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SPRING STORM WREAKS HAVOC ON NORTH END BEACHES

After a rather quiet winter, Mother Nature paid an unexpected visit to beaches along the Jersey Shore on Monday, May 12. According to the National Weather Service, the northeastern was "one mother of a storm." Very hard hit are the north end beaches with the geotubes again losing all the sand covering them from 1st to 13th Street. **(See photo on page 2.)** Landis Avenue was flooded and impassable. Making the situation even worse was the loss of electricity for 32 hours. Conditions were bad with beach erosion and flooding throughout the city. Some parts, however, did not lose electric power. It could not have happened at a worse time with the Memorial Day holiday only two weeks away. The North End Association is urging the city to declare an emergency and to truck sand in immediately to protect visitors, property owners, Landis Avenue and the geo-tubes. Another northeastern during the summer could be catastrophic.

CITY APPLICATION TO N.J. SMART GROWTH PROGRAM HITS SNAG

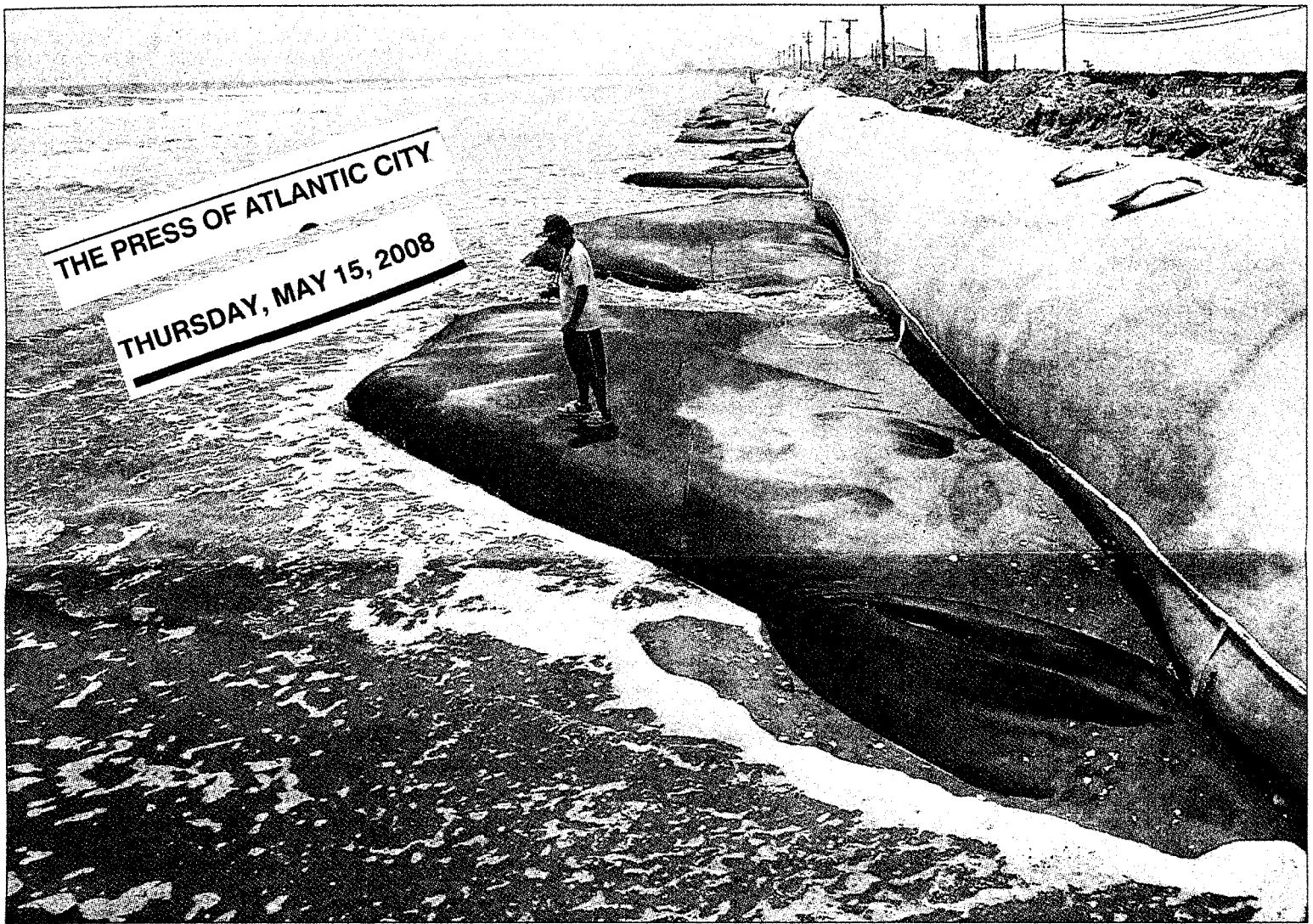
The city's application to become a part of the N. J. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Smart Growth Program hit a snag. The application was returned with the requirement that the unsewered section, 1st to 22nd Street, be dropped from the city's plan. The DCA has taken the stand that because this section is a high hazard area, no sewers or growth should be approved in the north end. Since being in the Smart Growth program is vital to the city's future, the city may be forced to abandon the north end. Communities not in the Smart Growth program will not be eligible for state grants, plan endorsement, and lower charges for electrical and gas connections for new construction. The city council will vote on this at one of its upcoming meetings. NORTH members will attend council meetings to oppose dropping 1st to 22nd Street from the Smart Growth application. This is another blow to any hopes of getting sewers approved.

