

Mehdi Benkhatar

From: mack <mack.tyner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2019 7:44 AM
To: Mehdi Benkhatar
Subject: cell phone coverage near Earlton, Fl

Hi,

My wife and I are in Blueberry Bay subdivision near the bend in 1471 about one mile north of Earlton. Contrary to what I am reading from my neighbors, cell phone coverage in this area has not been good at all. While no one likes to look at towers, the technology that they bring is important to most of us!

My experience is that we are in the middle of 4 cell phone towers.... Orange Heights, Waldo, Keystone Heights and Melrose. Calls are constantly dropped in walking around the house, because each tower has approximately the same low power here. The only solution that we have found was to buy from Verizon the "range extender" that attaches to our home DSL internet and creates our own repeater in the house. When phones went from 3G to 4G, we had to get a new "range extender" which is smaller and a bit easier to re-boot. Will we need another \$200 device to use 5G ???

Better, for us, would be to have a small tower in the woods nearby.....

Mack Tyner

From: [Dolores Beck](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#); [Planning](#)
Subject: ZOS-01-02 Cell Tower Earleton
Date: Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:27:57 PM

Department of Growth Management and Office of Planning and Development,

I ask you why is it that one or two people can decide what our community needs but it takes a multiple of people to fight and explain what we do not need?

Please deny the application for a new cell tower in Earleton.

An additional tower is not needed in our community. We have towers in Orange Heights, Waldo, Melrose and Campville. No one has proved that we would receive any benefit from this new tower. This will cause an overcrowding of cell towers that would cause more dropped calls when signals are handed off.

When the Orange Heights tower was installed we did not receive any better coverage. I received dropped calls within a ¼ mile of the Orange Heights site and still do.

Earleton has all the infrastructure we need for medical emergency with landlines and cell phones. Cell phone companies show excellent or good coverage in the Earleton area. For those who may complain they don't have a signal are impeded by nature such as trees and moisture from the lake and man made structures like the construction used to build their homes (example: Metal Roof).

This tower is supposed to provide 5G services such as driverless car technology and digital operations for agriculture. I have not heard of any demand in our rural area for these services. We only have one large Ag farm in the area.

Earleton has a flair for quiet living and historical value, such as the St. John's Episcopal Church and Cemetery, the Free Canaan United Methodist Church, the Old Abandoned Post Office, the current Post Office/Antique Store and General Earle homestead. We also have many memories of Buddy's Landing. Earleton is valued by its residents as being a lake area full of lake life and wetlands. There are many birds, deer, bears and countless of other small animals including protected gopher turtles that use the proposed property. Blueberry farms and pecan farms. Vacationers come here to get away from the city tech life to unwind by visiting the Montgomery 5K Horse Ranch and enjoying our lake and enjoying the beautiful nature of trees and water. This tower would be an unattractive site to our beautiful community. The residents of Earleton want to keep our rural community as is without clustering us with new developments that are not appreciated to the flair of our community.

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=41263>

Earleton is a well diverse community when it comes to property values such as single mobile homes to multi-million dollar homes. The proposed site is down a dirt road next to our more lower property valued homes. I am sure if this tower were to be placed next to our more valuable homes you would have a much larger fight. All of our neighbors are people to be valued.

We are concerned about the health issues that would impact our neighbors. Please see the attachments proving the World's Largest Animal Study on Cell Tower Radiation Confirms Cancer Link. <https://ehtrust.org/worlds-largest-animal-study-on-cell-tower-radiation-confirms-cancer-link/>

The notice we received only addressed those in the immediate vicinity. Early last year only a few residents received a notice about the proposed cell tower application. At this meeting the presenters had technical difficulty so it was not much of a meeting. We were told we would receive a timely notice if the application was made. I received my notice on Jan 3, 2020 telling me I had until Jan 7th at 5pm to provide written comments. Not much of a notice to get our message out or our concerns. There was a Land Use Sign at 1469 and 194th street for only a couple days but was not legible then removed. So, I thought they must have changed their minds. Now the Land Use Sign is down the dirt road at the proposed property only visible for the residents who live next to it.

I currently live in The Cove at Santa Fe Pass but we own 37 acres near the proposed tower. We received a letter asking if we were interested in providing property for this tower. We did not respond because we did not want a tower next to where we live and we knew our neighbors would not be in favor of a tower next to them. We have plans to live on this 37 acres but a tower that close to our property would deter us from building again in Alachua County. This would also cause property values in the immediate area to be decreased because of the proposed cell tower. <https://ehtrust.org/worlds-largest-animal-study-on-cell-tower-radiation-confirms-cancer-link/>

Ask yourself if you would want to live next door to a Cell Tower.

Please deny this application based on it being a duplication of services that can not be proved that would enhance our way of living along with the many other reasons listed above.

Thank you for your time and sincere consideration on this matter.

Glen and Dolores Beck
18465-000-000
P.O. Box 131
Earleton, FL 32631

Please reply letting us know if have received this email.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Personal Wireless Facility (PWF) Opposition Letter from Melissa Montgomery

20310 NE 102nd Place, Earleton 32631

To the Alachua County Planning Commission and the Alachua County Board of Commissioners,

I am in opposition of ZOS-01-20, application for special land use by Laura Minzenberg, submitted by Vertex Development, LLC on her behalf, for a 199-foot monopole cell tower, PWF in the hamlet of Earleton, FL. My residence is less than two miles by air from the proposed construction site. EARLETON IS WIRELESS CONNECTED. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is intended to promote the connectivity of all areas. A new tower is not needed for connectivity. Our rural community will not be smart city or smart homes enabled because the high band 5G will not be available to rural areas.

The hamlet of Earleton on the north side of 26 and east of 301 is home to just over 100 residents, primarily over age 55, retired and majority living in single family homes. There are less than 10 children in the hamlet. Majority race is white, and the SES ranges from million-dollar lake homes to poverty homes. The east and northeast side is edged by Lake Santa Fe, while the western side is surrounded by timber woods. The community hub is the local post office. We are predominantly an agriculture community with livestock and crops. The main hardtop is County Road 1469 which becomes NE 114th Avenue before merging into 301. Earleton is accessible by SR 26 and Hwy 301.

