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TIDES October 2011 Eastern Standard Time

High	Low
A.M. P.M. A.M. P.M.	
12 8:43 9:01 2:14 2:50	
13 9:16 9:37 2:46 3:27	
14 9:49 10:12 3:18 4:05	
15 10:24 10:48 3:50 4:43	
16 11:00 11:27 4:25 5:24	
17 11:40 12:07 5:03 6:10	
18 12:12 12:27 5:49 7:02	
19 1:07 1:23 6:45 8:00	

First Quarter, Oct. 4
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Cape May considers beach area smoking ban

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – In recent months, Cape May City Council has been discussing a smoking ban for Cape May beaches, but is now considering an ordinance that would also ban smoking on the promenade beginning in 2012.

According to Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, Seaside Park banned smoking on its beaches and boardwalk before the summer, without many complaints from residents. Wichterman said he spoke with Seaside Park Borough Manager Robert

Martucci, who said cooperation with the ordinance was at nearly 100 percent.

“There was very little non-compliance,” Wichterman said.

He said he looked into Seaside Park’s ordinance because its beachfront is very similar to Cape May’s, such as the 28 entryways and the relatively short distance from the boardwalk to the water. The only difference Wichterman pointed out, was Seaside Park had a larger number of younger beach goers than Cape May.

Seaside Park put signs at each beach entrance and as visitors entered, beach tag-



gers reminded them it was a non-smoking beach.

Wichterman said smokers at Seaside Park must walk from the beach to the shoulder of the street near their boardwalk. He said he would

like to ban smoking on the beaches in Cape May, but didn’t think the promenade should be included.

Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca said she would like to see smoking banned in both areas and have people walk to the street, like Seaside Park. She said there are parents walking with their children, joggers and beach goers who would rather not go through clouds of smoke when on the promenade. Councilman William Murray agreed.

Wichterman said it would be difficult to enforce a no-smoking policy on the promenade since there is little police presence there. Murray said

the city could put up signage along the promenade to let visitors know it was a no-smoking area.

“I don’t think ‘no smoking’ signs would be detrimental to the tourists,” he said.

Wichterman said Seaside Park also used their lifeguards to inform beach goers of the no smoking policy, so Cape May could do something similar. He gave City Solicitor Tony Monzo information on the Seaside Park ordinance, as well as other New Jersey shore towns that have adopted similar policies. Some nearby beaches, like

Please see Smoke, page A2

Whipple, from the Point, named marketing director

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City Council announced the hiring of former Grand Hotel general manager Mike Whipple as the Director of Marketing, Communications and Event Sales for Convention Hall, scheduled to open Memorial Day 2012.

Whipple, a Cape May Point resident, will be heading up promotions for both Convention Hall and the city of Cape May by creating a long-term strategic plan to bring more tourism on a year-round basis. This is the first time the city has hired an individual for such responsibilities, and Whipple said he was honored to have the opportunity.

Whipple was officially hired by the city at the Oct. 4 meeting after leaving his position as the general manager for the Grand Hotel, Oct. 1. He said the Grand is the largest convention and resort hotel in the area.

Whipple said he has to hit the ground running in his new position because Memorial Day 2012 is not far away.

Whipple and his wife Rebecca moved to Cape May Point in 2001. Whipple said due to his living in Cape May for the past 10 years and his

position at the Grand Hotel, he is very familiar with the city’s local economy and need for tourism.

“Working for the Grand Hotel gave me a taste for marketing in Cape May,” he said. “I see this position as an expansion of that, since I’ll now be marketing all Cape May has to offer.”

Much of his career in marketing was spent in the Baltimore area, where he was named Tourism Professional of the year in 1996 by the Maryland Tourism Council, and Hotelier of the Year by the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association in 1999 after serving on their board for several years.

Whipple also served as the Chairman of the State of Maryland Tourism Development Board and was on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Whipple found his love for the field while he was attending the University of Nevada-Las Vegas where he received a degree in Hotel Administration and Hospitality Management.

“To watch a city like that grow every day, and at the time Atlantic City was doing

Please see Whipple, page A2



Mike Whipple



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Not an ugly duckling

A swan was seen standing along Cape Avenue in Cape May Point, recently. Swans are familiar residents at Lily Lake, and at times make their way near homes surrounding the lake.

