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### MARCH 2010 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
3/11	4:58	5:26	11:09	11:10
3/12	5:43	6:07	11:50	11:54
3/13	6:23	6:45	12:26	
(Eastern Daylight Time)				
3/14	8:00	8:20	1:35	1:59
3/15	8:36	8:53	2:13	2:30
3/16	9:10	9:26	2:50	3:01
3/17	9:43	9:58	3:26	3:31
3/18	10:16	10:31	4:03	4:03
Full Moon			3/29	
Last Quarter			3/7	
New Moon			3/15	
1st Quarter			3/23	
Apogee			3/12	
Perigee			3/27	

## Fixed-rate water and sewer charges passed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

*'For the majority this is going to be a fair system.'*

— Councilman David Kurkowski

CAPE MAY - Cape May water users will no longer be billed for regular and peak period water use. They will be charged a fixed rate year around.

City Council passed Ordinance 202-2010 last week, eliminating the two-tier system as well as a facilities charge, and establishing a fixed rate water and sewer billing system regardless of the water meter size. The ordinance also creates a fixed

charge based on 5,000 gallons of water usage per billing period. There will also be an excess charge for water and sewer used over and beyond the 5,000 gallons.

The ordinance says when possible, the water and sewer charges would be based on consumption as measured by the water meters.

Resident Dawn Brantigan said she is a low water consumer and didn't like the fact that she would now be billed for 5,000 gallons.

"I've never gone over 1,000 gallons and now I will be billed for 5,000," she said.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said ratepayers had to pay a facilities charge,

which was not based on the gallons used.

"Now I don't feel like I should have to conserve anything," Brantigan said.

Brantigan added that she probably would continue to practice water conservation anyway.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said most water customers

are low volume users, meaning they use 5,000 or less.

Councilman David Kurkowski told Brantigan the new ordinance eliminated the facilities charge which homeowners paid, he said, whether they used one gallon or 50,000.

"For the majority this is going to be a fair system," he said.

Jay Schatz, representing the Cape May Hotel/Motel Association, asked if there were any large users on the

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## Republicans are backing McCann, Thornton says

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Longtime Freeholder Gerald Thornton said the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization will not back him as a candidate for re-election, and is instead throwing its support behind Ocean City businessman John McCann.

McCann, a real estate agent who ran unsuccessfully for state Assembly in 2009, said he entered the freeholder race after strong public encouragement.

McCann said freeholder candidates are vying for the approval of various municipal Republican Committees. On March 15, the Republican Committees will report their votes to the County Republican Committee. Whichever two candidates receive the highest votes will run for freeholder in November.

Incumbents Thornton and Freeholder Ralph Bakley are running for re-election, but it might be a tough road for Thornton.

While the county Regular Republican Organization has been mum about its candi-

dates, the leaders of a group called New Direction for New Jersey announced its support for McCann and Bakley.

When contacted, Cape May County Regular Republican Chairman David Von Savage referred questions to Norris Clark, director of New Direction for New Jersey.

Clark, a Lower Township resident, ran unsuccessfully for the state Assembly in 2007. He said New Direction for New Jersey was formed two years ago as a committee of the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization. The group is active with restoration of the historic Fishing Creek School in Lower Township and saving Wildwood Catholic High School, he said.

"We weighed into the political arena with the freeholder race. Three good people, but only two slots, so we got behind John McCann," Clark said. "We wanted to fan his flame and encourage new leadership in the party."

Clark acknowledged that the choice is "causing some trouble" for Thornton.

"He's (Thornton) is a good man and he's been involved for a lot of years. We think it's

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Temple landscape architecture student Jen Vaccaro, above left, speaks to residents about her Rotary Park re-design during a town meeting, March 4. Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr., right, addressed the audience prior to break-out sessions. The students received input from members of the public and will return May 5 with final designs, for a pedestrian trail and park and recreation area upgrades.

## Public sees new preliminary designs for Cape May parks

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Perhaps fewer residents than hoped for turned out to see the third presentation by Temple University School of Environmental Design, Department of Landscape Architecture, showing possible improvements to Cape May parks and public spaces.

The students were soliciting public input, March 4, for this third meeting before presenting final designs on May 5.

Of primary interest were conceptual designs for Rotary Park. One prepared by Jennifer Vaccaro was more of a radical change, moving the gazebo bandstand to the Decatur Street side of the park, creating a long, rectangular lawn area in front of the bandstand. A second design was created leaving the bandstand in its existing location. Both designs called for a more open bandstand and the installation of an ice skating rink in the winter season. They called for more ornamental plantings and for planters that would collect storm water for irrigation.

