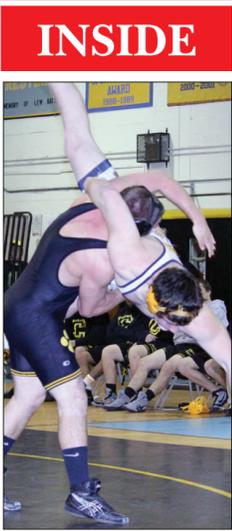


# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 7 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2012 50¢



**LCMR grapplers topple Holy Spirit, BI**

**Lady Tigers lose to tough Middle Township, BI**

**Lou Rodia on Fishing: Modern fishing gear, B2**

**Community Events, A4**

**TIDES**  
FEBRUARY 2012  
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low
15	1:45	2:10
16	2:56	3:25
17	4:04	4:34
18	5:04	5:33
19	5:58	6:24
20	6:45	7:10
21	7:28	7:51

**MOON PHASES**

Full Moon, Feb. 7  
Last Quarter, Feb. 14  
New Moon, Feb. 21  
Perigee, Feb. 11  
Apogee, Feb. 27

## West Cape May wants public input on elections

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Board of Commissioners is looking for public feedback as to whether they should move the borough elections from May to November in 2013.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said the state has now allowed non-partisan May elections to be moved to November if the municipalities choose to. She said the change could have benefits and drawbacks, so input from local residents would help in making a final decision.

She said one benefit of mov-

*‘The last thing we need to do is make a change, and then have an outrage.’*

– WCM Mayor Pam Kaithern

ing the election ahead would be the elimination of the cost of a municipal election once every four years, which Clerk Elaine Wallace said is roughly \$10,000. She said a November election, especially in 2013 could potentially bring out more voters because the governor's election will be occur-

ring at the same time.

Kaithern said the drawback being debated is taking a non-partisan election and putting it into a partisan mix in November. She also said the columns would be separate on the ballot and many people may focus more attention on the state level vote. If com-

missioners make the change, it will be irreversible for the next decade, Kaithern said.

“It's a pretty big commitment,” she said.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said he believed the borough elections commonly have a high attendance. Burke said it might be good idea to change considering the savings and the potential of a higher turnout. Kaithern believed the usual municipal elections draws somewhere in between 350 and 400 voters.

Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado mentioned the poor voter turnout in the past November election, and said it's possible it will rise

again in 2012 with the presidential election, given past voter trends. Commissioners agreed it would be difficult to predict how strong the 2013 election turnout will be.

Wallace said Cape May City already changed to November, and West Cape May must make their decision prior to this December.

Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said he initially wondered if the borough needed to ask the public by referendum, but realized that wasn't the case, that the board of commissioners could make the decision. The commiss

Please see Public, page A2

## CM Smoking ban discussion rekindled

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council plans more discussion on the proposed smoking ban on Cape May beaches, but as for now smoking will still be permitted on the beachfront during the 2012 summer season.

Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman has been persistent in retrieving feedback from other council members about their views on a beach smoking ban, and found what he was looking for at last Tuesday's regular meeting. Council agreed to put together a committee to look into the issue, consisting of beach taggers, beach patrol members, police department representatives and Wichterman, who initially suggested the ban.

Wichterman said he brought up the idea in the early spring and received a great deal of “favorable comment” on it. He said other councilmembers seemed to be on board and even went as far to extend the ban to public parks and the promenade. The ban was then voted down in November 2011 after many residents spoke out against it. At the Feb. 7 meeting,

Councilwoman Terri Swain said she was opposed to the ban, based upon negative feedback she received from the public on the matter. Councilman William Murray voiced similar comments and was concerned as to how the ban would be enforced. Wichterman said it would be a self-enforced ban, where

people on the beach would tell anyone lighting up that smoking is not allowed.

“You don't really have to enforce no smoking in restaurants and bars anymore because the people who smoke understand their own limitations of where they can smoke,” he said.

Wichterman said he has spoken with officials from other shore towns that have banned smoking on their beaches, such as Seaside Park, and found they have had little trouble enforcing the ban. Murray said he was worried that self-enforcement could lead to confrontations on the beach. He said he would like more detail as to how enforcement could be handled other than by people on the beach.

