

FEMA Officials to Answer

Homeowner's Questions in Meeting

VILLAS- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives will be available to meet with the public Oct. 18 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lower Township Hall, 2600 Bayshore Rd., Villas.

Representing FEMA will be Mark Rollins and Patrick Holloway, risk map outreach specialists, Curtis Smith, an engineer with risk assessment mapping planning partners, Jack Jennings, a NFIP insurance specialist, Ken Spedding, a NFIP flood plain manager and Jillian Stokley, a hazard mitigation specialist.

At a Sept. 18 meeting, FEMA staffers explained revisions to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) and how it is affecting the community in conjunction with Hurricane Sandy and the Bigger-Waters Act.

The Bigger-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 will phase out flood insurance subsidies for certain properties including second homes, businesses, and homes substantially damaged or improved. The legislation will increase premiums by 25% per year on second homes until reaching their actuarial cost.

Rollins said the meeting is being held in Lower Township because oceanside towns in the county had Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps as early as January this year. Bayside towns did not receive that information, he said.

FEMA representatives will be available to help homeowners locate their home on flood zone maps. Those with questions about their designated zone may speak with a FEMA representative.

“Middle Township and Lower Township officials are fighting the fight for the people along Delaware Bay that have been placed in “V” zones,” said Lower Township Manager Mike Voll. “They need justification why they’ve been put in “V” zones.”