

City

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Convention Hall, at the Feb. 7 regular council meeting, city council authorized the city's selection of a ticketing system it will use for the facility. During the meeting, Michael Chait, assistant director of marketing, communication and event sales explained the Seat Advisor ticketing system, which is the same program used at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.

Seat Advisor is a box office management system that functions like most other online ticketing services. Customers can print the ticket at home and it is scanned at the door.

Chait said from the customer standpoint, it's simple and easy to use. He said from the city's point of view, it is the best option financially, costing around \$25,000. He said the program also provides the city with demographic data from ticket purchasers that can be used for marketing purposes.

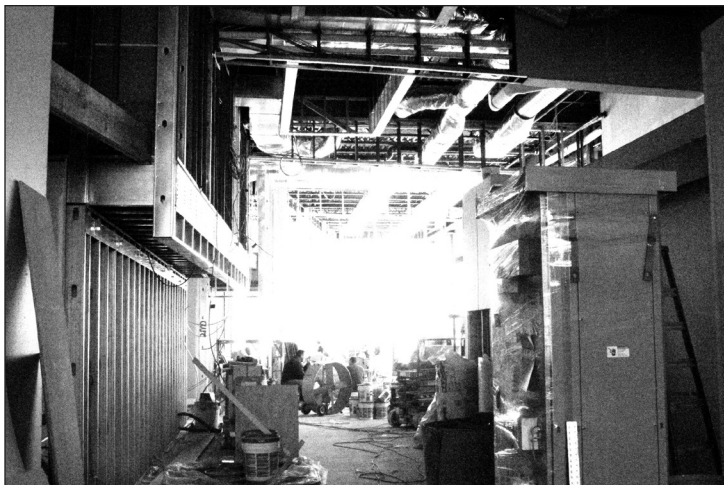
"This is a system you need to have in this day and age," Chait said to council.

Seat Advisor will create seating maps based on each individual show, as seating arrangements will change during different events. Tickets can be purchased online, by phone and at the box office. The system also works with social media websites like Facebook.

He said he compared Seat Advisor with similar programs like New Era, but it seemed to be the best choice for Cape May, especially from a financial standpoint. Chait said New Era charges a monthly fee, while Seat



Above, materials being delivered to the Convention Hall construction site on Beach Avenue. Below, a shot from the inside showing progress on the construction, due to be completed in May.



Advisor simply charges 65 cents per ticket sold.

"The savings are pretty substantial," he said.

He said the system could be up and running in three weeks, and the city will only be responsible for purchasing the hardware, such as the scanners, afterwards, which

he said cost around \$1,400. However, he said the price could possibly be brought down when they are bought in bulk.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the Seat Advisor ticketing system will generate revenue for the city and serve as an efficient marketing tool as well.

Smoke

Continued from page A1

Fiocca said she was in favor of the ban and received 50/50 feedback from the public — some opposing and some for it. She said she realized that if smoking was banned on the beach, the smokers would gather on the promenade and at beach entrances creating a nauseating, dense smoke people have to walk through.

John Cooke, President of the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce said at a previous meeting that the chamber was concerned a total smoking ban involving the beach, promenade and public parks would drive away Canadian tourists. Wichterman said his research concluded that there are fewer smokers in Canada than in the U.S., so he didn't

believe this was true.

"I have since found that 17 percent of people smoke in Canada and 21 percent smoke in the states," Wichterman said.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Cooke said the chamber would be willing to work with the committee on a ban involving just the beach. He recommended making an area for smoking on the beach of 100 yards from the promenade toward the beach.

During public comment, local attorney Daniel Kurkowski said the city would be better off enforcing the littering laws already in effect as opposed to creating a smoking ban because there could be repercussions involved. He said the most harmful aspect of smokers

on the beach is putting the cigarette butts in the sand because it's dangerous to the environment and makes the beaches unappealing.

