

Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 9 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 29, 2012 50¢



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Lady Tigers advance in state tourney, B6

Caper Tigers out of sync for Wilson, B6

Lou Rodia on Fishing: Freshwater bait, B2

Community Events, A4

TIDES Feb./March 2012 Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
29	12:27	12:53	6:52	6:37		
1	1:24	1:56	7:53	7:36		
2	3:28	3:03	8:56	8:39		
3	3:31	4:05	9:53	9:40		
4	4:27	4:59	10:44	10:37		
5	5:18	5:47	11:29	11:29		
6	6:05	6:32		12:12		
7	6:49	7:17	12:19	12:54		

MOON PHASES

Full Moon, March 8
Last Quarter, March 14
New Moon, March 22
First Quarter, March 30
Perigee, March 10
Apogee, March 26

Tourism Advisory Committee chooses Cape May 'brand'

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Advisory Committee on Tourism held its first official meeting last Thursday, as local organization representatives met to discuss the future of Cape May and how to market it as a destination.

The committee was created as part of the new Tourism Utility and will report to city

council with recommendations with regards to tourism, marketing and local events, such as parades and events that will be held at the new Convention Hall. Meetings will be held six times a year.

The objectives of the initial meeting were to discuss tourism marketing in and around the city, branding Cape May, and a logo contest for tourism

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CM Council sets policy for use of Convention Hall

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council passed a resolution at the Feb. 21 meeting establishing a policy pertaining to negotiations for use of the new Convention Hall.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said City Solicitor Tony Monzo drew up the resolution, which allows Mike Whipple,

negotiations as a checks and balances procedure. He said this will make certain that the agreements are fair to both parties and will benefit the taxpayers of Cape May City. Monzo will also review the negotiations to find any legal flaws.

Council is currently in the process of reviewing a bid submitted by Light Action Productions of New Castle,



Director of Marketing, Communication and Event Sales, to negotiate contracts with vendors and performers as well as negotiate ticket prices, policies and procedures for use of the new hall. Mahaney said this resolution would not be responsible for reviewing all the contracts for events and shows.

He said some events however, have been reviewed by council such as the "Stockton Goes to the Beach" concert series that is being held throughout the summer. According to Mahaney, City Manager Bruce MacLeod will also review the contract

Del. for portable stage decks, which would be used in the new Convention Hall. It was the only bid received by the city on Feb. 22, when the bids opened. The city was looking for a stage that could easily be removed when it wasn't needed for an event.

MacLeod said the bid came in at \$26,555. The stage deck comes with steps, guardrails and can be adjusted to three height levels – 12 inches, 24 inches and 36 inches.

He said for an additional \$4,704, Light Action Productions would include American Disability Act

Please see **Hall**, page A2

Beck, residents question nominations to committee

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Mayor Mike Beck and a number of residents attending last week's Lower Township Council meeting found fault with a resolution to appoint three members to a liaison committee.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare asked for a resolution to create a "Special Committee for Liaison to the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders with Regard to Economic Development

at the Cape May County Airport."

Resolution 2-12-68, if passed, would have appointed Township Manager Mike Voll, Lare, and Ward 2 Councilman Walt Craig to the liaison committee. Beck asked that the resolution be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda, where it could be discussed. Beck said he thought the liaison committee was an important idea, and he believed it should be discussed by council as the Public Safety

Building Committee was.

"It's such an important decision I think we should hold off for one more meeting," he said.

Lare said he thought it was premature to begin discussions among 8 or 10 people. He said he was approached by Freeholder Will Morey and asked to provide the names of a liaison committee. The committee members would take part in discussions between the freeholder

Please see **Beck**, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Sunset Beach was named that for a reason

Above, just in case anyone was wondering how Sunset Beach got its name, we are running another photo showing one of the many picturesque sunsets that can be seen there throughout the year. Star and Wave editor Christopher South followed the setting sun, last Friday, because it looked like it would make a good photograph. What do you think?

WCM Fire Hall to receive upgrades

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company potentially could receive an energy efficiency makeover if state money is received this year.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said the borough applied for the state funding in 2010, but it was never obtained. Burke anticipates the borough will be getting the money this year, which he said could be up to \$75,000 all directed to the firehouse. He said it's a

substantial amount of money, because there's more available than in 2010 and 2011. According to Burke, the borough must provide a 30 percent match to the funding received.

"So potentially, the amount of money could be close to \$100,000," he said.

He said if West Cape May were to receive the money, the state would perform inspections and determine what the building needs, meaning the borough doesn't have direct control over what the money is spent on.

He said the renovations would be done by state-approved contractors with the borough and the state sharing portions of the cost. He said when the Public Works building and Borough Hall had work done, using the same state-funding program, West Cape May was not responsible for any of the contractor cost. However, Burke said, there are new rules and regulations for 2012.

Burke said an energy audit has already been done on the

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Cape May is looking at a 1.1 cent increase on tax rate

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council introduced the 2012 City Budget at the Feb. 21 meeting, which would mean a 1.1-cent property tax increase, if adopted.

With this increase, the owner of a \$500,000 home would see an additional \$55 in their tax bill for 2012. The tax rate would be 29 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. In 2011, the tax rate was 28.3 cents.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city is within the state's 2.5 percent spending cap as well as the levy cap, but encouraged council to increase the spending cap to 3.5 percent, which is allowed by the state. Council introduced an ordinance to do so at the Feb. 21

meeting. "The fact of the matter is that this budget, as presented and introduced, is \$749,000 below that spending cap capitalization," MacLeod said.

He said what the increase allows the city to do is create a cap bank, putting Cape May in the best possible position moving forward if the capital changes.

"It doesn't mean that we're spending more money, it's just that we've authorized the invoking of the 1 percent increment," he said.

MacLeod said the budget with the 1 percent increase will be considered for adoption at the Mar. 20 meeting.

Cape May ended 2011 with \$3.2 million in the surplus account, and MacLeod and City Auditor Leon Costello recommended the city use \$2 million in the 2012 budget.

The current fund budget totals \$15.5 million with salary and wages coming in at \$6.3 million. Total appropriations for salaries in 2012 have increased by \$92,945. MacLeod said no layoffs were recommended with the budget.

When MacLeod assembled the proposed 2012 municipal budget he said it was no longer possible for the city to maintain a zero tax increase as it has in past years; therefore, the 1.1-cent property tax increase in unlikely to change. However, city council does have the opportunity to make amendments.

MacLeod said a public hearing on the budget would be held at the Mar. 20 meeting.

Snyder named LT Firefighter of the Year

LOWER TOWNSHIP – John Snyder of the Villas Fire Company was named the Lower Township Firefighter of the Year, an honor bestowed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Villas Fire Chief Rich Harron highlighted some of Snyder's work, education and dedication to the fire company, which led to his selection as one of the township's best. The selection led to Snyder being named third in the state's Firefighter of the Year contest.

Harron said Snyder has been involved in many auto extractions. He has earned his EMT certification and works part-time in Cape May. Harron said Snyder has acquired an additional 240 educational hours above what is required, for a total of 520 hours of training. Based on the dedication he has shown to his fire company, Snyder was selected as 2012 Firefighter of the Year for



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Villas Fire Chief Rich Harron (left) reads the accomplishments of 2012 Firefighter of the Year John Snyder (right) during an awards presentation at Lower Township Hall, Feb. 22.

Lower Township.

Snyder is a 2005 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School where he was

a member of the National Honor Society and a Peer

Please see **Year**, page A2



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