Among various neighborhood roads, the hardtop is intersected by two lime-rock roads. One leads to Hwy 301 at Orange Heights, running behind Brown's Farm and blueberry farms. The other is an offshoot that loops off and back on to the hard-top, NE 114th Ave (CR1469). This offshoot road is NE 194th Street, location of the proposed tower, and it becomes 108th Place at the bend. There are approximately 20 single home residences on NE 194th Street and 108th Place. It is a special part of the Earleton hamlet, as it is the locale to some of the oldest homes in the community. Residents are stressed about the proposed tower site, as some families have lived there for generations. These are some of the lowest SES homes in the Earleton hamlet. In this little neighborhood are tracts of timber land interspersed with little homesteads, some deep in the woods and some directly facing the road. The Free Canaan United Methodist Church and graveyard is on NE 108th Place, with grave sites dating to the mid-1800's. The special use land permit sits at the private drive of Carolyn Jamerson and her brother-in-law Ernie Jamerson. From the road, one would never know there are two homes down that drive.

As stated, Carolyn and Ernie's drive is a private easement that leads to the construction site. Vertex construction workers and maintenance workers would use this road 24/7 as needed. This easement is about a quarter mile or less long, and dead-ends at Carolyn Jamerson's mobile home, and next door is her brother-in-law Ernie Jamerson who is also in an older single-wide mobile home. They are approximately 200-feet adjacent on the other side of the driveway to the tower site. On the other side of the tower site is Ms. Watson's home, who is 90 years old. The property for the tower is a long, narrow piece of land and is uncomfortably close to the homes of these folks. The low frequency waves of the base unit is a great concern, as studies reported in NCBI have shown correlations between the long-term low frequency waves and headaches, insomnia. (Neurotoxicology. 2007 Mar;28(2):434-40. Epub 2006 Aug 1. Neurobehavioral effects among inhabitants around mobile phone base stations. Abdel-Rassoul G , El-Fateh OA, Salem MA, Michael A, Farahat F, El-Batanouny M, Salem E., and Occup Environ Med. 2006 May; 63(5): 307-313. doi: 10.1136/oem.2005.020784 PMID: PMC2092490 PMID: 16621850 Subjective symptoms, sleeping problems, and cognitive performance in subjects living near mobile phone base stations H-P Hutter, H Moshhammer, P Wallner, and M Kundi)

I am told Vertex said, at the February 2019 public meeting at Global Lighthouse Ministries, that the reason for the tower is the number of dropped calls. I was not present at this meeting as I did not receive notice of the special land use. Alan Ruiz, in a conversation with an Earleton resident, communicated that Verizon requested he construct the tower. However there are only 20 residences on this road...is the tower due to dropped calls from these 20 homes? Most of the residents report they do not have an issue with dropped calls. Furthermore, the Verizon coverage map shows excellent coverage in Earleton, with fair coverage around the lake community homes and fair coverage at the 194th and 108th lime rock roads. Dropped calls at 20 homes doesn't seem like an urgent need to construct a tower, especially since MOST of the residents report they do not have an issue with dropped calls, even with fair coverage. And Alan Ruiz confirmed to the Earleton resident to whom he spoke with that the new tower would most likely be 4G and would not improve service.

The majority of residents struggling with dropped calls and signal appear to be in the lake community homes, approximately 3 miles from 194th/108th. I do not have data supporting this, but several email conversations indicate this to be the case. Construction of a new tower will not solve the signal problems in the lake community, as confirmed by that same conversation with Alan Ruiz. The issues with the lake community homes is impediments, not lack of towers and not lack of proximity to towers. Impediments refers to metal roofs, impermeable building construction materials such as concrete and wire mesh, trees, moisture content in the air and in the leaves of trees. Another issue is the service provider and type of phone.

It appears the 194th Street community is being dumped on with construction of a tower that will not improve "holding" an on-going call anywhere in the Earleton hamlet because there are too many impediments and these impediments are not going to be removed. The site of construction is in an obscure part of the hamlet, the off-shoot 194th Street lime-rock road where single-wide and double-wide mobile homes prevail. The tower will most likely be another 4G service since 5G will not be available to rural areas until a few more years. And the 5G that will come to rural communities will be a lower-band that cannot support the smart cities and smart homes of the city and urban regions. This appears to be an equity issue, as the lowest SES of our hamlet is the proposed site and yet has only 20 residents. And most do not struggle with dropped calls or signal.

Hwy 301 has excellent coverage according to the Verizon coverage map, but perhaps calls are dropped due to hand-off of towers as folks are driving through. Again, this is not a feature of the folks living on 194th, 108th. The Orange Heights Pinnacle tower and the Waldo tower are close by.

The real solution is for homeowners in the lake community to purchase antenna for about \$20 which will expand the waves to increase their bars. Their individual service providers can tell the homeowner which to buy based on compatibility, and the service provider will give guidance for completing sync process. There are no fees tied to antennas. Lake community homeowners can also purchase signal boosters for approximately \$300, again no monthly fees and their service provider will assist with syncing.

With the concerns as written above and below, I formed the Earleton Coalition against the tower. We have communicated extensively as a community and I have a sign in sheet of our most recent meeting with the residents on NE 194th and 108th, held at the Free Canaan United Methodist Church. We are resoundingly opposed to the construction and ask that the Planning Commission deny the application. It would be a duplication of effort (we have enough towers) without solving any "holding" on-going call problems. This community is not going to cut down our trees and replace our home construction materials that are impeding the radio frequency waves, and we are not able to control the moisture content due to the lakes. This is a sensitive wetland area with Big and Little Lake

Santa Fe, Lake Alto, and the LEAFS Restoration Project, bats and gopher turtles. We have a historical component with our graveyards and post office. Deny the tower application, please.

