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Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour Saturday night!

MARCH TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
3/6	6:47	7:09	12:12	12:50
3/7	7:28	7:49	12:58	1:28
3/8	8:09	8:30	1:44	2:07
(Eastern Daylight Time)				
3/9	9:51	10:13	3:31	3:47
3/10	10:35	10:58	4:19	4:29
3/11	11:22	11:48	5:12	5:16
3/12		12:15	6:08	6:07

# Allies rally for feral cats: TNR program stays

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Feral cat advocates who rallied in front of Cape May City Hall for an hour before Tuesday’s city council workshop were pleased to learn the city planned to keep its Trap-Neuter-Return program.

Local residents, visitors and members of Alley Cat Allies, a national organization advocating for the protection of feral cats, were concerned the city would give in to pressure from the state and federal government to adopt a Beach Management Plan unfavorable to feral cats. According to the mayor and city council, the state wanted the city to adopt the plan under the threat of withholding beach replenishment funds. Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said the latest version of the Beach Management Plan allows the city to keep the TNR program, and get beach replenishment funding.

Councilwoman Linda Steenrod told the capacity crowd gathered in the City Hall auditorium the state and federal government agreed the cat colonies could stay.

“Our goal was the protection of this successful (TNR) program, while protecting the beaches and the plovers,” she said.

Steenrod said the TNR program has more than cut in half the feral cat population. Numbers given indicate the

ment,” that would be amended as circumstances changed.

Favre said a lot of people thought the idea of prohibiting cat colonies within 1,000 feet of the beach and a half mile from identified nesting sites was too restrictive.

Jay Schatz said he is a registered caregiver and the colony he feeds is 635 feet from the beach. He said there are about four feral cats in the colony and he has a couple of his own, and he doesn’t think any of them wander down to the beach.

Becky Robinson of Alley Cat Allies said it had seemed that the city was at a loss as to what to do, keep the TNR program or risk losing beach replenishment funding.

“The plan doesn’t make sense. If the program is so successful and a model for the country it should be allowed to continue to be affective,” she said.

Robinson said her group’s concern was that if feral cats were removed from the beach they would be relocated to shelters where they would be killed.

“Seventy-percent of cats are killed in shelters,” she said.

She said the real issue was not where the cats should be but the maintenance of the TNR program.

City resident Harry Belangy said the issue was not just cats – cats have become the issue in Cape May. He said the Beach Management Plan has been questioned by other communities that don’t have an issue with cats.

“The cat issue is an artificial issue created by someone in Cape May,” he said.

He said Atlantic City has a TNR program and they are getting their beach restoration funding.

Belangy told city council because of the actions by a person or persons in city government the city has spent time dealing with a non-issue. He said the Beach Management Plan refers to numerous other documents, covering many other issues, such as beach access. He said the plan would, for example, prevent people living on Wilmington Avenue from accessing the beach from their property.

Schatz said other municipalities were suing the state over beach management plans. He suggested the city consider joining the lawsuit.

“Not that I’m a big fan of lawsuits,” he said.

Schatz was making reference to a failed lawsuit filed over the city’s handling of the mall renovation project.

“Feral cats won’t go away, fight the plan and let them stay.”  
– Chant from those rallying for feral cats.



**Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave**  
Bonnie Buonocore from Landsdale, Pa., above, shows her support of feral cats in Cape May at Tuesday’s rally in front of City Hall. Elena Johnson of Allied Cats Allies, at right in blue, led the crowd in chant before the Tuesday council work session.



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A photo of unknown airmen stationed in Afghanistan was sent to the United Methodist Tabernacle Church in thanks for phone cards sent by the United Methodist Women.

## United Methodist Women hear from troops in Afghanistan

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

ERMA – The United Methodist Women at Tabernacle United Methodist Church have started to hear from service members who received phone cards sent by the women’s group.

Shirley Halbruner said the group sent about 70 phone cards to members of the armed forces who are serving overseas, and they have

begun to hear back from them.

The group received a letter from Air Force Chief Master Sergeant John W. Kimball, who is serving with the 755th Expeditionary Support Squadron in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Kimball said he provided the cards to airmen serving in Afghanistan, saying, “Every airman who received one was truly amazed at the thoughtfulness and the generosity.”

Kimball talked about their mission in Afghanistan, many of then providing training to Afghani police and medical staff. He said life was hard for the Afghani people, but the members of the United States armed forces were working to make life better for these people everyday.

Air Force Technical Sergeant Justin Helin also wrote to the women’s group saying how their work was improving the lives of

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## HPDC wants higher escrow

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Representatives of the Cape May Historic Preservation Commission addressed city council, Tuesday, requesting larger escrow amounts for demolitions on historic structures.

HPC attorney Robert Fineberg said the HPC was requesting the council to revise the ordinance and increase escrow amounts when an applicant wants to demolish a key or contributing structure. Fineberg said the HPC needs to be able to call on outside experts to evaluate the structure to see if it can be saved.

“This requires an expertise the HPC doesn’t have,” he said.

Fineberg said when applicants claim the house can’t be saved, they would like to be able to hire their own experts – an engineer or an architectural historian – to examine those claims.

The HPC recommendations included increasing the application fee from \$125 to \$250 for demolition of a key or contributing structure, and establishing a \$0 to \$2,500 escrow account for a contributing building, and \$0 to \$3,500 for a key building.

Under the recommendation, fees and escrow amounts would not change for other applications to the HPC. City solicitor Anthony Monzo said he would prepare the ordinance changes.

## Chiefs: Don’t close Lyle Lane

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Cape May Fire Chief Jerome Inderwies and Police Chief Diane Sorantino each said they would like Lyle Lane to be open during summer concerts at the Rotary bandstand.

In the past, the city would close Lyle Lane and people would put lawn chairs in the street facing the bandstand. Last year, the city decided to move the public into the park and keep the street open. Concern was expressed over the safety of concertgoers crossing Lyle Lane.

Inderwies said he did not want to see Lyle Lane closed because it impedes traffic flow.

“Traffic backs up. On nights when it was closed traffic backed up, especially at the Y where Collier’s (Liquor Store) is,” he said.

“I agree with Chief Inderwies,” Sorantino said.

Sorantino said some of the safety issues arise because people cross Lyle Lane without looking. She said keeping Lyle Lane open meant there would be more parking available. She said closing the street causes problems when people who were already parked needed to leave.

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## New CM patio fees formula

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The city has decided on a new funding formula for patios on the Washington Street Mall.

City manager Lou Corea said there was an ordinance presented in January that modified the layout of a patio, including style and color of fencing, chairs, location, and established permit fees.

The original proposal was to charge \$100 per linear foot of frontage for an establishment with a liquor license, and \$50 for a business with no liquor license. The businesses would pay a flat fee for the entire year.

Instead, Corea said, the new proposal was to charge \$5 per square foot for a patio permit, and to allow business owners to pay only for the months they are open.

Councilman David Kurkowski asked if the \$5 per square foot fee had been presented to mall merchants

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