

# New Parkway North Exits Are Opening Soon in Barnegat

Last week, the Barnegat Township Committee passed a resolution indicating it was frustrated with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority because the new Garden State Parkway north and south exits to West Bay Avenue had not been opened for traffic since their completion in August.

But the resolution was just barely a day old when the authority said the north exit would open by the end of the month, although no timetable was announced for the southbound exit.

Township officials do not think the authority's response was coincidental.

"I think they heard us because we have really been getting frustrated with this," said Township Administrator David Breeden. "In town hall we got a lot of phone calls by residents asking us when the exit is going to be opening. They're getting exasperated, and so are we."

Breeden said that once the new northbound and southbound exits from the Parkway to West Bay Avenue are done, Exit 67 will be completed and it will be a full-fledged interchange like the ones at Manahawkin, Waretown and Forked River.

"I'm not sure when the south-

bound one will be ready," he said. "Right now, we've been concerned about the northbound exit."

Mayor Jeff Melchiondo added, "These exits have been ready for almost two months, so someone's got to step up."

The Oct. 4 resolution noted that all other aspects of the interchange project had been completed.

"The township has been patiently waiting for the opening of these ramps so that relief can be provided to the commuting public that resides in and around Barnegat Township," the resolution said. "Frustration is building among the motoring public that ramps are not open and available for use."

The committee then urged that the authority "take immediate action necessary to open the two remaining exit ramps."

Authority spokesman Thomas Feeney said the exit opening delays were caused by an ongoing widening Parkway project. The highway is being expanded from two to three northbound and southbound lanes between Toms River and Somers Point.

"The new exits will require structures and signs," he said. "But the sign contract is part of the widening



Ryan Morrill

## Shelling Out for Decorations

*She Shows Seashells on the Fence Post*

**PASSING BY:** The remnants of a favorite summer pastime for children of all ages hang along a fence post in Beach Haven Terrace. The warm weather of October also has kept the summer spirit alive through early fall.

project, not the Interchange 67 work. The widening project is operating on a different schedule. I didn't expect that the exit ramps would be done before the widening was complete."

Feeney said the authority worked out an agreement with the widening contractor to install the new northbound exit signs.

"That should be done within this month," he said.

Feeney said no time or date has been set to install the southbound exit signs.

"It seemed that most of the concerns were about the northbound signs," he said. "That situation should be alleviated real soon."

Feeney said he did not think the authority's action was related to the township resolution.

"We've stayed in pretty close contact with the township all this time," he said. "This has been a long time in coming, so we knew that people in Barnegat wanted this to get done."

— Eric Englund

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## Hallowed and Creepy, Hollowed and Creaky

Island visitors be warned! There, looking out through the window pane of the most decrepit and decaying of LBI landmarks is Nosferatu, who stands ready to shock the Shack out of you.

Jim Yuhas of Barnegat, otherwise known as "Squeaky" — the self-given, Shack-saving, alter-ego moniker that gets its name from "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" expression — is at it again in what has become a never-ending crusade to promote and eventually preserve the renowned Causeway Shack on Bonnet Island.

This time, he's hoping to illustrate the festive, seasonal potential of "that old pile of sticks," as he calls it, by placing a monstrous cutout of Nosferatu — of the classic original vampire film — in its window.

"I'm doing a community service. It's in the spirit of Halloween," said Squeaky. He added that throughout the years people have mentioned they thought they saw ghosts near the Shack, or took pictures that captured an odd form in the window that looks out over Route 72.

The life-size, plywood cutout was made by an artist friend of Squeaky and is covered in a hand-painted canvas. Squeaky also added an automatic solar spotlight that he said allows for the best view of the vile visage: in the cold darkness of night.

Perhaps Squeaky gets his



Ryan Morrill

**COUNT SHACK-ULA:** Locals are hereby warned that the figure adorning the Shack's façade is just a façade.

spookiness from working as a painter on 19<sup>th</sup>-century Victorian homes like the one he has most recently worked on at 111 Coral St. in Beach Haven. He said the home is rare due to the complete preservation of its original interior, and "all day long things are opening and closing."

Let's just put it in this objective

way: This dude is creepy.

Squeaky would like to see the Shack decorated for all seasons and/or holidays, including Christmas. Last year he made sure Santa Claus was on the scene.

In regard to the legality of his disturbing the property in any way, Squeaky remains insouciant. "The Shack belongs to the people

until somebody proves otherwise," referring to the current proof-of-ownership campaign by Chet Atkins, who owns the billboard adjacent to the structure.

"The scariest thing about the Shack is the shape it's in," said Squeaky, though he admitted, "I still see it as the happy little Shack." —M.M.

## Police Investigating Island Burglaries

The Long Beach Township and Harvey Cedars police departments are investigating recent burglaries in both of these Island municipalities.

According to Lt. Anthony Deely of the township police force, on Oct. 9, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a panic alarm indicated a situation on tract 12 in the Loveladies section of the municipality. Patrolman Phil Pollina responded to the area and discovered a burglary had been committed.

"It was evident that force was used to enter the dwelling," said Deely. "A search was conducted, and it was determined the residence was unoccupied."

During the course of the investigation and a canvass of the surrounding area, it was determined that Loveladies tracts 10F, 2C, 2D, 4E and 4F also had been burglarized. Suspected stolen property from these residences was recovered on an adjacent property.

Harvey Cedars police are also working on a case they believed to be related to this incident, involving force to gain entry at 8604 Long Beach Blvd. Detective Robert Burnaford is investigating the incident.

The patrol and detective divisions of the township police force and the Harvey Cedars police department are conducting a follow-up investigation, and request that any individuals with information pertinent to the cases contact the confidential LBTPD tips line at 609-361-2080, the LBTPD main desk at 609-494-3322 or Burnaford at 609-494-3036. —J.K.-H.