Conrad says beach paths not causing blown sand

By JACK FICHTER
Cape Play Star and Wave

VILLAS — Commissioner Tom Conrad addressed rumors and what he called misinformation concerning Lower Township’s new beach access paths and a proposed sidewalk along the bayfront in North Cape May.

During a Township Council meeting April 12, he addressed statements from the public at council’s previous meeting concerning new beach access paths causing noise with sand in the streets. Conrad said the following day, he drove along the bayfront striking every spray paint, evergreen, tall trees in Cape May Point. He said nothing can be done about sand being blown off the dunes. Conrad said dunes are higher than the street, so sand was predominately in the areas where the dunes in certain parts? Of course, it’s near any beach," Conrad said.

He said he noticed sand on the street near 11th Street, where homes are both on the street and on the dune. "The area is just a little bit higher than the street," he said. "That’s why you see the sand blowing off the dunes." Conrad said the sand from the streets usually blows onto the dunes rather than the other way around. "Sand blowing down the streets from dunes in certain parts? Of course, it’s near any beach,” Conrad said.

"As a community, we’re not going to go in there and start digging,” Conrad said. “The general community is people are very angry about this.” He said he noticed sand on the street near 11th Street, where homes are both on the street and on the dune. "That’s why you see the sand blowing off the dunes. Conrad said the sand from the streets usually blows onto the dunes rather than the other way around.

Residents question substation expansion

By JACK FICHTER
Cape Play Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Residents of Venice Avenue, Bank and Elmira streets with concerns about a planned doubling of the size of a power substation in their neighborhood met with representatives of Atlantic City Electric last week. A second transformer and a 30-foot-tall building are in the proposed plan.

Atlantic City Electric Senior Public Affairs Manager Dominic Town said the expansion is needed for the system's future needs. The transformer would allow headroom for additional growth.

Picucci said corporate policy was to have the transformer at each substation site to act as a backup. He said if the substation stops functioning, it could take only two to three days to bring in a mobile transformer as a replacement. He said the present substation was nearing capacity. "If it happens again, in that particular area, we may have to fence it in and put a high fence around that area," he said. “The general consensus we feel from the community is people are very angry about this.”

He said no one would go into New York’s Central Park and cut down a tree, and that public sentiment was the same for the dune trees in Cape May Point.

Russell said he liked the borough’s policy of removing more trees, so whatever cut down will now find their view more obstructed.

Mayor Bob Mefford said it was a good idea to inform the community.

Dune trees illegally destroyed in Cape May Point

By JACK FICHTER
Cape Play Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Trees on a dune at Whilldin Avenue have been illegally cut down, poisoned and uprooted. The borough will replace the trees and, if necessary, do a three-month spraying to protect it from further damage.

During a Borough Commission meeting April 12, Commissioner Bob Mullock said trees on the dune have been cut illegally as many as three times.

"As a community, we’re very concerned about this," he said. “The general consensus we feel from the community is people are very angry about this.”

He said no one would go into New York’s Central Park and cut down a tree, and that public sentiment was the same for the dune trees in Cape May Point.

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