

# Solutions for Coastal Flooding

by John Grandits

Build a wall. Just put a big 20-foot, maybe 30-foot wall right along the shore. It would be popular politically. • Wait . . . wait . . . • Build 4 glass walls—a big glass box. • Or • We could put the entire town inside. It would be like a reverse aquarium. We could sit on our porches and watch the ocean waters and fishes all around us. • Or • Build a mountain and put our houses on top. I mean coal companies can flatten a mountain to get at the coal. That dirt has to go somewhere. Bring it to the shore. • Arm floaties for everyone! Just strap on those little flotation devices and you're all set. • Even better, inner tubes. State and Federal grants to give all coastal residents inner tubes—free of charge. • Here's another idea. • Grow gills. There must be a way to attach gills to our bodies. Plastic surgery has made terrific progress. We have some fabulous reconstructive surgery clinics in New Jersey. You could just pop in and get a gill-job. • NO. Wait . . . wait • We could combine the plastic surgery with the flotation device. Botox a lot of flotation fat around your belly and you'd have a built-in inner/outer tube! For many of us it wouldn't even look very different. • Or • The Aberdeen Solution. On the southern coast of Hong Kong Island there's a floating city. House boats, floating stores, water taxis, floating restaurants. People keep goats and chickens and cats and dogs on the boats. Some people live their entire lives on their boats! Handy if you like fishing. • . . . • I guess there are a number of political, environmental, scientific things we could do. I don't know, seems sort of boring. • . . . • I like the gills idea. Long Branch could be the Atlantis of the Jersey shore. It's the only sensible solution.