

The Capital

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Our say

Odenton project finds support

LAST WEEK the County Council wisely added a senior housing center in west county to the Odenton Small Area Plan.

The vote would be unremarkable if not for the fact that this huge development carried overwhelming support from the community. When was the last time you heard of a massive development getting community support?

Odenton and Crofton residents liked the Two Rivers project because it would make good use of 1,500 acres of an abandoned sand and gravel pit. Many feared that the site would be used as a landfill, which would be far worse.

In addition, developers John Stamato and Gary Koch have worked closely with the community to make sure the environment isn't damaged, that shoreline along the rivers is preserved and that services are not interrupted. They even pledged to give the school system \$7 million that isn't required because the project is for senior citizens who won't affect local schools. Their involvement in the community and their concessions are a model for other developers to follow.

The project still needs to meet county standards for traffic, water and sewers before getting building permits, so Two Rivers is far from a done deal. However, if the project is good enough for the community, it should be good enough for the county.