

# Swain

Continued from page A1

said. "My approach would be to use my background, talk to people, hear their concerns, get expert advice, read the documents, weigh the pros and cons and make a decision."

Swain said given her own concerns she would be one to take a strong look at the municipal budget and see what things are not going to be promised or committed, and develop a strategic plan for the next five years.

"We have to consider our capital needs and goals for long term," she said.

"And the way the economy is going it's scary. We don't know what the year is going to bring. Line by line (in the budget) things have to be challenged," Swain said.

The reduction in state aid,

she said, is going to affect everyone in Cape May, including small business owners and non-profits. Swain said she recently met with a group of not-for-profit directors and they are being told to cut 20-percent right off the top.

She sees the effects of the economy nationally, with the ACE Corporation cutting jobs by 15-percent, and locally with the number of businesses not staying open year around. And Cape May is losing population, which she said is going to make it harder to cover expenses in the budget.

However, Swain believes despite the change the spirit of Cape May is still the same. "There is a group of people who still value Cape May and

what it has to offer," she said. "Some people choose to experience that but not live on island. It's just different, these days, but the quality is still there."

Swain said she is seeing fewer people on the streets on a year around basis - fewer than when she was growing up on Michigan Avenue, when there were multiple families with friends of various ages next door or just a few doors away. She said driving through town one doesn't see the same number of kids playing as when she was growing up here.

"But the town still has a genuine quality," she said.

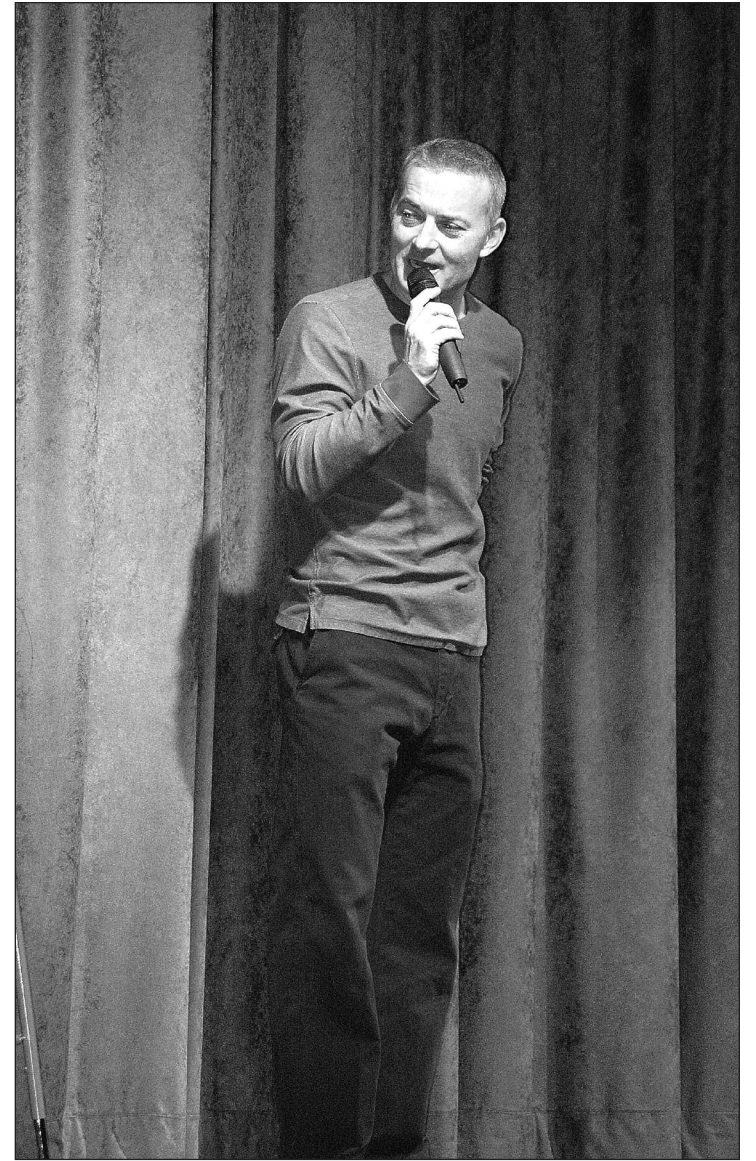
Swain said she spent a lot of time talking to her father about deciding to run for council. Swain said she has

always counted on her father's advice in business and personal decisions.

"He's 1,000-percent behind me," she said.

Swain said her father, grandfather and great grandfather had shoes that were hard to fill, with their involvement in Kiwanis and service on the school board. However, Swain would be blazing a new trail so to speak, becoming the first Swain to be elected to the governing body.

