

Letters

Alarming Development

To the Editor:

Is there anyone who gives a damn about the Ship Bottom Planning Board's approval of building projects on or adjacent to the Causeway? Projects in the area of the "Circle" and Eighth and Ninth streets are being permitted at an alarming pace.

The latest is a drive-through food service, similar to McDonald's, to be located on the access road at the RE/MAX site. Approval has been given for a new office with an apartment above, plus the drive-through. There are to be outside bathrooms and a patio with tables and chairs, as well. (Does anyone remember that the chamber of commerce was not allowed to have an apartment above its office when the new building was approved?) If successful, the plan is to enlarge the eating place later on.

Imagine this scenario during the busy summer season: Coming off the Causeway bridge at Ninth Street at around 40 mph, the car in front makes a quick turn to go to the drive-through, the car in back brakes and a chain reaction causes a pileup. A little farther along the same street that leads from the only access to LBI, you have to maneuver around the entrances for the Wawa on one side and the newly approved project to turn the "Circle" into a four-building modular home sales location that the planning board has also approved.

The existing traffic patterns are already problematic, with the backup at the CVS turn on Barnegat and the north and south traffic for Long Beach Boulevard. All of this is to occur within a very short distance and without widening the roadway to accommodate the additional activity generated by these new businesses on the narrow access/egress portions of the Ship Bottom section of the Causeway.

It doesn't stop with those projects. On the outbound part of the same roadway, the Eighth Street part of the Causeway, the board has approved and the building has already begun for eight narrow homes to be placed on the small lot next door to La Spiaggia Restaurant. Not to mention there is an existing approval for 60 condominiums, parking and restaurant additions to the old Quarter Deck, now the upscale Stateroom. This would not be possible were it not for politics.

We have attended the planning board meetings and made appeals on the basis of public safety, traffic bedlam, flooding and emergency evacuation to no avail.

There already exist many available properties and empty stores. Why do we need this dangerous concentration of development? We look to our political leaders and public servants to protect the safety of residents and visitors. The situation on the Causeway affects the entire Island. Where is the concern from other municipalities?

Is this just a political move to force the issue that another bridge is required? Or is it intended to speed up the commercialization of this beautiful place? If so, that would be fool's gold, as it behooves those of us in this place to protect it for the coming generations to enjoy. There are plenty of commercial places with beaches, boardwalks, public bath houses and all that goes with it. Let us try to preserve the natural beauty we have.

**Dot and Ted Jedziniak
Ship Bottom**

The SandPaper welcomes letters to the editor. They should include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. Full addresses and phone numbers are for confirmation purposes only. Letter writers can reach us at 1816 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City, N.J. 08008 or letters@thesandpaper.net.

Road Kill Risk

To the Editor:

I write in relation to Great Bay Boulevard and my concerns about the impact of traffic on both the people and wildlife that use this road.

Currently there are no posted speed limits on Great Bay Boulevard from Sea Isle Drive to the east end in Little Egg Harbor Township. The road bisects one of the largest state wildlife management areas along the entire coast and is also designated as the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. Designation as this type of reserve is "to promote the responsible use and management of the nation's estuaries." The habitat alongside the road is home to a diverse array of wildlife, and one species, the northern diamondback terrapin, often crosses the roadway to get to prime nesting areas along the road shoulders.

During the summer months, female terrapins actively search for nesting areas. They are hard to see with their dark coloration, and high-speed vehicles do not always have an opportunity to react to such obstacles in the road. Some days as many as 50 terrapins may cross the road. Studies have indicated that up to 30 percent of terrapins on Great Bay Boulevard are killed while attempting to find suitable nesting areas.

People also use Great Bay Boulevard to fish from the bridges or recreate along its

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Speak Easy

Blessings and Brown Meatballs – Tradition!

By ANTHONY DISIPIO

This past week got me singing that wonderful song from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Tradition." Days like Groundhog Day make me think of old Tevye and how difficult it is to maintain our traditions in an ever-changing world.

Traditions are a bit different than holidays; no one I know gets a paid day off on GHD. The banks are open and the post office delivers mail. The same goes for another tradition, coming up here on Feb. 14. I wonder who came up with the tradition of candy, flowers and cards. It sure caught on. I can't believe the

card I bought this year for my lovely wife cost \$5.95 (only kidding, dear). We have religious, social, ethnic and cultural traditions as well. As we boomers enter the September of our years, as Mr. Sinatra so wonderfully put it, maybe we should be concerned about passing on these traditions.

