

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 8 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 50¢



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WEATHER ALMANAC
BY WAYNE ROOP

JANUARY (Normals: 42°/28°, 3.53")			
	High	Low	Precip.
29	37°	23°	
30	42°	21°	
31	30°	24°	
FEBRUARY (Normals: 45°/29°, 2.88")			
	High	Low	Precip.
1	57°	30°	
2	52°	35°	
3	40°	31°	.22/1.4"
4	34°	25°	

Communities look to Local Energy Audit for savings

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Local communities have been buying into a state program for a Local Energy Audit, which could result in savings on energy bills. Cape May, Lower Township and West Cape May have introduced resolutions to authorize participation with

the Board of Public Utilities in the energy audit, which is designed to provide a local government with ways of saving money on energy use for public buildings. The state has authorized about half a dozen firms to perform audits on municipal buildings to find ways to make them more energy efficient and reduce costs. Cape May Point Mayor Carl Schupp

said the borough is also interested in learning more about the program. Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod said once the audit is completed the BPU comes back with a list of recommendations. If the municipality makes a certain level of the recommended improvements the town is able to recoup part of the cost. Lower Township Manager Kathy

McPherson said Cape May County was holding an educational session on Wednesday to provide more information about the audits. "The program just became available to local governments," McPherson said. "The BPU provides 75 percent of cost and if we implement some of

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Go with the flow

Cape May sewer rates not based solely on use

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May County Municipal Utilities Director George Norkis told city council Cape May's flow could be unchanged yet the city could still see an increase in county charges. Norkis said the MUA calculates the city's share based on a sampling of flow data during the peak period. The county does the same with the other 15 municipalities in the county and strikes a rate. In the event Cape May's flow rate is unchanged, but other municipalities drop, Cape May could see its cost increase.

However, Norkis also said because the MUA is a non-profit, public agency, it never keeps more revenue than the municipalities should be charged.

"At the end of the year we true out the flows, and get the actual expenses," Norkis said. According to Norkis, for the past two years Cape May received a rebate from the fees it paid the county for sewer services. Norkis said Cape May was estimated to produce 1.57 million gallons of flow in a nine-day period based on a six-year average. "Cape May gives us 8.93 percent of the summer flow in a nine-day period," Norkis said.

Norkis told city council the county

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Half Moon Gala Ball at Congress Hall

Cape May kicked off its 400th Anniversary celebration with the Half Moon Gala Ball on Sunday, Feb. 15, at Congress Hall. Above, newly crowned Patricia Milligan and Charles "Bud" Swain, Queen and King of Cape May's 400th Anniversary, shake hands with Mayor Edward Mahaney. At left, a couple dressed in period costume dances the night away. At right, Quentin Bear Fuller, owner of Bear Creations Native American Consultants, tells the crowd he is proud to be a part of Cape May's 400th Anniversary celebration. Below, the crowd waves hello.



Beach renourishment, doughnut municipalities focus at Point meeting

By JANICE BROWN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - The February Board of Commissioners meeting of Cape May Point borough was dominated by several topics crucial to the welfare of the area, and it was duly attended by 30-35 local residents.

On the top of the agenda was an extensive PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming Beach Renourishment Project designed to ensure ecosystem restoration,

flood and coastal storm damage reduction. Conducting the presentation were William Dixon, NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Dwight Pagan, P.E., Project Manager for the U.S. Corps of Engineers. They took time to explain the project in detail, noting that this activity is expected to be similar to the work done in 2004-2005, on a four-year cycle, work that had in general, resulted in the beaches "performing very well." Dixon indicated

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Local woman handcrafts gifts for President's daughters

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - Victoria Papale is a woman of many talents - a hair stylist, belly dance

instructor and an artist. It is her artistic side that caused her to paint the faces of President Barack Obama's two daughters on glass Christmas tree ornaments.

After the inauguration, Papale bought a pair of glass ball-shaped Christmas ornaments and painted the face of each Obama girl on the ornaments.

"I do this for people who want a little Christmas ball for children or grandchildren," Papale said.

The images she paints, Papale said, can basically last forever, or at least as long as the ornament. "It's acrylic paint, and the balls are pretty sturdy," she said.

Papale painted each girl's face and "09" on the ornament for Christmas 2009. She said she was inspired to paint the ornaments for several reasons.

"Obama inspired me so much. It was nice to feel patriotic again.

This is a thank you for the hard work during the campaign," she said. "And the girls are so adorable they inspired me because they are so cute. I thought they were great little gals."

Papale said although Obama has been an inspiration for artists, she believes the ornaments are something no one else has thought to send the girls. However, she has learned many people are sending gifts to the Obamas.

"I'm going to mail them. I've already warned the White House, I e-mailed and phoned, warning them to handle them with care. They said they are getting so many gifts they may need a special department just for gifts," Papale said.

Papale doesn't know if she will hear back from the White House, but certainly hopes she does.

"If I get a letter of thanks that would be a treat," she said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Victoria Papale holds the hand painted Christmas ornaments she created for Malia and Sasha Obama, the daughters of new President Barack Obama.

City manager: No fluff in utility budget

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City Manager Bruce MacLeod said in case anyone is wondering, the Water/Sewer Utility budget does not have a lot of fluff in it.

MacLeod gave a second presentation of the utility's 2009 budget Tuesday in City Hall. Virtually no members of the public attended a previous presentation in which MacLeod outlined how the utility developed a half million-dollar gap, which the city is attempting to fix with increased sewer rates.

MacLeod said water users in Cape May used 18 mil-

lion fewer gallons in 2008 than anticipated, resulting in a shortfall of about \$300,000. In addition, the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority increased its bill to Cape May by \$100,000.

With the budget surplus down \$190,000, miscella-

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'If there is any perception this budget is built with a lot of fluff, this shows it's not true.'

-City Manager Bruce MacLeod