

Cape May Star and Wave

156th YEAR NO. 41 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, October 14, 2010 50¢



INSIDE



SPORTS

LCMR football beats
Bridgeton, **B1**

LCMR field hockey
beats Middle I-0, **B1**

Lady Tigers soccer splits
lat two games, **B1**

CAPE MAY

See Community Events
listings, **A4**

OCTOBER 2010 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
10/14	1:40	2:04	7:25	8:28
10/15	2:47	3:07	8:30	9:28
10/16	3:51	4:06	9:34	10:21
10/17	4:47	4:59	10:32	11:07
10/18	5:34	5:45	11:23	11:48
10/19	6:15	6:28		12:09
10/20	6:53	7:07	12:24	12:52
10/21	7:29	7:45	12:58	1:32
Last Quarter			10/30	
New Moon			10/7	
1st Quarter			10/14	
Full Moon			10/22	
Apogee			10/18	
Perigee			10/6	

BID increases funds for mall decorations

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Washington Street Mall Management Company decided to increase the amount it spends on holiday decorations and voted to move funds from other line items and use it for décor.

The management company for the Business Improvement District (BID) decided to spend \$6,000 for

decorating, now underway for the fall and holiday seasons.

The initial idea was to remove \$4,000 from the advertising budget, \$1,000 from the administrative budget and another \$1,000 from the miscellaneous budget and place it all with the Christmas décor funds giving a total budget of around \$12,000. Committee member

Please see **Mall**, page A3

Shade Tree Commission preserves canopy in WCM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Every town has its own attractive features, but according to Bill Keegan, chairperson of the West Cape May Shade Tree Commission, one of the most appealing characteristics of this town is the abundance of trees.

For six years, Keegan has served on the commission and has been chairman for two years. He was welcomed back to the position last fall after working through some health issues for nearly a year.

As a retired merchant marine, Keegan always found his way back to West Cape May during his service and has been a local resident now for 30 years.

"I've seen some beautiful places in the world," he said, "but this area was always my favorite."

Keegan said he always loved the small town atmosphere of West Cape May and the fact that it actually had trees while many other cities and beach towns don't.

According to Keegan, the goal of the Shade Tree Commission is to preserve the West Cape May canopy, maintain the trees throughout it and also plants trees if necessary. Keegan was reminded of the Leaming Avenue project three years ago. He said residents of that street were given three options of trees to choose

from, which the commission planted not only to make the properties more attractive, but also to just take part in a great environmental project.

"We took care of Leaming Avenue as much as we could, and I feel we did a pretty good job," Keegan said.

There are nine members total in the commission and they all take part in maintaining the trees in West Cape May which apparently makes the town more eligible for funding. According to Keegan, a federal grant of over \$30,000 was received last year from the Community Stewardship Incentive Program.

Grants are not the only way the commission receives funding for planting projects and further maintenance of the local canopy and trees. Diane Flanagan, a commission member of eight years considers herself to be the "fundraiser person" for Shade Tree.

Flanagan has apparently played a big part in the upcoming Lima Bean Festival and said that half of the farmer's market proceeds go to the Shade Tree Commission. She also played a big role in the recent Tomato Festival, which according to her raised \$2,000 or more for the commission.

"I like to stay very active in the community," she said, "the commission wants to

Please see **Tree**, page A5



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

2010 Lima Bean King and Queen

Above, Farah Almandani, 13 of West Cape May and Carson Park, 11, of Schwenksville, Pa., were named the new Lima Bean king and queen Saturday. See more photos pn page A10.

After visiting Cape May, Kelly is finally at the TRACEN helm

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

Kelly entered the Coast Guard in 1983. He was later

CAPE MAY – Captain Bill Kelly was piped aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in July, but he got his first views of Cape May by entering a softball tournament when he was just a lieutenant.

Kelly said he remembers making his first trip and thinking, "This place is pretty special."

Kelly said he made a couple more trips to Cape May with his wife of 23 years, Angie, and visited the base several times as an officer.

Although most Guardians get their first taste of the Coast Guard at Cape May, it's not always the case with officers. According to Kelly, about half of their officers go to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., which means they have no reason to visit the Cape May Training Center – or TRACEN-Cape May.



Captain Bill Kelly, Commander Training Center-Cape May

assigned as a platoon officer at Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Yorktown, Va., as a lieutenant. When he achieved the rank of commander he was assigned as the OCS chief.

According to Kelly about one-third of the OCS candi-

dates are prior Navy or Coast Guard Reserve members, and about one-third come straight out of college. He said the remaining third were prior enlisted members, who probably received their basic training at Cape May. A second basic training facility in California closed earlier this decade.

