

# Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007 50¢

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### NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm
12/6	5:31	5:45	11:39	11:30
12/7	6:10	6:26		12:22
12/8	6:48	7:07	12:06	1:02
12/9	7:25	7:46	12:43	1:42
12/10	8:03	8:24	1:19	2:21
12/11	8:40	9:02	1:56	3:00
12/12	9:18	9:41	2:34	3:39

**Holiday gift planning and events in Cape May**  
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## Cape May vision plan not a dream for some

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Language related to redevelopment zones included in a resolution accepting a vision plan recommended by the Revitalization Committee has some worried the city will begin using eminent domain to seize private property.

Resident Christine Miller cited portions of the Redevelopment Act, saying if the city creates redevelopment zones, the law allows the city to use eminent domain, ignore local zoning laws, and even ignore historic designations. A redevelopment zone would also allow for tax abatements or exemptions.

"Is this (resolution) the first step in identifying a redevelopment area?" Miller asked city solicitor Tony Monzo.

Monzo said the resolution was merely a document saying city council was accepting the recommendations of Rhodside and Harwell, a planning firm out of Alexandria, Va., hired to create a "vision" for improving

mainly public areas in Cape May. The plan also lists recommendations that could be carried out by private homeowners.

Monzo said city council accepting the vision plan was so it could then be sent to the planning board for review. He said the planning board could then recommend city council adopt the entire plan or any part of the plan.

"It's not an action authorizing anything other than to send the recommendation to the planning board," he said.

"It's going to be the plan for our town," Miller said.

"That's not true," Mayor Jerry Inderwies said.

The mayor, a member of the Cape May Planning Board, said the planning board would "pick apart" the vision plan and make its own recommendations to city council. Miller said the Resolution 247-12-2007, which was passed 5-0 by city council, was a suggestion the planning board should write the vision plan into the land use element of the city's Master Plan.

Inderwies disagreed, and he did not allow Miller to poll the other members of council

to get their opinion on the redevelopment aspects of the vision plan. She also chided city council for not speaking up on the issue.

"It's terrible that city council is sitting there silently," she said.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre moved that Resolution 247-12-2007 be amended to read that the vision plan be adopted "in whole or in part as determined by the planning board."

Councilwoman Linda Steenrod, who is the city council representative on the planning board, indicated every change to zoning must be reviewed by city council and the planning board with public hearings.

## Banging good time at meeting

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Former Cape May mayor and councilman Jerry Gaffney got up at Tuesday's city council meeting to complain about banging pile drivers, and ended up complaining about the deputy mayor banging his fist.

Gaffney, whose Columbia Avenue home is located in the Historic District, asked city council to consider amending the city code to ban pile driving in the city except under special conditions. Gaffney told city council he was given no notice the builder of a home on a prop-

erty near his own was going to be driving pilings. According to Gaffney, when the pile driving began his house shook. He said he later found two broken panes of glass, and doesn't know what other damage might have occurred.

"I feel pile driving should be eliminated in the Historic District all year long," he said.

Gaffney asked city council to amend the city ordinance governing pile driving "as soon as possible, even today," in the city of Cape May. He questioned how pile driving could go forward without having to go before the Historic Preservation Commission.

Gaffney said he spoke to the builder, Mark DeBlasio, who is the city engineer, and according to Gaffney, DeBlasio said the pilings would be driven by jetting water in holes and auguring the pilings in the ground.

City manager Lou Corea said they were, but added that they still have to drive the pilings for the last several feet.

At one point, Deputy Mayor Niels Favre took exception to something he considered misinformation, and indicated he was tired of people spreading misinformation in town. Favre banged his fist and was plainly agitated as

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### 13th annual Great Cookie Exchange

The Center for Community Arts once again held its annual Great Cookie Exchange at Cape May City Elementary School for a good old-fashioned holiday get-together. Activities for the kids included Christmas caroling, cookie baking, basket decorating, hat making and decorating, ornament making and holiday card making. As usual, the guest of honor was the man in red himself – Santa Claus. Children had the chance to have their photo taken with the jolly old man and tell him their holiday wishes. Above left, Jenna O'Neill, age 3, from West Cape May, clasps her hands as she recites her Christmas list for Santa. Above, Jake Pender, also age 3 from West Cape May, seems to say, "and I want a dump truck, and a bicycle, and I want a pony, too!" Left, Austin Shagren, age 3, from Rio Grande shows off the hat he made "all by himself."

