

# Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2007 50¢

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|    | HIGH<br>am | LOW<br>pm | HIGH<br>am | LOW<br>pm |
|----|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 16 | 11:03      | 11:10     | 4:44       | 4:55      |
| 17 | 11:41      | 11:47     | 5:18       | 5:38      |
| 18 |            | 12:21     | 5:51       | 6:23      |
| 19 | 12:26      | 1:04      | 6:25       | 7:14      |
| 20 | 1:10       | 1:54      | 7:04       | 8:11      |
| 21 | 2:03       | 2:51      | 7:52       | 9:15      |
| 22 | 3:07       | 3:53      | 8:49       | 10:18     |

## Residents want Shadeland open for beach access

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
Cape May Star and Wave

**LOWER TOWNSHIP** – Plots of land formerly used for beach access points have been sold to develop into private property causing confusion as to where residents can legally get to the shore. Residents addressed Lower Township Council regarding a paper street used as an illegal pathway to the beach at Shadeland Avenue.

Don Ochs said a series of e-mails and correspondence with the township over the past few years have not been addressed. Township Manager Joseph Jackson said he is somewhat familiar with the emails and the issue stems from the one-time access being sold, developed, and cut off to the public. Ochs and his son Wesley requested that the township open Shadeland Avenue for direct beach access and they

suggested it could prevent people from walking on private property. The one-time path and trees on the plot at Shadeland Avenue are now cleared for development. Resident Lenora Reicherter said a sign denying beach access and directing access to Hollywood was placed at Shadeland two weeks ago but the path from Hollywood is too steep to be accessible for kayaks and children. Ochs said the pathway was used by

residents for over 20 years and was once signed and maintained with clamshells by the township. He said the oldest known email dated back to July 7, 2004 when the property owner contacted township officials in effort to open Shadeland and close the pathway by his house. "All they have to do is clear the brush and trees, put down clamshells, and it will be beach access," Don Ochs said, "the only thing they've

done is replace the drain-pipe." Jackson said the issue is not a matter of maintaining an already existing access rather a request to create a new area that would need to be first surveyed, dunes cleared out, and subject to approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. The closest beach access

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## Building dreams out of sand

Cape May City recently held its "Can You Dig It Sand Tools" sandcastle building contest at the Cove Beach. Pictured above, Ed Numez of Morristown, puts the finishing touches on his true to form sandcastle. Above right, Sandy and Sam Rodman of Alliance, Ohio, are at work on "Rollindragon." Bottom right, a close-up look at an entry designed to recreate the city of Washington, D.C.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp



## Thieves steal 'sentimental' items from Cape May shops

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
Cape May Star and Wave

**CAPE MAY** – Over the weekend of Aug. 10, two separate incidents of theft occurred at the local stores Cheeks and Swede Things in America, within blocks of each other. The thief or thieves didn't steal merchandise from the stores, but rather took incalculably valued personal possessions.

Bob Cheeks, owner of the Cheeks stores, regretfully said the distinctive bike at the corner of Ocean and Columbia Streets is missing. The novelty bike decorated with shells and handpicked beach glass has been a treas-

ured art piece for over 20 years, Cheeks said. Displayed in front of the store, it became an object of interest to pedestrians.

"Tourist would pause for pictures and it became a recognizable city landmark," Cheeks said.

On Thursday, Aug. 9 Cheeks decided to redecorate the previously silver bike for the first time with a new coat of flat-gold paint and updated collection of blue-green beach glass glued to the frame similar to original adornment. The bike is a one-speed thick-tire cruiser with a Cheeks bike seat. The bike was reported missing the morning of Friday Aug. 10

when it was mistakenly left unlocked outside of the store overnight.

"It has been there for twenty years unthreatened. Everyone knew and loved the bike," Cheeks said.

"It was noted in write-ups of the city and people were happy to see it year after year. Customers would comment about it and bring their kids to see. It was one of a kind, and an inspiration to others who began decorating their bikes," he said.

People offered to buy the bike but Cheeks refused to sell saying the value is "priceless."

Cheeks is offering a \$100 reward for information lead-

ing to the bike's return. "The corner is lonely without the bike," he said, "It was a favorite art piece of people who tour the city and it is unmistakable."

Just a few blocks away a Swedish family-heirloom wrought iron Dalecarlian or "Dala" Horse was stolen from

the doorway of Swede Things in America on the Washington Street Mall sometime between Friday, Aug. 10 and the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 11. The heirloom horse served as a doorstep for the shop and was not for sale. The thief replaced the heirloom horse with an old-fashioned metal

clothing-iron doorstep. "It seems planned because it's bizarre that they replaced it with another doorstep as though that would make it okay," store co-owner Katarina Poulsen said.

"Obviously in retail we deal with theft, but this is shocking

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## Theater demo furthered

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
Cape May Star and Wave

**CAPE MAY** – Frank Investments gained conceptual approval from the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) in a 5-1 vote for additional renovations to be made to 711 Beach Avenue currently known as the Beach Theatre Complex, partial demolition plans were approved at a previous meeting.

Frank Investments' Marketing and Design expert, Doortje Schipper, provided the HPC with plans that include a two-story commercial/residential composite with three shops on Gurney street at ground level and residential units for sale behind and above the refurbished first floor capped with a red mansard roof. The new

residents of the proposed six units would have uniform doors and gain access from Stockton Street in a partially covered one-and-a-half story parking garage within the Beach Theatre footprint. A tower with an upper-level balcony for a private unit encloses the proposed stairs and elevator.

The stucco wall on Stockton Street is intended to have display windows installed to "break the blank facade," Schipper said.

Discussions arose among the HPC members about the appropriateness of using chip and dale style railings when HPC member Tom Carroll said the design could be criticized for "having too many elements from different periods of a style."

Carroll said the plan presented a nice job with dorm-

ers but the 1920's colonial revival chip and dale railing system doesn't blend with the overall Victorian replica on the second floor of the building.

Issues in the design of the railings and the appearance of the store fronts below lead to a discussion of paneling details the HPC will decide on in a future meeting.

"The building never was Victorian and it shouldn't pretend to be something it isn't," HPC member Pip Campbell said.

"A more simple railing system would keep more in the 1950s era," HPC member Corbin Cogswell said adding the mansard roofs are not Victorian but rather derive from the 1880s.

The committee requested to

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

## Ruth and Tom Hand golden anniversary

Ruth and Tom Hand, of Cape May, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Lobster House Restaurant. The Hand family owned the Cape May Star and Wave for a century. Married Oct. 19 1957, the celebration included their three daughters Sharon, Kathy and Mary and seven grandchildren.