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NORTH END ASSOCIATION
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EDITOR: IRENE JAMESON
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NEWT and NORTH have good news (beachfill) and bad news (sewers)

Although members have not heard via a newsletter since January, both the North End Working Team (NEWT) and the North End Association (NORTH) have been meeting often during the winter and spring; writing lots of letters to federal, state, county, and city officials; attending meetings with various elected officials; and traveling to Trenton with the mayor, solicitor, and engineer to meet with the **NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**.

First the good news. Thanks to everyone who sent letters, e-mails, and made calls to their U.S. Congressmen and Senators, the **Greater Egg Harbor Beach Replenishment Project** from the south end of Ocean City to Townsend Inlet was added to the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) and passed congress with the support of Cong. Frank LoBiondo. Currently congress and the senate are conferencing on the bill. Once it passes that hurdle, the next step is to be included in the federal budget. Cong. LoBiondo estimates that it will be at least **2010** before construction could begin if the project is funded.

Progress on the association's top goal to secure municipal sewers in the area from 22nd to 2nd Street has been stymied by the DEP. This problem places Sea Isle City right in the middle of a "catch 22" situation. FEMA, which provides federal flood insurance, will not restore the city's **community discount for all taxpayers insured by FEMA** because of septic systems in the north end, and the DEP will not issue permits for sewers because it considers the area "high hazard" and wants to prevent development of 17 vacant lots. A recent meeting in Trenton was very discouraging, and we are once again turning to our state representatives for help in eliminating this block to restoring a community flood insurance discount for all taxpayers.

Passive park concept endorsed by city and various commissions

The power point presentation prepared by Jo and Ed Frascella and Valere and Gary Egnasko of NEWT won the endorsement of the city, planning board, tourism commission, environmental commission, and AARP for a passive park at the former landfill at 5th Street. The most exciting concept is the proposal for an **elevated wooden bike trail** to run along the bay from the park to 29th Street and to the promenade for a bay/ocean route. The committee is also looking at proposals for locating the restored lighthouse and windmills in the North End Passive Park.

Paid Members for 2007: 106

Thank you for your continued support.

Mega-millions for construction of Sea Isle beach replenishment project

SEA ISLE CITY – Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has secured several provisions to benefit South Jersey under the 2007 Water Resources Development Act. Included within the bill is a \$136 million authorization for the construction of the Sea Isle City beach replenishment project and explicit approval for the Army Corps of Engineers to remove debris from the Delaware River as originally intended by the LoBiondo-authored law, the Delaware River Protection Act.

Sea Isle Mayor Len Desiderio thanked LoBiondo for his efforts.

"Throughout my 14 years in office, I have had a great working relationship with the congressman. He's always delivered for his district and for Sea Isle City," Desiderio said. "This is great news for the citizens of Sea Isle City."

Agreed to by the full committee, the legislation will now move to the full House for its approval. The following projects are included in the bill:

- A \$136 million authorization for construction of the Sea Isle City and portions of Upper Township beach replenishment project and periodic renourishment over 50 years;

- Explicit authorization for the Army Corps to conduct debris removal on the Delaware River. As a result of the Athos I oil spill in November 2004, this provision was originally included in the Delaware River Protection Act authored by LoBiondo, but was removed during negotiations with the Senate;

- Authorization to incorporate the Cape May Point National Shoreline Erosion Con-

trol Demonstration Project at the boroughs six beach cells into the Lower Cape May Meadows Project. This would enable the Army Corps to replenish the beach cells when the Meadows Project receives periodic renourishment;

- Authorization for the Army Corps to study the feasibility of establishing a dredge disposal transfer facility for the Intercoastal waterway dredging in South Jersey;

- Explicit authorization for the Army Corps to conduct the oyster revitalization project in the Delaware Bay. This is continuation of a project already underway;

- A provision originally included in LoBiondo's Community Beaches Protection Act" (HR 1504) to prohibit the Army Corps from forcing states and municipalities from paying more than the Congressional-authorized share (currently at 35 percent);

- A provision originally included in LoBiondo's Community Beaches Protection Act (HR 1504) to reauthorize the National Shoreline Erosion Control Development and Demonstration Program. The provision will extend the program's life, allow cost sharing with local communities, permit the removal of projects that do not perform and increase the federal funding for the Program from \$25 million to \$31 million. Cape May Point is the site of the nation's first project under the Shoreline Erosion Program where they are testing artificial reefs for erosion control; and,

- A provision originally included in LoBiondo's Community Beaches Protection Act (HR 1504) which strengthens current federal policy for beach restoration and clarifies that periodic renourishment is a federal priority.



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3.

Sea Isle City Changes Form Of Government

By JOE HART

SEA ISLE CITY — A crowd of over 100 gathered on the Promenade July 1 to witness a piece of local history.

A referendum vote last year changed the form of government here from a three-person commission with an appointed mayor to a five-person council and a directly elected mayor.

Sunday marked the official change.

Mayor Leonard Desiderio and council members Mike McHale, John Divney, Mary Tighe, William Kehner and Frank Edwardi took their oaths of office during a sunny ceremony filled with the usual pomp and circumstance.