Traditions can trigger wonderful memories and feelings. One of the reasons I love St. Francis Church here on the Island is that the people there remember all the little traditions of the church, not just the holy days, but the tradition days. Last week was the "Blessing of the Candles" (sort of similar to the Candlemas

legend behind GHD) and the "Blessing of the Throats," in honor of St. Blaise. Heck, they even bless the animals in the fall – wouldn't miss bringing Lucy and Jake for some extra special graces. Tradition!

Maybe you have a special family tradition that you thoroughly enjoy: bringing the entire family to the beach for Super Bowl weekend or opening the summer season at the shore or the last big weekend in summer bash. Perhaps your tradition is to attend the LBI Christmas Parade on Long Beach Boulevard or the Mummer's Parade in Philadelphia on New Year's Day or to travel to Times Square for the dropping of the ball on New Year's Eve. One of our favorites is the annual Phillies game excursion. We go only once a year, but we get the best tickets we can and eat everything we can. Gotta do something about that \$4-a-bottle water, though. Tradition!

Ethnic traditions often involve food. Is there a better way to share a good time and tradition than with good food? I have ham and cabbage for my Irish friends on St. Patrick's Day, along with green beer, pork and sauerkraut for my Eastern European friends bringing in the New Year with luck; and, of course, being Italian, there's the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve for the Vigilia di Natalia.

As Tevye found out, sometimes traditions have to be modified. I don't have many family members left who really enjoy baccala – heck, we may be the only family on LBI that doesn't eat fish once a week, unless you count my daughter Kathryn's tuna fish. Tradition!

I'm sure there is a family food tradition in your house that is a favorite. One of the best food traditions we have as an Italian family is brown meatballs. Sundays in South Philadelphia in the '50s and early '60s were marked by the wonderful aroma of gravy making. You

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L. Gamm
artoon

trends pt. 2



Commentary

'Fixing' the Cats ... and the Problem

By LINDA BONVIE

Hey, Harvey Cedarites: There's a better way of dealing with feral cats than whining and complaining about them.

Now before you say, "I ain't listening to what one of those tree-huggin', animal-lovin' mainlanders has to say about cats," I want you to stick with me for a minute. I'm here to help you.

First off, if you don't want your entire island to become as deserted during the tourist season as Amity Island of *Jaws* fame was following the shark attacks, please spread the word that despite what Harvey Cedars Mayor Jonathan Oldham has been quoted as saying, there are not "100 feral cats scattered about town ... (that are) probably rabid." That would give all of LBI the distinction of being the most dangerous place to vacation outside of, say, Baghdad.

Actually, there have never been any

reported cases of rabies on the Island, so it's safe to come out of your houses again! The cat that looked funny to you while walking in front of your car is not rabid; he just was trying to get out of the way before you ran him over.

OK, now that I've saved the summer for you guys and we're all feeling warm and fuzzy again, I want to tell you about cats, and ferals in particular.

Do you know how annoying it is to keep hearing your complaints about the cost of cleaning up some kitty food and how much you spend to send these ferals to an "animal hospital," as described in a Jan. 25 SandPaper story ("Feral Cat Case Draws Interest on Petition Site")?

What exactly is this "animal hospital"? Could it be like a Betty Ford clinic to cure them of their feral-ness? For the six grand it costs, according to the chief, to get them all

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Letters

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length. With no shoulder, the speed limit on this road poses a great risk for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Little Egg Harbor can help reduce the chances that a pedestrian or cyclist gets killed or injured and reduce the number of terrapins killed by motor vehicles. A lower speed limit would allow drivers more time to react and avoid a collision with a person or terrapin. By reducing the speed limit along the road from 50 mph to 30 mph, both people and wildlife would benefit and motorists would get to their destination safely.

Finally, there is no reason for the speed limit on this road to be so high. The road goes to a dead end through some of the most picturesque scenery in New Jersey. Everyone would be better off if we all slowed down and appreciated this special place.

Please help us by signing a petition asking for the township to reduce the speed limit to protect the safety of people and terrapins. You can find a link to the online petition on our web site, conservewildlifenj.org, or you can call Mayor John Kehm Jr. directly at 609-296-7241, extension 233 or 231.

Ben Wurst, habitat program manager
Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ

Sugar had a personality in keeping with her name. She was polite and quiet and somehow had mastered the art of communicating with human beings. When she was hungry, she let you know; when content, the purring motor was going full blast.

