

# Point

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## Cape May Point.

Next on the agenda was the public portion of the meeting, which produced lively comments from local residents. One topic focused on the clearing of debris around Lake Lily, initiated by a resident who lives nearby and his concern that his volunteer work there might be causing complaints, since the area is public property. It was decided to refer this to the Public Works department for clarification. Another question arose about construction of a walkway deck at the end of Lighthouse and Lincoln Avenues, including the request for a beach entrance there.

One longtime resident offered that some twenty years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers had required the borough to remove that entrance, although the construction of a "sunrise deck" there is acceptable and planned.

This topic brought up con-

siderable public comment about beach replenishment, both in Cape May Point and other shore communities, causing one resident to remind the Board that "the sea will move the sand whenever it wants to!"

Some residents spoke against the project, asking whether the current plans could be modified. The board, while sympathetic to residents' concerns, suggested that having sixteen foot dunes along the beaches was considered a workable, albeit temporary, measure that would provide adequate hurricane protection. Board members also expressed concern that it might be difficult and probably imprudent for them to request changes be made to a sand movement project already in progress, especially given the uncertain economic times.

Another attendee raised the importance of educating newer residents to the factors that determine the location of

swimming beaches "by Mother Nature", offering to post some slides and stories on the borough's website and to include this data in a community newsletter. The last question on this topic concerned the dunes and extent of erosion near the St. Mary's side of the state park beach, as well as the impact of wave action and reefs designed to mitigate storm surge damage. The commissioners said there are no immediate plans to make changes here. Commissioner Nietubicz concluded the evening's discussion on this topic by saying that the primary storm damage expected in a class one or class two hurricane would most likely be flooding from rainwater, adding that in the event of a class three hurricane, residents might want to "get out of town!". Clearly, this topic will be discussed at future meetings as it is a complicated and perplexing one for the commissioners and residents alike.



Janice E. Brown/Cape May Star and Wave

## Community Planning Month

Cape May Point Mayor Schupp, center, issued a proclamation designating October as "Community Planning Month" with Commissioners Anita VanHeesyk, left, and Joe Nietubicz, right, at last week's meeting.

# Promise

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tain a question on the Convention Hall project reading, "Shall bond ordinance 161-2008, finally adopted Aug. 19, 2008, titled 'Bond Ordinance Providing for the Construction of a New Convention Hall Facility in

and by the City of Cape May, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, Appropriating \$10,500,000 Therefor and Authorizing the issuance of \$10,500,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance part of the Cost Thereof be adopted?"

A yes vote would approve the bond ordinance and permit the financing for the project to go forward. A "no" vote would halt the funding needed to build a new Convention Hall.

# Food

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pleas to the schools. The following Monday there were 14 requests for food from the pantry.

The Saint Barnabas food pantry can only handle non-perishable food items because they do not have freezer space. They have been buying some bread and putting it in their only freezer, handing it out with peanut butter and jelly. Pannelli said they put together an essential bag, which comes with toothpaste, a toothbrush, toilet paper, tuna fish, a vegetable item, one starch item and a can of corned beef or Spam. The package might also contain a snack item such as granola bars or fruit rollups.

They offer a choice between the peanut butter and jelly or spaghetti sauce and pasta.

"It's not like they get a large quantity of food; they get about a week's worth of food, maybe," Pannelli said. "But helping is helping."

Pannelli said because the food pantry is operated in

cooperation with the United Way and FEMA, they are required to ask for a current utility bill or rent receipt to show they are township residents.

"We're not looking to see if you are paid up, but just to show you live here," she said.

She said the entire township is eligible, including the Diamond Beach and Shawcrest areas.

They also require a photo identification and social security number. Pannelli said the social security number is only kept for cross referencing in the event the pantry is audited. Some people may visit more than one institution offering a food pantry.

According to Evelyn Benton with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, they provide food to various food pantries in Cape May County, including the Coalition against Rape and Abuse in Cape May Court House, the Holy Redeemer Visiting

Nurses in Swainton, Bethel Commandment Church in Whitesboro, Saint Vincent DePaul in Woodbine, Cape Human Resources in Wildwood and the Ocean City Community Cupboard. Benton said the need is growing in the entire three county area served by the Community Food Bank. She said in 2006 they distributed 380,000 pounds of food in Cape May County alone. In 2007, that figure rose to 462,000 pounds of food.

The Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene is currently not part of that network, collecting food mainly through donations from church members. However, they frequently get referrals from Cape May County Social Services and the schools.

"We're extremely busy right now," Lori Sockriter said.

Sockriter works in the church office and deals with the food pantry and the Angel Food Ministries program,

which makes food available at a reduced cost.

"In the past month we've been really busy. A lot of people just seem to have fallen on hard times. A lot of people seem to be out of work," she said. "People are struggling financially, they're losing homes...I've heard a lot of stories."

Sockriter said they don't ask about people's economic conditions, people just offer their stories of hardships.

"A lot of people are referred through social services, meaning they went and applied for food stamps. Until their card comes in they come to the church," Sockriter said.

People can come to the church on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. People do not have to show a need or proof of residency. Sockriter said they take people at their word that they need help. She said they usually let people pick what they want from their pantry,

and generally they would fill four grocery bags for a family of four.

"A week's supply is standard rule of thumb," she said.

They do record the person's name, address and telephone number, and they try to limit the visits to once per month. Sockriter said much of the food is donated by church members, but they also receive some help from the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church. A lot of congregation members donate on a regular basis, but they are also having a food drive during the week Oct 26 to Nov. 2.

Sockriter said the church normally provides people with information about the Angel Food Ministries, which provides about a two-week supply of food for \$30. Information about either the food pantry or Angel Food Ministries is available by calling 609-886-6196.

Benton said besides the Food Bank or other local food pantries, people can dial

"211" for a statewide non-emergency information line, and they can be referred to local resources in the area for help with rent, food, domestic violence, drug addiction and other problems.

Benton said all the emergency feeding organizations are "going crazy."

"We're coming into our busiest season and we're having a tough time. The poor have been struggling for a long time, but this (time) is extremely difficult. The Food Bank in Egg Harbor Township had its busiest day two weeks ago," she said.

In Cape May, the First Presbyterian Church operates its Food Closet twice a month on Fridays from 9-10:30 a.m. The next one will be Oct. 24. During Thanksgiving week the Food Closet will open on Monday, Nov. 24.

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## Notice to City of Cape May Water Customers...

All water mains serving the City of Cape May will be "flushed" to remove build up of rust and sediment in the pipes, thereby improving water quality, between Monday, October 20 & Wednesday, November 5, 7 am to 4 pm as shown below. While flushing does not cut off the supply of water, it does "stir up" rust. Customers should draw water for essential use before flushing in your area.

1. Mon. & Tues., Oct. 20 & 21: West of Perry
2. Wed., Oct 22: North of Mall, Perry to Jefferson
3. Thurs. & Fri. Oct. 23 & 24: South of Mall Perry to Jefferson
4. Mon. & Tues., Oct. 27 & Oct. 28 Jefferson to Madison

5. Wednesday, Oct. 29: North of Michigan, Indiana and Massachusetts Avenues.

6. Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 30 & 31: North of Cape May Avenue
7. Mon. & Tues., Nov. 3 & 5: South of Cape May Avenue



Scheduled by David A. Carrick, Water/Sewer Superintendent

Questions ? Dial 884-9575 or 884-9577

