

A-5, ONLY A STUDY!!!

At election time, dealing with 'fear of the unknown'

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It's amazing how every election season brings out the worst in people.

You see it every day in all the political

TV commercials that give you misleading information.

In 2004, Buena Vista Township started the Richland Village Project on Route 40 -- one of the most highly traveled roads in our community. Richland

Village was given a major facelift, which improved the neighborhood and brought new life to a depressed area. Difficult economic times have slowed the progress down -- not only in Richland Village, but also in the whole country.

Buena Vista has very few commercial businesses to help offset our property tax burden -- no reduced sales tax, no state Urban Enterprise Zone, no federal Empowerment Zone, and very limited future development considering the Pinelands regulations.

In an effort to help our sagging local economy, the Pinelands Commission (in a rare occurrence), authorized a \$100,000 grant to have the Atlantic County Utilities Authority make a study to see if a small waste water system could serve the business community in Richland Village. This would allow businesses some room to expand or restaurants to add more seats.

No homes are involved in the project. However, the rumor mill is spinning in full force to upset some of our Richland residents.

Let's be clear about this: There has been no location chosen, no design completed, no decisions have been reached, and homeowners will not be required to connect.

The study has not even been done yet. The Pinelands Commission offered the funds to do the study at no cost to the township or the ACUA. Will it benefit our business community? We felt it was worth seeing what the study would show.

When the study is done the ACUA will have to determine whether it is worth its time or ours to participate.

One of the expenses the grant covered were the costs to have Richland Village surveyed -- and that's all that has been done so far. We are honestly looking for a way to help keep the few businesses that we have, and for them to remain in Buena Vista Township.

**Mayor Chuck Chiarello
Buena Vista Township**