CITY OFFERS EMPLOYEES EARLY BUY-OUT

In a move that may save \$500,000, the city is offering a buy-out to employees if they resign or retire by June 30. The deal offers employees \$1000 a year for every year of service. Those entitled to retirement benefits will receive them and also be able to cash out accumulated sick time for as much as \$15,000 as well as vacation time, according to City Administrator George Savastano. The city will reduce spending by not hiring for every open position and by using part-time or seasonal workers for some positions, according to Savastano.

NORTH END ASSOCIATION IS CELEBRATING ITS 21st YEAR





THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008

Joe Warner, of Woodbury, stands on the exposed geo-tubes Wednesday at Fifth Street in Sea Isle City as he tries to photograph his friends surfing off the beach.

Staff photos by Dale Gerhard

Local towns count the cost

Monday's northeaster brought flood tides and high winds along the southern New Jersey shore. Gusts exceeding 70 mph were recorded. Resort towns Wednesday were still assessing the damage to local beaches caused by erosion and evaluating the subsequent dangers to waterfront property.

Jim Kaspar, of Ocean City Resource Corp., was fixing panels holding marine testing samples at the Sea Isle Research Center on Sixth Street and Ocean Drive in Sea Isle City. Monday's stormwater breached the dunes across from the facility, but only a few of the panels were destroyed.



Trolley service is coming to Sea Isle City this summer

SEA ISLE CITY – Sea Isle City's visitors and residents won't have to travel to San Francisco to hear the "clang, clang, clang" of a trolley this summer, because a new trolley service is coming to town. In addition to being a convenience, the trolley system will also be a fun way to conserve energy, meet neighbors and friends, and reduce the need for parking.

Beginning on July 3 and running through Sept. 1, the trolley system will begin its full-service season, running each day from 2-10 p.m. The fare to ride the trolley one way will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under four feet tall. A full-day trolley pass will also be available for \$3, and will be good for all ages, with unlimited trips.

A possible fare-free weekend may also be available on June 27-28, from 2-10 p.m., to allow patrons the chance to familiarize themselves with the new system. Details about a fare-free weekend are still being finalized.

The trolley route will begin at 85th Street, where it will head north onto Landis Avenue until turning right onto 34th Street. It will then turn left onto Pleasure Avenue, turn left again onto 33rd Street, and then turn left once more onto Landis Avenue. The trolley will then continue south on Landis Avenue, turn right onto JFK Boulevard, turn left onto Park Road, and then continue to the 48th Street Lot at the end of Park Road.

To accommodate the throngs of visitors who come to Sea Isle City during the busy Independence Day holiday each year, there will be an additional trolley added to the route.

There will also be a separate night trolley service, which is being provided by a local group of business owners for patrons traveling to Sea Isle's nightclubs and taverns. The Yacht Club of Sea Isle City has also arranged a trolley service for their members, which is expected to alleviate the parking problems at their Venetian Road location. Patrons can obtain additional information about those two trolley services from the participating businesses involved.

Additionally, when patrons purchase a beach tag at the beach tag office, they will receive a \$1 off trolley coupon and a flyer explaining the trolley service. Participating realtors in town will also offer \$1 off coupons to their patrons. Sea Isle's other merchants that participate in the trolley system will have the opportunity to stamp a ticket for a free return trip – with the purchase of any item in their establishment.

