

# NORTH END ASSOCIATION (NORTH)

P.O. BOX 98 • Sea Isle City, NJ 08243



November 11, 2006

Board of Commissioners  
City of Sea Isle City  
4416 Landis Avenue  
Sea Isle City, NJ 08243

Dear Commissioners:

We are enclosing a copy of a letter sent by the North End Improvement Association to the following: Governor Jon Corzine, Senate President Richard Codey, Majority Leader Joseph Roberts, Jr., DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, State Senator Nicholas Asselta, and State Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew. This is a first step in a concerted effort that will hopefully culminate in a meeting with DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson and members of the Division of Land Use Regulation, as recommended by Paul Baldini. Our target date is March 2007.

If there is no response from Commissioner Jackson, then we suggest that the city undertake a law suit on behalf of all the property owners in Sea Isle City because we are being denied equitable treatment and are being penalized by FEMA for having septic systems, which do not meet with FEMA regulations for a community discount on flood insurance.

Thank you for your support and efforts in this 10 year stalemate with the DEP. Please let us know how we can be of assistance in reaching the goal of sewers in the north end.

Sincerely,

Irene Jameson, Chairperson

cc: Andy Previti, City Engineer  
Paul Baldini, City Solicitor

# NORTH END ASSOCIATION (NORTH)

P.O. BOX 98 • Sea Isle City, NJ 08243



November 11, 2006

Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew  
21 North Main Street  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Dear Assemblyman Van Drew:

Our association, which has 138 members and 60 additional adjunct members, has been working for almost 20 years to secure city sewer service to the north end of Sea Isle City. It is unconscionable that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), which is responsible for protecting the environment, has refused to issue permits for the extension of the city sewer system from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The properties in that area are on septic systems, which may work in mainland areas but not on barrier islands, where the water table is about two feet.

The NJDEP contends that it is attempting to limit "urban sprawl" in that area; however, there are only 17 undeveloped lots remaining. That hardly qualifies as "urban sprawl." There has not been a permit issued for new construction in 10 years in the north end of Sea Isle City. In the meantime, Strathmere, which is also on septic systems, has been permitted to construct "McMansions" with above ground septic systems in front of the properties. Sewage can be seen floating down the street during the busy summer season. (See enclosed letter in the *Press of Atlantic City* and my response.)

The city and county are ready to provide sewer service to the north end; however, the NJDEP refused to accept the county's 208 Water Quality Management Plan unless the extension of city sewers to the north end of Sea Isle City was removed. In addition, FEMA has refused to reinstate our community discount on flood insurance as long as there are septic systems in the north end. This puts us in a "Catch 22" situation and results in millions of lost dollars for property owners.

We think this is inequitable treatment of the north end property owners and request your support and assistance in dealing with the NJDEP. Members of our committee, North End Working Team (NEWT), would like to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Irene Jameson, Ed.D.  
Chairperson  
(609) 263-2968



## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

“

I am not an engineer, nor am I  
an environmentalist. But I know  
when something stinks.

”

— John Miranda

THE PRESS, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003

### Open sewage in Sea Isle?

I was on a bike ride recently through the barrier islands of Cape May County. The weather was 55 degrees and sunny. At the time of my ride, it was high tide (everything looks better at high tide).

We were heading south on Ocean Drive through Strathmere and north Sea Isle City. The street was puddling water close to recently built houses. The water was brown and smelled really bad.

I noticed the first floor of most of this area was 10 to 12 feet above the street, and the mounded septic field was above the road.

This is open sewage at its best — in 2003 in Cape May County. How appropriate the road is named Ocean Drive.

I am not an engineer, nor am I an environmentalist. But I know when something stinks, and the north end of Sea Isle stinks.

Direct attention to this matter is required. If you visit the site during low tide, there is a brown stain in the asphalt.

JOHN MIRENDA  
Beesleys Point

THE PRESS, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2003

### Open sewage is Strathmere's

Regarding the Dec. 12 letter, "Open sewage in Sea Isle?":

During a bike ride on Ocean Drive through Strathmere and the north end of Sea Isle City, the letter writer said that he saw "puddling water close to recently built houses" and that "the water was brown and smelled really bad." He also referred to the mounded septic field above the road, which he labeled "open sewage at its best."

He further stated that he knows when "something stinks, and the north end of Sea Isle City stinks."

Sea Isle City has not had a new house constructed in the north end in 10 years and does not have any mounded septic fields by the side of the road. However, Strathmere does. I submit that the letter writer does not know where Strathmere ends and Sea Isle City begins in the north end.

Let me also explain that the North End Association, of which I am founder and president, has been requesting the extension of the municipal sewer system from 22nd Street to First Street for more than 10 years. The city has stated that it is ready to extend sewers, but no permit will be approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The very agency charged with protecting the environment has refused to allow sewers in the north end of Sea Isle City because it does not want to encourage development in what it labels a "high hazard area."

The letter writer is correct in saying that "something stinks," but it is not the north end of Sea Isle City. As we have stated at numerous public meetings with the DEP, it is unconscionable to have septic systems on a barrier island where the ground water level is only two feet.

It would be more effective if the letter writer directed his comments to the DEP and requested that sewers be mandated on barrier islands and that Sea Isle City be given a permit to extend sewers to the north end.

IRENE JAMESON  
Chairperson  
North End Association  
Sea Isle City

