

A modern parable set in New Hill

There were once two men in a city, one very rich and the other poor. The rich man had a huge number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had only one lamb.

That lamb lived and grew up with the poor man and his children. It ate from the meager food of the family and even slept with the family at night.

It was like a member of the family.

A traveler came to stay with the rich man one day and the rich man could not bring himself to slaughter any of his own livestock to provide a feast for the traveler.

So he took the poor man's lamb and slaughtered it instead.

I didn't make the above story up. It's in the Bible, starting at 2 Samuel, chapter 12. The prophet Nathan was sent to King David by God to show him the error of David's actions.

David had taken the wife of one of his warriors, and ended up having the warrior killed to cover up David's indiscretions.

Nathan told David the above story to show him the error of his ways.

What was David's reaction when he heard the story? He was angry, and said the man must die and pay four lambs for the lamb he took.

Then Nathan told David, "You are the man."

David saw the error of his ways and repented.



One Man's Views

By A. Craig Hardee

There were once four towns. Those towns were prosperous and growing, and straining to provide the services needed by their growing citizenry. The towns found themselves needing to build a new facility to handle the growing sewage capacity of the towns.

They floated the bond issue, which passed overwhelmingly. Why wouldn't it? People need their sewage taken care of.

Now those four towns have plenty of space within them, but when it came time to determine the location of the new facility, they chose not a location in their own towns, or a location by a large company that could easily spare the land, but a location in a community that would not even benefit from the facility.

It's a location that would drastically alter the quality of life in that community.

So the four towns took the poor man's lamb and slaughtered it instead...

Do you see the parallels between the stories?

To me, what Cary, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville are doing with the wastewater facility is just like what the rich man did to the poor man.

Once again, the New Hill community is being asked to give, and watch their quality of life go down.

They've given land for Jordan Lake, for Shearon Harris, and now they're being forced to give once again.

You would think at least Holly Springs would have sympathy for New Hill, since Holly Springs is fighting the attempt by the county to make it the Landfill Capitol of the World.

Progress Energy has all sorts of land that could be used for such a facility. Although I'm sure they want to expand some day, I have a hard time believing that some of the land couldn't be used for this facility.

Now I voted for the bond issue to build this facility, and I know that it's needed. But I would not have voted for it if I knew the location of it.

Maybe that's why the location wasn't announced until after the vote.

I know folks from New Hill, and they are good folks. Their lives have already been disrupted enough in the name of growth. Let's not make them suffer any more.

I urge the towns of Cary, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville to reconsider the location of the new regional wastewater facility. Don't ruin a community just so our waste can be treated!