We had a weekend home at the shore then and came down every Friday afternoon and returned on Sunday. It took Sugar only a few trips to become acclimated to the car. She enjoyed looking out the window, watching the other cars go by. That's when it started.

Sugar would stand on her hind legs and tap her paw against the window as cars passed by. To the passengers in the other vehicles it must have looked like Sugar was waving to them. And they responded by sounding their horns and/or waving back. If children were in the other car, it was a sight to see all those smiling faces, pointing and waving to Sugar. The driver of the other car would often maintain our speed so the children could get a good look at Sugar.

This went on every weekend, for several years. After all that time it became obvious that Sugar was indeed the "Princess of the Parkway."

Gene Moynihan
Manahawkin

Speak Easy

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may know it by "sauce," but to us it is gravy. Living in a row home in South Philadelphia during this time really let you know what everyone was eating every day of the week; meat, onions, peppers and garlic have a wonderfully distinct aroma. But on Sunday, everyone's house gave off the same smell: gravy. After Mass, Sunday supper was an early affair. Tradition!

Our gravy starts with lard. Yes, lard. Don't tell Dr. Harry about that - he'll want to recheck my cholesterol - but we still make it this way. I really can't tell you the rest of the steps since it is a family secret. Even my family doesn't know all the ingredients. Before I die, I have to pass on the recipe to my son, ingredient by ingredient. But I will tell you this: Meatballs are made from a beef, veal and pork mix, not just ground beef. And I'll let you in on one of the secrets: an egg.

My kids are 24 now and still whine and wonder if I saved them a brown meatball when I make gravy. Maybe we can start selling brown meatballs here on the Island.

So you melt the lard in a big spaghetti pot, mix up the meatball meat and then form these perfectly round meatballs. In they go to the melted lard to be browned. When all the meatballs are brown, you pour off the lard and add the tomato products and, if you like, an extra can of tomato sauce (this is the only time you can call tomato gravy sauce, when it comes out of a can). Then you return the browned meatballs to the pot to cook slowly for three hours.

But before you put all the meatballs back in, the treat of all treats is to get a brown meatball - one of those lard-fried orbs of ground meat mix with a strong hint of garlic. My kids are 24 now and still whine and wonder if I saved them a brown meatball when I make gravy. Maybe we can start selling brown meatballs here on the Island.

The New Year might bring the opportunity to change some things in our lives that need a little tweaking. "On the other hand . . ." as Tevye says, there so many things that are worth keeping as they are.

Like brown meatballs!

Tradition!

Anthony DiSipio lives in Beach Haven Park and is the author of When I'm 64, a book of boomer memories.

Land-Use Model

To the Editor:

There have been some notable achievements recently to stem the ecological decline of Barnegat Bay. All are important, but in the end will produce little in the way of improving the bay if they are not coupled with stronger land-use controls. Ocean County is going to continue to grow in year-round population, and the housing to meet that growth will cause even more contamination of the bay if it is allowed to replace the surviving forests of the bay's watershed.

Yet right here in Ocean County we have an internationally recognized land-use model to learn from, with a proven 30-year record of growth control and associated water resources protection. It's called the Pinelands.

The Pinelands area accounts for 39 percent of the county. Within this vast area, 74 percent of the land has a very low zoning density. This is important since many of the rivers that drain into the bay originate within natural unspoiled areas of the Pinelands. As a result, water entering the bay from the Pinelands is nearly all high quality, even though it also flows through the rampant development along the coast. The vast majority of contaminants entering the bay are coming from the northern part of the watershed, which lies outside the Pinelands, has no regional growth controls, and is characterized by uncontrolled sprawl.

The Pinelands Commission has studied the relationships between land-use and water quality throughout the Pinelands, and the findings are clear: The more the land surface is altered by human activity such as housing developments, the greater the degradation of water quality.

The Pinelands Plan serves as a local example of the power of regional planning. If we are serious about the long-term viability of Barnegat Bay, then regional land-use controls to protect the forests will need to be part of any successful strategy to protect the bay.

Richard G. Bizub
Director for Water Programs
Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Princess of the Parkway

To the Editor:

This is the story of a cat. Not just an ordinary cat; well, Sugar wasn't really a cat at all, but a precious little preson. She was named Sugar because she was white and sweet, and as mentioned above, absolutely precious.

BACK IN PRINT!

Long Beach Island's beloved historian and author, the late John Bailey Lloyd, has given all of us a rich sense of place with his beautiful pictorial hardcover **Eighteen Miles of History on Long Beach Island.**

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