I have included photos of the community to give you an understanding of the flavor of the area, charts of information, email communications among community members, and research documents. Below are additional reasons why I oppose this and any future PWF applications.

1. **The hamlet of Earleton currently has 4G wireless connectivity at 5 miles or less distance either way from center point on the southern and northwestern sides, and 10 miles distance on the east side of the hamlet. As a rural community, Earleton is wirelessly connected.** Coverage maps show excellent to fair connectivity. Areas with fair coverage are impacted by impediments that even a new 4G or 5G base station and tower will not be able to permeate.
2. **5G in rural areas will have less capacity with extremely low latency (*amount of time a message takes to traverse a system*).** Rural areas will eventually get a form of 5G called “low-band” or “sub-6” 5G, which will not have the multi-gigabit speeds and massive capacity of the urban 5G technology. This low band can use existing coverage areas, like the existing 4G Pinnacle tower standing in Orange Heights @ 5 miles from Earleton. This tower will be upgraded most likely within one to two years, and Earleton is well within a 20-mile range of the tower. Coverage maps of major cell providers reflect mostly excellent coverage in the contiguous area of Earleton and north/south 301 and east/west 26, but impediments do play a role for some areas of the hamlet. However a new tower still will not be able to permeate these impediments. Vertex purports improved cell-phone service with reduced dropped calls, but the 5G is for virtual/augmented reality and other technologies-not cell performance. Natural and man-made impediments will continue to disrupt service at varying levels (trees, cloud cover and moisture in the air and leaves, metal roofs, type of phone one is using, service provider one has contracted, low battery, type of materials used in a building like sheet metal, wire, reinforced concrete, certain types of insulation). 4G will continue to support cell usage as low-band 5G is integrated into rural communities. Addition of a new tower will not increase speed, will not improve latency, and will not decrease the percentage of dropped calls. Each cell service provider has their own plan for upgrading rural area capacity, but there will NOT be enough capacity even with another tower to supply the smart homes and smart cities projects. Smart homes and smart cities is largely an urban phenomenon. Deny the Earleton tower, as it is a duplication without improved service.
3. **A 199-foot monopole tower must be electrically powered to ensure the promised speed to its community which means hard-wiring tens of millions of fiber-optic cable nationwide. This is not going to happen for rural communities.** All of those miles would require permits and would have to be paid for by tax payers. The service providers (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, etc.) have committed to a modified upgrade to existing towers but it will not be comparable to the 5G technology of urban areas. Vertex is misleading the Earleton citizens into thinking they will benefit from improved technology and service as a result of Laura Minzenberg’s tower application approval. However the service providers cannot guarantee and cannot live up to Laura and Vertex’s claims. Deny the Earleton tower, as it is not capable of meeting the service demands without a highly technical plan for fiber-optic infrastructure throughout the entire rural area and nation.
4. **Driverless car technology will be supported by 5G technology for stranded elderly in rural areas, but there is no guarantee the elderly will be able to afford the cost of driverless car technology.** Earleton is a rural hamlet, however medical providers are within ten miles (Melrose), and 20 miles (Gainesville, Hawthorne, Starke). Earleton is not an isolated rural community. Professional transportation services are available to Earleton for medical transport needs. Deny the Earleton tower based on mostly zero need for driverless car technology.

5. **5G can provide virtual medical technologies to rural areas, but this will be at medical provider centers not individual homes.** Current medical centers within a 10-20 mile radius of Earleton have the coverage capacity for infrastructure upgrades. Placing a 199-foot monopole tower on NE 194th Street will not support virtual medical technologies to the residents on this little limerock off-shoot road. Deny the Earleton tower based on incapacity to support virtual medical technologies.
6. **5G can support the digital implementation of agriculture to help meet growing demands for food, but the only farm in proximity to Earleton (Brown's farm) is 500 acres...not a world food supplier.** Automated driver technology, computer vision, telematics, and cloud-based mobile applications will help the farmers keep up with global food demands. Brown's farm is a small family owned and operated 500-acre farm that supplies produce to local residents and businesses (surrounding cities). Brown's farm is located within 2-miles of the current Orange Heights tower. The proposed Vertex tower will not impact digital implementation for Brown's farm, and there is not available land for the addition of new global-supplier farms in Earleton. Deny the Earleton tower based on agriculture technologies, as the proposed tower will not have an impact on improved agriculture yield.
7. **Earleton is a hamlet and is wireless and internet connected. Earleton meets the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requirements for competition among businesses and internet access.** The main goal of this act was to free up the market in the communications industry. Coverage maps show residents have wireless capability, Windstream, Comcast and other competitive service providers supply broadband internet access. Residents have many choices for media services and can subscribe to communication services based on pricing. The Orange Heights tower transmitters and receivers will ultimately be upgraded (perhaps around 2021 or later). Deny the Earleton tower as there is no deficiency in meeting the requirements of this act.
8. **The 3GPP coalition is adopting a technique to eliminate the crowding that takes place when a cellular transmitter and a cell phone communicate with one another over the same frequency band.** Boosting the downlink frequency (from the tower to the phone) while splitting the uplink frequency (the reverse direction) between 1.8 GHz and 3.5 GHz. Additionally, tower hand-offs can create their own problems for cell phone reception. When multiple towers are in the same proximity, simply walking about can cause the signal to switch from tower to tower as it tries to connect to the best source. A tower in Earleton will add to the hand-off problem resulting in dropped calls. Vertex purports to reduce dropped calls with addition of another tower, when in reality another tower will compete with the existing tower resulting in increased probability for dropped calls during the hand-off. Towers will purposely drop calls with weak signal strength to provide for callers with stronger signals. Another reason not to interrupt the existing tower with addition of the Earleton tower at 5 miles apart. If residents have any issues with dropped calls based from the Orange Heights Pinnacle tower, a home signal booster will fix this problem. Boosters can be purchased for approximately \$300 with no other costs involved for use or installation. An antenna to help "hold" a call can be purchased for approximately \$20 with no other costs involved for use or installation. Recall the usual reasons for dropped calls as listed in Concern #1: trees, cloud cover and moisture in the air and leaves, metal roofs, type of phone one is using, service provider one has contracted, low battery, type of materials used in a building like sheet metal, wire, reinforced concrete, certain types of insulation. Deny the Earleton tower based on the creation of techniques to help with transmitter crowding and increased probability of hand-off dropped calls.
9. **Proposed placement of the tower is in the lowest SES of the community.** Earleton's demographics are as diverse as can be imagined from million-dollar lake homes to little single wide trailers nestled in the woods. Vertex is proposing to install this tower down an obscure lime-rock road among the lowest SES homes and nestled right up against homeowners. Construction workers, maintenance workers will have the right to use this private easement to access the tower 24/7 and we wonder what guarantee the homeowners of this easement have for upkeep and

