

Lower buys wetlands credits for Roseann project

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved purchasing wetland-mitigation credits to compensate for work to be done in the Roseann Avenue project that will disturb wetlands in North Cape May to reduce flooding in

the area.

During a meeting Sept. 8, council approved a contract with Evergreen Environmental LLC, of Wayne, Pa., the owner of Evergreen Abbot Creek Mitigation Bank located on 143 acres along Abbot Creek in Fairfield Township for a 0.12 wetland-mitigation credit at a cost of \$6,000.

The bank sells wetland credits to provide compensatory mitigation for the disturbance of wetlands during construction, according to a purchase agreement with Evergreen Environmental. The township has received a Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) and a Coastal Wetlands permit. The use

of wetlands credits satisfies conditions for the permits. Purchase of the credits has been approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

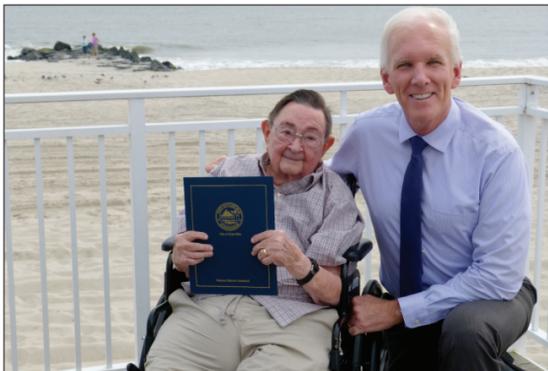
According to the DEP, a mitigation bank credit purchase means buying a designated number of wetland credits from an appropriate bank that has

already successfully established wetlands of the same type as those that were affected. Bank credits are usually purchased from a primary bank at a 1:1 ratio. For each acre of impact, one credit must be purchased.

Council passed a \$4.7 million bond in 2016 to provide for drainage and

storm water improvements and road reconstruction to Roseann Avenue and the Bayshore Estates area. The project will include a pump station to increase drainage flow into Cox Hall Creek.

Residents of Roseann Avenue have been experiencing flooding problems since 1985.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Citizen for a Day

Mayor Chuck Lear declared Dr. William Boyd a 'Cape May citizen for a day' on Sept. 22. Boyd grew up in Lebanon, Pa., and vacationed in Cape May. He practiced medicine in Harrisburg and enjoyed searching for Cape May diamonds and relished sitting in a rocking chair on a Cape May porch and watching dolphins.

Abandoned boats

Continued from Page A1

enough private dollars to raise the boat. Our goal is to have no public dollars at all go into the funding of this," he said.

Elliott said the Coast Guard placed a collar on the Nor'easter, a 50-foot vessel with inboard motors, floated it and drained it of oil and fuel. He said the boat sank

again in a storm. The boat's owner is dead, Elliott said.

He said initially the boat may have been able to be removed by Sea Tow at an estimated cost of \$1,000, but after sitting on the bottom for three years, the cost is now estimated at \$25,000 due to the need of a barge and crane.

"It takes a village to raise a boat," Elliott said.

Garden creates cottage atmosphere at water tower

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A building housing telephone company equipment was surrounded by little more than weeds in the shadow of the city's water tower last winter, but it has been transformed to resemble a cottage following the planting of a garden.

City officials, members of the Garden Club of Cape May and the Cape May Environmental Commission and the public attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 21 at the Water Tower Garden at Columbia and Madison avenues.

Phase one of the Water Tower Beautification Project, funded jointly by the Garden Club, the city of Cape May, the Cape May Environmental Commission and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), was presented to the public.

A ribbon was cut by Judy King of the garden club and Heather Bruno of the environmental commission. King said inspiration for the garden began with a trip to the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood.

"The gardens were magical, filled with lovely flowers and herbs," she said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Judy King of the Garden Club of Cape May and Heather Bruno of the Cape May Environmental Commission cut the ribbon on the Water Tower Garden at Columbia and Madison avenues. Below, people peruse the plantings.

King said a committee of the Garden Club began working on the project with the Environmental Commission coming on board as a partner. The Environmental Commission was awarded an open space grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Com-

missions.

"The work began, countless hours and volunteers as well as dedicated city employees came together to create this garden," she said.

The majority of the plants were chosen with the purpose of attracting butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators, according to King.

Plants include cream puff Shasta daisy, hello yellow butterfly weed, petite delight bee balm, winterberry combo holly, Chesapeake Japanese holly, northern bayberry and flowering dogwood.

"The garden club's keen eye, green thumb and sense of beauty continue to benefit the city's neighborhoods," Mayor Chuck Lear said.

If you have just 10 hours a month to volunteer, you can be this child's advocate, champion and hope for a brighter future. Find out how.

Information Session Sept. 28
12pm or 5:30pm at the CASA office
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