

LETTER DATED September 9, 2024

Appeals # B276681

This is concerning the "Good Neighbor Camping Ministries" currently being created located at 12505 Renner Rd. with access on Cregger road.

We are very confused by the zoning process so far. Is all of parcel 107 zoned agricultural? Single family dwelling permit L266861 in 2022 that has seen a pavilion built and another building added near by. As stated in the camp invite of 2022, in 2015 the 501C3 status for nonprofit.

I was told that they have received their temporary camping permit as of August 2023. Permit number 404452? Does that mean the site plan has been approved and are they available to the public? We see now a large part of the field is going to be used also, that is along Cregger Rd.

What is planned for this area, a sand mound? Well site? This is very far from the pavilion. Came home one time and the whole corner of the woods that joins our property corner had been gutted. They had left only a few trees and many of the remaining trees have been damaged by equipment. More trees removed later and dump trucks of dirt brought in and leveled off. Is this for an Archery site? All of this work for how many days that the camp will be used in a year. It makes us wonder!!

If they had left some of the woods to help block the view of the camp then we may not have had so many concerns. As of August 21, they had a wooded privacy fence put up. It is 6'2" tall and goes down to the ground. It runs all the way down along our property except across the drainage ditch. The fence posts is within 9" and the boards are about 13" from our property line. Why was a door put in when they can't even step out because they will be on private property?!! How are they going to maintain the fence on our side when there is no room to walk! At the corner of our property we can still see the road and a lot of the camp area. We will have to put up a privacy screen that will cover a 100' at least. None of this will address the noise factor. The November 2022 invite (copy inclosed) was just placed in our mailbox without any postage. We did not appreciate someone opening our private mailbox. Is this even legal? This is one of many reasons we did not attend.

The invite led us to believe mainly in or around the "wooded area". Also no larger than 25-30 at any given time but at one time it was up to 50 people. As of 8/16/2024 we see that it is down to 25 people. Does that include camp counselors? Also, is this going to be offered to other camp groups? What's next, will showers be put in and waste disposal? We hope that no intrusive lighting will be used. Aren't there 300 youth camps in Frederick MD already?

We understand that people have the right, within reason, to do what

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they want with their property. This is not just someone clearing their woods. This will be a youth camp that is already having a huge impact on us. We question just how anything has been allowed to be done so far without a public hearing! It would have been neighborly to ask for people's input and consideration. From what we can see, most of the woods has been brutally gutted. Equipment big and small removing trees and digging out stumps and burning large piles of debris.

Our property borders some of theirs. We live in a 2 story house. The woods right beside of us within 20 yards looks like it will be cleared also. Since they have put up a privacy fence, they must have activities planned there right beside of us! Is this being considerate? We don't want any piles of debris set on fire this close to our property due to the smoke. They did not leave any understory or many trees to block the view of the pavilion, road and the porta-pots from our property. Why are we being exposed to the camp? The traffic, camp tents and the noise will be unwelcomed. Will they be bussed in? Where will the tents be? I was told that it will be from 8:00 to 8:00 and when school is in session weekends only. That will be 12 hours of our day that we will have to put up with the activities etc.. That means we will have to alter our outdoor plans. The mowing of the gutted woods goes on and on. Countless hours will be spent maintaining the camp to the annoyance of others. Of course, if there would have been a public hearing years ago, many of our issues could have been addressed. We hope that all the decisions were made in fairness and in the proper order.

We have quietly lived here for 39 years and have invested a lot of ourselves in our 5 acres for the peaceful enjoyment of all that Nature has gifted to us. It has been very upsetting to see the habitat removed, we were picturing only trails through the woods and a primitive camp so the campers can enjoy nature. Is a gutted woods that is being mowed considered primitive?

