

I strongly object to the request to close Glenmore Drive for private use.

The applicant's reason for wanting this change is because he has been cited for code violations due to his above-ground pool and his fence, so he now claims that the current code "does not allow proper use of my property." What an astonishing argument. A major reason for City codes is to broadly define what is the "proper" use of property in a particular geographic area. Those are the rules, and Mr. Clark knew those rules when he bought his property. Now he wants to change the rules because he wants to make improper use of his property.

This side street is the only place that provides easy access to important parts of the park such as the pavilion and the playground across the bike trail from the pavilion. Elderly residents and elderly visitors of Bennington Drive residents rely on nearby Glenmore Drive for parking so that they can walk over a shorter distance of uneven ground to take full advantage of all of our park's wonderful amenities.

I barely know Mr. Clark, having met him briefly just once many years ago. He may be a good person, but he certainly hasn't shown himself to be a very conscientious neighbor. Glenmore Drive has been kept by him in a deplorable condition as a result of his stashing old boats, building materials, and other items in and around that area. The place usually looks like a junk yard in the making, although I noticed recently that it is suddenly all cleaned up, no doubt because of this application. If his application is granted, I have no doubt that this public eyesore will return and likely get worse.

It's not right for Mr. Clark to be granted this request when the rest of us stay within the City's codes even when it may be inconvenient and more expensive for us to comply, as happened a few years ago when my wife and I did a major renovation of our home. It's not fair under any circumstances, especially when you consider that part of the taxes we pay have been channeled into the creation and upkeep of Glenmore Drive. Why should something we helped pay for be handed over to Mr. Clark? It's especially galling to grant such an exception to someone who has already violated the City code with his above-ground pool and who has for many years demonstrated his indifference to the basic neighborhood values of keeping one's property in order and adding to--rather than detracting from--the physical beauty of West Hills.

--Ken Brown