

Cape May Star and Wave

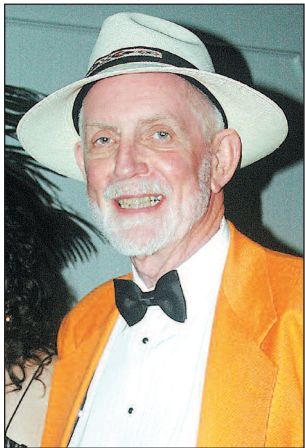
153rd YEAR NO. 27 CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007

50¢

INSIDE



Revenues about same as last year, manager says

BY CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – While some business people fret over the amount of revenue they have brought in over the first two quarters of 2007, the city is apparently doing OK. City manager Lou Corea said the city is actually ahead of last year. “Out of the past seven months, six are above and one

below last year,” he said.

The city uses several indicators to keep tabs on how many people are visiting Cape May throughout the year and especially in the summer season – the accommodations tax, beach tag sales, and parking meter revenue.

In 2006, Cape May collected \$1,032,279 from room tax, \$852,343 in parking meter revenue, and \$1,606,476 from beach tag sales.

According to Corea, beach tag sales are on par with last year’s sales, parking meter revenue is down slightly, and the room tax collected for the first quarter is up. Corea said the tax figures are normally received about two months later, saying he recently received the numbers for April.

“In September we will get the numbers for June and July,” he said.

Corea said it is hard to know why parking meter revenues are down, but there were a few changes made dropping times when meters were in effect.

Overall, Corea said indications are roughly the same number of people have visited Cape May in the first half this year as the first half of last year.

“There has been no significant drop off, no impact at this point,” Corea said,

adding it is difficult to get a picture of summer revenues until September.

“Based on those three statistics, my take is (this year is) pretty much as good as last year if not better,” Corea added.

Beach birds

Corea said the city has requested representatives from the New Jersey Division

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CAPE MAY

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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



Cape Regional Medical Center and the Corinthian Yacht Club: Perfect together

The Second Annual Cape Regional Medical Center Regatta was held June 22 to 24 at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May. The weekend event included a black tie gala dinner – though some opted for a more “nautical” look as did Dr. Domenick Coletta, above left with friend and Joan Echevarria and Robert Sorensen, Jr., above. At left, Toby Craig, Jerry Reeves and Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May Commodore Dale Hardin take the more traditional approach. The weekend included a two-day harbor and ocean racing regatta. The proceeds from this spirited competition will benefit several programs at the Cape Regional Medical Center, principally, the Cancer Care Program and the Robert J. Sorensen, MD Continuing Education Endowment Fund.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

Boat association president says charter fishing down

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – Dan Glaze, the president of the Cape May County Party and Charter Boat Association said the industry he represents has gone through a “major transformation” over the past two decades; and especially in the last few years.

Glaze, who addressed an audience at the 2007 Cape May County Beach Conference, of which the fishing industry was a component, said party and charter boat fishing was off 40 to 50 percent from just last year.

“Two-thousand-seven is starting off poorly,” he said. According to Glaze, there are a number of reasons for the decline this year and the downward trend in general.

“We are subject to so many things,” he said. “The wind has not stopped blowing for months.”

Glaze said in the first half of the year there were only two good weekends for charter boat fishing; one of them being the past weekend. If the wind is too rough the boats can’t go out.

“We need good weather,” he said.

Additionally, he said the volume of people visiting the

area has been low.

“People aren’t down yet,” he said.

Whether or not they do come is a matter of speculation, but Glaze said fishing is being dramatically impacted by the reduction in the number of hotels/motels in the region, particularly in the Wildwoods.

“In the past two years we’ve lost about 100 motels. With the building boom people sold hotels and built condos,” he said. “We now have homeowners coming to second homes, but we don’t have the volume of the hotel people coming down.”

Glaze said he believes high-

er fuel prices play a role in people’s decisions about how long to stay and what they do while they are here.

“People are coming for a day – they are not staying. And the fuel is killing us as well,” he said.

Glaze said boat owners can’t simply raise prices or they are putting themselves out of business. Glaze said the association continues to lose members as captains feel the pinch. Of the ones who remain, he said, three-quarters are operating their boats on a part time basis.

