

Lawmakers seek flood insurance reform

Continued from Page A1

has safeguards to stop premiums from being jacked up. It will help people prepare prior to a storm with accurate maps and flood prevention investments, it will strengthen the claims process so survivors get what they need to rebuild, and it will bring much-needed accountability to

the Write Your Own program. We owe so much to our flooding victims and are working hard to see these reforms enacted this Congress."

According to FEMA, Risk Rating 2.0, leverages industry best practices and cutting-edge technology to enable it to deliver rates that are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect a

property's flood risk.

Policyholders with lower-valued homes are paying more than their share of the risk while policyholders with higher-valued homes are paying less than their share of the risk, FEMA stated.

Because Risk Rating 2.0 considers rebuilding costs, FEMA can equitably distribute premiums across all policyholders based on

home value and a property's unique flood risk.

Annual premium increases would not be more than 18 percent per year under existing statutory limits.

FEMA will continue to offer premium discounts for pre-FIRM subsidized and newly mapped properties. Policyholders will still be able to transfer their discount to a new owner by assigning their flood in-

surance policy when their property changes ownership.

"Climate change is here," Menendez said. "I have spent decades calling for action to cut carbon pollution and slow climate change. I have three beautiful granddaughters, and I constantly worry about what kind of world we are leaving them. The fires, the floods, the droughts, the

lost crops — it will all get worse in the years ahead. Future generations are depending on us. I don't know what will motivate Republicans to join us in this fight. But let's be clear. Even if somehow the entire United States went completely carbon neutral tomorrow, we would still need to invest in mitigation to create a more sustainable flood insurance program."

Cape May settles

Continued from Page A1

Gillin-Schwartz said communication issues including design materials for phase four of Lafayette Street Park and phases three and four for reconstruction of Pennsylvania Avenue were resolved.

"This settlement agreement allows both parties to get what they need, and it demonstrates compromise," he said.

Mott MacDonald conceded it would not be paid for some work from 2020 amounting to nearly \$30,000, Gillin-

Schwartz said. The settlement avoids litigation of a potential contract issue.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan asked how the amount of unpaid bills from Mott MacDonald was determined. Gillin-Schwartz said the figures were reviewed in depth by the city's chief financial officer. The city held the position that it hired a new engineer Jan. 1, and Mott MacDonald's work needed

to be transitioned to the new engineer. Gillin-Schwartz said work from 2020 was authorized under a prior administration.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the city underpaid Mott MacDonald but spent a "ton of money" with the firm. He said he was in favor of the settlement.

The settlement is much more than the city is paying its new engineer this year,

he said. Mullock said he was not pleased Mott MacDonald did not share information with the city's new engineer, Vince Orlando of Engineering Design Associates.

"It's held up the city, it's been a major problem for the city. I think it's been completely unprofessional, and the amount of money is a ton of money," Mullock said.

He said some of the contracts approved with Mott

MacDonald were granted during the final meeting of the previous administration which put the city in a major bind.

Gillin-Schwartz said according to city records, an authorization was made for \$145,900 to Mott MacDonald.

The city and Mott MacDonald have been working for months to reach a settlement, Gillin-Schwartz said. He said he was receiving a "laundry list" of items Orlando needed.

The enabling resolution notes the city made payments to Mott MacDonald of \$23,730 on July 27, 2021, \$1,130 on Aug. 30, 2021, and \$565 on Nov. 3, 2021. Mullock said the city made payments because subcontractors were not being paid.

Mott MacDonald produced concept designs of expanding the seawall from Madison Avenue to Wilmington Avenue, oversaw creation of Lafayette Street Park, performed a preliminary environmental assessment of the Allen AME church to ascertain the presence or absence of environmental concerns and served as engineer for Soldiers and Sailors Park.

Mott MacDonald prepared a master plan of the city's water system and oversaw replacement of Cape May's largest water main from its desalination plant, suggested an architectural firm for the public safety building and handled a number of road paving and water infrastructure projects.

