

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 52 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2007 50¢

INSIDE



OUTDOORS

Cape May Nature Center looks back at 2007, B1

ARTS

Louisa May Alcott's Christmas tells of simpler times, A3

CAPE MAY

Tall and small fishing tales, B2

The Star and Wave wishes everyone a healthy, safe and very Happy New Year!

DEC./JAN. TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	am	pm	am	pm
12/27	10:12	10:50	3:38	4:35
12/28	11:01	11:43	4:31	5:24
12/29	11:50		5:26	6:12
12/30	12:37	12:41	6:24	7:00
12/31	1:32	1:35	7:24	7:48
1/1	2:24	2:30	8:24	8:33
1/2	3:17	3:26	9:24	9:20

LT to dissolve MUA: Plans for separate facility

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council decided last week that it will turn the Municipal Utilities Authority into a separate authority into a municipal department.

Mayor Walt Craig said the move should save money and let the township work proactively to ensure there is enough potable water for

Lower in the future.

"We hope to be able to address in a more timely fashion the crisis we are facing as far as potable water goes," Craig said.

Officials said there is no plan to sell the MUA to a private firm or the county utilities authority.

Craig, Councilman Glenn Douglass, and township solicitor Paul Baldini met with MUA Board Chairman Peter Biting, board member

Charles Garrison and MUA solicitor Jeff Barns Dec. 19. The MUA asked for the meeting.

Craig said the private meeting lasted a little more than an hour and concluded when he informed the authority of council's intention to move forward with the dissolution of MUA.

"They (the MUA) requested the meeting with us and it appeared to be an attempt to try to persuade us not to move

forward with the obvious possibility of moving to dissolution," Craig said.

"We called the meeting to find out if they were going to take over and if they plan to keep the help," said Biting.

He added MUA employees are concerned the dissolution would leave them unemployed.

Craig said he will meet with the MUA employees Dec. 28 in an attempt to allay their fears.

"They (council) said they wouldn't sell it (the MUA), but they said there might be different placement of positions," Biting said.

Town Manager Joe Jackson said employees currently working for the MUA would hold the same positions under the township department.

"There will be some unity and certainly we won't have communication gaps as we

Please see MUA, Page A2



Cape May Star and Wave file photos

2007 saw the closing of St. Raymond's Roman Catholic School in Villas as well as an extraordinarily warm temperatures during most of the winter months.

2007: A look back at past year headlines

(Editor's note: This is the first installation in a look back at 2007.)

January 2007

Lady Tigers win Big Al Memorial Classic

WILDWOOD – The "three-headed attack" of Stephanie Agger, Victoria Wermuth and Stephanie Dugan combined for 44 points in Lower Cape May's 52-40 win over Neshaminy in the Big Al Memorial Classic, Dec. 27. Head coach Roy Wright named all three players as co-MVPs in the win over the Lady (Red)Skins from Langhorne, Pa.

Warm weather affects Cape area

MOUNT HOLLY – Unseasonably

warm winter experienced by people in the eastern region of the United States left people wondering if winter would ever arrive, or if fall will just turn into spring. Anthony Gigi, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service working out of Mount Holly, said the weather tends to balance out, saying if its not cold in the winter it tends to be cold in the spring.

Cape May Stage receives large pledge

CAPE MAY – Cape May Stage recently received a pledge of \$200,000 for Project Encore – the campaign to restore and renovate the leased theatre building at Bank and Lafayette Street. The donation

was made by the Martel/Shackleton family in honor of Cape May resident Leslie Shackleton Martel's father, Robert Shackleton. The playhouse was subsequently named the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in his memory.

Lower Township manager resigns in closed session

VILLAS – At the Jan. 17 meeting of Lower Township Council, the council and city manager went into closed session, and when they came out the township did not have a city manager.

The township council then voted 4-1 to accept the resignation of Kathy McPherson as township

manager. Councilman Wayne Mazurek cast the only no vote.

McPherson remained the personnel director, the job she continued to hold while performing the duties of township manager.

February

Municipalities continue to work on fair housing issues despite appellate court decision

WEST CAPE MAY – On Jan. 25 an appeals court struck down rules governing affordable housing programs required of New Jersey municipalities under Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations. The court said COAH rules

Cape May Point making it a point to recycle correctly

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Confusion about the proper preparation of recyclable materials lead commissioners to organize a presentation to give residents specific information about the brown bag leaf program.

Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) Recycling Coordinator Bridget O'Connor explained the county's guidelines and benefits of recycling at the regular meeting Dec. 13.

Cape May Point requires mandatory recycling under local ordinance requiring residents and visitors to recycle in compliance with the statewide Source Separation

and Recycling Act.

The borough used a mini grant to purchase brown bags that will decompose with recycled leaves. The program is a more efficient system than using manpower to pour leaves from plastic bags at the MUA plant. The brown bags are available at the Public Works office.

Residents are encouraged to recycle leaves, grass clippings, twigs less than a half inch in diameter, plant debris including stems, flowers, roots, pine needles, acorns, sweet gum seed pods and pine cones in the brown bags.

O'Connor said the rule of thumb should be that twigs should not exceed an adult's pinkie finger in diameter.

Meadow grass and phragmites are not accepted for

composting because of iodine found in it and they should be disposed with the regular trash.

Once the brown bag compost materials reach the recycling plants in Woodbine and Burleigh, they begin the seven-month composting process and eventually become marketed topsoil.

O'Connor said the MUA's root mulch and teragrow have competitive nutrient values compared to the large brand-name companies. The compost pile produces methane gas, a known greenhouse gas, which is burned to generate electricity for the Woodbine plant. The plant created so much methane gas it has become energy independent.

Since April the Woodbine

plant receives negative Atlantic City Electric bills because of the abundance of methane gas used to power the facility is rolling over.

"The authority has chosen to invest in a facility that captures this gas and utilizes it as

an alternative form of fuel for internal combustion engines and produce electricity in order to reduce our reliance on conventionally generated power. This will save approximately \$175,000 per year in energy costs," Executive

Director Charles Norkis said via press release.

Les Tony of the CMP Public Works office said he is available between 8-8:30 a.m. for residents to sign out brown

Please see Point, Page A5

Roadblocks and progress

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – During his monthly report, city manager Lou Corea talked about progress on improvements being made in the city, but also commented on citizen actions he believes made the improvements hard to implement.

"Unfortunately, the year also witnessed the continuing rancor between the city and a few individuals who, under the guise of being the people's white knight, spread misinformation, ridiculed the individuals responsible for approving and implementing those projects representing the best interests of our resi-

dents, and placed road blocks in the paths of well thought out and needed improvements," he said.

Corea said the efforts of certain individuals resulted in delays and increased cost to the same people they claimed to represent.

The city had to defend against a lawsuit intended to stop the upgrade of the Washington Street Mall. The plaintiffs argued that the mall merchants were the main beneficiaries of the upgrade, yet all the taxpayers were footing the bill. The suit claimed the city was violating its own ordinance by not requiring mall property owners to pay for upgrades to sidewalk areas. The judge ultimately dismissed the case

saying the city was making a public improvement.

Corea said the problems in Cape May, which were portrayed as a tidal wave, "would not even equate to a ripple in most other cities."

In his address, Corea highlighted some of the improvements already made, including the expansion of the garden and flower program, including new plantings at the city's gateway.

Corea said it was time for the "overwhelming majority" of the property owners who support the city's revitalization effort to voice support for "much needed projects," in order to "drown out the vocal minority," and put things in perspective.

LaManna's 'Lady Fair'

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – "Lady Fair," piano soloist Steve LaManna's fifth album, is dedicated "to all the ladies."

LaManna is regularly seen behind the piano at Congress Hall's Brown Room.

"Lady Fair" is a compilation of solo renditions of rock and jazz including songs written by Van Morrison, Billy Joel and Bob Dylan.

"I try to personally interpret the songs in terms of what I think the composer was expressing musically and poetically," he said.

"The new CD is what I've been trying to achieve in my recordings: a clear statement of how I interpret the composition."

He gives a lot of credit to his wife and recording engineer Lila LaManna. They recorded "Lady Fair" in the middle of the night at their home in South Dennis.

"We wanted to avoid noise from the highway," Lila LaManna said, standing beside her husband at the album-signing event Dec. 22.

LaManna has regularly performed in Cape May since 1990 and released four albums in the 1990s. "Some fans have waited 10 years for this album," LaManna said.

He describes his latest as "a mix of various melodies from various time frames." "I've never been able to figure a name for the genre,

Please see Lady, Page A2



Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave Steve and Lila LaManna at the "Lady Fair" CD signing at Congress Hall's Brown Room last Saturday.