“Twenty years ago 75 percent of the captains were full time and 25 percent were

doing it part time. Today those numbers are reversed,” he said.

Additionally, Glaze said his general observation is that not as many families are going out fishing.

“Twenty years ago families took kids fishing,” he said. “Now you can’t see the same volume of young kids fishing

as what it used be.”

Glaze said kids of the Internet generation are used to high-speed computers and iPods and have little patience for watching a line on a fishing pole. Perhaps as a result, party boats are going out with 16 to 24 guests, whereas last year they would take 40 and 50 people per trip.

If it’s Tuesday, it must be market day

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – When July 3 rolls around this year some municipalities will already be into their Independence Day celebrations.

In West Cape May, July 3 will mark the beginning of a summer full of celebrations running every Tuesday in July and August.

They call it the West Cape May Farmers Market, but the event is more than fruit and vegetable stands – it’s barbecue, crafters, artists, activities for kids and live entertainment.

“It’s light dinner and a show,” Mayor Pam Kaithern said.

Kaithern said there would be informational tables manned by various organizations throughout the summer,

including the environmental commission, the county MUA, which will have information on recycling, and perhaps the Boy Scouts.

That is the way Kaithern described the event on the borough website (www.westcapemay.us), which will run for nine weeks on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The last market of the year will be on Aug. 28.

The West Cape May Farmers Market is in its fifth year, but will enjoy its second year at the “Backyard Park” located behind Borough Hall. The park was created last year with grant money from the county, and it provides some relief for the much used Wilbraham Park, which continues to host special events in West Cape May. Kaithern said the Backyard Park was initially created as a home for the Farmers market, but was also intended as another

recreational area.

“Our hope is that some of the events at Wilbraham Park would relocate,” she said.

Kaithern said the borough has created a nice environment with a number of facets not found at Wilbraham Park, including nearby restrooms, more parking, and a safer environment for children because the park is well off the busy streets.

Kaithern said in previous years the Farmers Market has gotten a good response from the public – and from local growers. West Cape May’s Les Rea will continue to provide fresh produce from the Rea Farm, and other local farmers will sell their produce as well.

And while residents and guests are invited to come and purchase New Jersey’s famous farm products, Kaithern said people will want to stick around for sup-

per and the live entertainment, which will start around 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday. The July 3 West Cape May Farmers Market will feature Cape May County band “5 Deep,” playing a variety of classic rock, blues and contemporary music. Other artists who appear this summer include jazz songstress Lois Smith, vocal and guitar duo Adam and Johnny, and rockabilly band “The Bullets,” who performed at this year’s Strawberry Festival.

“It’s going to be just a nice community afternoon,” Kaithern said. “I love it. I always end up there and I end up seeing lots of people I don’t get to see much in the summer. And it’s a nice easy dinner – I don’t have to cook.”

Borough Hall is located at 732 Broadway, behind the

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West Cape May development plans

WEST CAPE MAY – Citizens of the Borough are invited on June 28 and 29 to help develop plans for the core of the commercial/historic district, working with a team of five professionals brought in for the occasion.

The firm of Rhodeside & Harwell of Alexandria, Va. and Newark, N.J., specialists in landscape architecture and urban design, has been hired by the Borough to develop a new look for the area around the intersection of Broadway and Sunset, including Wilbraham Park. There will be a public open house to share opinions at Borough Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 28 and again at 3 p.m. at Borough Hall on June 29 when early concept plans and the economic strategies to achieve plan objectives will be shared.

Rhodeside & Harwell has a national reputation for its ability to generate public ideas and to synthesize them into implementable designs. Also to be included in the final product are economic strategies to encourage the private sector to undertake plan objectives.

The study is funded by a \$35,000 grant from the Office of Smart Growth, Department of Community Development.

Working with the five-member team will be the Smart Growth Advisory Committee consisting of Todd Land, Ken Low, Gretchen Hoekenga, Hilary Pritchard and Dick Rigby, the liaison with the governing body. Groups whose active participation will be encouraged include the Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission, History Committee of West Cape May and West Cape May Business Association. Coordination will be sought with County Engineer Dale Foster (both Broadway and Sunset are county roads) and Gina Delvecchio, bicycle and pedestrian planner from William Baker Inc of Princeton, assigned to the Borough by the Department of Transportation.

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