

[back to article](#)



Sunday's letters: Land-use planning needed

Published: Sunday, October 11, 2009 at 3:15 a.m.

In her recent letter to the editor, Jennifer Bradey, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Greater Spartanburg, indicated she believed a majority of Spartanburg residents do not want zoning/land use planning. She attempted to support this conclusion using last year's Spartanburg County land-use meetings.

I believe she is dead wrong about how many of the attending residents not associated with the building trades feel about establishing land-use planning to protect their investment. This is another example of the Home Builders Association trying to control Spartanburg County Council and the future of Spartanburg.

After attending multiple county land-use meetings, I gladly discovered and now firmly believe many of the residents not in the building trades were in favor of getting some form of land-use planning in the county. Many of those who spoke out against any land-use planning appeared to me to be members of the construction and real estate industry.

In recent years, Upstate Forever has conducted surveys asking residents whether they want some form of land-use planning. The group reported that a majority of residents responded yes to this question.

I believe the Home Builders Association's position is unfortunately eliminating many out-of-state, senior, middle-income people from selecting Spartanburg as their next home due to a lack of zoning.

We need to look at towns with zoning, such as areas of North Carolina, and discover how zoning contributes to development and price increases for homes in the zoned areas. Just take a short ride to Hendersonville, N.C., to see the land/home price difference between zoned and unzoned areas.

The Chamber of Commerce recently indicated that many companies looking to relocate strongly favor areas with zoning. So, County Council, let's get going and make Spartanburg a great place to live for our residents.

Guido and Eileen Migiano

Spartanburg

OUR BEST INTEREST IN MIND

As a longtime resident of the city and county of Spartanburg, I am very encouraged that we have an opportunity to elect as mayor a man who is my personal friend and, more importantly, a friend of all residents of Spartanburg -- June White.

Junie has the best interest of our city in mind when making decisions as a current member of City Council, and he would continue to do so as mayor. He has great interest in the real needs and concerns of citizens from all walks of life, and he is capable of being an effective catalyst in creating positive results for the benefit of all.

Junie is a generous, caring, productive man with great integrity. He is in a position to carry our city forward, building on the positive improvements of the past few years.

I encourage my fellow citizens to get to know Junie and to express your concerns to him. He is very approachable and a good listener. He is hands-on at his business, White's Pine Street Exxon, and he is interested in helping Spartanburg and its people prosper and enjoy a good quality of life.

I am proud to call Junie and his wife, Irene, my friends, and you will be, too. Please cast your vote for Junie White on Nov. 3.

Mary K. Wilborn

Spartanburg

DEDICATED TO SPARTANBURG

For the past two years, I have been the director of the Spartanburg Downtown Association. When I began my position, I reported to a board of directors consisting of downtown business owners, commercial Realtors and city executives. Cate Brandt Ryba was working in the economic development department for the city of Spartanburg at the time, and she served on my board. She still does.

I can't begin to name all of the things she did to help me start my new job.

Cate has an understanding of how our city works and is absolutely dedicated to the growth and development of Spartanburg. She supports the "Buy Into Spartanburg" initiative that promotes shopping in locally owned and operated businesses, which in turn will spur our economy. She sent me countless articles with information relating to promoting our city and took personal time to help me develop programs

and strategies for the Downtown Association. At the same time, she managed to volunteer for many organizations, supported programs relating to the arts and became a new mother.

There couldn't be a more excellent candidate for Spartanburg City Council than my friend, Cate Ryba. She would bring knowledge, energy and fresh ideas to this position.

Please join me in voting for Cate Brandt Ryba for City Council, District 4, on Nov. 3.

Kathy Chandler

Spartanburg

A MAN OF DILIGENCE

Thomas A. Belenchia is a genuine person who is interested in providing a real service in helping people. I found my experience with Thomas very satisfying in taking care of my task at hand. He seems to be a people person and always concerned with my needs.

Thomas, a candidate for Spartanburg City Council's District 4, would be diligent in helping the Spartanburg community with all of its economic challenges.

Terry Deaton

Spartanburg

THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP SKILLS

On Nov. 3, voters in School District 7 will have the opportunity to elect Julie Lonon to the board of trustees. I cannot think of a better person for the job. Julie will bring dedication, experience and perspective as a parent to the District 7 board of trustees.

I have gotten to know Julie professionally through her work at the Spartanburg Area Conservancy and personally as parents with children in the same school. Julie is passionate about Spartanburg and School District 7 and has the leadership skills to put that passion into action. She has campaigned tirelessly over the past few months and has demonstrated her commitment to being a voice for the parents of District 7. Not only is Julie talking to other parents in District 7, she is a current District 7 parent and has a vested interest in making sure the district is successful.

If elected, Julie will focus on fiscal responsibility, transparency, effective communication and restoring the trust of the community. Julie is exactly what District 7 needs!

Molly Talbot-Metz

Spartanburg

HEALTH CARE REFORM

In reference to the public option and health care reform, may I suggest that for many years a national health insurance program has been in place that provides national health insurance to a large segment of Americans, and it is totally administered by the government.

The system was created by the Social Security Act of 1935 and is known as OASDHI (Old Age, Survivors, Disability and Health Insurance.) In the early years following the inception of this legislation, the improvement in public health care was revolutionary and demonstrated both the need and the effectiveness of government intervention in depressed times when large segments of the population have no way of providing for themselves.

Unfortunately, today -- after several decades of unanswered and skyrocketing health care costs, fraud, waste and abuse -- what was once a grandiose public health care system bears little resemblance to its former self. It now stands urgently in need of restructuring, which conceivably may not result in a brand-name solution to our health care dilemma, but we just might come up with a generic system that will work just as well and prove a lot less costly.

Dudley Brewton

Moore
