

# Opinions

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## Amazon is a one-way door, and we will never be able to go back

I grew up here and my family has had a 62-year commitment to serving and helping the people of this lovely Island. I left here in 1976 to serve my country and pursue a career. After 42 years of being away, I chose to return here to spend my retirement years. I found many things had changed over the past four decades, but for the most part, the character of the Island had remained largely the same. It is a place to breathe, walk, ride bikes, kayak and boat on an amazing river. After many years of living in and around large metropolitan areas, I also enjoy the relative quiet and lack of traf-

fic. But I fear this is all about to change. The proposal to build an Amazon warehouse center on our precious Island is terrifying to me. It will forever change our way of life and I am utterly opposed to it. I have read about the irreversible damage these facilities have had on other communities and am loathe to have this happen on our Island, when far more suitable sites are available in the WNY area. And Amazon has a history of not contributing to the public good, either through local taxes or organization support. Quite the contrary, these facilities have been known to contribute huge

amounts of air and noise pollution to their surrounding communities. On Feb 12, on a state road near a similar warehouse in California, a group of volunteers counted 1,116 trucks in a single hour pass through their community. That's upwards of 21,000 trucks per day that contribute so much air pollution to the area that children are no longer able to comfortably play outside. Is that what we want for our community? I should hope not. This would be on top of paving over a huge swath of wetlands; home and breeding grounds to a countless variety of birds and animals.

Please help me and take whatever action you can to fight this. Make your voices heard to our elected officials. Post a sign in your yard. Call or email your elected officials. Talk to your friends and neighbors to do the same. This is a one-way door that once we pass through, we will never be able to go back.

Please contact the following representatives, whose votes we need to thwart this project.

- John Whitney  
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- Mike Madigan  
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Signed,  
Catherine J. Rayhill  
Dr. and Mrs. Edward A. Rayhill  
Michael and Donnette Rayhill  
Michael W. Rayhill

## Project Olive Does Not Fit Grand Island's Comprehensive Plan

When Grand Island's Town Board passed the comprehensive plan in September 2018, the document became a standard for defining "the community's vision for the Town of Grand Island in the form of a physical plan to organize and control natural growth and to provide the framework for achieving the community's goals and objectives. It is designed to be used by the community as a tool for reviewing proposed projects and as a guide in determining the best use of a piece of property."

So why does the Long Range

Planning Committee (LRPC), which drafted and refined the plan, still exist? Does the document require interpretation? Is it unclear or incomplete?

These are extremely important questions, because according to New York state's report on zoning and the comprehensive plan, "Once a comprehensive plan is adopted ... all land use regulations of the community must be consistent with the comprehensive plan. In the future, the plan must be consulted prior to adoption or amendment of any land use regulation. In addition, other

governmental agencies that are considering capital projects on lands covered by the adopted comprehensive plan must take the plan into consideration."

In other words, it is an extremely powerful role to be able to interpret and apply the 113-page document, and to explain which statements and guidelines within should be emphasized and which should be ignored.

As an example, take the LRPC's correspondence to the Town Board regarding the proposed Project Olive plans, which were submitted by Jim Sharpe on June

15. He concludes, on behalf of the LRPC and with three key points drawn from the document, that "Project Olive as currently envisioned complies with the goals and objectives of the Town of Grand Island comprehensive plan." But does it?

First off, the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan include the following categories: (1) Natural Resources, (2) Transportation and Accessibility, (3) Community and Social Capital, (4) Neighborhoods and Housing, and (5) Economic Development. Project Olive does not fit with the first four categories, as written in the plan. It is inconsistent with goals related to the environment, roads, community interests, health and safety, and our neighborhoods and communities. At best, one could argue that it is only consistent with the fifth: Economic Development. But even there, in the section titled "Industrial," the plan says, "Though industrial by name, these areas would be predomi-

nantly more light industrial in nature, designed to fit inconspicuously with the surrounding land." How does one fit a nine-story 3,800,000-square-foot building inconspicuously onto Grand Island?

Moreover, the Economic Development section clearly states that new ventures should complement "the 'Island character' that is unique to Grand Island." And the future land use map very clearly designates the location of the proposed Project Olive as rural residential ... not industrial. Rural residential. How does the LRPC ignore the future land use map - a critical document that was used to justify and promote this comprehensive plan to the public?

Given these elements of the comprehensive plan, how could one possibly interpret it as consistent with Project Olive? The answer is that the document is being used, selectively, to lobby for a project that does not fit with the vision for Grand Island that was presented to the community and approved by our Town Board. Project Olive is not consistent with the comprehensive plan, and that is reason alone for the Town Board to reject this proposal.

The Town Board should dissolve the LRPC and review the comprehensive plan on the basis of what is included within, and what was built on the basis of community input, not based on how some would prefer to interpret and use it.

Dave Reilly

Steven V. Grabiec, M.D. of Adult and Pediatric Allergy & Asthma of WNY, 6930 Williams Road, Suite 3700, Niagara Falls, NY closed his office effective June 5, 2020, due to unexpected medical reasons. Dr. Grabiec wishes to thank his patients, fellow physicians, staff and friends for their trust in his allergy & immunology practice over the past 50 years.

Patients are to call the office (716-298-3541) Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm to arrange to pick up their medical records. Or, patients should call and leave a message where to send the medical records. Please leave the name and the date of birth of the patient. The deadline to pick up / send patient medical records is July 30, 2020. After July 30, 2020 check our website for further information. [www.theallergyasthmadoc.com](http://www.theallergyasthmadoc.com)

Dr. Grabiec is referring all his patients to the following board certified allergy & immunology physicians to continue to administer quality care.

### Board Certified Allergists:

1. Buffalo Medical Group:
  - Dr. Aires Liu-Helm, 325 Essay Road, Williamsville, NY, Phone: 630-1130
  - Dr. Roland Honeine & Dr. Andrew Green, 3900 North Buffalo Road, Orchard Park, NY, Phone: 656-4988
2. Buffalo Amherst Allergy Associates:
  - Dr. Michael Fanning, Dr. Madeline Lillie, Dr. Kathleen Donovan  
500 Corporate Parkway, Buffalo, NY, Phone: 631-0380
3. Dr. Jeffrey Rockoff, 22540 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda, NY, Phone: 874-8980
4. Dr. Sean Brady - UBMD Physicians Group - ADULTS ONLY - 1020 Youngs Road, Amherst, NY, Phone: 961-9900



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