

Guest Column: Why are we killing off September?

By **Stephen Gambescia** *Times* Guest Columnist



September is the best month of the year, but more and more people want to blow by it. The weather has no agenda. Days can be described as simply delicious. Most days have blue skies. The nighttime firmament is majestic. The night air has a comforting chill, but no bite.

While many see it as the end of summer, when those whom you missed during the dog days are reunited (as The Tempos boys and other bands promised), there is plenty of pleasant sun and surf left at the Jersey Shore. People can stroll along the beach and boardwalk in sheer comfort. Each “September morn” has a feeling of optimism; and the sun is bigger than ever when setting. The holidays in this month are manageable – no stress.

But we are killing September.

Classic fall ginger snaps are appearing in the supermarkets in July. The Halloween candy is fully shelved by late August. Big box home improvement stores have Christmas decorations on sale. September is really too warm for pumpkins and cornstalks to sit on a house stoop.

Some schools are starting in late August; used to be they would not start until after Labor Day. Students anxious to wear their new fall clothing are way overdressed. Parents had to hustle their kids to sports practices in late August, when there is plenty of summer left. Football fans are

praying not only for their teams to win, but that the players don't get heat stroke. Major League baseball promotes "the boys of October."

Why are we leapfrogging over such a halcyon month? Let's get back to experiencing the fullness of September, otherwise we won't be able to help Jerry Orbach "try to remember that kind of September..."

September is fantastic!

Stephen F. Gambescia writes from Havertown
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