

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 6

CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

50¢

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JUNE/JULY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
28	7:11	7:33	1:08	12:43
29	7:55	8:14	1:51	1:26
30	8:38	8:55	2:33	2:08
1	9:19	9:35	3:13	2:51
2	10:01	10:16	3:54	3:36
3	10:45	10:58	4:35	4:23
4	11:31	11:43	5:17	5:14

Convention Hall demolition on hold for a year

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

CAPE MAY – Mayor Jerry Inderwies told Cape May City Council he believed the city should delay the demolition of Convention Hall for one year, later adding the process should not be delayed longer than a year.

At a regular council workshop session held yesterday in City Hall, Inderwies said

he had been thinking about the Convention Hall project since a Jan. 24 meeting of the Convention Hall Committee. He said he came to the conclusion the city should “step back” and “reassess” the project. At the meeting, the committee, of which the mayor is a member, heard stakeholder organizations make suggestions about the design of the building.

“I think we need more time to reevaluate the project and

incorporate viable layout changes,” he said.

He said the year’s wait would also give the city time to get the proper funding in place. Inderwies said he hoped council would agree with his position.

“I think the decision to delay gives us a chance to take a deep breath,” Councilman David Kurkowski said. “We no longer have to rush to catch a speeding train.”

Kurkowski said he heard comments recommending how the interior design of the building could be made better, including a better view of the ocean and more public space at the rear of the building.

“I suggest we extend the process and end up with a better product,” he said.

Kurkowski had several other recommendations, including:

- Not entering into the next

phase of the project with architect/planner Kimmel Borgette.

- Adding a couple of new members to the Convention Hall Committee.

- Inviting architecture students from the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard and Yale to come up with a design at no cost.

- Hold a town meeting to further discuss the design.

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CCA ‘Soup-er Bowl’ benefit



The Center for Community Arts (CCA) held its second annual “Soup-er Bowl,” a dinner and auction to benefit CCA’s “Jazz and More” radio station, WCFA-LP, 101.5 FM. last Friday evening. The event took place at the West Cape May Fire Hall. A special auction featured the donated talents and services of area residents and special surprises including an overnight stay for two at the Borgata Hotel and Casino with dinner at the winner’s restaurant of choice and the opportunity to be a WCFA DJ for an hour while recording your own announcement. Pictured above left are CCA Director of Development Judy Austermler with Vickie Tryon, Rhonda Jackson and Fred Long. Above right, Executive Director Steve Bacher with Shirley “Becki” Wilson and at left is Mary Ann and Jerry Gaffney.

Photos by Stephanie Madsen

Glenn Douglass running for Lower Township mayor seat

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

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township’s Third Ward Councilman Glenn Douglass, began his political career by challenging incumbent Councilman Stig Blomkvist for the party’s backing in 2006. Douglass received the nomination from the township Republican committee and was elected to council.

Now, in his second year of a four-year term, Douglass is asking the committee to run him for mayor instead of Mayor Walt Craig.

According to Douglass, he decided to seek the party’s nomination and selection in the June primary because he doesn’t think Craig is going to be reelected in November.

“I’ve been hearing more and more from public they’re not going to vote for (Craig) in next race,” Douglass said.

Douglass said he didn’t know of anyone who was planning to step forward to run in Craig’s place, and he didn’t want a candidate who he felt was not going to pull the votes necessary for him to be reelected. Asked why he felt Craig would not be reelected, Douglass cited “negative personal issues.”

Craig was stopped by Middle Township police on May 18, 2008, and cited for driving while intoxicated and operating an unregistered vehicle. Craig was found guilty, but his sentence was stayed pending a decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court, which would have had bearing on the case.

“One of the main concerns is negative personal issues,” Douglass said. “I feel from the issues that came up over last few years will cause people not to vote for him. That’s his responsibility.”

Douglass said his main concern is keeping a Republican in the mayor’s office. He said

there are other potential candidates for this election including former Democratic candidate Bob Hartman and Republican Mike Beck, whom some believe might run as an independent.

