

# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 3 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2012 50¢



**LCMR boys beat Hammonton, B1**

**Lady Tigers win two in a row, B1**

**Lou Rodia on Fishing: Fishing with the rule book, B2**

**Community Events, A4**

**TIDES**  
January 2012  
Eastern Standard Time

High	Low
A.M. P.M.	A.M. P.M.
18 3:12 3:33	9:23 9:27
19 4:16 4:41	10:28 10:29
20 5:16 5:41	11:28 11:27
21 6:10 6:36	12:21 12:21
22 7:00 7:26	12:21 1:10
23 7:47 8:12	1:12 1:56
24 8:30 8:56	2:00 2:40
25 9:12 9:38	2:46 3:21

Moon Phases

First Quarter, Jan. 1,30  
Full Moon, Jan. 9  
Last Quarter, Jan. 16  
New Moon, Jan. 23  
Apogee, Jan. 2,30  
Perigee, Jan. 17

## Councilman: Craig could be appointed today

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

*'I don't know if that was an educated guesser if he was going by the statue or not.'*  
— Councilman Glenn Douglass

LOWER TOWNSHIP – According to Councilman Glenn Douglass, the opportunity for Lower Township Council to hold a special meeting on the appointment of a new councilman has expired.

He said Councilman Kevin Lare and Councilman Tom Conrad would be out of town for tonight's meeting.

The municipal clerk's office confirmed that there must be three council members present to have a quorum. With the vacant seat, if Lare and Conrad are absent, tonight's

council meeting could not be held.

The other option is that the Lower Township Republican Committee make its appointment prior to the 7 p.m. council meeting.

If the meeting is not held, the township would be in violation of its own administrative code, which requires two council meetings per month.

A division became apparent at the Jan. 4 council meeting, when Walt Craig was nominated to fill the Ward 2 seat vacated by Erik Simonsen when he moved out of the ward. Lare and Conrad voted for Craig's appointment, and

Douglass and Mayor Mike Beck voted against it. "I believe it will go back to the committee," Douglass said. Douglass was uncomfortable speaking at the Jan. 4 meeting, saying only that he received a phone call that day that he found disturbing. "I didn't speak that night regarding a phone call because I didn't know where to go with it," Douglass said. Douglass said he doesn't have his cellphone at work, but at the end of the day checked his phone and returned a call from Township Solicitor Mike Donohue. He said Donohue started the conversation saying he wanted to clear the air regarding rumors that he and Freeholder Jerry Thornton were involved with the vote at Lower Township. "He was trying to clear the air that he was not involved," Douglass said. Donohue told him he and Craig were good friends and had worked together, and he realized this was a political call, not township business. According to Douglass, he told Donohue he would not vote for Craig but would vote for either of two other possible candidates, John Rechner

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## City Hall could use repairs worth \$681K

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – According to Remington, Vernick and Walberg Engineers City Hall needs new windows, a new roof and other renovations costing approximately \$681,000.

City Engineer Ray Roberts of Remington Vernick said the engineering team did a three-day inspection of the building and found it needed numerous repairs and replacements.

Cape May City Hall was built in 1917 as Cape May High School. In 1970 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, which is why approval from the state Historical Preservation Office is needed for the window designs.

Roberts said there are 40 windows that need to be replaced, ranging from 20 inches by 40 inches to 9 feet by 18 feet. He said this will be the most expensive portion of the City Hall project, costing approximately \$266,600. Windows for the building will cost anywhere from \$1,200 to \$13,900 each according to the report.

The report says the roof is also in need of repair, which is estimated to cost \$102,200. Roberts said the skylight would need to be removed and could be replaced with a fixed unit for around \$9,000.

According to the report, there have been water leaks through the windows and sills causing damage to the plaster walls that will also need to be replaced. The report estimates the wall replacements will cost around \$28,000 and another \$7,000 for painting when finished.

The report says spalling (water damage) to the exterior concrete and brick facades has also occurred, causing cracks and small pieces of mortar to fall off. It says the cracks must be sealed and the mortar repointed in order to preserve the exterior of the building. Repairs to the concrete portion will cost approximately \$2,500 while the brick facade restoration will cost \$3,000. It will take an estimated \$60,000 to seal the brick and concrete facades.

The report says if these problems, such as the window leaks, are not dealt with, the interior and exterior damage could jeopardize the "structural integrity" of the historic building.

The total cost for repairs and replacements is approximately \$488,300 with a 20 percent contingency of \$97,660, making a total of \$585,960. A \$10,000 allowance was also included in the construction cost. Engineering costs for bid document preparation,

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Way too cold for swimming

Participants in Wildwood's Polar Bear Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics make their way back from the water's edge. The weather turned frigid just in time for the annual event, and chased people out of the water rather soon. Here a family heads to the Wildwood Convention Center for a little warmth.