safety. This looks bad on the County Planning Commission, since Vertex has not provided disaggregated data (to my knowledge) that proves residents on NE 194th Street are incurring the majority of dropped calls. The proposed tower site is less than 2 miles from 301, where dropped calls will likely show on the Vertex report of dropped calls from the Hawthorne, Orange Heights and Waldo towers. More of the dropped calls will likely be a result of disconnection from the nearest tower as traffic flows down 301 and hands-off to another tower. Deny the Earleton tower based on dropped calls from handing-off between towers for travelers on 301 and increased competition with yet another tower will exacerbate this problem.

10. **Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan ...promotes new development or redevelopment that makes efficient use of land in the Urban Cluster to maximize use of the existing facilities, protect natural areas, and promote agriculture in rural lands.** The hamlet of Earleton is not a land-use area suitable in size or proximity for industry development. This hamlet is a mere 7-mile off-shoot from 301. Earleton is an agriculture hamlet and the county has the duty to support that usage. The plan further states: *There are also Rural Clusters (eg. Windsor, Melrose) that are historical settlement areas. Infill of these areas with residential development & limited commercial uses is encouraged.*

Historical flavor of Earleton does not support a PWF special use permit. February 22, 2018, WUFT news did a story on the historical memories of Earleton by interviewing the many residents of the town. Insertion of a 199-foot tower is misleading of the historical meaning of this hamlet. There is a historical grave yard, the Free Canaan United Methodist Church and graveyard with sites dating back to the mid-1800's, the old abandoned post office and the old post office/antique store currently in use. There are reflections about the old Shipman's fish camp, and the restoration of the old Buddy's Landing. These features are meant to serve as a historical restoration. Earleton may not be on the US Historical Society as an entire community, but it is rich in heritage about General Earle's role in this community and the many residents on 194th and 108th Streets who have lived here for generations. Below, taken from <http://www.explorehistoricalachuacounty.com/location/earleton-florida/>

Earleton is a sensitive area of lakes, lake life, and wetlands. With this comes sensitive wildlife including birds and burrowing animals. The Boathouse at Lake Santa Fe Harbour air bnb in Earleton advertises Earleton as a *...peaceful quiet space to unplug and get away*. Montgomery 5K Horse Ranch is shared on the advertisements as an option for enjoyment during a stay, along with lake life such as fishing and wildlife viewing. This further supports the character of Earleton as a quiet, get-away hub with the natural beauty of the area. We ride our horses along CR 1469 between 301 and 26, stopping to let our horses visit cattle, visit our family and friends, and to promote the reputation that Earleton is a quiet hamlet where small-town lifestyles can perpetuate. The current Orange Heights Pinnacle tower and the other towers are sufficient for connectivity.

Earleton is predominantly an agricultural community--Straughn's Blueberries and numerous you-pick you-pick farms, Straughn's bee colonies and private owned bee colonies, The Big Oak, LLC (for sale and non-operational); Timber company lands, private ag-timber lands, Montgomery 5K Horse Ranch, Inc., private owned small-farm with poultry and livestock, several cattle lands, numerous private owned horses and donkeys, numerous pecan groves, UF LEAFS long-leaf pine ecosystem on the 1469 side and at 1471, leased hunt-lands in direct proximity to the proposed site. A cell tower does not fit the character of the community.

Additional Notes:

- At the public meeting in February, at the Global Lighthouse Ministries Church on 301, residents were told Vertex was putting in a tower due the number of dropped calls. There are about 20 single use family homes in the area of the tower. If there are a significant number of

dropped calls, it is not from this area of Earleton. Most likely the problem is on the lake side of the community where there are many impediments such as metal roofs, moisture, trees, obstructive building materials. We cannot really believe Vertex is requesting approval for a tower for these 20 residents. Calls drop for a variety of reasons, but in this case it is not tower proximity.

- See survey chart below of each resident's cell performance:

Survey of Dropped Calls					
Name	Address	Service Provider	Dropped Calls?	Signal Problems?	
David Hall	19215 NE 108th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Leslie Merian	19215 NE 108th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Vivian Green	19120 NE 108th Place	Unknown	No	No	
Carolyn Jamerson	11015 NE 194th Street	At&T	No	No	
Mark Wilson	17740 NE 114th Ave.	At&T	Yes	Yes	
Salina Bristor	19117 NE 108th	Tmobile/Sprint	Unknown	Unknown	
Gail Fabian	17316 NE114th Ave	AT&T	Yes	Yes	
Douglas Green Sr.	17304 NE 114th Ave	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
Trina S. Green	17304 NE 114th Ave	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
Eugene Green	19120 NE 108th Place	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Dee Espin	17401 NE 114th Ave	Verizon	Yes	Yes	
Cynthia Heard	18121 NE 108th Place	Sprint	Yes	Yes	
Benjamin Heard	18121 NE 108th Place	Sprint	Yes	Yes	
Jessica Krauszer	18621 NE 108th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Ray Bolander	20529 NE 114th Ave	Consumer	No	Yes	
Mark Pacheco	18621 NE 108th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Steve Gerrard	11525 NE 205th Terr	Verizon	Yes	Yes	