Kelly said OCS candidates are all ages from all different backgrounds, but they all want to serve. That also is true of the recruits at TRACEN-Cape May, which trains about 3,200 recruits every year.

Kelly got a degree in Government (History) in the Coast Guard Academy, and later added a Master's Degree in Instructional Systems Design from Florida State University. Kelly Joked that he has Bachelor of Science degree, although it is in Government. He said the Coast Guard has been develo

Please see **Helm**, page A2

Tom Conrad is seeking reelection

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Tom Conrad gave Lower Township a second chance. Now he is hoping voters will give him a second term on council.

Conrad, 45, of Villas is the captain of Lower Township Rescue. He has been a Lower Township resident for over half his life. He attended the Sandman Consolidated School and Teitelman Middle School, but his family moved to Colorado before high school. He said his grandfather was in the Coast Guard and settled in Lower Township, and a great uncle on the Carr side of the family started Cape May Lumber.

He said he moved back to Lower Township in 1985 and never looked back.

He said he started with the rescue squad in 1987 as a "third," someone who is going through school and is allowed to volunteer because they have had CPR. He said

he worked his way up to a full time job and eventually became captain in 1995.

He married a local girl, Stacey Horan, and they have four children and two grandchildren. Four years ago he was elected to his first term on township council.

"The experience has been good," Conrad said.

He believes the residents main concern is taxes, but he said increases have dropped since he was elected.

"When I came in we inherited a tax increase of over six cents. Every year it has gone down, and this year is was zero," he said.

He said maybe going to zero wasn't the best idea, but the township tried to use all the state aid they could so they wouldn't be penalized in the next budget. He said he hopes going with a zero tax increase doesn't come back and bite the township in the future.

Please see **Tom**, page A2

Janet Pitts wants to give leadership

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Ward 1 council candidate Janet Pitts believes the current council has not shown the kind of leadership it needs to – and she is out to change that.

Pitts, 58, of Villas, is a nurse who spent most of her career in the administrative aspects of Virtua, a company overseeing five hospitals in Camden and Burlington Counties.

Pitts retired from Virtua and moved to Lower Township, but has continued to do some educational work for Shore Memorial Hospital and the Cape May County Technical High School. She is also a co-founder and president of Lower Township Taxpayers Association, a member of the Coalition of Civic Associations (COCA), Cape Issued Group, Friends of the Fishing Creek School, Cape Fishing Alliance and others. She has never held elected office, but said she

has supported two mayors in her lifetime – one of whom went on to be state senator.

Asked why she is running for township council, Pitts said, "Because the timing is right. It has to be."

"I don't see the leadership in this board that is going to get us through this economic crisis," she said.

Pitts said a primary example of the lack of leadership is the attempt to raise fees in the township.

"Five council meetings to take care of something as simple as raising fees?" she said. "That's not the bulk of the problem. We have to be able to turn on a dime and make difficult decisions."

She said she hasn't seen that ability and the situation is getting worse for municipalities.

"We're dealing with a 35 percent reduction in payment in lieu of taxes for open space, it's going to be elimi

Please see **Pitts**, page A3

Joe Will says he won't disappoint

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – After 32 years at the same Fishing Creek address, Joe Will takes exception to being labeled an "unknown." But like opponent Janet Pitts, and as Councilman Tom Conrad did four years ago, Will is seeking his first term in political office.

Besides being a township resident for 32 of his 52 years, Will has been married to Donna Marie for 32 years, and has a 32-year-old son, Joe Jr.

Will is a 1997 graduate of Lower Cape May High School, and 1983 graduate of the ACC Culinary School. He played on an undefeated freshman football team coached by Bill Garrison.

He has coached Little League, was an umpire for girls softball, and refereed a men's basketball league. He said what people commonly refer to as "the Rec," is actu-

ally the Paul R. Will Recreation Center, named after his dad.

"I have roots. I've been around," Will said. "And now is a good time to be around."

Will sees serving as the Ward 1 councilman as a challenge he is ready to accept. Will has worked for the Trump Plaza for 27 years and spent 26 as a union shop steward. He has been involved in contract negotiations.

"I know what it entails," he said. "When I negotiate a contract I know what I'm talking about."

Will said he has been going around door to door and he is getting a good response from people who see him as a life-long resident.

"They respond because I care about what is happening in this town," he said. "I believe in myself and believe one man can make a difference."

Please See **Will**, page AX

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