

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 37 CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

50¢

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AUG./SEPT. TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
9/6	4:30	4:59	10:06	11:20
9/7	5:35	5:59	11:11	
9/8	6:31	6:50	12:15	12:08
9/9	7:19	7:34	1:02	12:59
9/10	8:01	8:14	1:44	1:45
9/11	8:39	8:51	2:21	2:27
9/12	9:15	9:26	2:56	3:07

Beach Theatre loan delayed again, guidelines set

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

CAPE MAY – City Council approved new guidelines for the revolving loan program Tuesday, delaying the vote to loan \$100,000 to the Beach Theatre Foundation (BTF). Council will review the foundation's application under the new guidelines at a special meeting Friday, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m.

The BTF will use the loan to

lease the building for one year in effort to save the building from the looming threat of condominiums.

Effective Labor Day, Frank Investments has approval from the city's Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) for demolition.

"It's an unusual situation we were placed in to negotiate in agreement to save the building with the very people who are working to demolish it. The members of the Beach

Theatre Foundation all take our responsibility in this loan very seriously. We are loan-worthy. We believe that saving the beach theater is crucial to preserving our small town life," Susan Tischler, BTF secretary said.

The new guidelines require collateral, personal guarantees, and 10 percent equity of the borrower(s). Also the new guidelines set the maximum loan at \$100,000 with the minimum at \$10,000, one job

must be created or retained for every \$35,000, and for every dollar the city invests there must be at least \$3 in private funding.

Michael Zumpino, president of Triad Associates was hired by the city to re-write the revolving loan plan.

"We are waiting until we have additional information from the solicitor in the form of a loan agreement. We've reviewed the proposal and program information but we

haven't seen the final terms yet. We are looking at other means of collateral for the loan," Zumpino said.

Zumpino said the foundation could use their fundraising events as a form of collateral.

Tischler said all BTF board members are willing to personally guarantee the loan.

"Council just needs one more look at the final agree-

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Back to school time



It's back to school time in Cape May County. Lower Township schools started first thing Tuesday morning while Our Lady Star of the Sea and West Cape May Elementary School began Wednesday. It was an exciting morning at Star of the Sea as students formerly from St. Raymond's arrived for their first day in Cape May since the consolidation of the two schools. Pictured clockwise from top left, grandfather Gregg Coffey, and daughter Erin send Gabriel off for his first day of school; George Spackman, also in kindergarten shows off his new Batman lunchbox and Cecilia Grillo walks from the bus to start her first day in kindergarten.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

West Cape May looking to consolidate court system

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

WEST CAPE MAY – West Cape May is spearheading a study on merging the Cape Island court systems. West Cape May requested state grant money on behalf of itself, Cape May and Cape May Point to hire an independent firm to look at the merger idea.

"We are interested to see the economic feasibility of merging the court systems," said West Cape May Mayor Pamela Kaithern.

"West Cape May took the lead – we are taking care of the grant application and the

paperwork."

The request was made in August.

West Cape May received notification of state approval of a \$15,000 grant to fund the \$16,500 study last week. Cape May City will pay \$1,300 and the Point will proportionately contribute the remaining \$200. All three communities helped select the consultant, Dan Mason of the Jersey Professional Management Firm, from four choices. Officials cited his experience and ability to perform within the budget.

"He presented detailed work and relevant experience with a strong history in

municipal government," Kaithern said.

If the study shows the merger is feasible, the communities would likely need to sign an inter-local service agreement.

West Cape May and Cape May Point courts conjoined more than 20 years ago. Point Mayor Malcolm Fraser said the consolidation with West Cape May has worked favorably.

"We are reimbursed for fines that occur at the Point which helps pay our share of court operation," Fraser said. The study will look at the costs of consolidation, space, and personnel issues.

"This is something the three towns have worked together on. We've each had to pass resolutions in preparation to submit our proposal to the state to show the feasibility of the study for the amount requested," Kaithern said.

"If we move forward there's up to \$200,000 implementation from the state with zero match to further the project," Kaithern.

"When the feasibility study grant was first proposed the co-pay was 50 percent. Then the state reduced the co-pay to 10 percent or \$1,500," Kaithern said.

"The study may reveal that it is not cost effective but we

need to find out," Kaithern said.

The municipalities have different systems so it may be necessary to research different approaches to form one functional system. The conjoined court is currently housed in West Cape May and is proposed to continue there. The meeting room currently

doubles as the court for West Cape May and the Point.