Since I was a child, I have enjoyed the many pleasures of the outdoors. My calling and passion has been the love and respect of nature. What I have witnessed, through my eyes, is the total disregard for the loss of a habitat, the understory and it's biodiversity. To us, it is no true woods to even interact with nature. Plant life and creatures great and small will not be there again like it was.

We understand that things can't stay the same forever. There has been many times our privacy and our ability to enjoy our property has been disrupted and we had to go in and close our windows, just to try to get away from all the commotion. Sometimes it gets so upsetting we have to get into our vehicle and leave. Our peace, privacy, enjoyment and security is being intruded upon!

This leaves us with many troubling questions and concerns. We are very disappointed and feel that we have been mislead.

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We have chosen not to access any social media for answers.

There have been issues in our neighborhood for the past 4 years with the reckless, obnoxious and rude behavior on the roads of the youths that they know personally. We don't understand!

Please, it should be seen from our property to see our point of view. The hard part to reckon with it was touted as a place to experience nature. What is their definition of nature? The way things have been handled and progressing has made it hard to accept the drastic changes. It does not set well with us! Such a public and open operation near to a private residence. A fence and planting of some trees won't be enough! It will take years to be of any benefit to us.

We acknowledge that this Good Neighbor Camping Ministries has been their dream. We realize that it is not just about nature. Doesn't anybody care about the loss of habitat!

Finally, we see that a sign has been put up for the Appeals public hearing. Why now after a lot of the work is done?

We are tired of the stress, sleepless nights and the dread of what's to come.

What are our options going forward?

It has not been a blessing for us!

Sincerely,

Robin Stansbury
Chris Stansbury

Robin Stansbury

Chris Stansbury

9-13-2024

Appeal # 8276681

Good Neighbor Camping Ministries Open House

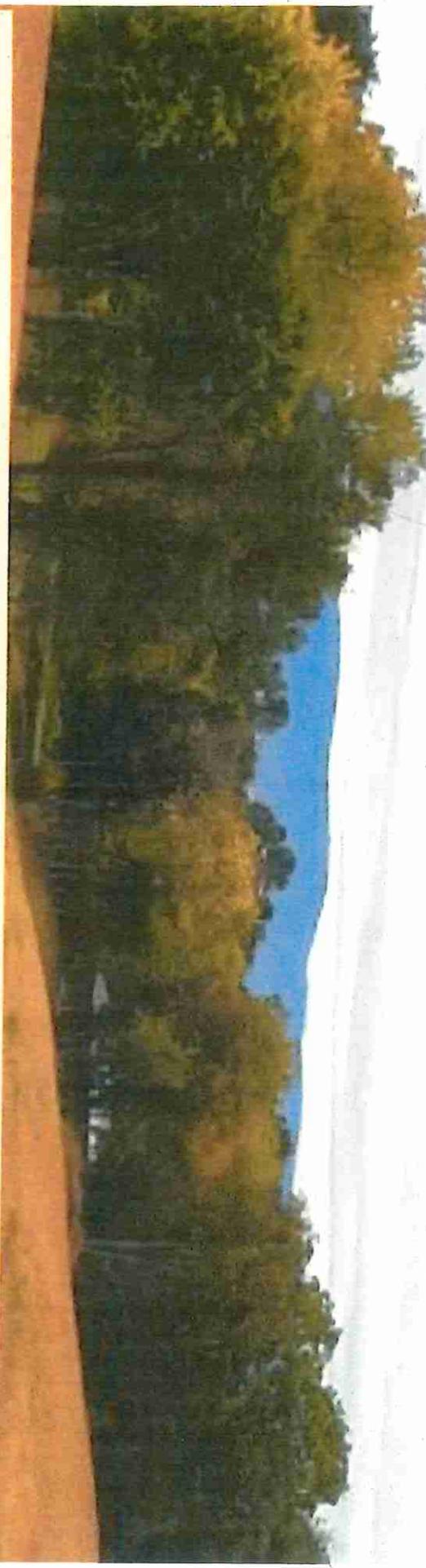
You're Invited!!!

