

Hey neighbors, do you know what's happening with our beloved North Bench? What started as a grassroots movement to acquire the approval of an AVA (American Viticulture Area) designation to put in place development standards pertaining to vineyard cultivation and winemaking has morphed into blowing up the North Bench with cluster housing developments throughout the North Bench.

Several developers have stepped in and are lobbying our City Council members hard for a change to the longstanding General Plan put in place years ago so they can redesignate the North Bench from RL1 (one house per acre) to ¼ acre and less for cluster housing.

Time is of the essence to act and let our voices be heard. The upcoming City Council election will determine who is making the decisions that will affect our North Bench. It is imperative to attend as many City Council/Planning Commission meetings and the meetings of the Wine Country Planning Committee. Bill and I have attended several of these lately and it's alarming what is taking place. There is strength in numbers.

We are hosting a meet & greet for a District 1 candidate on Tuesday, October 18 from 6:00-8:00. This will also be a good opportunity to share pertinent information and hand out copies of the developers stated objectives. We hope you can join us.

Furthermore, there are City Council public meetings every other Monday at 6:00 that as many of us as possible need to attend and voice our objections during the public comments sessions regarding the change to the current quality of life we all enjoy on the North Bench. Letters to the editor of the News Mirror are helpful.

You can log onto Friends of the North Bench at friendsofthenorthbench.org for more insight.

Sherilyn Long has our support and votes for City Council.

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