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NORTH END ASSOCIATION
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SPRING/SUMMER, 2008

NJDEP dangles "carrot" at sand-hungry towns at what a price!!

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has a \$41 million pot for beach replenishment and is using it as a "carrot" to impose new regulations that have sand-hungry resort towns in a bind. In order to be eligible to apply for the funds, the municipalities have to agree to have 24 hour beach access to the public and provide restroom facilities and public beach access and parking. These are all noble ends; however, they needed to be augmented after the 1962 storm when beach towns were devastated and had to be rebuilt, not now as they have evolved over the last 30 years.

Avalon, which had already initiated a law suit concerning these issues, had to agree on the 24 hour public access regulation to get an emergency beach fill in its north end in June, still intends to pursue the law suit. Sea Isle City, Upper Township (Strathmere), Stone Harbor, Surf City, and other municipalities are considering joining as "friends of the court." Also opposing 24 hour access to the beach is the Cape May County Board of Freeholders.

The biggest concerns with 24 hour beach access are the potential for liability, serious danger of swimming at night in unprotected areas, increase cost for police departments to patrol the beach, and problems of vandalism, alcohol consumption, and noise violations. As Town Watch/Town Pride leaders stated in their recent newsletter to their members: "Why do we need a bureaucrat sitting in Trenton who knows nothing about running a shore town dictate our ordinances?"

Calling all north end property owners to help save our beaches

Enclosed in this newsletter is an article and sample letters to be sent to both your state and federal elected officials to help save our beaches. Funding for the federal U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Egg Harbor 50 Year Beach Replenishment Project from the south end of Ocean City to Townsend Inlet has been languishing in Congress for over six years. Much of the delay can be attributed to Hurricane Katrina. With the beach erosion caused by the Mothers Day Storm, the city cannot wait another six years and is seeking to have a state/city project approved by the NJDEP. If you own property in Sea Isle City, you need to send letters to your federal and state representatives. (See enclosed article and sample letters prepared by Gary Egnasko, founder/member of the North End Working Committee.)

PAID MEMBERS: 144 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Help Save Sea Isle City Beaches

If you enjoy our beaches like we do, then its time to support City Government efforts to get more sand! We need you to write to your Legislators now, so we have made it easy for you to do so. Please read on about how you can help save our beaches!

The need for beach replenishment in Sea Isle City can truly be considered urgent. For many years, the City had been waiting for authorization of the Great Egg Harbor to Townsend's Inlet project. That \$100+ million project was authorized last year, but full federal construction funding appears to be at least two years away. Considering this, our City government is working proactively on a two-pronged, shorter-term effort.

Federal Project - While waiting for the complete Federal beach replenishment project, we need the Feds to work with us to ensure we receive timely permits and that the funds for the establishment of the necessary Federal/New Jersey project agreements are included in the next Federal budget. This is not significant funding (approximately \$250,000), but it needs to be included to keep our federal project on track, and not be delayed yet another year. We need to write to our Federal Legislators, and ask for their help on these issues.

New Jersey Project - While continuing to press for Federal beach replenishment, our City government is also working to pursue a State/City sponsored emergency project. This would use the standard 75/25 cost sharing arrangement, with the state portion roughly \$2-2.5 million. It is our understanding that Upper Township, and possibly Ocean City, are working with the State to perform similar beach replenishment for the fall/winter season. Clearly, to pursue such a project without Sea Isle would not be the best use of shore protection funds. We need to write to our State Legislators and request their help on this.

Representatives of the Army Corps and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection have witnessed the condition of SIC beaches, and can attest to the emergency nature of our situation. Our City Government is planning to expend \$75,000 to accomplish the necessary surveying, engineering, and permitting over the next several months in preparation for this State project.

How you can easily help! – SICTA's website (www.sicta.org) has sample letters with addresses, so you can easily send messages to our Federal and State Representatives about the two efforts. We have also included email addresses if you prefer to use that approach.

This is an issue that touches all of us. Proactive beach replenishment efforts have demonstrably decreased recovery costs from severe storms, while also enhancing our main tourist attraction. Our beaches are our most precious asset, and we are falling behind neighboring towns in our beach replenishment efforts. Let our representatives know that this is important to you, and that we must do everything we can to restore and protect our beaches. Please take a few minutes to write!

**COUNCIL MEETING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, AT 10:00 A.M.
SIC PUBLIC SCHOOL, 45th AND PARK ROAD, COME AND BE HEARD!!**

Sea Isle to spend \$3M. on walkway along back bay

By BRIAN IANIERI
Staff Writer, 609-463-6713

SEA ISLE CITY — City Council approved \$3 million to build a Boardwalk-type walkway and a new bulkhead near its marina along the back bay in the middle of the city.

