

FEMA

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care of mold with a 10 percent solution of bleach. However, mold can get into the HVAC system and spread throughout the house.

"It's what we call the 'sick building syndrome,'" he said.

He said one of the first things people need to do is get the water from under their homes.

"It has to be pumped to where it leaves, otherwise it can come back," Lamperez said. "This is not a quick fix; it's due diligence."

Powell said anytime there are floods there are health issues and people might have to contact their Health Department, especially when they are dealing with septic tanks. The Cape May County Health Department is testing people's wells for contamination from flooding.

Powell said there is no closing date for the DRC, and the length of FEMA's stay in Cape May County is driven by the need.

"Therefore we are urging people to apply," he said.

Tom Nocera, a public affair specialist with the Small Business Administration, said people should not be confused by the name.

"The SBA is part of a federal program that provides large amounts of money not just to businesses, but to many homeowners and renters who had damage to personal property or homes," he said.

Nocera said the SBA has mailed out more than 4,000 applications to people who have registered with FEMA.

"The application is a gateway to further federal assistance," he said.

Powell said being denied an

SBA loan is a necessary step in qualifying for other federal assistance, so people should fill out the application.

Applicants must provide proof of residence and the application process will include an on-site inspection.

"They are FEMA contractors. All FEMA personnel have ID badges. If they don't have the badge they are not with FEMA," Powell said.

Powell said when community relations people from FEMA knock on someone's door it is to give information, not to ask for it. He said no FEMA personnel would ask people for Social Security numbers (at the home) or bank account numbers.

Lt. Lynn Frame from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office said whenever money is being disbursed quickly there is a potential for fraud. She said

any fraud victims should contact the prosecutor's office and it will prosecute. And if they find the fraud is of an organized nature it's possible the FBI might get involved in the investigation.

When applying, applicants will have to provide an address and phone number where they can be reached, their Social Security number, a current mailing address, the date the damage occurred, the address of the affected property, a brief description of the damages. Insurance information, and the family's gross income.

To register by phone call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or go online to www.disasterassistance.gov.

People are urged to register for assistance even if they have flood insurance, because some losses might not be covered.

Rebid

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although the bids were rejected, the city has gotten some information to work with in the rebidding process.

"We're going through another review for value engineering, we made a couple of adjustments in designs and looked at the bid specifications for clarity. We thought a few items were not easily understood and we tried to clarify them to eliminate the possibility the bidders would have to bid higher because they were uncertain what was being asked for," MacLeod said.

MacLeod said "value engineering" means going through the design and engineering to see if certain features could be managed better and create a cost savings, perhaps made with different materials.

He said it is still the city's vision and plan for a geothermal energy system and to have a solar array on top of the structure.

"We outlined many months ago we would like to complete the solar project through a power purchase agreement. We would have a separate vendor or contractor do the installation of the solar panels, and the benefit to the owner of the property is to have reduced kilowatt prices," MacLeod said.

Normally, the power purchase agreement lasts 15 years, when the solar panels become the property of the owner of the building. MacLeod said the city would

continue to look at the wind turbines also proposed for Convention Hall.

Asked about the possibility of scaling back the project, MacLeod said right now the city is planning to rebid the project based on the current, proposed size. He said the city has gone through the value engineering process twice, but the building basically remains the same size.

Asked if scaling back the project, while perhaps cutting costs, would further delay the project, MacLeod said, "Every day or week that goes by makes it more and more difficult to meet our deadline. When we went through the initial bidding process we were very tight in our timeline for opening Memorial Day Weekend (2011)."

MacLeod said the city is without a Convention Hall and the goal is to have a building to allow the city to bring back certain activities to the beachfront.

He said residents and visitors were used to the functions and activities, which are lacking without Convention Hall.

"The idea of getting the project off the ground and having the facility built - that's the bottom line," he said.

The city will advertise for new bids on Friday, April 30. MacLeod said the ad would go out to the local daily paper because of the time element and to an online trade site most of the major contractors are familiar with.

Lower Police arrest robbery suspect

NORTH CAPE MAY - Lower Township Police arrested a township man and charged him with allegedly trying to rob the Family Dollar on Bayshore Road.

On Tuesday, April 20 police received a call from the Family Dollar saying a strong arm robbery had just occurred at the store. Police said the store manager reported a while male about 20 years old entered the store

and allegedly concealed items in a bag and on his person. When the female manager confronted the suspect, he allegedly became belligerent and assaulted the manager, allegedly grabbing her arm and attempting to throw her to the ground. The suspect then allegedly threw the items at the manager.

Police said the manager sustained bruises and complained of lower back pain.

She was transported to Cape Regional Medical Center for her injuries.

Lower Township Police searched the area until Patrolman Brian McEwing located the suspect, identified as John T. Matthews, 20, of the 100 block of Harmony Road, North Cape May, in the vicinity of the Channel

Apartments. A search recovered additional stolen items.

Matthews was charged with a second degree count of robbery and one count of theft. A computer check revealed he was wanted on an outstanding warrant from Wildwood.

Matthews was lodged in the county jail in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail.



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USCG rescues three near Sea Bright

SEA BRIGHT, N.J. - The Coast Guard rescued three people who were aboard a 17-foot boat taking on water Sunday two miles off the coast of Sea Bright.

The Coast Guard received a call at 10:47 a.m. from a good Samaritan reporting a boat with three people aboard was taking on water.

A rescue boat crew from Coast Guard Station Manasquan, N.J., arrived on scene and transferred all three people aboard their boat. The boat crew transferred a pump aboard the 17-foot boat and dewatered it.

A rescue boat crew from Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook, N.J., arrived on scene and transferred the three people to their boat and took the boat in tow to the nearest safe haven.

"They did not have a radio onboard their boat," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Wishnoff, a crewmember from Coast Guard Station Manasquan. "We urge all mariners to purchase a VHF marine radio and keep it onboard their boat at all times so they can call for help when they need to."

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