From:	Marcia Jensen-Middlebrook
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	Bryan von Lossberg; Heidi West
Subject:	Taxes, Infill & Your Northside Step-Child
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Are there any Missoula city and county liberals with an iota of common sense? Every year our taxes are increased with no say in how our uber-liberal-mayor and city council spends our money. To our detriment, needless upgrades and frivolous projects to "make Missoula innovative" are Mayor Engen's and the council's priority. Renovating the Sleepy Inn Motel was not supposed to cost Missoula taxpayers a dime. Don't believe it. It's offset by the recently passed Affordable Housing Trust Fund that raises our property taxes yet again. Disingenuousness is not acceptable.

How come one of you couldn't have lobbied the Montana Department of Transportation, who recently put up sound baffles for the lower Rattlesnake privileged part of town, to do the same just a little further along I-90 for the Northside? Any of you truly care for quality of life for all Northside residents young and old?

Living on the Northside, we are forever the step-child of Missoula. The wrong side of the tracks was its reputation back in the day and it is dismaying that our civic leaders still view it as so. The few gentrified-Craftsman-homes and available fixer-uppers have lost the battle for an intimate family-friendly neighborhood. Inflated prices of old houses on tiny lots are snapped up immediately by realtors and builders then razed and replaced with thoughtless infill of overpriced condominiums and apartments. Case in point, look at Charlo Street. No thought is given to appalling parking and traffic congestion. Access into and out of the Northside on Rogers Street, Scott Street and the Scott Street Bridge are already overcrowded, as are the minimalist Toole Street and Orange Street Roundabouts. Our streets are always the last to be given any kind of maintenance and repairs. The Edgell Homes housing project has contributed to more traffic and expansion continues there. Nearby the coming-to-our-neighborhood-soon Villagio Apartments, with 200 units to accommodate 769 low-and moderate-income people, is a quietly done deal. Adding more cars-per-unit utilizing the same ingress and egress is madness and yes, elitist.

Unlike Bonner Park, the Northside Park is in dilapidated condition. It's an afterthought to city planners. The single basketball hoop is used but not maintained. The deteriorating baby pool is a joke and has been empty for years. There are many young kids living nearby with no place to go during our hot summers. Why couldn't a splash pool be installed like Westside Lowell School's popular splash pool? Parks and Recreation told me they have no money in the budget for maintenance over here and yes, the popular Northside ball field and dog park isn't well maintained. New grandstands and upgrades would be welcome. The adjacent community garden spaces do add relief. Your planners cobbled together a green space-the Scott Street soccer field/play/picnic/ dog park-on the old White Pine and Sash land (with a penny ante miss-spelled "Whitepine Park" sign). Of course the rest of the White Pine and Sash land is slated for more high density infill! Are you city planners all smoking dope? Toss us a bone so we'll forever be thankful for your poorly planned leavings?

Enough. Is there no voice for sanity, conscience and responsibility among you or are you too

frightened to speak up? You've already done your damage to the Westside and Mullen Road area. Put your infill on the south side areas of Missoula or further out in the county for a change. There is no more open space or breathing space on this side of town. Your infill policy will implode. Coming soon - the Northside City slum.

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