

# Cape May Star and Wave



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165th YEAR NO. 3 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 \$1.00



## USCG families need a lifeline



### Donations help fill food pantry amid government shutdown

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Coast Guard personnel at Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) were expecting they would not receive a paycheck Jan. 15 due to the federal partial government shutdown.

They received their last paycheck Dec. 31 as a stopgap measure from the Department of Homeland Security, but that will not be repeated since there is no appropriation for 2019. The Coast Guard is the only branch of the military in which service members are currently going unpaid during the partial government shutdown.

The base also has federal civilian employees that have been furloughed, according to Chief Warrant Officer John Edwards.

"Out of 98 of these civilian employees that we have, all but 24 have been furloughed. So there's obviously some impact there with being able to run at full mission capacity, speed if you will," he said.

Edwards said facilities engineering and the ability to respond to emergencies are still intact. He said TRACEN is continuing its mission to train Coast Guard recruits in the responsible nature that is required.

Active-duty Coast Guard members were authorized to receive a paycheck Jan. 1.

"That was a one-time deal and the next paycheck, Jan. 15, is not guaranteed," Edwards said.

Donations to federal entities are subject to legal considerations.

Seaville Fire and Rescue of Upper Township and American Legion Post 184 in Wildwood began organizing a drive for food items, toiletries, baby formula



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Jessica Manfre, who is leading the food drive for the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club, takes stock of the canned goods. 'More and more people started donating to help us prepare for the fact we wouldn't get paid on the 15th,' Manfre said.

and diapers to assist personnel, according to Edwards.

"They did that with the idea of helping support the Coast Guard, in particular here in Cape May," he said.

Edwards said the Coast Guard was not aware of the food drive until it was well under way. He

said the challenge was how to accept the items and still maintain a code of federal regulations, to which all federal agencies and employees are bound.

Seaville Fire and Rescue and the American Legion teamed up with the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club, which can accept

the donations. He said the club regularly offers materials and information to recruits' spouses on graduation day.

"The Coast Guard is not accepting those donations but the spouses' association is," Edwards said.

The federal 20/50 rule is an

'We hope the people who were paid are exercising good stewardship of their money and paying their bills and putting food on the table. Come the 15th, the word "need" could certainly become more applicable to this situation.'

—Chief Warrant Officer John Edwards, U.S. Coast Guard

exception that allows some gifts to be accepted. A gift with a maximum of \$20 per source per occasion may be accepted but not in cash and not to exceed \$50 per year from a source.

Edwards said another exception allowing a gift is to make donations widely available to all ranks, rates, people, positions, titles and agencies. He said the only qualifying factor is it must be an agency affected by the partial shutdown.

He said Seaville Fire and Rescue, the American Legion and the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club have offered the donations widely, which enables Coast Guard members to accept the items.

Due to a standing relationship with the spouses' club, the Coast Guard was able to provide the group with a space to set up a storefront on base down the street from the post exchange.

If Coast Guard personnel do not receive a paycheck Jan. 15, many could have a problem paying their

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Gail Van Scoyk/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

### Snow blankets the mall, silences the bell

Cape Island saw its first snowfall of the year Jan. 12-13, when an average of 3 inches fell across the lower cape, including in Cape May, where Gail Van Scoyk captured this scene.

### Lake Lily bulkhead project to be rebid, done in phases

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Bids received for a project to replace bulkheads at the south end of Lake Lily, along with concrete work and landscaping, exceeded the projected budget based on a grant received for \$425,000.

On Jan. 10, Commissioner Robert Mullock said bids ranged from \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. He said the bidding process would be broken into three pieces, with the Public Works Department doing some of the work in house.

Mullock said he did not believe the project would exceed \$600,000.

"We've set that money aside already. We're going to be within the proper range and I wouldn't be surprised if we can get it down further," he said.

The borough will have better control of the design elements, in particular the landscaping, by breaking the work into three phases, Mullock said.

Mullock said the landscaping would be a bigger version of what is located at Triangle Park. The plan is for a very natural, colorful setting at the south end of the lake, he said.

The bulkhead at the south end is showing major deterioration including trees growing through it and between piling. Trees are actually growing out of the lake due to so much material moving through the bulkhead into the lake. In summer, the depth of the lake at the south end decreases to 6 to 8 inches, he said.

Mullock said the shallow water combined with hot weather heats that portion of the lake and results in fish kills. Lake Lily is the most important component for flood mitigation for Cape May Point, he said. Inflow and outflow pipes allow Lake Lily to handle stormwater from the entire east side of the borough, Mullock said.

Eventually, stormwater from the west side of the borough will enter the lake,

he said. Mullock said many of the storm drains on the west side of the borough are French drains that are not connected to any system but will be in the future.

He said a raised manhole at the south end of the lake is falling apart. It serves an outflow pipe to lower the water level in the lake when a major storm is coming.

The south end of Lake Lily is vital to the drainage of the borough, Mullock said.

"At the same time, we can make it look beautiful," he said, adding that a walkway will make the lake handicapped-accessible.

A number of projects in the borough have been under way related to flood mitigation, he said.

"By the time we get done this process through this spring, we will have spent \$1.5 million but the taxpayers of Cape May Point will have spent approximately \$158,000," Mullock said. "The rest of it has been done through a series of about five or six grants."

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