

Fails

Continued from page A1

Matt Toennissen, who works in Linwood and claimed to be a non-smoker, referred to the ordinance as "lunacy," and said data regarding second-hand smoke was flawed.

"It's never been proven that 3,060 people a year have ever died from second-hand smoke," he said.

Cape May resident Chris Traficante said the city has become too regulated. He said ordinances against bicycles on the promenade during the summer months and not being able to walk dogs in most park areas are just some of the ordinances that cause inconvenience for residents and visitors. He said the smoking ban would just make matters worse.

"My concern is the intrusion into the rights of individuals," he said. "We've seen that intrusion over, and over and over."

Swain agreed when she voted against the ordinance.

"I remember the days when you could go anywhere with

your bike and your dog. I think we've become a town of signs that say, 'Can't do,'" she said. "I think we need to change the ordinance and not make it so severe."

Mahaney agreed the ordinance was too strict and said it needed to be revisited in December. He said the city would be taking "too large a step" if council were to pass an ordinance that banned smoking on the entire beach, promenade and park areas - especially when there were very few complaints of smoke in the first place.

Dr. Robert Zlotnick of Atlantic Prevention Services in Pleasantville, said he is a frequent visitor to Cape May and he supported the ordinance. He said passing the ordinance would not hurt tourism, considering only 15 percent of the New Jersey population still smokes. He said the city would instead be catering to the vast majority of people who don't smoke.

The enforcement of the ordinance was also a concern expressed during public com-

ment. Tina Giamo, owner of Spirit Catcher Photography in Cape May, said she did not agree with the idea of lifeguards helping to enforce the smoking ban if it were passed. She said the job of the lifeguards is to watch over those on the beach and save lives - not keep people from smoking on the beach.

Wichterman said at the conclusion of public comment that he was the council member who initiated the idea.

"If you want somebody to complain to, I'm the one," he said.

Wichterman said he researched smoking ban ordinances in numerous other municipalities, similar and non-similar to Cape May, and found very few ran into problems with non-compliance and resistance. He said he thought it would be a positive change for Cape May.

"I thought it was an idea whose time had come," he said.

Wichterman received support for the ordinance from the Global Advisors on

Smoke-free Policy (GASP) of Summit. GASP representative Alan Kuntz said when the state's Smoke-free Air Act was passed, restaurants and bars saw a boost in business, so there was no reason for people to think banning smoking on the beachfront and parks would hurt tourism. He said most people are non-smokers and should not be subject to second-hand smoke.

"As non-smokers, we have the right not to inhale smoke," he said. "In a public space, if one person is smoking, everyone is smoking."

Following public comment and the 2-2 vote to keep the ordinance from passing, Mahaney said he would like to revisit the ordinance soon and make adjustments. He said making certain beaches non-smoking and designating smoking areas on the promenade and parks would most likely be a better option.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Peak time for a paint job

CAPE MAY POINT - The Cape May Point firehouse got a new coat of paint recently. Joe of JJ's Painting, West Cape May, is shown above on the ladder. The job is finished - stop by and take a look.

Dream

Continued from page A1

ed, holding picket signs and voicing their opinions.

"It was very inspiring," she said. "Groups from all over the country came together to get jobs back and stop the corporate bleeding of the economy so we can get money back to the people. The government does have a big role to play and they need to help us."

According to the American Dream Movement website, there are 10 critical steps in rebuilding the economy. The steps include investing in America's infrastructure, creating 21st century energy jobs, investing in education, offering Medicare for all, fairer work wages, securing social security, fairer taxes, ending the wars and

investing at home, taxing the Wall Street speculation and strengthening democracy.

Nagel said providing jobs to our present and future military veterans is very important to her. She said countless veterans have joined the movement in an effort to make that happen.

"It's sad to think about people that gave so much and were given so little in return," she said. "We have to support them."

Saturday was the first march for the American Dream Movement of Cape May County and Chandler, Newman and Nagel hope to have more, as well as additional meetings.

The participants in the Cape May march made signs displaying phrases like "Curb Corporate Power," "Create



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, participants in the American Dream Movement march, Saturday, expressed various concerns for our nation's well-being. Green Jobs" and "We are the 99 percent." Starting on West Perry Street, the group marched singlefile down the sidewalks through the sections of town

they felt would be the most crowded on a warm, sunny Saturday, like the Washington Street Mall and surrounding streets. Along the way, they chanted phrases on their signs and handed out pamphlets giving information on the American Dream Movement.

Newman said the marches and protests are always peaceful and informative. She said the group is simply trying to give voice to the 99 percent, who are the people having trouble making ends meet. The movement takes a firm stance against many of the corporations and wealthy individuals not included in the 99 percentile.

"America is not broke. America is rich - still the wealthiest nation ever. But too many at the top are grabbing the gains. No person or corporation should be allowed to take from America while giving little or nothing back," the website (www.contract.

RebuildTheDream.com) says. "The super-rich who got tax breaks and bailouts should now pay full taxes - and help create jobs here, not overseas."

Newman said many of the individuals who attended the rally in Washington, D.C. and the march in Cape May were older adults and senior citizens. She said it's important for younger individuals to get involved because they are the future of this country and its economy.

She and Nagel said they were excited to bring the movement to Cape May County because something needs to be done, and done quickly. Nagel was impressed with the turnout at the march and hopes even more will join in for the next one.

"We want to do these things in a respectful, responsible, peaceful and love way," she said. "But we need to spread the word."

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BID

Continued from page A1

"When I saw him on the tape I said 'Are you kidding me?' He shouldn't be damaging other merchants' property and having direction over what happens on the mall,"

Slawek said, referring to the BID chairman.

Slawek said he signed a complaint naming the Smarros the perpetrators.

The case was scheduled for 9 a.m. today in Cape May Municipal Court.

Santa's 'Family Workshop' at Zoo

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to Cape May County. Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel and the Board of Chosen Freeholders invite all residents and visitors to come to the Cape May County Park and Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10, for "Santa's Family Workshop." The free event will take place from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Reptile House.

Bring your camera and take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus plus make a craft, learn fun facts at education stations and interact with animal ambassadors from the zoo.

After telling Santa your wish list for Christmas, stroll through the zoo and see the more than 500 animals that call the Cape May County Zoo home - including the four giraffes residing in the African Savanna.

Freeholder Beyel said, "This free holiday event is the perfect way to experience the Park and Zoo during this special time of the year. So take your camera and the entire family to the Cape May County Zoo for a day of holiday fun."

The Cape May County Park and Zoo is located at 707 Route 9 North in Cape May Court House (Exit 11 off the Garden State Parkway). The Zoo is currently open from 10 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. daily, weather permitting. The zoo is closed on Christmas Day.

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