

Moving

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house, and it turned out to be more common than you would think,” Marcus said.

Marcus said they considered the possibility of raising the house higher at its original location and putting in helix pilings, which are essentially screwed in. He said it was determined not to be an option, and the house was moved to where it extends just into the right of way. He said the pilings were due to come this week.

Marcus said he and his wife have connections to the Jersey Shore. His parents owned Somewhere in Time, next to the post office, which they bought when it was a guest home. They ran it as such until it was condoed.

“I guess I’m following in my father’s footsteps,” Marcus said.

Even though their house at

300 Cape Ave., is requiring a lot of work at considerable cost, Marcus believes it’s worth it for a home in the Point.

“I spent my summers down there. My parents owned a home on Lighthouse Avenue. I have a lot of fond memories of the Point, and I look forward to having our kids down there,” he said.

Despite the fond memories, Marcus said they didn’t jump at the chance to buy 300 Cape. He said he and his wife looked at the house and originally thought it would be too much work. They continued to look around, and about a month later came back to 300 Cape. They decided they could make it work, for a couple of reasons.

“It’s a great house in terms of location. It’s literally right across from the beach,” he said.

Additionally, Marcus said

because the house is older, it has a certain amount of square footage they could never get on a 50x100 lot if they knocked it down and build new.

“We couldn’t put up the same thing on that lot. By keeping the existing house we have kept a home with significant value,” he said.

Marcus also likes the tower, which he said people would not build into a house these days because it would cut into the gross floor area.

All of the reasons Marcus gave were practical reasons, but saving the house also preserves something of Cape May Point history. In a historical survey completed by George Thomas, Thomas described the location as the center of what might be considered the Point’s historic district. Cape May Point does not have a historic district by ordinance, but 300 Cape is on a corner

shared by some of the Point’s most historic properties, including the Grey Ghost, and the Marianist Retreat Center.

Marcus said he has received a lot of support for the project, and said Zoning Officer John McGraw was “great to work with.”

“He talked things through with us and told us what to expect. The borough has been great to work with and people see what we are doing and appreciate that,” Marcus said.

The renovation is expected to take until some time in the spring, but it will definitely be ready for the 2012 summer season. Marcus said the pilings and foundation work come first, followed by exterior work, which they hope to complete before any bad weather. Then the interior renovation can continue despite the conditions outdoors.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, a back view of 300 Cape Ave. after it was lifted off its foundation. The grade has been leveled in preparation for pile driving. The back of the house will be reconstructed as part of a whole-house renovation.

Recruits

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harbor is a major deposit area for trash and pollutants, so it’s important to pay extra attention to these locations.

“Ocean beaches sort of clean themselves,” he said. “But, the back bays and harbor areas are where a lot of the garbage ends up.”

Whitman said aside from her volunteers, the Coast Guard has been very helpful over the years, coming each and every time she requests assistance for a beach cleanup.

“They really come to the rescue. I’ve never been turned down by them – they always come every spring and fall,” she said. “It’s amazing what 108 recruits can do for us in just a couple of hours.”

Whitman said the Nature Center would not be able to survive without the help of the Coast Guard and volunteers in the community. Company Commander, Petty Officer 1st Class Dan Gautier said the recruits thoroughly enjoy getting away from the base for a few hours and do something positive for the community.

“It’s a privilege for my company to come out and help,” he said, “and the recruits are grateful to get a break from training.”

Gautier said the beach cleanups are perfect for developing team working and leadership skills among his company. He said all of the recruits in Romeo 185 Company were in their sixth week of training at the base.

“It’s so rewarding to work alongside these men and women,” Whitman said. “I sometimes feel like a mother hen, telling them what to do

around the center, but they are always so helpful.”

She said she has bonded with many of the recruits in the past and ended up attending their graduation at the base.

Whitman said the COA sponsored Beach Sweeps throughout the entire state on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, collecting all the data they could. She said with the help of the Coast Guard and local volunteers, so much more was accomplished in a short amount of time.

Whitman said other groups like the Boy Scouts and environmental classes from Atlantic County Community College have also come to lend a hand in the past.

Not all the volunteers were out cleaning the harbor on Saturday, as they also did work around the Nature Center cleaning, weeding, painting and doing maintenance on the property. Whitman said having the cleanups in the spring and fall helps get the Nature Center ready for the peak season and “winterize” the facility before the off-season. Recruits and volunteers clean windows and inside the buildings, work in the gardens, move items out of the laboratories and whatever other duties the Nature Center needs.

Whitman said she sees the Nature Center staff as the “stewards” of Cape May Harbor. She said even though it is city property, the Center does much of the maintenance and work to keep it clean.

“We keep an eye on it for the city – and love doing it,” she said.

Needs

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money set aside in the \$10.5 million budget for Convention Hall in case of any unforeseen problems the contractors ran into during construction.

Murray questioned why the architect did not foresee the problems with the transformer. Mahaney said Atlantic City Electric was responsible for the location of the transformer. He said the company changed their position on where the pad would be placed several times, and the city spent over a year negotiating the matter.

Wichterman said there was \$8 million in city funding for

the construction portion of the Convention Hall project. The winning bid was \$7.5 million, allowing council to include some of the 16 alternatives and extra amenities for Convention Hall that were taken out of the original bid, because they were not necessary. He said these change orders could lead to the omission of items if bids on the alternatives are too high.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said bids for telescoping chairs and catering equipment for Convention Hall were accepted on Friday at noon. He said skating rink bids would be accepted at noon on Oct. 28.

Ban

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Resident Jay Schatz, said the city needed to be careful when initiating new “nuisance ordinances.” He said even though he was a non-smoker, many tourists who come to Cape May are smokers and would be displeased to return next summer and find smoking has been banned from the beaches. Schatz gave examples of Cape May’s nuisance ordinances, such as the ban on being shirtless on

the promenade and the ban on Speedo style bathing suits on the beach.

“Here we go again,” he said, “down that slippery slope of adding all these ordinances.”

Schatz also questioned laying the responsibility of enforcing the ordinance on the beach patrol and beach tag inspectors.

The public hearing on the ordinance will be held at the Monday, Nov. 14 meeting at 7 p.m., a change from the regular Tuesday meetings.

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