

Drain

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He said the project will probably last for two to three weeks, weather permitting. He said the Gurney Street and that section of Beach Avenue will be closed during certain phases of construction. According to Mahaney, the city has awarded numerous contracts to F.W. Shawl and Sons over the past three decades.

"Over 30 years, they've done excellent work for the city of Cape May in a timely and cost restrictive manner," he said. "We want to have this project completed before the summer season."

Mahaney said the drainage pipe has been deteriorating for many years, but Superstorm Sandy "pushed it over the brink."

Another project in Cape May is the ongoing Canning House Lane standpipe rehabilitation. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said a progress meeting was held last week regarding the project. He said the contractor applied a fresh coat of paint and sampling of the blasting material was being taken.

"Then, they'll do an inspection on the inside of the tank to ascertain whether any repairs need to be made on the interior based on welding that was done on the exterior of the tank," MacLeod said.

He said during the week of Jan. 6 through 10, the contractor would be working on the assembly of the corral that will be placed atop the standpipe for holding wireless antennas. He said the finished coat of paint is sched-

uled for Jan. 13 and if all goes according to plan, the removal of the scaffolding will be done the week of Jan. 20.

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Photo courtesy of Karen Knight

Above, a photo of two fishermen relaxing near the surf was submitted by Karen Knight, a Cape May second home owner.

Good

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of the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce, said his motel has been booked most weekends through the holiday season. He said revenue at the motel was up from 2012, which in his mind is tremendous given the present economy.

"Speaking as the manager of the Victorian Motel, we had multiple sold out weekends. We did great during the holidays," Cooke said. "As a business manager and consumer, Cape May seemed to be just as bustling as ever. Most of the business people have been very satisfied with

2013."

Klineburger said the tourist season has also expanded in recent years, beginning in mid-March and running through early January. She said most Cape May businesses, especially on the mall, switch to weekends by mid-January and then close down for a short time before the spring.

"More and more people seem to be finding us," she said. "Cape May has great shopping, great people, beautiful beaches, the new Convention Hall - so I think it's helped bring more visitors."

Sue Tischler, owner of the

Kaleidoscope and Just For Laughs gift shops on the mall, said she agreed that weather was a big factor in the success of local business sales this year.

"The weather helped us quite a bit. It wasn't the best season in the world, but it was nice to see people out," she said of the shoulder season leading into the holidays. "I haven't heard anything bad from any other shop owners."

Walking down the mall during the weekend after Christmas, many shops had discounted prices on all of their inventory. Store windows were lined with 25 and 30 percent off signs as shop

owners are pushing to make room for fresh inventory in the spring.

"The offseason is here. You see a lot of discounted merchandise this time of year," Tischler said.

Debbie Dudley, manager of Fralinger's Salt Water Taffy, said the Washington Street Mall's "Hospitality Nights" in mid-December were great for business, as well as the Congress Hall tree lighting, as they brought countless visitors to the mall. She said the candy shop did very well, especially on weekends.

"The last couple of years, people thought we were under devastation because

of the hurricanes, but we weren't. That hurt business, so it was tough," Dudley said. "The weather was much more cooperative this year."

Dudley said it was the usual treats that topped the holiday sales at Fralinger's, such as the traditional taffy, fudge and store made chocolates. She said tourist buses that came to Cape May helped boost business at the shop and other stores on the mall, however, she would like to see more.

"It would be nice if we could get more buses, especially during the holidays, like Lancaster (Pa.) and Peddler's Village," she said. "But, that's

up to the city."

Patty Lewis, manager of Lynn Arden's Children Shoppe, said she feels the city has done a much better job promoting Cape May in recent years.

"They've extended the tourist season and tell our locals to shop local, so that's a plus," Lewis said. "I think we did very well this year. We didn't have any snow, hurricanes or a massive storm or anything, so that helped. We did quite well."

Soup

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such as antique furniture.

"We have everything from the regular, restaurant packages to desserts and fruits for a year, and then cleaning services," she said. Matthews said her husband has donated a "spring clean-

ing" to be auctioned off for the radio station.

"All these things yield pretty much, and it all benefits the radio station," she said, Matthews said last year's event drew a full house of people, who also get to meet

the radio personalities, such as Mike Murphy, Denise Green, Ray Crew and Ed McDonnough, and to put a face to a name. She said a lot of the personalities have a growing audience, especially due to Facebook.

"Like Roy Baker's Open Mic with Liz Shea. Those who reach out to Facebook get attention, and the feedback has been very positive," Matthews said. The WCFA Soup-er Bowl will be held on Friday, Jan.

31, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the West Cape May Fire Hall. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Center for Community Arts' radio station, WCFA-LP FM 101.5

Spay/neuter \$10

TRENTON - Spaces are available now for state sterilization funding program available to qualified residents. The program begins on Jan. 1, 2014 (while funds last) at various participating veterinary offices in the state to help qualified residents spay or neuter their pets for only \$10. Because spaces go quickly, Shore Veterinarians is encouraging residents to

sign up early in December for the program before all the slots are taken. Shore Veterinarians participates in this state program at all four of their locations including Seaville and Egg Harbor Township.

Residents in the state can spay and neuter their pets at various veterinary offices for

Please see Spay, page A3

Knitters dressed up Wilbraham Park

WEST CAPE MAY - "The knitted tree is up for the holiday season in West Cape May," said Mayor Pam Kaithern. "We are excited about the knitted tree, the knitters did an amazing job decorating the entrance to the town's park."

The tree was knitted by "Scarf It Up," which is a non-profit group of knitters run by Francesa Geores. Their one goal is to keep the less fortunate warmer in the winter months.

"We knit scarves hats, gloves, baby blankets... you name it. We distribute to families in the region who are in need," said Geores, who is also the owner of Enchanted Fibers, which offers knitting lessons.

"This has been such a great experience for us, as we gath-

er once a week to knit. Most of us are knitting year round, watching TV or at the movies. We are always knitting," Geores said. "Knitting has become hip with both men and woman, who are realizing the relaxing benefits you get from the creative process."

West Cape May became internationally known when knitters decorated trees in the park a couple of years ago.

"This sparked the interest of news sources around the world," Kaithern said. "We were featured on all the major networks and once it hit Twitter and the NY Times, things took on a life of their own."

Scarf It Up is collecting donations for more knitted pieces from those who would

like a way to give back.

"We worked with GABLES of Cape May County to help get the tree knitted, highlighting the work we do in the area. If you are near Wilbraham Park, please stop by and check it out. If you would like to knit an ornament for the tree, just contact us and we will install it for all to see," Geores said.

Scarf It Up also worked with the West Cape May Shade Tree Commission, who runs the park, to get the tree completed for the holiday season. "It has been great to get awareness out about this worthwhile cause in our community," Kaithern said. "It's part of why West Cape May is such a super place to live - great people doing great things for others."

To view the knitted tree visit

Wilbraham Park - specifically the entrance of the park near the intersection of Perry and Park Blvd. For more information on Wilbraham Park, go to "Friends of Wilbraham Park" on Facebook.

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