



Cape May Star and Wave file photo

Above, the Cape Harmonaires performing at the Cape May Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

Cape Harmonaires in tune with tradition

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – For the last quarter century, the Cape Harmonaires have toured Cape May County entertaining locals and visitors with their harmonious melodies, upbeat choreography and witty humor.

Sunday, Sept. 2 marked the final summer season performance of the Cape Harmonaires, which was held at the bandstand in Rotary Park at 8 p.m. Harmonaires President and bass, Don Touzeau, said the barbershop harmony group captivates audiences with over 20 performances each year, on average. He said there are currently 30 members, with as many as 25 performing at each show.

“Barbershop Harmony is a unique American art form, like jazz,” Touzeau said. Touzeau describes the musical style as A cappella – singing with no instrumental accompaniment – just harmony.

The Cape Harmonaires are just one chapter of an international organization called The Barbershop Harmony Society, also known as the SPEBQSA (The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America). Touzeau said there are about 30,000 members across the world. Touzeau said the Cape

Harmonaires chapter began in 1987 with 12 members.

Assistant Director and baritone, Ed Lewis, said there is an international chapter and quartet competition each year, in which groups are chosen through various regional competitions. He said the Harmonaires are a part of the Mid-Atlantic Region, consisting of around 100 chapters. However, Touzeau said the Cape Harmonaires haven't participated in the regional competition for the past three years.

“We stopped competing because we are kind of in a unique situation,” Touzeau said. “With the tourist towns all over Cape May County, all these towns have budgets for free performances where they pay us – the public can come for free and they keep coming back. With a contest you're working on two or three songs all the time and each year, we have an hour worth of new stuff to learn.”

Touzeau said he is willing to bet the Cape Harmonaires have more performances annually than any other group in The Barbershop Harmony Society. He said because of this, there's no need to compete in the regional or international competitions.

“It's such a great group of guys,” he said. “We really love what we do and it

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Cape May Point: Do you get what you are paying for in property taxes?

“If you make any money, the government shoves you in the creek once a year with it in your pockets, and all that don't get wet you can keep.”
–Will Rogers

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – People don't generally enjoy paying taxes, but they tend not to complain as much if they feel they are getting a good bang for the buck.

Many people want primarily two things from their municipal government, and that is that the town is kept clean and safe. Starting with safety first, in the Borough

of Cape May Point, there is no police force, no paid fire department or EMS services, but that doesn't mean the borough doesn't pay for these

services costs the borough \$253,000. Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk, Director of Revenue and Finance for Cape May Point, said it would

agreement with Cape May is a good example of how the borough saves money.

“A decade ago we had our own police department, but you can't have just one police officer. The state mandated that if you had a police department you had to have a chief. That became something we couldn't begin to comply with. How lucky for us we have (Cape May Police Chief) Diane Sorantino,” vanHeeswyk said.

The Point also maintains its own court, using the Cape May Municipal Court. The borough shares animal control services with Middle

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I think people get a good value in Cape May Point, they get a good value for their taxes.

– Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk

services.

Cape May Point's current contract with the Cape May Police Department for police

be extremely costly for the Point to have its own police department these days. She said the shared services

V.I.M. Spirations

Volunteers In Medicine opens thrift store in West Cape May.

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) of Cape May County has started a new business venture in order to raise funds for its organization, but needs the help and generous donations of citizens to make the project a success.

VIMspirations is a thrift shop located at 600 Park Boulevard, collecting unwanted jewelry, small furniture, clothing and accessories and other household items before its grand opening in late September. Manager of VIMspirations, Anne Marie Jackson, said if enough items are donated, there will be an opening most likely on Sept. 29.

Jackson said all of the net proceeds from the thrift shop will go to VIM in Cape May

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Mosquito population down, but more West Nile Virus detected

By MISSY DOLAWAY
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – While the mosquito populations have been down because of the hot, dry summer, there have been more positive tests for mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Cape May County this year.

