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NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
11/8	6:39	6:53	12:07	12:44
11/9	7:14	7:30	12:40	1:23
11/10	7:48	8:06	1:13	2:01
11/11	8:23	8:42	1:45	2:39
11/12	8:59	9:19	2:17	3:19
11/13	9:36	9:57	2:51	3:59
11/14	10:16	10:40	3:29	4:43

Washington Street Mall project beginning

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - There will be no Christmas tree lights as there normally are this time of the year on the Washington Street Mall. The explanation is simple - there will be no trees.

Tree removal started this week as crews began the initial steps in the mall revitalization project.

On Wednesday, project engineers from Remington and Vernick Engineers and a representative from the paving company spoke to mall merchants and told them what they could expect over the next six months.

Ray Roberts, an engineer with Remington and Vernick Engineers, told Washington Street Mall merchants they were bound to get complaints from people about dirt and the unsightly condition of the

mall while construction is going on. He told them to look at the big picture and tell people the next time they came to Cape May the mall would be beautiful. But in the meantime, merchants and visitors to the mall are going to have to put up with 10-foot walkways, construction noise, and temporary closures.

Nick Furfari, of Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC, told merchants when they are laying the four-inch concrete base upon which the pavers will rest, some stores will be closed for as much as three days.

"We will try to cut it to two," Furfari said.

Businesses will also have to deal with having water and sewer lines disconnected while new lines are being installed. According to Furfari, the hope is that businesses, including restaurants, would only have to be without water for about three hours,

but perhaps as much as a half a day.

Roberts introduced the meeting saying it was not a "redesign meeting" to make changes on decisions made over the past two years. The purpose of the meeting was to give the merchants an idea of the scope of the work and a month-to-month, block-by-block work schedule.

After the removal of the trees and other impediments, crews will begin making cuts and installing water lines from Perry to Ocean. New storm water and sanitary sewer lines would also be installed. New laterals connecting the new lines to buildings would also be installed.

Eventually, a 10-foot section on each side of the mall would be paved with brick. Similarly a 30-foot section in the middle of the mall would be paved with brick set in a herring bone pattern. The two

elements will be separated by bluestone pavers, which will suggest a curb line.

The project calls for the removal and replacement of 66 benches, some of which are dedicated as memorial benches. Roberts said those would be relocated in the same block. New lights, trash receptacles, and enclosures for the electrical transformers will be installed. New

planters with irrigation systems will surround a variety of new trees to be planted on the mall.

A schedule for all the work to be performed is being made available to the mall committee, which will in turn make the information available to the mall merchants. The mall committee will be

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LT frustrated over water

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township council and residents grow increasingly frustrated with the lack of communication from the local Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP.)

Once again mandatory hookups to the city water line and the prospect of a water recharge plant became the main topics of discussion among council at its regular meeting Nov 5.

Township officials want to resolve local water concerns but need the cooperation of the MUA to produce a plan for mandatory hookups to city water lines and the assistance of the DEP to receive funding for the recharge plant.

Council member Wayne

Mazurek said mandatory hookups will probably be a necessary reality in the future because of salt-water intrusion. Mazurek noted residents paying for water are more likely to conserve the resource.

In order for the mandatory hookups to become a reality, Mazurek said the township's MUA needs a plan.

Mazurek listed four specific areas on which he expects the MUA to provide information.

First, he said the plan must include a timetable of specifics of where and when future expansion of the mandatory hookups would occur to allow residents time to plan finances for the cost of the hookup. Mazurek said the hookup is expected to cost \$1,500 or more.

Second, Mazurek said the MUA needs to provide a concrete finance schedule of fees with payment options.

Third, The MUA's plan for mandatory hook ups need to investigate funding and grant options to help seniors on fixed incomes and low to mid-income families who may need assistance in paying for the hookup.

Finally, Mazurek said the MUA should look at the areas currently without hookups because "in some instances it's not fair when some don't have to pay."

Mayor Walt Craig said council asked the MUA for these specifics in the past to no avail.

"In order for us to vote on it in good conscience we need to see a plan" Mazurek said.

