

Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 26 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, June 29, 2011 50¢



INSIDE



SPORTS

Sport fishing aboard the Noreaster II, **B1**

Vintage baseball at Cold Spring Village, **B1**

Lou Rodia: The return of the croakers, **B3**

CAPE MAY

Community Events, **A4**

TIDES June/July 2011 Eastern Standard Time

| | High | | Low | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 29 | 7:14 | 7:32 | 1:09 | 12:45 |
| 30 | 7:59 | 8:14 | 1:53 | 1:30 |
| 1 | 8:43 | 8:56 | 2:34 | 2:15 |
| 2 | 9:27 | 9:38 | 3:16 | 3:02 |
| 3 | 10:12 | 10:21 | 3:58 | 3:50 |
| 4 | 10:58 | 11:07 | 4:41 | 4:40 |
| 5 | 11:48 | 11:55 | 5:26 | 5:34 |
| 6 | | 12:41 | 6:13 | 6:33 |
| Moon Phases | | | | |
| New Moon, July 1 | | | | |
| First Quarter, July 8 | | | | |
| Full Moon, July 15 | | | | |
| Last Quarter, July 23 | | | | |
| Perigee, July 11 | | | | |
| Apogee, July 24 | | | | |

Cape May adopts a 'visioning statement' for next 20 years

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY —Cape May City Council adopted community visioning statement, which based on citizen input, sets goals to ensure the beaches, open space, environmentally sensitive resources and historic resources are protected and enhanced through the year 2031.

According to engineer Craig Hurless, the adoption of the visioning statement puts Cape May halfway through the 10-steps of New Jersey's Plan Endorsement process. He spoke at the meeting on behalf of himself and the Plan

Endorsement Committee, who developed the visioning statement through the use of a survey sent out to communi-

ty members. "There was a lot of public participation," he said. Hurless said after the adoption, the statement will go through the state consistency review, taking a maximum time of 90 days. It is then sent

'The first five steps are the most exhausting and time consuming.'

— Cape May Mayor Ed Mahaney

plan. The city must then adopt the action plan within 60 days of its approval. Hurless said when adopted, it is sent back to the state for recommendations and a draft of a Planning and Implementation Agreement

(PIA) is made, which is a report drawn up within 45 days after the action plan is submitted. The PIA draft is then sent to the SPC for recommendations, which can take up to another 45 days. Afterwards, the state endorses the plan if all requirements are met.

Hurless said the final five phases of the process can take anywhere from five to seven months. Mayor Ed Mahaney said he was happy to complete the initial half of the process.

"The first five steps are the most exhausting and time consuming," he said.

When the state endorses the plan, the city will be required

to submit an annual report of its progress in meeting the 2031 goals. Numerous objectives have been set forth for Cape May to make the community visioning statement a success.

The city is required to take a strong stand on protecting and conserving its wetlands, beachfront and other wildlife habitats. The city must also maintain its status as a "Tree City USA."

The statement says Cape May shall also keep its National Historic Landmark status, by preserving its collection of late-19th century Victorian architecture.

Please see **Vision**, page A2

New Convention Hall progress should be more obvious by the end of summer

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The new Convention Hall project is off to a "pretty good start" according to Kerry Ogren of Ogren Construction, who was awarded the \$7,523,000 contract by the city in late April.

"So far, so good," he said. "This is a pretty standard project for us."

Ogren Construction, a family owned business started in 1960, has done several municipal projects in recent years such as the Avalon Police Department and Municipal Building and the Ocean City Public Library. The new Convention Hall is scheduled for completion in May 2012.

Ogren said it's always a fairly lengthy process to get a project off the ground due to the paper work and approvals from various overseers.

"Unfortunately, the beginning of projects take a lot of leg work," he said. "We're moving right along though."

Concrete work for the Convention Hall was scheduled to begin on Monday according to City Manager

Bruce MacLeod, who gave an update on the project at the Tuesday, June 21 council meeting. He said concrete work would last around 10 weeks, going into the late summer season. He said five to ten deliveries of concrete per day are scheduled for this phase, with trucks entering Cape May via Broadway and exiting out Pittsburgh Avenue.

City council authorized Craig Lab Testing to take samples from each load of concrete for testing to make sure the material being used is what the city approved. Once the concrete work is finished, the floor planking will be put in place, which will be manufactured, preset upon delivery, MacLeod said. He said each plank weighs about four tons and will be put in place with a crane.

According to Ogren, the plank or foundation for the building should be installed by the end of August. The planks will be set on the already placed pilings, keeping it around four feet off the ground and protected from water damage. From there,

Please see **Hall**, page A2



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Flying the flag for Independence Day

Above, houses down Emerald Avenue in West Cape May show the flag in honor of Independence Day, coming up on Monday, July 4. Many towns will feature special activities for the holiday, including a parade in Cape May, the annual Cape May Point Civic Club Bazaar and Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast — all on July 2. Look for July 4 Weekend event listings on page A4.

No PBA contract in township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — The township's contract with PBA Local 59 was not approved before last week's township council meeting, meaning it will more than likely not be approved prior to state pension and benefits reforms.

On June 20, Lower Township Council went into a closed session to consider a new, three-year contract for police officers. Council came out of the session without an agreement, meaning the contract would not be renewed



until after the governor signs legislation requiring public employees to pay 30 percent of their healthcare costs.

Prior to the closed session meeting Township Manager Mike Voll was optimistic about settling the contract.

"They were willing to open up the contract in mid year. We started talking two months ago," Voll said.

The current PBA contract expires on Dec. 31.

"I would like to have an 18-step (pay) program. I included new officers starting at \$30,000 instead of \$47,500 and hitting top pay after seven years. My proposal was to hit top pay at 18 years,"

Please see **PBA**, page A2

Canadian mail strike felt here

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY — On Sunday night, the Canadian government passed back-to-work legislation to force mail service to resume after a lockout was issued last week.

Canada Post Corporation, the nation's primary postal service, shut down postal service in an attempt to break an impasse with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

The Canadian mail carriers union began a series of rotating strikes approved on May 30. The strike was not nationwide, but took place for 24-hour periods in particular Canadian cities. As a result, mail delivery to urban areas

was reduced to three days a week, and the volume of mail in Canada was reportedly down by 50 percent due to the



strikes.

As of June 22, negotiations had not resulted in a settlement. As a result, Canada Post suspended operations after claiming 12 days of strike had cost the company

\$100 million in losses. Canada Post hoped a lockout would result in a quicker settlement.

The United State Postal Service announced on Monday that Canadian postal workers would be back on the job as of 8:30 p.m. The US Postal Service would resume accepting mail for Canada as of Tuesday, June 28.

Diane Wieland, Director of the Cape May County Department of Tourism said they received news of the strike in May.

"In the beginning it was an intermittent strike. What the government said was shut it down, this intermittent stuff

Please see **Mail**, page A2



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Above, firemen sweep up debris at the scene of an accident on Pennsylvania Avenue leading into the Coast Guard Base. A driver crossed the road and struck two parked cars before coming to rest on the opposite side of the street.

Dropped soda results in three-car crash

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A man driving to the Coast Guard base was injured after he crashed into parked cars while reaching

for a soda he dropped.

Police and fire/rescue personnel were called to the 1600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, Cape May, at around 12:42 p.m., Tuesday, to respond to the crash. Cape

May Police Lt. Chuck Lear said the driver, Anthony Weed of Marquette, Mich., was driving to the Coast Guard base, where he is sta

Please see **Soda**, page A2



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