

# Community breakfast a finale for USCG Community Festival

NORTH CAPE MAY — The Cape May County Coast Guard Community Festival will host the Coast Guard Community Breakfast at 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, May 6, at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal in North Cape May.

The breakfast is the last official event of this year's Coast Guard Community Festival, which honors the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard. Guests will be treated to a breakfast buffet with stunning views of Delaware Bay. Offerings include fresh fruit, granola, berry and cereal station, scrambled eggs with assorted toppings, seasoned hash brown potatoes, hickory smoked bacon, ham and sausage, buttermilk pancakes, french toast with fresh berries and maple syrup, assorted pastries and chilled juices, coffee and tea.

The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 4 to 12 and free for children 3 and younger. Call (800) 643-3779 for reservations.

A full morning of activities is planned for the festival's final

ceremonial event. There will be a classic car show from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in which Coast Guard recruits serve as judges. Cape May County freeholders will honor the Coast Guard Spouse of the Year and present a Hometown Hero award to a local organization that has gone above and beyond in support of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Drill Team will perform, and the Recruit Band will play alongside the Lower Cape May Regional High School band. For the kids, there will be a magic show with Ken the Magician.

The car show will be held in the staging lot of the Cape May Toll Lanes. Staging will begin at 8 a.m. The cost is \$5 per vehicle and all proceeds benefit the Coast Guard Community Foundation.

"Come on out and show off your car in a fun atmosphere at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal," said Michael Porch, marketing manager for the CMLF. "With our expansive parking areas and waterfront views, a car show is a natural fit

for the ferry and the entry fee will aid the efforts of the Coast Guard Foundation."

Other activities scheduled for Sunday, May 6 at the Cape May Ferry Terminal include:

- Ferry life raft demonstration
- Presentation of the Colors and Performance by US Coast Guard Recruit Drill Team
- Playground and free mini-golf for children.

Cape May County has been designated by the federal government as an official Coast Guard Community, one of only two in the U.S. to be so honored.

The 4th annual Coast Guard Community Festival runs May 5-6 and is presented by the Cape May County Coast Guard Community Foundation in partnership with Cape May County, its 16 municipalities, the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Cape May and community sponsors.

For a complete schedule of events, visit [coastguardcommunity.org](http://coastguardcommunity.org).



Provided

The North Cape May terminal of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry will be the venue for the Coast Guard Community Breakfast at 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, May 6.

## Committee recommends higher, wider, longer seawall, Promenade

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this city head on," Bruno said. "If that storm would have hit with our current seawall, what would have happened?"

He said Cape May would have required rebuilding. Nor'easter Jonas produced more severe flooding in the city than Superstorm Sandy, he said.

Bruno noted Cape May was getting more frequent nor'easters.

"We need to identify engineering solutions for reinforcing and possibly elevating the seawall and Promenade in certain areas which are critical in protecting the city and its residents over the long term," he said.

The committee is recom-

mending enhancement of the Promenade so it continues to be a major attraction for pedestrians and bicyclists while maintaining the integrity of the seawall so it may provide continuing protection from storm surge and coastal flooding. Bruno said a wish of the committee is to have the Promenade widened and extended to provide a safe place for bicyclists along Beach Avenue.

The committee is recommending an improvement in the design of the Promenade to protect the coastline and historic properties from future damage from storms. He said an initial report from the Army Corps stated the seawall is 8.5 feet to 9 feet high, well below the current standard of 14 feet.

The Promenade should maintain a Victorian look to fit in with the city, according to the committee. Bruno said access should be improved to public restrooms along the Promenade and all new facilities should be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The portable restrooms along Beach Avenue do not fit with the historic image of Cape May and contribute to traffic congestion and take up parking spaces. He said



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The seawall at Wilmington and Beach avenues in Cape May cannot currently hold back the sand, which overflows into the street. An advisory committee has recommended the city raise, widen and lengthen the seawall and oceanfront Promenade.

restrooms should be on the Promenade, not in the street.

Bruno said the city should improve lighting, signage and walkways to encourage further use of the Promenade.

Seawall and Promenade Committee member Dr. Scott Maslow said the com-

mittee's proposals would take at least a decade to bring to fruition. He noted the seawall was lower than the city's requirement for home construction. North Wildwood's seawalls were built to a height of 14 feet, he said.

Maslow suggested raising the seawall to a height of 10.5 feet. Planning Board Chairman Bill Bezaire said there would be concerns of losing the view of the ocean if the wall were too high. The boardwalk at one time extended to Wilmington Avenue and was much wider than the current Promenade, Maslow said.

Bruno said a Promenade that spanned the entire beachfront would ease parking problems because it would encourage more parking toward the east side of the city and allow ease of walking to Convention Hall, the arcades and restaurants.

Heather Bruno said a mission of the city's Environmental Commission was to clean up beachfront overgrowth. She said the commission met with engineer Steve Morey who stated the city could have a 1-foot clearance from the edge of the Promenade.

"There should not be vegetation growing over because that is inhibiting the limited Promenade space

that we have, meaning that the growth is coming in and people have to dodge it," Heather Bruno said.

The Environmental Commission has begun clearing overgrowth, she said. City IT specialist Dan Shustack took drone photos of the entire beachfront to discover what areas have serious overgrowth and others that need more vegetation, Heather Bruno said.

She said Morey put her in touch with New Jersey Audubon to obtain free plants. The committee will also work with Rutgers University to get dune plugs where dune grass is needed.

"We met with the Shade Tree Commission as to what plants we can remove and what trees need to be protected and they were on board with us," Heather Bruno said. "We'd like to have this as part of the master plan so we don't have to keep reinventing it."

She said the commission each spring and fall could evaluate what died from storms and assemble a team of volunteers to plant, trim and remove. She said a number of master gardeners in Cape May have volunteered their time.

Trash also collects in overgrown vegetation along the Promenade, she said.

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