



John K. Alvarez/Cape May Star and Wave

Timber!

The storm last week was just too much for this tree on Ohio Avenue in Cape May and for many others in the area as well.

FEMA assesses shore damage

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and Atlantic County are partnering to gather damage assessments.

State Police Sgt. Patrick Gorman of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management said exact damage numbers will be available by the week's end.

"We'll be working until the job is done. That's why we're here," Gorman said.

Gorman said preliminary damage assessments were available and will be updated

during the review.

"We're going to look at everything: the residences that were damaged, the businesses that were damaged as well as beaches that were damaged," Gorman said. "Along that note, there's only one thing I can stress. If you have a house, make your repairs. If you have a business, do what you need to do to get your business back up. Don't wait for the federal government to come in here and open up grants. Do what you need to do to get back on

your feet."

Gorman said reimbursements could file claims with their insurance companies. He said FEMA would help people with that process.

"If and when we open up recovery centers, there will be insurance people there and business executive network people to help with that process," Gorman said.

Pool ordinance introduced

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where I come out, but I'm not there yet."

Favre said there would be a lot of ramifications of changing lot coverage, so he wanted the information on the impact of such a change by the first meeting in December, when he would likely decide where he would like to go on the issue. If council agrees on the change they could notify the public and put off the vote until January.

Monzo said increasing the lot coverage from 30 to 40 percent would be a substantive change and would require the ordinance be reintroduced. In addition, it would have to go to the planning board for its review. Monzo said the R-1 zones are a relatively small part of Cape May. He said the R-1 zone covers portions of the lots east of Pittsburgh along

New York and Maryland Avenues. And along Cape May Avenue between Madison and Pittsburgh, and a few other blocks above Cape May Avenue.

Monzo said many of the pool-related noise complaints the city has had come from the R-2 zone, where the lots are 7,500 square feet, as opposed to 9,375 in the R-1, and where allowable lot coverage is 40 percent. Lots in the R-3 zone are 6,500 square feet with 45 percent lot coverage allowed.

Favre said an increase in lot coverage from 30 percent to 40 percent would not radically change the character of the city.

Councilman David Kurkowski was also interested in seeing the effect of increasing lot coverage to 40 percent on some properties. Kurkowski said two weeks prior the point had been

made at the city council meeting that the proposed ordinance would prevent the vast majority of property owners from having pools in Cape May.

"We don't want to do that," Kurkowski said.

"We don't want this ordinance in any way, shape or form to prohibit pools," Favre said.

Favre added that the ordinance would, however, restrict the size of some pools.

Resident Jackie Speck urged council to include pools in lot coverage, which the ordinance does, saying pools reduce green areas and eliminate trees.

Ordinance 195-2009 was passed 4-0 on introduction and is scheduled for a second reading and public hearing on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in City Hall.



Scarecrow winners

Official scarecrow judge, Terri Swain, presented Boy Scout Troop 84 with the Judge's Choice Award for winning the annual scarecrow contest at the Emlen Physick Estate. Life Scouts Graham Neville, Nathan Rovira, Chase Bader, Paul Mullock, and potential recruit, Tom Doherty and Scout Master Bill Bader gift certificates for two large pizzas. The scouts won Judge's Choice for their scarecrow titled, "This scout spent too much time in the woods!"

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