

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 46 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009 50¢



INSIDE



**COMMUNITY**  
'Spirit Players' go  
Hollywood, B1

**West Cape May  
Christmas Parade  
Fundraiser  
Sunday, Nov. 22 at  
WCM Fire Hall  
4 to 8 p.m.**

NOV 2009 TIDE TABLE				
HIGH		LOW		
am	pm	am	pm	
11/19	9:12	9:37	2:37	3:33
11/20	9:53	10:21	3:17	4:17
11/21	10:36	11:07	3:59	5:02
11/22	11:21	11:58	4:44	5:48
11/23		12:10	5:35	6:35
11/24	12:53	1:02	6:32	7:22
11/25	1:49	1:56	7:33	8:07
Full Moon		11/2		
Last Quarter		11/9		
New Moon		11/16		
1st Quarter		11/24		
Perigee		11/7		
Apogee		11/22		

## FEMA officials survey storm damaged coastline

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY - The sea off East Atlantic Boulevard churned angrily, as waves pounded on what little remained of Ocean City's northern beaches.

Geotubes, sand-filled barriers of fabric that are meant to hold back the waves lie almost depleted of their filling, and a once nine-foot tall sand dune separating the beach from the road lay in ruins, exposing the shore to

the merciless ocean.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials met with Cape May County and city emergency management on Tuesday at the East Atlantic Boulevard beach to survey the damage Mother Nature wrought on this barrier island after a series of northeast storms caused massive erosion estimated at \$89 million in Ocean City alone.

At a press conference, Cape May County Director of Emergency

Frank McCall said Gov. Jon Corzine on Sunday declared a state of emergency on towns hit by the recent nor'easter, opening the disaster relief process.

McCall said the multi-agency process includes the state Dept of Community Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, the New Jersey State Police and Department of Transportation will gather various estimates of damage and submit those figures to Corzine for review. McCall

said by week's end, Corzine would submit a request to President Barack Obama for federal funding for the affected areas.

FEMA, state and county officials will assess the damage throughout Cape May County. McCall said FEMA began their assessment in Ocean City because that municipality suffered the most extensive storm damage.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency is in Cape May County. Once they

go through the process considerably, certainly on behalf of the residents, thoughtfully on behalf of the emergency management community and want to make sure that we get the right numbers to the governor that he can make his application to the federal government," McCall said.

McCall said the criteria for New Jersey to receive federal disaster aid is \$8.3 million worth of damages or greater. He said Cape May County

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## Lower Township sees tidal flooding

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township experienced significant tidal flooding at the time of high tide on Friday morning in its Shaw Crest and Schellinger's Landing areas.

Police officers requested the Department of Public Works to barricade the side streets in the Schellinger's Landing area of Lower Township after the roads became impassable. Officers also reported that the access road to Shaw Crest was quickly cut off and submerged for several hours Friday morning.

Lower Township and Wildwood police officers also requested once again that the George Redding Bridge be closed to all vehicle traffic due to high water on the Wildwood side of the bridge.

The Townbank and Erma Volunteer Fire Departments were called to their fire departments to stand by for possible storm related calls or to access residents in the areas of high water.

A vehicle parked at the end of Schellinger's Landing Road received heavy water damage with waves from Cape May Harbor actually breaking on top of the vehicle. The vehicle had Massachusetts plates and Lower Township Police were attempting to locate its owner.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent a team to survey beaches from Cape May and Cape May Point to the canal and confirmed that a team was surveying and was expected to take several days to complete their survey, gathering data on the volume of loss. The full report will take a couple of weeks.

The ACOE is working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, or FEMA.

The storms, which began on Thursday and were essentially over by Sunday, dropped 1 to 4 inches of rain, but many areas experienced higher than normal tidal flooding and wind erosion.

Christopher South contributed to this story.

## The nor'easter of 2009



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, left and right, are photos provided by the Lower Township Police Department of flooding in the Shawcrest section of the township. Below right, a car is threatened by waves at Schellenger's Landing. Below left, pilings, which are about 18 inches above the sand were sticking out eight feet before the nor'easter filled in the Cove Beach area in Cape May.