"We've achieved state (requirements) for security measures and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) renovations, but we don't have a lot of extra space so we may need move the court

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Lyle Lane closing saga continues

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

CAPE MAY – City council discussed the merits of closing Lyle Lane to traffic when there are concerts at the bandstand, which is in the small park near the Washington Street Mall.

For the first time in 32 years, Lyle Lane was left open to traffic. Before, traffic was blocked so spectators could gather in the parking lot to listen and dance during performances. At a summer council meeting, residents asked that the street be closed again for the spectators. At this week's meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4, City Manager Lou Corea read letters from the police and fire chiefs in favor of keeping the street open to traffic.

"Closing Lyle Lane for band concerts will block off 28 parking spaces, cause public

safety concerns, and traffic congestion around the mall," Corea read.

"It has created issues with emergency vehicles. Fire vehicles have difficulty navigating the area and closing Lyle Lane will only compound this problem. It is much safer to sit in the park," Corea said.

Corea said he attempted negotiations with the group at the Victorian Towers who requested Lyle Lane remain closed to traffic during band concerts as it has for 32 years. Corea said he asked a resident to perform a survey of 30 people including children who all said they enjoy sitting in the park on the other side of the bandstand, rather than the street for concerts. These were obviously not the same residents who vehemently opposed the change at the council meeting July 17. In a letter to the edi-

tor in the Aug. 16 edition of the Star and Wave, Mayor Jerome Inderwies stated, "It is my opinion that Lyle Lane should be closed to traffic during concerts to allow the public to assemble in the street as was the initial intent."

As former superintendent of public works, Inderwies was involved in the planning and present for the opening of the Rotary Club bandstand in 1974.

"It's not something that I believe is an issue between the mayor and myself," Corea said. "We both know the issue is safety."

Corea said he closed the street last Saturday based on a request by the Fire Police. "What a difference it made," Inderwies interjected.

"These (letters) were the responses from the professional who recommend that it stay open to traffic," Corea

said. "If we were to do an ordinance to close that street for special events, I would ask that we refer that to those whose job it is to provide public safety," Corea said. "I find it very strange that you knew I was going to address Lyle Lane today and look at the dates on these letters: August 31," Inderwies said.

"The fire police were at Lyle Lane at the request of the police department to protect public safety," Deputy Mayor Neils S. Favre said.

Favre suggested a compromise of having the street closed on Wednesdays since there is more mall traffic on Saturdays.

"Those concerts are a gem," Favre said, "They are really a plus to the community." Council continues to discuss whether the street will remain open or be closed for the concert series next summer.

18 more arrested in drug sweep

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor Sept. 5 the following additional 18 suspects have been arrested during the past week and charged with Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance (cocaine), a third degree crime, in a continuing sweep by law enforcement officers. These arrests followed last week's 31 suspects arrested on similar charges. Detectives from the Prosecutor's Office, Narcotics Task Force as well as officers from Lower, Middle, Cape May and North Wildwood Police Departments participated in the arrests. All of the suspects arrested were released on a summons or on their own recognition with the exception of Tana Hadar, who was lodged in the Cape May County Correctional Center in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail. The arrests resulted from the narcotics operation reported on Aug. 13th involving alleged drug distribution network of Stephen Grash, operating in the southern portion of Cape May County.

Arrested were William Miller, 29, 304 Arctic Ave., North Cape May, N.J.; Cheryl McPherson, 42, 93 Beachurst Dr., North Cape May, N.J.; Joseph A. Sida, 40, 943 Beachhurst Dr., North Cape May, N.J.; Daniel Oliver, 30, 215 Hand Ave., Cape May Court House, N.J.; Michael A. Reagan, 60, 660 Rt. 9, Erma, N.J.; Anne Reagan, 36, 105 Rutledge Rd., Del Haven, N.J.; Darryl Meter, 29, 210 Lennox Ave., Fishing Creek, N.J.; Jason Meter, 25, 210 Lennox Ave., North Cape May, N.J.; Bruce Brown, 34, 919 Queen St., Cape May, N.J.; Joseph Nichols, 57, 817 Stockton Ave., Cape May, N.J.; Tana Hadar, 50, 626 Broadway, West Cape May, N.J.; Corey Smith, 40, 132 W. New York Ave., Villas, N.J.; James Reagan, 58, 706 N. Wildwood Blvd., #24 Burleigh, N.J.; Anthony Frascator, 34, 15 Stanhope Ave., Marmora, N.J.; Mary T. Davis, 36, 3951 Bayshore Rd., Cape May, N.J.; Christina

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