Council unanimously approved the project Tuesday night as part of a \$4.4 million borrowing plan.

The walkway would run along 42nd Place near the main entrance to the city from the Garden State Parkway.

City Council members have indicated that the project would be the first of possibly many, which may include an amusement park and replacing the existing marina.

At a public hearing, most people supported of the project, which includes a wooden walkway about 1,000 feet long and lighting for the area.

"Well overdue," John Simoncini said. "For a beach community, you have to offer people more than Sea Isle City does."

However, there were several detractors who questioned the city's spending and who unsuccessfully

□ See Walkway, C5

City officials said the work at the marina would be the first part of a potentially larger project for the area that could include a fishing pier and a new marina building.

3.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008
THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

(Continued from C1)

asked City Council for the issue to be put on a public ballot.

"It's a lot of money. It will increase our debt significantly," Terry Downey said.

Voters can place bond ordinances on a public ballot without the consent of the governing body by collecting enough signatures on a petition.

Similar actions were successful twice in Stone Harbor in 2005 and 2007 and in Cape May in 2006.

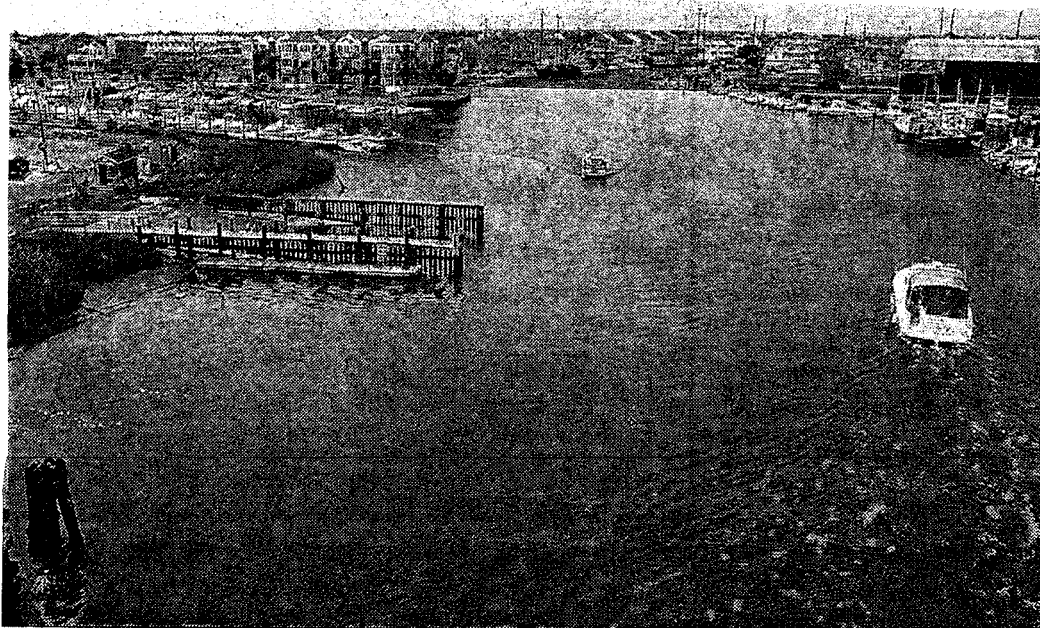
Administrator George Savastano presented a slideshow to the audience of about 50 and used computer-generated photographs of how the marina area would look with a walkway.

"We need something to compete with the other towns and bring people in," said Councilwoman Mary Tighe.

Councilman Frank Edwardi Jr. said he saw the potential to replace Sea Isle City's amusement park, which it lost about eight years ago.

Fun City, a small amusement park that operated near 32nd Street and the beach for nearly 30 years, closed to make room for duplexes, taking with it its Tilt-A-Whirl, Merry-Go-Round and Scrambler.

E-mail Brian Ianieri:
Blanieri@pressofac.com



City officials hope eventually to replace the old marina. The project for the walkway has drawn some criticism, as well as support, from city taxpayers.

. **City-wide Clean Sweep Day** - Mark your calendars now. Thursday, September 25, is the day to clean out your properties with large items, like furniture, mattresses, appliances, stuff you have in the garage, etc. No hazardous articles, construction materials or carpeting. Some items may not be picked up until Friday so be patient. Property owners who are in town just during weekends may place bulk trash at the curb on Sunday, September 21; however, this applies just to the semi-annual Bulk Trash Pickup. For more info, call 263-6000.

. **New ordinances help cut down on noise violations** - The new city council passed two ordinances that will help give the city its true designation as a "family resort." The delivery of beer kegs after 10:00 a.m. is prohibited, and noise violations in more than one unit in a building owned by the same landlord will trigger the "2 strikes and you're out" for the owner, who will have to appear at a hearing on whether a bond will be required to get a rental permit again.

