

# City to replace Convention Hall HVAC

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council authorized upgrades and repair of the heating and air conditioning system in Convention Hall at a total cost of \$841,000.

A contract through the state purchasing program was awarded to Multi Temp Mechanical, of Westville, for upgrade of controls at a cost of \$194,987, replacement of a cooling tower at \$220,572

and replacement of heat pumps at a cost of \$425,611.

During public comment at a Nov. 18 meeting, former councilwoman Stacy Sheehan asked if the current trouble-plagued system were being repaired or replaced. City Manager Paul Dietrich said the HVAC system is being replaced.

“Earlier this year, we got a grant to do the larger units. These are the smaller heat pump and chiller units that are on the roof, so this is the second part,” he said.

In 2018, the city’s then engineer, Tom Thornton, had difficulty locating the original plans for the installation of the heating and air conditioning systems. At that

time, he said the building had been plagued with air conditioning problems for two years.

The city spent \$21,000 repairing the heating and air conditioning systems in 2016 and \$49,288 in 2017. Unconfirmed reports stated the air conditioning units on the roof were not coated when installed, affecting the aluminum coils.

The city has had issues with the HVAC system since Convention Hall opened 11 years ago, with performers and audience members complaining the building was uncomfortably hot in warm weather. John Hall, a member of the band “Orleans,” told the Star and Wave the

auditorium was so hot that it was like playing outdoors.

In other business, council approved advertising for bids to replace the stage lighting system in Convention Hall. Council also authorized receiving bids for phase one of improvements to the Promenade. The city received a \$6.7 million grant from the state Department of Community Affairs Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Boardwalk Preservation Fund.

The enabling resolution states the city wants to use part of the grant to make renovations and Americans with Disabilities Act improvements to the Promenade.

# New Cape May Stage production retells popular ‘Gift of the Magi’

By LYNN MARTENSTEIN  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The award-winning playwright Marisa Smith took a few liberties in re-imagining the beloved classic “The Gift of the Magi,” written by O. Henry in 1905. The play is set in the present, the couple have good jobs and each has different ideas about how to spend their money.

Making its world premiere at the historic theater, Smith’s remake of the story is the culmination of a year-long collaboration between the playwright and Roy Steinberg, producing artistic director at Cape May Stage.

Last winter, Steinberg reached out to Smith to suggest that she write a two-

person play loosely based on O. Henry’s classic.

“I have always loved this iconic tale and was excited about putting a modern spin on it,” Smith said.

Since then, Smith and Steinberg have exchanged notes and drafts on the nascent play. More recently, Smith sat in on rehearsals, during which she, Steinberg and the actors continued to tweak the script.

“All of us worked together beautifully,” Smith said. “We made a lot of progress in understanding the characters and the story, and finding the humor in all of it,” she said.

“It was a master class in what the creative process could be,” Steinberg added. “I think the final product is a good example of how collaboration can create better theater.”

Iraisa Ann Reilly plays Lucy and Kevin Herrera plays her husband, Robbie. Their chemistry is infectious, and their love and laughter help them navigate some of life’s trickier passages.

Reilly started her acting career at Cape May Stage when she was 10 years old and got her first role as a kid sister in “Cape May Kids” in 2011. She later appeared in the theater’s production of “Blithe Spirit” in 2014 and its one-woman show, “The 12 Dates of Christmas,” in 2015. She currently lives in

New York, where she writes, performs and teaches.

Herrera is making his debut performance at Cape May Stage in this play. He has performed at the New York Public Theater and leading regional theaters in the Northeast.

“I hope people walk away from this play with a reinforced sense of the importance of communication, loyalty and love during tough times,” he explained. “Life is difficult, but if you can navigate it together with loved ones, it gets a little bit easier.”

The playwright was pleased with the show’s casting.

“I think the actors captured the essence of Lucy and Robbie very well,” Smith said. “I love how their love for each other is tangible and relatable.”

“I also think there are clues in this play about how to have a good relationship and how the special sauce is always communication,” she added. “The great message of the original story is that the best relationship is one where you both put each other’s needs first, then, magically, you get your own needs met, too.”

It’s a winning recipe for the holidays and the new year.

“The Gift of the Magi” runs through Dec. 29. Visit [capemaystage.org](http://capemaystage.org) or call (609) 770-8311 for tickets.

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One of the greatest adjustments in life occurs when a man and woman decide to become husband and wife. It is very important to remember that no two marriages are alike, and that each couple must work out what is best for them. Couples who have been married for several years will all admit that they have experienced problems, but they have worked them out. They stuck together and each problem they worked out made their marriage stronger. Couples should ask, “what can I give to this marriage,” not just “what can I get out of it.”

When married couples give their support, trust, and love to each other, the marriage is bound to be successful. Three persons should be involved in each marriage; husband, wife and God. God instituted marriage and intended that the couple remain married as long as they both should live. Working together to resolve marital problems isn’t always easy, but with God’s help, all things are possible.

...a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one...  
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# Beach Break

Relax, life takes time...

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |   | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |   | 17 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 18 | 19 |    |    | 20 |   |    |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |    |    | 24 | 25 |   |    |    |    |    |
| 26 |    |    |    |    | 27 |    |   | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |
| 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    | 33 |   | 34 |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    |    | 36 |    | 37 |   | 38 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |   | 40 |    |    |    |
| 41 | 42 | 43 |    |    | 44 | 45 |   |    |    |    |    |
| 46 |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |   | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| 52 |    |    |    |    | 53 |    |   | 54 |    |    |    |
| 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |   | 57 |    |    |    |

## Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1. Scandal  
5. Unruly crowd  
8. Angel’s headdress  
12. Took a taxi  
13. Rage  
14. To be paid  
15. Yoke animals  
16. Family member  
17. Patch  
18. Smile  
20. Annoying people  
21. Distribute  
24. Cloudy  
26. Theme  
27. Cauliflower  
28. Child  
31. Duplicated  
33. Personality  
35. Sweltering  
36. Pair  
38. “If I Only Had a \_\_\_”  
39. Cry  
40. Praises  
41. Paired up

**DOWN**  
1. ‘60s do  
2. Bagels and \_\_\_  
3. Cooling drink  
4. Antarctic native  
5. Type of skirt  
6. Breakfast juice  
7. Plot  
8. Cozy  
9. Intimidates  
10. Let use  
11. Betting numbers  
19. Shrunken  
20. Moralistic story

**21. Scratch**  
22. Fly alone  
23. Small stain  
25. Zipped  
28. Hawaiian cookout  
29. Without moisture  
30. Lions’ lairs  
32. Fitting  
34. Merchants  
37. Frankly  
39. Fuses  
41. Flat-topped formation  
42. Oohs and \_\_\_  
43. Long journey  
45. Santa’s time  
47. Chatter  
49. Contest  
50. Architectural add-on  
51. Ump’s kin

## Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|   | 4 |   |   | 2 |   | 1 | 7 |  |  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |  |  |   |
|   |   | 6 | 1 |   | 8 | 2 |   |  |  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |  |  |   |
| 3 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | 8 |
|   |   |   | 6 | 4 |   | 5 | 7 |  |  |   |
| 2 | 7 | 1 |   | 5 |   |   |   |  |  | 3 |
|   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 9 | 3 |  |   |
|   |   |   | 4 | 3 | 5 |   |   |   |  | 2 |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | 5 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |  |   |
| 8 |   |   | 9 |   | 2 |   | 6 |   |  |   |
| 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | 7 |
|   | 1 |   | 2 | 6 |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|   |   |   | 7 |   | 4 |   |   | 5 |  |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | 4 |

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

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