State Senator Nicholas Asselta (R-1st), county Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel, Boy Scout Troop 76, Veterans of Foreign Wars

COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, October 6

10:00 a.m.

Site to be announced

Come meet your new elected officials

Concerns, suggestions, questions welcomed !!

(From Page A1)

(VFW) Post 663 and members of the Sea Isle Police Department were all part of the event.

The air was filled with song on the boardwalk as VFW officer Russell Briggs led those gathered in the National Anthem and God Bless America and McHale's daughter Judy DiBabbo sang Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up."

The six new officials on the dais survived a contentious campaign that included three mayoral candidates and 20 council candidates.

Desiderio, who's been in office since 1993, beat out Don Laricks and George "Pat" Haffert for the mayor's seat. He will serve a four-year term.

Because council elections are to be staggered, two members were picked at random for longer terms. Edwardi and Kehner will serve for four years while McHale, Divney and Tighe will serve two-year terms.

Beyel administered the oath of office to his fellow freeholder Desiderio and in his remarks the Mayor said he looked forward to working with the new council. He also thanked the departing commissioners James Iannone and Angela Dalrymple who, he said, devoted so much of themselves to the city for so many years.

After taking their oaths, council members thanked their families and the voters who got them there.

"Thanks to all my new bosses out there," Divney said to the crowd of constituents.

He told them they could thank his wife for his being there.

"She told me to run for office or stop complaining, so here I am," Divney said.

"We said we would hit the ground running," McHale said of the council's promise to work hard for Sea Isle's residents, "but I'd say we hit it sprinting."

He said that council had set a goal to have the new municipal code ready by September or October, but finished it before even taking office.

McHale, chosen by the others as council president, also noted that council had met on several occasions with residents allowing them a voice in the new "open" government.

Edwardi was the first to be named vice president, an office that will be rotated periodically among the members.

The new governing body passed three resolutions to finish its business for the day. It appointed zoning board members, reappointed Paul Baldini as solicitor and established its meeting dates for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Contact Hart at (609) 886-8600 Ext 35 or at: jhart@cmcherald.com

POTPOURRI OF NEWS AND INFORMATION

LaCosta to sponsor Irish Weekend, September 22nd

Jim Bennett, owner of LaCosta, may be Italian, but he's Irish at heart. He has announced that La Costa will host a huge Irish Weekend with vendors selling everything from clothing to food, Saturday, September 22. The activities will take place on Kennedy Boulevard from Central to Landis Avenue, necessitating the closing of that area to traffic. Highlight of the event will be Finnegan's Wake. For more details, go to LaCosta's website, www.lacosta-seaisle.com.

Chamber of Commerce planning OctoberFest , October 20th

Looking for ways to extend the season, the Greater Sea Isle City Chamber of Commerce is planning to hold an OctoberFest tentatively set for Saturday, October 20. This will be an all-day event, including a beer garden, food, games, beach hay ride, contests, and more. Sites will include the St. Joseph School parking lot, open space lot at Kennedy & Pleasure, 63rd Street business area, and the downtown bay area. Heading the committee is Tom Henry. Check the chamber's website for more information: seaislechamber.com.

Search is on for 2008 Polar Bear Queen

With Irene Jameson's retirement, the Sea Isle City Tourism Commission is launching a contest to select a Polar Bear Queen for 2008. Contestants will be asked to seek supporters who will pledge money. The top entrants will then be interviewed by a jury, who will make the selection. Criteria, rules, regulations, etc. and an application form will be posted on the tourism's website, www.seaisletourism.org around October. Come on, take the plunge, ladies!! How often do you get to be queen for a day!

Brief Notes of Interest

- . **We are polling our members** to see whether they support the effort to get sewers from 22nd to 2nd Street. Please fill out the pre-postage paid postcard and return it even if you have sewers. This impacts your cost of federal flood insurance. **(See page 1.)**
- . **The newly elected five-member council** has formed various committees and is seeking participants. Call City Hall, 263-4461 (ext. 200) to get a list of committees and to sign up.
- . **Everyone is eagerly awaiting the consultant's vision for the Master Plan.** We hope that sewers for the north end are part of the Master Plan.
- . **The geo-tubes have finally been covered** with sand by the city. Now what we need are "Keep Off the Dunes" signs.
- . **Tourism's free "Movies Under the Stars"** on Tuesdays and Family Night Dance Parties on Thursdays have attracted huge family crowds. Take a look. There's no doubt that Sea Isle is a "family resort" again even without an amusement park.
- . **Incidentally, the new Excursion Waterfront Park sign** at the open space lot has started rumors that an amusement park with a water slide is coming. Not true, says the Mayor. Waterfront just refers to the fact that the park fronts on the ocean.
- . **Business Sidewalk Sale, August 17 - 18.** Check it out if you're in town.

See you at the Fall Family Festival Weekend, September 14 - 16 Free Parking!!
Seaside Market, 400 vendors, Entertainment, Food Court, and much more on Sunday!!
