

JUST MY OPINION

Roger R. West

Just imagine a place in the west side of Nassau County where you could take your children and enjoy a day floating around a lazy river and the children having a blast splashing and playing in a large splash pad. No longer would you have to travel to St. Marys, Georgia or Jacksonville or even further to relish in this type of family time. In a sensible world, this type of family fun would be greatly accepted and appreciated. Or the land could be developed into a sprawling neighborhood of approximately 250 homes or more.

A local developer, who has purchased over 200 acres off Lem Turner Road that currently serves as an 18-hole golf course, had a vision to transform the property into a family oriented fun zone. His plans were to maintain a 9-hole golf course, construct a lazy river, a large kid friendly splash pad, a general store for guests' needs, all the while maintaining a wooded barrier between the park and nearby existing residential property. His vision also included camper spots for approximately 40 RVs with limited time of stays.

All five of our illustrious County Commissioners decided a recreation

area for the west side was not a good idea and unanimously voted it down. What's even sadder is Justin Taylor, the District 5 Commissioner that represents the area, is the one who made the motion to deny the request.

Perhaps they do not want the people of the west side to have a place to go so that we will have to continue going to the east side for recreation, perhaps they think this adventure will take away from their planned \$2 million tax dollar funded park they want to construct between Callahan and Hilliard, who knows what they think? If what they're thinking is 250-500 new homes are going to booster their tax rolls, then they are only fooling themselves and us. Anyone with any knowledge of taxes knows that residential rooftops due not cover the expenses of services required. One more critical component of building out the land with residential homes or even the possibility of apartments is the increased vehicle traffic on Lem Turner Road. This will be a nightmare of its own.

This is just another example of poor decision making by our Commissioners once again.

As always...that's just my opinion!