Sunday, November 6th

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Nov. 2022

(Entrance to camp from Cregger Rd.)



Hello Friends & Neighbors,

If you haven't already heard, there's something new happening in New Midway. Development of a small, tent camping facility is in the works; so before we hang the shingle, we wanted you to know what it's all about, and give you an opportunity to see for yourself. Pardon our mess, as we're not finished yet, but we hope you'll be able to stop by to see the progress that's been made so far. We anticipate that you'll have questions, so here's a few answers to some questions that we would probably ask if we were you!

What type of camp will it be? Primitive camping with tents.

How big will it be? Based on the size of the parcel, along with the guidelines given to us by the county, we expect to host groups no larger than 25-30 at any given time. Will the whole farm be used for the camp? No. Just a small portion on the backside of the farm, mainly in and around the wooded area.

Why are you doing this? Many years ago, we felt that God was tugging at our hearts to start a Christian camp where primarily youth could come and have fun camping and enjoying nature, while learning more about God's love for them. We sold our used car sales & repair business in Woodsboro in 2016, and have been using the proceeds, along with donations from like-minded folks to develop the property, build the pavilion, and purchase needed supplies. This is being done solely to be a blessing to our community. There is no profit in this venture for us, other than to have the satisfaction of knowing that we have been a blessing to the youth in this region. In 2015 we established our 501C3 status and are now federally recognized as a non-profit. The organization is currently being led by Gene & Sharon Cregger, along with 5 board members who are like-minded in their passion to see the next generation experience nature, learn camping skills, while being in a safe place where they know they will be loved and cared for. Gene & Sharon, nor the board members, receive compensation for their time or labor. It is 100% volunteer. Can we contact you with questions? Yes, please do. We would love to talk to you! Our camp email is goodneighborcamp@gmail.com.



620B Research Ct | Frederick, MD 21703
301.663.8811|301.663.0476 fax
www.communitylivinginc.org
[f](#) [g](#) [v](#) [CLifredenck](#)

3/19/2024

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer MD, MPH,
Health Officer for Frederick County and Executive Officer of the Board of Health.

Dear Dr. Brookmyer:

I am writing to you on behalf for Good Neighbor Camping Ministries in Keymar MD. I understand that the project has reached a stalemate. I have visited the property and think it will be a great asset for the people we support, and others in the community as well. A safe place to fish, explore, have picnics, camp, and be around others. Day activities in Frederick County are limited and this would improve that. The pavilion looks great and offers protection from the rain etc.

I support a gentleman who loves to rake, he rakes to the point that he destroys the grass, and it would be wonderful for him to have a safe place to rake at his heart's content, leaves and dirt. There are many people that are on the Autism Spectrum who love to fish, and a quiet place is ideal.

I hope that this project can be completed soon.

Sincerely yours

Carlota Salter
Support Services Director.
Community Living Inc.

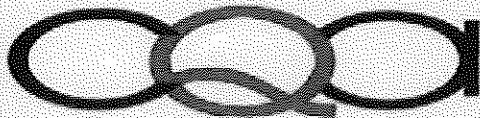
Community Living, Inc., or CLI, was started in Frederick, Maryland, in 1979. At the time, there was a huge need for housing and day program options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (Examples of such disabilities are Down syndrome and autism.)

CLI started right as institutions were beginning to close. There was a huge need in the community for agencies to provide support for the people who had been confined to those establishments for so long.

We started small, with just two homes owned by the State of Maryland, each with six to eight residents. Back then, people with VDD had only one of two options when it came to day programs in the area: the Scott Key Center, then housed at Rock Creek School, or the Jeanne Bussard Workshop. Day programs have come a long way since then.

Today, CLI manages 26 homes in Frederick, and has over 250 hardworking people on staff. Though we started with just residential services, we've grown tremendously in the past 40 years. CLI now provides in-home, vocational and day program support, and serves about 160 people here in Frederick.

