

Cape May Star and Wave

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SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

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50¢

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NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE (EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)						
		LOW		HIGH		
		am	pm	am	pm	
23	Thu.	2:29	2:21	8:52	9:21	
24	Fri.	3:09	4:04	9:45	10:12	
25	Sat.	3:51	4:50	10:27	11:10	
26	Sun.	4:41	5:42	11:26		
27	Mon.	5:45	6:43	12:11	12:25	
28	Tue.	7:03	7:46	1:10	1:25	
29	Wed.	8:18	8:45	2:09	2:26	



About 400 recruits to spend Thanksgiving off base

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – About three-quarters of the approximately 400 U.S. Coast Guard recruits currently training in Cape May will visit local homes today to enjoy a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal and enjoy a day off from the rigors of Coast Guard basic training.

Most of the remainder will spend the day at service or fraternal organizations, who regularly feed between 20 and 30 recruits each. Despite the numbers, the Coast Guard and the American Red Cross, which places the recruits with families as part of Operation Fireside, have no problem finding homes for recruits to visit during one of America's biggest holidays.

"It's amazing how this program has taken off," Chief Warrant Officer Bill Carson said. "Ten to 15 years ago had to be on the radio, we had to advertise. Now we don't advertise at all."

The program has become so popular locally that people begin calling the Red Cross at the beginning of September to get on the list for Operation Fireside on Thanksgiving Day. Carson said the Red Cross regularly does its best to make sure everyone who applies get the opportunity to host recruits, but some people may have to take fewer recruits than they have in the past.

"People who take four or five are only getting two this year," Carson said.

According to Carson, there are simply fewer recruits to go around. The newest class, which would have arrived a week ago Tuesday, is the only class that does not go out.

"Being in the Coast Guard a week and a half, at this point in their training can't afford to miss a day," Carson said.

The next newest classes make up the groups going to organizations such as VFW Post 386 in Cape May, which will host some 50 recruits. The Moose Lodge in North Wildwood is taking another 30, and the Wildwood Elks and the Vietnam Vets take in 10 each.

Mary Grace Cantillo, executive director of the Cape May County Chapter of the American Red Cross said the Coast Guard likes to have the recruits with less time in go to these organizations, presumably because they are still adapting to military life. Recruits from the more advanced classes can be counted on to display more "military bearing." Clearly three quarters of the recruits fall into this category. According to Cantillo, as of late last week there was still some need for host families, but if there were a shortage the organizations would take up the slack.

Cantillo said when people start calling the Red Cross records their name, address and home phone number. They also record

information such as whether it is a smoking or non-smoking home, and whether or not they have pets. After that, the family is provided a letter outlining the rules and regulations of Operation Fireside. As most of the recruits are under 21, they are not to be served alcohol. In addition, they are not allowed to drive a vehicle while visiting someone's home. And they are not allowed to bring food or gifts back to the base.

"The host family may give them a calling card," Cantillo said.

The family must show identification when they pick up the recruits at the base chapel at 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Day morning and they have to be back by 8 p.m.

For the people who worry about trying to entertain their recruits all day, that is simply not a problem. Besides enjoying a good meal, the recruits generally want

to do two things: phone home and watch TV. Other than that, most of them just want to relax.

Carson said the Coast Guard appreciates the support and cooperation of the community with Operation Fireside.

"This is a great gesture. And what is really neat is over the years the families stay in contact with their recruit. Some of them continue to correspond long after graduation. Sometimes they

come to graduation, they meet the parents, and they correspond," he said.

Carson said he believes Operation Fireside has helped develop a close relationship between the Coast Guard and the Cape May community.

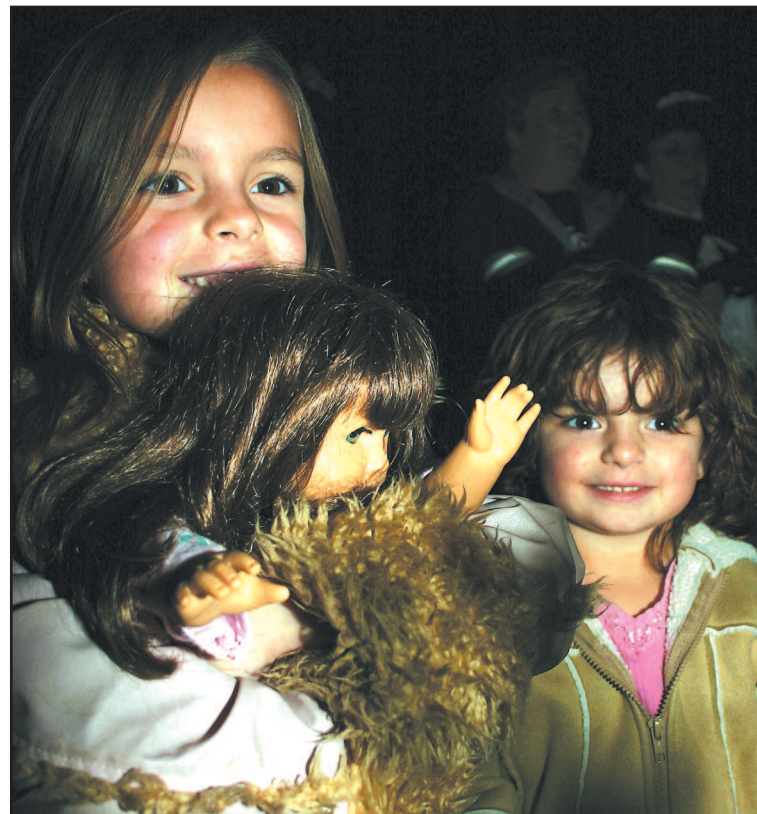
Operation Fireside also operates on Christmas Day, but with the hours running from noon till 8 p.m.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ...

