

# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 1 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2012 50¢



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**Lady Tigers improve to 2-2, B1**

**LCMR boys win tournament bracket, B1**

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### TIDES January 2012 Eastern Standard Time

High	Low	High	Low
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5 4:56	5:16	11:13	10:52
6 5:40	6:03	11:58	11:36
7 6:22	6:46	12:39	
8 7:02	7:27	12:19	1:19
9 7:41	8:08	1:01	1:57
10 8:20	8:48	1:44	2:36
11 8:59	9:30	2:27	3:15

#### 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

## BID board discusses speaking to the press

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Freedom of speech issues were raised. Monday night, as the Board of Trustees of the Washington Street Mall Management Company discussed board members speaking to the press.

The WSMMC is the administering agent of the Business Improvement District (BID).

At the Dec. 14 meeting, the issue was raised regarding Trustee Susan Tischler being quoted in press articles. Some board members criticized Tischler for doing so, saying it was contrary to the

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## A look back at local events shaping the year 2011

Jan. 6, 2011:

Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck began his tenure as what some perceived as a lone voice on Lower Township Council by objecting to the process for hiring a new township manager and Solicitor.

Former Ocean City Councilwoman Susan Sheppard and incumbent Freeholder Gerald Thornton were sworn in as Cape May County Freeholders at the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting. Freeholder Director Dan Beyel and Vice Director Ralph Sheets announced they would not run for reelection.

Jan. 13, 2011:

This week, Cape May's Historic Preservation Commission approved the new Convention Hall Design, with some concerns it would negatively impact the city's National Historic Landmark status. Member Tom Carroll said it was difficult for the city to keep this type of building within Victorian design standards.

The water loss in West Cape May continued to be an issue. Over seven years the city was billed for nearly \$700,000 more water than it was billing its rate payers. No one was sure whether the water loss was actual or apparent.

There was a burglary at the Villas VFW post. Over \$4,000 in cash was taken.

VFW Post 386 in Cape May announces the need for a new roof.

Jan. 20, 2011:

Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority Director Charles Norkis made a public presentation on MUA operations, telling the audience Cape May accounted for 9 percent of the wastewater treated by the county facility. Cape May residents had expressed concerns over spikes in sewer charges and rising water bills.

The Cape May Point Board of Commissioners vehemently opposed the COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) Reform Bill over a sharp increase in the number of units a municipality would have to provide.

Lower Cape May Regional High School business teacher John Hosford retired after 36 years of teaching.

A bill to require individuals to register their bicycles with the Motor Vehicle Commission was introduced and quickly withdrawn in the state legislature.

Jan. 27, 2011:

Edens Resource Recovery, a firm hired by West Cape May to investigate water loss, said an oversized meter at Wilbraham Park has contributed to the problem.

Lower Township Councilman Glenn Douglass announced he would run for freeholder in 2011. Upper Township's Kris Gabor also announces she will run.

The majority of Lower Township Council members want the Mayor's Advisory Board changed to allow each member two appointments each. The MAB had 9 members, five appointed by the mayor, and the proposed Council Advisory Board (CAB) would have 10.

Cape May began a beach renourishment project at the Cove, aimed at placing about 160,000 cubic yards of sand there to repair beach erosion.

Feb. 2, 2011:

LCMR High School graduate Matt Szczer, who became a bone marrow donor to help a 19-month old girl with leukemia, visited LCMR to promote a bone marrow donor registry.

The Zoning Board appeal by Frank Investments resumed.

The owners of the Beach Theatre were appealing an HPC denial of a demolition permit to tear down the 1950 movie theater.

Eight Caper Tiger Ice Hockey players were selected for the All-Star team in the teams second season of play in the Lower Bucks County Scholastic Hockey League.

Feb. 9, 2011:

Lower Township council approved an ordinance waiving the requirement for the township solicitor to either live in the township or maintain an office here. Township Solicitor Mike Donohue resides in Dennis Township and works out of a Vineland legal office.

Cape May announces \$1.5 million in capital projects.

Lower Township council decided to table an ordinance renaming and restructuring the Mayor's Advisory Board after Mayor Mike Beck objected to the way it was advanced, and Councilman Erik Simonsen said he needed time to read it. Beck told his fellow council members he had no idea the ordinance was going to be on the agenda until several hours before the meeting. By law, as pointed out by resident Joe Winters, the final agenda is supposed to be available four days before the meeting.