Dan Eiland	21029 NE 101st Ave	Straight Talk	Yes	Yes	
Delores Beck	21015 NE 115th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Glen Beck	21016 NE 115th Place	Verizon	No	No	
Number of Dropped Calls Per Provider, Per Resident					
Verizon	AT&T	T Mobile	Sprint	Straight Talk	Consumer
2 Residents out of 8 Tot	2 Residents out of 3 Tot	No data	2 residents out of 2	1 resident out of 1	0 out of 1
25%	67%	No data	100%	100%	0%

Below are photographs of 194th and 108th Streets which reflect the SES of the proposed tower site. The coverage issues may be in the lake communities (Crane's Song, The Cove, Blueberry Bay) due to the many, many impediments discussed in this letter. It appears Vertex is trying to place the tower in the lowest SES of the community to service the highest SES of the community. This may become an equity issue since the folks on NE 194th and 108th Streets do not want a tower they do not need, which is intended to serve the highest SES residents. Vertex contends the tower will be hidden in the woods among the pine trees. However the surrounding acreage is logged regularly, which exposes the tower during sapling replantation and tree regrowth.

Below photos: Private drive to Ernie Jamerson and his sister Carolyn Jamerson's home, which is approximately 200 feet adjacent to the tower construction site. This drive leads out to NE 194th Street. From 194th Street, one cannot see that there are two residences down this drive. The Jamerson's have had the responsibility of lime-rocking this drive and maintaining it for two generations.



Below, to the right in this photo is Carolyn Jamerson's home.



Below, residence of Ernie Jamerson, next door to Carolyn and approximately 200-foot distance from proposed tower site.



Below: Homes on 194th Street and around the bend where 194th becomes 108th Street.









Below photo: 194th & 108th Streets, limerock, about 2 miles long with tracts of land and residences.



Below, photos of Free Canaan United Methodist Church and graveyard, 108th Place, around the bend from 194th Street.



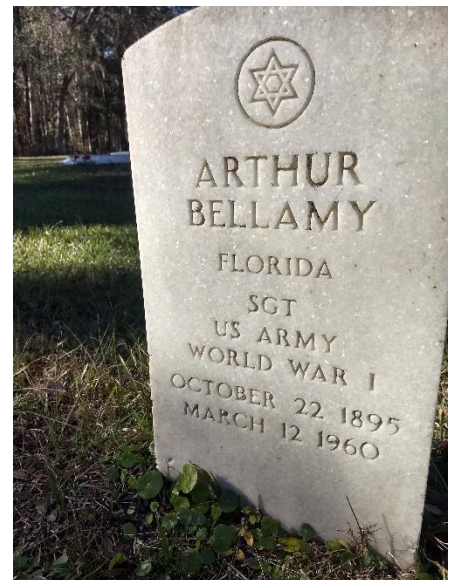
Below, headstones from a few of the gravesites.



Eua M. Young
Born 1886 Died 1953



Mary M. L. Robinson
Born 1885 Died 1941



Arthur Bellamy, SGT US Army, WWI
Born 1895 Died 1960

A few sources of research.

Wiring for Wireless: 5G and the Tower in Your Backyard

June 11, 2018

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/wiring-for-wireless-5g-and-the-tower-in-your-backyard/>

What is 5G? The Business Guide to Next-Generation Wireless Technology

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-5g-the-business-guide-to-next-generation-wireless-technology/>

<https://www.fcc.gov/5g-faqs>

5G FAQs, Federal Communications Commission

Cellular networks are getting an upgrade with the arrival of fifth generation, or "5G," technology. As with previous generations, consumers can expect new applications and improved user experiences.

Beyond mobile phones, powerful advances in connectivity made possible through 5G will enable uses ranging from telemedicine to helping communities manage local resources such as traffic signals and water supplies. 5G will support a growing number of connected devices expected to improve the quality and efficiency of all sorts of products and services consumers enjoy today. Other potential applications include augmented reality, virtual reality and self-driving cars. Learn more about what to expect with the arrival of 5G:

What is 5G?

5G stands for the fifth generation of mobile communications. This next generation of technology promises consumers faster data rates with lower latency, or delays, in transmitting data. It also promises more capacity for a more efficient network. 5G is being designed with flexibility in mind, to support future services and applications that may not even exist today.

How is 5G different from 4G?

5G technology can provide higher data speeds with less delay than 4G, sometimes referred to as 4G LTE. Some 5G services will provide coverage areas with data speeds up to 100 times faster and almost instantaneous response time. For example, it can take almost six minutes to download a feature-length movie with 4G. With 5G, the same movie can be downloaded in as little as 15 seconds. Technically speaking, current 4G speeds are approximately 12-36 megabytes per second (Mbps), while 5G services are expected to support speeds of up to 300 Mbps or greater.

When will 5G be available?

5G technology requires upgraded cellular networks as well as devices capable of accessing these new networks. 5G networks are already being deployed in some parts of the country. Check with your mobile provider for detailed information about its 5G deployment plans.

Will a 5G phone work where 5G service is limited or unavailable?

The 5G phones currently on the market are "backward compatible," meaning that they are capable of functioning on earlier-generation networks outside of 5G coverage areas.

Will a 3G or 4G phone continue to work?

4G devices will continue to work. Mobile providers are expected to maintain their 4G networks as they invest in 5G deployment. If your mobile device is more than a few years old, it may be a 3G device. Check with your mobile provider to see if it plans to phase out its 3G services.

Will 5G work on existing devices built for 3G or 4G?

No. New devices will be required. This includes mobile phones and other cellular devices, such as tablets and smart watches. Before purchasing a 5G device, check with your mobile provider to see if 5G service is available in your area.

Can I use an unlocked 5G device on any network?

While many mobile phones purchased today are "unlocked" so you can change providers, 5G phones – even if advertised as unlocked – may not function on another provider's 5G network. Early 5G-capable devices may only include specific antennas designed to work with one company's 5G services. Check the device's specifications for the different frequencies it works with and compare that to those used by the providers you are considering.