Our organization gets most of its funding through the DDA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but that doesn't cover everything. Community Living relies heavily on support from our Frederick community in order to maintain high standards for the people we serve.



Cliff Quicksell Associates

www.QuicksellSpeaks.com

221 Albany Avenue, W. Walkersville, MD 21793

301.717.0615

To: Frederick County Board of Appeals

— Frederick, Maryland

From: Cliff Quicksell, CSP

September 6th 2024

Dear Members of the Appeals Board,

As a business owner and citizen of this county and local community, I write to you today with the utmost respect and sincerity, on behalf of my dear friends, Gene and Sharon Cregger, who I have had the privilege of knowing for over 25 years. I would be here in person, but unfortunately, I am out of the country, but I wanted to voice and full support known.

Gene and Sharon are two of the most upstanding, honorable individuals I have ever encountered. Their reputations as honest, thoughtful, and giving citizens are unmatched, and they have consistently demonstrated integrity and strong Christian values throughout their lives.

Gene and Sharon have a vision that stems from a deep desire to give back to the community through their ministry camp. This is not a project driven by personal gain or hidden motives, but rather an opportunity to uplift and guide the youth of our community. In today's world, where young people often face overwhelming distractions and challenges, this camp will provide a nurturing environment that instills wholesome values, positive reinforcement, and meaningful peer engagement. The camp will act as a catalyst for the kind of growth that shapes our youth into better, more responsible citizens.

It is easy to oppose something that is not fully understood, and I believe the community members who may have concerns or objections should seek to ask questions before making assertions that may be unfounded. Gene and Sharon are truly compassionate, selfless people with no malicious intent. They only wish to create a safe space where young individuals can learn, grow, and embrace the goodness that exists in the world.

We all strive for a better future for our children, and I would ask this board to see the bigger picture. Imagine the positive ripple effect this camp could have on the lives of the young people who attend, and by extension, the entire community. This is exactly the kind of initiative that fosters long-term benefits for everyone involved. In a world where entitlement and disconnection seem to prevail, a program like this offers a beacon of hope and positive change.

I wholeheartedly support Gene and Sharon in this endeavor, and I would strongly encourage you to consider the positive impact this camp will have. They are individuals of the highest moral character, and their only goal is to enrich the lives of the young people they serve. Given the state of the world today, I believe this is a simple yet remarkable opportunity for us all.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Quicksell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the beginning.

Cliff Quicksell, CSP

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexander Quicksell <16quicksell@cua.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Subject: Gene Cregger Supprt

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to submit an email on behalf of Mr. Cregger.

Mr. Cregger has always been a kind man to me and my family. He has gone out of his way more times than I can remember to be a great neighbor and community member. When I was a young kid I had a car accident and being unable to afford a new car, Mr Cregger allowed me to help him out around his house in exchange for a free vehicle. Not only did he fix up a car for me but he also helped me out with gas money, send me home with eggs/produce to give to my mom.

I'm in support of allowing Mr. Cregger to open a camp. The amount of good that would come to the community and to the kids would be unquantifiable.

Very respectfully,

LT Alex Quicksell
24 year resident

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend that Good Neighbor Camping Ministries be given consideration for establishing the site for activities and property negotiations. I have been to the site, and it is a perfect site for organizations to utilize the property. Youth and adults need to be able to explore the out-of-doors and the beautiful world that God has created. More and more children and adults spend so much time indoors and are not able to explore hiking, camping, learning about nature, etc.

The Good Neighbor Camping Ministries is a great location for the activities to take place. It is located in a rural area without heavy traffic, has plenty of parking, has a stream to explore and beautiful nature to learn about. I am involved with the Girl Scouts and have visited the site and have expressed an interest in bringing Girl Scouts to the site. Finding locations for girls and adults to visit within a local proximity for troops are few. The Girl Scouts has many badges that the girls can earn, while providing educational and leadership opportunities for the girls. It could also provide opportunities for the girls to participate in the growth of the location for providing service projects, while learning about nature. It could be a great partnership for both organizations.

