

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2007 50¢

INSIDE



**HAPPY
'TURKEY DAY'
TO YOU AND
YOURS FROM
THE STAFF AT
THE STAR AND
WAVE!**

HOLIDAY

Check out our shopping pages for ideas for everyone on your list, **BI**

AREA

Famed jazz and rock and roll photography on display in OC, **A4**

CAPE MAY

Family classic 'Little Women' premieres at East Lynne Theater Company, **A11**

NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE

		HIGH	LOW		
		am	pm	am	pm
11/22	5:22	5:44	11:33	11:33	
11/23	6:12	6:38		12:28	
11/24	7:03	7:31	12:23	1:22	
11/25	7:54	8:24	1:14	2:16	
11/26	8:46	9:18	2:05	3:10	
11/27	9:39	10:15	2:59	4:05	
11/28	10:33	11:14	3:54	5:01	

Boroughs pulling together to bring back train

LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Advocates for restoring passenger and freight train service to the Cape May branch of Seashore Lines have been calling “all aboard” to transportation officials.

Since the first meeting of the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers in 1980, volunteer members have been working to save passenger trains statewide.

Locally the focus is on the stretch between Richland and Cape May,

owned by New Jersey Transit.

Paul Mulligan, the Cape May Branch liaison for NJ-ARP, presented information about the extension of the Seashore Line to the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and most recently to the Cape May City Tourism Commission on Oct. 1.

The NJ-ARP is a non-profit corporation established by concerned New Jersey residents seeking a voice in deciding the future of statewide transportation. Many NJ-ARP mem-

bers work in the transportation field. NJ-ARP organized a coalition of supporters and developed a vision of the contribution the Cape May Branch of the Seashore Line could make to the economy of the region.

West Cape May and Cape May Point recently passed resolutions declaring their support of the development.

The total project cost of \$27.6 million includes \$25.8 million in track work and \$1.8 million in repairs to the Canal Moveable Swing Bridge.

Advocates seek state and federal transportation trusts as a source of

funding.

“New Jersey spends \$3 billion annually on transportation and New Jersey Transit spends \$1.6 billion on rail and bus projects; 50 percent comes from Trenton and 50 percent from Washington (D.C.) all of which come from motor fuel tax.

“Our effort is to demonstrate to decision-makers that this project has value to the economy of Cape May and Atlantic Counties that justifies its funding. It’s actually quite a bargain,”

Please see Train, Page A2

Happy Thanksgiving!



Students at the newly-consolidated Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School celebrated Thanksgiving a few days early with a luncheon held Monday, Nov. 19. Pictured clockwise from top left, Brandon Carrillo cleans his plate with time to spare; George Spackman finishes his turkey and seems to enjoy it while Gabriel Coffey, left, may have difficulty with his hat but certainly not his plate!

**Photos by
Leslie Truluck**

Beach Theatre open for business this Friday evening

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After undergoing what Beach Theatre Foundation president Steve Jackson called a “minor, major renovation,” the Beach Theatre will be open for business on Friday.

“The big news is we will be open for business,” Jackson said at a press conference on Saturday.

Jackson said the Beach Theatre would be used as a venue for the Cape May Film Festival, calling it a “fitting way to open” after all the work that had been done.

“I can’t think of a better way (to open) than to have the

Film Festival utilizing two of our theaters,” he said.

Since taking over the operation of the theatre, foundation members and volunteers, some from the local trades community, have been busy sprucing up the interior of the Beach Theatre. The lobby has received a fresh coat of paint, this time trimmed in a contrasting color. About 10 framed classic movie posters have also been hung. The restrooms have been thoroughly cleaned and painted, and new amenities added.

The lobby has been outfitted with small tables and chairs, and is being promoted as a “lobby café,” where visitors will want to linger, have coffee or a soft drink, and

perhaps link up to wireless Internet.

Inside the theaters, the floors were cleaned and painted and the seats replaced. The sound curtains were all cleaned, and there is no trace of mildew odor.

Jackson said “Cinema 1” would be fitted with high definition digital projection equipment before the opening to the public on Friday. The new equipment and programming comes from Emerging Pictures, which will provide movies in a digital format. The movies will be transmitted to the theater on a broadband cable system (the Internet).