How identifying more virus but having fewer mosquitoes translates to human infection is an unknown, according to Peter J. Bosak, Ph.D., superintendent of the county Department of Mosquito Control.

Because mosquitoes continue to be active until October – around the time of the first hard frost – people should continue to take steps to avoid being bitten by the potentially virus-carrying insects.

“Populations in general are lower than past years,” Bosak said. “We are looking at more virus this summer than normal. We have been picking up more cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus than last year.”

As of Aug. 14, no birds had tested positive for West Nile



There are 63 species of mosquitoes in New Jersey and 45 of these are found in Cape May County.

in the county, but Mosquito Control also checks pools of mosquitoes. In eight of these pools, at least one mosquito tested positive for West Nile Virus.

Bosak confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus in mosquito populations is probably a little higher this year than in previous years, but the chance for human infection can't be determined.

“If you have more mosquitoes carrying the virus, you have higher chances of humans getting the dis-

ease,” Bosak said. “You (also) have to take people's habits into consideration. Using repellent, and other preventive measures reduces their chances of getting the virus.”

Mosquito Control works year round and doubly hard in the summer to survey and control mosquito populations.

There are 63 species of mosquitoes found in New Jersey and 45 of these are found in Cape May County.

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County GOP chairman Donohue speaks on RNC

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Cape May County Regular Republican Chairman Michael Donohue attended the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., with delegates from Cape May County.

Donohue, of Dennis Township, was one of 2,286 delegates to see former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan



Michael Donohue

receive the nomination at the GOP presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Romney's ticket will challenge the presumptive Democratic nominees, incumbent President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, who will be selected at the Democratic National Convention this week in Charlotte, N.C.

Obama and Romney will face each other in the Nov. 6 presidential election.

Donohue, who became Cape May County's GOP chairman,

attended the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minnesota. He said the energy and enthusiasm level at Tampa was “off the charts” as compared to the convention in 2008.

“The messaging of the convention was much more focused. It had a lot more rising stars of the Republican Party like (Florida Senator) Marco Rubio and (New Mexico Governor) Susana Martinez. The future of the Republican Party nationwide is really good. It's just a lot

of good, young, sharp people who are ready to start moving up,” Donohue said.

Hurricane Isaac passed the Florida Keys before heading west over the Gulf of Mexico and north into Louisiana, and caused convention organizers to recess on the first day, Aug. 27, and reconvene with delegates gathering at the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

Donohue was a delegate for New Jersey's Second Congressional District, along with Cape May County resident Linda Pagliguhi. Cape

May County Freeholder Kristine Gabor was a statewide-at-large delegate. Honorary delegates from Ocean City included Cape May County Freeholder Vice Director Susan Sheppard, Justin Flood, and Lloyd and Marie Hayes.

Arriving on Friday, Aug. 24, three days before the convention, Donohue said some of the delegate's flights experienced diversions to other Florida cities due to

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More signs at intersections in WCM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The Board of Commissioners has requested Borough Engineer Ray Roberts have a survey completed at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Leaming Avenue to see if it should be made a four-way stop.

The intersection presently has stop signs on just Leaming. Sixth Avenue resident Sharyn Mead has come to several borough meetings and suggested stop signs be placed on Broadway, Park and other streets to reduce speeding in the borough.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said because Broadway is a county road, approval from

the county is needed to add signage.

At the Aug. 22 regular meeting, Mead said she spoke with County Engineer Dale Foster regarding stop signs on Broadway. Mead said she was told the borough would need to file a request with the county for a survey to be

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Invasive plants in Lake Lily discussed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – The Environmental Commission and the Board of Commissioners continue to work on eradicating invasive species.

Sally Sachs from environmental commission said she met with the Lake Lily Committee and with



Parrot feather

Mayor Skip Stanger, and the mayor recommended the Environmental Commissioner look over all public lands in Cape May Point.

“The commissioners asked the Environmental Commission to take this in on their shoulders,” Sachs said. The Environmental Commission made recom

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