I know the Good Neighbor Camping Ministries group have invested a lot of their own funds to develop the location for what has been completed. They also have the support of other organizations for both funding and labor. So, the interest is there from the community for support and usage.

Please work with Good Neighbor Camping Ministries to be able to further develop the location and provide the opportunities for children and adults to take advantage of the location.

Patty Green

Girl Scout Registrar, Adult Educator, Lifetime Member

churchviewacres@aol.com

April 11, 2023

Greeting, Frederick County officials who are considering the fate of Good Neighbor Camping Ministries,

My name is Ronda Ullman. I have lived most of my life in Frederick County, attended the public schools here and I have been a teacher in the county for 29 years. I have worked with various organized youth groups like the Scouts and church programs for children. I have witnessed the intense growth and changes of our county. I am writing on behalf of the educational benefits of Good Neighbor Camping Ministries offers the youth of Frederick County.

Frederick County has lost the ability to provide outdoor experiences for its youth over the last 30+ years. Mar Lu Ridge and Camp Round Top became unavailable to our public school students amongst rising costs to provide these valuable camp programs. Many of the local Scout camps have folded up for the same reason. The camps that do remain are expensive and non-inclusive for most children due to financial barriers.

We are facing a crisis in education like never before. The numbers of adolescents who are suffering from anxiety, poor mental health, school violence and drug use are increasing. United States academic scores are on the decline. Many analysts are blaming technology overload and the lack of outdoor activities that are not sports team related.

Good Neighbor Camping Ministries is offering the chance for children to connect with nature, each other and caring leadership. This camp will afford "whole child learning" by providing an environment that is engaging physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. It will foster independence, confidence, creativity and decision making. In turn, this safe, supportive environment will help improve academic performance while easing the effects of anxiety and depression. Our children are our future. Good Neighbor Camping Ministries is an investment in our children's success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Ronda Ullman

Support for Good Neighbor Camping Ministry

1 message

KELVIN ANDERSON <bigpara@comcast.net>
To: Gene Cregger <goodneighbor1@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 12, 2023 at 10:40 PM

I want to write a note on behalf of Good Neighbor Camping Ministry concerning their benefit to the community. My name is Tom Dumm and I serve as the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 792 in Frederick. As a long term scouter I have had the privilege of leading young men through the Scouting experience from their start as 11 year-olds all the way to seeing these young men become Eagle Scouts. Along the way camping is an integral part of the journey. Good Neighbor invited us to do a primitive camp weekend on the grounds a year ago. Our Scouts camped, cooked and learned many outdoor skills that weekend. They also were able to practice leadership skills and teamwork. From my years of experience I know that as these young men matriculate through Scouting in the camping environment they are developing skills and character that they will carry into their future jobs, families and the community. Nearby facilities like Good neighbor are needed and vital to growing a healthy community.

Another beneficial aspect was Good Neighbor allowing one of our Scouts do his Eagle project on the property. This young lead a team of Scouts, Scout leaders, family and friends in building tent platforms. He created a building plan, worked with Mr. Cregger, and led a team on this full day project last summer. He learned many life lessons during this project. In the summer of 2022 he became our troop's 98th Eagle Scout. Again, the lessons learned in the outdoors can change a young person for a lifetime. Please favorably consider what Good Neighbor Camping Ministry can bring to the Frederick community.

Sincerely,

Tom Dumm, Scoutmaster
Troop 792
Frederick, MD

Frederick County Board of Appeals

To whom it may concern,

Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

I've had the pleasure to meet Gene Cregger and his family many years ago and fully agree with his plans to open up a Christian community camp. The Creggers are caring and compassionate people and want to help the kids in the community. The Creggers have invited my family over to little events which they have hosted at their house. I have known them for about 6-7 years now and they have always been very respectful and kind to me.

