

Storms

Continued from page A1

do feel that preparation for disaster in the south Jersey area is a priority.

"The plans we come up with must be practiced so we can put them in place quickly in time of emergency," he said.

New Jersey State Sen. Dr. Jeff Van Drew also said a few words at the conference as well, to let the public to know what was being done at the state level for this matter.

"We want to ensure that if any kind of disaster occurs, and an evacuation is necessary, the constituents will know we were prepared and ready," said Drew. "The health, safety and welfare of the people is most important."

He spoke about the contra-flow plan or lane-reversal plan, an idea that has been used in many other states during hurricane evacuations. All road lanes are used to go in the same direction, which is obviously out. This plan is believed to be the best option for a place such as Cape May because of its limited infrastructure to the mainland.

His idea for the Office of

Emergency Management was to locate schools that could be used as temporary shelters if a serious catastrophe were to occur.

"We don't have the budget to refurbish all the schools and make them shelter ready," Drew said.

He is in the process of pushing a legislation (S-264) through, that he believes will better prepare the state for a natural disaster and give the public knowledge on what to do if one were to occur.

Major Dennis McNulty, the Commanding Officer of the Emergency Management Section of the New Jersey State Police also spoke to the audience about the status of his department and what they are doing to prepare.

"The state of New Jersey really hasn't gone through any serious catastrophe, but we still need to be ready," he said. "The strongest mechanism in place with my management team are the relationships between them and how well they work together."

McNulty went on to talk about how communication was crucial if any statewide emergency were to occur and that his team would be ready

to respond immediately.

"If we are good at anything, response and recovery is what it should be," McNulty said.

Debris management was also a major issue according to Robert Van Fossen of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"In a serious weather disaster, we have to get whatever debris that lay on the roads out of the way for emergency personnel," Fossen said. "It also needs to be kept clear on the public escape routes and near crucial facilities."

Among the facilities mentioned were hospitals, police and fire departments and waste water facilities.

By simply running a plow truck through the debris caused by a serious storm is phase one of the emergency operations plan. Fossen showed pictures of the debris in Bound Brook caused by the flood effects of Hurricane Floyd in 1999 as an example.

He also mentioned Katrina as well, saying that long-term removal of the waste is always a serious issue. His plan for long-term removal had four stages; separate, staging, disposal and recovery.

ery.

By separate, he meant municipal members and residents should go through the rubble and separate the hazardous material from the waste that isn't going to cause any immediate problems. Staging is temporary storage on municipal ground or public property until the rest of the waste can be recycled and dumped. Disposal is obviously taking this material to landfills and whatever facilities possible. Finally recovery, which is the duty of the EPA and organizations like FEMA.

"We will allow a temporary relaxation of the regulations in order to get the waste safely to the proper locations," Fossen said. "We will use pickup trucks, the usual dump trucks and whatever is necessary to clear the streets and properties of debris."

Lisa Ann Webber of the New Jersey Department of Transportation went into more detail about the Contra-flow plan. She displayed a map of what routes that they had developed reversal lane plans for. The DOT has come up with plans for routes 47/347, 72, 195, the Garden

State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway.

Webber made it clear that in an evacuation process, chances are everyone will be leaving well before the disaster occurs if there is enough warning.

"Odds are, you will be leaving on a bright sunny day," Webber said.

Webber also mentioned possible car accidents during evacuation that could cause a major problem on the escape routes.

"Plans have been made to re-route traffic," she assured the audience. "During a serious emergency, you can call 5-1-1 for traffic information or tune into the traffic radio stations for updates."

The last to speak was Director of the Cape May County Department of Emergency Management, Francis J. McCall with an overall update on the county's preparation status.

"The ultimate goal dealing with any weather disaster, is getting through it without any loss of life," he said.

McCall began by speaking about the Board of Chosen Freeholders Resolution 749-05 and its objective of sup-

porting a state commission to review New Jersey's ability to evacuate the coast in case of a weather disaster.

According to McCall, the February snowstorm was the Office for Emergency Management's largest response in Cape May history. Concluding the October and November nor'easters of 2009, the December and February snowstorms and the torrential rain storm/nor'easter in March, the county of Cape May has been deemed eligible for over \$44 million in federal reimbursement according to McCall. This eligibility is apparently due to effective management in response to these natural disasters over the past six months.

McCall said Cape May County and its municipalities have are going to be applying for over \$25 million in state and federal grants for the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

"Cape May County would be an extremely difficult place to evacuate in an emergency, so we need all the assistance we can get," McCall said.

Pay

Continued from page A1

Beck said.

Lare said it wasn't the matter of \$5, but that in addition to the \$40 cleats and \$50 jersey. Lare said he wasn't sure

\$5 would keep parents from putting kids in sports programs, but it didn't encourage it either.

Beck said the township's goal might be to get as many kids playing sports as possi-

ble, but they also have to pay the bill.

"I'm just asking to be fair and ask all parts to share the burden," he said. "But nobody wants to do the hard thing."

Council decided not to take action at this time on recreation fees other than raising the pool fee.

Resident Ed Butler, vice-president of the Lower Township Taxpayers Association said the township's problem was bigger

than \$5, referring to the nearly \$1 million deficit anticipated due to a 2 percent tax cap.

Erik Simonsen recommended the township look at selling advertising space on all the chain link fence at Freeman Douglass Memorial Park, and the boards on the hockey rink as a way of raising revenue.

Continued from page A1

the zoning board hearing for the building in November. There is also a hearing for another property on Sept. 30.

Gaffney's term as chairperson ends next year and she would still like to remain a

HPC

part of the commission. She would like anyone interested in the HPC cause to attend the meetings, which are held at city hall. There is a meeting Monday at 6:30 p.m. and another on Oct. 25 at 2:30 p.m.

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