"The best we can do is to try to get them (the township MUA) to do what they are appointed to do," Craig said, "At this point anything we do will not be proactive, it will

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Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave

Workers start removing trees on the Washington Street Mall before new utility lines can be installed. A variety of trees will be planted to replace the mature trees which have caused problems for surrounding pavement.

Van Drew, Albano, Milam sweep November election

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
and ERIC AVEDESSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Without having any of the vote tallies due to problems getting the numbers from the county clerks' offices throughout the First Legislative District, Democratic faithful welcomed new state Sen. Jeff Van Drew.

Van Drew defeated incumbent Republican Nick Asselta 25,518 to 20,173.

Cape May County Democratic Committee Chairman Jim Pickering said the local party "keeps making history every November" and there was no exception this year.

Pickering introduced Van Drew, who was the first Democratic assemblyman to

be reelected to the Assembly, and who is now the district's first state senator from the Democratic party.

Van Drew said he was going to refer to some notes because there were people he didn't want to forget to thank, people who worked so hard for so many years.

"Which is all of you," he said. "Thank you and God bless you."

Van Drew thanked his wife, kids and family for putting up with his 11th election campaign.

"We have had some bruisers ... and this was one of them," he said.

He then thanked various members of his staff for their work during the campaign.

Van Drew had special thanks for campaign staff member Allison Murphy, who he said went head-to-head with a professional campaign

strategist from Chicago and won.

Van Drew said in the beginning of the campaign two years ago the candidates decided it would be a clean campaign.

"We sat at the table and we said that we were going to run a positive, meaningful campaign, and that we would talk about the issues and what our ideas were for the future, and we did. And it was a good campaign two years ago," he said. "Unfortunately, in this campaign my opponent chose not to do that."

Van Drew said from the beginning of the campaign the Republicans hired a tracker to follow him wherever he went and monitor what he said. He said they also hired what he had to call a "political hitman from the city of Chicago, Ill."

"Well, I'd like to tell Bill Pascoe, the hired professional from the city of Chicago, Ill., that the little girl from Dennis Township (Murphy) kicked his butt," Van Drew said.

Van Drew mentioned running mates Nelson Albano and Matt Milam for their support.

Albano was reelected as state assemblyman with 24,952 votes, and was in Cumberland County when the polls closed. Milam, who won his first elected office as a state assemblyman, received 21,938 votes. Republicans Michael Donohue finished with 20,131 and Norris Clark with 19,621.

At the time Van Drew spoke he said it was apparent Albano had won reelection and they believed Milam had also won a seat, but urged the crowd to wait for the numbers, which never came to the Democratic election night headquarters Tuesday night.

Van Drew gave a big thanks to representatives from the United Auto Workers for their support, saying they "stand with you through thick and thin."

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

State Senator-elect Jeff Van Drew is congratulated at campaign headquarters Tuesday night. For more election coverage, please see Page A7.

Jazz Festival brings father, son, and 425 lbs. of organ

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Papa John DeFrancesco was just a trumpet player from the Buffalo, N.Y., area until he went to a jazz festival and heard Jimmy Smith playing the Hammond B3 organ.

"That was it," DeFrancesco said.

That was it as far as choosing his musical direction, although it was about five years before DeFrancesco could actually pick up the Hammond B3. Not literally, of course.

Speaking from his home

in Scottsdale, Ariz., DeFrancesco said the Hammond B3 weighs about 425 pounds.

"That's the pedals, bench, everything," he said.

If he has to travel any distance to play a gig, the venue will normally provide an instrument.

"If I'm playing locally I have someone who moves my equipment," he said.

The Hammond B3 was basically designed for churches, where it would sit in one spot for a long time.

"Then the jazz cats got a hold of it," DeFrancesco said.

Some of the first of these

"cats" were guys with names like Milt Buckner and Wild Bill Davis.

"The guy that really made it happen was Jimmy Smith," DeFrancesco said.

DeFrancesco describes the Hammond B3 as a "very warm, very spiritual instrument." Is it spiritual because it was meant to be played in church?

"It's the way the guys play it," he said.

Besides being heavy, the Hammond B3 is also a very complicated instrument to play.

Just ask DeFrancesco, who has been playing it for nearly

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Papa John DeFrancesco