Douglass said he has spoken to Craig about what he was hearing and about his decision to run for mayor, and Craig would have to make his own decision about whether or not to run for reelection. Douglass said if Craig is selected as the party’s candidate and is reelected, then he would say he was wrong. But Douglass said he is hearing Republicans say they would vote for another party before

they would vote for Craig.

Douglass said after his intention to run for mayor became known he was encouraged to attend the committee meeting last Wednesday to ask for the party’s support. Craig is the committee chairman, and according to Douglass, Craig took issue with him opposing

Blomkvist in the 2006 election. Douglass said the party supported him after his nomination as a candidate for the Third Ward council seat. Douglass has not decided if he would continue his bid for the mayor’s seat without the party’s support, but he added

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Cats not allowed on beach per plan

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

CAPE MAY – The city has reached a compromise with state and local agencies over a beach management plan that includes monitoring cats that prey on endangered bird species.

City manager Lou Corea said the city approved a plan outside recommendations made by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He said the NJDEP reviewed the city’s Beach Management Plan and found it unacceptable. Corea said the city again met with the DEP and federal representatives and worked out a compromise.

On Wednesday, Corea said as a result of the agreement the city would revisit its Trap, Neuter and Release

program. Corea did not elaborate during the meeting what “revisit” the program meant. He said the city would:

- Develop an educational program concerning the threat cats pose to endangered species.
- Phase in a cat-indoors policy.
- Promote micro chipping of pet cats.

- Conduct a biannual census of cats. And...
- Enforce the city’s law prohibiting the abandonment of animals.

Also as a result of the agreement with the state/federal agencies, the city has agreed to relocate feral cat colonies outside a specific distance from the beach. Corea said it was agreed that colonies should be moved at least 1,000 feet from the Promenade area of the beach, and one half-mile from iden-

tified nesting areas.

The state had previously recommended the city create a one-mile buffer zone between potential nesting areas and cat colonies. The net result would have been the elimination of cat colonies in the two and a half square miles that is Cape May.

Councilmen David Craig and David Kurkowski also took part in the meeting, and Craig said he was surprised and pleased with the state and federal authorities willingness to compromise.

“I was very pleased with the cooperation, and that we will be keeping our TNR program,” Craig said.

Kurkowski said the impetus of the state/federal effort to manage feral cat colonies is the 1973 Endangered Species Act (see Another View, page A8) signed by President Richard Nixon.

“The crowning achievement of the act was that the bald eagle is no longer on the endangered list,” Kurkowski said.

He added that in Cape May the concern is not so much over bald eagles, but for piping plovers as the least tern.

Corea said the city would forward the revised Beach Management Plan to the DEP, and it would have to enact ordinances to comply with the agreement.

Mayor Jerry Inderwies questioned the linking of endangered species protection with beach restoration. He said the Army Corps of Engineers built jetties in the 1970s that interrupted the literal drift of ocean sands, which natural restores beaches. He said at that time the ACOE entered into a 50-year

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Craig ‘leaning toward’ reelection bid

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

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Mayor Walt Craig indicated he would probably seek another term as mayor.

Craig has until Apr. 7 to file his petitions for reelection.

“At this time I’m leaning toward running,” Craig said. Craig was answering questions arising from Councilman Glenn’s Douglass’ announcement that he would seek the Republican nomination for mayor instead of Craig, also a Republican. Craig said he was not concerned about the challenge from inside the party.

“I’m not concerned. That’s the process,” he said. “We live in America. Anyone can choose to run for anything they want.”

Responding to Douglass’ claim that Craig would not be elected to a second term, Craig said, “That’s one man’s opinion. I happen to differ with that opinion.”

Craig said he is in contact with the public on a daily basis, meeting with veterans, the recreation department, etc., and he is not sensing animosity toward his administration.

“People understand the problems this administration inherited. Most people are pleased, and we are not putting out a smoke and mirrors budget. We’re trying to get back on a fiscally sound track,” Craig said.

“We’ve been accessible to the public 24/7, we’ve been responsive to the interests of the town, we handled a lot of the problems we inherited, and we’ve acted in the best interest of the township,” he said.

Craig said he and Deputy Mayor Robert Nolan took office at a “difficult time,” when the state keeps taking funding away and township is being told what expenses it has to incur. He said tax increases could be attributed to repaying

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