

# Blaze

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that direction, while ground crews surrounded the fire with hoses put it down. He said they also established a plow line, which he said is normally cut into the earth with a bulldozer.

"The Town Bank and Erma and NJ Fire Service did a great job," said Jim Salmon, a spokesman for the Delaware

River and Bay Authority, which operates the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. "They contained a fire that could have been a dangerous situation. They kept it from spreading to the (ferry) terminal and the residential community," Salmon said while the danger was contained, there was less of a threat to stored fuel than there used to be.

"The fuel is near the admin-

istration building. (The storage unit) is not as big as it once was. We used to have a storage tank that held a few million gallons of fuel, but it was taken down in the mid-90s. It used to sit where the current terminal is," Salmon said.

In a statement issued by the DRBA commending the firefighters, "As a result of the firefighters' quick response

to the marsh fire, the blaze was successfully contained in less than two hours, preventing it from spreading to the Cape May terminal area and a neighboring residential community. We are grateful for their coordinated efforts and thank them for their quick, effective action."

No cause was determined for the start of the brush fire.



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

The Cape May Star and Wave recently traveled to four Hawaiian islands, where it accompanied Kenna DiBuono, Somers, N.Y., and Karen Knight, Somers and Cape May, on a trip to Pearl Harbor, World War II military bases (Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter) where they saw historic military vehicles, and Haleakala National Park on Maui. Haleakala last erupted in 1790, and its massive crater is over seven-miles-long and three-miles wide. The crater floor is located about 7,000 feet above sea level, about 3,000 feet below the rim. The crater floor is dotted with plant life and cinder cones.

# Fire

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age to deck and some flooring, but warns residents it could have been much worse.

"Luckily, a person was home, woke up and smelled smoke," Inderwies said. "He called 911 and while on the phone flames erupted."

Inderwies said if the homeowner had gone somewhere or even left for the week, the house might have burned to the ground.

"People need to heed the warnings of the manufacturer's instructions on cans telling how to dispose of rags," he said.

Inderwies said last year Swain's Hardware agreed to hand signs in their paint and stain department warning customers about the fire hazard from oily rags. Inderwies said, in general, oily rags should be placed in a galvanized bucket of water or hung

out to dry outside of the building. However, each can of an oil-based product comes with instructions on how to handle oily rags in order to prevent fires.

### Disposal of Oily Rags Spontaneous Combustion of Oily Rags

Do-it-yourself projects often involve using products with high VOC's (volatile organic compounds) which makes them flammable. Examples of these products are oil-based paints and stains, varnishes and polyurethane, paint thinners, etc. Oily rags have a long history of being a source of fire, because people are not aware that they have the ability to spontaneously combust and catch on fire. For a fire to exist, it needs heat, oxygen and fuel. Oily rags that get folded or balled up and tossed on the floor have the danger

of going through a process that starts with oxidation. As the oil is drying on the rag, it produces heat, and air gets trapped in the folds or balled up portions. Heat and oxygen are combined in addition to the rag, which is usually made of combustible cloth that can become a source of fuel. Heat, oxygen and fuel are all that is needed to create a fire, which is why oily rags that are not disposed of properly can create a fire that people are not prepared for.

How to Dispose of Oily Rags Oil or gas-soaked rags should be safely disposed of after use using two steps:

- \* Hang them outside to dry in a safe area or spread them out flat, making sure they are weighted down outdoors. They should not be in a pile.
- \* Once they are dry, they should be disposed of properly.
- \* For somebody who uses

oily rags on a daily or weekly basis, the oily rags should be placed in a listed oily waste container and emptied by a private contractor.

\* For a less frequent user, the now dry oily rags should be stored in a small, airtight, non-combustible (such as metal) container with a tight-fitting lid. An old paint can is a good example. The rags should be completely covered with a solution of water and an oil breakdown detergent. Do not add any other combustible material (stuff that can catch fire). The user should then dispose of the rags during a city-sponsored hazardous waste collection day.

From: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/pubed/fs-topics/fs-topics-a/disposal-of-oily-rags.html>

# Arbor

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oak trees because they're afraid of it falling on their house when it's still a healthy tree."

Notch also spoke about the liability issues of fallen down trees, ultimately decided by the courts. He said a judge would conclude if the harm done by the fallen tree was foreseeable, which is why he recommends homeowners hire an arborist to look at the trees on their property.

