

Bike committee distributing thousands of safety tags

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has been distributing thousands of bike safety tags to rental shops and other businesses.

During a meeting July 25, member Gus Mosso said the committee has received 8,400 bike safety tags from the state. He said he was not certain if the state would print any additional tags.

Mosso said he has distributed 5,000 bike safety tags at the Welcome Center,

Sturdy Savings Bank, in a Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities welcome package and at the city library branch.

The Kiwanis Club is taking 2,100 tags. Committee member Bob Morris said tags would be distributed during the police department's National Night Out on Aug. 7 at Convention Hall, where the Kiwanis will have a table as part of its "Bike at night, have a light" program.

Mosso said bike safety tags have not been distributed to hotels or bed and

breakfast inns. He said he would save some tags to replenish bicycle rental shops.

Committee member Evelyn Lovitz asked if real estate brokers could be contacted to distribute the tags to rental homes. City Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks said real estate brokers could be invited to the committee's meeting Aug. 22.

Committee member Terry DiUbaldo said eight large bike racks are available at the Public Works yard. She also suggested stenciled signs on roadways to indi-

cate shared bike lanes. Morris asked if the dirt road off Park Boulevard that leads to Canning House Lane could be made available to bicycles as an alternative to Broadway. DiUbaldo said she uses a roundabout route to get to the beach on her bike.

"It's horrendous to legally cross Lafayette Street on a bike in all of town," she said.

Hendricks said the city's Seawall and Promenade Committee is trying to determine how wide bike lanes should be if the city extends the Promenade and includes

a dedicated bike lane.

DiUbaldo said bike lanes in streets are normally 4 feet wide. She said a bike path right next to benches on the Promenade would not be a good idea and if the path were placed on the ocean side, a railing would be necessary.

A member of the Promenade committee told her the ideal width for two bike lanes would be 10 feet. She said a two-way bike lane could be created in the middle of the Promenade because it would have a center line and a total width of 15

to 20 feet for multiple uses.

Murray said an extension of the Promenade would be very, very expensive. He suggested inviting Police Chief Tony Marino to the committee's meeting Aug. 8 to talk about enforcement of bike regulations as well as inviting grant writer Jim Rutala to the committee's Sept. 5 meeting.

Lovitz said while the county had funds available for capital projects, it would not fund planning. Murray asked to invite the new county engineer to the committee's Sept. 19 meeting.

Hurricanes have East Coast in crosshairs

Continued from Page A1

track the storms as opposed to systems that develop off the coast of Africa.

Factors in forecasting include how long the storm will take to intensify and what mechanisms are driving the hurricane, he said.

Pittman is predicting 11 to 14 named storms with five to eight storms becoming hurricanes. He is predicting one to three hurricanes of Category 4 or greater in strength.

The 2017 season produced six major hurricanes, some of which were record-breaking, Pittman said.

NBC 10 meteorologist Steve Sosna said 2017 was a wakeup year from a quiet period, with 23 storms that made landfall.

"It was the seventh-most-active season since 1851," he said.

The season had 17 named storms, 10 hurricanes and



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

NBC 10 meteorologist Steve Sosna said hurricane forecasting is better than ever, with unmanned drones providing better data.

six major hurricanes. Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico as a Category 4, Sosna said. It recorded

the lowest barometric pressure on record for the eastern Caribbean.

He said Hurricane Sandy came to land with a trajectory never before seen. Sosna was working in television in New York at that time and noted the mayor of New York City downplayed its potential impact on the city.

Last year's Hurricane Irma was catastrophic but could have been far more severe for South Florida, Sosna said. A slight jog along the northern Cuba coastline caused a slight weakening as the storm interacted with mountains, he said.

A new satellite, GOES16,



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

SNJ meteorologist Nor'easter Nick Pittman hosted the conference. "I'm more concerned about tropical development closer to the continental United States than I was last year," he said.

is collecting and sending data each minute.

"We're getting better data and flying unmanned drones 60,000 feet in the atmosphere now, so your hurricane forecasts are going to get better and better," Sosna said. "Last year, they were spot on."

Mike Favetta, former News 12 meteorologist and owner of Weather Prep, said the tracks and plots seen on television in hurricane forecasts, including the "cone of uncertainty," are created by a team of scientists at the National Hurricane Center.

He said no matter how good a hurricane warning is three to five days from landfall, last-minute track jumps that bring the eye 50 to 100 miles north can completely change where evacuations are needed and the worst part of the storm

will hit, he said.

"New research that's ongoing is rapid intensification at the very last few hours before the eye makes landfall. We see this big burst of energy and that really makes for a much stronger hurricane, something that happened with Hurricane Harvey," Favetta said.

Press of Atlantic City meteorologist Joe Martucci said 231,956 federal flood insurance policies are in effect in New Jersey, the fifth most in the nation. He said coastal tidal flooding has been on the increase. Both Stone Harbor and Atlantic City see 30 tidal flooding events per year, up from three per year from 1950 to 1969.

Of all hurricanes in recorded history within 100 miles of Stone Harbor, nine have been Category 1

storms, two Category 2 and one Category 3, Martucci said.

"On average, we see a hurricane in a return interval of once every 20 years in South Jersey, taking into account that technically Sandy was not a hurricane when it made landfall just around Brigantine," he said.

Jim Eberwine, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service office in Mount Holly for 38 years, now retired, said it takes 45 hours to evacuate Cape May County. He noted the county had a voluntary evacuation for Hurricane Gloria in 1985. A mandatory evacuation of the county was ordered for Hurricane Irene in 2011, Eberwine said.

Barrier islands were evacuated for Hurricane Sandy in 2012. He noted 375,000 people evacuated in New York City, the first time the Big Apple ever evacuated.

"If New York City was to get a Category 3 moving similar to what Sandy did, picture 21 feet of water at JFK Airport," Eberwine said. "Where are you going to evacuate 24 million people to?"

He said in that scenario, New York City could have a death toll in the hundreds of thousands. Eberwine said wherever the coastline makes a 90-degree angle, the storm surge is the highest.

He said a Rutgers University study showed the New Jersey shore is adept at evacuating because it does so each Sunday afternoon during the summer with a weekly exodus of visitors.

TIDES : Aug. 1-8, 2018				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	11:41	11:51	5:23	5:29
2		12:21	6:00	6:16
3	12:32	1:07	6:40	7:10
4	1:20	2:00	7:27	8:12
5	2:17	3:01	8:21	9:19
6	3:23	4:05	9:20	10:26
7	4:32	5:08	10:23	11:30
8	5:39	6:09	11:24	

MOON PHASES
Last quarter, Aug. 4 • new moon, Aug. 11



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Villas man

Continued from Page A1

tor's Office and detectives from the Lower Township Police Department.

An autopsy conducted by the Southern Regional Medical Examiner on July 25 ruled there were no signs of foul play. Zenglin's manner

of death was listed as "pending toxicology" reports.

"At this time, Prosecutor Sutherland and Chief Mastriana want to assure the public that there is no reason to be alarmed of any danger in the surrounding area of the incident, and as more details evolve, further information will be released to the public," the release stated.

Authorities said it is an ongoing investigation. Anyone who has information concerning the incident are urged to contact the Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135 or Lower Township Police Department at (609) 886-1619. Anonymous tips may be made through the Cape May County Sheriff's Tip Line at cmcsheff.net (click on anonymous tip).

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