People should be ready to evacuate, heed officials’ orders

**By JACK FICHTER**

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — An active hurricane season in forecast for the East Coast this year, but even the best forecast cannot predict exactly where a hurricane will make landfall.

During a county Emergency Preparedness Conference on May 31, County Emergency Management Director Martin Pagliughi said the key to predicting the level of devastation caused by superstorms is knowing the level of development caused by superstorms from north of Brigantine to Sandy Hook in 2012. He said he had a first-hand view from a Coast Guard helicopter two days after the storm.

Pagliughi said every storm is different and the best forecast cannot predict exact landfall until the last few hours of approach. He urged the public to heed evacuation warnings. He said even the best information would be of little help if people lack confidence by learning which roads were blocked. In addition, drones could provide cell phone coverage of towers that are not functioning as well as cell service.

Some residents were not pleased with cell phone usage in their areas. Pagliughi said his office has been working with American Aerospace Technologies for use of drones to provide photographic coverage of damaged areas directly after a storm. He said such information would help officials determine the extent of the problems.

He said such information would help officials determine the extent of the problems we have in social media today,” he said. “If our best friend or family is coming to our home and bring their pets, say owners should too.

Disaster agencies are preparing for pets, say owners should too.

**By JACK FICHTER**

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Most people will leave their pets behind when they evacuate for their homes in a hurricane or other disaster, and disaster-preparedness agencies are taking note.

That’s why the county Department of Emergency Management agencies for pets if they would not evacuate because they could not.

**By JACK FICHTER**

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — “Bike Week,” Cape May is a bicycle and pedestrian plan for Cape May and Cape May Point for bike safety and ultimately provide a less hazardous bike ride on Sunset Boulevard connecting the two towns.

Planners from WSP, of Philadelphia, presented a preliminary study for the project to the county’s tourism and received comments from community members during a public meeting on Cape May’s website at cape-may-point.org.

The bicycle and pedes-
trian corridor is part of the state Department of Transportation’s (NJDOT) Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. WSP seeks to foster the development of nonmotorized transportation modes.

A final report will be presented to the city’s Planning Board and ultimately City Council. Cape May has been active in pursuing Safe Routes to School grant funding to improve conditions for biking and walking around Cape May City Elementary School. The city has identified and sought funding for improvements to

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CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

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CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

**Page B1**

**Page A2**

**Page A3**

**Page A4**