

LT Police offer 'service' to owner of Sweetbriar Motel

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - Police Chief Edward Donohue said in a recent statement he hoped Sweetbriar Motel owner Angelo Raimo was happy with the police service he received when he was arrested on drug and prostitution charges, Feb. 16. The Sweetbriar Motel has been a problem in recent

years with neighbors complaining of drug activity and suspicious individuals lurking around the site. Police responded to the Sweetbriar Motel 154 times in 2005, 129 times in 2006, and 91 times in 2007 for problems ranging from fights, rescue calls, warrant arrests, narcotics search warrants and property checks.

Police arrested Raimo, known as Ange or Angelo Raimo, Feb. 16, after allegedly finding him in possession of heroin.

"A few years ago, Angelo Raimo came into my office complaining about the lack of police service he was receiving at the Sweetbriar Motel. I trust Mr. Raimo was satisfied with the service he received from the Lower Township Police Department on Saturday night," Donohue said.

Raimo, 57, the owner of the Sweetbriar and other rental

properties in Villas, was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on Fulling Mill Road. The arrest came after a lengthy investigation by the Lower Township Police.

Acting on police intelligence information that Raimo including a vehicle description, officers stopped Raimo on his way back to his residence in Lower Township. Police believed Raimo had just purchased illegal narcotics in Wildwood.

Police identified a female passenger in Raimo's vehicle as Jamie Bannon, 30, of 4 Mowery Ave., Villas, and determined Bannon was wanted on a Cape May County Body Warrant for failure to appear on a previous drug charge. Police said Bannon was arrested at the scene and found to have a glass crack pipe and a hypodermic syringe in her possession. Bannon was charged on the outstanding warrant and

for possession of drug paraphernalia. She was lodged in the Cape May County Correctional Center.

Raimo signed a consent to search form for his person and vehicle, and according to police, Raimo was found to be in possession of five bags of heroin. Raimo was arrested for possession of heroin and attempt to distribute heroin. It was later determined Raimo had transported Bannon to a location in Wildwood and gave her \$70 to purchase the heroin.

Police said Raimo would sometimes have several women at his residence to engage in sexual activities for money.

Raimo was initially lodged in the Cape May County Correctional Center on \$15,000 cash bail.

Police then received confidential information saying Raimo had other girls at his house at various times and

would provide them with heroin and/or crack in return for sexual favors. Donohue then requested assistance from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

According to police, one woman told investigators she was living in an apartment belonging to Raimo at 33 Weber Ave., Villas. The woman said she had been living rent free in return for sex with Raimo at least five times a week. She would also introduce Raimo to other women, which would count for one of her times per week, police said. The woman said Raimo would also occasionally supply her with heroin.

Investigators were told Raimo and information on his computer relating to a scheme to promote prostitution through his rental units.

Lower Township detectives executed a search warrant on Raimo's resident at 84 Millman Lane, Villas and took

possession of his computer.

Raimo has been charged with possession of a schedule one narcotic drug - specifically five bags of heroin and possession of heroin with the intent to distribute or disperse, both third degree crimes.

Raimo was also charged with two counts of promoting prostitution including one count of encouraging, inducing or otherwise purposely causing another to become or remain a prostitute, a third degree crime; and a second charge of promoting prostitution for transporting a person into or within the state with the purpose to promote that person's engaging in prostitution, a fourth degree crime.

Raimo's bail was then set at \$100,000 cash bail on all charges.

WEATHER ALMANAC
BY WAYNE ROOP

JANUARY SUMMARY:
High: 66°, 7th
Avg.: 44.7°
Low: 15°, 4th
Avg.: 29.5°
Month: 37.1°
Departure: 2.1°
Precip: 1.64"
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City

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would eliminate cats on the beach."

"This is something we have to do - it's part of our responsibility to the federal government," he said.

Robinson told city council the actions proposed under the plan were unnecessary, as Cape May was "way ahead of the pack" in terms of managing feral cats. She added that there were many other predatory threats to endangered bird species, including dogs and humans.

Craig said the Division of Fish and Wildlife was mandating the city enact this Beach Management Plan in order to continue the beach

replenishment program. Inderwies said the state was, in essence, holding the city hostage with the threat of withholding beach replenishment funds.

"I thought it would be difficult to believe that Cape May could be held hostage with the beach restoration project," Inderwies said.

Inderwies explained that Cape May entered into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to replenish Cape May beaches every other year until 2040. He said the federal government controls 65-percent of the funding, and the state controls the other 35-percent.

"The state is holding the city hostage. If we don't pass the Beach Management Plan we won't get the funding," Inderwies said.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said the city had until March 15 to pass the Beach Management Plan. The plan actually calls for the removal of cats from the beach area by March 15. Kurkowski said he believes the state would like them removed before the birds begin to migrate to Cape May beaches.

Resident Harry Belangy indicated it seemed Cape May had made feral cats an issue, saying he didn't see cats being discussed in other shore towns.

"If Cape May made cats an issue, why?" he said. "And why isn't the current plan available to the public?"

The latest edition of the plan was not available prior to the meeting, Belangy said the city has Internet service

and a Web site and it could have posted the plan.

"It's so long it's difficult to post," Inderwies said.

"Not it's not," Belangy said, adding that he was familiar with web design and could show the city how to post the plan, if need be.

Resident Harry Pullock, who is a registered cat colony caretaker, asked why the city was creating a 1,000 foot buffer from beach areas were there is no nest. Kurkowski said it was due to the potential that cats allowed in one beach area would wander into the nesting areas. Pullock said they have been caring for cats for five years and they "don't go anywhere."

"Why do we have to give up cat colonies?" he said.

Favre said those present needed to take their concerns to the state. He said when this issue was first discussed in the fall he received 1,400 to 1,500 emails.

"I don't know if (Congressman Frank) LoBiondo, (Gov. Jon) Corzine, and (State Sen. Jeff) Van Drew got those," Favre said, suggesting people contact them and the other state

legislators.

"I don't know if they know how many people are telling us this is a concern," he said.

Favre asked that people with some level of expertise, such as an earlier speaker, Brenda Malinics, form a committee and seek a meeting with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Malinics, who has worked with the Nature Conservancy, said that organization has reported an increase in migratory bird nesting, and suggested there is no serious threat from feral cats. Favre said she and others like her should be willing to push the issue with the state officials.

In the end, council took no action on the Beach Management Plan. Kurkowski stood alone, Tuesday night, in wanting to adopt the Beach Management Plan.

"The state wants to see the plan adopted," he said. "I felt good about what I did, but we should have taken a vote. I'm really disappointed I didn't push for it. We should have taken a vote; we should have faced it. One way or another we need to act."

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JUMPER (PG13) (11:15) 1:15 3:20 5:20 7:15 9:40	STEP UP 2: THE STREETS (PG13) (11:05) 1:05 3:05 5:30 7:45 9:55
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The article on Page B1, titled "Victoria Wermuth has emergency appendectomy: Return is uncertain" is actually continued on Page A11 not B2 as stated. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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