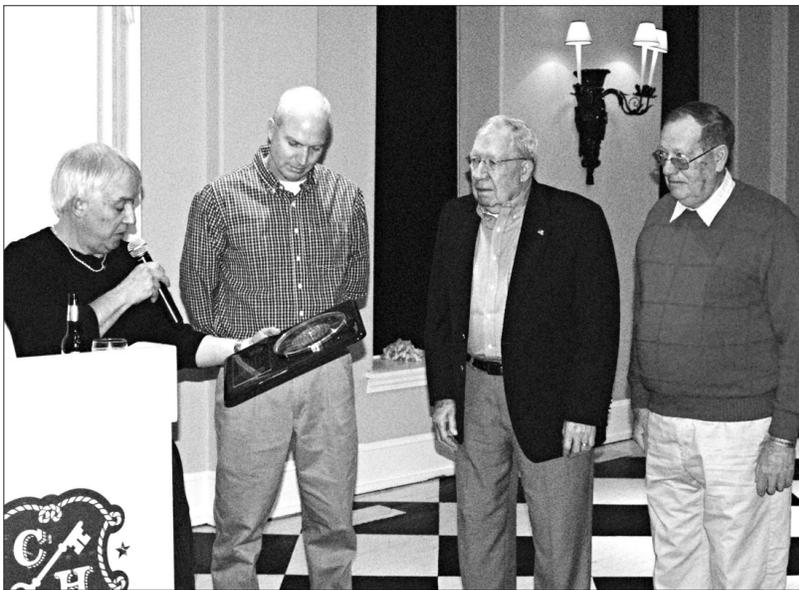


Photos by Robert Newkirk

### Volunteer fire service awards given

At right, the Cape May Fire Department recently gave out several awards for long-time service to the Cape May Volunteer Fire Company. Awards were presented by (left to right) fire company president Jim Matthews and CMFD Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr. Jerry Inderwies Sr. and Lou Elwell Jr. for 30 years of service. For right, Matthews and Inderwies Jr. present an award to Bill Bezaire for 35 years of service to CMFD. Many thanks to all of them, as well as all the volunteer firefighters.



### Sworn

Continued from page A1

he was told that his deployment would be extended for a total of 15 months. In 2008 he was again deployed to Iraq, this time to Bayji. Two months into his deployment, he was serving as the rear gunner for his convoy, making sure the

rear is secure for his entire convoy, when it was hit by an anti-tank grenade, resulting in the loss of his left leg. After unhinging himself from his harness to check on the other men, he discovered he was the only soldier severely injured. He was then flown to Walter Reed Medical Center where he began his recovery.

In total, he was an active service member for five years, serving 17 of those months in Iraq. He has since been awarded The Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart, which was recently presented to him on Feb. 5 at Walter Reed Medical Center. Along with those prestigious awards Andrzejczak also

received two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Good Conduct Medal, a National Service of Defense Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Iraq Campaign Medal with a Campaign star, an Army Service Ribbon, and a Combat Infantry Badge. In his spare time, he is also

a member of the VFW and the Cape May Masonic Lodge. The 1st legislative district is comprised of the towns of Avalon, Cape May, Cape May Point, Commercial, Corbin City, Dennis, Downe, Estell Manor, Fairfield, Greenwich, Hopewell, Lawrence, Lower, Maurice River, Middle, Millville,

North Wildwood, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Shiloh, Stone Harbor, Stow Creek, Upper Vineland, West Cape May, West Wildwood, Weymouth, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, and Woodbine.

### Claim

Continued from page A1

offered clarification. "This was not on the agenda for (tonight), but it seemed to be an appropriate time to address it," Mahaney said. "It was prepared by our city solicitor, our city manager, and me." Flood insurance was one of many topics discussed. Cape May City Council also passed

an ordinance to adopt Cape May's 2013 budget. Council, together with Municipal Auditor Leon Costello, presented the budget, which will total \$16,101,189.38, of which \$8,648,091.86 will be raised by taxation. "We've spent many, many hours on this budget, and reworked it many times. This is the eighteenth one I've

done rework on," Councilman Jack Wichterman said. Mahaney said he was very pleased with the budget, and believes the city can now decrease existing debts. "Having the budget outlook we have, we can reduce the bond debts we have. And we will not incur any further debts until we resolve past ones," Mahaney said. Mahaney also offered his appreciation to Costello for his, "Great commitment in the help of the taxpayers of Cape May." Wichterman echoed Mahaney's comments. "When (Costello) advises us on what to do, I'll listen. He's one of the most respected (auditors) around," he said.

Also discussed at the meeting were the city's renovation plans for the Wise Anderson Park and dog park area on Lafayette Street. Mahaney said the city plans to turn the area into a more presentable park. The possibility of creating a parking lot on the grounds is also being discussed. "I myself am not sold on the idea of the park, but I do believe a parking lot would be a great idea," Wichterman said before placing his approval on a bond ordinance to acquire and improve the property for \$3.4 million. Jerry Gaffney, former mayor of Cape May, attended the meeting and expressed his displeasure with renovat-

ing on land he said was "poisonous property." According to Gaffney, the area of Wise Anderson Park has contaminated soil due to several monitoring wells leaking water into the property. Two representatives of Jersey Central Power and Light, the company required to clean up the park, attended the meeting and assured council the land is clean from toxins. "It may never reach full remediation, but it is contained," one representative said. Once Jersey Central Power and Light is done with the clean up and renovations they plan to put into the park, they will turn the land over to the

city of Cape May at no cost. Cape May will then put an additional \$3.4 million into the project for renovations, much to the dismay of Gaffney who offered council the idea of a binding referendum. "Let the people vote," Gaffney said. "Let the taxpayers decide if they want to pay for toxic land." Mahaney, however, explained that the project will be funded on a bond granted by a private bank. Mahaney declined to identify the bank. Costello confirmed the budget contained no traces of the Wise Anderson Park renovations. "No tax impact from this process, and no cost to the taxpayers," Costello said.

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**Point**  
 Continued from page A1  
 Public Safety is \$485,418. The amount budgeted for trash collection increased by \$7,970 to \$57,570 in 2013, a 3 percent increase. Commissioner Bob Moffatt reported on the monthly Environmental Commission meeting. He said beach clean-

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 \*\*Olympus Has Fallen R 1:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55  
 The Call R 11:50, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, (9:55 Fri-Wed)  
 \*\*Evil Dead R Premier Thursday, April 4th 10:00pm  
 \*\*2D The Croods PG 11:10, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15  
 \*\*3D The Croods PG 11:55, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45  
 \*\*The Host PG-13 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50  
 \*\*3D GI Joe Retaliation PG-13 11:20, 4:25, 9:35  
 \*\*2D GI Joe Retaliation PG-13 1:55, 7:10  
 \*\*No Passes

Please see Point, page A3

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