Both plans called for the removal of a significant number of existing trees and replanting trees that would provide shade while not damaging the pavement. Designs

called for various natural pavers to be used.

The purpose for the meetings, according to Prof. Stuart Appel from Temple, was to find out what residents liked best and least about the students' designs. At the beginning of the meeting, which started at 3:30 p.m., only about 25 members of the public showed up for the meeting, and they were broken up into groups of five or six to

mimic the guidebook. The city pedestrian trail would have a way-finding system with signage to help people find parking and walk or get on trolleys. The students developed a color-coded signage system to take people through the various districts. They also recommended interpretive signs for people to read along the way.

The Lafayette Street recreation area provided some challenge because the students had to deal with an area of contamination at the St. John end of the field. The contamination is currently being mitigated, and the four designs offered covered the site with paved parking, or a skateboard park, or other impervious surface. The students designed the area from the elementary school to St. John incorporating the existing softball field, basketball and tennis courts, and dog park. The students redesigned the area to include parking, pavilions, restrooms, and passive and active recreation areas.

One design included putting the main entrance, including a vehicle entrance at Jefferson Avenue. All the designs included incorporating a nature trail in the wet

Please see Parks, page A3



A section of an illustration showing a new Rotary Park

## 'China Bob' is first filer for 2010 council election

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Robert W. McCafferty Jr. said he has traveled to 20 countries on five continents and has visited 47 of the 50 American states, but he is about to embark on a new journey, seeking one of three seats up for grabs on Cape May City Council.

Also known to many as "China Bob" for his donation of replica terra cotta warriors to the Lower Cape May Regional School District, and his lecture series of the mythical warriors originally found in Xian, China, McCafferty is the first to file petitions for the May 11 municipal election.

Candidates for city council need to complete a petition packet, which requires them to get signatures from 25 registered voters. McCafferty collected 51 signatures in four days and turned them in Tuesday, nine days before the March 18 deadline. Petition



Robert W. McCafferty Jr.

packets have also been picked up by Jack Riehl, Bernie Haas, Gail Pierson, Dawn Brantigan and Allison Bjork. Haas said he has reconsidered and would not run. Last week, Pierson said she was still mulling over the idea.

McCafferty said he saw three vacancies for three council positions and decided to run.

"When you have a situation like that in an election that's

not going to rival national elections, the odds might be pretty good of being successful," he said.

McCafferty was born in Union County and attended the Roselle Park School system. He entered the University of Pennsylvania and took a degree in economics from Penn's Wharton School of Finance. He said he finished number two in his class, just behind Jon Huntsman, who McCafferty called a distinguished figure in American finance.

He was in the Navy ROTC at Penn and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. McCafferty was stationed on Okinawa between 1960 and 1961 as the armor platoon leader.

"That's how I got my interest in Asia," said. "I also went to Hong Kong on R&R."

McCafferty went on to become a vice president of sales and marketing with

Please see Bob, page A3

## Garden Club has had roots in Cape May for 26 years

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Garden Club of Cape May counts its history back 26 years or so, meaning it is young by Cape May Victorian standards, but the club definitely has established roots.

For the past six years the Garden Club has been holding an annual flower show in Cape May, making it a perennial.

"The flower show turned out to be quite a success," according to show chairperson Marge Conly.

Conly said the club members create the arrangements displayed at the show and this year, for the first time ever, the Cape May County Technical School.

"They will be bringing horticulture for display and sale," Conly said.

The horticulture students will be presenting arrangements in a category called "Brown Bagging It," where all the arrangements will be placed in a brown paper bag.

There are two main sections to flower shows, Conly said, one is artistic and the other is horticulture. She said there

are also competitive and non-competitive displays. And displays created by first graders at Cape May City Elementary School.

"Last year it was the cutest thing," Conly said.

Earlier shows were held at Cape Island Baptist Church and later at Congress Hall. The Garden Club is holding its 2010 Flower Show on April 27, from 12:30 to 5 p.m., in the Penthouse Ballroom of the Grand Hotel.

"It's a beautiful venue," she said.

This year's theme is "The Color Wheel," and is sched-

uled to have 65 to 70 entries. All competitive entries will be judged and ribbons will be

awarded. Conly said the flower show is free and open to the public.



There are a number of give Please see Club, page A3