

The other side of the story...

Good Guys Winning

Are the Good Guys winning? In some places they are. And they're waging a fight for all of us. If they lose, the "Last of the Old West" dies.

They're fighting the 'Bigger and Grander' folks who've lawyered-up and hired their consultants. They're after big-time growth with a capital-G; more, always more.

It's playing out right now on the Village road. A group called 'Alliance of Route 390 Neighbors' have challenged a developer who's trying to turn Bar J Chuckwagon into a dense housing project. On a space suited for just four units, he wants to cram 69 new homes.

The 390 Neighbors say "One cannot amend a master plan by completely disregarding that master plan." It makes sense, amendments are small changes, and a 17-fold density increase is humongous. So far, and to their credit, county planners have agreed, sending developers back to the drawing board and standing strong to defend the county against the lawsuits.

The 'Bigger and Grander' folks just see dollar signs. They can't see the wildlife they'll displace or the overcrowding they cause. They're blind to the traffic jams and access problems they create.

We who value a livable Jackson Hole owe a debt to the 390 Neighbors and the county commissioners. They're waging the good fight for all of us.

In town, electeds are on a monster bulk-up kick. Hotels, apartments, dense housing developments, they love it all. Can't get enough. When the dust settles and WYDOT pulls the parking off North Cache to add two more traffic lanes, we'll all pay the price.

Enlightened leadership or the road to perdition, you decide.

The 'Bigger and Grander' folks see only dollar signs.

But even in town there are success stories. Last year there was a sneaky attempt to plus-up downtown zoning with extra short-term commercial condo rentals—after the community said that was the

last thing we needed in Jackson. It was a stealth attack intentionally introduced late in the game.

But locals fought back, signed a referendum petition, there was a vote, and the stealth attack failed. In the process, a mysterious group working the shadows to orchestrate more commercial development—Think About It, Jackson Hole—was dismantled and dissolved.

When it comes to pulling together for the good of our community, we do rise up, we do care. Whether it's showing up at the polls to defeat burdensome big-growth taxes, or making sure 'deep pocket' corporate owners at Snow King play by the rules—organizations like SHJH help inform and educate a populace that's ready and willing to defend its quality of life.

Appeal for funds: News in this column can't be found elsewhere. It's expensive to publish.

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