Tourism measures show season topping strong 2014

By KIRSTEN KELLINGER
Cape May Star and Wave
CAPE MAY COUNTY — The roads were more crowded, room occupancy strong and many municipalities were reporting stronger beach bag sales than last year.

The 2015 summer season is on track to top a record-breaking 2014 season, according to the Cape May County indoor/ outdoor tourism report and local tourism leaders.

The report, released Aug. 6 by the Cape May County Department of Tourism, revealed a record-breaking season with countywide hotel occupancy rates increasing 3.2 percent for the month of July and 1.6 percent through July.

The report noted that July revenue inched up 2 percent to $1.1 billion.

By the numbers

- Room occupancy for July increased 3.2 percent and generated $74.9 million in revenue.
- July’s lodging revenue increased 1.6 percent to $1 billion.
- Cape May County lodging revenue increased by $63.4 million and rental income at $1.9 billion.
- Although there are still a few weeks left in the summer season, nearly all ranges through August show increases over 2014.
- Traffic counts on the Garden State Parkway into Cape May increased by the 5 percent range on holiday weekends and the Atlantic City Expressway also reported an increase.
- Cape May County also from the tea party for which it collected nearly $63 million in July. More than $12 million in August will also be collected.
- July appears to show an increase in occupancy. However, tourism leaders said it’s too early to tell if there will be an increase in revenue as many seasonal businesses are reporting an increase in revenue, with a couple reporting a decrease.
- Cape May County’s chamber of commerce members have encouraged people to use the Cape May Convention Center and the Performing Arts Center, said a source.
- Cape May Convention Center officials have told that business is up over the 2014 season.

By JACOB FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May — The city’s legal bills over the past 16 months topped $135,000, according to recent city council meeting.

Twenty-nine people made up the list of 10.6 percent of the total payments went to the city’s legal firm, McManimon, Scotland and Munroe. Of the $135,000 paid to the lawyer, the city paid $109,013.

Revenue from the sale of legal bills has been a balance of $403,115 over the past two years.

By JACOB FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May — City Council approved a $50,000 settlement agreement with the Borough of West Cape May for 121 million gallons of water.

The new agreement will help pay for the city’s record-setting 2015. The city’s bond counsel, Robert Fineberg, attorney for the city, said the city’s current legal budget has a balance of $403,115 over the past two years.

City Public Works Director Bill McManimon said the city’s current legal budget has a balance of $403,115 over the past two years.

By JACOB FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May — City Council approved a $50,000 settle- ment agreement with the Borough of West Cape May for 121 million gallons of water.

The new agreement will help pay for the city’s record-setting 2015. The city’s bond counsel, Robert Fineberg, attorney for the city, said the city’s current legal budget has a balance of $403,115 over the past two years.