What about 5G home broadband service?

5G home broadband service is available in some markets as an alternative to DSL, Fiber or Cable services. If you subscribe to 5G home broadband service, you will need compatible equipment.

My home wi-fi router has 5G in its name, do I already have 5G at home?

No. The 5G label on a home Wi-Fi router indicates that it operates in the 5GHz (gigahertz) spectrum band. Wi-Fi is based on a different technology than 5G or fifth-generation wireless.

What is the FCC's role in 5G?

The FCC is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to facilitate U.S. 5G deployment. This strategy includes three key components: pushing more spectrum into the marketplace; updating infrastructure policy; and modernizing outdated regulations. For more information, see the FCC's [5G FAST Plan](#).

The Five G's – A Chronology

5G – Rolling Out Now

Promises faster data rates and energy savings. Enhances existing networks and ushers in new uses like telemedicine and virtual reality.

4G – Streaming Video

Faster data downloads and uploads, support for data-intensive applications, gaming services, mobile TV, video conferencing, and other high-speed features.

3G – Internet and Video

Enabled full-feature mobile internet access and video calling, with faster data transmission speeds.

2G – Messaging

Replaced analog with a digital network. Enabled call and text encryption, text, and multimedia messaging.

1G – Wireless Calling

Eliminated the need for phone cords and copper wiring, enabling network calls on the go. Voice only. Poor battery life and voice quality.

<https://electronics.howstuffworks.com/4-reasons-phone-keeps-dropping-calls.htm>

4 Reasons Your Phone Keeps Dropping Calls

About three-quarters of cell phone users deal with the forehead-smacking exasperation of dropped calls at least occasionally according to a [2012 Pew survey](#). In some cases, you can simply call back your friend and pick up the conversation where you left off. In other situations – say, if you're stranded along a highway in 120 F (48 C) temperatures – a dropped emergency call might mean the difference between life and death.

Because cell phone networks and the phones themselves are such complicated systems, there are a lot of dynamic variables that contribute to problems with voice calls and data transfer. Signals seem to wax and wane, often in the same spot, for no logical reason. Why does signal quality and strength often seem less like science ... and more like black magic?

It's partly because electromagnetic fields constantly change, reflecting and refracting, expanding and contracting, morphing in response to a raft of variables that network engineers often anticipate but are helpless to address in real time.

Before we plunge into the finer points of dropped calls, it's worth remembering that cell phones are basically just fancy [two-way radios](#). Just like FM/AM radios, they suffer from the effects of interference.

So, let's look at the top four reasons your phone call drops and some ways to improve your reception. Note that because cell systems are some of the most sophisticated (and confusing) systems on Earth, some of the concepts we'll introduce are oversimplified for easier understanding.

1. Your Signal Is Weak.

Weak signals are, by far, the No. 1 cause of dropped calls and data issues. That's according to George Lamb, vice president of customer service at Nextivity, a developer of mobile coverage technology.

In general, the closer you are to a cell phone tower, the better your signal. The reverse is also true – the farther you are from a tower, the weaker the signal, and the more likely you'll experience problems. In an ideal situation, your phone might be able to work with a tower that's [about 45 miles](#) (72 kilometers) away. In the real world, though, your max is typically closer to about half of that distance.

Note that data signals are affected by line of sight. So, if you're on a mountaintop, you're more apt to get a better signal than if you're in a deep canyon. Even in flat areas, if you wander far enough from a tower, the curvature of Earth will affect signal quality.

That's because physical obstructions deflect and block radio signals. Often, foliage or reinforced concrete are to blame. But so might a big city bus. It could cut your signal in half as you stroll along a sidewalk and restore that signal when it pulls away.

You've undoubtedly encountered dead spots where a signal weakens or dies altogether. Because cell phone signals are so changeable, "you might encounter dead spots as small as 3 feet [91 centimeters] wide," says Lamb.

2. It's Raining.

Wind doesn't affect signals. Neither does vehicle speed. Nor do Bluetooth signals, which work on different frequencies.

Rain, on the other hand, is a signal killer. That's because the high-frequency wavelengths used by cell phones don't travel well through water. Water tends to block the radio signal between the cell phone tower and your phone. Snow and hail are problematic, too, but they have lower water content than rain, so they aren't as disruptive as a cats-and-dogs downpour. Temperature also can affect signals because warmer air can hold more water vapor. More vapor means there's a greater chance of signal attenuation.

Here's a surprise: Because tree leaves contain so much water, they're excellent signal blockers. And that's why you may have a strong signal in the forest during winter, after leaves have fallen, but not during summer, when foliage is in full force.

3. *The Cell Tower Is Overloaded.*

Signal strength is one element that affects your calls. Signal quality is another. And network congestion is a major problem in terms of quality.

During instances of extremely high traffic, such as a big concert or football game, or in a large-scale emergency, sudden upswings in network traffic can jam up the network and result in dropped calls and data signals that are so overburdened that you can't access the internet.

Cell towers vary in the geographic range (the size of the cell) they cover. In densely populated areas, cells are small (perhaps only a few hundred meters in size), and there are a lot more towers than in rural areas, where the cells might span miles.

When there's influx of people into one cell, cells may actually constrict in size, ostensibly handing off the overload to other nearby towers. This process is sometimes called [cell breathing](#), and it's important in balancing cell traffic loads.

Here's the gist: If the cell you're using shrinks and calls are passed to a tower that's actually farther away from you, well, guess what? You lose your signal.

4. *You've Misunderstood Your Signal Strength.*

Signal strength is a critical – and critically misunderstood – aspect of cell phones. Those little bars at the top of your phone give you a rough approximation of how strong your signal is, but every phone varies by accuracy, and there's a lack of standardization among carriers, too.

To counter those overly simplistic bars, you can dig into the settings on your phone to get a numerical value for signal strength, which is represented by dBm (decibel milliwatts). On Android smartphones, you'll find that number in the network settings menu. With iPhones, you have to do a bit more digging; there are tips for locating signal details on [this webpage](#).

