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# Cape May Star and Wave

159TH YEAR NO. 6 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 6, 2013 50¢



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno comforts Eric Meyer, who became emotional at the groundbreaking ceremony for the removal of a traffic light removal project on the Garden State Parkway. Meyer's son Christopher was killed in an accident at Stone Harbor Boulevard and the GSP, one of three intersections where an overpass will be installed.

## Project to eliminate traffic lights on GSP is kicked-off

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Nearly nine years after Christopher Meyer was killed in a car accident while crossing the Garden State Parkway, federal, state and local officials announced the beginning of a project to remove traffic lights from the GSP in Cape May County.

On the 172 miles of the GSP, the only traffic lights are located in Cape May County at Shell Bay Avenue, Stone Harbor Boulevard, and Crest Haven Road, exits 9, 10 and 11. Another is located at exit 0, the parkway's southern terminus, but is not part of the project.

Meyer was 17 in 2004, when

on Oct. 4, his mother drove him to Blockbuster to rent a movie and then to Wendy's to get a meal. On their way home they were crossing the parkway on Stone Harbor Boulevard when a driver heading north on the GSP ran the red light and broad-sided the Meyer vehicle. The teenager was killed, but his mother survived. According to her husband, Eric Meyer, his wife has had two more accidents at the same intersection since 2004.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew said Eric Meyer later spearheaded a campaign to eliminate the traffic signals off the parkway, starting with a tearful press conference in Van Drew's Cape May Court House office.

"About a decade ago I met this gentleman under the worst of circumstances," Van Drew said. "We held a press conference attended by a father who lost a son, and a son who had lost a father (to accidents on the GSP)."

Van Drew credited Meyer's advocacy for getting more signage and warning devices to let people know there are traffic lights ahead. He said with Monday's groundbreaking, the life of Christopher Meyer had taken on tremendous meaning, because lives would be saved due to the elimination of the traffic lights.

After numerous accidents at these parkway intersec-

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## Lower proposes Committee on Tourism

By BETTY WUND  
For the Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Mayor Mike Beck said there is a lot to be resolved before FEMA will make decisions about this area.

Speaking at Monday's township council meeting, Beck said he recently attended a meeting in Ocean City.

"There are no specific guidelines for us. We are not in a zone (on the FEMA map). We have to wait until we get the correct information from FEMA," he said.

Deputy Mayor Norris Clark presented a proposal for an economic advisory committee to concentrate on two areas: tourism and jobs. It would be an ad hoc committee ending in December 2014.

Councilman Glenn Douglass will co-chair the committee with Clark.

Each member of the council will propose two members, which will meet on a regular basis and report back to council.

"We are looking for business leaders, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and people who can give us ideas to attract tourism that would not cost the township money," Clark said.

The entire council agreed with the proposal, and authorized Clark to go ahead with organizing the committee.

Code enforcement officer Walt Fiore was this month's department head asked to give a presentation at a council meeting. Fiore was asked to explain his job, the viola-

tions he covers include zoning and mercantile licenses as well as excessive trash, uncut lawns or non-working cars on property.

Fiore said he handled 1,500 complaints last year by himself with some help in summer. In cooperation with Town Manager Mike Voll and the council, changes have been made to streamline the job procedures.

"Tell us what used to happen and what happens now," Beck said.

Fiore said last year an inspection of a complaint had to be followed by research of the property, ticketing and a registered letter to the owner. It gave them 30 days to remove the violation. If not

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Swans in Lighthouse State Park

Above, a pair of swans seem oblivious to the cold temperatures that came with the snow the Cape May area received on Friday. Star and Wave editor Christopher South hiked the 2-mile nature trail Friday afternoon and came across this couple. Swans have long been residents of the state park and Cape May Point's Lily Lake. See more snow photos on page A10 or go to [www.facebook.com/capemaystarandwavenewspaper](http://www.facebook.com/capemaystarandwavenewspaper).

## City trying to control blowing beach sand

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Someone recently asked some workers who were digging a trench on the beach side of the Promenade what they were doing.

"We're digging up the old boardwalk," they told him. City Manager Bruce MacLeod was a little more forthcoming.

"It's beach maintenance. Sand has built up considerably in the course of the last couple years, and we have experienced sand movement with storms," he said.

MacLeod said the city is digging a trench between the promenade and dune line, which they expect will catch some of the encroaching sand.

"Hopefully it will keep sand from blowing onto the

promenade, and keep it off the walkway," MacLeod said. "Over the years the sand has collected on the street side of the dune. Wind kind of blows the sand around as it collects on that side of the dune, and in places has been building up so that it is narrowing the walkway."

Cape May Point recently addressed a similar problem on a portion of Lincoln Avenue, where the street was being narrowed considerably by encroaching sand.

"We're getting it back under control," MacLeod said.

The city holds a beach maintenance permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). MacLeod

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## Roller skating is back in Cape May in a big way

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May's assistant marketing director Michael Chait said people told him roller skating was a big deal in Cape May.

He wasn't sure he believed it.

"It was clearly the number one question asked. People told me 'You won't believe the demand for it.' I had my doubts, but people were asking about it constantly," Chait said.

Chait said the number of skaters turning out for weekend skating events have made him a believer.

Chait said Cape May Recreation is seeing "over a couple hundred people" on Saturdays and Sundays.

"We just ordered more skates today because we are running out of sizes," he said.

Chait said Saturdays and Sundays are by far their best days. Friday, by comparison has been a little light, drawing a little over 100 people.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, families are turning out in large numbers for roller skating at Cape May's Convention Hall after about a four-year hiatus, while the old hall was condemned, demolished, and a new facility constructed.

He said the overall success of the skating program has caused them to consider operating for larger time slots. According to the schedule, skating is available on Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m.,

and then 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays are only 1 to 3 p.m.

"We are looking at expanding to a 4 or 5 hour time slot on Sunday...we will let you know," Chait said.

Chait said besides the high

demand, he is shearing a lot of positive feedback from community.

The skating rink is set up on the same floor where every other event is held. The type of flooring was selected with roller skating in mind. The city purchased a plastic retaining wall, which was designed for outdoor street hockey. Chait said it is easy to assemble.

"It takes three guys like two-and-a-half hours to move, set up and break down," he said.

One surprise is the Recreation Department has had to order more skates in men's sizes 12 and 13. Chait said

he was sure if it was because of the adult men who are skating with their children or if there are more youngsters than they anticipated who have large feet.

On Saturday it was apparent there were a number of fathers skating with their children.

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