

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 32 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, August 7, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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VFW MEETING ROOM NAMED FOR WCMNATIVE

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Merchants feel July was an improvement over rainy June

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – While parking meter revenue and beach tags sales through June 30 were down from 2012, likely due to rainy weather, a steamy July has seemed to help steady business, according to local merchants.

While the beaches were often empty during the wettest June on record, according to a Rutgers University climatology report, the Washington Street Mall was getting steady business, said Business Improvement

District (BID) Chairperson Joanne Klineburger. “We had a nice June, but

day,” she said. “The beginning of August is starting off pretty strong too – all the res-

From a personal standpoint, I want to say things are moving in a good direction this summer.”

Klineburger said sales at her Great White Shark clothing shop on the mall have been improving since the beginning of the summer as well.

President of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May John Cooke, said he recently conducted an informal survey with business owners around the city.

“It’s a mixed bag of results, but the majority of them are very or at least somewhat sat-

isfied with 2013,” Cooke said. “More than half of the people we spoke to are doing the same or a little better than last year.”

Cooke said he recently spoke to Gail Wilsey-Morrison of Wilsey Realty, LLC, who said rentals were up 12 percent over last year while his motel, the Victorian Motel, is already booked solid through the month of August.

“We’re thrilled,” he said. “In June, the results were purely based on the weather but since July, things have been getting much better.”

Mid-Atlantic Center for

the Arts and Humanities Director Michael Zuckerman told the Star and Wave the non-profit was compensating for a decline in sales at the Carriage House Gallery Shop and Cape May Lighthouse Museum Shop with this year’s Designer Show House tours.

Outdoor recreational activities took a dive at the start of the summer, like kayak and bike rentals and horse carriage rides. Chantel Samenich, who takes a majority of the bookings for the Cape May Carriage

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– John Cooke, Chamber Pres.

once July 4 hit, the season kicked into full swing – the mall was packed night and

restaurants seem to have lines around lunch and dinner, the shops are getting business.

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

A rescued great blue heron was released near Cape May Harbor after recovering from wounds from a fishing hook.

Injured blue heron is released after treatment

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – It wasn’t the time-worn scenario of a cat caught in a tree firemen were responding to last Monday, but instead an adult blue heron that needed to be rescued after it perched in a tree near the Coast Guard Training Center.

On July 29 around 2 p.m.,

Marina Duran, who lives in the Coast Guard family housing area, heard rustling in a tree on the other side of her fence. Duran said she noticed a large bird in the tree that appeared to be caught on something. When she looked closer, she could see it was tangled in fishing line that had a small eel dangling from the end of

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Baby talk

Babies and toddlers in Cape May’s 81st annual Baby Parade have a little pre-parade meeting at Congress Place. The parade was held on Friday, Aug. 2, and honors the newly crowned Queen Maysea, who this year is Alexandra Bruno. See her photo and others, along with the parade results, on page A10.

‘Rethinking the Shore After Sandy’ raises rebuilding issues

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Should residents of damaged properties rebuilt after Hurricane Sandy, adapt to the new realities of rising sea levels and northeast storms, or restore barrier islands to their pristine natural state?

These issues were explored July 30 at “Ready For Next Time? Rethinking the Shore After Sandy,” a public forum at Middle Township High School sponsored by WHY/NewsWorks and the Penn Project for Civic Engagement.

About 30 participants divided into groups and explored each of the issues related to

rebuilding and storm planning after Hurricane Sandy.

Chris Satullo, executive director of news and civic dialog at WHY, said while there are plenty of issues currently explored, including Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FMA) response, federal aid and flood insurance maps, the dialog should have a “forward-looking framework.”

“Think about the long term as well as the short term, what makes most sense for the shore. What should public policy be, what should an individual family plans and policies be?” Satullo said.

Satullo showed clips from a documentary called “Shored Up” by director Ben Kalina,

which will premiere at 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at the International House in Philadelphia. Satullo said the documentary will also be shown in various shore communities this autumn.

In one scene, the bleak aftermath of the storm, depicts the wind blowing through abandoned houses, while debris litters streets and beaches.

“The memories are still raw and painful to many people who live and care about the shore,” Satullo said.

Satullo also played a clip of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo explaining the vulnerability to extreme weather.

“It’s undeniable that the frequency of extreme weather conditions is up. There

are places that have known to be victimized by storms. Once you accept that reality, that this could happen again, we have to start asking some tough questions and work our way through it,” Cuomo said in the clip.

Satullo said the challenges following the storm led foundations and philanthropies in New Jersey to form the New Jersey Recovery Fund. WHY received grants from the foundation to hold a series of community forums along the shore and in Philadelphia to explore how and where to rebuild.

Harris Sokoloff, director and founder of the Penn Project for Civic Engagement, said the discussion involves

moderators to facilitate discussion.

The forum distilled the many ideas and arguments in the shore since the storm into three different perspectives and approaches.

The first approach is “Rebuild and Prepare” in which property owners with damaged structures rebuild their investments by repairing their houses and businesses.

“They say we must rebuild. They say Sandy is a once in a lifetime event. We can’t overreact,” Sokoloff said. “We have to figure out what preparedness means, whether it means better emergency preparedness plans, better communication plans, whether

it’s modification that prepare the homes to withstand the storm better.”

Proponents of the second approach, “Rethink and Adapt,” believe the sea level is rising and storms with the severity of Hurricane Sandy will occur again in their lifetime. The approach advocates better planning for municipalities and development to “rebuild smartly.”

“This approach believes that it’s also unthinkable that we would just go back numbly and without thinking, and do the same things in terms of where we built and how we built that led to such immense loss of property,” Satullo

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