For additional information on Sea Isle's trolley service, contact the Great American Trolley Company at 800-487-6559.

After leaving the 48th Street Lot, the trolley will head north on Park Road, turn right onto JFK Boulevard, and then turn right onto Landis Avenue to continue southbound. Next, the trolley will bear left at 82nd Street onto East Landis Avenue, turn right onto 85th Street, and right again onto Landis Avenue to start the entire route over.

Patrons traveling to the Sea Isle City Library, Community Lodge, city hall and Dealy Field will be especially delighted with the new trolley system, because those are designated as "fare-free" destinations all summer. Upon boarding the trolley, a patron need only tell the driver which of those four city facilities is their destination, and the driver will admit them for free and drop them off in front of the city facility of their choice. Once at those destinations, the city will provide patrons with free tickets for a return trip on the trolley. Naturally, this free service will only be provided during the normal working hours at those city facilities.

Sea Isle City New Jersey

May 12, 2008 Nor'easter:

City forces are in the process of performing clean up operations as well as damage assessment. The geo-tubes are completely exposed on the ocean side, and the beaches suffered moderate to severe erosion along the length of the island. We had two wastewater pump stations without power, but they are now operational, and it appears there was no damage to the equipment or discharge of sewage. Our short term objective relative to this storm event is to ensure the town is cleaned up, and the beaches prepared for the Memorial Day weekend. Toward that end, Public Works crews will be working extended hours throughout the weekend and next week. As we obtain information from emergency management personnel at the county, we will keep you apprised of the status of any disaster declaration. As we respond to the immediate needs, we will also develop a plan of action for longer term measures relative to this event, most of which obviously revolve around the condition of our beaches. We also suffered some minor facility damage, most noticeably to several roofs.

George J. Savastano
Business Administrator
City of Sea Isle City

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www.seaislecitynj.us

- . **City installs e-mail information system** - To receive current city government news and information via e-mail, sign up by visiting the city's main website: www.seaislecitynj.us and click on the "Register" icon. The government is strengthening efforts to keep the public, including residents, non-resident property owners, business owners, and visitors aware of important information. You have to register to receive this new service.
- . **Status of the SIC Public School** - The Ocean City Board of Education has informed the SIC Board of Education that it is willing to take the students in the early grades but not the teachers if the board decides to close the school because of dropping enrollment. The city already has a send-receive program with Ocean City for grades 9 - 12. The decision has nothing to do with the quality of the Sea Isle teachers but with the effect of teacher tenure on Ocean City staff. This puts the newly elected school board back to the drawing board on what to do about the school, which has 78 students and a cost of \$34,000 per student to educate.
- . **Proposed park and parking : deal or no deal?** - The city has hired a consultant to conduct environmental studies of the city owned areas at 5th Street (former landfill), chosen for the proposed Passive Park, and 21st to 22nd Street (vacant area), being considered for parking. Until those reports are completed, both proposed projects are on hold.
- . **Status of the proposed new library** - The county proposal to build a new modern upgraded public library in Sea Isle City at a cost of \$5 million is also on hold. Since the area selected, the city owned lot at 48th Street & Central Avenue, is close to the wetlands and was once a pumping station for the city's waste water, it was deemed that an environmental study was needed. This delays the project perhaps into the year 2009 or 2010.
- . **Council meetings are open to the public** - To make it easier for those who cannot attend morning meetings, the new council is holding some meetings at 7:00 p.m. In addition, there are two Saturday meetings at 10:00 a.m., one in May and one in September. This gives all property owners the opportunity to see their elected officials at work and to bring concerns, issues, and recommendations to the council. In the meantime, go on the city website (see above) to find out what's happening and how city decisions affect you and your property.
- . **Skimmer Weekend heralds the start of summer in Sea Isle** - With more than 400 vendors expected for the Seaside Market & Food Court and more than 25,000 visitors, Skimmer Weekend, June 14 - 15, is a Sea Isle tradition you won't want to miss. What a great treat for all dads for Father's Day!
- . **Final request for membership** - This newsletter will include a second request for property owners in the north end who have not sent in membership dues of \$10. **We presently have 109 paid members.** Because of increases in the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter, we will reluctantly drop unpaid members from future mailings. We want to thank our members for their support over the years and for their letters of appreciation. This is our 21st year!!

