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A More Suitable Location

To the Editor:

Can the Town of Beaufort work with local developers to find a more suitable location for a gas station? I've asked myself that question a lot lately as I ponder the potential impacts to my home and quality of life at the corner of Ocean Street and Lennoxville Road in Beaufort.

Our modest residential neighborhood surrounds Austin Vet Hospital and potentially the Jim Dandy gas station, which is proposed to replace the veterinary clinic. The proposal includes about 30,000 gallons of diesel and gasoline stored less than 40 feet from my neighbor's backdoor and the 30,000-gallon tanks are less than 100 feet from my front door. The site diagram includes a 53-foot tanker truck delivering thousands of gallons of gasoline by turning off Ocean Street onto the property. Ocean St. is barely passable with two cars driving in opposite directions. It is hard to visualize how the roads can be made safe for a truck's turning radius given the narrow road with limited easements.

The Town's new bike path is scheduled to cross Lennoxville at Ocean St. The risk is unacceptable for our neighborhood. As the Town of Beaufort plans future development, incorporating a gas station in the design phase would make better sense to mitigate risk related to health and safety of residents and visitors. I believe our Town officials and local developers can collaborate on a solution that is more suitable than the current proposal.

Thank you,
Suzanne Lea