



INSIDE



Harbor Fest

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LCMR GRADUATION

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CAPE MAY

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JUNE 2010 TIDE TABLE					
HIGH		LOW			
am	pm	am	pm		
6/24	7:07	7:32	12:57	12:01	
6/25	7:56	8:16	1:47	1:36	
6/26	8:42	8:58	2:32	2:21	
6/27	9:25	9:38	3:16	3:04	
6/28	10:06	10:18	3:57	3:46	
6/29	10:46	10:56	4:36	4:27	
6/30	11:27	11:34	5:13	5:09	
Last Quarter				6/4	
New Moon				6/12	
1st Quarter				6/19	
Full Moon				6/26	
Apogee				6/3	

Special town meeting on Convention Hall

CAPE MAY – There will be a special town meeting of the Cape May City Council TODAY, Thursday, June 24, at 7 p.m. in the Cape May City Elementary School, 921 Lafayette St. The topic is the Convention Hall Project. Formal action may or may not be taken.

WEATHER ALMANAC
BY WAYNE ROOP

JUNE				
(Normals: 79°/62°, 3.40")				
	High	Low	Precip.	
10	79°	63°		
11	76°	61°		
12	77°	63°		
13	91°	64°	.04"	
14	82°	66°		
15	77°	66°	.01"	
16	77°	66°	.90"	

Township welcomes Kerri Numbers home

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – As an Army MP assigned to the personal security detail for Gen. Stanly McChrystal, Speciaist Kerri L. Numbers has learned to deal with the unexpected. But she never expected the outpouring of appreciation and public support given by members of the community upon her return from six months of duty in Afghanistan.

Numbers flew into Atlantic City International Airport, at around 6:45 p.m., Monday, where she was greeted by family, friends and members of the media, including a television news crew. Captain Brian Marker of the Lower Township Police Department was also there to give her a



Above left, a military photograph of Kerri Numbers after entering the army; right, Numbers with father Fran and mother Cindy numbers back in Lower Township.

police escort back to town. At the Ocean View rest area the caravan met up with 72



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

motorcycles ridden by the American Legion Riders, who also waited to escort her to

VFW Post 5343 (Lt. Charles "Buddy" Lewis Post) where a reception would be held.

Originally, the plan was for the convoy to stop at Lower Township Hall where a certificate of appreciation was to be awarded by Township Council, but the meeting ended before Numbers arrived. When she arrived in

Lower Township, a parade had literally formed from police vehicles, motorcycles and fire company vehicles from Villas, Erma and Townbank, flashing lights and blaring sirens.

And all the events were kept a secret from Numbers.

"Nobody hinted at anything," she said. "I was shocked."

Numbers arrived at the VFW Post on one of the motorcycles, having accepted a ride from Ocean View.

"I felt more important than Obama," Numbers said about the reception she was given.

Numbers is the daughter of Fran and Cindy Numbers of Erma. She is a 2006 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional

Please see Kerri, page A2

Special meeting on Convention Hall tonight

Pay more or wait longer?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – If many people had their druthers, the next town hall meeting would have been scheduled in the new Convention Hall. Instead, the city is holding another town hall meeting tonight at the elementary school to talk about the Convention Hall project.

Out-going city council members said their farewells at the last city council meeting, June 15, but some members requested a special meeting to discuss options on Convention Hall. Councilman David Kurkowski believes there are basically two.

In a letter, which appears in the Star and Wave's Letters to the Editor section (see page A8), Kurkowski says Plan A is to keep the current project as planned and pay more. Under this plan, demolition of the old Convention Hall could begin after Labor Day. Plan B,

Please see Meeting, page A2



David Nahan/Cape May Star and Wave

Water brigade at LCMR graduation

Students at Lower Cape May Regional High School pass cups of water at Wednesday's graduation ceremony, getting a little taste of relief from the oppressive heat that has settled on the area this week. See more photos on B1, and story on B7.

Qualified support given to Gov.'s Cap 2.5 plan

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council gave its qualified support to Gov. Chris Christie's call for a constitutional amendment requiring a 2.5 percent cap on property tax increases, Monday, with Councilman Wayne Mazurek voting against supporting Resolution 2010-140.

Mazurek said he would not support the state-imposed 2.5 percent budget cap on municipal budgets saying the net result would be an \$800,000 to \$1 million shortfall next year. He said the result of a 2.5 percent cap would be cutting more township employees, particularly police officers.

