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C'ville task force on growth is welcomed

I read with interest the article in The Centreville Times (March 8) about the Centreville Strategic Planning Task Force.

Jeff Parnes E-mail this article | Print this article

We must applaud the effort of concerned citizens to get involved in monitoring and trying to guide the future growth of their neighborhood.

But I am concerned with the scope of the growth. We have many citizen groups in this part of the county--two of many years' existence. It seems that both the WFCCA [West Fairfax County Citizens Association] and the Sully District Council and the Centreville Strategic Planning Task Force overlap, more so the WFCCA.

I am concerned that the Centreville Strategic Planning Task Force is considering as parts of Centreville areas clearly designated as part of the Fairfax Town Center area and other areas more closely identified as Chantilly. Although the rationale for their inclusion was that their residents shop and patronize Centreville restaurants and recreational facilities, I question whether an extensive study has been performed to show that they frequent these areas more than other nearby areas in question but not in Centreville.

Is it possible that the people who live in Chantilly eat and shop in Chantilly or the western section of what is known as Fairfax eat in and shop in the Fair Oaks/Fair Lakes section of Fairfax more than they do in Centreville?

What I see is another layer of review (which by and of itself is not necessarily bad), but I think it will tend to confuse residents and others as to which group they should turn to when they have questions. There should be firm geographic limits to what we recognize as named areas, or we set ourselves up for repeats of the like where Fairfax County residents registered to vote in Alexandria because they had Alexandria ZIP codes. If they don't live in Centreville, neither shopping in Centreville nor Centreville task forces wanting them as volunteers make them part of Centreville.

I'm sure the areas surrounding Centreville might be willing to participate if invited to comment on the Centreville plans, without these citizens necessarily being part of Centreville. I look forward to the Centreville Strategic Planning Task Force's success in its endeavors.

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