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Ocean Shores shouldn't sacrifice its "Central Park"

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Sara Upton's Oct. 1 letter to the editor proposed that the Weatherwax Property be sold to provide us with funds for a new library and permit center.

Yes, the library building needs expansion and the permit center needs replacement or repair. Presently, the Ocean Shores Friends of the Library is providing \$15,000 toward the cost of recent library upgrade of structure, siding and paint. New carpet and a painting upgrade was accomplished in the Permit Center.

Can we afford to destroy the last large open natural land in Ocean Shores?

When Ocean Shores' 13,000 lots are entirely built out there will be a dearth of natural vegetation. An analogy is the open space of New York City's Central Park.

City equipment has always been left outside. It has always been easier to buy new than to plan for storage or maintenance. With the new city administration it is hoped that with the balancing of the city budget comes a realization that the city shouldn't buy more than you need or can care for.

The question on the November ballot is an advisory vote asking if we want to sell some or all of the Weatherwax Property or keep it. It will not authorize the sale of some of this property. Any proceeds from the sale of this land will have to first be set aside to pay the bonded indebtedness on the Weatherwax Property so building unneeded buildings is a moot issue.

In the future, open space will rise in value, not fall. I urge my fellow citizens to vote to retain and enjoy all of the Weatherwax for themselves, their posterity, visitors and the wildlife.

Gene F. Swygard

Ocean Shores

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