



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



## WRITER FINDS RUSSIA COUNTRY OF CONTRASTS

Page A2



# Officials cover backs on way out the door

Cape May vote puts taxpayers on hook for legal fees, damages in Sheehan, Carney's cases

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved two resolutions in 4-1 votes Dec. 6 to indemnify and pay the legal bills of city officials, employees and members of the governing body in civil litigation involving former police chief Robert Sheehan and Joseph P. Carney and Carney's Inc.

The resolutions provide com-

plete indemnification for city employees, the governing body and city officials should they be named in the future and indemnification for any and all damages including compensatory damages, legal fees, costs for litigation and punitive and exemplary charges should they be awarded for any violation of any state or federal law.

Following a three-hour closed session, Councilman Shaine Meier cast the lone dissenting votes on

both resolutions. He said there was no need for council to vote on the matter at this time.

"I think it's something that we as a new City Council next year can look at based on the findings of this case, so I vote 'no,'" he said.

On the resolution indemnifying city officials, employees and members of the governing body in the litigation involving Carney's, City Solicitor Tony Monzo said the resolution was permitted un-

der state statute for indemnifying city officials for claims that could result in punitive damages that are not covered under the city's indemnification ordinance.

"The decision to indemnify city officials for items that could result in punitive damages are to be determined on a case-by-case basis, so that the City Council voting on the resolution is fully aware of all of the facts of the case and the basis and justification for the

indemnifications, so that it's not a blanket free pass for governing body members or city officials to act recklessly or willfully and do things that would typically result in damages," he said.

Monzo said based on discussions with assigned counsel from the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), there was a recommendation to consider the resolution for adoption.

See Officials, Page A3

## LTMUA renames Testa as its CFO

By BETTY WUND

Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — The Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority reappointed Stephen P. Testa as chief financial officer during a Dec. 7 Board of Commissioners meeting.

"Steve, and his company, has been doing an excellent job and I am very proud to have you as our financial service," MUA Chairman Brian O'Connor said.

Phase 1 of the East Villas Water Main Improvement Project is complete. By resolution, Roseann Avenue water main restoration has been added to the project since funds are available. If funds allow, Iowa and Idaho avenues will be completed next, according to Executive Director

See LTMUA, Page A4



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## He's gonna find out if they're naughty or nice

Principal Sherry Bosch and teachers from the David C. Douglas Memorial School in Villas take a break from their shopping trip in Cape May to pose with Santa Claus during Hospitality Night on Dec. 9 on the Washington Street Mall.

## Per-seat fee plan moving forward

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Outdoor Seating Committee, which was tasked with creating recommendations for City Council to regulate seasonal outdoor dining and determine the feasibility and location of a parking garage or lot, provided a year-end report Dec. 6 on its progress.

A number of restaurants and hotels have added outdoor seating that does not appear on their mercantile license application or site plan.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the committee began with a draft ordinance that was revised. He said the existing city code did not include language either granting or governing outdoor seating and dining on private property.

See Per-seat, Page A4

## Beach Plum Farm serves meals with a dash of past

By CAROL R. EMMENS

Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — "Our business is helping people make memories," Curtis Bashaw said as he described the goal of the first Christmas dinner and sing-a-long at Beach Plum Farm.

Bashaw is a co-founder and a co-managing partner of Cape Advisors and Cape Resorts, which owns and operates Congress Hall, the Virginia Hotel and other properties, as well as the farm.

"We are hosts 24/7 and our guests and friends love knowing where their food comes from," he said.

In his travels, Bashaw



Carol Emmens/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Beach Plum Farm serves family-style dinners using fresh vegetables grown right on site. Farm-to-table is flipped to tables at the farm.

went on safaris in Africa and noted that they have "amazing dinners in the bush, so I brought those experiences to the farm." Farm-to-table is flipped to tables at the farm. The organic food is grown or raised at the farm, which was purchased in 2007. As a young man, Bashaw worked

on his grandfather's farm and admits, "I hated it." But the farm was bought to provide food for the Cape Resorts restaurants.

The first crop that was planted was asparagus. "Who knew," he joked "that on a fallow farm we

See Beach Plum, A8

## Historic group proposes tougher standards for windows, solar, etc.

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Historic Preservation Commission is proposing tougher standards for installation of solar panels, satellite dishes, replacement windows and wind turbines.

During a Dec. 6 City Council meeting, Councilman Roger Furlin offered a year-end report on the commission's activities. He noted the HPC was formed to maintain and protect Cape May's National Historic Landmark status. He said the HPC receives guidance from the Department of the Interior, the National Parks Service and state Historic Preservation Office.

In 2003, the HPC prepared and City Council

'By making it clear these are standards as opposed to guidelines and also creating the presumption of validity ... creates a much tougher standard for somebody appealing a decision of the HPC to get it reversed by the Zoning Board.'

-City Solicitor Tony Monzo

approved design standards for the city's historic structures.

"Since then, technology has changed and it came time to update our standards," he said.

HPC Chairman Warren Coupland approached council in October proposing changes to the design standards.

Furlin said a committee was formed with himself, Coupland, Councilwoman Terri Swain, HPC solici-

tor Robert Fineberg, City solicitor Tony Monzo and City Manager Bruce MacLeod as its members. The committee created two draft ordinances, Furlin said.

One ordinance addresses solar panels and other items. He said solar panels are acceptable if they are not visible from the street. The ordinance also addressed installing wind

See Historic, Page A8



# WASHINGTON INN

Open Friday and Saturday from 5pm

Holiday Gift Certificates make the Perfect Gift!

THE WINE BAR  
Five for Friday

\$5

glasses of wine  
appetizers specials

