



January 29, 2009

Racecars are louder than 80 decibels

My husband and I read The Daily Journal's Our View every day. Sometimes we agree with the opinions and sometimes we don't.

I feel compelled to comment on "Officials should try to do the right thing on noise" (DJ-1/19).

The answers in the Our View were full of crap. Those who join the "Track Racket" group may not be totally right, but I can tell you from firsthand experience that the cars that run at that track from 7 a.m. into the evening, more than one or two days a week, are louder than 80 decibels. Where was the reading of 80 decibels taken? When the state took its readings at a track in Hightstown, it did it right at trackside. If you were higher, you could not race. My husband worked for a large local trucking firm that had Thermo Kings on their trailers, and the neighbors complained. The state came in and stood across the street to check the noise level, if it was higher they had to shut them down. These reading were not taken two miles away.

We own racecars -- Sprint cars -- and we race out of this state because we were told by state police at Bridgeport Speedway we had to put mufflers on the cars or we could not race. I personally know how loud our cars are, and to be totally honest with you they are louder than most of the ones at the New Jersey Motorsports Park.

If you love racing, the sound does not bother you because it is music to your ears. But if you don't enjoy racing, it's nothing but noise and very annoying, especially if it is constant all day, every day of the week during the summer. When this track was pushed through, the proposal was they were only going to have two or three special races a year. Nothing was said about practicing every day at the track, nor was it mentioned that clubs were going to be renting the track. I believe that a lot of the people thought there might be racing for the local people. Ha, ha! That's not ever going to happen, because we the locals don't have the big money to join the club. It's bad enough that Bridgeport charges a \$50 to \$75 club fee and then a weekly entrance fee.

I have heard that a vacuum cleaner is considered to be 80 decibels,. Then guess what? The cars that run the New Jersey Motorsports Park are louder, because you cannot hear a vacuum cleaner two miles away, but you can hear the cars at the track two miles away.

Mufflers can help and adjusting the hours might help. Where I live near Parvin State Park, we can't start a lawn mower to cut the grass before 9 a.m. The city and the track should remember that the residents were there first and should show some respect to them. After all, the track is in their backyard.

The people who pushed this track voted for it because it was not in their backyard. Look at the Millville Fairgrounds. It had the track for the locals, but it wasn't in my backyard. As long as it is in somebody else's backyard, it's OK. We know from experience.

Let's get real now. What is good for the little guy is just as good for the big spenders who can afford the thing the state tries to make the little guy do. Money rules and most of us locals don't have that kind of

money.

Marjorie Burton

Pittsgrove
