

# Beach Safety Committee meeting set for March 27

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Dennis DeSatnick, a member of the city's Beach Safety Committee, told City Council that research indicates there is a spike in injuries the season

following beach replenishment. Beach replenishment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection is concluding in the city. A sharp drop-off, known as a beach

slope, is believed to be responsible for a number of head, neck and other injuries on some of the city's beaches. At a City Council meeting March 7, he called for a meeting in April to join together city engineer Tom

Thornton and other professionals to discuss solutions to the beach slope. DeSatnick said the committee has been concentrating on educating the public on the beach slope with four videos, the beach patrol visiting schools, brochures

and signs. "I'm hoping we can address this in the proper manner and make the surf zone as safe as possible," he said. DeSatnick asked if Thornton could be in communication with the Army Corps

or DEP. He noted the committee was only an advisory board to City Council. The next meeting of the Beach Safety Committee is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, March 27, in the City Hall auditorium. The meeting is open to the public.

# Elementary school, USCG stage a reunification drill

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CAPE MAY — With the help of 88 U.S. Coast Guard recruits, some playing the roles of children and some playing the role of parents, Cape May City Elementary School held a reunification drill March 17.

The drill simulates an emergency in which students would leave their school for another location, with parents or guardians picking them up at the safe location. A reunification plan is required by the state.

The actual students stayed home due to an in-service day. Superintendent Victoria Zelenak said the school had been working

with Cape May police Sgt. Shawn Austin on the drill. "We're the first school in Cape May County to be practicing this," she said. Zelenak said she has been attending meetings along with Director of Elementary Education Anne Borger, Austin, Cape May Police Chief Anthony Marino and emergency management personnel every other month with West Cape May Elementary School and the Lower Township and Lower Cape May Regional school districts.

Of the recruits, 38 portrayed parents and 50 acted as students. The drill began with a lockdown, with police informing the "students" they must evacuate the

school. "The recruits have badges identifying which ones are parents," Zelenak said. She said she and Borger spoke to the recruits a week before the reunification drill to let them know what to expect. Those portraying parents were bused to Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Zelenak said, where the pretend parents came to pick up their children.

"We have runners and checkers, a whole system," she said. "They are separated so the parents do not see the children because that's when chaos starts."

Parents check in and must show identification. Zelenak said one teacher would translate for Spanish-speaking parents. The runner goes to the room where students are waiting and brings them to the parents or person authorizing to pick up the child, she said.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office observed the drill. Following the drill, a debriefing was scheduled to determine what worked and what needed improvement, Zelenak said.

"It's been a lot of work but community members have been tremendously helpful and the Coast Guard," she said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Firefighters battle blaze in West Cape May

A structure fire was reported at 1:10 p.m. March 15 in the 200 block of Fourth Avenue in West Cape May. Crews responded from West Cape May, Cape May, Cape May Point and the U.S. Coast Guard base. The fire was concentrated on the second floor, and firefighters brought it under control within 15 minutes. The cause is under investigation.

## J.C.Penney's to close Rio Grande store

RIO GRANDE — The J.C. Penney store here made the hit list of 138 stores the retail chain is closing. The Rio Grande location is the only New Jersey store on the list of closures expected to take place in June.

According to CNBC, while revenue at Penney's estab-

lished stores slipped 0.7 percent in the fiscal fourth quarter, home, appliances and beauty all generated positive comparable sales. The Rio Grande store does not sell appliances. CEO Marvin Ellison described the downsizing as an effort to make the com-

pany stronger "against the growing threat of online retailers," according to CNBC. About 5,000 jobs will be lost nationwide by the store closures, according to a statement from J.C. Penney. The K-Mart store in Rio Grande is closing its doors at the end of the month.

## Lower prepares to sue FEMA

Continued from Page A1

several years earlier the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requested the Coastal Research Center to conduct a geologic study of the Lower Township Delaware Bay shoreline with regard to an assessment as to whether this coastal stretch was actually a coastal bluff shoreline or a barrier beach coast as DEP had previously mapped it. This study was with regard to which set of rules DEP should use to regulate construction or re-construction along this particular shoreline. The

results of the study was the determination that the Delaware Bay coastline of Lower Township was a coastal bluff consisting of older Cape May Formation sediments 125,000 years ago, "mantled by a landward thinning layer of wind deposited beach sand blown into the forest over hundreds of years."

Farrell stated the process defined the coastline with a bluff elevation between 3 and 4 feet above zero with the sand mantle between 6 and 10 feet thick at a point 5 feet behind the top of the steep seaward slope.

"The bluff top contact was

observed as a foot-thick soil profile at the surface of the Cape May Formation covered by the wind deposit. The Cape May Formation is coarse sand with pebbles scattered in thin layers throughout."

The study concluded:

1. This bluff was not created by marine processes and does not perform as a coastal dune. The bluff is not a dune and should not be the primary criterion used for VE Zone delineation.
2. The bluff is much more difficult to erode and acts as a break point for incident storm waves.
3. The wind-deposited mantle is far more extensive inland than a coastal dune because of the much longer time interval for its creation.
4. This set of facts produces a great divergence between the two accepted delineation

methodologies which if unchanged will result in major over reaching in V Zone regulations that will have massive impacts on properties never before incorporated into any previous flood hazard area.

Farrell's study proposed FEMA re-delineate the V Zone boundary using the wave model as opposed to the primary frontal dune landward boundary since the wave model results more closely represent severe storm wave conditions on Delaware Bay. The study concludes with its fetch limit of 25 miles and the fact that this shoreline does not face the major storm approach direction, the VE Zone should be defined by wave model results instead of the landward limit of the primary frontal dune's landward slope toe.

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**TIDES : March 2017**

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	4:06	4:38	10:21	10:20
23	5:04	5:33	11:14	11:16
24	5:56	6:22	12:01	12:01
25	6:43	7:07	12:08	12:45
26	7:28	7:50	12:57	1:27
27	8:12	8:33	1:44	2:09
28	8:56	9:16	2:32	2:52
29	9:41	10:02	3:20	3:36

**MOON PHASES**  
New moon, March 28 • first quarter, April 5

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