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) started its holiday season off last Saturday night with a visit from Santa Claus, caroling and the lighting of a Christmas tree outside the Physick Estate. Pictured at left, Violet Dales, age 4, of the Villas, gets a chance to talk with Santa. Bottom left, Elena, age 7, and 4 year-old Hannah Glammer with American Girl doll "Hannah" from Woodlyn, Pa. watch as the Christmas tree is lite. Below, Ginger and Frank Killino of Cape May Beach get into the Victorian spirit of the evening.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp



Easier reading in West Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The borough is considering spending a little more on a state of the art water meter system to save money in the long run.

According to Mayor Pam Kaithern, the borough is considering spending USDA grant money to upgrade some of the approximately 800 water meters in West Cape May to radio water meters that can be read from a central location. Currently, it takes three days for a crew of

three to read the water meters, which they do four times a year. Kaithern said the commissioners had also considered a "drive by" type of meter that would still require employees to go out on the streets, but they would not have to leave the truck to read the meters.

With the remote access system, one employee can sit at a central facility and read any meter in the borough at any time.

"We were told it would cost a lot more for the remote access, but we did an analysis and it's not as much as we thought,"

Kaithern said.

The meters also come with a 25-year warranty.

Kaithern said the borough has some money left from a USDA grant, which they plan to use for upgrading the water meter system. The borough received part grant/ part low interest loan from the USDA, and the agency requires the loan money to be spent before the grant can be utilized. Kaithern said the commissioners wanted to use as much as they could toward improving the

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Food donations aid food bank

Donations down 11 percent while need rises

purchase some food, but mainly protein items.

"We don't generally have the money to buy food, but we had been working to get a line item in state budget and Gov. (Jon) Corzine has put in \$3 million in budget to purchase food," Benton said. "So I don't want to give impression we're not going to be able to serve our clients."

Now they might have to start purchasing other items such as non-perishable canned goods, which were being donated by manufacturers.

"There has been a decrease in giving, especially from food manufacturers, and it has been coming for 10 years," she said.

Benton said as commercial food

processing plants have become more efficient, and there are fewer product overruns, donations have declined.

"And when you can't get food donated the only alternative is to buy it," Benton said.

Benton said there are holiday food drives, but the holiday season is generally the only time of the year when they occur. The exception is the one sponsored by the letter carriers in May.

"It's hard to encourage people to give on regular basis, but people have to eat all year around," Benton said.

According to Benton there is no drop in need for their services during the summer months. Benton said the Community Food

Bank is a United Way charity and the United Way has a food bank at its site, and they see no decline in demand for food during the summer.

Benton said they try to find sources of food wherever they can, such as from the Sands Casino, which just closed. Benton said they contacted the Sands several weeks before they closed because they knew they would have excess inventory. They were able to pick up a truckload of produce and frozen food items.

"We will be helping them clear out their storeroom as well," she said.

There are also restaurants, such as Dino's Diner in Seaville that donate leftover soup, which

New Jersey State Film Festival



Photo by Bernie Haas

Bruce Minnix discusses his television career at the N.J. Film Festival after receiving the first Lifetime Achievement Award.

By SUSAN TISCHLER
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – "Bruce!" the tele-message began. "My goodness! Such a long time, so much has transpired. I'm desperately sorry I can't be there with you. You were kind to me – saved my bacon with jobs more than once – and I haven't forgotten. So, I salute you. Congratulations old chap." Signed Morgan Freeman.

It's not every day you get a telegram from Morgan Freeman, but then again, it's not everyday you receive 10,000 post cards accusing you being a Communist or get to sit in the control room when

Edward R. Murrow is about to make television history. For all these achievements and many more the New Jersey State Film Festival (NJSFF) honored one of its own Friday night at the Champagne Reception held in Congress Hall's Ballroom.

Bruce Minnix, former mayor of Cape May and a presence in the television industry, received the festival's first Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th Annual New Jersey State Film Festival.

Stefan Prosky, curator for the film festival M.C.'d the affair as well as Sunday's Art Inspired by Film Brunch, also held in the Ballroom, in which young filmmakers were, for

the first time honored for their work.

The awards were presented in honor of former NJSFF recipients of the Governor's Award. C. Thaddeus Banks received the Robert Prosky Award for Best Performance in his film "The Art of Theatrical Ushery." Jonathon Zelenak received the Ron Rollet Award for the Best Short for his film "Happy Birthday" and Craig Rinkerman received the Susan Sarandon for Community and Education Award for his documentary "Gerald Lynch – The Sculptor."