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

## Postal carriers host holiday food drive

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY COUNTY – Cape May and Lower Township residents are encouraged to leave non-perishable food donations by their mailbox to be collected this Saturday, Dec. 8 by local post office mail carriers.

Post office employees will collect food for those in need to stock the depleting local food closets located at the Presbyterian Church on Decatur Street. The Lower Township food bank is handled through the township's police department and residents can drop off food donations at the Post Office's North Cape May branch and the Villas Post Office branch.

Leave any size donation of non-perishable food by your mailbox Saturday for carriers to pick up or residents can drop off their donations to any participating post office.

Participating local post offices are Cape May, Cape May Court House, Rio Grande, Villas, Wildwood, Avalon, Stone Harbor, Sea Isle City and Ocean City.

All food collected will remain in the area where it is donated.

The carriers ask that the food donation is current and not expired. Delivery drop off at churches and post offices will run from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Lower Cape May Regional High School has formed groups that will help with any extra food.

For more information contact Neil at 412-6005 or call any of the above listed post offices.

## City Council, public discuss WiFi

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Citywide wireless Internet, also known as WiFi, is an idea Councilman David Kurkowski described as being "on and off the screen" for about a year.

Kurkowski has been investigating ways to bring wireless Internet to Cape Island, which includes Cape May, West Cape May, Cape May Point and a portion of Lower Township. He said new legislation has been adopted at the state level to allow municipalities to create a wireless network that may be operated by the city or leased to a private contractor.

The legislation, Kurkowski said, does not allow municipalities to use tax dollars to fund the construction and maintenance of a wireless network.

"The law forbids people not using WiFi to pay for it,"

Kurkowski said.

City solicitor Tony Monzo said the new laws allow the city to provide wireless Internet, not as a public utility, but operating in a similar way. All the revenue derived from subscriber fees would remain separate from the general fund, and money could not be transferred from the general fund to the WiFi account.

Monzo said the city could operate the wireless network through a city department, have a private company operate the city's network, or simply lease the operation to a private company. Bill Shannon of BIG Wireless said where the city has operated a wireless network it has tended to have more success than when it was in the hands of private business. Monzo said the fee for subscribing to a municipal wireless network must be high enough to pay the operating costs for the network.

Shannon gave a public pres-

entation on how a "mesh network" works, and what is required to set up and maintain the network. The mesh network, he said, means identifying tall "assets" within the network area, such as water towers or tall buildings. One of the assets must be able to connect to the Internet. The assets are then linked to each other by radio transmitter/receivers. Shannon likened this portion of the network to interstate highways. The signals then go into a multi-point system, which he said were like state and county roads, transmitted at 20-30 megabytes per second (Mbps). The signal would then go out to numerous radio "nodes" which would be mounted on street lamp arms throughout the network. Your home computer, laptop, or personal handheld device would then pick up a 1-5 Mbps signal from the nodes mounted throughout the network.

Shannon said every part of

the system is communicating with every other part of the system at all times. He said the Cape Island network would probably require just under 150 nodes located in places where there would be the least interference from tall buildings, trees, etc. He said the system's signals travel in straight lines – they do not go around curves – so the network has to be designed with that in mind.

Shannon said the networks BIG Wireless set ups are 99-percent reliable, which equates to a failure rate of about 88 hours per year (7.5 hours per month).

He said if any of the nodes fail the system is self-correcting.

Unlike strings of Christmas tree lights that don't work if one bulb goes out, if a node fails, the system is not broken. The system just bypasses the failed device.

Shannon said his company

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