

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 16 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008 50¢

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APRIL TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
4/24	11:12	11:28	5:10	4:47
4/25	11:52		5:52	5:25
4/26	12:11	12:38	6:38	6:12
4/27	12:59	1:34	7:29	7:09
4/28	1:55	2:36	8:23	8:15
4/29	2:55	3:40	9:17	9:23
4/30	3:56	4:37	10:08	10:28

Candidate's Night sees seven vie for two seats

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Seven candidates vied for two elected positions on the stage at the Cape May City School, last week, in a Candidates Night forum sponsored by the Taxpayer Association of Cape May.

The three mayoral candi-

dates included incumbent Mayor Jerome Inderwies and former Cape May mayors William "Jerry" Gaffney and Edward Mahaney.

There were four council candidates vying for the seat being vacated by Councilman David Craig, who is not seeking reelection. Among the four are former Cape May councilman Jack Wichterman, Jeanne Powick,

Terri Swain and Harry Bellangy.

In an opening statement, Inderwies introduced himself as the mayor who is coming to the end of his sixth year as an elected official in Cape May. Inderwies referred to the Cape May tax rate as the lowest in Cape May County, one of the lowest in the state, and how safe it is to be in Cape May. Inderwies said he rep-

resents no one but the citizens of Cape May.

"The only special interest group I represent is you, the taxpayers and residents of Cape May," he said.

Gaffney said his opening message would be simple.

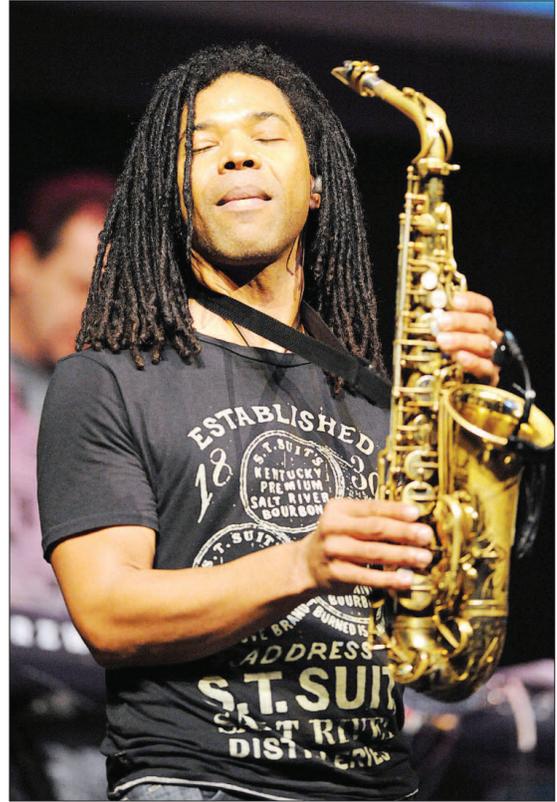
"I will do three things better – planning, rational spending and public awareness," he said.

Gaffney also commented on

the Washington Street Mall project, which is about 95-percent completed, saying the project should have been finished months ago.

Gaffney called the closing of Convention Hall due to structural problems a disaster and the result of poor planning. He called every penny on the local tax rate a

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David Nahan/Cape May Star and Wave

The 29th Cape May Jazz Festival welcomed a "New Wave" of performers last weekend during its 15th spring fest. Despite the closing of Convention Hall, a major venue, the festival went off as smooth as the performers themselves – many of them young talented artists whose names may eventually become as familiar as those of Duke Ellington and Oscar Brown. Pictured at top left are Friday night headliners The Rippington's Russ Freeman on guitar and Kim Stone on bass as well as "The Rippis" Jeff Kashiwa on sax, above, at Lower Cape May Regional High School's performing arts center. Vocalist Kim Nalley, at left, performed during Sunday afternoon's brunch at Alethea's with John Burr on bass, Kent Bryson on drums and Tammy Hall on piano.

City manager gives update to Taxpayers' Association

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May city manager Lou Corea gave a city update to the Taxpayers Association of Cape May, last week, addressing topics from the nearly completed Washington Street Mall to the solar power on the proposed Convention Hall.

On Friday, April 18, Corea said the Washington Street Mall was 98-percent complete and expected it to be basically finished this week.

"It will be fully completed by the first or second week of May," he said.

Most of the lighting is up, and two fountains were nearly completed. He said the

contractor was removing and replacing chipped bricks.

Corea said the city would hold an official opening at 10 a.m. on June 21.

"It will be a day full of attractions," Corea said.

That evening there would be two bands playing in Rotary Park.

Corea said May 1 would mark the one-year anniversary of discussions on a Special Improvement District or Business Improvement District. He said the last discussion with city council resulted in council recommending the borders of a SID/BID be cut back to a little more than the boundaries of the Washington Street Mall. He said on May 6 a representative from the

Wildwood BID would give a presentation to city council, and they would look at the four scenarios already proposed for the district. He said those boundaries would probably be set by ordinance at the May 20 meeting.

