

My family and I moved to Hardin Valley to get away from traffic and the over-development of the Western Avenue area. However, over the last three years, there has been non-stop construction in our part of Hardin Valley. I can honestly count six massive developments that have recently been built or are in the process of being built. All six of these are within a 1 to 4 mile radius from where I live.

One of the benefits to living in this part of Knoxville is that gorgeous natural scenery. This undeveloped land is also a home for many animals that can be seen visiting our back yards, and this adds to the charm and wonder of life in Hardin Valley. It's heart breaking to see this beautiful rural land being destroyed. All of this construction in Hardin Valley is changing our scenery and our way of life - so much so that it is quickly becoming that which many of us tried to escape when we first moved here.

Traffic from these new developments is definitely a problem for people who live in this area. I live on Yarnell Road, and travel on Campbell station to go to the Food City that is located on Hardin Valley Road just across the street from the fire station. Campbell Station is just a small road. It cannot take any additional traffic. The two new developments that have recently been built have added to the traffic load making it unbearable as it is. If new developments keep being built, pretty soon the road will need to be widened to accommodate all of the new traffic generated by the people who are moving to the area. Campbell Station is an important road that helps people in this area get from one place to another. Our lives will suffer if the road has to be shut down so that it can be widened. And yet more land will be destroyed to widen the road. The real kicker is that the taxpayers whose lives are being affected by all this development will be the same ones to help cover the bill to widen the road.

Also, because Yarnell is closed down for the next 6-8 months for a bridge repair, those of us who live in this area are heavily dependent on Campbell Station Road. We have children that play soccer at Bob Leonard Park, play hockey at Cool Sports, and ride horses in Vonore, Tn. The Yarnell Road shutdown has forced us to use Campbell Station Road, and it is already congested. To safely turn left from Yarnell onto Campbell Station requires a lot of patience because of the traffic. More housing developments are going to mean even more traffic. The residents of this area don't want this. We want to be able to turn left! We don't want more traffic which will eventually mean a traffic light.

My last concern with the rezoning is that the already overcrowded school system cannot handle more students. Our schools are packed as it is. Many of us are making the decision to homeschool our children because Hardin Valley Schools are already at capacity. Our schools are relatively new. We should not be facing this problem yet. But because Knox County planning commission will not listen to residents and will not put on the brakes on new development, we all suffer the consequences.

Schools are affected. Families are affected. Nature is affected. Why do the lives of current residents of the area not matter? The quality of life of local residents shouldn't be trumped by these massive developers who want to line their pockets at the expense of the land and the people who have worked hard to build their lives here.

Please do not rezone these two parcels of land so that yet another housing development can be built at the expense of current residents. When the developers make their money and move on, we are the ones left behind to suffer the consequences of overcrowded schools and traffic congestion.