

Daily

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Grande, and the Lower Cape May Regional High School Band. The parade took just under a half hour to go down Broadway, but grew exponentially when Daily decided to make it an annual event.

"Every year, there seemed to be more interest," she said. Today, the parade takes

over two hours to trek through West Cape May into Cape May with local fire companies, Mummers, dozens of floats, high school bands, church groups, the U.S. Coast Guard and several local organizations like Boy Scout Troop 73. Thousands of spectators, year-round residents and tourists from hundreds of miles away, line the streets to

observe the annual event. "It's become more than just a parade," Daily said. "It's brought West Cape May and Cape May together. It's not only the people in the parade, but everyone that helps out and spectates. It's a true community parade." Daily said no taxpayer money is used to put on the parade. Members of the com-

munity and organizations host fundraisers and contribute donations to make it possible. She said her daughter and best friend, Dot Burton, have always played an immense role in organizing the parade. She said borough has also become more involved in recent years, and personally thanked Mayor Pam Kaithern for all of the time she has

dedicated to keeping the West Cape May Parade a successful and community oriented event.

Daily said she once prayed to God and made a promise to herself that she would continue organizing the parade for 50 years. This Christmas will mark her 48th year and remains confident in making it to the 50th. She said no mat-

ter what happens, she hopes whoever takes the reins in the future will preserve the integrity and purpose of which the event was founded.

"I don't want it to be a West Cape May parade. I want it to remain a West Cape May Community Parade," she said.

Flood

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hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster.

Sarafides said there is \$100 million in funding available through the HMGP and the deadline for submitting an application was Sept. 15.

She said the program assists primary single family residences only and homes that need to meet government requirements or homes that demonstrate a need for elevation. Sarafides said there are no income restrictions for homeowners and they are not required to be registered with FEMA. However, the home must be located within the 100-year floodplain.

She said the applicant's property should not have received assistance from the Department of

Community Affairs (DCA) or the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation Program (RREM), under which \$600 million in federal funds has been allocated to help eligible primary homeowners repair or rebuild their homes impacted by Sandy. She said elevation work cannot be already started when applying.

She said the homeowner has the right to choose his or her own contractor to raise their home. The homeowner must pay the contractor when the work is completed and will then receive reimbursement through the HMGP.

Selected applicants will be assigned and intake specialist and receive a continuation letter explaining the application process and additional documents such as the engi-

neering certificate for elevation, elevation plans and drawings from an engineer, structural soundness, a budget and timeline.

Jillian Stokely of FEMA said the home must then pass a FEMA Environmental/Historic Process (EHP). She said the EHP is performed to ensure that its disaster response and recovery, mitigation and preparedness responsibilities are carried out in a manner that is consistent with all federal environmental and historic preservation policies and laws.

Homes located in the lowest lying areas, and were damaged by Hurricane Sandy will be given the highest priority, but Sarafides and local officials encouraged all homeowners looking to make improvements to apply.

Sarafides said the purpose of elevating ones home is to raise the home above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and reduce or sustain current flood insurance rates.

"If you're below the Base Flood Elevation, your rates go up," she said.

The preliminary work maps released by FEMA at the end of August for Cape May County show a reduction in (Velocity) V-zones. Patrick Holloway of FEMA said V-zones and A-zones are considered coastal areas with a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. He said V-zones have higher restrictions than A-zones, but are both in the specified 1 percent.

In Cape May, of all the properties that were adjust-

ed from the FEMA advisory maps to the new preliminary work maps, 53 properties went from the V zone to the A zone, and one property went from the A zone to the V zone, according to Mayor Ed Mahaney. He invited homeowners with concerns or questions about the new maps and their home's designation to contact the city's construction office.

"In Cape May County, the amount of money that's been allocated by the state, county by county, has shown that in our county, less than one third of the money has been applied for," Mahaney said. "Your home does not have to have been damaged by Hurricane Sandy. It would be a shame to leave that money on the table when we worked so hard to get it."

At the Sept. 3 Cape May City Council meeting, Mahaney noted there are no guarantees the \$30,000 would be awarded, or if it would cover the entire cost associated with elevating the structure.

"The opportunity is out there," said Mahaney. "If you were thinking of doing something, we've asked you to hold off, but now is the time to act."

Both Mahaney and Mayor Mike Beck of Lower Township have requested more public meetings with FEMA and NJDEP be held regarding grant programs and the new FEMA preliminary work maps.

