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SEPT. TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
9/13	9:50	10:01	3:29	3:47
9/14	10:24	10:35	4:00	4:25
9/15	10:59	11:10	4:30	5:05
9/16	11:36	11:47	5:00	5:48
9/17		12:16	5:33	6:35
9/18	12:29	1:04	6:13	7:31
9/19	1:21	2:03	7:03	8:34

Tourism Commission updates

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – With the closing of the tourist season the Cape May Tourism Commission reported updates in marketing, infrastructure, training, and public relations at its meeting Sept. 10.

- The Tourism Commission continues with the addition of two new board members: Robert Steenrod and Mary Stewart. Steenrod is serving as co-chair and David Craig continues to serve as chairperson.
- The Mad Batter and Lucky Bones Restaurants are sponsoring a seminar for New Jersey Restaurant Association members to invite two managers or employees to learn Spanish.
- A “simple and to the point” banner plane flew from Sandy Hook to Cape May displaying, “Cape May open all year, www.discovercapemay.com” Sept. 10, Steenrod said it was \$1,900 expenditure and would like to do it twice next year.
- Craig said the commission voted to discontinue their contract with the city public relations firm MWW Group last July. MWW Group is a large corporation serving numerous clients including McDonald’s. Commissioners discussed employing a smaller agency or a stipend city employee to handle PR because of their dissatisfaction with the larger firm during the later months of their contract.

Theatre Foundation finally gets loan approval

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – “The last 60 seconds were the best the Beach Theatre Foundation has seen thus far,” Beach Theatre Foundation President Steve Jackson said at the special council meeting Sept. 7 when a \$100,000 loan to the foundation was unanimously approved.

Since 1,300 people signed a petition eight months ago the non-profit Beach Theatre Foundation (BTF) worked to raise money and promote community enthusiasm to prevent the owners from demolishing the Beach Theatre and putting condominiums on the prime property.

The non-profit group’s work has materialized in the form of an oversized cardboard check.

The Historical Preservation Committee granted Frank Investments, Inc. approval to demolish the building, effective Labor Day, the foundation worked to get the loan as quickly as possible.

The money will go through the foundation to the theater owner Frank Investments, Inc. once the foundation’s lease agreement is signed.

Council adopted new policies for the revolving loan through Triad Associates at its meeting Sept.4 and scheduled the special meeting to vote after reviewing the BTF application.

The Foundation pledged any funds unused in operational expenses would be repaid to the city and the foundation will provide proof of fundraising to the city as collateral.

The one-year lease term is effective Oct. 1 with an additional six-month option. The city must approve any third-party lease. The 13 retail stores surrounding the theater will continue to operate on their leases with Frank Investments.

After operational expenses are paid, any unused funds the BTF gains through fundraising must be collateral to the city and used to repay the loan.

The foundation will use the theater to generate money to pay back the city and develop a vision to propose to develop

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September 11 Remembered



The Kiwanis Club of Cape May hosted a memorial service Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the pavilion at the Cove Beach. Clifford Buggs, Coast Guard Chief Musician, played the traditional “Taps,” top right, as Michael Veck and Burke lowered the flag as members of Cape May Boy Scout Troops 73, left, salute. Though a sad remembrance, all spoke of American resolve, hopefulness and loyalty.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

LT looking at water problems and options

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – “As a council we have a water problem and everybody knows it,” Councilman Wayne Mazurek said.

Cape May County Municipal Water Authority (MUA) applied to the state for a demonstration grant to build a re-charge plant nearly three years ago in late 2004. Councilman Mazurek revisited the re-charge plant idea at the Lower Township council meeting Sept. 5 rousing another issue of mandatory hook-ups.

Mazurek said the re-charge plant could treat 500,000 to 600,000 gallons each day to replenish the aquifers rather than the current system of pumping one million gallons of treated wastewater five miles out to the ocean through the county MUA. He suggested using the money spent to pump through the county MUA to run the re-charge plant. Jim Neville, Chemist for the Cape May County MUA, said it’s best to think of the aquifer in the analogy of a sponge and the wells as straws. The straws suck the water and dries out the sponge so the aquifer takes from the surrounding water, which in this case is the salty Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay.

“We can see how the salt levels are moving inland from each well. It’s very simple: we are taking water from the ground and not putting anything back,” Neville said.

“Many people think it is unsanitary to put sewage water back into the water supply, but the earth itself is a filter. At the plant we simply do a faster version of what happens in a stream,” Neville said.

Neville said the re-charge plant would micro-filter to high standards before replenishing the aquifers.

Charlie Norkis, Executive Director of the Cape May County MUA, said the estimated cost of the re-charge plant is \$7.8 million. The grant would cover \$6.76 million, leaving the township with \$1.04 million.

Last March the MUA asked council to consider mandatory hook-ups to the city line to save costs in the long-term with new development.

Mazurek said there are areas with city water and others without mandatory hook-ups but the MUA tried an ultimatum of all or nothing.

Deputy Mayor Robert Nolan said he does not want to mandate residents to involuntarily hook-up to the city line if they are content with the wells.

Resident Charlie Brown told Lower Township council the bad water quality in his area turned his sidewalks orange when using a sprinkler to water his lawn. Brown uses well water and said he would love to have city water but the cost to hook-up is unaffordable.

Resident Sal Riggi, a hydro-geological expert and environmental consultant said he monitors the records of the water levels for the entire aqua plain and he has found the water levels in the aquifers have been consistently decreasing since 1990.

He said a re-charge field is the smartest idea for an aquifer because with new development makes less area to diffuse water from rainfall.

“The MUA could change the criteria to a tertiary treatment and proceed recovering water where there is no contamination,” former LTMUA Commissioner Steve Sheftz suggested.

Norkis said the United States Geological Survey (USGS) supplied extensive studies completed in December, but the Department of

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Methodist church finds no relief

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A local church seeking relief from a costly water bill was turned down by City Council Sept. 4.

The Cape May United Methodist Church on Washington Street was charged \$4,329 because of a leaking toilet in the Sunday School basement.

The church was unaware of the leak and requested relief from council to lower the bill to \$1,285.38.

“This is a reasonable, extraordinary case,” Councilman David Kurkowski said.

“We need to define what is a catastrophic event,” City Manager Lou Corea said.

Corea said it is not unusual that monitors don’t pick up on leaks.

Councilman David Craig said the ordinance for partial relief is not part of the Debt Solution Plan and he suggested the city work on radio transmitted meters to ensure the proper technology is used to prevent such a case.

Council was concerned that the relief was not following procedure. Member Linda Steenrod suggested a proper review of the relief with an ordinance in mind.

Mayor Jerome Inderwies feared the relief would result in a slippery slope.

“If we help this church we have to help them all,” Inderwies said.

“I think this is unfortunate but we need to continue to make notifications of the water being used,” Deputy Mayor Neils Favre said.

Council decided the bigger issue was keeping track of water use to prevent these situations.