

Long-term erosion fix urged

■ **Activist calls** for pols to weigh climate change effects

■ **Says coastal areas** to be hard-hit by rising sea levels

BY JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA
jeanpaul.salamanca@newsday.com

Local elected officials need to find long-term solutions to help protect Long Island's coastal communities from beach erosion, an environmental advocate said yesterday.

Mastic Beach, the Dune Road area in Westhampton and downtown Montauk will be some of the hardest-hit areas by rising sea levels and climate change, and authorities must take steps to protect them, even if those decisions are politically unpopular.

That's what Kevin McAllister, founder and president of Sag Harbor-based environmental group Defend H2O, told residents and environmental groups at the South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center in Bridgehampton.

Local officials need to "break that shackle" of making safe polit-



Kevin McAllister, head of Defend H2O, urged politicians to "break that shackle" of safe political projects in East End, South Shore communities.

ical moves and "start making [long-term] decisions about Dune Road and downtown Montauk and Mastic Beach," McAllister said.

One proposed project that may not be taking a longer-term view is the \$1.16 billion Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point project, said McAllister, a longtime consultant on coastal management.

The project, which would fund dredging and shoreline

projects along 83 miles of ocean and bay shorelines, is expected to begin in 2018.

McAllister has spoken at several town meetings in Montauk and Southampton regarding the controversial project, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is handling.

At a public hearing earlier this month, Montauk residents and local legislators told Army Corps officials that the proposed project is not enough to solve

the problems of beach erosion and storm protection in the downtown Montauk area.

McAllister said he was not impressed with how the Army Corps conducted similar projects in South Florida.

"This is just another job for them and then they cut and run," he said, "We have to invest in a proper approach."

McAllister said that instead of dredging, removing some of the seasonal hotels near the shoreline and bringing in native beach sand would be a better long-term solution to restoring the beach area's natural systems and protecting Montauk's downtown area from further erosion.

The Army Corps wasn't immediately available for comment. Sara Davison, executive director of the Wainscott-based environmental nonprofit Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, said more information needs to be available for the public on what coastal erosion means for their communities.

Annie Hall, the foundation's vice president, echoed McAllister's push for thinking about the future: "Long-term problems need long-term solutions."

GORDON M. GRANT

Newsday

Long Island Office
235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY
11747-4250

On the Web
For a list of Newsday departments, their emails and telephone numbers, go to newsday.com/contact

For Reprints, Rights & Permissions
NewsdayReprints.com

Home Delivery
800-NEWSDAY
(800-639-7329)

Newsroom 631-843-2700

Place an Ad/Change an Ad
631-843-SOLD (7653)

Letters to the Editor
Email letters@newsday.com

CORRECTIONS

Newsday strives for the highest level of accuracy and fairness and is committed to promptly correcting errors. Readers can report problems or concerns about content in the paper or on Newsday.com by visiting newsday.com/corrections, calling 631-843-2700 or writing to 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747, Attention: Corrections.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1938 The radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired as part of "The Mercury Theater on the Air" on CBS. The broadcast, which employed a series of fake news reports about a Martian invasion, was said to have panicked some listeners.

1945 The U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

1961 The Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at 50 megatons.

1965 British model Jean Shrimpton scandalized onlookers by showing up for Victoria Derby Day at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Australia, in a white, sleeveless shift mini-dress that was hemmed four inches above her knees.

1974 Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire, known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

1985 Schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that carried her and six other crew members to their deaths in 1986.

IN BRIEF

LEVITTOWN

Woman with son, 8, faces DWI charge after crash

A Garden City Park woman was charged with driving while intoxicated after she was involved in a crash with her 8-year-old son in the backseat, police said.

Nassau County police said Christine Vitrano, 38, of Central Avenue, was driving east on Hempstead Turnpike in Levittown at 8:20 p.m. Friday when her car was involved in a crash with another vehicle going the same direction.

Investigators said they determined Vitrano was driving while intoxicated. She was arrested and charged under Leandra's Law, which makes it a felony to drive while intoxicated with a child under 16 in the car.

Other charges include aggravated driving while intoxicated with a child under 16, driving while ability impaired by drugs and endangering the

welfare of a child, police said.

There were no injuries, and Vitrano's son was released to a family member. Vitrano was arraigned yesterday at First District Court in Hempstead. She was held on \$5,000 cash or bond, according to online court records. — LAURA BLASEY

NASSAU COUNTY

Queens woman arrested in series of burglaries

A Queens woman was arrested Friday night in connection with a series of burglaries in Nassau County, police said.

Nassau police said Nicole Holzer, 20, of 78th Street, Middle Village, entered several homes and stole belongings from them in March.

On March 4, police said she and another robber took jewelry, cash and personal papers from a home on Dyckman Avenue in Garden City Park.

On March 21, police said Holzer and an accomplice entered a home on Lehrer Avenue in Elmont, taking jewelry, electronic equipment and cash. Police said that on the same day, Holzer and another



Nicole Holzer, 20, of Middle Village, Queens

thief also entered home on Wilson Boulevard in Mineola and took jewelry and cash.

Police identified Holzer after an investigation into the burglaries and arrested her Friday at her home.

Police said the other suspect has not been arrested and that the investigation is continuing.

Holzer was charged with three counts of second-degree burglary. She was scheduled to be arraigned yesterday at First District Court in Hempstead.

— LAURA BLASEY

NYPD

Fright at the opera

An opera lover sprinkling the ashes of his mentor last evening into the orchestra pit at the Metropolitan Opera prompted the evacuation of the theater while police probed the incident, NYPD officials said.

A man in formal dress approached the pit during the second intermission shortly after 5 p.m. and sprinkled powder from a bag on each side of the orchestra pit, police said at a news conference at Lincoln Center.

The Met canceled the rest of the matinee performance of "Guillaume Tell" and later canceled an evening performance of "L'Italiana in Algeri" while NYPD counterterrorism officials and the Department of Public Health tested the substance.

Witnesses in the audience told police the man had traveled from out of town to sprinkle the ashes. Police did not release the name of the man, and they said they did not expect to file criminal charges.

— JOHN ASBURY