Christina Kotlar, a representative of Emerging

Pictures, said her company looks for venues interested in partnering with them, such as the Beach Theatre. Kotlar said Emerging Pictures goes to distributors and picks up not only first run films, but art house and classic films.

Jackson said the Beach Theatre would run some first run films, but added that people can go to a multiplex cinema for such films. He said the Beach Theatre Foundation wants the Beach Theatre to be known for showing a variety of classic films, such as Casablanca, which is showing on Friday, independent films, documentaries and foreign films.

“We want to show things that are a little different,” he

said.

A French film with English subtitles will be shown on Friday at 7:15 p.m.

Jackson recommended anyone who has not seen Casablanca on the big screen to do so.

“It’s a totally different experience,” he said.

On every first Thursday, beginning on Dec. 6, the

Beach Theatre will show “Live At Lascala,” a high definition broadcast of opera from the opera house in Milan.

“We will have an opera expert to introduce the program, and at the intermission there will be a question and answer time,” Jackson said.

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Tourism Commission seeking more money for promotions

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Cape May Tourism Commission voted unanimously to ask the city to share a portion of beach tag revenue and the room tax in order to better promote tourism in the city.

The Tourism Commission receives about \$65,000 per year from a fee added to mercantile licenses. The money is supposed to be spent on marketing Cape May outside of the area. Most of that amount has gone to the MWW Group, a public relations firm hired to market Cape May.

Commission member Curtis Bashaw suggested the commission pass a resolution asking city council to consider allocating a portion of the money raised by the Beach Utility and the room tax to fund tourism.

Bashaw said the Beach Utility, which raised about \$1.6 million last year, directly benefits from the promotions paid for by the Tourism Commission.

“The Beach Utility has extra money. Why can’t the Beach Utility chip in for tourism promotion?” Bashaw asked.

Bashaw said he thought the Beach Utility should give the Tourism Commission \$50,000, or more. He said the Beach Utility’s costs are fixed, and anything raised over that amount is surplus.

Like the Beach Utility, Bashaw said, the city earns revenue from a tax placed on room rentals. The city collected about \$1.2 million from the room tax last year, and Bashaw said the city should take some of that money and put it back into promotions.

The Tourism Commission voted to prepare two separate

Please see Tourism, Page A2

Borough called ‘anti-development’

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The attorney for the Sixth Street partners, who have been trying to develop a nearly six-acre parcel for the past four and a half years told the West Cape May Taxpayers Association the current commission is anti-development and anti-affordable housing.

Attorney Nick Menas also told the TPA members last week the borough would eventually have to provide affordable housing, and if the cost is not borne by the developers it would be borne by the taxpayers.

The Sixth Street Partners have filed a lawsuit against the borough related to the development project. Bud

McDunnough, president of the West Cape May Taxpayers Association, said whenever anyone asked about the lawsuit the commissioners say they are forbidden to talk about it.

“It doesn’t seem right. We citizens can’t get an answer,” he said.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said the commissioners have been advised not to speak about specifics of the case involving the lawsuit.

“My job is to protect the borough, and to publicly debate someone who is suing the borough would be wrong,” she said.

Kaithern made general comments about the borough’s history on affordable housing.

“Since early 2003, to be clear, this borough, this

administration has certainly worked for and embraced affordable housing. We want our community to survive and thrive, and without diversity – we have had young families, elders, everyone we have seen – your community doesn’t thrive,” she said.

Kaithern said a week doesn’t go by when a young couple single mother asks her if she knows of an affordable place to buy or rent.

“Seniors can’t afford to stay...we absolutely support affordable housing,” Kaithern said.

Regarding development, Kaithern said the commissioners have worked towards a plan that would work for the community and is within the framework of sound planning. She said the model the borough is using is to pro-

mote growth in the center of town, and as you move from the center of town the lots start getting bigger.

“The outer fringe is the green belt, and that’s where working toward,” she said.

Kaithern said reworking the floor area ratio (FAR) was one of the tools the borough has used to promote affordable housing. She said the borough reduced the lot size for multiple units, meaning there would be smaller but more affordable units.

“The bigger the houses the more they cost to buy rent,” she said. “And the taxes do not keep pace with the cost of services that are demanded.”

Developers Tony Anzelone and Chuck Catinoso, who are seeking to build 70 townhouses

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