



INSIDE



SPORTS

Caper Tigers football starts with a win, **B1**

Lady Tiger tennis off to a good start, **B1**

Lower's Frankie Gibson breaks record, **B9**

CAPE MAY

See community events on **A4**

SEPTEMBER 2010 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
9/23	8:37	8:52	2:12	2:35
9/24	9:09	9:26	2:43	3:12
9/25	9:42	10:00	3:13	3:49
9/26	10:14	10:34	3:44	4:27
9/27	10:49	11:10	4:17	5:08
9/28	11:29	11:54	4:55	5:55
9/29		12:17	5:40	6:51
9/30	12:48	1:16	6:35	7:54
Last Quarter			9/1,30	
New Moon			9/8	
1st Quarter			9/15	
Full Moon			9/23	
Apogee			9/21	
Perigee			9/8	

Township businesses will pay for trash removal

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council has been divided on the raising of fees as a means to balance the municipal budget, but they finally agreed businesses would have to begin paying for trash removal.

Councilman Wayne Mazurek presented a proposal under which businesses would continue to have their trash picked up free for the remainder of 2010, but as of Jan. 1, 2011, they would pay a fee set by the township. That

'Nobody wants to seem anti-senior or anti-children, but at the end of the day you have to pay the bill.'

–Mayor Mike Beck, Lower Township

plan would go until Dec. 31, 2011, after which they would have to hire a private trash contractor.

Having fees for commercial trash pick up was estimated to generate \$165,000 in revenue, however the township pays about \$130,000 in tip-

ping fees to dispose of commercial trash. Not picking up trash at businesses would save the tipping fees plus associated costs, such as fuel, upkeep on vehicles, wages and insurance.

Councilman Glenn Beck asked if businesses had the

option of opting out of municipal trash pick up immediately.

"Certainly," Mayor Mike Beck said.

Beck said raising fees in the township, as unpopular as it is, is a necessary step.

"I have to do (vote for) this," Beck said. "Nobody wants to seem anti-senior or anti-children, but at the end of the day you have to pay the bill."

Proposed fee adjustments included fees for use of the Millman Center, often used by senior groups, such as the local chapter of AARP.

Council also considered raising fees for Recreation Department sports programs. Most council members said they did not have a problem with the pool fee going up \$1, but they didn't want to see sports program fees raised by \$5. Councilman Tom Conrad and Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said some families would have a problem paying an additional \$5.

"If you don't want to keep kids out of sports programs due to the \$5, the \$5 has to come from somewhere,"

Please see **Pay**, page A2

Winter storms added to slate at disaster talks

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – With hurricane season at hand and winter on the way, members of the Office for Emergency Management and local residents attended the 2010 Disaster Preparedness Conference at the County Administration Building on Tuesday.

"It's an annual conference that used to be mostly about hurricane preparation, but now we just want to be prepared for any kind of disaster, especially since the blizzard this past winter," Communications Director Lenora Boninfante said.

In light of September being National Preparedness Month, the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the several speakers who attended hoped that the audience would pick up on some beneficial information on what to do in the event of a major emergency in the Cape May area.

Among those speakers was Charles McKenna, Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. McKenna has been the director in New Jersey since January, and feels that the Cape May area should be prepared for anything.

"Cape May is the most vulnerable area in the state when it comes to something such as a weather emergency," McKenna said. "And with weather seeming to be more sporadic recently, it's important to have a plan."

According to McKenna, he and his staff have been working vigorously on finding the best ways to distribute the federal grant money given to New Jersey. They

Please see **Storms**, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Businesses won't be seeing trash trucks like the one above, at least not ones with Lower Township on the side, beginning in 2012. The Township Council decided to stop giving free trash pick up to businesses beginning on Jan. 1, 2011, and businesses will have to fine their own trash hauler after Dec. 31, 2011. The move is to help close a budget shortfall.

Chairperson explains the HPC

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Mary Ann Gaffney of Columbia Avenue has been a member of the Cape May Historic Preservation Commission for over 10 years.

Her interest in the history of Cape May County is what drove her to become part of the HPC and also a city tour guide for the last 21 years. She came on board the commission as an alternate member and then moved her way up to the assistant chairperson position. Now, for the past three years, Gaffney has been chairperson for the HPC.

Gaffney said the commission is made up of nine members appointed by city council. Two members are alternates and the other seven are regular members. The main goal of the HPC is to preserve the physical characteristics of the many historical buildings and homes in the Cape May. If someone purchases a home in town, and wants to make alterations to the exterior of the establishment, they must file an application with the commission.

The commission then invites a historian into the mix who decides whether the part of the house that will be altered is a contributing or non-contributing factor to the building's historical significance. Of course, the commission doesn't actually need a historian if the owner asks for a drastic modification, but one is still used anyway.

"Because many of these applications ask for serious changes, like removing or adding a section to the house and putting on modern vinyl siding, most of them are not approved," Gaffney said.

However, if the HPC doesn't approve the application, the owner of the home does have the right to appeal it to the city zoning board. They schedule a hearing where both sides can make their claims and requests.

"We are a certified local government (entity), where we even have to go to classes to keep our education up to date on the history and regulations," Gaffney said. "We would like to educate the zoning board and the planning board as well on what we

Gaffney said. "We are trying to keep them the way they are."

The only part of the building the HPC has any control over is the exterior. Any changes the owner wishes can be made to the interior of the home and the commission does not regulate painting the outside of the house either.

According to Gaffney, the commission is very crucial to the area because Cape May is a National Historic Landmark City, and the only way to keep that status is by preserving the historic sites.

"Cape May has so much historical meaning, and that's why we don't want people remodeling these places or tearing them down and building new ones," she said.

Gaffney feels that whenever she and the commission stop a building from being modified, they are saving a piece of history.

"These old homes are my passion," she said. "I'm interested in the history and making sure everyone can enjoy it when they come to Cape May."

Gaffney is from Medford Lakes. She spent a fair amount of time here starting in 1981 and couple of years later, moved here permanently with husband, former mayor and councilman William "Jerry" Gaffney. Of her five children, three of them live here also. Over the years Gaffney has grown very attached to Cape May and just doesn't want the historical look to fade away.

Currently, the commission is trying to save the Beach Theatre from being demolished. They are awaiting

Please see **HPC**, page A2

City council approves Convention Hall design

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council voted unanimously to approve Design Scheme 6-C as the preliminary design for the city's new Convention Hall.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, Design Scheme 6-C (see city website at www.cape-maycity.com) contains all 14 elements determined to be necessary to the project, but which would also fit into the \$10.5 million budget.

"All 14 items were accepted by the project team as adjustments to the project budget cost estimate," MacLeod said. "The cost estimate stands at \$10,460,943 including the owner's budget, FFE, green energy features, professional fees, contingency and general construction costs."

Fitting into the budget was one of the 14 elements, which also included opening by Memorial Day 2012, which the project team feels is possible. Other elements include a divided hall. MacLeod said the design includes a hall that can be divided roughly in half; more like a 60/40 split with

the larger portion containing the stage area. Another was that the project would have minimum impact on the city's CAFRA permit.

MacLeod said he, Mayor Ed Mahaney and Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman met with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where they discussed the proposed footprint, interior and exterior designs of Convention Hall. MacLeod said

Please see **Design**, page A3

'It's time to get it done.'

– Councilman
Bill Murray on
Convention Hall

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