

Squan Sandy victim to be featured on 'This Old House'

Eight-episode series to premier on Oct. 3, will showcase Rita Gurry's rebuilding story

BY AMANDA STONE
THE COAST STAR

MANASQUAN — It took her nearly one year, but borough resident Rita Gurry was finally able to wake up in her own home this month after being displaced since last October when Hurricane Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore.

Ms. Gurry's East Main Street home, located just blocks from the beachfront, was substantially damaged when nearly three feet of water entered her home, ruining almost everything she owned.

When Ms. Gurry returned to her home just days after the storm, she said she knew almost instantly that instead of rebuilding the more than 70-year-old home, she wanted to demolish it and build a modular home in its place.

To do that, Ms. Gurry found contractor Anthony Zarrilli, owner of Zarrilli Homes in Brick Township, just weeks after the hurricane, and the two quickly began designing her new home.

Mr. Zarrilli developed and designed a 1,400-square-foot custom modular home for Ms. Gurry, complete with four bedrooms and two bathrooms, all situated on more than 30 pilings.

Ms. Gurry, who had just paid off her mortgage when Hurricane Sandy hit, has been paying for the project out of her own pocket, though she has applied for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A far cry from the way her home looked 10 months ago, Ms. Gurry's new, two-story home is again full of life and



COURTESY OF THIS OLD HOUSE

Rita Gurry, of Manasquan, recently moved into her new modular home on East Main Street. Ms. Gurry had to demolish her old home after it was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy last October. Ms. Gurry's rebuilding process will be featured on the television show "This Old House."

tchotchkes giving it a beach-home touch.

"It turned out better than I expected," Ms. Gurry said. "It's cheerful, open and bright."

Ms. Gurry said returning home is something she had been looking forward to for months. Since the hurricane, she had been staying with family in Manasquan.

"It feels so good to be back at home," Ms. Gurry said. "It is so nice to have my life back."

Upon moving into her home this month, Ms. Gurry received welcome baskets from her neighbors, and fellow Sandy victims, as well as the Manasquan Elks.

CHRONICLING HER STORY

In the midst of her rebuilding process, Ms. Gurry was approached by the popular home improvement television show, "This Old House," which sent crews to the Jersey Shore to follow three different families in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy for its series this year.

As the series developed, producers decided to stray from their typical season that focuses on one house from start to finish. This series will instead focus on three different homes and groups of homeowners to give viewers a better understanding of the realities of rebuilding across the Jersey Shore.

In addition to chronicling Ms. Gurry's story, the series will also showcase one family in Bay Head and another in Point Pleasant.

The series, which recently finished production, will premiere nationally on PBS on Oct. 3.

The production crew and those involved with each project attended a wrap party last Thursday night at the Wharfside Patio Bar and Restaurant in Point Pleasant Beach.

There, dozens were able to enjoy an evening full of celebration, blue skies and warm weather — a stark contrast from the night Hurricane Sandy struck last fall.

Those in attendance were also able to watch the first



COURTESY OF THIS OLD HOUSE

Members of the "This Old House" series, including master carpenter Norm Abram [from left], host Kevin O'Connor, and plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey [right], attended last Thursday's production wrap party at the Wharfside Patio Bar and Restaurant in Point Pleasant Beach. This year's "This Old House" series will feature three stories of homeowners rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, including Manasquan resident Rita Gurry.

episode of the eight-part series, which introduced each homeowner and the situation they were facing after the hurricane.

Kevin O'Connor, who has been the host of "This Old House" for 11 seasons and is a former resident of New Jersey who grew up in Maplewood, said when the idea of filming in New Jersey was brought up after Sandy, production was a little reluctant.

"We didn't know, collectively, if this was the right place for us at the right time," Mr. O'Connor said.

Mr. O'Connor continued, "There were a lot of ques-

tions in production and construction that you have to ask — can they do it, is the infrastructure there, is the story the right one to be told — you can imagine the questions that have to be answered."

Any reluctance of filming at the Jersey Shore, though, was quickly overcome.

