

# Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 7 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008 50¢

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### NATURE

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#### FEBRUARY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm	
2/14	1:06	1:34	7:32	7:28	
2/15	2:19	2:53	8:46	8:38	
2/16	3:32	4:08	9:57	9:48	
2/17	4:40	5:13	11:00	10:51	
2/18	5:39	6:09	11:55	11:49	
2/19	6:31	6:59		12:43	
2/20	7:17	7:44	12:41	1:27	

## County would consider CM parking proposals

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

CAPE MAY – Bill Murray, chairman of the Parking and Traffic Committee, told city council, last week, the county engineer would consider some of the committee's proposals for improving parking and traffic flow in Cape May. Murray told city council he received a letter from Dale

Foster, Cape May County engineer, saying some of the committee's proposals needed to be discussed, and some he would take under consideration.

The committee has recommended improvements be made at the intersection of Decatur, Bank and Lafayette. According to Murray, drivers become confused at this intersection because there is a right-turn lane and a left

turn lane, but drivers don't know what lane to be in to go straight across to Bank Street.

"That intersection is one of the more dangerous intersections in Cape May," Murray said.

The committee recommended a third arrow be painted on the street to indicate which lane to be in to go straight, but according to Murray, Foster said that was

a city responsibility. Decatur and Bank are city streets and Lafayette street is a county road.

Murray said the committee would prefer a traffic signal be put at that intersection.

Murray said the committee recommended improvements on Beach Avenue, which also has a county designation. Murray said crosswalks needed to be repainted and more signs needed to be

installed indicating pedestrians had the right of way.

Murray said Foster was receptive to a recommendation to place a pedestrian island on Lafayette Street, which would serve as a traffic calming device and a landing for children trying to cross the street. He said it could also be a location for a sign indicating people could park

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## CM Jazz Festival 'Jazz in Schools' Program



The Jazz in Schools Program, an outreach of the Cape May Jazz Festival was at Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School Wednesday morning, performing and teaching the students about the art of jazz. Doug Mapp, above right, and Brian Betz, at left, traveled from Rowan University along with drummer Brandon Blackburn and sax player John Guida for the program which also performed in the Dennisville school district Wednesday. Above left, students snap their fingers to the "beat."

Photos by Christopher South

## HPC shoots down owner's request to use artificial siding

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

CAPE MAY – Despite the applicant's appeal that hardy plank siding would be more environmentally friendly, more durable and fire resistant, and would help seal an otherwise drafty hose, the Historic Preservation Commission denied the request to use artificial siding by a 4-0 vote.

The HPC denied the application of David and Myra Kurkowski saying the use of artificial siding on a key historical structure was a departure from HPC standards and the ordinance governing the historic district.

The Kurkowski property at 115 Reading Ave., is a 1915 arts and crafts style home,

and is listed as a key historic structure, although it is not located in the historic district.

David Kurkowski told the HPC they removed the asbestos siding from the home they owned for 10 years, and uncovered cedar shake siding that was in poor condition. The Kurkowskis thought replacing the cedar shake siding would be expensive and would not hold up well given the home's proximity to the ocean, salt air, and exposure to the sun. The Kurkowskis sought HPC approval for "hardy shingles," which is a fiber cement siding known for its nice appearance and durability. Kurkowski said the hardy plank (or Hardie plank) was a modern material but would provide a historic look. He

said neighboring homes were sided with hardy plank, vinyl, vinyl and brick, or asbestos. Kurkowski and his builder, Matt Morgan, told the HPC the artificial siding would be fire resistant and more durable than cedar shake.

Commission member Mary Ann Gaffney said she believed cedar shake was usually very durable. The Episcopal church, she said, just put on a cedar roof.

"This is a key building, and I have a problem with hardy board. It's not in our standards," she said.

Commission member Bob Steenrod said he replaced cedar shake siding on his own home.

"I don't want to go against our standards...it sets the tone for other applications," he said.

HPC chairman Skip Loughlin said the standards for the key and contributing structures indicate materials should replicate the original

siding. He said the standards are designed to preserve historic structures, but if something can't be preserved, it should be replaced with like

materials. He said nothing hurts the historic status of a structure and the district

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## Powick running for office

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

CAPE MAY – Cape May resident Jeanne Powick believes the city is at a crossroads, and decided to run for city council to help Cape May go in the right direction, she said.

Powick said the one path is a vision plan developed by the Rhodeside and Harwell firm, which has been recommended by the Revitalization Committee, endorsed by council, and passed along to the planning board for incorporation into the city's Master Plan.

"Included are components that would lead to over-devel-

opment," Powick said.

According to Powick, the evidence of over-development is what she said was the "many, many condos being approved." She said the zoning board is giving approval for projects not conforming to existing zoning law, and the new vision calls for expansion of the mall on both sides and up Jackson Street to Swain's Hardware.

"Although mayor said would never happen, it was in the plan and recommended in its entirety," she said.

The Rhodeside and Harwell proposal also mentions redevelopment, which she said gives connotation of the Redevelopment Act, which gives allowance to override

zoning laws. Powick said she is concerned about the current actions of the zoning board and about the Rhodeside and Harwell plan.

Powick said she has attended far more committee and commission meetings than any other member of council, and believes this enables her to hear the comments, gather information and connect the dots.

"I heard the people speak out loud and clear at Congress Hall, when we met with Rhodeside and Harwell. The people said we want a 10 to 15 year plan...that they wanted Cape May to be a preserved, unique, quaint, his

*Please see **Powick**, Page A4*

## And the spelling bee winner is...



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Actually, they were all winners at West Cape May Elementary School's Spelling Bee held Monday. Pictured, from left to right, are Bela Lotozo, Ian Smilyk, Hamzah Almandani, Megan Verycken, Bromley Bryan and Mary Reeves who were the six students who qualified for the bee and each received special certificates and prizes. The real winner, however, was Almandani, pictured at center who had to spell correctly spell two words in a row to win. The winning word? "Access" – a bit more difficult than it seems. The Spelling Bee coincided with the 100th day of school – a celebration most students look forward to as a milestone. Almandani now qualifies for the County Spelling Bee Championship where he will compete with students from every school in Cape May County.