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Irene cuts off access to Primehook

Residents have temporary route from neighboring Broadkill Beach

By Ron MacArthur

ronm@capegazette.com

Primehook Beach residents have short-term access to their homes, even though the rushing waters churned by Hurricane Irene cut off Prime Hook Road, the only

public access. The damage left some 200 homeowners unable to reach their properties for two days.

The state will pay Sam Burke \$500 a day for a temporary 30-day easement for use of his private road, which connects Broadkill to Primehook Beach.

The agreement allows 24-hour access for residents, their guests and critical services. No construction vehicles other than vans and pickup trucks will be allowed into the area. DelDOT staff will monitor the road and keep a log of those entering and exiting via the private road, DelDOT spokeswoman Tina Shockley said.

Residents can use the temporary access road between North Bay Shore Drive and Wilkerson Road. Residents should take Route 1 to Broadkill Road to North Bay

Shore Drive. From North Bay Shore Drive residents should take the temporary road through to Wilkerson Road and beyond.

DelDOT is evaluating next steps for re-opening Prime Hook Road. Exactly what can be done and when repairs to the road can take place is an open question, said DelDOT's Mike Williams said. "We will have to balance safety versus cost versus the needs of the residents. The choice can't be made quickly," Williams said.

Williams said he couldn't begin to esti-

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DUNNINGS GET 'EXTREME' SURPRISE WITH SOUP RANCH



NICK ROTH PHOTO

THE DUNNING FAMILY, (l-r) Brooks, Ken, and Dale, waves to the crowd as they walk to the new Jusst Sooup kitchen with "Extreme Makeover" host Ty Pennington. Hundreds were on hand Aug. 31 for the big reveal of Dun-

ning's new Jusst Sooup Ministry on Route 9 at Coolspring. The makeover army faced several challenges during the week of the build, including an earthquake, Hurricane Irene and threat of tornadoes.

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

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SPROUTING CHEFS
Farm meets classroom
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Dunnings have a Soouper day

'Extreme' build reveal attracts hundreds to site

By Ron MacArthur
ronm@capegazette.com

Dale Dunning jumped with glee and spun around in circles when the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" bus moved to reveal the Jusst Sooup Ranch for the first time.

It took several minutes for her to settle down and speak with Ty Pennington, the star of the ABC television show. She, accompanied by husband Ken and son Brooks, then went on a tour of their new home.

Dunning thought the large yellow kitchen was her home. Little did she realize that behind the soup kitchen was a home for the couple and one for their son, as well as a courtyard, outdoor pavilion and garden – in all about 7,000 square feet of buildings completed in one week.

"They tricked me," she said during a press conference the next morning. For a lady who is seldom at a loss for words, she couldn't find the right ones to express her gratitude to all of the people who made her dream a

reality. "I can't fathom how the community has given back to us in such a mega-mega way," she said. Dunning had been operating her soup kitchen out of her own home for the past 12 years with limited space requiring her to wake up around 1:15 a.m. to start cooking soup to transport to a network of soup kitchens in Sussex County.

Her new commercial kitchen will save her time – and allow her to get more sleep. "All the things my little soupers want are here," she said. That's the name she uses to call those in need who she serves.

The wait for the Dunnings' homecoming was worth it. Hundreds of family, friends and volunteers stood in the hot, late-August sun for two hours. She was greeted with a thundering ovation when she walked off the large Extreme Makeover bus.

Project builders Schell Brothers nominated Dunning for the Extreme Makeover show after giving her a donation of six acres of land off Route 9 and Cool-

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AS SHOW HOST TY PENNINGTON holds the door, Dale and Ken Dunning exit the Extreme Makeover bus at the Jusst Sooup Ranch.



Extreme Makeover host Ty Pennington gets the crowd fired up prior to moving the bus.



Extreme Makeover host Ty Pennington talks with Dale, Ken and Brooks Dunning just minutes after the reveal.



Members of the Schell family join in to cheer for the Dunning family.



Designers for the show are Paige Hemmis, left, and Sabrina Soto.

Companies step up to help Jusst Sooup

Family gets everything from hams to insurance

By Ron MacArthur
ronm@capegazette.com

Just one day after the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" reveal filming, sponsors and supporters lined up to praise the Dunning family and offer support of the Jusst Sooup Ministry.

Dale Dunning, who has coordinated the ministry out of her own home for the past 12 years, said she was overwhelmed. "Today I am humbled how everyone has come together in support of us in such a magnificent way," she

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THE TELEVISION CREWS are gone after spending 10 days in and around the Jusst Sooup Ranch in Coolspring. The Dunnings will now have time to get used to their new surroundings.



NICK ROTH PHOTO

The "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" bus pulls in front of the new Jusst Sooup Ministry.



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO

Members of the Dunning family cheer amid a large crowd as the Extreme Makeover crew films a scene.



