

We are Jon & Judi Kvernmo. We moved to Skagit County about 12 years ago, after having raised our family in Snohomish County.

A number of our neighbors have expressed approval of our plans. Even so, there have been others who have raised legitimate concerns, some of which I would like to address by way of the following brief comments.

It is easy to paint people like us as faceless investors, bent on taking advantage. The truth is that we are ordinary people simply continuing our diligent approach to life and the process of providing for ourselves and our family without burdening others. We intend to continue to manage our rentals on Ball Street, to build a duplex on the proposed new lot, and to live in one of the duplex units as part of our retirement plan.

When we acquired the homes on Ball Street about five years ago, they came with a bad reputation in the neighborhood. In cooperation with city officials, including the police department, we made tenant changes and physical improvements that have resulted in numerous appreciative comments from our neighbors.

As to our current endeavor, sometimes the process of development and construction is not pretty, but local ordinances are in place to protect our neighbors and to ensure that our work is done right.

The City of Sedro-Woolley and our neighbors will benefit from the improvements we envision, and with the results of our conscientious management. Although there may be short-term inconvenience experienced with construction, it is true that a rising tide lifts all boats, so at the very least, nearby properties will continue to benefit with increased value.

We appreciate the APPROVAL recommendation from the Planning Department, and look forward to approval by the hearing examiner, and will comply with the conditions presented.

Thank you.