

Kiwanis rummage sale is a Memorial Day tradition

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – For over 25 years, the Kiwanis Club has accepted donated items from the public in order to sell to raise money for maintenance of the clubhouse on Beach Avenue.

The Memorial Day weekend tradition continues as the Cape May Kiwanis Club hosts its annual yard sale Saturday, May 28, on the lawn of the clubhouse, welcoming hundreds of bargain shoppers from across the region.

Kiwanis member Jim Wyatt, said Cape May Kiwanis is the only club to own its clubhouse, which is an old life-saving station built in 1891. Because of its age, he said it has needed many repairs and upgrades over the years like a new heating and air conditioning system, paint, roofing and other items. He said the clubhouse currently needs new windows and some general repairs.

Terry Morris, chairperson of the yard sale, said the yard sale is the only event in which the Kiwanis Club can raise money for itself. All other events hosted by the club raise money that goes back into the community. The yard sale originally began when the Kiwanis wives were looking for a way to raise money for the club. However, when the club started to allow women to become members 10 years ago, both male and female members got involved.

Morris said everything but clothes are acceptable donations for the yard sale. Over the years, people have donated everything imaginable – furniture, electronics, artwork, picture frames, dishware, toys, tools, jewelry and so much more.

Kate Wyatt, President of the Cape May Taxpayers Association and honorary Kiwanis member, said people should never do their holiday decoration shopping anywhere else but the Kiwanis yard sale, because there is always plenty to go around. Morris said bikes and beach chairs are usually the first to sell, since people can purchase them at a cheap price and use them for the weekend in Cape May. According to Kate, the yard sale is one of the most popular annual events in the city.

“Everyone looks forward to the yard sale and so many people donate,” Kate said.

She said there have been people who donated the entire contents of their home when they retired and moved or received it as an inheritance.

Over the years, the yard sale crew has seen plenty of exceptionally generous donations like classic pewter and silver dinner utensil sets, antique jewelry and doll collections, as well as beautiful furniture. Morris said sometimes she wishes there was an appraisal expert available to determine the value of the treasures they encounter. Of

course with some items, she would like someone around who can determine what it actually is. She and Kate said there have been some strange contributions to the sale, like last year’s “waistband stretcher.” She said it took them hours to figure out what it was used for since there was no box or directions with it.

Whatever the donation may be, the volunteers will find a place in the sale for it and thank all contributors for their generosity. Morris said people tend to drop off items at the clubhouse without any information about what the items are worth, but the club is more than willing to give donors a receipt for their deductions. Kiwanis will also pick up donations if someone is unable to deliver their items.

This year, the yard sale will be a one-stop shop for guests as the Garden Club of Cape May will also be holding their annual plant sale at the clubhouse, offering an array of locally grown potted perennials.

Morris said Kiwanis spends two days setting up for the sale and could always use volunteers. She said any residents who wish to lend a hand can reach her at 827-9405 or the Wyatts at 884-0806.

Dates for donation drop-offs and bulk pick-ups are May 26 and May 27. To arrange a drop-off or pick-up, call the Kiwanis Clubhouse at 884-8888 and leave a message.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Elizabeth Degener offers homemade, wood-fired, clay oven baked bread with a smile.

Bread

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to 25 people, and they might end up working on a family farm or maybe just one couple’s farm.

Degener tried WWOOF-ing in Germany during a break from college. When she graduated she decided to return to Germany where she continued to learn more about agriculture, baking, anything the eco-community had to offer. After Germany she went to India where she continued the same type of work before returning home in the winter of 2010.

“When I came home I knew I wanted to do something with farming or baking,” she said.

Degener said her parents’ property on Sunset Boulevard has always been a farm, but had not been significantly farmed since her great grand parents acquired the property. She is the only Degener child interested in farming, and she has been taking on other farming projects, including raising ducks. Degener said she has ordered 600 raspberry plants she will put in this spring. She decided to begin baking and finds it very therapeutic.

She said all the bread is hand-kneaded, and that is part of the therapy, part of what gives her satisfaction in her work. Still, as her bread is

becoming more popular with people, she has been fighting with the idea of getting a dough mixing machine. Either way, she seems to have found her niche.

