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### DEC. TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
12/4	11:58		5:23	6:21
12/5	12:41	12:49	6:22	7:07
12/6	1:36	1:45	7:27	7:56
12/7	2:33	2:44	8:33	8:47
12/8	3:28	3:44	9:36	9:38
12/9	4:22	4:43	10:36	10:31
12/10	5:15	5:39	11:33	11:23
1st Quarter	12/5			
Full Moon	12/12			
Last Quarter	12/19			
New Moon	12/27			

## Borough and fire department in disagreement

All Call, building ownership source of angst in West Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - West Cape May has had a volunteer fire company for over 100 years, although the borough still does not have an officially recognized fire company.

That fact has given rise to another of question on the relationship between the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company and the Borough of West Cape May.

Fire officials would like the borough to take formal action

to adopt the volunteer fire company as the official fire company.

"All it would take is a paragraph," Fire Chief Chuck McPherson said. McPherson said the designation would make the fire company eligible for grants it cannot receive as a private agency. Commissioner Peter Burke, who serves as the borough's director of public safety, said there are related issues that need to be resolved, including who owns the fire company building.

Fire Captain Buddy DeHart said the fire company outgrew a building they owned at Fourth Street, and purchased a property at Stimpson and Broadway, which they paid off. He said the fire company knew it would need more property, and they bought the

land where the firehouse sits for \$45,000. He said the state then established an Economic Development Act to upgrade municipal buildings and create jobs. DeHart said Fire Chief Albert Nobel and Commission Leroy Reeves submitted a grant application and they received \$1.4 million. He said one stipulation of the grant was that the borough own the building.

The grant was approved and the money paid for the construction of the entire borough complex, including Borough Hall and the firehouse.

McPherson said he was in the fire company when the transition occurred and his understanding is the borough would own the entire complex for 10 years, and in the 11th year subdivide the prop-

erty and hand over the firehouse to the fire company.

Burke said the current board of commissioners had not been able to find any documentation supporting the fire company's position.

"We shouldn't turn it over with no documentation," Burke said.

Burke said even if the fire

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## Everyone gets a raise in Lower

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - If you work for the Township of Lower, there is a good chance you got a raise on Monday night.

Lower Township Council passed four resolutions approving contracts with the Teamsters Union, department heads, police superior officers and the remainder of PBA Local 59.

The council discussed the contracts briefly in a closed session before returning to the meeting hall for a public vote. Each of the four resolutions passed by a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Wayne Mazurek voting against each contract.

Mazurek clarified his "no" vote saying he asked for financial data on the impact of the contracts before he could support them.

"These are good contracts, but in good conscience I can't vote on what we don't know we can afford," he said.

Mazurek said he did not want anyone to think he did-

n't want the employees to have a good contract.

"I just don't want to come back in a year and a half and find we have to shut down for a month because we are out of money," he said.

Councilman Robert Nolan said the police salary increases of 3.7 percent for 2008 and 3.75 percent for the 2009 through 2011 were under the 4 percent cap the state placed on municipal budgets.

Nolan called the contracts fair, saying the township negotiated givebacks from the unions.

"Both parties understood where the bottom line was," Nolan said.

The bottom line for salaries and wages is police lieutenants and captains will receive a raise of 3.7 percent retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, raises of 3.8 percent in 2009 and 2010, and 3.9 percent in 2011.

Department heads can expect raises of 3.8 percent in 2009 and 3.7 in 2010 and 2011.

Please see Raise, Page A2

## Great Cookie Exchange



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

More than 450 attended the Center for Community Arts annual Great Cookie Exchange on Monday. Above, Angelina Lillemon, 6, of Villas; Hailey, 6 and Blaize McKeon, 5, of Erma decorate Christmas cookies. Below, Kadi Veronia and Kelli Ann Newby, both 4, of Villas, visit with the big man himself, Santa Claus. The event also featured hat and basket making as well as holiday caroling and good cheer all around.



## Mandatory hook-ups in LT

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Council introduced an ordinance Monday to require township residents to hook-up to the municipal water supply.

Mayor Walt Craig said the ordinance would require about 450 homes not on municipal water and sewer to hook up.

"As (new) houses come online they would be required to hook-up," Craig said.

The ordinance comes up for a second reading and public hearing on Dec. 15, when there would be discussion on hook-ups and fees.

Resident Steve Sheftz said

he didn't think all the public's questions could be answered in 15 days time. He said there are issues of Lower Township Municipal Authority records that need to be resolved. He also wanted the governing body to exert some authority over the operation of the LTMUA, citing examples of an attorney being paid \$720 to "attend a short monthly meeting," and the 25-cent per page cost to get a copy of a contract.

Sheftz reminded township council of a plan that would have cost residents \$850-\$950 to hook-up to municipal water, saying, "People are not going to want to do this unless it is affordable."

He cautioned council not to act hastily, saying an earlier

plan for mandatory hook-ups in certain parts of the township had flaws in it; such as ordering hook-ups on properties where no building existed. He also cautioned council not to locate water towers on DRBA-owned property at the airport.

Resident Sal Riggi, who has a deep well and opposed mandatory hook-ups, was not permitted to make comments on the ordinance.

Craig told Riggi the public hearing would be in two weeks and the topic would not be addressed before then.

Riggi said before the meeting the amount of water consumed after mandatory hook-ups would exceed the water use the DEP had allocated for the township.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

### 'Metamorphosis'

Ceyx (Anthony George) and Alcyone (Jazzi Unruh) are two of the characters in Lower Cape May Regional High School's production of Ovid's "Metamorphosis," Dec. 3, 4 and 5. Tickets are \$5 and seating is limited.

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