

City needs to find solutions to the ear, eye problems

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My family has had a home in Laurel Lake since 1962. Our primary residence is in Philadelphia, but we enjoy our Laurel Lake home for (what it used to be) the peace and quiet of nature, only disturbed by an occasional motorboat pulling a skier.

Now on a Saturday morning as I sip my coffee on my deck I can hear the revving of the engines more than two miles away, and if I try to take a nap on the porch in the afternoon the sound continues.

I am not against the New Jersey Motorsports Park, and I hope that the deals Millville has made with the racing powers that be will profit the city, the state and the racetrack. I am for all in the area benefiting from what Cumberland County and Millville in specific have to offer as a wonderful place to live, work and play.

There are two things, however, I do not understand:

I do not understand why so much energy has to be spent on not finding a solution to the glaring problem of noise and how it affects the quality of life for residents near the Motorsports Park.

Cumberland County is one of the last natural refuges in the state. Our proximity to the bay and the ocean is convenient and the housing stock is still at a reasonable price, why are we not focused on attracting people to enjoy Cumberland County by day trips and buying second homes here? Think Cape Cod in New Jersey!

Laurel Lake is our family's second home, so for all these years our family has paid taxes, just like those who live here all yearlong. The county does not have to educate our children, who go to school in Philadelphia. We shop and go out to eat in the area and invite friends to visit and do the same. Our visitors see Cumberland County as "New Jersey's secret beauty," and two families have bought second homes here since they have visited us. Others have made a point to come back to the restaurants along the bay and shop on High Street in Millville.

However, when they hear the revving of the engines

and then see that chain-link fence along Buckshutem Road, they wonder what the city planners were thinking, as do I. The Motorsports Park could exist and still not be a noise disturbance, and the chain-link fence could be softened with plantings.

Let's go forward and look for solutions to these eye and ear problems that our senses cannot deny.

Michele LeNoir Palamountain

Millville

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