Report

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not," he said.

Clark introduced the topic, Monday, saying the number one reason the committee was formed is that Cape May County has the third highest unemployment level in the state at 18 percent. He said the number is bolstered by the high number of seniors and seasonal workers in the county. But he said it is also hurting the county in terms of the young people who move away looking for job opportunities.

Clark said the committee was formed with 10 members, but they have gotten input from as many as 35 people representing a number of institutions, including Cape Regional Medical Center and Lower Cape May Regional High School.

Their approach, he said, has been to think regionally, saying, "We are all in the same boat."

The committee, he said, determined to come up with some short term and long term ideas, to engage more than 10 people, and have a brainstorming session on ideas. They would then go through a process of prioritizing the ideas and then present to council the best ideas to consider.

"We are going to make a final report in November 2014, which would say we could do A, B, C and D to improve tourism or take barriers away for businesses," Clark said.

The committee has met in April, June and August, and is planning another meeting in November. Clark said in June they held a brainstorm-

ing meeting and came up with 37 different ideas. In August the committee heard from Danny Cohen of Atlantic Capes Fisheries, who is farming oysters in the Delaware Bay. Clark said Cohen employs 30 people, but has the potential to increase his business ten times.

"That would be 300 full time employees with healthcare," Clark said.

Clark said his question to some of the members was, "What's holding you back?"

Weber said as far as the marina business goes, there is a large amount of sediment, which has been settling there for decades and has become a huge problem. He said it is time to discuss dredging Cape May Harbor, home to some high-end real estate, well-established businesses and fishing fleets. He

said it was important to consider how much of a presence the marine industry has in the harbor. Yet, he said, on some low tides they have boats grounded in the marina.

"We are at the point of needing help from government at all levels," Weber said.

Weber said one of the requirements before a dredging project could begin is a Dredged Materials Management Plan. He said finding a site to place dredge spoils is more difficult than coming up with the funding to dredge. He said part of the solution would be to try and find multiple sites or users of the material. For example, he said the Garden State Parkway project now underway in Middle Township was requiring a large amount of non-construction grade fill material.

"The solution is not going to come all at once," he said.

Ryan Krill, president of Cape May Brewing Company, talked about how his business has grown in the Cape May County Airport, and the business growth that followed. He said the building they moved into was empty, and they expanded their operation several times since moving in, including taking more building space to include a tasting room. Since then, he said, the building is entirely full of businesses operating out of the airport.

"Everyone wants to see something happen at the airport," he said.

Krill said economic development was part of the mission statement of the Delaware River and Bay Authority, which administers the airport.

"If there were more incentives to bring more businesses to the airport, all would benefit," Krill said.

Beck commented on Krill's efforts, which have led to the employment of 10 employees at Cape May Brewing.

"Cape May Brewing won't make a huge difference in Cape May County, but it is making a hell of a lot of difference in the lives of the 10 people working there," he said.

Clark said the high school is also planning to offer classes for juniors and seniors to encourage them to become entrepreneurs. He said Curtis Bashaw of Cape Resorts has offered to start an apprenticeship program that he would fund.

Run

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Cape May that many love and want to hold on to, while striving to make it affordable," Burke said. "Under this

administration, we have met our state-approved affordable housing plan, a portion of which is currently assisting nearly a dozen of our residents with home rehabilita-

tion grants," Burke said. "We also support appropriate residential and business growth."

"Supporting the local business community, including

new businesses choosing to locate in West Cape May and expansion of existing businesses, helps build community, offer employment opportunity and off set taxes for residents," Sabo said. "We hope to maintain our path for responsible expansion of open space and agricultural practices in the Borough. Continued environmental stewardship will help reduce overall energy consumption too."

"It's hard to believe that it's been almost 10 years since we

received a grant to develop the Back Yard Park, home to the Farmers' Market. It's helped our Market to become one of the most successful in the state and served as a launch pad for numerous local businesses. Proceeds from the Farm Market, Tomato and Lima Bean Festivals in Wilbraham Park fund maintenance and expansion programs for our parks and open spaces and programs which enrich life in our community, without relying on tax dollars. In fact, over \$425,000 non-tax dollars have been realized since 2006. Continued qual-

ity of life and enhancing our community is what we are about," Kaithern said.

"We, as a team, are looking forward to upcoming forums to discuss goals and ideas from residents of West Cape May. We all have a stake in our future and future generations who call West Cape May home," Burke said.

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