Feb. 18, 2011:

Former Lower Township Ward 3 Councilman Stig



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Happy New Year Cape Island and Lower Township

The New Year finally arrived, and with mild temperatures, although seasonal temperatures have finally arrived. Above is the scene everyone waits for at midnight in Cape May Point, the lowering of their own lighted ball near the firehouse on Yale Avenue and the mini-fireworks display that welcomes each New Year.

Courts announced he would seek the Republican nomination to challenge State Sen. Jeff Van Drew for the New Jersey Senate race in

Josh Dickinson won his second District 32 championship in as many years, leading a group of five Caper Tigers who made it to the final round. Dickinson won the 112-pound championship by beating William Coleman of Egg Harbor Township, 4-0. The win was also Dickinson's 100th career win.

March 2, 2011:

Legislation sponsored by Senator Jeff Van Drew to create a free state registry for saltwater recreational fishing and prevent residents from having to pay a \$15 federal fishing fee was signed into law by Governor Chris Christie.

Kristin Werner, 34, became the first female gunner's

resident Bud McDonough addressed the Board of Commissioners and recommended they not pay the city of Cape May for water that cannot be accounted for. He said payments to Cape May should reflect only those gallons of water, and any additional money should be held in a secured account until it is proven that the loss of water is the legal responsibility of the borough.

The Beach Theatre Foundation (BTF) announced that its

board of trustees delivered a letter to the Cape May City Council urging that body to ratify the recommendations of the City's Historic Preservation Commission



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Cape May's most watched attraction – the construction of the new Convention Hall.

Blomkvest announced he would run for freeholder.

On Friday, Feb. 18, the Lower Township Police Department commemorated the line of duty death of Officer David C. Douglass Sr. Officer Douglass was killed in the line of duty on Feb. 18, 1994, after exchanging gunfire with a suspect who had just burglarized a home and

the First District. DeWeese said he decided to seek political office for the first time because he wanted to help get the state back on sound fiscal footing.

Cape May was finally able to come to an agreement on the purchase of a portion of property from the owner of the Depot Market Café in order to widen the road. The city



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Above, the former Vanthia's in West Cape May will be the home of a packaged goods store after the sale of the borough's distribution license

then set fire to it.

Borough Commissioners in Cape May Point consider a \$2 increase in the price of beach tags in 2011 to move beach operations toward becoming self-sustaining.

Feb. 23, 2011:

David S. DeWeese, former municipal judge in the West Cape May/Cape May Point and Lower Township

sought to acquire the property in order to widen Elmira Street between Lafayette and Broad Street and open it up to two-way traffic.

Members of the Cape May Fire Department were given citations and recognized by city council for their distinguished service during the Merion Inn fire on Dec. 23.

Senior wrestling captain



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Above, Cape May partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damaged beaches after Hurricane Irene.

mate in the Coast Guard to reach the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Then sophomore Zach Valcarce was the only Caper Tiger wrestler to advance to the state tournament in Atlantic City after finishing third at the Region 8 Wrestling Tournament. Valcarce, who wrestles at 103 pounds, beat Jesse Swope of Delsea Regional 10-3 to earn a spot at states.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office cooperated with municipal police departments to try to solve burglaries, especially in light of the theft of flat screen TVs and other electronics from summer homes. Captain Lynn Frame from the Prosecutor's Office said communication on burglaries increased in November and December 2010, when they learned numerous municipalities had break-ins of summer homes, or unoccupied second homes.

West Cape May Borough

and Planning Board to designate the Beach Theatre as an historic site.

Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck continued his opposition to Ordinance 2011-06, which restructured the Mayor's Advisory Board (MAB). Beck cast the only no in a 3-1 vote for introduction of the ordinance. Councilman Glenn Douglass was absent. Beck said, "I'm the only thing in this township that doesn't have Republican stamped on the bottom of its foot."

Lower Township's Bureau of Fire Safety said it would inspect fireworks being loaded onto barges, including the presence of U.S. Coast Guard port and barge inspections, equipment storage and loading, and loading and storage of explosive materials.

March 9, 2011:

Lower Township Council considered the 2011 municipal budget for introduction,

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