

# Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 3

CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

50¢

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'Dining Out' with Jennifer Kopp makes its comeback. This week: The Copper Fish, **A4**

### JANUARY TIDE TABLE

		HIGH	LOW		
		am	pm	am	pm
1/17	2:36	3:01	8:57	8:52	
1/18	3:44	4:13	10:07	9:56	
1/19	4:48	5:18	11:10	10:58	
1/20	5:47	6:17		12:07	
1/21	6:42	7:11	12:01	1:00	
1/22	7:32	8:01	12:51	1:49	
1/23	8:19	8:48	1:42	2:34	

## USCG families want school buses to continue

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A pair of mothers representing others like themselves asked Cape May City Council for help in trying to retain bus service to take their children from Coast Guard housing to the Cape May City School.

The residents of housing for the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN)

Cape May, received a letter dated Nov. 30, 2007 informing them the Coast Guard would not renew its current bus service contract for the 2008-2009 school year. The decision leaves parents of about 95 students to find alternate means of getting their kids to school.

TRACEN Commander Captain Sandra Stosz, followed up with a letter to school superintendent Victoria Zelenak, also dated

Nov. 30, informing the school of the decision not to continue the contract for school bus service. According to Stosz' letter, there would be no legal source of funding to continue the service. Stosz said that while the school is not obligated to provide buses for children who live less than two miles from school, she asked the school to consider using a portion of the Impact Aid the school receives for educating Coast Guard chil-

dren.

According to Valerie Gehrke, the mother of a six-year old, the school receives nearly \$7,000 per Coast Guard student from the government, or about \$685,000 per year. She said the bus service cost the Coast Guard about \$65,000; but according to city manager Lou Corea, the school estimated the cost of three bus runs per day to be \$135,000.

The extra bus run is due to

students in the pre-K or kindergarten classes being on a half-day schedule.

Gehrke said if necessary the parents would deal with the inconvenience of driving their kids to school to avoid having them cross seven intersections. She said without the bus service, the school district would have to provide crossing guards at those intersections.

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
Top, the 300 block of the Washington Street Mall is being prepared for concrete. Bricks shown above will be placed on top of the concrete to form the new walkway and sidewalks.

## What's behind the history of the mall?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – When the ribbon was cut to open the Washington Street Mall, not everyone was thrilled, former mayor Frank Gauvry said.

Gauvry was mayor from 1964 to 1972, and was mayor when the Washington Street Mall was constructed – not former mayor Bruce Minnix, as previously reported.

According to Gauvry, the city hired planning consultants Kendree and Shepherd to draw up some plans for a "revitalization project." He said it was the consultants' recommendation to turn the 300, 400 and 500 blocks of Washington Street into a pedestrian mall.

"That is where it originally started," Gauvry said.

The former mayor said the city had to sell the public and the merchants on the idea because it was a totally new concept.

"The town had survived for 300 years and the mall idea was totally new to the merchants," he said. "At the time people thought it would not be successful. They were all nervous about shutting down the street, and (the merchants) wondered if we were going to open for the summer of '71."

At the time, just as was done this winter, the street was torn up in order to lay new utility lines.

Former mayor Arthur "Mickey" Blomkvist, who was a councilman during the Gauvry administration, said that former Ugly Mug owner Sam Kahn came to a city council meeting at the beginning of the mall project complaining about what it was doing to his business.

"Sam Kahn came up to council and the mall was in the condition it

is now - mud, board walks, everyone complaining," Blomkvist said. "Sam told us, 'You boys have ruined my business'. Then in August he came back, and said, 'My god it's the best year I ever had'."

Gauvry laughed, recalling the same story.

"Sam died not too long ago. He was a grand guy. Yes, he complained in the beginning, but he came back and commended us saying what a great deal it was," Gauvry said.

Gauvry said when the mall opened the merchants' business doubled – or more.

"What people didn't realize at the time," Blomkvist said, "was that when urban renewal came through, that's when the mall came about. There were a lot of empty lots in the city, no Victorian Towers, and the city was trying to fill spaces. They had torn down stores that had been there for years. Frank Gauvry really went through a lot."

Gauvry said during his administration the city saw the construction of low cost housing, the Acme shopping mall, and the existing Convention Hall.

"Those three things were completed in my first administration. In my second administration we started the mall and built Victorian Towers. I had two administrations filled with ground-breaking precedents," he said.