Signals are listed as negative numbers, and in real-world conditions, you'll typically see numbers between -30 and -120. The closer your signal number is to 0, the better the connection. You won't often see a signal stronger than -50, and once the number drops to -100 or so, you'll likely encounter glitches and dropped calls. At -120, you basically have no usable signal.

Percentages of people in different sectors experiencing dropped calls.

NEXTIVITY

George Lamb says that the dBm numbers may only vary by a bit throughout your day (perhaps from -80 to -95), but that these numbers don't represent a straight percentage — they are exponential. Similar to the Richter scale that's used for earthquake strength, just a small change in your dBm reading denotes a very big increase (or decrease) in your signal. Eking out an improvement of just a few digits (by moving your phone to a different part of your house or location) may make or break your call.

How to Improve Your Phone Reception

Apps, like [LTE Discovery](#), can help you determine your signal strength, and will provide a numerical display of your signal strength wherever you go. If you're dealing with a weak signal, toggle your phone in and out of airplane mode to reset your connection. This process forces your phone to find the strongest signal in the area and can eliminate the tendency of many handsets to hang onto weak signals from less-than-ideal towers.

Keep your phone **fully charged**. A low battery can send your device into power-save mode, in which it may struggle to maintain a connection.

Hold your phone at arm's length. In a phenomenon called **head-and-body loss**, even your own body can deflect signals, so changing positions (and loosening that death grip) may help. Or just use a Bluetooth headset and set your phone aside to prevent this issue altogether, keeping in mind that if a lot of other Bluetooth users are nearby, those signals may interfere with headset performance and make you think that there's a problem with your cell signal.

If you're roaming, understand that you're on another carrier's towers – and that they can (and often do) throttle (slow) the data connections of any roaming users to maximize the experience for their own customers. Also realize that if your signal strength is too low, the tower may purposely drop your connection in an effort to conserve bandwidth for users who have a better signal.

Finally, use a smartphone app, such as [OpenSignal](#) or [RootMetrics](#) to pinpoint the closest tower and see what signal strength is like in a given area. Some service providers, like [Verizon](#), [T-Mobile](#), [AT&T](#) and [Sprint](#) provide coverage maps that give you an approximate idea of the signal quality you'll find in a given location. A service provider could have great coverage nationwide, but if it's bad in your area, you may be better off switching companies.

NOW THAT'S INTERESTING

Your phone also may be to blame for lousy service. Cheap phones often employ low-quality antennas that are vastly inferior to more expensive components, and battery quality impacts signal strength, too. That's a reason you should read user reviews before you buy a new handset. And if you still encounter problems, calling your carrier's tech support line may offer clues as to reasons for your dropped calls.

Sincerely,

Melissa Montgomery

From: [Mark Wilson](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Cc: [Mark Wilson](#)
Subject: tracking # ZOS-01-20
Date: Monday, January 6, 2020 8:48:09 PM

M. Benkhatar,

Regarding the proposed zoning change to a parcel of land nestled in our residential - agricultural neighborhood, from agriculture to commercial, has thrown up a RED FLAG with many residents, including me.

There are neighbor folks living very close to the proposed site for a 200' cell tower! The jury is still out on the health risks possibly emitted by 5g. This site is too close to our community and it's residents for health reasons alone.

At 199', the pines are NOT going to hide it. Especially once the pines are harvested.

Please convey my wishes to NOT grant a land use zoning change to any small parcels of property in our historic laid-back community of Earleton.

I am a 46+ year resident here and we have high regard for the rich history of Earleton. Please don't allow the greed of one or two people ruin the laid-back country life that so many of my good neighbors and I have enjoyed for decades. We intend to continue to enjoy our life here for decades to come.

Mark Wilson
17740 NE 114th AV
Waldo, FL 32694
(CoRd 1469)



Earleton Coalition <earletoncoalition@gmail.com>

updated list of concerns

Eric Sallustio <ericsallustio@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 8:58 PM

To: Earleton Coalition <earletoncoalition@gmail.com>

Cc: Carolyn Jamerson <lindseybud@aol.com>, Denise Matthews <docprodmatthews@gmail.com>, Elyn Ahlstrom <ellynkadel@icloud.com>, Glen and Delores Beck <beckcove2016@gmail.com>, Kathleen Lowry <kathylowry@comcast.net>, Sherilyn Wood <elegirlsk23@gmail.com>, GATORBSN@gmail.com, GRACESANDY@bellsouth.net, kgouin@gmail.com, Amanda <AMANDA122908@gmail.com>, Art Riley <ARILEYDVM@windstream.net>, Cody <cohdee24@gmail.com>, Diane Lyons <LYONSDLYNN@gmail.com>, Gordon Bennett <BENNETTSTRIPING@yahoo.com>, Janet Littlejohn <JANLITTLEJ@yahoo.com>, Jeremiah <JEREMIAH@sparklelife.com>, Kelley Sallustio <KESALLU@gmail.com>, Laura Trueba-Garzon <Ltgarzon@bellsouth.net>, Linda <Linda@suncountysports.com>, Lindsay Krieg <lindsay_krieg@yahoo.com>, Mary McAllister <msmca@bellsouth.net>, Naomi & Jeff Oldham <NAOMIANDJEFFOLDHAM@gmail.com>, Neil <neil@conveng.com>, Paul & Lynn Mize <pmize32631@yahoo.com>, Paula Tyner <PRTYNER@yahoo.com>, Phil Robinson <cranesongphil@gmail.com>, RD Bickmeyer <DBICKMEYER@gmail.com>, Robert Wood <OBLIOBOY@outlook.com>, Steve Thebaut <STEVE.THEBAUT@gmail.com>, Tammy Euliano <TEULIANO@gmail.com>, Tony Cere <tonyc@kinetixpt.com>, William Black <Blackwf@icloud.com>, GREENEF@gru.com