"I think the fight that you are fighting is going kind of the wrong direction," he said. "I believe in preserving Constitutional rights, and anytime you put an all-encompassing ban on a right that is permitted, you're going to end up with lawsuits."

Kurkowski said other towns that have imposed a ban will most likely run into problems with organizations and groups trying to fight and lift it.

"Wait a couple of years until this develops," he said. "We'll see how far these smoking bans go."

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the committee could look into creating a potential smoking ban for summer 2013. However, he shared the views of his fellow councilmembers and felt the ban would bring negative feedback from the public.

West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company not up to code

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company will need to improve the fire alarm system in its social hall if it is to meet regulations set forth in the fire codes.

At the Feb. 8 regular West Cape May Board of Commissioners meeting, Public Safety Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said the fire hall has been non-compliant with certain fire code regulations and American Disability Act (ADA) requirements for several years. He said the annual fire inspections at the hall are done by Fire Defense Systems, LLC, of Cape May Courthouse and the problems they pointed out were not severe enough for fines to be issued or requiring immediate correction.

"The annual inspections said there were problems, but nothing was ever done about them," Geyer said following the meeting. "None of them were considered to be flagrant. The building is compliant because it has everything it's supposed to

have, but some things need to be updated to today's standards."

He said when the fire hall was built in 1979, there were heat detectors installed in the ceiling as opposed to smoke detectors. Geyer said prior to the state's Clean Air Act, people would smoke at events in the social hall, which could have set off the smoke detectors, and heat detectors were installed instead.

He said another fire code problem was the current that the fire alarm box is connected to the heat detectors, but not to the central monitoring system, which alerts 911 dispatch if the alarms go off. He said the alarm box has the capability of being tapped into the monitoring system, but has never been hooked up.

Geyer said what worries him most, other than the matter of public safety, is the fact that there is around \$2 million worth of equipment in the engine bay of the firehouse. With no notification to dispatch if the alarms go off, the equipment is essentially left at risk.

"If it the building caught

on fire, no one would know unless they came by," he said.

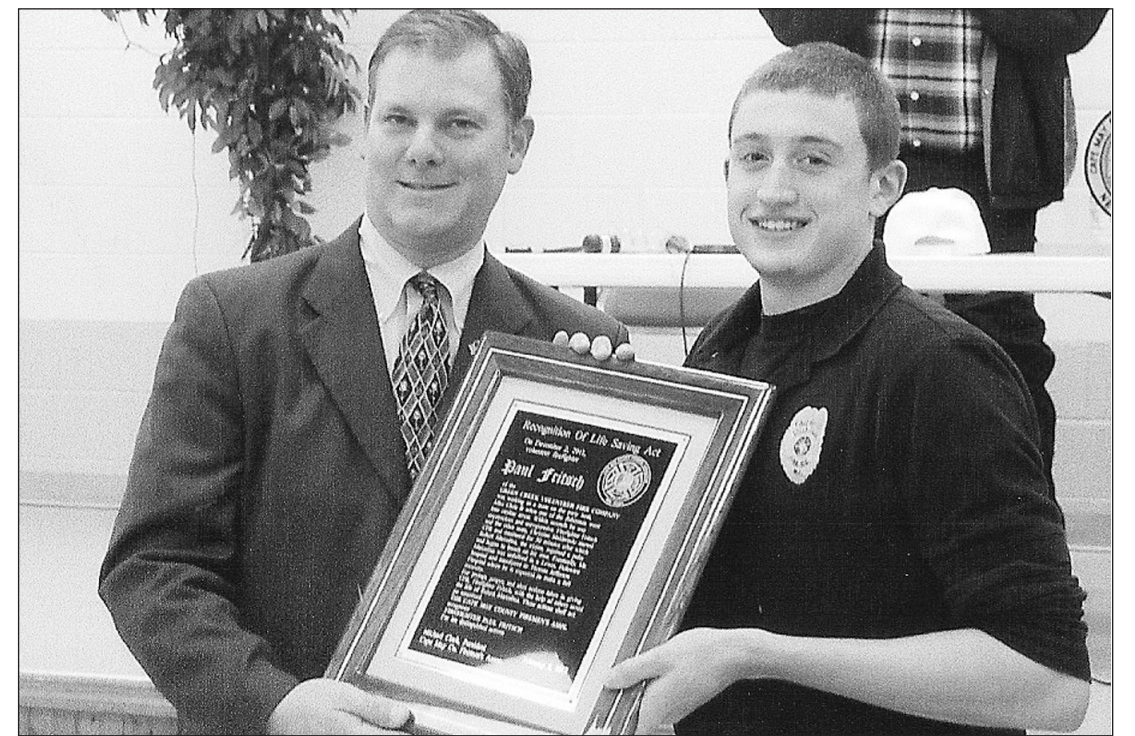
With regard to ADA requirements, Geyer said the emergency pull-downs on the front garage bay doors are too high. He said the pull-downs should be within reach of someone in a wheel chair or with a height disadvantage.

