

Convention Hall

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the rent for the restaurant and event fees, the city is anticipating about \$176,000 in revenues from those sources.

On the tax side of the equation, city auditor Leon Costello said the Convention Hall project would cost the taxpayers nothing additional in the 2009 budget, interest on the bond in the years 2010 through 2012, and there would be a bond sale in 2013,

when the city would try to get a low rate on the \$10.5 million bond. Costello projected the impact on the tax rate to be at its highest in 2013, or about 2.2 cents on the tax rate.

"This project alone causes no tax increase," Costello said. "It fits in with the city's tax structure."

Costello said the plan, now, is to pay off the bond over 11 years. Resident Jack Wichterman said he thought

it might be advisable to stretch out the financing over a longer period; perhaps 25 years.

"The people who don't know they are going to be here will pay for these bonds," Wichterman said. "The longer we stretch it out, the more chance people in this room won't see it (repayment)."

400th anniversary

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Terry Brown in Civic Affairs, and to Charlotte Daily, who organizes the West Cape May Christmas Parade every year. Elwell said the committee was going to raise some of the money, and would be offering sponsorships for individuals or businesses.

He also said the Cape May Star and Wave agreed to be the official newspaper and a prime sponsor for the celebration. The Star and Wave

will produce a historic newspaper that would be available most of the summer, he said. The paper, he said, would give visitors a sense of Cape May's historic roots.

Elwell also said the committee wished to work hand in hand with city government on plans to celebrate the 400th Anniversary.

Elwell said the goal is to have a Dutch theme for the entire celebration. In that

regard, the East Lynne Theater Company is planning to put on "Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates."

Councilman Niels Favre suggested the city see if the Netherlands would like to become involved in sponsoring the celebration, the trade-off being the opportunity to promote tourism in that country.



West Cape May Fire Prevention Unit visits school

The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company fire prevention unit visited the West Cape May Elementary School to teach the children of West Cape May fire prevention and fire safety. The children were taught basic fire safety rules like conduct a fire drill at home, the importance of having working smoke detectors, the proper way to leave their home if fire should strike, what to do if their clothing catches fire, and when and how to call 9-1-1. The fire prevention unit visits the school every year during fire prevention month in cooperation with the elementary school. The program is under the direction of fire prevention expert Kathy Elwell who is a member of the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company. This year "Sparky the Fire Dog" paid a visit which is a favorite with the children. They were given a fire prevention coloring book with crayons and a plastic fire helmet. It is hoped that the children will retain the safety information should the need arise.

Veterans

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cost of mailing postcards to people who don't have e-mail. Each month, Tarleton sends out e-mail and post cards to people trying to get word out to other people. She also

sends announcements to the local newspapers.

The cost of breakfast is around \$10 per person.

Tarleton said the group formed about three years ago.

She said there were two National Guard units in Cape May Court House until 1996, when one of the groups was deactivated.

"Several of us heard about a

group in Atlantic City that got together for breakfast and we started going there. Then we said we should do this with our own people," she said.

The group was originally National Guard only, but they decided to expand it to include veteran from all

branches. Since forming they have had speakers, such as a man from the Battle of the Bulge Association, and have taken trips to places like the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort Dix, and the military museum at Seagirt.

She said the group has been

trying to collect DVDs to send to the troops, and has collected phone cards or money for phone cards. She said they also try to keep track of group members who may be in the hospital.

They have begun meeting on the last Saturday of the month at Santos Restaurant in Villas, where they have a room that is separate from the main dining room.

"We start each meeting with a salute to the flag, a prayer and we sing God Bless America. Even the other patrons join in," Tarleton said.

National Guard's History in Cape May County

The National Guard formed a unit in Cape May County on July 9, 1946, as Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment of the 308 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion.

The organization received federal recognition in 1950, when it was moved to Rio Grande and the name was changed slightly to the 308 Anti Aircraft Gun Battery.

On Feb. 1, 1955, the unit was reorganized into the 286th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

On March 1, 1959 it became the 6th Howitzer Bn, 112 Artillery and changed its location on Aug. 1 1961 to Cape May Court House.

On Jan. 31, 1963 the unit was redesignated as Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion, 112 Artillery, and it became an element of the 50th Armored Division.

On May 1, 1975 the unit changed to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 154th Supply and Service Battalion and was relieved from its assignment to the 50th Armored Division.

On Sept. 1, 1996, the HHC 154th Supply and Service Battalion was deactivated.

The unit was designated as the 253rd Transportation Company, which was one of the first units called to Iraq in each of the Gulf Wars.



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City of Cape May Convention Hall




Public Question to be voted on November 4th, 2008

Municipal Question #1


Shall bond ordinance #161-2008, finally adopted August 19th, 2008 titled "Bond Ordinance providing for the construction of a new convention hall facility in and by the City of Cape May, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, appropriating \$10,500,000 bonds or notes of the City to finance part of the cost thereof" be adopted?

What does this mean?

- The Cape May City voters will now decide to approve or reject this proposed project based upon a binding referendum question at the November 4th general election.
- A "YES" vote would approve the bond ordinance and permit the financing for a new convention hall facility in an amount not to exceed \$10,500,000.00, with the final cost as well as the size, design, features, content and location of the convention hall facility to be determined based upon the input received at public forums previously held at the Cape May City Elementary School.
- A "NO" vote would defeat the bond ordinance and not permit the City to obtain the funds necessary to construct a new convention hall facility.




The City Council recognizes the importance of the Convention Hall as a facility to be used by residents, taxpayers, vacationers, business groups, musicians, members of the theatre, nonprofit entities, community groups, adults, and children. The new convention hall will continue to host the same uses and programs that serve our community needs. In addition it will allow us to explore new cultural events and exhibits while offering a new venue to share the old ones. We encourage all eligible voters to voice your opinion on November 4th.



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Councilmember Niels Favre
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Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical (USPS 519020)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi: \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price: \$.50 per copy.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE: Weekly, every Thursday.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

ASSISTANCE: For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call (609) 884-3466 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.