

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 8 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007 50¢

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CAPE MAY

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FEBRUARY TIDE TABLE
(eastern daylight time)

	LOW		HIGH	
	am	pm	am	pm
22	11:26		5:15	5:23
23	12:01	12:26	6:18	6:20
24	1:04	1:35	7:28	7:23
25	2:15	2:51	8:41	8:32
26	3:27	4:04	9:51	9:40
27	4:33	5:06	10:52	10:42
28	5:30	5:58	11:44	11:36

INSIDE:
Arts and Culture in Cape May!

City authorizes new contract for city manager

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

CAPE MAY – City council unanimously authorized a new contract for city manager Lou Corea whose contract expired at the end of January. The contract comes at the end of a negotiation period, which included a report by a special committee formed to evaluate the city manager. The committee also made recommendations for improving what was perceived as a strained relationship between city council and

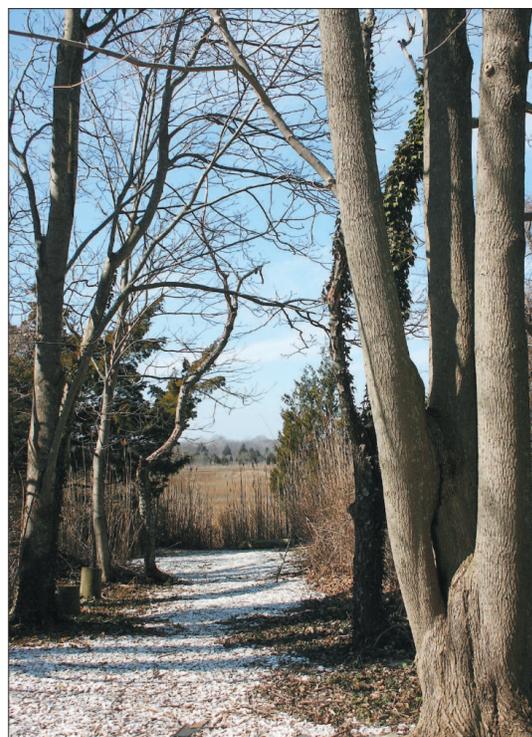
the manager. On Tuesday, Mayor Jerry Inderwies highlighted details of the new contract, which he said was mostly the same as the old contract. However, while Corea had sought a four-year contract, the city was offering two. “We settled for three,” Inderwies said. Corea also sought longevity, which would award pay increase based on time of service; however, he was denied Inderwies said, by legislation passed in 1999 making anyone hired after that date ineligible.

Cape May chief financial officer said longevity can still be negotiated into a personnel contract with non-union employees, and is generally a part of union contracts. Inderwies said Corea wanted an “additional 25 days” vacation but was given 20 days. Corea said Inderwies misspoke. He said he asked for an additional week (25 total workdays). Corea gets four weeks of paid vacation each year and he was requesting a fifth week, but the parties agreed his vacation time would not change. Former councilman Gerry

Gaffney asked what the city manager would be paid during this contract. City solicitor Tony Monzo said the manager would get an average 3.73-percent pay increase over the life of the contract. The manager’s current salary is \$107,610, and he would receive a 3.2-percent increase in 2007, or \$111,062. In 2008, he would receive a five-percent raise to \$116,616, and in 2009, the final year of the contract, his pay would be \$120,115, a three-percent increase. By contract, the city manager is available 24 hours a day,

365 days a year on an emergency basis. The city will also provide the city manager with a cable Internet modem service at his home “for the purpose of attending to city matters.” Also, since the city manager is considered “on call” at all times Corea will have the use of a city vehicle. If Corea’s contract is terminated by the city before its expiration, or at any time thereafter for any reason other than “for cause,” the city will pay Corea for his

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave
Pictured above is Cape Island Creek where West Cape May Commissioner Dick Rigby hopes to see a nature trail much like that of Cape Island Creek nature Trail, pictured left, and located behind Cape May Elementary School.

WCM hoping for nature trail along creek

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

WEST CAPE MAY – Borough Commissioner Dick Rigby and Ann Breen of the non-profit Waterfront Center are working on a plan to preserve land surrounding Cape Island Creek as a nature trail and site for eco-tourism. “Not a plan, yet, but a plan to develop a plan,” Rigby explained. Rigby said the 25-year-old non-profit organization would be joined

by Sherrie Peck, a regional planner with the National Parks Service, Philadelphia office, and Dianne Daly of Duffield Associates, a project scientist who is donating services toward the Cape Island Creek project. Last week, the West Cape May Board of Commissioners authorized Rigby to contact the owners of four lots adjacent to Cape Island Creek. If acquired, the four lots, plus an additional 10 acres owned by the NJDEP would, provide 35 acres of

wetlands where a nature trail could be constructed. Rigby said adjoining wetlands and meadows owned by Cape May and Lower Township provide a combined 100-acre tract that could be viewed by visitors to the nature trail. “This is predicated on the hope we can acquire the land,” Rigby said. “At this stage it is a hope.” However, Rigby said there is cause for optimism. Rigby said he wrote letters to Leroy and Rhoda Reeves, owners of two lots, and