## Cape May City Council introduces pool ordinance

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council introduced an ordinance Monday to add swimming pools in the calculation of lot coverage and to regulate the installation of private swimming pools in the city.

For the purpose of the ordinance, a swimming pool is defined as having a depth greater than 18 inches.

If Ordinance 195-2009 is

passed on second reading, Dec. 15, pools would have to be at least 10 feet away from any property line and not within the front yard setback.

Additionally, the pool must be 10 feet away from any principal structure. This does not apply to pools that are entirely above grade and less than 100 square feet, and which are covered by a rigid cover when not in use. The ordinance says all pools "shall be enclosed by a fence as required by state law" and

must meet the requirements of the Historic Preservation Commission where required.

The ordinance would do away with the exemption for pools in lot coverage, saying the exemption threatened the city's groundwater and undermined the intent and purpose of the city's lot coverage limitation.

City Solicitor Anthony Monzo outlined the city's lot coverage limitations, which are 30 percent in the R-1 zone, 40 percent in R-2, and

45 percent in R-3. Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said he talked to several people who expressed concern over the 30 percent lot coverage including a swimming pool in the R-1 zone. He said in the residential zones, R-1, R-2, and R-3, the lot coverage worked out to 2,800 to 3,000 square feet. Favre said he was in favor of including pools in lot coverage, but he didn't want to take away fair use of lot coverage.

"Part of our duty is to protect the character of the community," Favre said.

Favre asked City Manager Bruce MacLeod if he could find out what the effect would be of increasing the lot coverage limitation to 40 percent in the R-1 zone. He said his understanding was lot size was roughly 9,300 square feet, and if a pool was not utilized in the lot coverage, the homeowner could utilize the extra 10 percent for other purposes.

"Before we vote on this on

second reading I would like to know what it would mean if we change R-1 to 40 percent," Favre said.

Favre said he would like to have the information by the first meeting in December.

"I'm concerned we are being fair," Favre said. "If I decide in my mind it ought to be 40 (percent), I will recommend we change it to 40 and delay the pool ordinance for passage in January, if that's

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### 'Howdy, pardner!'

Patti Chambers gets a laugh from Bernie Haas at the East Lynne Theater Company gala titled "The Ultimate Dinner Party" last Thursday. The annual fundraiser featured actors teamed up with local folks who read parts from plays staged by East Lynne Theater Company. The evening celebrated 30 years of the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May.

## Ordinance for Sewell's Point postponed, others passed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council postponed the final vote on Ordinance 193-2009, which would have rezoned about 78 acres of the Sewell Point tract as preserved nature habitat, which sets aside about 14 acres for residential development.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said the ordinance was being postponed while waiting for written comments from the developers.

City council also introduced Ordinance 196-2009 to authorize a settlement agreement between the city and JCP&L. According to City Solicitor Anthony Monzo, the agreement was an attempt to come up with a remediation plan for the site of the former coal gasification plant. The area of remediation includes Wise-Anderson Park and the city's dog park. Monzo said in lieu of removing about 65,000 truckloads of soil, an alternative project includes the construction of a retaining wall

and the installation of monitoring wells. Monzo said the company would periodically pump out contamination and remove it from the site.

Monzo said JCP&L wanted to acquire Wise-Anderson Park, but that idea was rejected by the city. The park

was purchased with Green Acres funding and must remain a recreation site. Under Green Acres regulation the site is allowed to be used for passive or active recreation or parking.

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## City council authorizes another round of historic surveys

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council authorized a \$7,000 contract to perform another round of surveys of the city's historic structures.

This would be the third round of surveys. Last winter 60 structures were surveyed, adding to the 240 surveys and another 60 performed before that, bringing the total number to 360. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the Historic Preservation Commission hopes to eventually have a total of 1,350 surveys completed.

City council authorized a professional services agreement with Wayne T. McCabe and Company, Inc., which completed the previous surveys.