

Police

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of piercings into the roof. Additionally, there appears to be at least three layers of roofing material, and they have no idea of the condition of the roof underneath. And the roof could be one of myriad problems with the aged structure.

"Anything that doesn't meet code, it could lead to problems," Shousky said.

Shousky said one recommendation for the old building, if vacated, could be rented to another governmental agency - but the code issues would still exist. The committee has considered recommending a partial demolition of the building. According to Mayor Mike Beck, the garage portion of the acre-sized building is "built like a bunker."

Shousky said the 48,000 square foot building is actually too large for the police department.

"That size building makes it virtually impossible to manage a staff," he said.

He said after consulting with Marker, he estimated

the police department needed 10 to 12,000 square feet. Shousky said there are a number restrooms and no water saving fixtures. He said there is a problem with airflow in the building, which also has no windows to allow natura; light and add atmosphere. Additionally, the township spent \$109,826 in 2011 in energy costs for the building. He said once the Manzoni office property is acquired they could sink wells and tap into geothermal energy for heating and cooling the municipal complex.

Additionally, the annex could be made ADA compliant.

Council members generally supported the recommendations of the committee, but Councilman Tom Conrad asked what legal ramifications there would be if the township leaves the building it purchased from Cape May County. Councilman Walt Craig had the same concern.

Beck said if council wished to move forward with the project, this would be the time to discuss the matter with the county.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said his biggest concern was the cost.

"At the end of the day it comes down to finances, whether and when we can afford to finance this," he said.

Beck said he had discussed the matter with Lauren Reed, the township's chief financial officer, and she said due to retiring debt, financing up to \$3 million for a new Public Safety building would not impact the budget. Beck said the township's debt has dropped from \$21 million three years ago to \$16.4 million today.

Beck said he did not fault the administration that made the decision to purchase the airport building, but even the earlier report said it seemed to have been decided based principally on the purchase price of the building. Beck said it turned out to be a bad investment because of the upkeep.

"Once the money began to be spent we couldn't keep up with it," he said.

Erma Camp still the place for many after 100 years

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA - For people like Myrle Madtes and her summer neighbors, Sid Watts and Joyce Uhrig, attending the Erma Camp Meeting was something they looked forward to every summer.

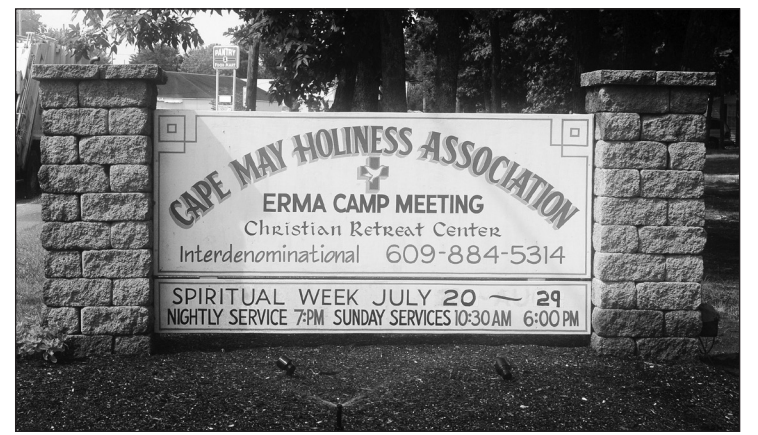
Watts, 72, and Uhrig, 69, are brother and sister, and the Watts family started visiting the Erma Camp Meeting in 1947. The Watts family built their own cottage on the grounds owned by the Erma Holiness Association. The camp was started in 1912, and is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

According to Watts, you had to belong to the organization, which would lease a parcel of land where you could put a cottage. The cottages were either built by the owner or with the help of men at the camp.

"This used to be one room and it was separated by curtains. There was a loft and a front porch, Uhrig said.

Most of the cottages are small, and Uhrig said they were able to expand the cottage by closing in the front porch. However, when it was built it was a single room with few amenities.

"There was no running water, no toilet," Madtes said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the sign outside the Erma Camp Meeting is a year around sight.

"There was no bathroom. (The camp) built a bathroom," Uhrig said.

There was a hand pump on the side of the Tabernacle - or meeting hall - and that is where people went to get their water until the early 1960s, when water became available to all the buildings.

