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## Cape May awards Convention Hall retail lease

**Contracts for cable service, solar panels awarded**

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Pete Smith's Surf Shop will be back on Beach Avenue after the city agreed to lease the business one of two spaces in the new Convention Hall, scheduled to open Memorial Day 2012. Two retail store spaces were included in the design of

*'We want to ensure the hall is a prime desired meeting place for groups all over the East Coast.'*

– Mayor Ed Mahaney

Convention Hall, and located on the Beach Avenue side of the facility.

City council announced the lease at last Tuesday's regular meeting. The space will be leased at an annual fee of \$65,000 and the lease contains an escalation clause. Deputy Mayor Jack

Wichterman said there was no interest expressed for the second space but it would be put up for bid again shortly with a minimum bid of \$65,000.

City council also awarded several service agreement contracts during the meeting. The Speizle Architectural

Group of Trenton will be the engineering service responsible for designing the solar panel system, or photovoltaic power system, which will be placed on top of the building.

Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC will be installing ethernet dedicated internet services and will be the cable provider for Convention Hall. Wichterman said there was another bidder for internet services but they did not seem as interested in the contract as Comcast.

"We hope to deal with Comcast for many years to come," he said.

Bala Consulting Engineers of King of Prussia, Pa., has landed a services agreement with the city to prepare bid specifications for the tele-data infrastructure in the hall as well.

A \$2,500 change order was also approved by council for Kimmel Bogrette Architect + Site Inc., for additional engineering services necessary for completion of Convention Hall.

Council rejected all bids for the chair risers for the new Convention Hall. MacLeod said the city received two bids for the chair riser

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## Knights of Columbus always looking for a few good Catholic men

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Unless you are Catholic, you probably don't see much of the Knights of Columbus until they are standing outside places like the Wawa collecting donations for Handicapped Citizens.

Even if you are Catholic, the Knights are not often seen so much as they are an organization working quietly to support the workings of the church and faith.

According to Joe Rippman, the Grand Knight of The Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Council 6202, there are currently about 79 total members in the council. Based at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cape May.

"I would say about 80 percent are active members, but there are a few who don't show up anymore," Rippman said. "There are about 35 who show up at meetings all the time."

Rippman said the average age of K of C members is about 65.

"We had somebody do a little study about where we were," Rippman said. "The ones who show up all the time are the old guys."

According to Rippman, the numbers are starting to pick up. Men in the church have been responding to some of the advertising they've done in the church bulletin recruiting members. They've also had recruitment personnel who put up signs in the back of the church, and the parish priest announces the recruitment campaign from the pulpit.



The K of C is grateful for the work of the older men, but it is also in need of younger men to carry on the tradition, which includes work such as the Handicapped Citizen Drive and the support of seminarians.

Rippman said the K of C holds three major fundraisers during the year. The first is a St. Patrick's Day Memorial Campaign. This year they sought to raise \$3,300 and cleared \$3,785. Another is a Columbus Day Dinner, which fell just \$65 short of the \$1,600 they wanted to raise. The Handicapped Citizen Drive is the third major fundraiser, which had a goal of \$3,000 in the 2010-2011 budget.

The St. Mary's Council budgeted a \$3,000 donation for

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Karen Knight/Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

## Happy holiday night lights

NORTH CAPE MAY – This home at Town Bank and Bayridge in North Cape may carries a special holiday message for everyone. Homeowners around the Cape May area outdid themselves with showing their holiday spirit this Christmas season.

## Cupboard is bare in WCM

**Volunteer fire fighters' food bank very low**

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Many refer to the holiday season as a time of "sharing and giving" but the West Cape May Fire Company didn't see many donations to their year-round food drive box in front of the fire hall over the past couple of weeks.

Fire Chief Chuck McPherson said the firefighters have started to "pick up some of the slack" by making more contributions because



there have been just one or two donations made to the food bank. As of Thursday, Dec. 22, there hadn't been a donation made in seven days according to McPherson's wife, Barbara.

"People are stretching for their own families right now because of the holidays," she said. "But the food bank is

a good cause and they need donations."

McPherson said they normally take whatever donations they have to the Sea Shore Community Church or the Church of the Nazarene. The VFC accepts contributions year round at the fire house, but he said it has slowed down immensely since July.

"I used to get half a pickup truck load a week. Now, I don't even get half a load in a month," he said.

He said this was strange, because the VFC usually seems to get more donations during the winter months, but not this year. McPherson said the fire company has been

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## WCM distribution liquor license nets \$615k

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners authorized the acceptance of a \$615,000 bid for the liquor distribution license in West Cape May at last Wednesday's regular meeting.

The liquor store license was offered with a minimum bid of \$600,000 after being decreased from \$750,000 in November. Commissioners lowered the minimum bids on both the consumption and distribution licenses by \$150,000 each to make them more appealing to potential buyers. The borough opened the license bid on Dec. 20 and received just one for the package goods license from Sunset Liquors, LLC, which is based in Pennsylvania, Borough

Clerk Elaine Wallace said. The owners, Thomas and Nancy O'Hara, did not attend the meeting, but the commissioners indicated they were thrilled to accept the \$615,000 bid. West Cape May is still offering a consumption license for sale, which they intend to offer to a new or existing restaurant.

Sunset Liquors, LLC, will use the distribution license in a shop at 106 Sunset Blvd., the site of the former Vanthia's Restaurant. The money received for the license will be devoted entirely to tax relief over the next several years, per a November 2008 referendum, when residents voted to allow the sale of two liquor licenses.

"There are people in this community who are struggling, and any tax relief is

a good thing," Mayor Pam Kaithern said at an Oct. 26 meeting.

Kaithern also said the sale of the distribution license could also make a big improvement to the business district of the borough.

The commissioners' approval of the bid must be approved by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) before being finalized. The license holders will also need to undergo a criminal and financial background check through the police department. Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado said citizens of West Cape May could not object to the license being awarded but could object to the licensee if they feel the business or owner does not qualify.

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## Military spouses cheer CG recruits

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Although they were unable to be with their families this Christmas, the Coast Guard recruits and personnel at the Cape May Training Center had something to lift their holiday spirits.

The Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club put together 325 Christmas stockings for each and everyone one of the recruits on base last week and delivered them on Christmas Eve. The Cape May Elementary School also had a hand in the project, as each student made two Christmas cards for a total of 210, and sent them to the base. Military Spouses Club member Kathy Gibbons said these cards were put with the overflowing six-inch stockings as an extra gift and given to the recruits on base.

Lt. Cdr. Scott Rae and Capt. Bill Kelly of the Coast Guard



Photo by Tiffany Fredrickson

CAPE MAY – Members of the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club spent their free time stuffing 325 Christmas stockings for recruits at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center – Cape May this holiday season.

Training Center and his wife, Angie, asked elementary school Superintendent Victoria Zelenak and Board of Education President Edward

Connolly if the students would be willing to make the Christmas cards

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