

Over 6 months ago the Borough of Mantoloking had its first press conference related to Super Storm Sandy. We had the press conference at the Ocean County Park on the west side of the bridge. Think about that for a minute.... we had a press conference and we could not even hold it in our own town. It was impossible--the Borough of Mantoloking was divided into 3 distinct sections. In this very spot, we would have been in standing in 12 feet of water with a clear view of the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, one of the unfortunate icons of Mantoloking and super-storm Sandy is going to be dismantled. Starting next week, another 50 of our homes will be demolished. Each and every one of those homes contains memories: birthday, celebrations, weddings, a summer barbecue, a baby's first steps... the list goes on and on. The home behind me included awards on the wall, a brightly decorated teenager's bedroom, memories of laughter in the pool, a dog that liked to jump in the bay and memories of cherished time spent with family and friends. New memories will be made, and although it is hard to fathom now, they will be just as important and lasting.

The one thing that we cannot forget is what happened to our community on October 29th. With the support of the State and the Federal Government, we have embarked on an ambitious plan to protect our community from future disaster. We are very close to obtaining the necessary easements needed for the Army Corps to put an enormous amount of sand on our beaches and our dunes. We hope that this project begins before year-end. We are also very fortunate to have a close working relationship with the State when it comes to providing the immediate protection that we need. We welcome Governor Christie and Commissioner Martin's support to help us devise a plan that includes an immediate emergency protective measure that will compliment the core of the replenished dune. This immediate protection needs to happen soon-- Not only does our community depend on it, those that use route 35 on a daily basis to get to and from work and school and those that use 35 to help rebuild the shore. Most importantly, an immediate protective measure will ensure that the barrier island continue to do its job-- protecting our neighbors and properties to the West.

Six months ago, I said, "make no mistake, Mantoloking will be back." We are getting there. We

are making incredible progress and incredible progress will continue to be made. We are proud to be working with all of our partners to play our part in restoring the Shore. In particular, I would like to thank the Commissioner and his team for being committed to helping not only Mantoloking, but each and every community along the coast.

As a token of our appreciation for the State's significant support, I would like to present Commissioner Martin with a photograph taken by a very talented local photographer named Jo Hendley. We hope that with the State's support we will never witness a house in the Bay again.

Thank you.