



Search Recent News Archives Web for Go

Welcome Guest Sign Up | Sign In | Member Benefits

Philly.com Today's Inquirer Today's Daily News

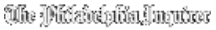
[Inquirer Homepage >](#)

Monday, Mar 19, 2007

Posted on Mon, Mar. 19, 2007 [email this](#) [print this](#) [reprint or license this](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

- Jobs
- Cars
- Real Estate
- Apartments
- Marketplace



- Front Page
- World & Nation
- Local & Region
- Inquirer Columnists
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Business
- Health & Science
- Opinion & Editorial
- Daily Magazine
- Home & Design
- Restaurants & Food
- Weekend
- Image
- Arts & Entertainment
- Currents
- Real Estate
- Travel
- Neighbors
- Photography
- Special Reports
- Clearing the Record
- About the Philadelphia Inquirer

Philly.com

- News
- Business & Money
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Arts & Entertainment
- Restaurants & Food
- Podcasts
- Blogs
- Q&A
- Photos
- Home & Design
- Health & Science
- Education
- Travel
- Columnists
- Opinion
- Comics & Games
- Horoscopes
- Philly Women
- About Philly.com

ONLINE EXTRAS

Traffic reports

Avalon's flood plan is declared 'amazing'

It stands nearly alone among coastal towns prepared so well, FEMA says. The designation cuts insurance costs.

By Jacqueline L. Urgo
Inquirer Staff Writer

AVALON, N.J. - With at least one Federal Emergency Management Agency official calling it "an amazing achievement," officials today will declare this Cape May County Shore town one of America's few coastal communities that are prepared for flooding.

The Class 6 FEMA designation will save Avalon property owners as much as 20 percent on flood insurance - about \$114 a year for the typical homeowner. Borough taxpayers also will save about \$590,000 in premiums to insure the town against rising waters, officials said.

"It is an amazing achievement, considering it's the only coastal town north of Nags Head, N.C., all the way up to Maine to have done this," FEMA spokeswoman Barbara Lynch said.

Only about 8 percent of coast towns have earned FEMA's flood-readiness approval.

Today's announcement comes less than two weeks after the 45th anniversary of the March 1962 storm that brought devastation and death from severe flooding to Jersey Shore barrier islands.

Lynch said Avalon obtained the coveted designation by going "over and above" to minimize its risk of flooding, according to FEMA's rating system for flood management plans.

Avalon Mayor Martin Pagliughi said town officials had spent a decade aggressively reworking Avalon's flood management plan to minimize risk.

"Avalon has spent its own tax money to prepare for floods and storms over the past 10 years because we can't expect the federal government to bail us out in the future," Pagliughi said.

He said the town had for years taken seriously the threat of global warming and rising sea level in its planning.

Avalon's new plan includes updated construction regulations that require building houses on pilings, preserving about 1,430 acres in flood-prone areas, a system for quickly identifying impending flood threats, and better ways to communicate with the public.

Of the 1,049 towns in the United States participating in National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, 80 have achieved the Class 6 rating, Lynch said.

"If we can do this on a barrier island sitting three miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, there's no reason why other coastal communities can't achieve the same result," said Harry deButts, the borough's emergency management coordinator and director of public works.

DeButts said the reduction in flood insurance rates for Avalon homeowners was "virtually unheard of."

Contact staff writer Jacqueline L. Urgo at 609-823-9629 or jurgo@phillynews.com.

MOST VIEWED

UPDATED 2:00 PM EDT

- Avalon's flood plan is declared 'amazing'
- Codey returned pay for time off
- Once left to starve, brothers now thrive
- A lesson learned: W. Phila. charter making the score
- Travelers wrest free from grip of storm

LATEST STORIES

- Codey returned pay for time off - 03/19/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Elisa Ung
- Travelers wrest free from grip of storm - 03/19/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Michael Vitez
- A lesson learned: W. Phila. charter making the score - 03/19/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Martha Woodall
- Neutral territory - for the children's sake - 03/19/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Lini S. Kadaba and Kathleen Brady Shea
- Once left to starve, brothers now thrive - 03/18/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Jan Heffler
- Brass, sax players lose an unrivaled craftsman - 03/18/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Julie Stoiber
- Old Pa. death sentences getting new day in court - 03/18/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Emilie Lounsberry
- CCP strike is over a tiny amount - or not - 03/17/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By David O'Reilly
- Judges reject most challenges to city candidates - 03/17/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Michael Currie Schaffer
- 1st-degree felony, 5th-grade defendant - 03/18/2007 12:00 AM EDT
By Larry King