In December 2020, then mayor elect Mullock said the initial contract was for Mott MacDonald's services was \$101,000 for Soldiers and Sailors Park but the city was looking at an additional \$50,000 in charges.

At that time, Mott MacDonald Vice President Tom Thornton offered two proposals for payment to council totaling \$50,600. He said the engineering services were handled in phases with the original proposal in November 2019 of \$37,500.

After the project was put out to bid, Mott MacDonald submitted a proposal for inspection services at \$58,000 plus \$6,000 for coordination of the third parties for a total of \$101,500. Discovery of a broken water main complicated the project.

An Important Choice . . .

SPILKER
FUNERAL HOME

CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

DENNIS J. SPILKER • OWNER/MANAGER • N.J. LIC. NO. 4038
BURIAL • CREMATION • FUNERAL PRE - PLANNING

*Serving Cape May County with
Sensitivity, Affordability & Attention to Detail*

609.884.3793 | www.spilkerfuneralhome.com

EVOY
FUNERAL HOMES, INC. SINCE 1879
3218 Bayshore Rd., North Cape May, NJ
886-7111
www.evoyfuneralhome.com

Volunteers in Medicine
FREE CLINICS OF SOUTH JERSEY

Care generously provided by:

BECKY BONSHOFF
LORRAINE CRAVEN
TRUDY SMITH
ADA AND JACK STEINBERG
DR. AND MRS. EUGENE SIEGEL

For information about becoming a patient,
to volunteer, or to safely donate online:

www.vimsj.org / 609-463-2846

Tired of Fees?



**Don't let our Premier NOW*
checking account pass you by!**

- ✓ No monthly maintenance charge
- ✓ No minimum opening or daily balance
- ✓ No statement fee
- ✓ Free specially designed checks
- ✓ No ATM transaction fee
- ✓ No fee mobile deposit, online banking & bill pay
- ✓ Interest bearing

STURDY
SAVINGS BANK

Call or stop in to one of 14 branch locations today!

609-463-5220

sturdyonline.com



*Reserve for depositors age 45 and older. \$100 minimum daily balance required to obtain APY. Surcharges from foreign ATM providers may apply. Fees may apply for other services.



First Presbyterian
Church of Cape May
Hughes & Decatur
"The Visitor's Church"
since 1853

JAZZ
VESPERS
1st Sunday
First Presbyterian
Church of Cape May
Hughes & Decatur

OUR LADY
STAR OF
THE SEA
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

525 Washington St. Mall,

Cape May

609-884-5312

Mass Daily at 11am

Sat. at 4pm

Sun at 8:30am

10:30am and 6pm

Make Marriage Work

One of the greatest adjustments in life occurs when a man and woman decide to become husband and wife. It is very important to remember that no two marriages are alike, and that each couple must work out what is best for them. Couples who have been married for several years will all admit that they have experienced problems, but they have worked them out. They stuck together and each problem they worked out made their marriage stronger. Couples should ask, "what can I give to this marriage," not just "what can I get out of it." When married couples give their support, trust, and love to each other, the marriage is bound to be successful. Three persons should be involved in each marriage; husband, wife and God. God instituted marriage and intended that the couple remain married as long as they both should live. Working together to resolve marital problems isn't always easy, but with God's help, all things are possible.

...a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one... Good News Bible 10:7,8

Cold Spring
Presbyterian
Church
Rev. Doug Madden
780 Seashore Rd
884-4065

CAPE ISLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH

115 Gurney Street

609-884-3917

Visit cibcnj.org for more info.

CALL
884-3466
to place your ad.
Two sizes of ads
available.



DEAUVILLE INN

EST. 1881

**WATERFRONT DINING
PUB • BEACH • DOCKS**

PACKAGED GOODS

BEER • WINE • SUNDRIES

OPEN YEAR ROUND

201 WILLARD ROAD STRATHMERE, NJ 08248

609.263.2080