

OCEAN CITY TODAY

Repairs to strengthen sewer line complete

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■ Staff Writer

(March 26, 2010) Major repairs to Ocean City's main sewer line wrapped this week, coming in under budget and ahead of schedule.

The main sewer pipe that carries all of the resort's sewage to the wastewater treatment plant runs under 64th Street. An inspection

revealed the pipe needed repairs so it would not break due to corrosion and cracking.

Repairs that began in late February were completed this week, in time to ensure the sewer line is in good condition to handle the increased waste generated by a booming summer population.

It would have cost millions of dollars to tear up the entire length of the pipe from Coastal Highway

to the wastewater treatment plant on the bay at 64th Street to lay a new pipe, Public Works Director Hal Adkins said. The large pipe is 48 inches in diameter and lies more than 20 feet below the surface of the street.

The pipe was cleaned out and reinforced with a structural liner placed inside the 50-year-old concrete conduit. The project cost was See **WINTER**Y on Page 11A



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Workers clean up the equipment used to repair the main sewer line leading to the treatment plant on 64th Street Monday. The project to install a liner inside the sewer pipe wrapped up this week.

Continued from Page 3A

estimated at \$561,455, and Adkins said the city would receive a \$15,000 credit for contingency work to replace pipe joints that did not need to be done.

"The lining went in very well. They will be cleaned up and gone this week," he said on Monday.

While cleaning the main pipe and installing the liner, the city's sewage was pumped to the treatment plant through temporary pipes laid along the street. The large pumps were set up on the east side of Coastal Highway, and traffic heading north was con-

fined to one lane for much of the last few weeks as a result.

Adkins said the project went very smoothly and he credited the company that did the work, Am-Liner East Inc. of Berryville Va., with doing a speedy and professional job. When the sewer line was emptied, he said, the workers found that more sediment had built up in the west end of the pipe than expected but other than that, there were no surprises.

"It took a while to clean it out. Beyond that, the pipe was in the condition we anticipated," he said.

The city received few com-

plaints about the lane closures and impact to traffic, though Adkins acknowledged there were some delays during weekends when many visitors were in town.

The project was originally slated to be completed at the beginning of March, but the bouts of winter weather in February caused the starting date to be delayed. The deadline was moved back to March 31, still allowing enough time for the project to be done before Ocean City begins to fill up with people in the summer and the sewer system sees increased use.