Councilwoman Deanna  
Please see Smoke, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

## Bright outlook for construction project

CAPE MAY – As the sunlight shines brightly in the open end of the Convention Hall construction site, the outlook for completing the project on time also looks bright. Mild winter temperatures have helped keep the project on schedule. The city has scheduled the official opening for Memorial Day weekend, but events, such as the Lower Cape May Regional High School prom, have been scheduled earlier.

## Convention Hall hardhat tour

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The new Convention Hall has come a long way since the pilings were driven last winter with construction continuing down the home stretch toward the scheduled completion date in May.

Barry Bright, Construction Superintendent for Ogren Construction, gave the Star and Wave a tour of the work in progress and said he and the rest of the crew have been extremely grateful for the mild winter weather this year, which has helped immensely in keeping them on schedule.

“The weather has been kind,” he said. “It makes work a whole lot easier.”

Recently, much of the current construction work has moved to the interior, as the exterior work is in the final stages. Bright said final exterior projects include putting on the wrap-around wooden deck and laying down the steps and front platform for the entrance. He said the deck would extend around 15 feet off the back of the facility toward the beach.

Bright said the hurricane windows are on site and soon will be ready for installation. He said since it is in a hurricane zone, the building has been equipped with heavy duty material and storm windows so it can withstand severe weather if it should arrive.

At Convention Hall's main entrance, located on the south side of the building, is a two-story reception area with the prep kitchen for catering off

to the right. Restrooms have also been placed in that area. At the end of the hallway is a corner conference room overlooking the beachfront.

In the main hall, there will be seating for 970 people using telescopic chair risers, which is seating that can be pushed back or pulled out for easy transition. Toward the

is energy efficient and solar panels will be installed on the roof as well – all part of the city's plan for sustainability.

Bright has worked on numerous projects over his 30-year career with Ogren and said they all have their own unique features to separate them from all the rest. He said the new Convention Hall is smaller than others he's seen and worked on, but it has a very decorative style, with intricate details.

“It's a lot of work to get done in little time,” he said. “There are a lot of pieces to the puzzle.”

According to Bright, there are usually 40 to 50 personnel per day working on Convention Hall. At this point, the building is filled with equipment, scissor lifts and material as workers are moving quickly to finish before deadline. At a previous city council meeting it was announced that Lower Cape May Regional High School is scheduled to have their prom at the hall on May 12.

Bright said people in town noticed how quickly the exterior came together once the pilings were driven and the concrete support beams were laid. He said the frame went up with ease work ran relatively smooth in the following weeks. He said people won't notice many changes on the exterior for now, as the contractors and subcontractors are working mainly on the inside.

City selects ticketing system  
In other news regarding

Please see City, page A2



## Water Quality Management Plan advanced

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Lower Township Council authorized the submission of a Water Quality Management Plan to Cape May County, which would perform an analysis to see how much of the township could be developed.

Planning Director Bill Galestock told council the county would perform a build-out analysis for the township, telling it how area is developable, but the township needed to provide a map. The map, according to Lower Township Municipal Authorities Director Matt Ecker, showed areas that were sewered, areas that could not be sewered because they were not buildable, and areas of the township that potentially could get municipal sewer lines. He said the county would analyze the potential for the addition of new homes, including as a

factor, the township's water allocation.

Ecker said he and Galestock didn't necessarily look at expanding the sewer network.

“We looked at the sewered areas and just looked to fill in the gaps,” he said.

Ecker said if they were going to run more sewer lines it would be to service contiguous properties. Ecker said he could see sewer lines being extended out Breakwater and Seashore Roads, and perhaps Route 9.

“It's not inconceivable that Route 9 areas could be sewered,” Ecker said.

Resident Fred Long urged council to take time and get more information before it took action on its resolution authorizing the submission of the plan. He said the cover letter on the report to Cape May County indicated the plan “results in the maximum practical expansion permitted by the DEP.”

“Nothing tells the impact of developing to the maximum,” Long said.

He said the result of the plan would be to double density in some zoning areas, quadruple it in others. He said council should ask the Planning Department to provide the impact of development.

“A broad brush approach can have serious consequences,” he said.

Galestock said the map displayed in the council meeting room did not reflect the impact of density because that is what the county would do when it performs a build-out analysis. He said some areas would be cut out from development for environmental reasons, and other areas could be eliminated because the township maximized its capacity of water allocation. He said the Water Quality Management Plan they sub-

Please see Plan, page A2

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