

Progress 7/12/87

Whose town is this anyway?

To the Editor,

The people have spoken and again, have been overruled by eight members of the 14 member city council.

Although the vast majority of residents are against the proposed Creekside Promenade and it is more than twice as large as what is allowed in the city's comprehensive plan, the council has given initial approval. It seems

they have voted against their own comprehensive plan.

This is the same thinking that enacted the terrific park space rule for developers yet accepts greenbacks in lieu of the "required" greenspace so desperately needed.

To correct a misconception, the residents are not opposed to development. We are opposed to this particular commercial development

because Creekside Promenade is more than twice as large as allowed and we can access identical services a short drive away.

I'm fairly certain that few, if any, employees of Grewe Inc. live here or pay taxes which makes me wonder — whose town is this anyway?

Dinah Williams
O'Fallon

Making the same mistake?

To the Editor,

Small towns are not immune to big-city problems.

During the 1950s, 60's and 70's, cities across America contributed to their own demise by neglecting their centers and sponsoring growth on the periphery. St. Louis is a nearby example. These same cities are now trying to revitalize their downtowns.

It may be too late for them, but must O'Fallon emulate

their mistakes?

The "Creekside Promenade" development is a case in point. A commercial development in a rural setting only encourages fragmentation. Promoting growth at the edges while major institutions (First Bank, St. Clare) desert downtown is a recipe for disaster.

A community cannot cohere around a hollow center. I am not so naive as to believe that the trend towards sprawl is

easy to reverse. Powerful economic and social forces promote it.

But if O'Fallon is to become something other than a collection of disjunct suburbs, the trend must be reversed, and opposition to the "Creekside Promenade" is a good place to start.

Stephen Brown
O'Fallon