



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



## SANTA TRAINS ON TRACK FOR AREA VISITS

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## Coast Guard names vessel for war hero

Fast Response Cutter Rollin Fritch includes state-of-the-art technology

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The U.S. Coast Guard's newest cutter in the Mid-Atlantic, the 153-foot Fast Response Cutter Rollin Fritch, homeported in Cape May, offers the latest technology and a better living experience for its crew.

The cutter will perform missions such as law enforcement, search and rescue, port security, fishery patrols, drug and illegal migrant enforcement.

The Rollin Fritch, the 19th Fast Response Cutter, is named after Coast Guard Seaman 1st Class Rollin A. Fritch. During an attack off Luzon in the Philippine Islands during World War II, Fritch manned his gun while Japanese airplanes attacked the ship. Fritch remained at his station, firing his weapon to help save his shipmates, until a kamikaze plane collided with his position, ending his life. Fritch was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his selfless actions.

Members of the media toured the cutter Nov. 18

## FRC Rollin Fritch fine legacy for true USCG legend

By MARK ALLEN  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The slightly built woman standing in front of the new ship about to be commissioned wore the knowing smile of a person harboring a secret.

Indeed, Donna Fritch Fuller, alone among those present, knew something that no else could possibly have known. As the niece of the Coast Guardsman after



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Petty Officer First Class Michael Henderson shows off a handheld remote control that can be used to ease the Fast Response Cutter Rollin Fritch into its berth from the deck.

with Petty Officer First Class Michael Henderson. He said the cutter sails with a crew of 23 consisting of three officers and 20 enlisted

personnel. The vessel is brand new and was built in Lockport, La., by Bollinger Shipyard. Homeporting the Rollin Fritch in Cape May

brought new families to the area, Henderson said.

Mounted on the bow of the

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whom that ship had been named, and as the sponsor of that very ship, Fuller had a direct, personal connection to Seaman First Class Rollin Arnold Fritch, a true Coast Guard hero.

The missions of the Coast Guard are as varied as they are many. Members are the first line of defense when it comes to securing the nation's coasts, ports and waterways. They ensure marine safety through a rigorous

schedule of inspections, patrolling and education. They are particularly well known and respected for conducting search and rescue missions when and wherever necessary. It is Coasties who are primarily responsible for drug and migrant interdiction at sea, and in harbors and bays. And when our nation goes to war, Coasties have yet another mission —

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Donna Fritch Fuller

## JCP&L cleanup firm mobilizing at gas plant site

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Jersey Central Power and Light is in the process of mobilizing equipment and personnel on the former site of a coal-gasification plant near St. John's and Lafayette streets to remediate underground contamination.

From 1853 to 1937, a manufactured gas plant burned coal to provide Cape May with gas for heating, cooking and lighting. In the process, benzene, naphthalene and other chemicals were left underground.

During a City Council meeting Nov. 14, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he had met last week with Viasant, of Media, Pa., the remediation contractor for the project. He said Viasant would be mobilizing on the site this week.

MacLeod said the project would begin after Thanksgiving. A tent-like structure will be placed on the site that will be anchored and have electrical power, he said.

"There is a generator that will operate a vapor-management system within this tent structure and as they do soil excavation, particularly, some of this will get back into the marsh area," MacLeod said. "They'll bring those soils out and place it into this tent."

He said the soil would be odor controlled and dewatered before it is moved offsite by trucks. Construction office trailers have been placed on site.

"They've submitted a traffic flow plan that was reviewed earlier in the meeting with Chief Marino from the police department as well as myself," MacLeod said.

Due to other road construction activity on Lafayette Street, the trucks will use a route from the site to West Perry Street and to Broadway in West Cape May. He said that route would be used for trucks both leaving and entering the city.

MacLeod said dump

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## Cape May approves \$2M. for Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved an ordinance during a meeting Nov. 14 appropriating \$1.5 million and authorizing \$500,000 in bonds for expenses for the development of Lafayette Street Park.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the \$500,000 was supported by a low-interest Green Acres loan with another \$1 million supported by the city's open space

fund.

"The ordinance itself does not specify a particular phase of the project, so when the Lafayette Street Park project itself has been discussed, we've referred to phase one, phase two, phase three and phase four, those are components of a conceptual design for two, three and four," he said.

Phase one was completed this past summer.

MacLeod said part of the

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## Lower Twp. mayor Beck seeks relatives of World War II hero

French town wants to honor Cold Spring native Edward Hunter

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — Edward N. Hunter enlisted in the Army in 1942 during World War II and was killed in France on Aug. 4, 1944, at the age of 39, six months after being sent to Europe. Now he may be about to become a hero in two nations after being forgotten for 72 years.

A search is taking place to find any living relatives of the former Stimpson Lane resident.

A mystery is unraveling that started with a letter to Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck on Oct. 21 from Alain Laboux of Pontivy, France.

"I am a French citizen of 66 years old man making research to identify an unknown soldier killed in the medieval town of central Brittany, Pontivy,

'Seventy two years long time after this tragic event, we don't know who is this man and we want at Pontivy to know his identity to take contact with members of his family because this man lost his life in our town for the freedom. He is part of the history of our city.'

—Alain Laboux, 66, of Pontivy, France

during World War II," wrote Laboux. "After huge research, I think this poor man was a Lower Cape May resident."

He relates the story of Hunter, who was a member of the 6th Armored Division. On Aug. 4, 1944, German troops evacuated Pontivy, but before leaving set fire to their former Gestapo-occupied building, a girl's school.

According to Laboux, a report from U.S. Capt. Knerly stated inside the school building, the body of a man was found that was burned beyond recognition. A young French boy scout found the body and dog tags that were lying near the American soldier. An American-made knife was found underneath the body.

The dog tags were turned over to the provost marshal of the 6th Armored Division. Laboux writes at that time, the mayor of Pontivy asked Capt. Howard Fearing of Civil Affairs the identity of the American soldier but he refused to identify the body because the dog tags were not found around its neck.

Laboux states the body was "surely transported to a U.S. Army dental

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck is helping a French man seek out the relatives of a Cold Spring resident who was killed when Nazis fled the town during World War II.



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