"Under the 4 percent cap we would probably still lose officers. At 2.5 percent, I don't know...it's going to be major," he said.

Mazurek said he did not disagree with the idea of imposing a tougher cap – just not at this time.

"This is a tough time. I think it's wrong for Lower Township," he said.

Mazurek said he could not vote for the resolution, even with the qualifications included in the resolution, saying in the end it would be interpreted as "Lower Township supports the cap."

Mayor Mike Beck, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare and Councilmen Glenn Douglass and Tom Conrad each voted for the resolution, but stressed that their support was contingent on the inclusion of the governor's "toolkit" as part of his Cap 2.5 program.

Christie has called for two constitutional amendments – one to cap property tax increases at 2.5 percent, and another to limit the increase of the state budget to 2.5 percent. The caps could be exceeded under the amendments, but only with voter approval.

The so-called toolkit consists of 33-bills requiring changes to collective bargaining and civil service. Resolution 2010-140 calls for the adoption of the toolkit with the 2.5 percent cap being the final piece of the puzzle, not the centerpiece of the governor's proposal. The resolution calls for statutory reforms relating to binding arbitration, civil service, public employee pensions and benefits, disciplinary procedures, school and special district elections and mandates relief to be enacted before the constitutional amendment.

"As I said, the number one economic problem of the township is interest arbitration," Beck said.

Beck said if you compare the average salary of Lower Township Police officers with those in Philadelphia, Lower Township pays at least \$2 million more per year.

Beck said the median salary for Lower Township Police officers is \$95,000. He said an officer with 25 years employment makes \$91,000 in Lower Township. An officer with 25 years on the Philadelphia Police Department makes \$59,000.

Beck said the township is paying \$22,000 to \$30,000 per officer in to the pension system.

Please see Cap 2.5, page A3

Cape May's Parking Angels

'Parking Angels' look out for visitors

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Over the course of the summer, dozens of people will return to their cars at a metered parking space to find a slip of paper on the windshield.

Some of them will even smile.

Those will be the ones who find a slip from the Parking Angels, a group started by the Chamber of Commerce to drop coins into expired parking meters.

According to Bill Causey, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, the Parking Angels Program expects to spend about \$2,000 feeding parking meters this summer, \$1 at a time. Now in its fourth season, the program runs through the summer season, starting May 1 – the day the meters go on. Causey said Chamber members sign up to sponsor the program. He said if a business donates \$100, that translates to 100 hours of parking being paid for, but the real value comes in goodwill.

He said people find the slip under their wiper blade telling them they were given a free hour of parking. The name of a sponsoring business is located on the slip, and sometimes there are coupons good for a discount at the business.

"We've had many, many people contact us saying thank you for doing the program. They would tell us they were saved by Uncle Bill's, for example, then went in and had breakfast. That's a good feeling to find out someone paid your parking,

and you got a discount coupon besides, rather than getting a \$32 parking ticket," Causey said.

Causey considers the Parking Angels Program a win-win situation.

"The city gets \$2,000 in revenue and the people get no tickets," he said.

Causey said the Parking Angels volunteers are normally chamber members. He said Steve from Seaside Cheese and his son will go out a couple nights a week. Causey and his son Rob also go out and look for expired meters.

And besides saving people on parking tickets, Causey said the Parking Angels have probably helped 1,000 showing them how to use the electronic parking meter kiosks, shown them how to use a credit card, told them where they can park or not park.

Causey said this is part of an ongoing effort to try and make a stay in Cape May easier and more enjoyable. He said the chamber is hoping to get approval for a plan to give a free trolley pass for people who park at the elementary school. He said they can hand them out to people and they won't have to worry about where to park the next day.

The city already has a partnership with the business improvement district, the chamber and the Tourism Commission to fund a citywide trolley service. He said it visits the hotels and motels and provides rides to the downtown.

"It's a program to get new people around town and to not use their cars. Everyone is working together

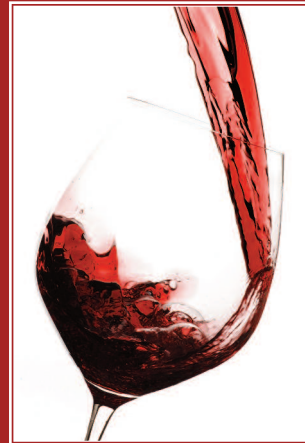
Please see Angels, page A2

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