Sylvia and John Baer, owners of the other lots. The Baers, residents of Winona, have a home on Michigan Avenue in Cape May. Rigby said he contacted the Baers through the Raysun Property Management office, saying he wished to send a letter proposing the borough purchase his property. “John called and gave me an address saying he was interested in getting the letter and I took that as a

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City council approves new name for Cape May Stage

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
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CAPE MAY – Council passed a resolution Tuesday giving naming rights for Cape May Stage to a donor who has pledged \$200,000 to the restoration of the theater building. Cape May Stage leases the former church building at Bank and Lafayette Streets from the city of Cape May. The building has been under a major renovation known as Project Encore. Project Encore recently received a \$200,000 pledge

from the Martel/Shackleton family in honor of Robert Shackleton (1914-1956), the father of Cape May resident Leslie Shackleton Martel. Participating contributors include Shackleton’s daughter and her husband Myles Martel, who are seasonal residents and who have owned a home in Cape May since 1991; Shackleton’s widow, Betty Shackleton Thurston, a resident of St. Simons, Ga.; Shackleton’s son and daughter-in-law, Robert “Woody” and Denise Shackleton, who reside in San Francisco. Shackleton was a stage and screen actor, performing both

on Broadway and in London Theatre Productions, including: “Where’s Charlie” with Ray Bolger; “Keep Off the Grass” with Jimmy Durante; “Three After Three” with Simone Simone; “Set to Music” with Noel Coward and Beatrice Lillie; “Very Warm for May”; “Sweethearts” and “Sally.” Shackleton also appeared in movies, including the film version of “Where’s Charlie” with Ray Bolger and “The Wonder Boy.” He also appeared in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas with the Savoy Opera Company. Shackleton was raised in

suburban Philadelphia, attending Lansdowne High School and Blair Academy. He graduated from Temple University, where he earned varsity letters in wrestling and tennis. Shackleton served in the U.S. Army during World War

II, reaching the rank of major. During the war he served as aide to General Omar Bradley. Shackleton also drew the first number out of a bowl in Washington, D.C. for the draft in World War II. During his life, Shackleton

often visited his brother, Jack, at his home – the Griscom House – on Beach Avenue. The home is still owned by the family. On Tuesday, city council also authorized a 50-year lease agreement with Cape May Stage for the building.

CM sewer rates to increase

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
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CAPE MAY – After its Feb. 6 work session, city council listened to a proposal by city manager Lou Corea to raise sewer rates an average of 22-percent to get the Water and Sewer Utility through the next two to three years. In a memo prepared for city council Corea said, while there was no need to increase water rates at this time, existing sewer rates were insufficient to allow the utility to be self-liquidating. Corea said over the last five years, increases in the Water and Sewer Utility budget have averaged less than 3-percent. The 2007 budget reflects a 2.25-percent

increase over last year. He said water and sewer rates have remained relatively flat over the last five years, while water and sewer insurance costs have risen. More than 40-percent of the utility’s \$5.5 million budget, or \$2.225 million goes to the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority for sewer treatment. Corea said a sewer rate increase is necessary and has proposed the 22-percent increase in order for the utility to remain self-liquidating. “The 22 percent is one time and would hope to last for two to three years,” Corea said. “We got five years out of last sewer rate increase.” Corea said Cape May’s chief financial officer calculated the average sewer increase to

the homeowner to be about \$35 a year. Corea said while the percentage of increase seems high, the base sewer rate is low. Additionally, ratepayers are charged at regular rates for the first and fourth quarters. Peak rates are charged in the second and third quarters, which include the summer months. The proposed regular sewer rate is \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons, up from \$2.70. Peak sewer rates would rise from \$6.51 to \$8.25 per 1,000 gallons. Those who use water and sewer service more in the peak rate periods would see more of an increase. Year round users should notice less of an increase, Corea said.



A very unwanted Valentine

It was Feb. 14 when gale force winds brought down a Silver Maple in front of the Eldredge House on Broadway. According to the history books, the tree was planted by the Eldredges, Mayflower descendants, around 1800. Owner Todd Land said the 100-foot tree fell around 2 a.m. Fortunately, there was no structural damage and no one was injured – except for the tree.