

NEWS

Rezoning approved in 3 to 2 vote *Opens the door for Dollar General to be built in Ebony*

BY SYLVIA ALLEN
Brunswick Times-Gazette

Despite fierce opposition from locals, the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors approved a request to rezone property from Agriculture to Business that will allow Dollar General to build a store in Ebony, a small rural community in the southern part of Brunswick County. The request pitted the interests of residents to keep the area rural against those who see this as an economic development opportunity.

The vote was 3 to 2 with Supervisor Dr. Barbara Jarrett Harris - Chairperson, breaking the tie vote. Supervisor John Zubrod, who represents the Meherrin District, made a motion to deny the rezoning request and Supervisor Bernard Jones seconded the motion and Supervisor Dr. Alfonzo Seward and Supervisor Welton Tyler voted against the motion setting the stage for Dr. Harris to break

the tie. Tyler then made a motion to approve the request seconded by Seward and Zubrod and Jones voted against the motion and Dr. Harris voted in favor.

The supervisors held a public hearing on the request on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and it was standing room only. The room was divided with those opposing the rezoning seated on one side and those who favored the rezoning seated on the other. Those opposing the rezoning prepared signs voicing their opposition.

The request was submitted by Par 5 Development Group, LLC to rezone 8.36 acres owned by Jerry Michael and Susan Royster Jones from Agricultural to Business. Approximately 2.04 acres of the parcel will be developed for the project. Dollar General wanted to construct, operate, and maintain a 9,100 square foot retail store.

According to information provided by Director of Planning George E. Morrison, III, the subject property is located

on the east side of Ebony Road (State Route 903), across from the intersection of Hendricks Mill Road and Robinson Ferry Road in the Meherrin Election and Magisterial Districts.

As background the Brunswick County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. The Planning Commission deferred action on the request until December and at that meeting recommended approval of the rezoning request to the supervisors.

Prior to the vote Tyler said he understood the comments from members of the community. He said he visited the site on Sunday and talked to people who wanted Dollar General to come to Ebony. He said Brunswick County is advertising that it is Open for Business and said denying the request would go against that claim. Tyler said Dollar

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Free field trip planned to observe fruit tree pruning

The best way to master the art and science of pruning fruit trees is to observe the proper technique from an expert. N.C. Cooperative Extension will provide that opportunity on Feb. 19 through a field trip to the Buster Sykes Farm in Alamance County.

The Buster Sykes Farm contains a 300-plant orchard with apples, peaches, pears, plums, pawpaws, blackberries, grapes, figs and much more. Operated by the Alamance County Extension Center, it is maintained according to specifications developed by N.C. State University horticulturists.

Instruction will be provided by Mark Daniely, Alamance County Extension director, who supervises the orchard.

There is no charge to participate, and transportation is provided. The trip will depart from the Warren County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension at 7:45 a.m., returning around 2:45 p.m. Space is limited, and registration is required.

For complete details and to register, call 252-257-3640 or go online to go.ncsu.edu/fruitprunetour.

**Advertise here to get
the community to vote
for your business!
Don't miss out!**

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Thank You!
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Body Shop
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**Call Heather for voting
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Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer's
3rd Annual
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2020



**VOTE FOR
YOUR
FAVORITES!**

To encourage and acknowledge
excellence in our community,
the Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer
is conducting its annual
Readers' Choice contest.
Cast your votes in each category
and support your local businesses!

Use the official ballot to enter your favorite choices in the Lake Gaston area.
The Readers' Choice Awards category winners will be announced in a special section in March 2020.

- Goods & Services**
- Best Bank _____
 - Best Insurance Company _____
 - Best Real Estate Agency _____
 - Best Tax Service/Accountant _____
 - Best Entertainment Spot _____
 - Best Auto Repair/Body Shop/Wrecker _____
 - Best Appliance Store _____
 - Best Hair Salon _____
 - Best Entertainment (DJ/Band) _____
 - Best Area Car Dealership _____
 - Best Health/Fitness Business _____
 - Best Boat Repair _____
 - Best Area Hospital _____
 - Best Golf Course _____
 - Best View _____
 - Best Heating/Air Service _____
 - Best Landscape & Gardening Shop _____
 - Best Pest Control _____
 - Best Hardware Store _____
 - Best Golf Carts _____
 - Best Grocery Store _____
 - Best Home Builder _____
 - Best Gift Shop/Specialty Shop _____
 - Best Pier/Boathouse Builder _____
 - Best Florist _____
 - Best Restaurant _____
 - Best Funeral Home _____
 - Best Pharmacy _____

- Best Customer Service _____
- Best Convenience Store _____
- Best Gas/Oil Company _____
- Best Landscaper _____
- Best Plumbing Service _____
- Best Furniture Store _____
- Best Nail/Manicure Salon _____
- Best Roof Repair/Installation _____
- Best Pet Grooming/Boarding _____
- Best Beef Supplier _____
- Best Doctor's Office _____
- Best Marina _____
- Best Lake Gaston/Littleton Event _____
- Best Outdoor Sporting Goods _____
- Best Bakery _____

- People**
- Best Contractor/Home Improvement _____
 - Best Attorney _____
 - Best Civic Group/Non Profit Org. _____
 - Best Real Estate Agent _____
 - Best Accountant _____
 - Best Dentist _____
 - Best Eye Doctor _____
 - Best Mechanic _____
 - Best Waiter/Waitress _____
 - Best Area Physician _____
 - Best Elected Official _____
 - Best Hair Stylist _____

- Eats & Drinks**
- Best Pizza _____
 - Best Subs _____
 - Best Coffee _____
 - Best Breakfast _____
 - Best Fried Chicken _____
 - Best Hot Dog _____
 - Best Fast Food _____
 - Best Burgers _____
 - Best Desserts _____
 - Best Mixed Drinks _____
 - Best BBQ _____
 - Best Seafood _____
 - Best Beer _____
 - Best Steak _____
 - Best Biscuits _____
 - Best Take Out _____
 - Best Buffet _____

If we forgot a category, write in your own:
Best _____
Best _____
Best _____
Best _____
Best _____

**Ballot Deadline: Thursday,
February 27, 2020 by 5 pm**

Voter Information:
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Are you a Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer subscriber? Yes _____ No _____
If not, would you like us to contact you with more information? Yes _____ No _____

Thank you for your participation!

**Bring or mail original ballot(s) to:
Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer
378 Lizard Creek Road, Littleton, NC 27850
No photocopied ballots will be accepted.
Call 252-586-2700 with questions.**