NICK ROTH PHOTO

Host Ty Pennington films a segment for the show.



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO

Crew members (l-r) John Littlefield, Michael Moloney and Sabrina Soto greet the Extreme Makeover bus.



NICK ROTH PHOTO

Well-wishers hold handmade signs.

Dunnings

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spring Road.

The 199th Extreme Makeover build is one for the books. Volunteers and crew had to stop the project due to Hurricane Irene. Schell Brothers President Chris Schell said the hurricane cut one-half day off the work schedule and forced the reveal back two days.

"We were a little ahead of schedule and we accelerated work because of the storm," he said.

Helping to cover the costs

In order to reach the goal of \$300,000 for the family fund endowment, Schell Brothers has donated an additional \$55,000 – for a total of \$75,000 – to ensure the Dunnings will have funds to cover costs associated with the complex.

"Dale is worth it," Schell said. "We don't want her to pay high bills; we want to make this work for her."

U.S. Foods Service donated most of the equipment for the commercial kitchen as well as \$120,000 worth of food to stock the Jusst Sooup pantry and walk-in freezer, Schell said. More than 2,000 volunteers and hundreds of skilled workers volunteered time from the time the build started Aug. 22 to when it was completed Aug. 30.

Crews worked around the clock. In addition, more than 100 companies donated materials

and labor to complete the project. Schell said since the complex is zoned residential, no commercial activities are allowed on the property.

It's not a homeless shelter either. Food can be prepared in the soup kitchen but it can't be served there, at least for now. Schell said he would help the Dunnings apply for a conditional use to be able to expand her ministry.

"I COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT THINKING ABOUT CUTTING ALL THIS GRASS."

- KEN DUNNING

Schell said Dunning would not change her routine of preparing food and taking it to sites throughout the county. She will just have much more space, better equipment and better surroundings to do it in.

Ken, who has operated a lawn

care business for years, was given a new Kubota riding lawnmower with trailer. It's a good thing because he now has six acres of grass to cut and landscaping to maintain.

"I couldn't sleep last night thinking about cutting all this

grass," he said.

The Dunnings are supposed to keep quiet about the interior design of the buildings and where they were during the build until after the show. The show is scheduled to air as a two-hour Thanksgiving special Friday, Nov. 18, on ABC.

"This is truly Thanksgiving," Dunning said. "It doesn't have to be November because we are giving thanks."

Volunteers are backbone of 'Extreme Makeover'

Donate time, labor to make dream happen

Ron MacArthur and Nick Roth
newsroom@capegazette.com

Hundreds of volunteers, including skilled and unskilled workers, were the backbone of the Extreme Makeover project. So many people volunteered that shifts were filled up and people had to be turned away. Shuttle buses had been running constantly between Cape High School and the building site along Route 9 near Coolspring.

They were being called the Blue-Shirt Army.

Donations from companies throughout the region reached well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Schell Brothers officials said only about \$50,000 would be needed to cover materials.

Retired Cape Henlopen School District administrator Janis Hanwell was working directly with Schell Brothers as a quality-control person on every night shift.

"Everybody's heart is in the right place. The exuberance of all the volunteers has been great. They're volunteering their time for a very intense project," she said. "Everybody has a positive attitude and it's really been great to see everybody pull together and get the job done in such a compact amount of time."

Hanwell, who oversaw the construction of Cape Henlopen High School, said the work was intense, but she did not see a single person who minded doing something when asked.

Bobbie Dehaven of Georgetown said she wanted to be part of the event. She didn't let the fact she is a wheelchair user deter her, and she planned to volunteer every day.

She helped out at the media tent and with registration of VIPs. She had a front-row seat to the build. "It's been amazing. All of a sudden it just blossomed," she said with the noise of saws, hammers and backhoes in the background.

"I was excited about it as soon as I heard the show was coming," she said.

Even though she doesn't know the Dunning family, she still wanted to help out, and she was looking forward to reveal day.

Tom Schmidt of Rehoboth Beach had just finished filming a scene in Art World, the hidden area where designers create the magic the show is known for. "It's unbelievable what they can do and to see how dedicated people are. I tell people you have to be here to believe it," he said.

Mike Connors, a teacher at Cape Henlopen High School, was on site with his wife from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Aug. 24 as an unskilled volunteer.

He did everything from picking up trash and sweeping insulation leftovers to carrying 2-by-8s. He returned the following day to volunteer some more time.

"You're there to work, but you're also seeing magic happen right in front of your eyes," he said. "It was just great to see so many people from the community come together. It was such a diverse group of people, from teachers to cops and firemen to stay-at-home moms to executives. It wasn't like a certain group."

"Everybody was just having a great time."

"I'm glad she was given the opportunity for this. It's going to continue to pull a lot of people together in the community. People are going to want to be connected to this for a long time. It's such a special project," he said.