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Summerfield natives Elissa Cunane (left), a senior at N.C. State University, and Elizabeth Kitley, a junior at Virginia Tech, compete in a hard-fought college basketball game earlier this season. The two long-time friends have been racking up ACC and national awards throughout their college careers. Kitley, who played at Northwest Guilford High School, recently grabbed Atlantic Coast Conference women's basketball Player of the Year, marking the first time in conference history the Hokies have produced the league's player of the year. Cunane, a Northern Guilford High School standout, is credited with leading the Wolfpack to what may be their most successful season since the days of the late Coach Kay Yow, and according to swishappeal.com, "Cunane's future as a WNBA draftee has seemed certain for years."



Photo by Chris Downey, N.C. State University

Basketball honors pile up for Summerfield's Kitley, Cunane

Former Northwest and Northern Guilford high school standouts are among the best collegiate players in the country as they head into the NCAA tournament

by CHRIS BURRITT

SUMMERFIELD – Summerfield basketball stars Elizabeth Kitley and Elissa Cunane continue to rack up awards as they lead their collegiate teams into the NCAA tournament, starting this week.

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Couch, opponents dueling over Summerfield Farms development

by CHRIS BURRITT

SUMMERFIELD – Landowner David Couch and opponents of his proposed development of 973 acres in Summerfield are stepping up efforts to sway the

views of residents and Town Council members.

The two sides offer starkly different predictions about how Couch's proposed Villages of

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Council member, parents frustrated at school funding disparities

'This is bigger than me,' Stokesdale council member and parent Derek Foy said. 'It's about our school system and our local schools.'

Stokesdale Councilman Derek Foy grew up in northwest Guilford County and attended northwest-area schools all the way through graduation from Northwest High School. He now has a son who is a student in the Guilford County Schools system, and as a parent and

by PATTI STOKES

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DEVELOPMENT DUELS

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Summerfield Farms – with traditional houses, cottages, townhomes, apartments and small, neighborhood businesses – would shape Summerfield’s residential and commercial landscape.

“The vision for Villages of Summerfield Farms is based upon the conviction that, done properly, growth and change can respect a place and add to its beauty, wonder & livability,” reads the Village of Summerfield Farms website that features a new 17 ½-minute video promoting Couch’s plans.

The proposal is “only the beginning. It may grow and grow until this development literally takes over Summerfield,” representatives of Keep Summerfield Rural and Stand Up For Summerfield posted on their Facebook pages earlier this week. “Soon it may be *apartment complexes, condos, strip malls, gas stations, fast food*. So, your house may be the next to deal with unwanted urban sprawl.”

The clashing views will converge at 6 p.m. this Thursday, March 17, during an informational meeting organized by the town of Summerfield. The meeting will be held in Summerfield First Baptist Church’s Family Life Center at 2300 Scalesville Road.

Couch, owner of Summerfield Farms, plans to explain and answer questions about his request for a text amendment to the town’s development rules. If approved by the council, the amendment would create a new zoning district that would allow higher-density

residential development than allowed under current zoning in the unified development ordinance (UDO).

The UDO doesn’t allow apartments, and it imposes density requirements more restrictive than Couch wants for multifamily portions of his proposed development. As a result, Couch is asking the council to amend the UDO with the creation of the new zoning district called OSM-V, or open space mixed use – village, that would allow for higher-density housing, including apartments in four locations on his property.

In exchange for denser development, Couch plans to preserve pastures, woodlands and scenic vistas on his property. He’s also offering to build public trails for cyclists and walkers that would connect to regional trails as well as Saunders Village, the latest name for his proposed shopping and commercial center on N.C. 150 at Interstate 73.

If the council approves the creation of the new zoning district, Couch and town officials would negotiate a development agreement for enforcing design and construction standards. It would also regulate the type of housing allowed in the 11 villages proposed by the developer.

This Thursday’s meeting is the first of three opportunities for the public to offer their viewpoints about the proposed text amendment. Public hearings will be held during the Planning Board’s meeting March 28 and the council’s meeting April 12.

want to go, listen?

The town of Summerfield is livestreaming the March 17, 6 p.m. informational meeting about the proposed text amendment on its Facebook page. The public is also invited to attend the 6 p.m. meeting in Summerfield First Baptist Church’s Family Life Center at 2300 Scalesville Road.



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