



Lawson's Pride of Somers Point members Ann Marie Lucchesi, Somers Point Councilman James Toto and Janice Johnston with U.S. Coast Guard cutter Lawrence Lawson's first commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Joseph E. Rizzo.

## New nonprofit to assist crew of USCG's Lawrence Lawson

SOMERS POINT — Lawson's Pride of Somers Point, a newly established nonprofit organization, has been formed to aid the officers and crew of the newly commissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutter Lawrence Lawson.

"Somers Point's rich maritime history made establishing Lawson's Pride of Somers Point a natural fit. This volunteer organization is comprised of a mix of veterans and residents who are committed to helping the Lawrence Lawson's officers and crew in any way we can," Somers Point Councilman James Toto said.

Members of Lawson's Pride include acting President Janice Johnston, First Committee Ship's Liaison James Toto, Treasurer Anne Marie Lucchesi, Greg Sykora and John Turner.

"As a member/treasurer for the Lawson's Pride of Somers Point organization, it was an exciting, fact fulfilling day to tour the newly commissioned Lawrence Lawson. Meeting the officers and the crew added a personal touch, knowing that we will be working to

support to them and their families that give so much," Lucchesi said.

The Lawrence Lawson was commissioned March 18 and is based in Cape May Harbor. Recognized as the 20th Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutter supplied to the Coast Guard, the vessel will provide aid to search and rescue missions as well as law enforcement tasks related to drug interdiction and immigration laws.

With two officers and 20 crew members, the patrol ship is 154 feet long and weighs 359 tons with a speed capacity of 28 knots in a range of 2,950 nautical miles. These specific vessels are known to support about two dozen crew members for missions as long as five days.

A 501-c3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization will benefit the crew and officers of the cutter and their family members by providing funds for Family Readiness programs, a key component of family morale, with particular attention to health and welfare during emergency situations and

tragedies.

"We are proud to see Lawson's Pride move forward. This is an all-volunteer organization with members who are dedicated to helping others and understand the valuable connection to the Cape May Coast Guard base," Somers Point Mayor Jack Glasser said.

For more information visit the group's Facebook page or email lawsonsprideofsomerspoint@outlook.com. Anyone wishing to donate to Lawson's Pride of Somers Point may mail a contribution to Lawson's Pride of Somers Point, PO Box 684, Somers Point, NJ 08244.

## Whale's Tale set to celebrate World Ocean Day on June 10

CAPE MAY — Whale's Tale will celebrate World Oceans Day from 1 to 3 p.m. June 10 with book signings and a touch tank with live ocean creatures.

World Oceans Day is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. The theme for World Oceans Day 2017 is "Our Oceans, Our Future." This year's conservation action focus is encouraging solutions to plastic pollution and preventing marine litter for a healthier ocean and a better future. Marine debris and plastic artwork created by the summer campers at New Jersey Audubon's Nature Center of Cape May will be on display. Join Whale's Tale in celebrating the importance of clean oceans. Show your support for World Oceans Day by wearing blue and receive a free Whale's Tale tattoo.

Meet Bryan Kwasnik, who wrote the children's book "The Jellyfish Monster." Kwasnik dedicates his book "to my family and all the summer vacations we shared together." Whether you are on vacation or not, this book is a fun read for

early chapter book readers and also makes a great read-aloud book for the family. Kwasnik grew up in New Jersey and now resides in Belleville.

For seaglass lovers and searchers, author and photographer Cindy Bilbao will be on hand to discuss her books, "Sea Glass Treasures from the Tide" and "The Official Sea Glass Searcher's Guide: How to Find Your Own Treasures from the Tide."

Sea glass is a shard of glass that has been naturally shaped and tumbled by the sea, sand and tide. It can be found in many colors, shapes and sizes. Some of the glass may be from antique bottles, others from popular vintage soda or wine bottles. In "Sea Glass Treasures from the Tide," Bilbao's photographs capture the magical memory of beachcombing

when someone first spies a piece of sea glass on the beach and how it glistens in the sand. Many of her images feature sea glass from the New Jersey shore. Bilbao's second book can serve as a personal guide to finding sea glass. She offers her personal tips on where and when to look, what to really look for and more.

The Nature Center of Cape May will bring its touch tank with real sea creatures. Interns from the Nature Center will be on hand to introduce kids to the life and habitat of the local sea creatures in their tank. They will explain proper handling of sea life and what to do if you find one of them on the beach.

Whale's Tale is located at 312 Washington Street Mall in Cape May. Books will be available for purchase. Call (609) 884-4808 for more information.

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