Mayor Pam Kaithern asked Geyer to retrieve quotes from companies and find out how much it would cost to make the fire hall compliant with current regulations. She said once the pricing was found, it could be discussed at the 2012 budget meeting. Kaithern said it is possible that it could qualify as a capital expense.

She suggested retrieving a quote from the company that installed the borough hall alarm system.

Geyer said the commissioners needed to take appropriate action.

"We want to make sure we're doing what's right to protect the people using that fire hall without raising any unnecessary red flags," Geyer said.



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Crest firefighter recognized

WILDWOOD CREST — The Cape May County Firemen's Association meeting was held and the highlight of the evening was a life saving award presented to a Green Creek Volunteer firefighter, Paul Fritsch. President Mike Clark presented a plaque in recognition of a life saving act. The plaque as follows:

On Dec. 2, 2011 volunteer firefighter Paul Fritsch of the Green Creek Volunteer Fire Company was working as a mate on the party boat, Miss Chris II when one of the fishermen went into cardiac arrest. Within seconds he was unconscious and unresponsive. Firefighter Fritsch and the other mate, Christian Maldonado, started CPR and continued for 30 minutes after which Robert Marcolina, the victim, regained a pulse and began to breathe on his own. Eventually, Marcolina was stabilized in a Lewes, Del., hospital and transferred to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital where he is expected to make a full recovery. For prompt, proper, and alert actions taken in giving CPR, Firefighter Fritsch, with the help of others saved the life of Robert Marcolina. These actions shall not go unnoticed. The Cape May County Firemen's Association recognizes Firefighter Paul Fritsch for his distinguished actions. The Cape May County Firemen's Association is made up of firefighters from Cape May County. A monthly meeting is held at different firehouses throughout the county. Representatives from the different fire units meet and discuss fire issues, which keep the firefighters on the cutting edge of the fire service.

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**JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 2D PG 12:15
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**THE VOW PG-13 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
**SAFE HOUSE R 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
**THIS MEANS WAR PG-13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55
CHRONICLE PG-13 3:00, 7:25
WOMAN IN BLACK PG-13 12:30, 5:15, 9:40

HERE'S AN IDEA...BUY SOMEONE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE.

Plan
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mit to the county is some thing to work on.
"The maps is sewerable areas — where they may go, but not (necessarily) will go," Galestock said.

Public
Continued from page A1
ioners agreed they would still like feedback from West Cape May residents without the use of a formal referendum.
Kaithern said she would like to use feedback in the press and on the borough website to retrieve public opinion.
"The last thing we need to do is make a change, and then have an outrage," she said.
Burke said by changing the election date, it was important for residents to realize that the existing term of the current board members would be extended by six months.
The West Cape May Board of Commissioners encourages residents to submit their opinion by phone or email. There will also be a survey developed shortly and put on the borough website, which is www.westcapemay.us.

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