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SPORTS

Field Hockey wins 2-1 in states, **B1**

Girls soccer beats 'Squan' 2-1, **B1**

Football team back on winning track, **B8**

CAPE MAY

Community events. **A4**

NOVEMBER 2010

TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm
11/4	6:51	7:10	12:15	12:54
11/5	7:40	8:00	1:04	1:47
11/6	8:27	8:50	1:51	2:38
Eastern Standard Time				
11/7	8:14	8:38	1:38	2:28
11/8	9:01	9:27	2:25	3:18
11/9	9:48	10:17	3:13	4:09
11/10	10:37	11:10	4:02	5:00
11/11	11:28		4:54	5:53
New Moon 11/6				
1st Quarter 11/13				
Full Moon 11/21				
Last Quarter 11/28				
Apogee 11/15				
Perigee 11/3,30				

Lower Township told to cut budget by \$400K

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER – Lower Township is currently trying to make \$1 million in budget cuts due to a projected shortfall in 2011 and the police force has been asked by the township to cut back \$400,000 as part of it.

According to Township Manager Kathy McPherson, the salary and wages budget is where the money would be taken from if this occurs. She said the 2010 amount in the police department section of the budget is around \$4.2 million for a staff of 41.

Lower Township Police Captain Lou Russo, Representative for Superior Officers, said 2011 projections were submitted to the financial expert of the union, but there was no way to verify the results.

“It’s fair to say, these figures are projections and there’s no way to find how accurate they are,” he said.

According to Russo, the police force has had to make other sacrifices in recent years, as well. He said last year the department lost five staff positions, two of them being administrators.

“We gave up overtime pay last year,” Russo said. “We are reasonable, we’ll make it work.”

Lower Township officers are still not given overtime pay, in order to help with the budget. In April, officers agreed to give up overtime and are taking comp time instead.

McPherson said the township has already received the figures for pensions, but won’t know revenue, such as tax and surplus amounts until the end of the year.

In a meeting between the members of the department, McPherson and the township solicitor, the police force requested documents, which were provided on Friday according to McPherson that gave preliminary budget figures.

The actual budget will be introduced in March according to McPherson and Russo. The preliminary budget is presented to council in January.

“There’s no way to know until then,” Russo said, referring to whether the \$400,000 should be cut or not.

McPherson said there would be budget cuts in other areas, including Public Works. According to her, budget cuts would avoid having to lay off employees.

In October, McPherson told the Star and Wave that state aid for Lower Township was cut nearly 20 percent in 2010, and 2011 could be just as bad, maybe worse. She said state and federal grants decreased considerably as well as local revenue.

She said the 2 percent budget cap the state has issued is also taking its toll on the township and other municipalities as well.

‘It’s fair to say these numbers are projections and there’s no way to verify the results’ – Captain Lou Russo

Would taxing all reduce the taxes in Cape May City?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A subcommittee formed by the Cape May Hotel/Motel Owners Association believes all property owners would benefit from spreading the occupancy tax around.

Subcommittee member Larry Muentz outlined the bill the group has taken to the mayors of Cape May and other towns, such as Cape May Point, Avalon, Stone Harbor and Sea Isle City.

Under the Seaside Lodging and Rental District Act contained in Assembly Bill A2657, the legislature would create a dis



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, with the white picket fence is the Belvedere, which is condos and rents are not subject to the occupancy tax. To its right, with the American flag showing is the Gingerbread House, which is a guesthouse and required to collect 14 percent tax from its guests. The Cape May Hotel, Motel and Lodging Association says the buildings are virtually identical and offer the same service. They are pushing for a new law to charge each property 7 percent, of which the city would keep 2 percent.

Report to board of education lists improvements

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA – School officials said violence and vandalism are down in the Lower Cape May Regional School District, and middle school math and science scores are up for some students.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Chris Kobik presented the Lower Cape May Regional District’s annual report at the district board of education meeting last Thursday showing the violence and vandalism rate as well as the state test results.

The violence and vandalism report featured in Kobik’s presentation showed improvements in the 2009-10 school year as compared to 2008-09. Acts of violence last year were only at 24 compared to the previous year’s 46. There were 28 substance abuse incidences last year while there have been 25 this year. There have also been 35 fewer suspensions. However, acts of vandalism remained the same with four incidences.

“Problems have gone down,” Kobik said.

Director of special projects and student discipline, assistant principal Peter Daly, was very pleased with these results and believes there are several factors involved.

“We try to promote student ownership and school pride,” he said.

Daly said that groups such as the Peer Leadership Program, the success of this year’s athletics and the school staff have all played a part in the decrease of these incidences.

Kobik’s presentation then featured the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School state test results. The results compared each grade with the state average and the district factor group (DFG). The seventh grade scored above the DFG in both math and language but fell below the state average. However, the economically disadvantaged students scored well above the state average in both subjects.

Eighth grade showed similar results in math and language, but have the added subject of science. The class scored an 81.3 while the state average science score was 82.9. The economically disadvantaged students scored a 78.7 while the state average was 66.2.

RMT Assistant Principal Greg Lasher attributes these results to the expansion of certain programs in the school.

“We’ve expanded the pre-engineering program into the related arts program as well as the Title I program so more students could become involved,” he said at the meeting.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 pertains to improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged.

Lasher said that he wanted to improve the math and language scores at both grade levels.

“We’re working with the math and language departments,” he said. “We want to focus on the math and language scores and get more parents involved.”

The high school score in math was well below the DFG and the state average. The students score was a 58 compared to the DFG of 61.9 and the state average of 74.1. According to Kobik, language scores were strong however.

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 7. Set your clocks ‘back’ one hour.

Smarro elected as New BID chairman

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Washington Street Management Company announced Monday the election of Steve Smarro as chairman to replace Joe Bogle, who resigned in mid-October.

On Sunday the management company for the Business Improvement District (BID) counted ballots, announcing on Monday the election of the former vice-chairman.

A special meeting was called Oct. 18 to discuss and vote for a trustee to replace Bogle. Smarro, as vice-chair temporarily took the chairman position, but now will serve a full term since officially voted in. Hilary Pritchard, in a unanimous vote, was elected the replacement trustee to finish out Bogle’s term, which ends Oct. 31, 2011. Pritchard was the only nominee for the position.

The BID also voted for a new vice-chair, officers and two trustees at the Monday meeting. Joanne Klineburger was voted vice-chair to take Smarro’s former position. Cindy Huf was re-elected as secretary and Deirdre Hinehine was also re-elected as treasurer.

Huf also ran for a trustee position against Vince Stewart and won. The other trustee spot was between Sue Tischler and alternate member, Tom Alvarado. Tischler won the spot by two votes.

Smarro said he is happy to be elected

Cape May voters go with November city elections

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Tuesday election ballot in Cape May contained a nonbinding referendum question asking voters if they would like to keep the municipal elections in May or move them to November.

Citizens chose to move the election in a 530-201 vote, not including absentee ballots, which according to Cape May City Mayor Edward Mahaney won’t make a big difference. He believes the wide margin in the vote is because the city will save money combining the elections.

“Based on the feedback we received from the city prior to the election, the reason they wanted it moved was the saving of \$30,000,” he said. “It is a substantial amount of money that would be saved, which is important in these economic times.”

The county, state and federal elections always held the first Tuesday in November will now be consolidated with the nonpartisan municipal elections hosted in May once an ordinance is drafted.

“The public has spoken, overwhelmingly,” Mahaney said.

He said he was pleased the public will be getting what they want. Mahaney said he proposed to the council before Tuesday’s election



Cape May parking meters are now OFF for the season.



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