

Cape May Star and Wave

156th YEAR NO.40 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, October 7, 2010 50¢

West Cape May Lima Bean Festival, Saturday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wilbraham Park



INSIDE



SPORTS

Caper Tigers win easily over Wildwood, **B1**

Girls soccer loses heart-breaker to Middle, **B1**

Boy's soccer ties Middle in double OT, **B1**

CAPE MAY

Cape May Events Listings on **A4**

OCTOBER 2010 TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
10/7	7:59	8:19	1:29	2:00
10/8	8:47	9:08	2:16	2:52
10/9	9:35	9:57	3:02	3:44
10/10	10:23	10:47	3:50	4:36
10/11	11:13	11:40	4:38	5:30
10/12		12:06	5:29	6:27
10/13	12:37	1:03	6:25	7:27
10/14	1:40	2:04	7:25	8:28
Last Quarter			10/30	
New Moon			10/7	
1st Quarter			10/14	
Full Moon			10/22	
Apogee			10/18	
Perigee			10/6	

Christmas parade fundraiser

CAPE MAY - The first of several fundraisers to support the West Cape May Christmas Parade will be held Oct 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., sponsored by Bob and Linda Mullock at the historic Chalfonte Hotel, Howard Street, in Cape May. This fundraiser will be a dinner buffet featuring Dot Burton's "Down-home Fried Chicken," mashed potatoes, green beans and salad. All proceeds will go toward defraying the cost of the annual parade. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at West Cape May Borough Hall and will be available at the door. Advanced sales are preferred to assist in the preparations. For more information call 884-1005 ext. 2.

Council receives plan endorsement report

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Planning Board engineer Craig Hurlless provided city council with a nearly two-inch thick Plan Endorsement report, which he said is a summary of the city's planning activities and policies.

Hurlless is working as part of a Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee, which helped generate the report. According to Hurlless, the objective is to meet the goals

"This is a big moment in Cape May."

– Dennis Crowley, Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee member

of state planning, which is to increase consistency between municipalities.

"The next step is for city council to approve the report and send it to the state,"

Hurlless said.

Hurlless said the report is an assessment of all the planning activities in the municipality, including its COAH plan, Master Plan, and the

city's vision for future development. He said it also includes any surveys performed in the city, including its surveys of historic buildings and open space inventory.

According to Hurlless, the state would perform an interdepartmental review of the report, including members of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, and others, and within 45 days provide a critique of the report to the

municipality.

"They will offer a critique and make recommendations as how they think we can improve our planning process," he said.

Hurlless said, as far as the state was concerned, the vision element of the report was probably the most important part of the document.

"This takes our planning to the next level and says what to do to take it there," he said.

According to Hurlless, plan

Please see Plan, page A3

Tennis club seeks to make \$500K in new improvements

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Historic Cape May Tennis Club has another 18 months on its current lease, but asked city council for a new 50-year lease as it prepares to begin \$500,000 in improvements to the facility.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the club asked for advanced expiration of the existing 14-year lease, which would not expire until May 2012. He said the city received a letter from club president Mark Weatherill saying the club wanted to make certain improvements to the facilities, and would be soliciting donations to fund the project. According to MacLeod, Weatherill indicated a 50-year lease would give donors a level of confidence that the tennis club would

remain for an extended period.

MacLeod said the improvements would be completed in three phases. The first would be new fencing around 11 of the club's 16 tennis courts at a cost of \$37,000. Another \$13,000 in court maintenance equipment is included in this phase.

The second phase would be to upgrade five hard-surface courts to clay, or a Har-Tru surface, at a cost of \$50,000 per court. The final phase would be to install an underground irrigation system, which would increase the longevity of the courts.

"The thought is the 50-year lease would benefit the fundraising efforts," MacLeod said. "But the question is, should we have a lease arrangement for that length

Please see 500K, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

First Annual Renaissance Festival

Andy Halliday and Shanon Wright portray a Renaissance couple at the first annual Renaissance Festival sponsored by Access to Art and held Saturday at the Willow Creek Farm and Vineyard in West Cape May. Artisans, actors and more took part in the two-day event. See more photos page A12.

Planning Board oversees redevelopment

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - For 30 years, Bill Bezaire has seen firsthand the development projects and site alterations that Cape May City has gone through due to his involvement with the planning board.

Making decisions on traffic and parking plans as well as land use throughout the city, the planning board is responsible for overseeing many redevelopment processes in Cape May.

According to Bezaire who has been chairman of the board for 10 years, Cape May



Planning Board Chairman Bill Bezaire

City is broken up into five residential zones and six

commercial zones, all with a separate set of guidelines for construction and redevelopment. These regulations are all in the Master Plan Reexamination Report, which Bezaire refers to as, "framework for all the ordinances."

All nine members and two alternates of the planning board reexamine the master plan every six years. The most recent examination took place in March 2009.

"There is so much material to review, we normally start the reexamination process a year in advance," Bezaire said.

During the review, planning board members look at the

past six years and can make future predictions as to what will happen with redevelopment in the following six. There are not only ordinances and guidelines in the report that can be amended if need be, but there are also objectives that the planning board recommends be accomplished by the city.

"Some of these goals are reached and some aren't," Bezaire said. "They are just recommendations we make to the city."

After the reexamination is complete, the revised report is approved by city council. According to Bezaire, not many ordinances are changed

during reexamination. When someone wishes to build a new establishment or redevelop an existing one larger than a two family dwelling, such as a hotel, restaurant or office building, the planning board must look at the conceptual drawing plans to make sure they meet the guidelines. This is called a site-plan.

The individual or group who wishes to build, commonly with the advice and assistance of an attorney applies to go in front of the board and have their project approved.

"This is not done lightly,

Please see Board, page A3

Democrats seek to offer voters a choice

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - Democrat Freeholder candidates Patrick Morley and Robert Jackson say they're running to make the county more accountable with spending taxpayer's money.

Jackson and Morley will face Republican challengers Gerald Thornton, an incumbent, and Susan Sheppard in the Nov. 2 election.

Jackson, who served as mayor of West Cape May from 2000 to 2004, previously ran for freeholder in 2004 and 2007. A Republican before he switched to Democrat seven years ago, Jackson announced his candida-

cy in the spring with Dr. Suketu Nanvati. Nanvati withdrew from the race in June, leaving Jackson as the sole Democrat freeholder candidate until Morley announced his intentions to run in September.

"I firmly believe Cape May County is one of the jewels of south Jersey. We need to definitely pay attention to what our needs are and what our real problems could be," Jackson said.

Jackson said the county should implement "fiscally conservative policies."

"For years they (the freeholders) were saying they were saving us money because the tax rate was going

Please see DEM, page A10

Republicans offering experience, frugality

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - The Republican freeholder candidates Gerald Thornton and Susan Sheppard survived a fierce primary battle in June.

Now the duo will face Democrats Robert Jackson and Patrick Morley in the Nov. 2 election.

Thornton, 68, of Middle Township, served as county freeholder from 1976 to 1987 and from 1996 until present. As freeholder, Thornton is the Director of Health and Human Services, overseeing the Department of Aging, the Health Department and the Crest Haven Nursing and

Rehabilitation Center.

When the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization didn't back Thornton for re-election this year, Thornton and Sheppard mounted a primary challenge against the organization's choices John McCann and incumbent Freeholder Ralph Bakley.

Thornton and Sheppard prevailed and former county GOP chairman David Von Savage was ousted and replaced with Michael Donohue, who ran for Assembly twice.

With the current economic recession it's important the county maintains a stable tax rate, Thornton said. He said he is not in favor of imposing

Please see GOP, page A10

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