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April 2011

Eastern Standard Time

	High		Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	3:29	3:53	9:13	10:07
6	4:34	4:53	10:18	11:02
7	5:30	5:45	11:16	11:49
8	6:17	6:30		12:06
9	6:57	7:11	12:30	12:52
10	7:34	7:49	1:07	1:33
11	8:09	8:25	1:41	2:12
12	8:43	9:01	2:14	2:50

First Quarter, Oct. 4
Full Moon, Oct. 12
Last Quarter, Oct. 20
New Moon, Oct. 27
Apogee, Oct. 15
Perigee, Oct. 27

Council committees are discussed in Lower

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council has asked Solicitor Mike Donohue to investigate whether it is appropriate for council members to act as liaisons between the governing body and township departments.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare broached the idea at Monday's council meeting, saying he wished to discuss the lack of or need for council to have such committees. He said two-member committees could act as a liaison between council and the departments, which he said could improve

'I'm not saying I'm against it, but are we adjusting our form of government?'

–Mayor Mike Beck

communication between the bodies.

Lare said Councilman Glenn Douglass had shown interest in the idea, and the two would like to have a meeting with Donohue and Township Manager Mike Voll. Mayor Mike Beck suggested before that happens,

Donohue research the matter for council.

"I would prefer you gave us a report...then we can act on what you recommend," he said.

Beck said he was concerned there would be the appearance of usurping the authority of the township manager,

who is the chief executive in the township, responsible for day-to-day operations. Council's role is to set policy for governance.

Lare said his idea was not for council to exert some authority over the departments, but to have more communication, to be able to discuss ideas directly with department heads. As an example, Lare mentioned the ongoing delays in branch pick-up after storm events, such as Hurricane Irene.

Donohue said there are some limitations on what council members can and cannot do as far as interacting with department heads.

He said, however, he has spoken to solicitors in at least two municipalities with similar forms of government in Atlantic County where such committees are used.

"In this form of government, executive power resides with the manager. Council has policy making authority, which is pretty broad," he said.

Beck continued to voice his concern over the idea.

"I'm not saying I'm against it, but are we (potentially) adjusting our form of government?" he said.

"My idea is not to enforce or enact executive authority,"

Please see **Lower**, page A1

Off-duty lifeguards rescue swimmers at Second Ave. – bathers are cautioned

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Cape May Beach Patrol rescued two female swimmers near Cove Beach, last Wednesday, who were unable to swim back into shore because of a

and were able to respond to scene within a minute or two of it being reported.

Randolph said the swimmers were pulled out from the Cove area towards 2nd Avenue. Lifeguards arrived and entered the water with torpedo rescue tubes to bring



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Cape May Fire Department and Beach Patrol vehicles are seen on the beach at Second Avenue where two swimmers were helped out of the water after strong currents pulled them away from the beach.

strong current.

CMBP Lt. Terry Randolph said the two elderly swimmers were caught in the powerful outgoing tide and pulled away from the beach. According to Randolph, the shoulder season is a time when a lot of Cape May visitors like to go swimming because the beaches are not as full and the water temperature is still warm.

"During the shoulder seasons, people and their children are still out swimming, so we stay on call until the start of October," he said.

Fortunately for the two in distress, the Beach Patrol was still on duty until Friday,

the swimmers back to shore. "The outgoing tide has a real strong pull right now," he said. "They were lucky we were there to respond so fast."

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, during the last two weeks of September the lifeguards are bringing in their equipment from the beach and getting the lifeguard headquarters cleaned up and closed for the winter season. He said during that time, there is a certain number of lifeguards working at the headquarters, but the beach patrol is finished

Please see **Rescue**, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a group of pumpkins at Rea's Farm in West Cape May. Rea's has a good crop of pumpkins for the upcoming Halloween. Other parts of the northeast had their crops all but ruined by too much rain following Hurricane Irene.

Pumpkin crop threatened, but WCM has them now

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Halloween and Thanksgiving without pumpkins would be unthinkable, but the rains that followed Hurricane Irene left a lot of pumpkins too soft to keep until the holidays.

West Cape May farmer Les Rea said he planted around 25 acres of pumpkins in anticipation of the holidays. Rea has a Harvest Fair on his farm at Fourth Avenue and Bayshore Road, and a lot of people go there to find the perfect pumpkin. He said he planted several varieties of pumpkins, which accounts for his pumpkins being different sizes, shapes and colors. He said the crop came in well, but he's not sure if that

means there will be sound pumpkins by the time the holidays arrive.

"It's a good crop, but I don't think they are going to last," Rea said. "We got a lot of rain, but not as bad as the people in the north."

Rea said he feels a lot more fortunate than some other farmers. Reports are the Trenton area received 16 inches of rain in August, which is 12 inches above normal. When the soil is so moist, pumpkins are susceptible to mold, rot and fungus. The pumpkin crop there is expected to be only 10 percent of what it should be. Information obtained from WorldWeatherPost.com indicate the rains after Hurricane Irene

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Long time volunteer retires

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Ray Maher might have retired before he moved to Cape May, over 20 years ago, but he never truly retired until just a couple weeks ago, after holding various volunteer positions in the community.

He spent 20 years on the Shade Tree Commission and has also been a part of the Taxpayer's Association, Environmental Commission, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, and spent two terms on the Planning Board.

Maher said he fell in love with Cape May the first day he visited, and when he moved here, he wanted to do all he could to serve his new community.

"I love this little town and the people. I've made a lot of great friends here," he said. "This city has helped me just as much as I've helped it."



Cain Chamberlin /Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Ray Maher of Yacht Avenue, has spent over 20 years volunteering in Cape May since he retired here. He has finally decided to retire completely, although he plans to stay interested in local activities.

Maher, 84, grew up in Baltimore, Md., and lived there most of his life. He was drafted during WWII but never had to serve overseas. He said he was stationed in Chicago for training, and just before he was deployed, the Japanese sur-

rendered. However, he had enough time in to qualify for the GI Bill and attended Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. Afterwards, he ran his father's business for a short time. He said his father

Please see **Retires**, page A2

WCM discusses false alarm fees

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Board of Commissioners continued their discussion about possibly charging residents and business owners a fee for repeated false fire alarms, but the borough's attorney doesn't think it's possible.

"I'm a long way from being convinced that this is a workable ordinance," Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado said.

This discussion centered around situations where the volunteer fire company has shown up to a location several times and there is no emergency. Corrado said the borough could consider creating an ordinance that would have residents and business owners appear in municipal court

if they had an excessive number of false alarms within a certain time period.

The idea of passing an ordinance creating false alarm fees was picked up from other municipalities in the state that already have similar fees, such as the Salem Fire Department in Salem County and the Hope Township Fire Department in Warren County.

Corrado said he spoke with the solicitor of Hope Township, Mike Selvaggi. Selvaggi told Corrado Route 80 runs through that section of Warren County and there is a consistently a high number of car accidents there, which require emergency response vehicles. Vehicles tied up on false alarms might not be available to respond to an automobile accident.

Corrado said this was the primary reasoning for Hope Township's charge of fire service fees and was aimed more at collecting the fees from automobile insurance rather than homeowners insurance. However, the ordinance in Hope Township also covers homeowners insurance. He said automobile insurance generally covers emergency services while homeowners insurance does not. Even though Hope Township's ordinance will take effect this month, Corrado doesn't believe it is suitable for West Cape May.

At the Wednesday, Sept. 28, meeting, commissioners discussed applying this fee to Lower Township residents south of the canal, which the

Please see **Alarm**, page A2



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