

TNR

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within identified buffer zones, and to prohibit the introduction of new TNR colonies or free-roaming cats within the identified buffer zones.

The proposed Beach Management Plan would effectively band cats from within 1,000 feet of the beach, or one half mile from identified nesting areas. The plan expresses some concern because of the city's "intentional establishment and maintenance of TNR colonies." The plan indicates the Fish and Wildlife Service would not back the city in the event an endangered species was killed by feral cats.

Francie Israeli, with Alley Cats Allies, said they believe that the plan's net effect would be the elimination of the TNR program.

"Our belief is that it would still affect the TNR program

because you would still have to trap and remove cats," she said. "I think even though it doesn't call for the elimination of the program, what it would require is the removal (of cats) and they would end up killing cats. There is no assurance they would not go back to killing cats."

Israeli said so-called "catch and kill" policies didn't work in the past and would not work in the future.

"So why do it now?" she asked.

Israeli said cats would eventually be killed because they won't be adopted.

"With most feral cats, trapping to adopt is futile. It's very difficult to socialize adult feral cats. They are living outside and accustomed to living on their own," she said.

Israeli said Cape May's TNR program is one of the

oldest in the country and is a model of success, reducing the feral cat population from around 450 to about or under 100. She said ACA opposes ending the program for "spurious reasons."

TNR program advocates at the Feb. 19 meeting argued that there have been no reported incidents of a cat killing an endangered species in Cape May, and humans and the destruction of habitat poses more of a threat to wildlife.

"To be bullied into elimination of a successful program would be a shame. Cats are not killing the plovers," Israeli said. "If the city is required to kill cats just to check off a box on a list to satisfy Fish and Wildlife it is a step backward."

Run

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speak. He said that is a problem, now, when the city is involved with "such large money issues, as the mall renovation and the Convention Hall project.

"The tax went up three cents last year and it's going up three cents this year," Gaffney said. "What about debt service? These are big, big debts."

Gaffney said he is for the reconstruction of Convention Hall but he wants to get the "best bang for the buck."

"Let's do it right. Look at all the costs," he said.

Gaffney said the city needs to have a 10-year capital plan.

He said he is not sure how far out the city's capital plan is.

Gaffney said he is very close to deciding which office to seek. He said he has vacillated many times, and a lot of very good people have given him advice. He said he is considering which office he thinks he has the best chance of winning.

He said there was no truth to a rumor that he and Mahaney would be forming a ticket. He said the only discussion he had with Mahaney about the election was after the last council meeting when they asked each other if they were going to run.

Gaffney said if he, Inderwies and Mahaney all run for mayor that would mean there were three candidates who had experience in that office, and he believes it would be difficult for the voters to choose. He believes his task would be to prove he is the most qualified.

Gaffney picked up petitions for mayor and council. Other residents who have picked up petitions for council include Jeanne Powick, who has already filed her petitions, Jack Wichterman, Terry Swain, and Jay Schatz.



Photo by "Wernie" Hass

Look who else is 80 and still going strong!

It seemed half the town turned out to celebrate the 80th annual Oscar presentation held at the Beach Theatre and the other half for Jim "Towers" Marsh's 80th birthday party also held on Sunday at the Pilot House. Pictured is the "birthday boy" with Mandy "Wandy" Leeburg – just one of his many birthday presents!

Beef

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on the original list, but when they checked the lot numbers they found they had some of the recalled meat. She said four boxes of cooked meat patties were wrapped up and the city disposed of them. Zelenek also sent a letter to parents indicating it was a Class 2 recall and they have had no reported incidents of illness that they could tell.

"But everyone is very con-

cerned about the children, and this is very upsetting to us and the school," she said.

None of the meat was used by the Lower Cape May Regional School District.

"We have different suppliers," LCMR superintendent Jack Pfizenmayer said. "We checked into it a couple weeks ago and everything seemed to be OK. Every indication was the supplier did

not have a problem."

Cirrinicione said he supplied parents and staff with a number for the USDA meat and poultry hotline (1-888-674-6854), where they could call for more information.

Nationwide, more than 143 million pounds of meat were recalled. More than 160 New Jersey school districts were affected.

Residents say they want untainted water in Town Bank

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - Some Town Bank residents addressed township

council last week saying they have waited long enough for water free of contamination. Dee Cesario, Ed McGeehan and Steve Sheftz told township council they are con-

cerned about the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in their drinking water. Cesario told council the Cape May County Health

Department has identified the presence of "some of the worst kind of contaminants known to man."

She said some of these chemicals are so dangerous water standards allow only one part per billion in the water.

McGeehan echoed those remarks, showing council on a color-coded map where some of these chemicals have been found.

Township resident Sal Riggi, who has degrees in hydrology and geo-hydrology, said he did not want to make light of the residents' concern, but he said the risk wasn't as high as they assumed.

"One part per million is like a one in a million chance that someone would get cancer," Riggi said.

McGeehan said he has grandchildren who visit and drink the water, and he

wouldn't gamble on one part per billion.

Riggi said the chemicals identified were dry cleaning products or gasoline additives. He said gasoline spilled on the ground, or leaking dry cleaning solvents could have contaminated the shallow wells. But he said even five parts per billion would probably not do any harm.

He said anyone concerned about the chemicals could get water treatment kits, and grant money was probably available. He said filtration systems could easily strip VOCs out of water. Sheftz said there has not been much cooperation on grants in the past.

Sheftz said there have been a lot of problems in the Town Bank area, including a lot of cancer, and he said the township government has to take the matter in hand.

"The health, safety and welfare of the residents of the township doesn't rest down the road, it rests right here," he said.

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