"The thing that got us over those concerns was the Jersey can-do attitude," Mr. O'Connor said. "The commitment to rebuild and the optimism that we experienced in our first two trips swayed us to give it a try."

ABOUT THE SERIES

"This Old House: Jersey Shore" will premiere nationally on PBS on Oct. 3 and include a total of eight, 30-minute episodes highlighting each homeowner's story.

The episodes will include interviews with environmental experts, government officials, engineers and local builders to present a realistic portrayal of the recovery of the Shore.

The series will also highlight the recovery and rebuilding process of local communities across the Jersey Shore from Mantoloking to Long Beach Island, to Ocean Grove, to show all aspects of the communities as they rebuild. The series will showcase the work of local contractors, builders and architects.

Those interested in viewing the special can check where to view the series by visiting thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule or by checking their local listings at the start of the series' 34th national season.

Viewers will also be able to watch full episodes of "This Old House" Sundays at 7 p.m. after each show premieres at thisoldhouse.com/watch-TOH.

Amanda Stone covers Manasquan for The Coast Star. She can be reached at astone@thecoaststar.com or 732-223-0076 Ext. 23.

Troopers Assisting Troops set to host weekend of fun for soldiers

BY AMANDA STONE
THE COAST STAR

MANASQUAN — Seriously wounded veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan will be able to enjoy a weekend at the Jersey Shore as part of an annual benefit hosted by nonprofit Troopers Assisting Troops.

Troopers Assisting Troops is a grass roots, nonprofit group of retired and active New Jersey State Troopers and friends providing support to returning Wounded Warriors from the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dozens of veterans, mostly arriving from Fort Drum's 10th Mountain Division based outside of Watertown, N.Y., will arrive in the area this Friday and stay at the N.J. National Guard and State Police Training Facility and Barracks in Sea Girt, through Sunday.

On their way to Sea Girt, the veterans will travel down Broad Street in Manasquan, passing by both the high school and elementary school, where students are expected to again line the street with American flags and cheer on the troops as they drive by. The veterans are expected to drive past the schools around 1:45 p.m.

While here, the veterans will be able to watch live performances by musicians and comedians, go deep sea fishing and attend presentations,

among other activities, according to Sean Gleason, a Manasquan resident and member of Troopers Assisting Troops.

The weekend's events will come to an end Sunday with a breakfast provided by the Manasquan Elks.

Mr. Gleason said the community has been generous in

helping the nonprofit host the event each year.

"We cannot do this without the support of our local community," Mr. Gleason said.

To learn more about Troopers Assisting Troops, visit www.troopersassistingtroops.org.

"It's to show our appreciation to the community for supporting all of our programs throughout the year."

ERIK ERTLE, Recreation Director

Manasquan Rec to host beach picnic Saturday

BY AMANDA STONE
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MANASQUAN — Borough residents are invited to attend the Manasquan Recreation Commission's End of Summer Beach Picnic this Saturday.

The free event will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 14 at Main Beach.

There, the commission will provide grills, cooking utensils, condiments, birch beer, s'mores ingredients and paper goods while guests are asked to supply the rest.

Activities scheduled for this weekend's event include

face painting, temporary tattoos, a bounce house and beach campfire. Lifeguards will also be on duty during the beach picnic.

Live entertainment will be provided by DJ Jersey Joe.

Erik Ertle, director of the recreation commission, said the event serves as a way for the commission to give back to the community.

"It's to show our appreciation to the community for supporting all of our programs throughout the year," Mr. Ertle said.

There is no rain date scheduled for the beach picnic.

MANASQUAN BOE SAYS...

When asked why this multi-million dollar capital project is not going out to a referendum vote...

"I don't have a great answer for that other than it doesn't have to"

BOE Vice President, Mike Shelton

"There may be referendums in the future"

BOE President, Tom Bauer

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CONCERNED MANASQUAN TAXPAYERS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th at 7:00 P.M.

MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Paid for by Michelle LaSalla on behalf of numerous concerned Manasquan taxpayers, 44 Parker Ave., Manasquan NJ 08736

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