

# Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 47 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, November 30, 2011 50¢



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**TIDES**  
December 2011  
Eastern Standard Time

High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
30	11:41	5:12	6:01		
1	12:24	12:37	6:11	6:54	
2	1:23	1:33	7:13	7:46	
3	2:21	2:30	8:15	8:36	
4	3:15	3:24	9:15	9:23	
5	4:04	4:16	10:09	10:06	
6	4:49	5:03	10:58	10:47	

**Moon Phases**

- First Quarter, Dec. 2
- Full Moon, Dec. 10
- Last Quarter, Dec. 17
- New Moon, Dec. 24
- Apogee, Dec. 5
- Perigee, Dec. 21

## WCM commissioners to wait on liquor license

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - The Board of Commissioners decided to postpone the sale of a consumption liquor license due to a petition signed by borough residents and submitted Nov. 21.

The license, specifically intended for a restaurant, will be offered at a later date following the review of the liquor license ordinance, to which petitioners are objecting. The board altered the ordinance, passed on Nov. 9, extending the hours of service from 10 p.m. to midnight. Commissioners also

*'A bar is not a permitted venue anywhere in West Cape May.'*

- Solicitor Frank Corrado

lowered the minimum bids of the consumption licenses by \$150,000 each.

The consumption license, now being rescinded by the board, had a minimum bid of \$500,000. Borough commissioners still plan to offer the distribution license with a minimum bid of \$600,000. Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said the petition didn't per-

tain to the distribution license so it could still go up for bid.

Resident John Rowley, who helped a five member committee collect 89 signatures, said petition only required 49. The 49 signatures represents 15 percent of the vote cast in the November 2008 referendum, when the ordinance was approved by borough residents. Rowley said

section 40:74-5 of the Walsh Act required the 15 percent for the petition.

The petitioners asked the board to reverse the ordinance and change it back to its original status or allow citizens to vote on the matter of extending the service hours and lowering the minimum bids.

"We're not fighting the sale of the licenses or arguing the ordinance - but we do feel the community has the right to see the changes and be heard," committee member Peter McDonough said.

According to Mayor Pam Kaithern, the liquor license ordinance and possible alter-

ations to it have been on the agenda and discussed at regular open meetings since early June. Few members of the public disputed the ordinance at the meetings, but now that the petition has been brought forward, the commissioners are not putting the consumption license up for bid at this time.

She said out of respect to those who signed the petition, it was incumbent upon the commissioners to hold the consumption license until further notice and pass an ordinance rejecting bids on it.

Kaithern said the petition

Please see Wait, page A2

## LT police chief wants residents to report problems

Marker wants to hear about drugs, etc.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Police Chief Brian Marker said the LTPD wants to hear from people when they see a problem in their neighborhood.

At last week's Lower Township Council meeting, a neighbor told council there was a problem with drugs and gangs in her neighborhood. At the time, she said a call to the police chief had not yet been returned, but Marker said she can and should reach out to the department.

"We understand. We are community members ourselves. For the most part we live here in Lower Township and we feel the responsibility to address the needs citizens raise. We don't take it lightly," Marker said.

Marker said countering the efforts of drug traffickers is a daunting task, but the depart-

ment accepts the responsibility. He said as they look at activity and law enforcement over 2011 and into 2012, they are looking at how to respond in the best and most efficient manner they can. Marker said the department continues to work with partners such as the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, other local departments, and state and federal agencies. He said a lot of this work is not seen by the public.

"There are many things that happen in the course of the law enforcement each day that isn't reported," he said, "things that are part of the old fashioned criminal response, such as building the case."

Marker said he has confidence in the department and his officers to provide the best law enforcement services they can, which includes working with the community to fight crime.

At one point, the LTPD had a Community Police Unit, which Marker said was very typical across the county. The concept of community polic-

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Karen Knight/Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

## It's always sunny in Cape May

How else do you explain reaching nearly 70 degrees on Black Friday? Above are a couple of visitors snoozing in the sun in front of Congress Hall. The warm weather brought many people to town and a number of them found their way to the beach. See page A10 for more sunny day photos.

## Taxis need local permit

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado said the Board of Commissioners will need to come up with a figure as to how many taxi cab licenses they will allow in West Cape May.

According to Corrado, a new state statute requires each municipality to adopt an ordinance stating the number of taxi cab licenses they will tolerate in the borough. At the Nov. 23 meeting, he said the cab companies will now have to register in the municipalities they serve and receive a certificate of authorization. He said the statute will take affect Dec. 1.

"Taxi cabs are a franchise currently regulated by the state," Corrado said. Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said "it's not a stretch of the imagination" to see someone take a cab to Cape May or West Cape May from the Philadelphia area or Atlantic City. He asked Corrado if the state was suggesting the

cab companies register with every municipality they drive through in order to get to the borough, as well as the borough itself.

Corrado said there seemed to be "holes" in the statute and he would look into it more deeply to see what all the regulations were and how the state law works.

to West Cape May are Ocean Cab Company and Aarts Cape May Taxi, which are both located in Cape May City. There are also three cab companies on Wildwood Island which are Checker Cab and Caribbean Cab in North Wildwood and Yellow Cab Company in Wildwood Crest. There is also #1 Taxi located

in Cape May Court House. According to Burke, the Cape May taxi services drive through West Cape May and drop off customers on a regular basis. He said he wouldn't be surprised if the Wildwood companies do as well.

The board did not come to a conclusion on the matter of how many licenses they would allow in West Cape May. Mayor Pamela Kaithern said they would like Commissioner Ramsey Geyer, who was absent from the meeting, to voice his opinion on the topic.

She said they would look over the statute and discuss it again at the Dec. 7 meeting at 7 p.m., when all commissioners will be present.

The nearest taxi services



## Union Park, a flavorful partnership

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - When Bojidar "Bob" Dimitrov and Chef John Schatz leased the Union Park Restaurant seven years ago, they had a goal in mind of creating an elegant ambience along with a casual fine dining experience for their customers.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Schatz landed his first restaurant job as a bus boy and dishwasher at very young age. He said a restaurant opened up down the street from his home and he was looking for work. Schatz had little interest in the restaurant industry at the time, but once he saw what the chefs were whipping up in the kitchen, he was immediately captivated by the culinary arts.

The head chef took Schatz under his wing and taught him a great deal about French cuisine. Over the years, Schatz has worked in a num-



Bob Dimitrov/Special to the Cape May Star and Wave  
Above, prawns and scallops from the Union Park Restaurant.

ber of restaurants all over the East Coast experimenting with ingredients and coming up with his own style. He never went to culinary school, and said the hands-on experience was much more valu-

able than anything he would have learned in a classroom. One of his most recent stints was working at Restaurant Maureen in Longboat Key,

Please see Union, page A10

West Cape May Community Christmas Parade, Saturday, Dec. 3, 5 p.m.

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