

# THE *MANTOLOKING SHORE PROTECTION*

# REPORTER

## **A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GEORGE C. NEBEL**

**M**antoloking must contend with the threat of erosion and storm surge from hurricanes, northeasters, and rising sea level. Our natural shore protection has been seriously weakened and cannot withstand a major event.

The 1962 storm destroyed all our dunes and caused major structural damage. Thirty miles south, in Harvey Cedars on LBI, there were areas of 100 percent destruction and inlet formation. Mantoloking was fortunate when the US Army Corps of Engineers dredged the Intracoastal Waterway and pumped over 200,000 cu. yd. of sand on our beach in 1963.

Unfortunately, most of this sand was lost in the 1992 storm and we have been left with a classic unstable beach. Winter high tides routinely lap at our dunes. Even minor storms substantially erode much of our beach. The piping plovers have departed.

We have been fortunate not to have any major storms in our area since 1992. However, when they finally do come, storms are likely to be larger and more destructive. The damage done by Katrina along 70 miles of the Gulf coastline was almost 100 percent.

That is why your Mayor and Council have been working for more than ten years to effect the type of beach replenishment that has improved conditions and safety in Monmouth County and elsewhere in the country. The Army Corps of Engineers, which would do the actual beach replenishment work, has determined that \$20 million of damage to public infrastructure can be prevented by renourishing the Mantoloking beach. Beach replenishment would also protect more than \$500 million in privately owned land and \$250 million of private property improvements in the Borough, less than 50 percent of which is covered by flood insurance. In Mantoloking, whether you live on the ocean, the bay, or inland, your home is at risk.

Your Mayor and Council will not dismiss the threat or ignore the risk of loss. This is the first of a series of newsletters designed to inform Mantoloking residents and homeowners about the condition of our dunes and beaches, what is being done to improve and protect them, and what homeowners can do to contribute to this effort.

# MANTOLOKING'S BEACH PROTECTION PROJECT

## CURRENT BEACH CONDITIONS ...

Mantoloking retains the *Richard Stockton College Coastal Research Center* to monitor the condition of its beaches and recommend appropriate action to improve and protect them. The center's latest report says:

- Between December 2005 and December 2006, Mantoloking's beaches lost 12,000 cubic yards of sand.
- Storm activity during the fall and winter of 2006-2007 was limited, and a recent period of quiet weather, along with dune slope restoration using bulldozer harvested sand from the beach, has contributed to relatively stable beaches.
- Only 30 percent of oceanfront owners had installed new fencing on their bulldozed sand slopes and just three owners had new beach grass as of the October 2006 beach walk!

## ABOUT BEACH REPLENISHMENT ...

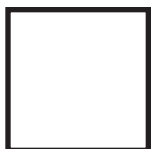
Mantoloking needs dunes large enough to withstand serious storm attack. The development of large dunes requires an adequate sand supply and beaches wide enough to protect the growing dunes from minor storm events.

Mantoloking's beach width on the best summer days approaches 125 feet, but storm activity each winter reduces this distance to 20 - 30 feet, and in three out of the past four winters has removed a portion of the dune itself. That is the reason the Borough has been encouraging the Army Corps of Engineers to plan for local beach replenishment and lobbying Congress to pay for the project.

A similar beach replenishment project was completed several years ago in Monmouth County and another was begun recently on nearby Long Beach Island. Plans for the *New Jersey Shore Protection - Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet* project were completed three years ago, but the project still awaits Congressional approval for construction.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Take a ride to Manasquan, Sea Girt, Spring Lake, Belmar, or Surf City to observe how successful a beach replenishment project can be.
- Take an active role in advancing Mantoloking's project by helping your neighbors appreciate its importance, whether they live on the ocean, the bay, or off the water.
- Write your Congressman and indicate how important it is to you and his many other constituents in Ocean County that the Water Resources Development Act be approved by Congress and signed by the President.



*The first report of the Mayor's Beach Replenishment Committee*