Asked about public reaction to the projects in light of the potential impact on local property taxes, Gauvry said he didn't really know if people were upset over those projects or not, adding, "We went

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## Cape May Point's Malcolm Fraser will not seek fifth term

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – In 1952, Malcolm Fraser stood on the balcony of the World War II bunker located at Lighthouse State Park and proposed to his wife Joan.

According to Fraser, she said, "Well, I really would like to but I have one condition."

"I said, 'What's that?' because I was hot to trot," Fraser said.

"She said no matter where you are stationed in the world with the company, every summer must be spent at Cape May Point," he said.

Fraser said he kept that promise whether they lived in upstate New York, Texas, or even the Netherlands while working for Ingersoll Rand where he managed various businesses for 40 years, seeing to it that his wife could spend each summer in Cape May Point as she had done since 1941. When he could not join her, he visited as often as

he could.

Forty years after his marriage proposal, Fraser started another love affair – this time with the world of politics.

Now Fraser, who was elected mayor of Cape May Point in 1992, announced he would not seek a fifth term. He said he wanted to announce his intentions early because he didn't want to make his retirement from politics a surprise. He said that would be unprofessional.

Fraser, now 78, said he is beginning to slow down after

16 years in office.

"My memory, particularly with names, is not as clear as it once was, and I thought it was time for a change," he said.

Fraser, who graduated from Stevens Institute with a degree in engineering, said he has accomplished what he wanted to accomplish.

He moved to Cape May Point full time at the end of the summer of 1990 and became mayor two years later. He said he spent many years managing businesses

for Ingersoll Rand, and said managing a town requires some of the same skills. In his four terms, Fraser said the board of commissioners has managed to rebuild the entire infrastructure of the town.

"Each (project) was an adventure, and each one played a role," he said.

Fraser said he would be remembered for the beachfront, a project not popular with everyone in the borough. He said the Point would flood regularly and there were no dunes. He said they built a

technical beachfront, and although there were a couple of glitches he believes the project was a success.

He said the Army Corps of Engineers filled in the beach too close to artificial beach-saver reefs, which resulted in the closing of some beaches. He also said in October 2008 the Army Corps would remove some sand out to allow beaches to be reopened for swimming.

He said the a sewer system,

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## Abandoned boats may be removed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A meeting of a committee formed to develop a festival tied to Cape May Harbor has resulted in tentative plans to remove several of the derelict boats now floundering in the harbor.

At last week's Cape May Tourism Commission meeting, Mary Stewart told the commission SeaTow/Northstar Marine owner Phil Risko had offered to remove two and perhaps three derelict boats from the harbor.

Derelict or abandoned boats in Cape May Harbor have been the topic of meetings with local legislators, who have been trying to push through legislation to allow municipalities to take action to remove the boats and

recover costs from the owners.

Risko offered his company's assistance while participating in a meeting concerning "Harborfest," which has been planned for the third week of June.

"What I'm tentatively planning to do is move two, possibly a third vessel," Risko said.

Risko identified a sailboat with a mast sticking out of the water, an old wooden hull boat, and the remains of a sailboat hull, left from when the boat burned to water line in front of the Nature Center. Risko said his company would provide most of the equipment and manpower to remove the boats, but the effort is being made in conjunction with the Cape May Seafood Association, which

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave  
The mast of an abandoned sailboat is all that can be seen of this derelict vessel near the Cornithian Yacht Club of Cape May.

## Council seat, mayor's job up for grabs in '08

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – One council seat and the mayor's position are on the line in the municipal election scheduled for May 13.

The current terms of Councilman David Craig and Mayor Jerry Inderwies expire July 1, when they will either take the oath of office for another four-year term or relinquish their seats to other candidates.

Cape May municipal clerk Diane Wheldon announced at the Jan. 2 city council meeting that candidate packets for both positions were available in the clerk's office.

Wheldon said candidates must fill out all the forms in the packet and return them with petitions containing the valid signatures of at least 25 registered voters. Wheldon said a registered voter may sign the petition of no more than one candidate for each position.

The packets must be turned in no later than 4 p.m. on March 20. The clerk's office will then certify the petitions and make sure all the documents have been prepared properly.

As of Tuesday afternoon, only two candidates had picked up packets, Inderwies and former mayor Ed Mahaney, and no one had requested a packet for the council seat.