"I like a challenge, I like to work, and I won't quit until I can get something done. I have commitment to this community and I'm not going anywhere," she said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
Comedian Eric McMahon was the headliner at the PAL Comedy Night Social last Friday evening at Convention Hall. More than 200 people attended to hear three comics give their views on life and also help raise money for PAL activities.

# Fraser says 'free spending' is the problem not the small towns

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - Cape May Point Mayor Malcolm Fraser said small towns are not to blame for the state's financial woes.

According to Fraser, a lot of blame has been placed on property taxes, which he said some claim have "gone amuck." According to Fraser, the facts have to be investi-

gated and properly defined. "One size does not necessarily fit all," he said.

On March 8, Fraser attended a meeting of Central New Jersey Elected Officials to discuss the "property tax crisis" they say was created by New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine's budget slashing. Fraser said everyone who attended was sympathetic to the state's dilemma, but at the same time were "appalled" at the governor's decision to shift the crisis onto the backs of municipalities. Notable exceptions are Camden and Jersey City, which he said are still getting a significant amount of state aid.

He said the governor introduced a budget and it is now in the hands of what he described as a "free-spending legislature."

"In the business world, it is wise and necessary to first identify and define the prob-

lem and its cause. Until you go back to the basics, the situation is like a young puppy chasing its tail," he said.

Fraser said size is not the indicator of whether or not a municipality is operating efficiently; he said it's the quality of the leadership that makes the difference. Fraser compared the taxpayers to the "stockholders," and the dividend is a stable tax rate. He said the citizens understand the need to maintain or upgrade infrastructure when the governing body properly defines the necessity and benefits of the project. He said people would not object to replacing a rusty, leaking water tower, for example, when the alternative is going without water or buying water from a neighboring community at higher rates.

"Many of the smaller communities are more efficiently managed than are their larg-

er neighboring communities, whether suburban size or city," Fraser said. "The bottom line is quality of services received at a reasonable cost."

He said that quality is not determined by the number of year around residents.

Fraser said merging with neighboring communities would result in higher taxes, not efficiency. He said if Cape May Point merged with the City of Cape May, for example, Point residents would experience an approximately 64-percent property tax increase; if the Point merged with West Cape May taxes would rise 53-percent; and if it merged with Lower Township, Point property owners would see a 175-percent increase in property taxes.

"That's only the first year," Fraser said.

**Cape May Stars & Wave**  
184 Years Old 1854-2008  
600 Park Blvd., #28, West Cape May, New Jersey 08204  
USPS No. 519-020  
PHONE: 884-3466 FAX: 884-2893  
Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:** By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi: \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29. Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price \$.50 per copy.

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Weekly, every Thursday.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

**ASSISTANCE:** For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call 884-3466 weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm.

**Cape Island Home & Gardens**  
NEW THIS YEAR  
**LAWN SERVICE**  
Please call or Email for a FREE Estimate

720 Broadway  
West Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-884-4210 • judesgarden@comcast.net

Serving Cape May County Fully Licensed and Insured

**TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY**  
P/T MAINTENANCE HELPER/detail oriented. \$10. Hr., driver's license. Apply Angel of the Sea, Cape May.

**Passions of a Poet!**  
A delightful book of a man's zest for life, love, travel, our country and local Cape May history. Over 200 photos for young and old.

Available at: LOCAL BOOK STORES Gift shops- Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal, Sunset Beach Gift Shop. www.andrealippopoet.com

**AART's Cape May Taxi**  
www.capemaytaxi.com  
We're on your side  
**CALL 898-RIDE (898-7433)**

- safe and reliable
- All local communities
- clean, comfortable
- airports
- local and distance
- child safety seats



**Guiding you forward**  
because money doesn't come with an owner's manual

From your home mortgage, to expanding your business, to financing a college education, life's events often come with big financial questions.

At Cape Bank, we guide you through the complex world of banking products and services. Put our knowledge to work for you.

**CAPE BANK**  
guiding you forward

More Branches To Serve You Better.  
Atlantic City | Cape May | Cape May Court House | Egg Harbor Twp. | Galloway | Linwood | Margate  
Marmora | Ocean City | Rio Grande | Somers Point | Stone Harbor | Villas | Wildwood

800.858.BANK | www.capebanknj.com

**YOUR EASTER Candy Headquarters**  
"Even the Easter Bunny shops here."

**Delicious Easter Eggs**  
Personalized Free of Charge  
**Coconut Cream • Butter Cream • Peanut Butter • Fudge Center • Fruit & Nut • Caramel Pecan**

**Custom Easter Baskets**  
With All The Trimmings

We are your Hometown Confection Shop.

The Original **FUDGE KITCHEN** Homemade in your Hometown!  
www.fudgekitchens.com

Visit with the Easter Bunny on the Washington St. Mall  
Fri. & Sat. March 21 & 22  
Open every day year round on the Washington St. Mall & The Promenade  
**1-800-23-FUDGE**