

Subject: Response to email from Jeff and Kamile Langstaff re Maplewood.

Date: Wed, 9 Jun 2004 07:46:04 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <jeff@universe.com>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Langstaff:

The core of the Maplewood plan is based on the creation of a business park consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the District Strategic Plan. This plan calls for the creation of environmentally friendly, labor intensive and tourist based industries in Maplewood conducive to our North Shore environment. The essence of the plan is to improve the resident/job ratio, preserve our North Shore environment while, at the same time, reduce the need for north-south traffic.

Our options have been impacted, however, by the fact that a sizable piece of land in the area is owned by NEXEN. This company has had reservations about the creation of labor intensive and tourist oriented industries adjacent to its plant. To put it in plain English NEXEN does not wish to see maximum employment in the area. It prefers non labor intensive industries including warehouses. As such, its plans are at odds with our own objectives. As a byproduct while any kind of development will impact trees, warehouses will do so more than other development. Warehouses as a rule are not monuments of architectural beauty.

In light of this, it was up to the District to take the necessary steps to rectify this by encouraging NEXEN to leave the area since its existence is in the way of creating the kind of community we wished to create. This was not done, however. The necessary leadership and political will on the part of District Council did not exist. All attempts on my part to rectify this failed. The result is that the Maplewood area is not necessarily being developed to its best potential use either in terms of environmental esthetics, tax or labor intensity as was originally planned. To make this happen would require a stronger degree of leadership by District Council than has been the case in the past. However, it is unlikely that this will come about until the public takes a much greater interest in the affairs of the community than is the case at present.

However, you may wish to get in touch with the Seymour and/or the Maplewood Community Association. Both have tried very hard to influence events in favor of the goals and objectives enunciated in both the Seymour and Maplewood community plans to which they contributed. Their timely hard work has had some influence on the livability of Maplewood. The relevant telephone numbers may be obtained through the District Clerk's Office.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