"Make your neighbor aware of your fear that the tree may fall - then they can be held liable if they don't have the tree checked out," he said. "Because of that fear, people often jump the gun and just cut the tree down before looking at other ways to manage it properly."

Notch said the majority of arborists work daily and are trained in tree removal and planting, disease diagnostics and pest control. He said even if a tree looks healthy from the outside, it is still wise to have an arborist examine it.

"A lot of trees I've looked at appear to be healthy but turn out to be structurally defective - so were completely hollow on the inside with maybe an inch or two of hard wood shell holding it up," he said.

Notch said there are sure-fire ways to ensure the healthy growth of trees and keep them from meeting the violent wrath of the chainsaw. He said good soil, proper planting and maintenance, like pruning and mulching, are crucial to the tree's survival. In terms of planting, he said the soil should barely cover the root system because roots need to breathe. He said

the mulch should not be piled high around the tree stem as it can lead to issues like high moisture build-up and rotting.

Notch said while proper planting and maintenance are important, it is also crucial to plant native trees rather than non-native species that have trouble surviving in a South Jersey environment.

He said because of the sandy soil and high water table in this region, tree roots typically spread outward rather than growing deep into the ground. According to Notch, non-native species like the Cyprus trees people often plant in the area, end up becoming too top heavy and falling over because of the inefficient root system. Many non-native trees are also more susceptible to diseases.

Notch said he often uses "cabling" to keep decaying or falling trees and branches upright. In the last three years, Notch estimated he has spent \$10,000 in cabling material and most of it was used on non-native trees, the majority of them, Cyprus trees. The cabling, made from metal or polyurethane material, is run through the trees and fastened to the ground or a splitting branch to keep it from falling.

Notch recommends everyone have an arborist examine their trees before the next major storm. The Shade Tree Commission is also a good resource for any questions regarding any tree issues in West Cape May and can be reached through Borough Hall at 884-1005.

# Sewer

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Landis Avenue during the summer months. The initial contract states summer work would only consist of sewer improvements on Fourth Avenue extending across

Columbia Avenue to Green Street and on Fifth Avenue starting at the intersection of Oak Street.

Because the contractor is currently three weeks behind schedule and is supposed to be finished by 2014, the com-

missioners agreed to allow the additional summer construction, on one condition. Mayor Pam Kaithern said the work must be completed by the end of June prior to the peak tourist season and summer events like the borough farmers market. Kaithern said she spoke with a few residents on Landis and Stewart and found that the general consensus was they would rather have the work done sooner than later.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said work during the summer could lead to potential problems with renters in areas of construction. He said tenants could feel inconvenienced by the work during the summer. Burke said if additional work is necessary during the summer, May and June would be ideal.

According to Roberts, the contractor anticipates the Third Avenue project, which

consists of extending the existing sewer pipe 220 feet toward Morrison, to take approximately two weeks to complete. He said the water system work and sanitary sewer line extension on Landis and Stewart would be a three-week project.

The contractor will then complete all of the remaining work on Park Boulevard, Central Avenue and the side streets, which are Grand, Willow and Maple Avenues beginning in September.

Construction on Park Boulevard began last week between Leaming and Myrtle Avenues, widening the street to allow parking and create a new bicycle lane. Roberts said this work is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day.

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Evil Dead R (9:30 Fri-Wed)  
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Oblivion PG-13 11:15, 2:00 4:50, 7:35, 10:15  
\*Pain & Gain R 11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10  
42 PG-13 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05  
\*Iron Man 3 PG-13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00  
\*3D Iron Man 3 PG-13 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00  
\*\* No Passes

**TIDES**  
MAY 2013  
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	12:59	1:40	7:18	7:30		
2	2:04	2:50	8:21	8:40		
3	3:11	3:57	9:22	9:48		
4	4:16	4:58	10:20	10:52		
5	5:15	5:52	11:14	11:50		
6	6:09	6:40		12:02		
7	6:57	7:23	12:41	12:47		
8	7:42	8:02	1:29	1:28		

**Moon Phases**  
Last Quarter, May 2,31  
New Moon, May 9  
First Quarter, May 18  
Full Moon, May 25  
Apogee, May 13  
Perigee, May 25

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