. **New sweeper is a winner** - It cost \$150,623, but no one in Sea Isle is complaining. The sweeper is a "dream come true" for many residents who have been complaining about dirty streets. Now everyone is happy, thanks to the public works department and the employees who clear out areas the sweeper cannot reach. Good job, guys!

. **Outside dining with no wining** - After all the work by a citizens' committee and city officials to bring outside dining to the city, the compromise not to permit the serving of alcohol in public areas because of insurance liability seems to have put a damper on the idea; however, there are some restaurants putting tables outdoors. The city is still hoping the idea will catch on.

. **The "clang, clang, clang" of the trolley is back** - Using the trolley to alleviate parking, especially in the downtown area, is nothing new for Sea Isle City. It was tried three other times. This time the city is hoping it's a success. Merchants are participating in the program by giving free rides to patrons, and other promotions by the city are getting riders to get on board.

. **New police chief at the reins** - With the resignation of former Chief of Police William Kennedy amid allegations of sexual and professional misconduct, the police department and the city have moved on with the appointment of 19 year veteran Thomas D'Intino as Chief of Police and head of Emergency Management. D'Intino has already implemented the Reverse 911 system to notify residents of impending emergencies and has formed a Quality of Life Squad to follow up on noise and other complaints. Yeah! Think a "cleaner and quieter" Sea Isle City!!

. **End of summer is not the end of special events** - The summer season may be over but there are events going on during the so-called "shoulder season." Here are just a few: Fall Family Festival (September 13-14), Irish Festival (September 19-20), Firefighters Run (September 28), Harbor Fest (October 4), Charlotte Moretti Race for the Cure (October 11), Halloween Parade (October 24), Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest (October 25), New Year's Eve in Italy (December 31), and the Polar Bear Plunge (February 14). Incidentally, there will be a new Polar Bear Queen selected every year and, for the first time, a Polar Bear King to rein over the plunge. Look for more information soon about the criteria to enter the contests for both Queen & King.



Date: August 1, 2008

Congressman Frank LoBiondo
5914 Main Street
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

We are writing to ask that you do all that you can to save Sea Isle City's beaches.

As you already know, the need for beach replenishment in Sea Isle City can truly be considered urgent. For many years, the City had been waiting for authorization of the Federal Great Egg Harbor to Townsend's Inlet project. With your efforts, that \$100+ million project was authorized last year. **We now need your continued efforts to obtain the funding for that project as soon as possible.** However, we know that full funding will take some time.

Representatives of the Army Corps and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection have witnessed the condition of Sea Isle's beaches, and they can attest to the emergency nature of the situation.

So while we wait for the complete Federal beach replenishment project, **we need help with two shorter term issues, to keep our project moving along in the meantime.** Specifically,

1. Ensure that we receive the appropriate permits in a timely fashion.
2. Obtain the funding for the establishment of the necessary Federal/New Jersey project agreements in the next Federal budget. This is not significant funding (approximately \$250,000), but it needs to be included to keep our federal project on track, and not be delayed yet another year.

Thank you for all you have done in the past on our behalf. We trust that you will do all that you can do to obtain both the longer term funding, as well as help us with our two immediate needs.

Sincerely,

Sea Isle City Address

Date: August 1, 2008

Senator Jeff Van Drew
Assemblyman Nelson T. Albano
Assemblyman Matthew W. Milan
21 North Main Street
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Gentlemen,

We are writing to ask that you do all that you can to save Sea Isle City's beaches.

As you already know, the need for beach replenishment in Sea Isle City can truly be considered urgent. For many years, the City had been waiting for authorization of the Federal Great Egg Harbor to Townsend's Inlet project. That \$100+ million project was authorized last year. However, we know that full funding will take some time.

While continuing to press for Federal beach replenishment, our City government is also working to pursue a State/City sponsored emergency project. This would use the standard 75/25 cost sharing arrangement, with the state portion roughly \$2-2.5 million. It is our understanding that Upper Township, and possibly Ocean City, are working with the State to perform similar beach replenishment for the fall/winter season. Clearly, to pursue such a project without Sea Isle would not be the best use of shore protection funds. **We need your help to ensure that we are included within this shorter-term New Jersey State project.**

Representatives of the Army Corps and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection have witnessed the condition of SIC beaches, and can attest to the emergency nature of our situation. Our City Government is planning to expend \$75,000 to accomplish the necessary surveying, engineering, and permitting over the next several months in preparation for this State project.

Thank you for all you have done in the past on our behalf. We trust that you will do all that you can do to help us with our short-term needs.

Sincerely,

Sea Isle City Address