, and again in May and June.

Change

Continued from page A1

is documented. Mahaney said he also wanted to make certain the fees assessed as part of the mercantile licenses were used for their specified purpose, which is to promote and market the city as a tourist destination. "It should not be used to defray the costs of other organizations," he said. "I want to make certain that all of the efforts of the tourism commission are focused on the specific purpose of the commission to the benefit of all business and residents and not digressing to serve a selected few." Steenrod said the Tourism Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts have been working toward a common goal - to attract visitors to Cape May. "The Chamber does buy advertising, MAC does buy advertising, and we all try to find the best program - that's the partnership, I guess," he said. Steenrod said when the Sherry Group was hired to do public relations for Cape May, there was a meeting of all the non-profits, who were urged to send their press releases to the PR firm. He said there is a benefit to the Tourism Commission being aligned with other groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce. "The Tourism Commission, by aligning with chamber, can utilize their staff," he said. Steenrod said the first annual Harbor Fest held in June was the best example he could think of to illustrate what could be accomplished by working together. He said the goal was to get 2,000 to 2,500 people attend the first event and they got 10,000.

"That's the synergy that MAC, the chamber, the Tourism Commission, the Nature Center (et al) brought together and we had a fantastic day," he said. Steenrod said they are hoping to get the same type of cooperation next August for the 400th Anniversary celebration of Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage to Cape May. Swain said partnering with other organizations in town was not necessarily a problem, since some other organizations have a more extensive marketing background. "We're just trying to find the right balance so that we are doing due diligence procedures...to make sure making sure we do internal control," she said. Mahaney said he wanted to make the operation of the Tourism Commission more public and to make sure its purpose is met, while spending its budget in the most productive way and for the benefit of all of Cape May. Swain said the new members of the commission, herself, Chew and Gus Andy, were trying to understand how the commission budgets money and how it is spent. She said the commission has to spend half its assessment for promoting Cape May outside the market. She said that is the function of the Sherry Group, which is trying to line up independent reporters for feature articles on Cape May. The Tourism Commission hired Paramount Air Services to make two flights, Aug. 30 and 31, pulling a banner reading "Cape May - Open All Year," and www.dicovercapemay.com, flying from Point Pleasant to Cape May.

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2007 COLBALT 4 DR LS 4cyl, AC, 4spd, Auto, AM/FM/Stereo/CD, Vin#77307968, Stk#P-2063, 31,780 mi.		\$12,860
2005 PONTIAC GRANDPRIX GT-2 3.5Ltr, Auto CD, Pw Seats/heat, leather int. Sunr. onstar, Vin#51156628, Stk#P-2022, 35,940 mi.		7.9% \$14,947
2007 SUBURBAN 2LT 6cyl, AC, Auto OD, Pwin, XM Radio, Leather, LOADED, Vin#7J168915, Stk#6399-A, 26,412 mi.		4.9% \$29,300
2008 CHEVY IMPALA 6cyl, auto, AC, P/win, AM/FM w/MP3, Vin#89129220, Stk#P-2069, 27,094 mi.		3.9% \$16,500
2006 COBOLT LS 4 Dr 2.2 Liter, 4 cyl, 4 spd, auto, air, Vin #67853567, Stk#P-2031, 37,009 mi.		\$11,999
2008 CHEV. IMPALA 4dr, 6cyl, Auto OD, AC, P/win, AM/FM/Stereo, CD W/MP3 Vin#89131333, Stk#P-2070, 25,971 mi.		3.9% \$16,500
2008 UPLANDER 7 PASS. VAN 6cyl, AC, 4spd, Auto, Pwin, AM/FM/Stereo/CD, WMP3 Vin#80119719, Stk#P-2073, 26,723 mi.		7.9% \$16,500
2007 JEEP WRANGLER 4 Dr, 6 cyl, 6 speed manual, p. windows and locks, remove keyless entry, 17" alum. wheels, side airbags, Vin#7L196008, Stk#9019-A, 4,631 mi.		4,631 Miles \$21,000
2007 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS 4cyl, AC, Auto, P/win, CD, Vin#7H225692, Stk#P-2060, 31,657 mi.		\$13,900
2007 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 4cyl, AC, 4spd, Pwin, AM/FM/Stereo/CD, Vin#7U108150, Stk#P-2061, 34,717 mi.		\$18,900
2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONVERTIBLE LTD. 6cyl, leather int, power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, Vin#NE33806, Stk#P-2080A, 65,915 mi.		\$8,739
2005 CADILLAC STS 3.6L, V-6, Full Power, Loaded, Vin#50165922, Stk#6064Z, 57,408 mi.		\$21,360
2005 EQUINOX FWD 6 cyl, air, auto overdr, Pwin, CD, Vin#56060012, Stk#P-2017, 35,500 mi.		\$14,500
2005 TOYOTA SOLARA 2dr, air, leather, sunroof, Vin#5U062323, Stk#6442-A, 21,134 mi.		\$16,900
2008 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS 4cyl, AC, Auto, Pwin, Moonroof, Vin#8H32905, Stk#P-2066, 17,443 mi.		\$15,700
2005 PONTIAC GRAND-AM 2dr, air, auto, sunroof, bucket seats, Vin#5M132501, Stk#P-2001, 35,4381 mi.		\$13,497

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