

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 3 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 50¢



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## CAPE MAY

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## CAPE MAY POINT

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## WEATHER ALMANAC BY WAYNE ROOP

JANUARY (Normals: 42°/28°, 3.53")			
	High	Low	Precip.
1	30°	20°	
2	40°	19°	.02"
3	40°	30°	
4	44°	29°	
5	48°	38°	
6	49°	35°	.40"
7	49°	38°	.70"

## Preliminary Cape May budget has 2.1-cent tax increase

### Local officials don't like governor's plans to cut municipal pension payments

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council did not see the introduction of the 2009 budget, but perhaps the beginning of the introduction of the budget when City Manager Bruce MacLeod gave a presentation Tuesday afternoon.

MacLeod told city council what he has is a working document on the

budget, which by statute has to be delivered by Jan. 15. MacLeod asked for a special meeting to allow him to make the required presentation.

Joined by Chief Financial Officer Jim Penn and Municipal Auditor Leon Costello, MacLeod showed council an outline of a \$15 million budget.

"I want to make it clear that the presentation today is not the official introduction of the city's budgets,"

MacLeod said.

Once presented, however, the budget is in the hands of city council, which will officially introduce the budget by Feb. 10. The budget is supposed to be adopted by March 10, but MacLeod recommended city council hold off on introducing the budget until decisions about the state budget are made in Trenton. Gov. Jon Corzine has asked for a deferral of 50 percent of pension payments by

municipalities. However, MacLeod opposed such an idea saying, "It's not the best situation for the long run."

MacLeod said the deferred amount would come with an 8.5 percent interest rate and the obligation to pay it back over 30 years.

Costello was not as diplomatic in opposing the governor's recommendation.

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## Businesses weather the winter months in Cape May

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - During this time of the year, between New Year's Day until Valentine's Day weekend, many people think this little corner of Southern New Jersey shuts down for a few weeks.

These people are wrong. It may come as a shock to discover just how many places of business are open full time during the period when most locals take off for warmer climates. And if someone is surprised to find these venues open in January and February, they may also wonder why this is.

"Why? Because a few years ago, I thought that Cape May should stay open for the locals," said Laurie Johnson, owner of Oma's Doll Shop located in the Washington Commons. "It isn't all about the tourist trade. People want to come in and get a doll or something for a birthday or a wife's anniversary. I just thought it would be nice to be open for the locals and not just vacationers."

"It just doesn't seem right to close because vacationers aren't here in large numbers as they are in the summer," continued Johnson. "If you have a product worth selling, you'll stay open. You can't fall into it being a bad economy because then you'll just feed into it. This is why I'm here, sticking it out."

This seems to be the mind set of several employees at local business-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Victor Company at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center stands at attention before a talk from base commander Capt. Carl B. Thomas (below left). Below right, Lt. JG Clay Cromer inspects a recruit's uniform.

## TRACEN's Victor Company marching in inauguration

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - On Inauguration Day, thousands of people will be on the street in Washington, D.C., trying to catch a glimpse of Barack Obama as he is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States and the first of African-American descent.

But shortly after being sworn in, President Obama will get a good look at Victor Company from the U.S.

Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May as members march past the reviewing stand.

About 60 members of the recruit company are putting in an extra week at the training center to be part of the inauguration parade. The recruits will join about 40 other Coast Guard members who are taking part in the inauguration in one form or another. Both the new president and outgoing President George Bush will have an honor guard formed of members from the various

military branches.

On Tuesday, Victor Company was standing inspection in preparation for the trip to Washington. The company will leave today and return Jan. 20 after the inauguration.

Lieutenant JG Clay Cromer, battalion officer, inspected the recruits from head to toe, pointing out stray threads on the caps, jackets, or trousers, pointing out a spot on a cap or calling for trousers to be length-

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## Water rate going up

Higher rates to make up for deficit from people using less water in '08

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City Manager Bruce MacLeod would not give a number Tuesday, but said there would have to be a water rate increase in 2009 to make up for a deficit caused by people using less water.

