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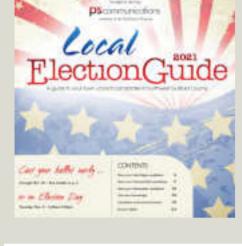
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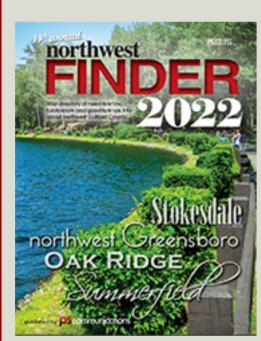
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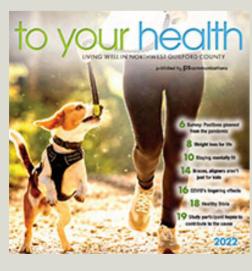
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your QUESTIONS

Q: I read an online post by "Summerfield Scoop" that said "(Summerfield) town council voted and approved changes in the Summerfield development ordinance which allows Mr. Couch to build his villages and apartments." When did the town change its development ordinance to allow landowner David Couch's proposed villages and apartments?

A: We also read the "Summerfield Scoop" post, and were puzzled because neither the town's Planning Board nor Town Council have held a public hearing for Couch's most recent application for a text amendment to the town's unified development ordinance (a change to the UDO would be a requirement before apartment buildings are allowed in Summerfield).

Couch submitted the application last May, a month after the council rejected his previous application. Public hearings at the Planning Board and council level would be a necessary step before his request for a text amendment would be formally considered for approval.

To ensure we hadn't missed something, we contacted Summerfield Town Manager Scott Whitaker, who offered this response via email earlier this week: "Summerfield Scoop's statements are wrong and misleading. Council has not approved Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) changes that would allow 'Mr. Couch to build his villages and apartments.'

"Mr. Couch's second request was denied by Council in April, and a third is pending," Whitaker said. "The current request is to modify the UDO by adding a village district, and the first public hearing will be scheduled in the near future.

"The Planning Board's role will be to make a recommendation and Council's will be to approve, deny or modify (the application)," he said. "These matters will be considered with public input, as they always are."

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