The Creggers want to open up their private property to let others enjoy a little slice of Frederick county's countryside. I don't see the Creggers hosting these camps for any personal financial reasons. Again, please consider this family to operate a community camp.

Sincerely,

Ben Marshall / Soil Scientist – Woodsboro resident

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing to address the Frederick County officials who are considering the fate of Good Neighbor Camping Ministries.

I lived and worked in Frederick County for several over 30 years. I was transferred to Frederick while serving in the U.S. Navy in 1992 and served as the local Navy Recruiter. While living in northern Frederick County, I met the local residents and their families. I was very happy to see how involved everyone was as a community, and how much interest everyone had in raising their families.

I met my wife while living in Frederick, and we have raised our family in these communities as well. I retired from the Navy in 2004 and became a Frederick County Deputy, where I worked for the next 20 years. While serving as a deputy, I met Gene and Sharon Cregger, who are the directors of Good Neighbor Camping Ministries. As a Deputy Sheriff who believed heavily in community policing, I immersed myself into neighborhoods and tried to speak with the youth quite often. It has been my belief that when you display an interest in the community's youth, you provide a positive influence and are a role model for them.

I was speaking with Mr. Cregger one afternoon, and he asked if I would speak to the group of children who were members of the Good Neighbor Camping Ministries. I gladly agreed to come and speak with them. Being able to address a young group of children, had two benefits for me, it allowed them to see a law enforcement officer in a positive environment, and I was able to answer any questions they might have.

I have watched the county grow and the attitude of unguided youth change in our county. I believe that if we, as a community, don't have an alternative to sitting in their rooms and playing video games, the future of our children is bleak. I believe the educational benefits of GNCM offers the youth of Frederick County will have amazing long term effects on anyone who has the pleasure of being a part of the experience.

GNCM will provide children the opportunity to connect with nature, camping, fishing and each other while being guided and supervised by loving and caring adults.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Openshaw

From: jen leckfamily.net
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 6:35 AM
To: mpaone@frederickcountymd.gov <mpaone@frederickcountymd.gov>
Subject: Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

Hello Mr. Paone and Board Of Appeals Members,

My name is Jennifer Leck and I am a Frederick County resident.
I fully endorse and support the work of Good Camping Ministries and Gene and Sharon Cregger.

I believe that Good Neighbor Camping Ministries will be an asset to the Keymar area and surrounding community. Gene and Sharon are wonderful people, trustworthy, responsible, conscientious and committed to being "Good Neighbors" to those they will serve in their ministry and who live in the surrounding area. As they have lived in Keymar for many, many years - they also want to keep their community peaceful and secure for all residents. The focus of Good Neighbor Camping Ministries is to invest and develop in youth to become the type of neighbors every community welcomes!

Thank you for giving your time to hear this matter and giving it your thought and consideration. Frederick County is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Your service to us, its residents, is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Leck
10375 Hedgeapple Bend
New Market MD 21774

From: Karen Joy Nania <karendorelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:34 PM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Cc: Sharon Cregger <sharoncregger@gmail.com>
Subject: Camp Endorsement

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Sirs

As a professional family counselor I cannot underscore enough the need for restorative camp experiences for young people today.

So many teens just need the encouragement of other teens and caring adults in an outdoor setting to make a major difference in their lives. Depression and suicide and purposelessness are circumvented when these precious young people are introduced to a fun meaningful and rewarding few days in the open.

Several years ago I had the pleasure of spending a weekend at one of the Cregger fishing camp weekends at a lake there in Maryland and was given an opportunity to meet with the attending teens individually.. it meant so much to every one of them to have someone listen to them and get some validation, hope and redirection.

To actually have a place to camp and hang out in a wholesome environment consistently would mean so much to the young people there in the area and very definitely help them to be more productive and encouraging to others in the community.