## Abandoned boat law signed

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON – Gov. Chris Christie signed into law legislation sponsored by State Sen. Jeff Van Drew to simplify the process of removing abandoned vessels from the state's waterways by taking title transfers out of the courts.

Prior to Van Drew's legislation, a person or entity, such as a municipality, seeking the title to an abandoned vessel was required to apply to a court for the title transfer. The new law (S-2909) eliminates that requirement. The application is now sent to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle

Commission (NJMVC) instead.

Van Drew said by simplifying the process of title transfers, municipalities and other entities are given a more effective and efficient way to clear harbors and waterways of abandoned vessels that may be dangerous or unsightly.

"This law was especially made to help Cape May County and Cape May City," Van Drew said. "If a boat was inoperable or unwanted, the owner would have to go through court to transfer the title and get the vessel out of the water, so it was easier to just leave it." Marketing Manager Mark

Allen of South Jersey Marina in Cape May has dedicated much of his time to cleaning up Cape May Harbor since the project began in 2007. He said there were seven abandoned and sunken vessels pulled out of the harbor since that time and the new legislation put into law should help out a great deal in the future in regards to boats being abandoned in the area.

"It removes the requirement for the court order which is a great improvement," Allen said. "It gives recourse that doesn't involve court battles and hassle. Anything that shortens the process is a good thing."

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## Three wells planned for Point circle

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Cape May Point is looking at conserving drinking water and saving money by digging three wells in the Pavilion Circle on Cape Avenue.

Mayor Carl Schupp said watering the vegetation on the circle requires a substantial amount of water in the summer, and the commissioners didn't like the idea of using water that had been treated for drinking to water plants. He said plans were devised to dig three wells and use that water for irrigating plants.

"The feeling is if we can dig three wells and generate sufficient water we can water the gardens in the circle," Schupp said.

According to Schupp, many plants died last year because the borough was trying to conserve the amount of water they were using. He said

some new pipes would have to be laid to get the water distributed to the gardens.

During public comment at last week's commission meeting, members of the public asked about the hard water staining the sidewalks and brickwork. Schupp said this week he was not sure about the iron content of the water, and he planned to discuss it with Public Works director Bill Gibson.

"We are concerned about that," Schupp said.

Discussion at the commission indicated there are filters to inhibit the staining, or methods of removing hard water stains from sidewalks and bricks.

Schupp said the estimated cost of around \$8,000 would be paid for out of the capital budget for water and sewer. The contract is being given to Atlantic Cape Well Drilling (Roger Smith Well Drilling). Schupp said Atlantic Cape is in the process of acquiring

the required permits, and as soon as they are obtained the work would begin.

Schupp said at one time the borough approached the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority, which has a facility on the opposite side of Sunset Boulevard, and asked them about supplying grey water to the borough both for irrigation and to raise the level of Lily Lake. During the summer the lake's level can drop considerably. Schupp said the MUA did a very thorough study, but the cost of running a pipe from the MUA into the borough made the idea impractical.

He said the borough hopes the wells and irrigation will be in place this year.

**Pilings not necessary in A-zone**

Commissioner Anita van Heeswyk, who has been

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## Cape May one of America's coolest towns

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The City of Cape May has made its way onto the "Coolest Small Towns in America" list in Arthur Frommer's "Budget Travel Magazine."

As part of the Reader's Choice Poll on budgettravel.com, Cape May has been voted one of the most enjoyed and appreciated towns of less than 10,000 people in the country. According to Mayor Ed Mahaney, the summer peak season in Cape May can reach a population of well over 40,000 people. The U.S. Census declares Cape May has a year around population of approximately 3,700.

Last year, Cape May was voted to have the second best beaches in the nation and ranked ninth in the world on

TripAdvisor, which Mahaney said is a significant reason for the record beach tag sales in 2011. The city sold \$2.1 mil-



lion in beach tags last year.

Because Cape May is ranked eighth on the Coolest Small Towns in American list through Budget Travel

Magazine with over 3,000 votes, Mahaney said he has no doubt the "Nation's Oldest Seashore Resort" will be visited by many people in 2012.

"In any instance where a resort city like Cape May can receive acknowledgement and increased visibility for its beaches, businesses and people is a good attribute to have," he said. "The key point is a large number of people are participating in these surveys and they have a positive view of this city, which we appreciate."

Mahaney said the Greater Cape May City of Commerce and the Business Improvement District (BID) sent out emails to alert citizens and businesses of the nomination and to check up on the progress of Cape May

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# WASHINGTON INN

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