

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 3 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007 50¢

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JANUARY TIDE TABLE

(eastern daylight time)

LOW		HIGH	
am	pm	am	pm
18 7:06	7:28	12:18	1:21
19 7:49	8:12	1:06	2:04
20 8:33	8:58	1:54	2:47
21 9:17	9:45	2:43	3:30
22 10:03	10:34	3:34	4:15
23 10:52	11:27	4:29	5:01
24 11:44	5:28	5:51	

Environmental Commission wants open dialogue

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

CAPE MAY – The Cape May Environmental Commission is hoping for open dialogue on major projects going before boards and commissions in the city. According to commission

member Charlotte Todd, there are lots of questions the environmental commission would love to have seen addressed early and openly to clear up questions for the planning board, for example, the commission and for the public. The environmental commission raised their concerns

recently when an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was not required by the planning board for the Coachman Holding project. The project includes demolishing the existing Coachman's Motor Inn and Rusty Nail bar/restaurant, and replacing the structure with a new three-story hotel

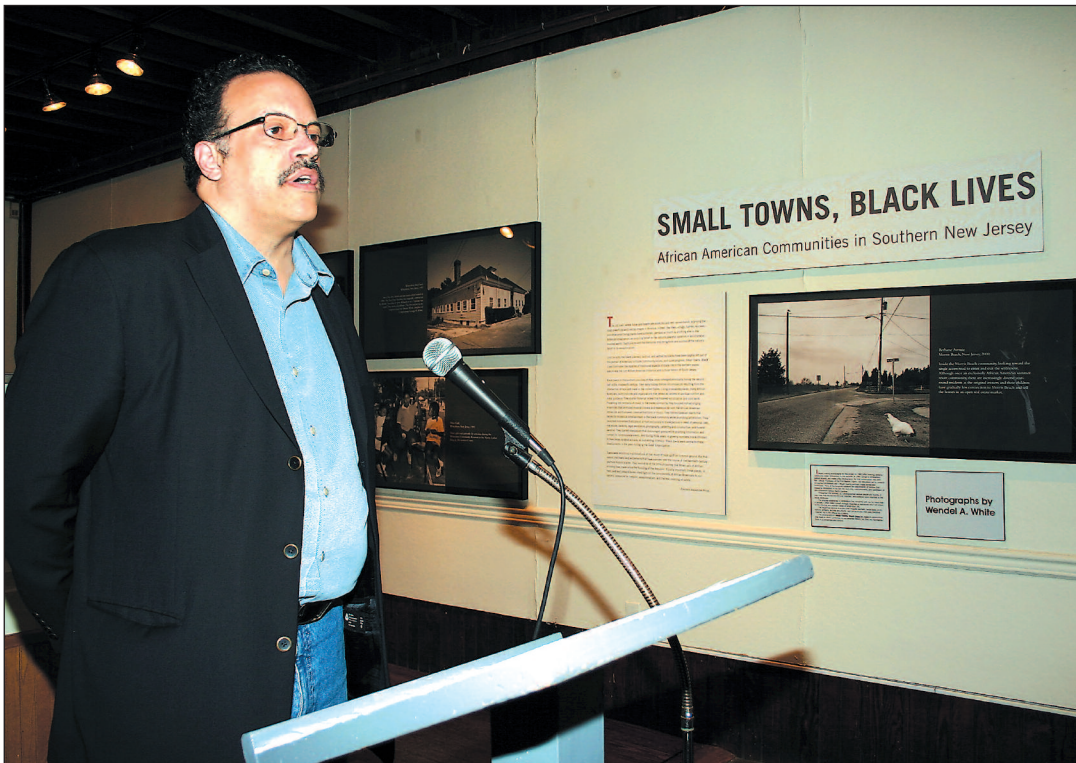
and a new Rusty Nail.

The planning board gave conditional preliminary and final site plan approval for the project, but it waived a requirement for an EIS. Todd described the waiver as "unfortunate." The applicant indicated that an EIS would however be part of a CAFRA application.

Todd said Cape May is a good town and good communication is vital, and she would like the environmental commission and the public to be able to speak with consultants during the application process.

"We should be able to talk

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Martin Luther King Jr. remembered

The Center for Community Arts (CCA) in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the opening of the photographic exhibit "Small Towns, Black Lives" at the Carriage House Gallery. Photographer Wendel A. White, pictured left, grew up in New Jersey and is a professor at Stockton College. CCA also sponsored a pot-luck community dinner Jan. 15 and unveiled three murals by its Youth Arts program depicting African American history in Cape May, Wildwood and Lower Township. The murals will adorn the windows at the Franklin Street School. The first restored window, below, was installed recently.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp and Christopher South



Mall merchants 'vociferous' against RMUs on mall

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Members of the Mall Merchants Association have gone on record as being "vociferously" opposed to a proposal to place Retail Merchandising Units on the Washington Street Mall.