The Creggers are an amazing couple who care about potential being achieved for the teens and for the area. They know how to lead their staff and campers by their own example of diligence, resourcefulness, self discipline and excellent character.

I definitely support them in this endeavor and endorse what they have done, are doing and will do as this effort is allowed to go forth.

Sincerely,

Karen Joy Nania

MA Pastoral Counseling

Instructor at TCCTC

Tallahassee, Florida

Michael Paone

Frederick County Board of Appeals

September 22, 2024

Dear Mr. Paone,

Hello my name is Katherine Fuss and I am President of the Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center. As a member of the community and the leader of the Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center I have come to know the importance and necessity of a safe place for kids to be able to learn and grow in their out of school education. Our friends at Good Neighbor Camping Ministries have that same intention. Good Neighbor Camping Ministries will be giving the youth on this side of Frederick County a safe place for recreational activities and learning. We ask that you please consider the case for Good Neighbor Camping Ministries in their favor.

Sincerely,

Katherine Fuss

-----Original Message-----

From: Martica Marin <tica.marin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Subject: Letter of Endorsement for Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Name: Adrian and Martica Marin

Address: 131 Ingobert Pl. Bogart, GA 30622 Agenda Item: Case B-24-18 B276681 Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

Dear Mr. Paone,

It is with great pleasure that we write to provide our endorsement for Good Neighbor Camping Ministries and their initiative to create a space for wellbeing, growth, and inspiration in the local community. The leadership involved in this endeavor are people we have known for the past 20 years and know them to be ethical and selfless leaders who are always looking for ways to leave this world a better place.

We believe this camp ground will be beneficial for the children who visit it. It is scientifically proven that connecting with nature is beneficial for the development of children and to be able to provide these opportunities is essential to the future of our communities as these children learn important values that will serve them, their families, and their communities for decades to come.

Even though we live far away (in Georgia), we have been able to visit the site and follow the progress through weekly updates. To see this campground coming together in such a sustainable way and with the help of donations and volunteers tells me that those who value this community are ready to help make it happen.

We appreciate your support as well so that Good Neighbor Camping Ministries might continue doing good for the wonderful people of Frederick County.

Warm regards,
The Marin Family

From: Mark Eyler <mark@tliconstruction.net>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Subject: Case No B-24-18 B276681

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi,

With regard to the subject case, my wife and I would like to express our support for Mr. Cregger's desire to provide a campground at 12505 Cregger Road, which is directly located across Cregger Road from our property at 11993 Cregger Road. Mr. Cregger is a wonderful neighbor with a great sense of responsibility and his desire to provide outdoor space to children who are unable to experience "country life" should be admired and not ridiculed.

Sincerely, Mark & Tammy Eyler

Mark A. Eyler
Sr. Project Site Superintendent
Cell: 240-855-3320
Office: 303-792-8233
mark@tliconstruction.net



TLI CONSTRUCTION INC
3610 Central Avenue, Suite 400, Riverside, CA 92506 | 951.289.4495 CELL 951.903.0071
7900 E. Union Avenue, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80237 | 303.792.8233
www.tliconstruction.net
SBA 8(a) * Minority Owned * Woman Owned Small Business *Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business

From: John Reever -State Police- <john.reever@maryland.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:16:53 AM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Cc: goodneighborcamp@gmail.com <goodneighborcamp@gmail.com>
Subject: Endorsement : Gene & Sharon Cregger Camp

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To: Michael Paone

Thank you for your time and consideration for the project of Mr Gene & Mrs Sharon Cregger as it regards to their camp site. I wanted to share my thoughts and experiences on this matter, and to do so I would like to start off with my information so you have a better understanding of who and where this endorsement comes from.

