



**Lower Cape
May Reg.
boys soccer
improves to
7-3-1, B3**



**Art show
promotes
positive
image of pit
bulls, A3**



**ELTC Music
Trivia Contest at
Gala, Nov. 8.
See page B8**



Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 42 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, October 17, 2012 50¢



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

LCMR Talent Showcase

ERMA – Students at Lower Cape May Regional High School participated in the annual Talent Showcase, Oct. 11, sponsored by the Music Honor Society. See more photos on page B4.

WCM water/sewer rates discussed

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Borough Auditor Leon Costello said West Cape May was in the best financial shape it has ever been since he was hired as municipal auditor.

Costello and CFO Frank Donato discussed financial issues of the borough at the Oct. 10 Board of Commissioners meeting, focusing primarily on water and sewer utility rates.

Costello said as of Dec. 31, 2011, West Cape May was in the best financial position it has been since 1991, when he started working with the borough. He said the fund balance and tax collection rate was in good shape while West Cape May was on a pay-as-you-go basis in terms of debt.

The borough expanded its debt in utility after receiving a \$2,305,000 loan and a

\$708,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve its water and sewer system. Costello said the last thing the public wants is the municipality to let the infrastructure go bad, so maintaining the system is crucial. He said water and sewer projects in the borough have generally been more expensive than other projects in West Cape May, such as Borough Hall renovations.

“One of the questions that has come up is whether you should have a rate increase,” Costello said to commissioners.

He said there are two philosophies when considering an increase. The first, is to have no increase until absolutely necessary, which he said many municipalities have done in the past and ended up dealing with a

Please see Rates, page A2

LT Council approves 4-year contract for office workers

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council authorized a 2 percent yearly raise for municipal office workers from 2012 to 2015.

All Local 3779, AFSCME D.C. 71 employees hired prior to Jan. 1, 2012 will receive a step increase only on the anniversary of the date they were hired. Employees hired between Jan. 1 and Oct. 15, this year, will receive a step increase on Jan. 1, 2013. All employees hired after Oct. 15, 2012 will not receive step increases this year or any year thereafter.

In the Memorandum of Agreement authorized by township council, the township has the right to change health insurance carriers or plans, as long as the

level of benefits remains the same or is greater than what exists. The township also has the right to return to the state health benefit plan as long as the benefits remain the same.

The township opted out of the state plan as a cost savings. Employees who want to use the state health plan can choose to pay the difference in the plans.

Employees will receive one sick day for each month they work in the first calendar year and 15 days per year thereafter.

Township dispatchers will receive eight hours of paid leave for each holiday in the agreement, but paid leave time cannot be carried over from year to year. Dispatchers hired after Oct. 15 will be paid a minimum of \$30,000 per year.

Longevity pay for employ

Please see 4-Year, page A2

Meet CM council, BOE candidates, Oct. 18

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – As it has done in past municipal elections, the Taxpayers Association of Cape May will be hosting a Candidate Night in order to introduce the candidates to the public prior to the Nov. 6 General Election.

Candidate Night will be held Thursday, Oct. 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Cape May Elementary School, where residents will hear from mayoral, city council and

school board candidates.

Taxpayers Association President Kate Wyatt said the event would most likely not last for the entire four hours.

She said the ultimate goal of Candidate Night is to provide a transparent relationship between the taxpayers and their governments.

“(TPA) is a nonpartisan organization promoting efficiency in government,” she said. “(Candidates Night) provides the opportunity to listen to each candidate’s platform in a single evening.”

Each candidate running for city council and mayor will be asked what they believe are the top five issues that need to be addressed while in office.

They will be given two minutes to answer. Running for council are Dan Kurkowski, Shaine Meier and incumbent Councilwoman Terri Swain, who is running for reelection.

Mayor Ed Mahaney is being challenged by Russell “Rusty” Chew. Christine Fealy, Mark LeMunyon, Brandon Trinidad and Joseph McKenna are all running for

positions on the school board.

TPA member Harry Bellangy said the voting public looks forward to Candidate Night before each election as it is usually well-attended. He said this year, it will not be a debate style forum but rather an informative assembly where each candidate has a chance to speak without interruption. Wyatt said it will provide a “level playing field” for all candidates. Two members from the League of

Please see Meet, page A7



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

First annual Dragon Boat Races held in Cape May Harbor

CAPE MAY – A new event to Cape May and another event for Cape May Harbor was the Dragon Boat Races held Saturday, Oct. 13. The event drew teams from as far away as Canada, most of which were raising money for charity. See more photos on page A10.

Winery files lawsuit against borough and mayor

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Willow Creek Winery and its owner, Barbara Wilde, have filed a lawsuit against West Cape May and Mayor Pam Kaithern, alleging the mayor used her position and unnamed co-conspirators to harass the winery.

Representing Wilde and Willow Creek is Attorney Colin Bell of the Hankin, Sandman and Palladino law firm in Atlantic City.

The complaint alleges

Kaithern, who lives within 200 feet of the partially pre-

opening the winery. The complaint claims the mayor

‘What actions are you folks doing that would induce an individual to have to file a lawsuit.’

– WCM resident John Rowley

served farm, used her position as mayor to stop and impede Wilde’s efforts in

directed code enforcement and inspection officials to issue stop work orders and

citations to the winery in an attempt to interfere with operations. The suit alleges Kaithern had full knowledge that there was no basis for those actions.

Wilde told the Star and Wave the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come to the vineyard on numerous occasions and deemed the property in full compliance with all requirements in relation to the agency. Wilde said the winery also recently received

Please see Suit, page A2

New Point homes require water/sewer hook-ups

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – The Board of Commissioners passed three ordinances after second reading and public hearing, including one requiring permits for water and sewer hook-ups for new construction.

Mayor Skip Stanger said Ordinance 610-12, introduced last week, was generated by two new homes built on Ocean Avenue, which had no laterals for water and sewer lines. One home construction project required a street

opening in order to connect water and sewer lines.

Ordinance 607-12 amended Standards for All Construction Sites to add a provision for the purpose of requiring use of “saw poles,” used for providing electrical power to the construction site. The purpose is to reduce as much as possible the noise and pollution created by portable generators.

Ordinance 608-12 set new bonding requirements for street openings and excavations. Stanger said the previous amount was good 30 years ago but totally insuf-

ficient today.

Ordinance 609-12 amended the Chapter 94 of the municipal code, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse section, to provide for a warning for leaving receptacles at the curb or putting them out too early or leaving cans out too late. On a second offense, violators are subject to a fine of up to \$250 or up to two weeks community service.

Trash or recyclables are not to be put out before 3 p.m. the day preceding the day of collection, and should be returned to the property by 7 p.m. on collection day.

Sally Sachs gave a report of the Environmental Commission. She said Glenn Davis led a parrot feather gathering detail at Lily Lake. Parrot feathers are an invasive plant species. Sachs said another event is being scheduled for Oct. 21.

A question was raised regarding invasive and non-native species, asking how long must a species exist before it’s considered native.

“Some things become food and housing to a lot of creatures,” Sachs said.

Please see Hook, page A2



1ST ANNUAL “SOLEMAN” 5K RUN AND 1 MILE FUN WALK FOR CHARACTER

Raise awareness of the importance of character in people and to raise money for the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH AT 9:00AM
CAPE MAY CONVENTION CENTER

Registration is \$25 ~ 5K Run & 1 mile fun walk is \$10 .Pre-registration by November 1st guarantees each runner to receive a run-tee shirt.
Information and registration at SolemanRun.com or call the Washington Inn 609-884-5697.