

Roseann Avenue collapse not part of drainage project

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The county is repaving a number of Lower Township roads while the township deals with a collapse on Roseann Avenue.

A major infrastructure project to relieve flooding on Roseann Avenue and surrounding streets in North Cape May is in the permitting process with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Council passed a \$4.7 million

bond in 2016 to provide for drainage and storm water improvements and road reconstruction to Roseann Avenue and the Bayshore Estates area. The project will include a pump station to increase drainage flow into Cox Hall Creek. Residents on Roseann Avenue have been experiencing flooding problems since 1985.

A storm drain collapsed on Roseann Avenue and an emergency repair was made to the pipe, according to Councilman David Perry.

He said the collapse was caused by a sinkhole behind a resident's driveway. Perry said he hoped the township would receive a permit for Roseann Avenue within the next few weeks. A few loose ends needed to be tied up to receive the permit, he said.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the collapse was not in the area of the Roseann Avenue project. He said he hoped the project could be extended to the area of collapse near Bayshore Road.

Mayor Erik Simonsen called it "a blessing in disguise," because it occurred before the major road project began.

Ridgway said the county in the past two weeks has answered a number of residents' concerns for rough roads. He said Townbank and Seashore roads have had repairs including in front of Cold Spring Village, Academy Road and also the north end of Villas.

"We're anxiously awaiting action (on Bayshore Road)

between McDonald's and the PNC Bank, and we're at the top of the list now for the road improvements on Fulling Mill up to the Wawa and down to the CVS," Ridgway said. "It's nice to see all the work the county has been doing."

Perry said he was compiling a list of county roads in the township that may not be repaved this year.

"I want to try to get that on the county's agenda for 2018," he said. "There are some bad areas."

Perry said Townbank Road from the bay to Bayshore Road is in bad shape. He encouraged residents to contact the township manager or a council member to report roads they believe need to be addressed.

Simonsen said the township is working with Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) to replace several pump stations. The township is applying for a \$400,000 Public Facilities Grant that would be passed through to the MUA.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The city now will be able to use a bull dozer to flatten out beach scarps, such as the one above, which are created by heavy wave action during storms. In previous years, the city had to seek special permits to do the work, costing time and money.

Beach scarps

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sand. It took about three hours to make the area safe for swimmers, Picard said.

"Once the scarp was gone, it took about two high tides to have the beach completely come back to normal," CMBP Capt. Geoff Rife said.

"We just basically stopped Mother Nature in her tracks for three hours of work and two high tides,

so this permit, I can't say how important it is to us," he continued.

The city hopes to install a public address (PA) system the length of the beach to make safety announcements for beachgoers. Committee member Jack Wichterman reported the cost estimate to install speakers the length of the beach was \$400,000.

He said he met with U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo ear-

lier in the month seeking funding assistance from the federal government for the project. Wichterman said LoBiondo was not optimistic about prospects for the funding.

Young said Jim Rutala, the city's grant consultant, was seeking partial or full funding for the project. He said Rutala stated the U.S. Agriculture Department may be a good partner for the PA system project.

Car hits bicyclist on bridge in Lower

ERMA — A bicyclist was struck by a vehicle Sunday night on the George Redding Bridge.

Lower Township police were dispatched for a report of a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle and a bicyclist at 10:31 p.m. Aug. 20 on the bridge in the Shawcrest section of the township.

Upon arrival, the investigating officer made contact with the driver of the vehicle, Matthew J. McCabe, 30, of Wildwood. The driver stated he was traveling into Wildwood on the bridge in the right lane when suddenly he saw a bicyclist in his lane of travel. He stated that it was too late for him to swerve or stop at that time, causing him to strike the rear of the bicycle.

The rider, Alexander Hagilov, 19, of Wildwood, was ejected from his bicycle. He complained of pain in his right shoulder and suffered a laceration to his right heel. Wildwood Rescue Squad was on scene and transported Hagilov to Cape Regional Medical Center for evaluation.

Police investigation revealed the bicyclist was

riding in the vehicle's lane of travel and the bicycle was not properly equipped for night travel, which was determined to be the contributing cause of the accident. During the course of the investigation, the southbound lane of the

George Redding Bridge was shut down for about 20 minutes and was reopened at the conclusion of the investigation. Assisting in the investigation was the Wildwood City Police Department and the Wildwood Fire Department.

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Vice principal, athletic director swap position in Lower schools

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — In a job swap, Richard M. Teitelman School Assistant Principal Erik Simonsen became athletic director of Lower Cape May Regional High School while Mark Schiffbauer, the former athletic director, became assistant principal at the Teitelman School.

The move was approved by the Board of Education during a meeting Aug. 24. Board member Thomas Connelly said Schiffbauer cares deeply about the school's athletes and the school district.

"He has made a positive difference in the lives of many young men and women in all our athletic programs and I look forward to him carrying that on at the Teitelman School," he said.

Board President Richard Hooyma said that statement also represented the sentiment of the board.

In addition, Zachary Palombo moved from his position as assistant supervisor of academic achievement to assistant principal of the high school following the resignation of Joyann Ford. Palombo thanked the board for the new opportunity.

"I'm looking forward to the new challenges I'm going to have in that position and I'm definitely ready to hit the ground running," he said.

The board approved a five-year contract renewal for Superintendent Christopher Kobik. He said he appreciated the support of the school board.

"There is an awful lot of leadership that comes from this board, there is an awful lot of listening," Kobik said. "This is a great school community. We're making some bold changes, we're being innovative, we're moving ahead and we're always

focused on what's best for our kids."

In other business, the board authorized Garrison Architects to prepare and file a state Department of Education capital projects

application to replace the roof and windows of the administration building. Board member Gary Playford said the district acknowledged it would receive no state aid for the project.



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