

# Cape May Star and Wave

159TH YEAR NO. 30 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2013 50¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT IN CAPE MAY

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## School funding issue is being fought elsewhere

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The City of Cape May is in the middle of an effort to change the regional school funding formula and lower its share of support for the school, which is currently about 35 percent, while accounting for just 5 percent of the students.

Cape May is like some other New Jersey Municipalities, such as Oradell and Seaside Park, which continue to try to reduce the amount of taxes they pay to school districts. On the other hand, some communities, such as North Haledon, have had some success in reducing their share of regional school taxes.

For nearly two decades, North Haledon had sought to reconfigure the school tax rate for the Manchester Regional School District, claiming residents were paying an unfair per pupil cost as compared to the neighboring communities of Haledon and Prospect Park.

North Haledon Mayor Randy George said prior to an administrative court decision in 2011, the municipality was paying 51 percent of Manchester Regional's operating costs while sending just over 20 percent of the student population. He said North Haledon was paying roughly \$12,700 per student, while the other two municipalities paid significantly less. George said the funding formula had been based completely on property rateables. During the same year, Haledon was paying around \$5,700 per student and Prospect Park just \$3,900.

"Because North Haledon is valued at more than the other two municipalities combined, we were paying more than half the cost to send less than a quarter of the school's students," George said. "North Haledon was worth around \$100 million while Haledon and Prospect Park weren't worth \$100 million combin-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Young pirates on the ropes

Above, "Kidds" wait at the rope for the start of the annual Captain Kidd Treasure Hunt in Cape May. More than 300 kids marched from Convention Hall to Congress Place Beach to dig for buried treasure in the hot sand. A "black treasure box" was found in each of the age-group areas, containing a certificate for a cash prize. See more photos on page A10.

## 81st Queen Maysea Coronation to take place on July 31 at Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - With the exception of a couple of years during World War II and 1962, when Cape May lost its Convention Hall to a northeast storm, Cape May has almost always crowned a Queen Maysea.

People probably remember there is a coronation each summer, and Queen Maysea appears in local parades, but perhaps few understand who she is.

"What I tell people is she is the Queen of the Baby Parade, and she is queen of our city," Queen Maysea



Coronation coordinator Linda Shelley said.

Special to the Cape May Star and Wave  
Left, The 81st Queen Maysea, Alexandra Bruno, will be crowned July 31, at 7 p.m., at Convention Hall. Queen Maysea is Cape May's Queen, and she presides over the Baby Parade, this year held on Aug. 2. The Queen Maysea Coronation is free and open to the public.

Shelley has been the primary coordinator for the last five years, but has been involved with the event since 1990.

"When it first started it was the event of the summer," she said. "People would plan parties around it."

According to Shelley, Queen Maysea started in 1928. She said the contest included teens and the winner was chosen on stage. Today, Queen Maysea is chosen from applicants aged 6 to 10 from the greater Cape May area, who go through an interview process prior to the coronation. At the coronation, organizers introduce "flower girls," ages 3 to 5, and perhaps page boys, in the same age group. Shelley said the boys tend to lose interest after that age.

The very first Queen Maysea was Sally Lou Ludlam. In 1932, Queen Maysea Marjorie Waddington Gassling was joined by King Maysea Franklin Hughes, the only year a king was named.

Queen Maysea was part of a bigger event called the Juvenile Jubilee, which included the Cape May Baby Parade. The Queen Maysea coronation, Shelley said, used to be held the same day. Now, Queen Maysea is crowned a few days before the baby parade, which Shelley said is held in honor of Queen Maysea. According to Shelley, the 1929 baby parade drew 30,000 spectators and had

521 entrants. "Queen Maysea was a major ordeal," Shelly said. "They used to black out the windows and sold tickets."

Shelley said some people planned their vacations around Queen Maysea. Shelly said when the 1962 storm destroyed Convention Hall, interrupting Queen Maysea, and Mitsy Blomkvist, wife of the former mayor, had a hand in bringing Queen Maysea back. Shelley said after 1962 it was determined that the Queen Maysea coronation

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## Restrooms are urgent for some

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Montreal Inn co-owner Larry Hirsch has asked council to consider installing restrooms in vicinity of Madison and Beach Avenues to deter non-hotel and restaurant guests from using his facilities.

During public comment at the July 16 regular meeting, Hirsch said Harry's Ocean Bar and Grill, the Montreal Inn's restaurant, was experiencing an influx of beachgoers asking to use the restrooms. He said the neighboring Ocean Club Hotel and

its Sea Salt Restaurant have been dealing with similar requests.

"We can't just turn them away," he said. "If someone has to use the bathroom, we don't want to make them walk all the way to the public restrooms on Philadelphia (Avenue) or Convention Hall, but it's becoming more of a hardship."

Hirsch said on the evening of July 4, prior to the city's firework display, he said there was a line of people extending along the wall through the restaurant waiting to use the restroom.

"Probably three or four out

of 10 of them weren't hotel or restaurant guests," he said.

In April, city council introduced a \$475,000 bond ordinance providing for Beach Utility improvements, with \$250,000 of the sum being earmarked for additional beachfront restrooms.

MacLeod told the Star and Wave that the city would look into Hirsch's request. He said if the city decided to place a temporary restroom facility near Madison, there would need to be proper water and sewer connections in that location. He said a perma-

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## Former Vance's bar coming down

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City council has approved a professional services agreement with Remington & Vernick Engineers to begin preparation of bid specifications for the demolition of the former Vance's Bar on Lafayette Street.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said a timeline for the demolition will be drafted, including dates for the advertising of bids, the opening for accepting bids, bid awarding and so forth. He said the city's goal is to have

the building demolished by September.

"We're trying to move this along in an expeditious manner," MacLeod said.

In May, the city purchased the plot of land and building for \$1.956 million. The sale had been in the works for over a decade. In 2004, council repealed an ordinance allowing the use of eminent domain to obtain the property, which is nearly two acres in size. Mayor Ed Mahaney has referred to the property as the last open space the city has for recreational purposes.

He said the property was

appraised at just over \$1 million in 2004, but sold to a developer for \$2.69 million after the city's \$1.1 million offer was turned down. Cape May bought the property from RFB Properties, LLC, after a previous owner's plan to build condominiums on the land had failed.

The city recently bonded \$3.4 million to buy the Vance's Bar property and two additional lots on St. John Street. The funding will take care of demolition of the old structure, as well as legal fees and appraisals for the

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