

Towns Get Fair Share of County Pie

By CHRISTINE COTE

CREST HAVEN — The money's there for this year's sharing of the wealth by freeholders by the passage of a \$2 million bond ordinance May 20 to give each municipality funds to finance a local project.

With the 2007 Municipal Public Improvements Joint Venture Program, it is the second year freeholders are giving county towns a direct return on some of the money raised through county taxes.

Like last year the amount of funds are based on each town's ratable base, and each was required to submit a request with a minimum set at \$50,000. Last year \$3.8 million was distributed, this year the bond was passed to fund the program.

Eligible programs include those that improve local infrastructure, public facilities equipment and services to preserve the culture and quality of life for residents, or projects

that will promote and attract the tourism industry and support the county's economy to benefit all.

Each town is ranked based on its ratable base, and is listed below ranked one to 16, along with amount each municipality will receive for what project, with the amount received last year in parentheses:

- Avalon: \$399,544 for renovation to its Public Safety Complex at 3088 Dune Drive (\$653,081).

- Ocean City: \$376,142 improvements a number of city parks and downtown streetscape (\$928,920).

- Stone Harbor: \$168,293 for streetscape of the 200 block of 96th Street (\$426,416).

- Sea Isle City: \$166,797 to construct a lighting system for eight new tennis courts and two new basketball courts at Dealy Field (\$418,055).

- North Wildwood: \$159,275 to reconstruct Central Avenue between 11th and 16th streets and 23rd and 26th streets

(\$94,996).

- Upper Township: \$106,659 to purchase equipment (\$106,584).

- Cape May City: \$102,109 for restoration of a public park at Harbor Cove on Cape May Harbor (\$252,374).

- Wildwood: \$82,750 for ramps and wooden walkways to the beach and benches for the Boardwalk (\$206,184).

- Lower Township: \$71,313 to upgrade fire suppression systems at several buildings (\$178,602).

- Wildwood Crest: \$63,908 for revitalization and new equipment for Scoop Taylor Park Playground (\$156,732).

- Middle Township: \$53,211 to construct a concession stand at the Clarence Davies Recreation complex; (\$128,506).

- Dennis Township: \$50,000 reconstruction and refinishing of tennis court and other work at recreation complex (\$50,000).

- West Cape May: \$50,000 to install 45 solar

panels at Borough Hall (\$50,000).

- Cape May Point: \$50,000 for restoration of a 250,000-gallon water storage tank on Sunset Boulevard (\$50,000).

- West Wildwood: \$50,000 to construct a new fishing pier at Arlon Avenue and the Bay (\$50,000).

- Woodbine: \$50,000 to apply to the ongoing renovations to its school and new community gym (\$50,000).

Contact Cote at (609) 886-8600 Ext 31 or: ccote@cmherald.com