“This is really an important thing in my life,” she said. “Baking didn’t resonate with me right away; at home it resonates much more.”

Degener said she struggled for a few years and was looking for a foundation; some stability. She said they ordered a clay oven so she could continue baking, as she did in Germany.

“It was almost a fluke how it started,” she said.

She came home and started planting and gardening. She decided to get the clay oven and started out with small batches, learning how to get it right. She said today’s farms normally need some kind of business function, such as selling baked goods, in order to survive.

Eventually she started creating different blends of grains and herbs and has come up with a fairly extensive bread menu.

She said she just started baking bread for the 2012 season, and is open on Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. Last Saturday she was offering: classic French bread, rosemary and thyme bread, olive oil and black pepper,

toasted millet-sunflower-flax-poppo seed, raisin and spice, “everything” (includes onion, garlic, sesame, poppy, and caraway), multigrain (with sunflower and sesame seeds), polenta and sage, curry-fennel-anise and coconut milk, oatmeal molasses, smoked garlic and pumpernickel.

“They’re my recipes. I will try them out and if people say ‘That’s really good,’ I’ll add it to the list,” she said.

As the menu grows, so does Degener’s confidence, her ability and her satisfaction with her work. She said she has wanted something she could put her name on, and she seems to have hit on it. Ironically, she has not hit on a name for her business. The sign near the roadway reads “Wood fired clay oven baked bread,” but that is a description, not a name.

Even without a name behind her business, Degener is finding satisfaction on a daily basis.

“I’m the happiest I’ve ever been. I never resent what I’m doing, even when I’m working 16 hours a day and have to go in the garden between batches,” she said.

She is selling bread on the weekends now, and will expand the number of days she is open as the busy season arrives.

Hall

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One of the final exterior projects will be repairing the seawall, which was breached to allow equipment and materials through. MacLeod said when he was at the facility

and keep intruders from going underneath the hall. Solar panel installation on the roof has also begun. MacLeod said the panels were being lifted onto the building by crane on Friday.

“Construction is starting to wind down,” he said. “We’re moving ahead according to schedule.”

The Convention Hall has a completion date of Memorial Day, but should be open prior to that date for the Lower Cape May Regional prom on May 12.

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Tax

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Monzo would continue looking for other municipalities

facing the same issues as Cape May and Seaside Park.

At the Tuesday, April 17 regular meeting, he said

he would provide the state with information on regional



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***SAFE R 12:05, 2:25, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40

CABIN IN THE WOODS R 12:35, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 9:55

HUNGER GAMES PG-13 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

***THE LUCKY ONE PG-13 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45

THE 3 STOOGES PG-13 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

school costs by the end of the week. He said he had no problem returning to Trenton, or anywhere else for that matter, to have more meetings on the topic.

Wichterman told Gramiccioni, even though property values in Cape May have increased over the years, it doesn’t mean the residents living in them are millionaires or wealthy enough to face constant increases in school tax. He said many have either inherited the homes or are elderly citizens on fixed incomes.

“All they have is their property,” he said.

Wichterman said special legislation could change the present funding formula or give state funding as compensation for Cape May’s large sum of money paid to the school district. However, he didn’t believe legislators would “have the backbone” to change the unjust formula, even though it’s the right thing to do. Lower Township has approximately 14,700 voters while Cape May has a little over 1,600. Wichterman made it clear he didn’t want to harm surrounding municipalities, but just wants a fair funding system for the regional school district.

“I’m not trying to hurt the folks in either West Cape May or Lower Township but not a single one of them voted for me or you guys,” he said to his fellow council members. “We have to go to work for the folks within the city of Cape May.”

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25	11:22	11:28	5:14 4:54
26	12:02	5:55	5:36
27	12:09	12:49	6:39 6:25
28	12:57	1:44	7:29 7:23
29	1:52	2:46	8:23 8:28
30	2:54	3:48	9:19 9:35
1	3:58	4:47	10:13 10:40
2	5:00	5:42	11:06 11:40
Moon Phases Full Moon, April 6 Last Quarter, April 13 New Moon, April 21 First Quarter, April 29 Perigee, April 7 Apogee, April 22			