Corea reminded the taxpayers of the ordinance passed last week appropriating \$10.5 million for the Convention Hall replacement project. He said the number was not \$20 million, as reported in another local newspaper. He said city council had passed a resolution requesting a waiver of down payment on the bond, and he expected the issue to go before the local finance board in May. If the waiver is not approved, he said, city council would have to pass an

emergency bond ordinance for the project.

Corea said he has had three contractors review the Convention Hall situation to determine what it would cost and how long it would take to shore up and reopen Convention Hall. On Friday he had two quotes and was waiting on a third, but would not say how much they were until he had briefed city council.

TPA member Jack Wichterman asked why there was only one engineering report on Convention Hall. The building was closed based on an engineering study by Pennoni Associates Inc., of Bethlehem, Pa., which found the building structurally unsound and recommend-

ed closing the building to the public.

Corea said once an engineering firm had found the structure unsound, it was unlikely another firm would declare it safe. He also said the city used an out of town

firm so there would be no conflict of interest. He said a local firm might be seen as benefiting from closing Convention Hall and perhaps gaining a con-

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One man's trash, another's treasure?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – An old expression suggests one man's trash is another man's treasure. Recent thefts of scrap metal, including plates and spikes from a railroad track, suggest that adage may be coming true, as the price of scrap metal rises.

Lower township police recently arrested two North Cape May men, ages 18 and 19, on the Seashore Lines Railroad tracks behind the Tranquility housing development. The two had been removing plates and spikes, which police said could cause the rails to shift and possibly cause a train to derail.

Police said the two were caught removing pieces from the railroad tracks and items were found in their vehicle.

Police arrested William J. Rambo, 19, of the 100 block of

Bayridge, and Charles Omrod, 18, of the 100 block of Beachhurst and charged them with theft, interference with transportation and vandalizing railroad property. Both were released on their own recognizance.

The theft of railroad track parts was at least the eighth incident of metal theft in Lower Township since the new year.

On Jan. 3, Lower Township Police responded to a call regarding the burglary and theft of scrap aluminum from Columbia Avenue, Villas. The scrap aluminum was valued at \$250. In this case the suspects were located and they told police they thought the scrap aluminum was trash. The scrap was returned and no charges were filed.

Other incidents of scrap metal theft include:

Jan. 15 – A burglary and theft was reported at 8:09 a.m. in the 700 block of

Seashore Road, Erma. Miscellaneous scrap metal taken was taken from an enclosed area.

Jan. 18 – A theft of scrap metal reported at 1:20 p.m. in the 100 block of Carolina Avenue, Villas.

Feb. 6 – A report of theft at 3:25 p.m. in the 100 block of Old Mill Drive, North Cape May. The reporting party put the value of the scrap metal at \$200.

Feb. 18 – A report was received at 1:54 a.m. telling police two trash cans filled with what appeared to be scrap metal were hidden in some brush on the 300 block of Magnolia Street, Erma. Officers arrived, found the cans filled with scrap metal and decided to watch the area.

Shortly, three suspects arrived in a pick up truck and tried to load the cans on the truck. When approached by officers they attempted to

flee but were apprehended and charged with theft. The scrap metal was taken from a home on Magnolia Street.

Feb. 20 – A report of theft was received at 4:17 p.m. in the 100 block of East Bates Avenue, Villas. Scrap metal was taken from the victims yard.

A local man who operates a legitimate business picking up unwanted scrap metal said every piece of metal is valuable, these days, but collecting scrap metal is not a get rich quick scheme.

"You need a lot to make money," he said.

Ed Suilitena of American Recycling in Mays Landing said the price they pay for scrap metal depends on the material.

"Ferrous materials, steel, are paid by the 100 pounds," he said. "The price ranges from eight and a half to 15

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Aerobatics group wants to hold contest at Cape May County Airport

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
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VILLAS – On Monday, local pilot Will Morey introduced the idea of holding an aerobatics contest at the Cape May County Airport, located in Lower Township.

Morey, who said he has been flying for 34 years, said aerobatics is a way for pilots to improve their flying skills, and introduced Craig Wisman, vice president of Chapter 58 of the International Aerobatics Club.

Wisman, from Harrisburg, Pa., said aerobatics has been around since men started flying.

"Pilots have always been testing the envelope," he said. He said his chapter, along with Chapter 52 from New York and North Jersey, would like to co-sponsor an IAC sanctioned event at Cape May County Airport.

Wisman said the event is not an air show, but is a precision flying contest. He said there is no prize money, and the 25 to 50 pilots who would participate would compete for personal satisfaction and small trophy.

They are proposing a five-day event, Wednesday to Sunday, on June 24 to 29. He said the actual competition would take place on Friday, Saturday, and about half the day on Sunday. Wisman said there are five categories of difficulty, from the very simple to the "unlimited" category. Each pilot has to complete compulsory maneuvers, as in figure skating. They would also fly two programs, including an unknown program, which they would receive 24 hours before they compete. Five judges would evaluate three flights and the maneuvers, which take place within a 1,000-foot cube. That is one reason the Cape May County Airport is ideal, he said.

"This would all be done over Cape May County Airport Property," he said.

Wisman said they would promote the skills contest as a family event, and they would provide club members and their families with information about local attractions.

Wisman said while this is not an air show, they expect it would attract some local interest.