My name is John Reever, I've been a State Trooper for 13 plus years and my wife and I have three children together under 10 years old. I grew up in New Midway, my wife is from Woodsboro, Frederick County, Maryland and we currently reside in Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland. Over the years as a State Trooper I have had the privilege to work in many different areas and Counties within Maryland. All of those areas were different in many ways, to mention a few they all displayed different social, economic, and ethnic diversity's. However there are some similarities that all areas share. One of which would be the need for safe and healthy youth development areas and activities. It is no secret that in today's society the youth have become more aggressive and dependent on technology. Whilst there are positives that can be had from the aforementioned statement, I have firsthand seen and dealt with the negatives. An example of what I have personally seen and dealt with; on more than one occasion I have encountered a youth that has walked the streets out of sheer boredom and has been influenced by the lack of positive opportunities available and subsequently sought out criminal behavior as a means to occupy there time. Which leads the youth down a very negative path for both them and their society/neighborhood they live in. Too many times I have seen our youthful members of society gripped by the drug epidemic. On many occasions I have had the opportunity to speak with them and ask why?. To my dismay, too many times the answer has been "I was bored and experimented with drugs as a result." Mr and Mrs Cregger have an opportunity to not take from society, but to give the youth of our society a place to go where they can engage in a positive constructive behavior and allow them the opportunity to experience the outdoors. This is in reminisce of many current state wide programs, many of which the Maryland State Police, and many other Allied agencies, participate in multiple times a year. To mention a few: shop with a cop, fish with a cop, big brother big sister, and many more. This camp would provide our youthful members of our community an opportunity that otherwise they may never have to connect with other positive role models in society and a safe, healthy alternative to the current status of too many of our youth today. As a father of three children, Mr and Mrs Cregger have allowed me and my wife to take our children fishing. I can tell you that since I have been afforded this opportunity, our children who once were infatuated with TV and video games, now ask to go over and fish or walk around the pond area looking for frogs. This camp has provided a healthy outlet for my children's imagination and allowed them to ask questions about nature and experience nature in a safe environment.

In conclusion, as a State Trooper and a father, I see firsthand, many many positives from what Mr and Mrs Cregger are attempting to do that would directly and beneficially affect our community. There is an old saying that I've seen firsthand come to fruition. If you give a man a fish he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish he will eat for a lifetime.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, I am confident that the members of our community share the same desire to see our youth become a positive member of our society and see the necessity of having a safe, healthy, and positive environment to cultivate so.

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Respectfully,
Senior Trooper John Reever #5910
Maryland State Police Frederick Barrack
301-600-4150

From: Lori Himes <lori@abloomltd.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Paone, Michael <MPaone@FrederickCountyMD.gov>
Subject: Gene and Sharon Cregger property for Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To the Board of Appeals:

RE: Good Neighbor Camping Ministries

I am writing in support of Gene and Sharon Cregger and their dream of using part of the Cregger Family farm as an outdoor primitive camping site for their Christian ministry.

I grew up outside of New Midway on a dairy farm. I have known the Cregger family since the early 1970s, having attended school with Gene's younger brother, Evan.

My entire family has also known the Creggers through the operation of their family business in Woodsboro, where they operated a car lot and auto repair garage. They were known for their honesty, integrity, and for running a good, multi-generational, family business.

Those family traits have followed Gene and his wife Sharon through the subsequent ownership of the car lot, into their daily lives, and forward into the development of the Good Neighbor Camping Ministries. This camp will not only keep the rural county aesthetic of the family farm, but it will provide an opportunity for children and youth to experience a rural, rustic lifestyle through tent camping in a safe and nurturing Christian based environment. Children need to learn about nature and the land so they can grow an appreciation that continues the good stewardship and faith that the Cregger family exudes.

Speaking on behalf of my husband, Todd, and myself, we feel that the Good Neighbor Camp will be a wonderful addition to the community, allowing the land to remain rural, mentoring youth through faith, while enjoying the basic simple pleasures of the outdoors. Please take into consideration the benefit of this camp while determining their requested variance.

Sincerely,
Lori and Todd Hines