

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 8:57 AM
To: Euler, Gordon, Alvarez, Jose, Anderson, Colete
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Healthy Rural Living on Five acres - For the Public Record

FYI and for the record.

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 7:05 PM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Healthy Rural Living on Five acres - For the Public Record

Dear Councilors,

Welcome to our healthy living five acre rural farm. I just finished picking buckets of grapes and now am making grape concentrate for juice and jelly. The skins will go into the compost. I also worked in my flower beds, getting them ready for winter. My daughter gave some extra raspberry canes and they were planted in the raspberry plot. Potato starts have been planted in the planters for fall and winter potatoes. Rhubarb is abundant and I will cut it for myself and the children. The tomatoes have been harvested, along with the summer squash and cucumbers. The winter squash will be harvested later. Then, the garden space will be prepared for winter. The summer and winter apples have been picked and will be sorted and stored. We picked the winter apples early, because the deer wouldn't leave the trees alone. The Bartlett pears are eaten fresh and made into pies, as are the apples. We're enjoying the salmon and halibut our sons got in Alaska, as well as the deer meat from our own land and elk from the mountains. The grandsons will come for apples to make applesauce and dried apples. They like to do that. The strawberries are done, as are the blueberries. The winter pears, apples and Italian plums have been picked from the old homestead orchard. The plums are good, eaten fresh, and some went into the freezer, as I still have dried prunes from last season. I'm waiting for the figs to ripen and will see if the Kiwi has fruit. We share the produce with our four children's families, who also live on five acre parcels just through the woods from us. They then share what they have grown. When the children were at home, we canned most of the produce, but now we freeze it, for just the two of us. I seldom need to go to the store for food, except for milk, butter, flour and sugar. We try to pick up other things when we have errands in town. In a pinch we go to Heisson Store or Fargher Lake Store. When time allows, we take walks through the many trails that snake through our properties. One can hear the happy sounds of the grandchildren, playing on their properties as well as on ours, getting exercise, exploring and creating. They all are doing well in school and are planning their careers. Occasionally, one rides their horse, cycle or bike through the trails as they go from house to house. They all have back yard swimming pools and the children learn to swim at a very early age. We have a good feeling that they are safe, healthy and happy. We also believe they will be an asset to society and in the work force.

Who could ask for a more healthy and happy life? Yet, county staff has decided that because we do not live within 10 minutes of a store, we do not have the ability to access healthy food or be healthy. Staff has decided the way to fix that, is to write it into the Comprehensive Plan. They have decided that because we rural and resource people are not "healthy," our lands need to be "preserved" in very large lots to grow food for us. Because we drive cars and don't use "healthy" things in the city, like transit, bikes and walking, it is necessary to force us to do that, by forcing us to live in the city in even higher density. This is social engineering and is not mentioned as a goal or requirement in the GMA. There is very distinct directives for rural and resource land, and manipulating people who live there, is not one of them.

We live in an area that consists of all five acre or 2.5 acre parcels, which were created prior to the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. They live their lives the same as we do. They walk on the quiet narrow road that goes past our properties, they grow their gardens, and they wave when we pass on the street. The children walk or ride their bikes to the store or to go swimming at the river. They have pets, motorcycles for their boys, and horses for the girls. Their sons also hunt on their property. They have tractors and farm animals. This is healthy living at it's best. This is rural character and this is what the GMA says to allow and protect in the Rural and Resource Elements of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex Secretary, CCCU, Inc