

# Silver Lake restoration plan nearly ready

Improving water  
quality among  
project's priorities

BY ANDREW RICE  
THE COAST STAR

**BELMAR** — After nearly a year of research, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is completing its plan for the Silver Lake restoration and flood mitigation project, according to Dianne Veilleux, chairwoman of Belmar's Environmental Commission.

The Army Corps is expected to have the plans ready for September, which would make it about one year since the project was first earmarked for federal funding.

Last September, the borough and environmental commission received a \$1 million earmark from the federal government for a planned restoration of Silver Lake. U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-4) worked with borough officials at the federal level and a bill containing the restoration



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Belmar's Silver Lake during the town's annual seafood festival.

appropriations passed in September.

Before that bill was voted on by Congress, the borough council accepted a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for \$230,000 to help Belmar, working with the Army Corps, establish a long-term plan for Silver Lake that focused on environmental restoration, water quality improvement and overall flood mitigation.

The environmental commission and the Army Corps have made some progress over the past several months

since that funding was approved. According to Veilleux, the hope is that the Army Corps will have the plans ready for review around September.

The Army Corps will provide the town with several

plans to choose from to address the lake's problems. The \$1 million received from the federal government will go into the first part of that plan.

While not yet having a specific timeline on when each

facet of the plan will be carried out, or exact details, Veilleux did provide some details about what improvements are expected. These measures include reopening and restoring the lake's outfall pipe, which leads into the ocean. It also includes installing green infrastructure to provide a living shoreline; and filtering the present inflow pipes, which deposit storm runoff into the lake to help keep the lake clean.

The \$1 million from the federal government will not be enough to cover the whole project, which is expected to cost \$3.5 million total and take place over several years, according to Veilleux. The commission has been at work applying for other grants as well. The grant the town re-

ceived from the Army Corps of Engineers to help create the plan required a 50% match from the town, while the federal money for implementing the project required a 20% match. The town is obligated to spend about \$315,000 to fulfill the matching requirements of both grants.

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## PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember us, O Blessed Joseph. Aid us by your powerful intercession with your foster son, Jesus.

May your virgin spouse, Mary, the mother of Christ, be continually gracious toward us. Amen  
JMS



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