



Kevin McKinney/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Heavy snow and bitter-cold temperatures froze Delaware Bay enough for people to walk to the Concrete Ship on Saturday, Jan. 6, off Sunset Beach in Cape May Point.



Chuck Lear/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church is partially obscured by falling snow behind the Washington Street Mall Information Booth on Jan. 4 in Cape May.



Chuck Lear/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The Washington Street Mall was a winter wonderland, albeit without any shoppers, during the storm Jan. 4. Bitter cold and a state of emergency kept many people inside.



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Public Works crews used heavy equipment to clear snow from the roads outside Congress Hall in Cape May during the storm Jan. 4.

Storm dumps snow across region

Continued from Page A1

of emergency. In the event of power outages, Lower Township announced the recreation center would be

made available as a warming center.

Cape May City Elementary School's Board of Education reorganization meeting Jan. 4 was postponed, as

was the county Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting.

Power remained on throughout Cape May County but some Cape May

residents lost cable TV and internet.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry operations were suspended Jan. 4-6 due to significant ice accumulations in the

Cape May Canal and associated wind conditions expected with the nor'easter.

"Bitter cold temperatures and strong northwest winds are causing ice sheets to stack up in the Cape May Canal," said Heath Gehrke, director of ferry operations. "With the approaching winter storm, these conditions are expected to worsen over the next few days."

The county canceled Fare Free Transportation for all areas of Cape May County on Jan. 4-5. Fare Free Transportation services continued to provide transportation for dialysis patients and Meals on Wheels deliveries remained on schedule. The Cape May County Park and Zoo was closed.

In Lower Township, due to drifting snow and wind, Fulling Mill Road was closed to traffic. Lower Township police closed Breakwater Road between Shunpike and Seashore roads.

Cape May County engineer Dale Foster reported Jan. 4 that road crews were having a difficult time trying

to plow the roads due to high winds and drifting snow. Because of the predicted low temperatures, Foster warned motorists that Cape May County roads would have hard-packed snow and ice through the weekend because salt will be ineffective.

Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) was closed Jan. 5 for all non-essential personnel. Those required to report were told to arrive by 10 a.m. For those attending recruit graduation, the breakfast was canceled and the gates opened to visitors at 10 a.m.

In a message Jan. 5, Lower Township thanked residents for their patience as public works crews worked long hours.

The Lower Township Public Works Department has been hard at work since before dawn on Thursday morning to address the roads within the township. We currently have our 14 plow trucks, five pieces of heavy equipment along with five pieces of heavy equipment from the MUA working diligently to move the 16-plus inches of snow on our streets."

Before the storm hit Jan. 3, Cape May's Swain's Hardware was doing a brisk business selling kerosene, shovels, flashlights, jugs of water and rock salt, according to proprietor Terri Swain.

"We have people loading up on activities for the day in case they are snowed in," she said.

The store had plenty of winter storm supplies on hand after receiving shipments from its warehouse and manufacturers, Swain said.

She said while the store does not have a generator, it has operated in the past with no power.

"We work on the honor system, just take down people's names and a description of the goods they are taking," Swain said. "In the past, historically, people have come back the very next day or when power came back on, we never really had to chase after anybody for anything."

She said house-watching services were extremely busy carrying out last-minute winterizing of vacation homes.

"There was a plumbing house in yesterday that said they had about 38 calls for burst pipes in Cape May County," she said.

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