The Water-Sewer Utility has a

total budget of \$6,403,054. Some 67 percent of the sewer budget and 40 percent of the water budget are payments to the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority. The MUA is requiring an additional \$100,000 in 2009.

But the biggest impact on the budget is rate-payers used 18

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Jane Elwell/Cape May Star and Wave

## Swain's, CMSW sponsor anniversary

Cape May's 400th Anniversary celebrations kicks off Sunday, Feb. 15 with a Half Moon Gala Ball in the ballroom at Congress Hall from 7 to 11 p.m. Members of the anniversary committee are also seeking sponsors for the various events planned throughout the year. Level amounts range from friend at \$100 to diamond at \$5,000. Pictured, left to right, are committee members Barbara Pitman and Bob Elwell; Terri Swain of Swain's Hardware and Jennifer Kopp, editor of the Cape May Star and Wave, the first two businesses to become sponsors; and Pat Milligan and Bud Swain, "king and queen" of the anniversary celebration who will be coronated during the Half Moon Ball. Tickets are \$50 and limited to 200 and are available through the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, 609 Lafayette Street or by calling 884-5505.



## Recruits honored to be a part of Inauguration Day

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - "I couldn't think of anything else I could do to show my respect for my country," Veronica Dunn said about her opportunity to take part in President-elect Barack Obama's Inauguration Day activities. "It's an amazing thing."

Dunn was among a number of Coast Guard recruits who were given the opportunity to express their feelings about being part of the historic event Jan. 20.

Several of those speaking to the press are from New Jersey and nearby states such as Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Recruit Taylor Huttenlock of Howell will be one of those marching in the parade. Huttenlock graduated high school in 2006 and decided to join the Coast Guard in November 2007.

"My paperwork took a long time and I'm actually glad it did or I wouldn't be around here for this humongous honor," he said. "I can't even say how honored I am to going to this inauguration as well as being in the Coast Guard."

Huttenlock is going to be a food service specialist and hopes to retire as a master chief.

Recruit Jonathan Ricardo of Howell Township graduated in 2007 and spent the last summer on the

beach as a lifeguard. He said he credits watching the USCG helicopters flying past the beach as part of what made him consider joining the Coast Guard.

"I'm extremely excited," Ricardo said about taking part in the inauguration. "I did not expect it at all and I'm very happy I'm going."

Ricardo will be assigned to the Cutter Northland. He wants to be a boson's mate working on the deck doing boarding, drug interdiction, law enforcement and things of that nature.

Recruit Veronica Dunn finds Cape May very different from her home in

save, I just couldn't stay away from it. I've always wanted to do law enforcement so I decided to become an operations specialist in the Coast Guard," Dunn said.

Asked what being in the inauguration parade meant to her, Dunn said, "I couldn't think of another way to honor my country. It's an amazing thing."

Dunn said she believes the Obama inauguration would be the most watched inauguration ever and for some time to come, and she will be taking part in the day's events.

Recruit Patrick Murphy of Marlton spent time at the Jersey shore. He thought about joining the Coast Guard while he was in high school. He graduated in 2007, and finally signed up after listening to friends talk about what they were doing in the Coast Guard and the various opportunities.

"I feel pretty honored," Murphy said about taking part in Inauguration Day. "Actually, coming into boot camp I didn't expect anything like that. It's something I never did before and probably will never do again, so I'm honored to do that."

Murphy said he could be a mechan-

*'I couldn't think of anything else I could do to show my respect for my country.'*

-Recruit Veronica Dunn

Bucks County, Pa. She graduated high school in 2007 and recently moved to Port Charlotte, Fla., which is where a big hurricane hit a couple years ago.

"Seeing that and seeing the way the Coast Guard is in the Gulf of Mexico, all the hurricanes that go through there, the thousands of lives they

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