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Monmouth

N.J. town literally stinks -- and now the neighbors can smell it, too

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By Allison Pries | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

What's that smell?

For years, residents of Tinton Falls have been complaining about a stench coming from a garbage dump located in the south end of town. And it's getting worse.

Now the foul odor is spreading into neighboring towns.

"There's been a lot more complaints recently in Ocean Township, Eatontown and Neptune," said State Senator Vin Gopal, who has organized a public meeting on the issue.

The meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 28 at 6p.m. at the Hamilton Fire House, 10 Jumping Brook Road in Neptune.

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More than 100 people have already registered to attend the meeting, Gopal said Tuesday.

Affected residents who register in advance can share their concerns with officials from the county and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection who will attend, he said.

By having all the parties in the same room, Gopal said he hopes a path to resolve the odor can be laid out. "Is it infrastructure that's needed or funding?" he asked. "If we don't do anything the problem will continue."

Residents are encouraged to report the odor by calling the state Department of Environmental Protection at 877-927-6337, or the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission at 732-493-9520. They're asked to provide their names, addresses and phone numbers, note the time, date and location when the odor was noticed, give a description of weather conditions and the type of the odor.

Monmouth County opened the Reclamation Center in 1976 at Asbury Avenue and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls because of the town's central location and good road network. The county pays the borough a host community fee of more than \$2.4 million each year to house the garbage dump. And more than \$5 million has been spent on landfill gas controls, according to the county.

Despite these efforts, the landfill has <u>reportedly</u> topped a list of the worst Shore air polluters, with greenhouse gas emissions nearly quadrupling between 2010 and 2014, according to the Asbury Park Press.

To share your experience at the meeting, you must RSVP by January 25 by visiting <u>www.SenatorGopal.com</u> and clicking on the Public Meeting tab, or emailing <u>SenGopal@njleg.org</u>.

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