Town saddened by Boyt’s passing

CAPE MAY – Fire Chief Jerome Inderwies and the members of the Cape May Fire Department regretfully announce the in-the-line-of-duty death of career firefighter Lieutenant Andy Boyt, age 45. Lt. Boyt passed away suddenly on Monday, Oct. 3 just hours after going off-duty where he had responded to a fire call.

As a career firefighter and EMT, Lt. Boyt proudly served the City of Cape May for over 20 years. He began as a volunteer firefighter in 1991 and became a full-time firefighter/EMT in 1999. In 2006, Firefighter Boyt was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant where he served as the department’s Health and Safety Officer. Throughout his career, Lt. Boyt was highly regarded by his peers and received many lifesaving awards and most



Lt. Andy Boyt, CMFD

recently a meritorious service award for assisting in rescuing victims from a burning building. Lt. Boyt was a Rescue Specialist with the New Jersey Task Force 1 and founding member of the Cape May County Urban Search

and Rescue. Lt. Boyt also served as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Cape May.

Lt. Boyt will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his colleagues and friends.

Visitation took place on Friday, Oct. 7 in the Lower Cape May Regional High School Performing Arts Center. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Oct. 8 in the Lower Cape May Regional Performing Arts Center. Interment followed in the Cold Spring Presbyterian Cemetery, Lower Township.

Memorial contributions in Andy’s memory are suggested to the American Heart Association, 1 Union St. – Suite 301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 or to the Cape May Fire Department, PO Box 375, Cape May.

Tourism Utility discussed in Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council is considering Mayor Ed Mahaney’s request to create a self-sustaining city tourism utility, which he said would help relieve residents of paying taxes to support tourism-related expenses.

Mahaney said, at the regular city council meeting, Oct. 4, a city tourism utility would manage and operate special events, the new Convention Hall and recreation pro-

grams, while promoting and marketing tourism in Cape May.

In order to relieve the tax burden on residents, he said the cost of these events and recreation programs would be paid by the individuals and organizations utilizing and benefiting from them. Mahaney said by way of the utility’s capital improvement budget and operating budget, non-participating taxpayers would not be burdened with the cost.

“The individuals involved

will be the ones paying for it,” Mahaney said.

He said the city tourism utility was nothing more than a budgeting and accounting technique for operations dealing with tourism. City Solicitor Tony Monzo said this utility would function much like the beach utility, which has worked well for the city each year.

In order to fund the utility, Mahaney suggested using fees from recreation pro-

Please see Utility, page A2

Fowl issues in Lower Township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Residents at two locations in Lower Township have had to find homes for chickens they were raising after neighbors filed complaints with Lower Township officials.

But appeals to the governing body and township manager have resulted in at least a review of the township code concerning domesticated animals.

According to Township Manager Mike Voll, the issue came up after local residents complained of neighbors raising chickens on their property, which is not zoned for farm animals. Farm animals may be kept in certain areas of the township where property owners have at least one acre of property per animal. Shore Road (North Cape May) resident Claire Nagel, who was keeping six Rhode Island Red hens asked council to consider amending the township ordinance to allow 5

sq. ft. of outdoor space and 3 sq. ft. of indoor space for each of her chickens. Nagel had a coop and run constructed on her property to house the chickens, which provided her



with eggs. Nagel is a vegetarian, and did not intend to eat the chickens. Township officials said at least one neighbor complained of being awakened by the clucking of the chickens.

The Lyman family of Wayne

Avenue in North Cape May had to find homes for two chickens belonging to their daughter, Danielle, 10, who was raising them as a 4-H project. Township officials said the family was told they would have to get rid of the chickens after a neighbor complained of them getting loose and rooting in his yard and flower beds. A number of letters were sent to the township not citing specific complaints, other than the keeping of farm animals in a residential zone. Some neighbors expressed concern over possible disease being spread by the animals.

Voll said he has no position on keeping animals such as chickens on smaller lots, but could only refer the matter to township council.

“This is totally a council decision. I can only report what I find. And when we have complaints like this, well, as I’ve said before, I’m not a desk jockey, I had to

Please see Fowl, page A3

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