

Same Idea, Different Spot

Sea Isle Considers Amusements Under Bridge

By NICK COLIN

SEA ISLE CITY — Architect Carmen LaRosa went before the board of commissioners, earlier this year, to propose an amusement park on a piece of city-owned land that was once a landfill.

Atlantic Piers Amusement, the same company that owns the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, would have opened the former landfill,

on Landis Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, but the idea fell through.

"The city had put together the RFP (request for proposal) information and the more I spoke with people, the more it seemed like the project was going to take forever," said LaRosa.

LaRosa was back before the commission at the Oct. 24 meeting with a similar proposal at a different lo-

cation.

The new site plan proposes the construction of a platform level, about 10 feet over the existing parking lot, which would be placed beneath the JFK Boulevard Bridge.

The platform wouldn't extend past the bottom of the bridge and would act as the surface for a Steel Pier-like amusement park.

"It wouldn't look overbearing, but you'd be able to see it on the way into the city," explained LaRosa.

LaRosa said the city could lease out the approximate 100,000 square foot space and that there aren't any other available spaces in the city for such a project.

"The city would have to put together an RFP and get the approval of Green Acres," said LaRosa, citing another step that would have to be taken.

"It's a big idea. It'd have to be done as a public proposal," he said.

According to LaRosa, the project is likely to cost \$1-\$2 million by the end of development.

Those who attended the commissioners' meeting eagerly looked over the site plan and related images.

"Every one seems to be in favor, including the com-

missioners, and they many said that they hoped we would pursue it," added LaRosa.

Residents, however, were not pleased with the manner in which LaRosa presented the idea, specifically because his presentation was not announced as part of the meeting's agenda.

"If they're actively seeking development, the proposal should be publicly announced so that all comers are given an equal opportunity," said Tom Henry, president of the Sea Isle City Taxpayers' Association.

"If they were to get a successful bid, the city could be challenged on the grounds of favoritism," he added.

Commissioner James Iannone responded to Henry's accusation by explaining that the board has an "open public process" in which anyone is allowed to present a proposal before the board.

LaRosa commented later that he had asked for the presentation to be put on the agenda.

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Harvest Fest Will Be Nov. 4

By AL CAMPBELL

COURT HOUSE — Middle Township's Olde Tyme Harvest Festival will be held Nov. 4, postponed due to rain Oct. 28.

The popular event was cancelled Oct. 27 when rain was predicted throughout Saturday. Rain and wind drenched the area until about midday, then the sun broke through, too late to change the event.

According to Gregg Arnold, Middle Township recreation director, the festival will follow the same schedule as originally planned, which means it will start at 10 a.m. and

end at 5 p.m.

Mechanic Street will be closed to vehicular traffic for the duration.

Amusements will be located in the parking lot behind the courthouse, and a food court will be set up in the municipal parking lot.

Groups will perform on the steps of the county library throughout the day.

They include: Sweet Adelines, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Dance Dynamics, noon-12:45 p.m., Christ Gospel Church Choir, 1-1:45 p.m., Hamer School of Karate, 2-2:45 p.m., Ken Northridge Magic Show, 3-3:30 p.m., Kids' costume contest 3:30-4:15 p.m.