



PROTEST OF APARTMENT PLANS IN VILLAGE OFF BASE

KENOSHA NEWS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

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KENOSHA NEWS | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019 | **C2**

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Protest of apartment plans in village off base

A “not in my backyard” protest in Pleasant Prairie got headlines recently.

It focused on the apartments planned as part of the proposed “The Vista at Creekside” project, which would include 43 single-family lots, a two-family lot and seven, 20-unit apartment buildings with a clubhouse on 62 acres.

The project is targeting the Whittier Creek neighborhood north of 93rd Street and east of Old Green Bay Road.

Dozens of residents of the area

OUR VIEW

turned out at last month’s Pleasant Prairie Plan Commission meeting to object to the apartments. Because Bear Development is using workforce housing tax credits for the project, many at the meeting jumped to the conclusion that the apartments would be low-income, tax-subsidized housing.

That’s simply not the case, as Bear president S.R. Mills explained:

“This isn’t low-income. ... We’re

talking about teachers, firefighters and single professionals. It’s not subsidized where the rent is going to be paid from government.”

There is a severe housing shortage in Kenosha County. With the economy booming and Foxconn, Haribo and other companies poised to bring even more jobs to the area, finding a place to live is not easy.

There is especially a need for affordable rental housing. Rents in Kenosha County are not cheap, and many young, single people are not ready yet to purchase a house.

The NIMBY protest in Pleasant Prairie had varied concerns, but most were based on fear and prejudice that poor people would be living near them and that they would bring crime and lower property values.

Mills called it “fear mongering,” and he’s right.

While the Plan Commission approved the project, members said it might be “looked at again” and “tweaked.”

Apartments such as these are needed in Kenosha County. We hope this project isn’t scaled back.