

Character of the Area

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As a Carpenter Lane resident off and on for 29 years there are many things that keep bringing me back. My parents bought their home at 33144 in 1994 when I was 9 years old. We loved the open spaces, the sense of privacy, the calm, quiet environment and friendly neighbors. The beauty of the rolling hills, nursery trees and of course, the majestic Mt. Hood view from the back of our property made us feel so incredibly lucky to live in such a place.

My brother and I spent much of our time outdoors, catching grasshoppers, running in our field, riding bikes and walking my beloved basset hounds down the street. Even though we were young my parents felt safe letting us walk and ride on our own. Our street was calm, quiet and rarely had traffic. Some of my happiest childhood memories are in and around the Carpenter Lane area.

As I grew up and moved off to college I loved bringing my friends home to visit as we felt it was a retreat from our busy, noisy, chaotic college lives. We enjoyed the peace and calmness of the area and always felt refreshed after a trip home.

I moved back to my parents house after completing college and lived at the Carpenter Lane oasis for another five years while completing my master's degree. Although my life was busy with school and working multiple jobs my home base on Carpenter Lane offered me beautiful scenery, and a quiet lifestyle to complete my education.

I now live in Eastern Oregon and have three children who I love sharing Carpenter Lane with. My daughters love walking down the street waving at neighbors, mooing at cows, watching for hawks, counting chickens and feeding alpacas. They have learned how to ride bikes, scooters and roller skates on this street. Just like my parents felt, I love knowing they are safe, happy and healthy while they experience what I did as a child. They love coming to their Nana's house to run through her property, camp in her field, stargaze without light interference and listen for coyote howls.

My family's ultimate plan is to return to Gresham and the special place on Carpenter Lane to continue raising our children. We love the idea of the space, privacy, quiet and sense of community felt in this area. Most of my parents neighbors are the same families I grew up next to as no one wants to leave this special place.

We love the idea of being nestled between two cities (Sandy and Gresham) but without the hustle and bustle, congestion and uncertainty in safety larger cities bring. The serenity of Carpenter Lane and it's surrounding areas is unique and special and is certainly a huge part of the wonderful upbringing I had.

When I heard about the possibility of a water filtration facility being built on my street it made me instantly feel sick. It would ultimately change my views and cloud my dreams to continue raising my family in the area. The thought of chemicals and waste being transported down peaceful Carpenter Lane by large vehicles makes me angry.

I would not feel comfortable walking with my children and pets down the street for fear of being exposed to hazardous materials, and the obvious risks of having small children near heavy machinery. It would bring unwanted traffic, unfamiliar people and possible pollution to our area.

I imagine that wildlife would not want to be near these things either thus taking away the feeling of exploring nature while walking down the road. The peace, calm and quiet would be no longer as the facility is a 24 hour operation creating noise and light pollution every day of the year.

I fear some of our community members would feel the need to move away from such unsavory conditions and our community would begin to break and crumble. All the reasons why I love Carpenter Lane and why I want to raise my children here seem to be impossible if this facility is built. It breaks my heart and I pray that they will choose a more suitable location. Our community is not the right place for such a facility.