

Historical society on its way to recovering with a recent donation

East Brunswick company donates program to society

BY HALEY BEHRE
THE COAST STAR

BELMAR — The Belmar Historical Society [BHS] is on its way to recovering from Hurricane Sandy thanks to a donation by an East Brunswick company.

The BHS was preparing to open its museum when Hurricane Sandy hit late last year. As a result, the BHS museum could not open and a lot of historical Belmar memorabilia — including 11 reels of microfilm that housed The Coast Advertiser — was damaged by water. The Coast Advertiser was a weekly paper that primarily covered

Belmar, but also reported on some regional and state issues.

Soon after the storm, Innovative Document Imaging [IDI], in East Brunswick, reached out to the historical society, asking how they fared in the storm, said Naomi Reissner, BHS president. The society told IDI the microfilm had gotten wet, and the company offered to dry them out, she said.

Little did the historical society know that IDI would do more than dry out the microfilm.

IDI decided to not only dry the microfilm but also scan and convert the microfilm into a program called Digi-Find-It that allows the records to be searched using keywords, said Marty Tannenbaum, IDI president.

“IDI needed to do something to help out when this happened,” Mr. Tannenbaum said about Hurricane Sandy. “It was an opportunity for IDI to give back.”

The program was given to the BHS a few weeks ago, he said.

“It was a feel good story for us,” Mr. Tannenbaum said.

Ms. Reissner said “we’re just ecstatic.”

The program is easy to use, Ms. Reissner said. It will not be open to the public until the museum is restored and up and running, which the historical society is hoping to do.

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