Cape May businessman Pierce Herbst addressed city council at a workshop held last week, when he outlined a proposal to lease space from the city to place up to 12

RMUs in the three blocks on the mall. An RMU, Herbst explained, is not a kiosk, but a cart of sorts, the kind which has been used at Disney World and other venues around the United States.

However, on Tuesday, some merchants said there is enough space taken up in the public area – and enough competition for tourist dollars.

"We are vociferously against any plan to put more obstacles on the mall," Susan Tischler said.

Tischler, the secretary of

the Mall Merchants Association, was speaking as a retail store owner.

Tischler said Cape May has something of a "Rockwellian" image, and projected beauty and serenity.

"Our duty is to provide peace, not assault people with in your face Boardwalk hawking," she said.

Vince Casale of Casale's Shoes wondered how city council could accept such a proposal saying it would be a "catastrophe" to put 12 RMUs on the mall.

"It's a can of worms, at best,

it's a can of worms," he said.

Casale asked city council not to turn the mall into a carnival, and he questioned who it is who is running the town these days.

"Sometimes I feel like the aliens have landed in town and they are running the community," he said.

Mayor Jerry Inderwies responded briefly to Casale's question, saying city council had listened to a proposal and "didn't accept anything." Later in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said city

council would be negligent if it did not take a look at everything that came before them.

Steve Protasi, president of the Mall Merchants Association said the association also took a look at the proposal. Protasi said representatives and members of the association met with Herbst on Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce and listened to the proposal and an overview of RMUs.

"At this time, the Mall Merchants Association found it unacceptable," Protasi

said.

Joe Bogle of the Fudge Kitchen said the walkway on the mall is public property – a public right of way – and any income Herbst derived would be from the use of public property. Bogle said the mall works because it is individual store owners who have invested in their business. He said developers put carts and kiosks in malls because they are trying to make money, and once they do so they for

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Boy's benefit goes bust

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**

Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – The Villas Fire Company shut down a benefit hardcore music show early after police were called to the property twice on unrelated incidents.

The show, which was to include performances by more than a dozen bands, was scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13, from 11:30 a.m. till around 10 p.m. The show was billed as a fundraiser to benefit Warren J. Alexander III, 6, who is suffering from Metachromatic leukodystrophy, or MLD.

However the show was halted around 6:40 p.m. after police were called to respond 10 minutes earlier to an alleged "large fight/riot" outside the fire hall near Georgia Avenue. As a result, approximately 13 officers from the oncoming shift and the currently on-duty shift responded to the fire hall in the 1600 block of Bayshore Road. Once they arrived, police learned

that a juvenile had allegedly struck an adult victim with a baseball bat.

Patrolman Robert Fessler and Special Officer Chris Donahue took the juvenile suspect into protective custody and he was transported to the Lower Township Police Department where he was charged with aggravated assault and released to parents.

Although the fight might have been the result of an ongoing feud between the individuals and not related to anything that occurred at the show, fire department officials shut down the show on the advice of police because of safety concerns.

The adult victim, identified by witnesses as Russ Deckert, 18, of Lower Township, sustained minor injuries from the assault and was treated at the scene by the Lower Township Rescue Squad and released.

Police had already been called to the Villas Fire Company at around 1:30 p.m. to investigate the theft of an

electric guitar and case valued at over \$600. Det. Sgt. Thomas Keywood of the Lower Township Police Detective Bureau said the Ibanez S-Series guitar with a white "coffin" case may have already been recovered.

At around 7 p.m. two juvenile females were taken into custody for fighting and taken to the Lower Township Police Department where they were processed and released to parents. Fire Chief William Howard said there had been an incident inside the hall earlier in the day.

Then around 8 p.m., the fire company reported a broken window pane in a glass door at the entrance to the hall. The amount of damage, which is thought to have happened between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., was put at approximately \$200. Howard said the benefit organizers have offered to pay for the repairs. According to Howard there were also some tables dam-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The drummer from the band "Mayfair" pounds out a beat during the Warren J. benefit show on Saturday. The show was shut down at the recommendation of the Lower Township Police Department shortly after Mayfair finished its set. Despite the drummer's expression, the show was not terminated because of the music.