



**Star and Wave Bridal Fair, Sunday, Oct. 14 at Convention Hall**



**LCMR Girls soccer hangs on to beat Middle Twp., 5-4 under lights, B6.**



**See 'Belle of Amherst' in Sea & Do columns, B1.**



# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 41 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, October 10, 2012 50¢



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

**Lima Bean Festival done in 'good taste'**  
WEST CAPE MAY – Mmm, mmm good, festival goers enjoy lima bean soup at the West Cape May Lima Bean Festival held Oct. 6 in Wilbraham Park. See more photos on page A12.

## City Hall restoration work will cost more

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The contractor hired to perform masonry work for the City Hall renovation project will take more time and money than originally anticipated.

City council on Oct. 2 authorized a change order to add

install new flashing. Only the front of the building will receive new flashing, while the east and west sides of the building will receive new caulking for the time being, Roberts said. He said because the city did not expect the issue when budgeting for the project, there is not enough funding to replace flashing



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Cape May City Hall, built in 1917 as Cape May High School, is receiving a much needed upgrade, but it will cost about 13 percent more than originally bid.

\$14,000 to the \$98,000 originally authorized.

At the Oct. 2 meeting, City Engineer Ray Roberts said the contractor, Mangan Masonry Restoration of Philadelphia, Pa., examined the exterior of City Hall, which was built in 1917 as the former Cape May High School. Roberts said the contractor investigated cracks in the structure that had been sealed with caulk, and found the flashing in certain areas to be inadequate and a primary cause of water leaks.

Roberts said the insufficient flashing was found at the front of the building as well as on the east and west sides above the cornice. The cornice runs entirely across the building and a portion of the west side. Weak flashing was also found around windows, which are scheduled to be replaced during the renovation project.

Roberts said two layers of brick will need to be removed near the cornice in order to

everywhere it is needed. "They will remove the existing caulking that has deteriorated over the years and put in more suitable caulking. It's a one or two year fix until the city has the money for the more permanent repairs."

The original bid awarded for the project was \$98,000, but the change order increased the amount to roughly \$112,000. Mayor Ed Mahaney said there was a 20-percent change order limit put on the contract and this change equates to 13-percent. He said even if the city had the funding to install new flashing around the entire cornice, performing the task would exceed the change order limit.

Roberts said it was fortunate the contractor noticed the problem before proceeding with originally scheduled repairs, because the existing, inadequate flashing could have led to more serious problems in the future.

Please see More, page A2

## Community church seeks community's help

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Episcopal Church of the Advent in Cape May is reaching out to the community for help restoring the church to its original beauty and condition.

Pastor Rev. Dr. John Mitchell said the church is making an appeal to the community because the church has always been something of a community building. "It's an important historical space, and a space that is used on a regular basis for any number of organizations," Mitchell said.

The church has already received a number of private pledges from members of the parish, and they are now appealing to the broader community. Mitchell said the church and its church hall have been used for anything from concerts put on by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities to a meeting place for 12-step programs. He said that use by the community suggests the community has a vested interest in preserving the building, as does the singular aspect of it being a historic structure.

The 1866 structure was originally built as a summer-only church facility. There



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the Episcopal Church of the Advent has been undergoing a lot of renovations lately. Often used for community functions, the church is now looking to the broader community to help fund restoration of the 1866 church.

was no need for heat and the idea of air-conditioning did not exist. In recent years, the congregation has been working to bring the building up to date. Over the past summer, the church received site plan approval and approval by the Zoning Board and Historic Preservation Commission.

"The next big step is renewing the interior," Mitchell said.

According to Mitchell, it's a big project to partially replace a 150-year-old floor, do electrical work, and install a new air-conditioning system. Future plans also include making the

church and hall fully handicapped accessible, create a walkway between the two buildings, expand the public meeting space in the church hall, and install an elevator in order to make the second floor usable.

Please see Help, page A2

## Shop owner tired of view of 'temporary' restrooms

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Terry Shields, owner of Shields Bike Rentals on Gurney Street, is not thrilled to see the modular restroom still in place on Beach Avenue even after Convention Hall is finished.

During public comment at the regular city council meeting on Oct. 2, Shields asked if anyone knew how long the restrooms, located in front of the seawall at the foot of Gurney on Beach Avenue, were going to be there and if the facility was now a permanent structure. He said there was a need for the restrooms during the demolition of the old Convention Hall and construction of the new facility, but didn't understand why



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Shields Bike Rental owner Terry Shields told city council he was tired of looking down Gurney Street and seeing postable restrooms when there are facilities in Convention Hall.

the facility still needed to be there now that the project is complete.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the modular structure was not

intended to be a permanent structure. He said the downsizing of Convention Hall meant fewer restrooms than anticipated.

Shields said when he asked City Manager Bruce MacLeod if restrooms could be installed in the former Oasis Restaurant on the promenade, he was told the project could cost as much as \$500,000.

"You could build a nice house for \$500,000," Shields said to MacLeod. "We have talented workers in this city, who I'm sure could do it for less than that."

Mahaney said council would have to decide if a capital improvement project to install restrooms in the Oasis were to be undertaken by the city. The property is city-owned and currently used as a ticket window for Convention Hall. He added

Please see View, page A2

## Council might limit outdoor dog tethering

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council is discussing creating more restrictions on tethering dogs outside in response to a fatal attack by one dog on another.

The discussion sparked from an incident in the 1000 block of Washington Street on Sept. 12, when a 12-week-old puppy tethered to a tree was killed by a larger dog passing by with its owner.

Linda Steenrod, a neighbor to the home where the attack occurred, witnessed the event. She said the owner of the larger pit bull mix was walking by and noticed the

puppy was tangled up and out of reach of its food and water. When the individual tied her pit bull to a trashcan and went to assist the puppy, the dog broke free and attacked.

Steenrod said she heard screaming and came outside. When she realized what was happening, she tried to separate the two animals. She said the aggressor dog never bit her, but she did sustain a bite-like injury when she tried to pry the dog's mouth open and release the defenseless puppy.

At the Sept. 18 council meeting, Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca said she would like council to enact

stricter animal protection ordinances. In the following weeks, City Solicitor Tony Monzo researched other Cape May County municipalities and found Ocean City, Upper Township and Dennis Township each has its own ordinance relating to the tethering of dogs.

Monzo, City Manager Bruce MacLeod and Code Enforcement officials drafted a new section for city code 145-8 (Control of Dogs), which MacLeod said is titled "chaining or tethering of dogs." He said there were four specific points in the section to be considered for adoption by council.

Item one says a dog must

be able to move freely with a tangle-free tether measuring a minimum of 15 linear feet in length. It says the chain shall not be long enough to allow the dog onto another property and must be made of lightweight, yet durable material.

Item two in the section says a doghouse or shelter must be accessible to the animal from where it is tethered. Point three states non-spayed or neutered dogs are not permitted to be chained or tethered outside. MacLeod said these dogs can only be outside if kept in an enclosed pen or fencing,

Please see Dog, page A4

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