

# Nor'easter pounds region with snow, rain, lunar tides



**John Alvarez**/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Water flows down Philadelphia Avenue next to the Grand Hotel during high tide.



**Jeff Stewart**/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Floodwaters inundated the Miss Chris Marina during high tide.



**Jack Fichter**/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
Sand berms constructed by the Department of Public Works at beach paths helped keep ocean water off Beach Avenue.



**John Cooke**/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
The storm toppled a large tree at the Fisherman's Memorial. Magiceaweed.com reported conditions at Cape May's Poverty Beach as 8- to 12-foot seas, a 52-mph wind with an air temperature of 40 degrees at 7 a.m. Saturday.

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on Ocean Drive in Lower Township by 6 a.m. Police received reports of downed trees in Cape May and Erma throughout the day. Snow that began the day before at 4 p.m. switched to a period of rain that began around 6:30 a.m. and lasted much of the day. At 7 a.m., Magiceaweed.com reported conditions at Cape May's Poverty Beach as 8- to 12-foot seas, a 52-mph wind with an air temperature of 40 degrees. At 7:40 a.m., police reported Washington Street from Sidney Street to Pittsburgh Avenue blocked by flooding. An hour later, public works had closed Beach Avenue from Reading to Wilmington avenues due to flooding. Yacht Avenue was experiencing

severe flooding, as was the harbor and areas along Cape Island Creek, while power lines were down in front of the Wawa market. Cape May police issued a report of impassible roads due to flooding: Pittsburgh Avenue at Beach Avenue, Reading Avenue at New Jersey Avenue, Wilmington Avenue at Beach Avenue, Myrtle Avenue at West Perry Street and Park Boulevard, and Washington Street at Sidney Street. "We urge you to not go out unless you absolutely have to. If you must access Cape May, please use the West Cape May Bridge," stated Cape May police at 8:15 a.m. The evening high tide was one foot lower than the morning high tide. Those without power had to wait as Atlantic City Electric crews would not put workers up in the air in bucket trucks with winds gusting over 40 mph.

**Not over yet**  
At 6 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, Atlantic City Electric reported 15,167 customers in Cape May County without power. The Lobster House Restaurant closed when bay water filled the parking lot. In an interview with CNN, owner Keith Laude stated he believed the flooding was worse and the restaurant received more damage than during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. He said cleanup was under way and he expected the restaurant to reopen in a few days. The Lobster House Fish Market and take-out reopened Monday. The coffee shop was scheduled to open Tuesday. As of 7 a.m. Sunday, Cape May had received 7 inches of snow. The Sunday morning high tide, while above normal, did not flood streets and winds shifted to the northwest.

Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city fared reasonably well. He said no water breached the dunes on Beach Avenue or ran down beach access paths. "Preparatory steps to build berms around the facilities on the beachfront, lifeguard headquarters and the area of Convention Hall, including both public and private structures, worked out well and held out through the storm," he said. "We also placed berms at the entranceways to the beach." MacLeod said areas along the harbor such as Harbor Lane, Yacht Avenue, Texas Avenue and Delaware Avenue were all inundated by the extreme high tides. Flooding also occurred during high tides from Cape Island Creek, that runs parallel to Lafayette Street, at Elmira, Bank, Perry, Grant, Windsor and West Perry streets and Park Boulevard in West Cape May, MacLeod said. He said flooding from the creek normally occurs sometime after high tides on the beachfront. "Because of the extreme nature of the high tides, some of that flooding actually started to occur before the official time of the high tide," MacLeod said. He said flooding near Peter Shields Inn at Beach and Trenton avenues and on Philadelphia Avenue adjacent to the Grand Hotel was the result of rain and snow having nowhere to drain due to extreme high tides at the outfall pipes. Power was maintained for much of the city during the storm, according to MacLeod. Some homes lost power on a temporary basis. The city and West Cape May had agreed to set up a shelter at the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company Hall but it was not needed, he said. MacLeod said a period of rain Saturday morning

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## Cape May Star & Wave

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### TIDES : January-February 2016

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
27	9:58	10:30	3:35	4:14
28	10:37	11:12	4:17	4:52
29	11:16	11:56	5:01	5:31
30	11:59		5:48	6:11
31	12:44	12:47	6:41	6:55
1	1:37	1:42	7:39	7:45
2	2:34	2:44	8:40	8:39
3	3:31	3:46	9:40	9:34

### MOON PHASES

New moon, Feb. 8 • First quarter, Feb. 15

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