



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the site where the Beach Theatre used to stand has been the focus of complaints by former mayor Jerry Gaffney.

Former Beach Theatre site riles former mayor

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Former mayor Jerry Gaffney recommended the city use eminent domain in order to obtain the site of the former Beach Theatre from Frank Investments because he believes the area has been sitting unused for too long. Gaffney approached council three months ago and complained about the rear of the property being an eyesore, directly across the street from a brand new Convention Hall. The former auditorium section of the Beach Theatre is a now a dirt lot. The retail outlets that front Beach Avenue

and surrounded the Beach Theatre in the same complex remain open. At the Sept. 4 city council meeting, Gaffney suggested the city use its authority to take the Beach Theatre property at a fair market price and develop it or simply turn it into a parking lot. “Are you going to go forward and use your authority, possibly for eminent domain or something along those lines, or is it going to sit as it is today with nothing being done to it?” Gaffney asked council. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said it is the choice of Frank Investments,

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Nat'l Guard armory to be dedicated 9/16

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – The New Jersey National Guard Armory in Cape May Court House will have a new name on Sunday, Sept. 16, when it is dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. James Barkalow. Barkalow, who retired from the National Guard in September 1980, was one of the longest serving battalion commanders in New Jersey, according to Brig. General Jeff Pierson. Barkalow was the battalion commander for 14 years at the Cape May Court House armory, which is home to the 253rd Transportation Company. Pierson said he was a 2nd Lieutenant when he started his career and came to the armory, and over the years he came to know Barkalow

well. “He was a very unique guy – very distinguished,” Pierson said. “Just looking at him, you knew he was an officer because of the way he carried himself with such pride. When he walked in front of a formation, everyone knew he was the man.” Pierson said Barkalow was an A-20 Attack Bomber pilot during World War II, where he flew over 46 missions and earned eight air medals, one of which was the Distinguished Flying Cross. Barkalow also received four campaign ribbons upon his European Campaign Medal. His WWII service began in 1942 and continued until Nov. 13, 1945 when he left active duty. Pierson said Barkalow returned to his hometown

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Chew challenging Mahaney for mayor, Kurkowski, Meier will face off against Swain

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Mayor Ed Mahaney faces just one challenger in the Nov. 6 General Election, while two candidates are challenging Councilwoman Terri Swain for her seat on council. Sept. 4 was the deadline for candidates to submit their petitions to City Clerk Louise Cumiskey for the November election. Former Cape May police sergeant Russell “Rusty” Chew is challenging Mahaney for mayor, and Swain is being challenged in her re-election bid by Dan

Kurkowski and Shaine Meier. Meier is running for council for the second time. **For Mayor** Mahaney has been the mayor of Cape May since 2008 and has over 12 years experience on city council. He was previously mayor for a year term in 1995-96 and then continued with a seven-year stint as a councilman until 2003. “By that point, I felt I had served my community and did not run for re-election,” he said. “I thought it was important for council to have



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Above, Lee Moon of Cape May Point and Ithaca, N.Y., paints the Red Store in Cape May Point. Moon was participating in Marie Natale's plein air, or outdoors, painting class last week. The class took advantage of nice weather and plenty of sunshine. Inset below, Natale instructs Diane Close of West Cape May, pointing out how the light affects the subject.

Art students paint 'en plein air'

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Taking advantage of natural light, painting students have to learn to work quickly to capture their subject before the sun moves, changing all the shadows. There is also the matter of the paint drying on your brush, but for watercolor artist Marie Natale, it's more a matter of capturing the impression of an image, not making a reproduction. “I want the students to capture the essence and leave the obvious vague,” Natale said. Natale said all the insignificant details take away from the beauty of the subject; in this case, the Red Store at the corner of Cape Avenue and Pavilion Circle in Cape May Point. Natale was joined by four students who are enrolled in her watercolor class, which will travel to locations where they can find beautiful subject matter, such as in the Point. Natale has painted in Cape May Point before, painting St. Mary's By-the-Sea and St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church. She said she would like to explore more locations in the Point where she and her students can paint. Natale said what is known as “plein air” painting, literally “outdoors,” was

not the norm before the Impressionist period, mainly from the mid to late 1800s. The Impressionists wanted to leave the studio and capture the natural sunlight, but that idea wasn't readily accepted by the art establishment.

also American. He was born of American parents and he lived in Paris until he was a young man, when he visited the United States for the first time for an art show. Sargent was also criticized for his en plein air paint-

People often come and go in a natural setting, and Natale said their essence can be captured and added to the painting later. She advised one of her students, Trisha Boyd of Avalon, to leave out some of the harder mechanical elements in her painting and add softer, natural images to complement the straight angles on the building. Natale said she teaches in her Egg Harbor Township home two days per week, and she also teaches at the Ocean City Art Center on Monday afternoons. On Thursday she is in Glassboro, where she teaches two sessions of three hours each. Natale organized a trip to Italy with her students in 2011, and she is planning another in 2013. Last week, Natale had her students in Cape May Point from 9:30 a.m. until around 3 p.m. Afterwards, they critiqued their work. She said she does this, because to quote another, “Watercolors are like a journey. Some are farther down the road, but we are all on the same path.” Natale's students participating in the plein air class, besides Boyd, were Diane Close of West Cape May, Lee Moon of Ithaca, N.Y., and Cape May Point, and Karoline Adler of Cape May Point. “It's about capturing the scene immediately,” she said.



“It was unheard of before,” Natale said. Natale said the Impressionists were not allowed in the Salon de Paris, which determined the standard for art. She said the Impressionists responded by creating their own art show, which horrified the critics. One painter who did was John Singer Sargent, who is also an inspiration for Natale. Sargent was a prodigy, who not only entered the Salon de Paris at 14, but who was

ing and watercolor works. Natale said before the Impressionists, artists would generally only use watercolors to create studies that they would recreate in oil. Natale said she teaches her local class one day a week outdoors, and they spend three days in the studio. However, it's the one day painting en plein air that she believes makes them better artists.



Ed Mahaney



Rusty Chew

new blood and fresh ideas.” Mahaney also has 13 years experience on the city's Planning Board. In 2007, Mahaney announced he would run for mayor once again after receiving much praise from the public and said he is running for re-election this year for similar reasons. “After much consideration, I've filed to run for mayor based on an overwhelming number of residents who have asked me to run for re-election because of my performance over the last four and a half years,” he said. Mahaney was born in

Philadelphia and raised in Whitpain Township, Pa. While he attended Temple University for his bachelor's degree in the late 60s, he spent summers in Cape May and eventually purchased his home on Ohio Avenue in 1971. By 1985, he became a year round Cape May resident. Mahaney also has a master's degree and doctorate from Temple. He said he would like to be re-elected in order to further build on the plans he has implemented in Cape May over the last four years,

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