According to Watts, the original Erma Camp Meeting was on Tabernacle Road, and it was moved to a former dumpsite. He said the dining hall and two dormitories were moved to 470 Seashore Road, where the camp is now. Watts said as kids they would take buckets and walk the camp, picking up broken glass so people didn't step on it. He

said each year more glass would appear after the rains, but they finally seemed to get rid of it all.

The area also had lima bean fields where the Hawk Haven grapevines now grow. Watts said the beans were harvested with a machine that pulled up the entire plant and put it on a flatbed trailer. Some of the beans would fall off and the kids would pick them up and take them home.

"Or for 50 cents you could take a bag and they would fill it," Uhrig said.

The families would also buy ice to put in iceboxes to keep food cold. Cliff Chew was the

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One arrested after July 4 fight on Congress Hall lawn

CAPE MAY - A 28-year-old Blackwood man was arrested after an altercation on the Congress Hall lawn, July 4.

A Cape May Police Department report said charges followed the altercation on the Congress Hall lawn, where a large crowd had gathered for a barbecue picnic, entertainment, and the city's July 4 fireworks display.

At 8:29 p.m. Cape May City Police Officers were dispatched to the fight, where according to Ptlm. K. Mazza, a confrontation developed between a Paul P. Capelli, 48, of West Chester, Pa., and a David M. Gallagher, 73, of Lower Township. The fight was reportedly over the placement of a blanket and chairs and foul language.

As a result of this initial con-

frontation, Timothy B. Cain, 28, of Blackwood, identified as Gallagher's grandson, allegedly became involved in the conflict.

Cain has been charged with Assault and with Disorderly Conduct after he became involved and caused injury to an uninvolved child who was in the area at the time. She was transported by the Cape May Fire Department Rescue Squad to Cape Regional Medical Center for treatment of her injuries.

Cain is scheduled to appear in Cape May Municipal Court on July 18 at 9 a.m.

Unity

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other, but never all at once," she said.

Smith said the girls finished up their national dance

competition on July 8 and came right back to practice for America's Got Talent. They have been practicing their routine on nearly a daily basis, making sure they're prepared for the quarterfinals in Newark. The young acrobats' routine consists of handstands, jumps and twists and turns that would make Gumby think twice before attempting.

Unity in Motion could potentially perform two more times in the semifinals and finals if they advance. The final competitions will be held in September in Hollywood, Calif.

"It gives them a lot of time to prepare another routine for the semifinals and finals," Smith said.

Of the three celebrity judges; Stern, Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne - the girls say they like Stern the most. Smith made it clear, however, none of the young dancers were listening to his show - they simply like him for his honest judgments and constructive criticism. Smith said after his shout-outs to the dance team on the radio, she likes him even more.

"We're glad he's in our corner," she said. "He's honest and gives good critiques of the acts on stage."

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Smith said the girls have interacted most with the host, Nick Cannon, but received a lot of feedback from Mandel when they performed in front of the judges in Las Vegas.

"If you want a position (in the top 48), you have to fight for it," Mandel said to the group.

Tiffany DePaul, 16, said making the top 48 in Las Vegas was extremely difficult and intimidating since it was only the judges and no audience to cheer them on. DePaul said she feels confident in her fellow teammates and believes the July 24 live performance in Newark will boost their confidence.

"We're the only act from New Jersey so it's really cool that it's in Newark," she said. "It's almost like we have home field advantage."

Katya Simonsen, one of the youngest members of Unity in Motion, said she's excited to be moving forward in the competition and hopes everyone will support the group and help them get to the finals.

"We need everyone to be behind us," she said.

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JULY 2012
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	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
17	7:33	7:49	1:27	1:05
18	8:16	8:28	2:07	1:47
19	8:56	9:05	2:44	2:29
20	9:35	9:43	3:21	3:11
21	10:15	10:21	3:57	3:55
22	10:56	11:01	4:35	4:41
23	11:40	11:45	5:15	5:31
24		12:28	5:58	6:26
25	12:34	1:23	6:47	7:28

Moon Phases
Full Moon, July 3
Last Quarter, July 10
New Moon, July 19
First Quarter, July 26
Perigee, July 1, 29
Apogee, July 13