Sorry it's late. I was not able to get a hold of a Verizon network engineer. I was, however, able to speak with Alan Ruiz of Vertex Development, the applicant for the tower. He was very respectful about the concerns, and was helpful in answering some questions. First off, he is just the builder of the infrastructure for cell towers, and does not himself provide cell service. He did tell me this tower and location was requested by Verizon for current coverage and for future upgrades. He was not 100% sure exactly what equipment Verizon will putting on the tower, but he said given the fact that 5G is still several years away, and how rural our community is, this is more than likely a 4G tower to begin with. He also explained what 5G is exactly. It is a technology that is the next generation of wireless communication, that is incompatible with the previous generation, thus delineating the generations, hence '5G.' There is no current standard of what 5G looks like amongst the carriers. Some are using low band, some are using mid band, and some are using high band. Verizon is currently investing in the high band, or millimeter wave. Since the high band needs many smaller repeater type towers(think light pole), he thinks that again this will most likely be a current generation (4G) tower to start. He also said 5G is absolutely voice as well as data not just data alone, and this tower would improve service as well. He said service providers don't invest capital into infrastructure and not expect it to improve signal quality and strength, even through impediments.

I'm sure I'm forgetting a few things, but Alan did say he would be more than happy to come to the meeting tomorrow to answer and address any more questions or concerns.

Hope y'all have a good night,

Eric Sallustio

> On Jan 2, 2020, at 9:21 AM, Earleton Coalition <earletoncoalition@gmail.com> wrote:

>

[Quoted text hidden]

> <ConcernsList_MasterCopy.docx>

From: [Jessica Krauszer](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: # ZOS-01-20
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:51:55 AM

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the zoning change and cell tower construction presented by application # ZOS-01-20 on parcel #18442-002-000. As a new property owner in Alachua County and in Waldo (technically Waldo although considered Earleton by most due to proximity), potential short term and long term effects of the construction of a tower is the exact opposite of why I purchased the property at 18621 NE 108th Place, Waldo, FL.

In the short term, the construction of the tower presents logistical concerns for nearby residents and those who drive on NE 194th Street. NE 194th Street is a narrow, dirt road that, under the best conditions, is less than desirable to drive on. During times of dry weather, the road is washboard bumpy, extremely dusty and difficult to drive on. During wet weather, the road is extremely muddy, holds a lot of water and is slippery. Under either condition, the addition of heavy construction type trucks using the road will add to the deterioration. We residents do not complain about the normal condition of the road because we choose to accept the condition in order to enjoy our property. However, if large, heavy vehicles caused additional damage to the road, it may become impassible for us. After construction, vehicles would continually use the road for future maintenance efforts.

In the long term, the construction of the tower serves NO benefit to surrounding residents and could in fact cause unwanted or harmful effects. Please find important reasons below to deny this application.

There is no value of 5G capability in our area. First, as of now, 5G is to be used for virtual/augmented reality and smart cities/homes. Our area has no need or use for this type of technology and we are not within the city limits for a government to begin this type of installation. Second, the claim that the 5G tower will increase cell phone reception seems false and misleading as cell phones are currently using 4G technology. There is a 4G tower within 5 miles from this proposed site. Also, If the tower were to be constructed and 5G technology were to be "pulled" from the tower, tens of millions of fiber-optic cables would need to be run from this site. This is not going to occur from such a rural area in any near future.

Additionally, there is current internet service to our area and good cell phone reception. The area meets the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I have never had one dropped cell phone call. Lastly, initial research has shown that due to the proximity of other towers in the area, we could begin to experience dropped calls and signal interruptions due to competing signals from the towers. This would be a sole reason to deny the tower as the company's claim is that the purpose is to decrease dropped calls.

The proposed location of the tower is awful for many reasons. First, if the tower construction company's claim is that residents closer to Lake Santa Fe need better reception, the tower would have been proposed to be built closer to that area. Second, this small, narrow road and the quiet, peaceful community that live down this road do not need to be subject to various issues presented by this tower. This road houses the lowest SES of the Earleton area and we can not help but believe this site was chosen without any concern of or care for these residents. The proposed location is extremely close (within yards) from someone's residence...not just

property, the actual home they live in. Other residences are within a few thousand feet. Because 5G technology is so new, adequate research and findings are not available to present any immediate or long term health effects from high radio frequency waves. Also, Earleton area has various historical landmarks, does not support zoning changes and has a rich environmental and agricultural base, which we would not want disturbed. Additionally important is that our property values could be negatively affected by this tower. If this were not the case, the company's claim of "hiding" the tower in the trees and "out-of-site" would not be needed. The lowest SES of the area does not need a useless structure to contribute to decreased property values.

I urge you to carefully consider this application and all of the negative impacts the tower will have on surrounding residents. It does not make sense to approve this application when there are NO benefits and only detriments to the residents. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jessica Krauszer

From: [Lindseybud](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: ZOS-01-02 Physical address 11015 NE 184th St Earleton
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 2:46:57 PM
Attachments: [img_1759.heic](#)

Earleton does not need another cell phone tower! There is a Verizon tower in Orange Heights, there is one west of 301 and CR1469 and another one in Waldo.

This tower will be approximately 400 feet from my home.

I moved here in July 1974 to get away from Gainesville. I enjoy the peacefulness of Earleton, the deer, wild turkeys, gopher tortoise, snapping turtles, sandhill cranes and much more. Some of these are state protected animals.

I know there have not been any long term studies on the health effects of a 5G tower. My 26 year old granddaughter lives with me, she has many health problems including epilepsy, not to mention my own battle with cancer.

We do not need another cell phone tower, Earleton is a small community made up of all levels of different incomes. This seems to be taking advantage of people that don't have the ways or means to protest this tower. Earleton will never be an industrial development, people move here because of the peaceful environment or just to retire from big city living.

In Earleton we have all of the connectivity that we need

I feel it is the duty of the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to protect us from this or any other cell phone towers and to deny this request.

Carolyn Jamerson

Sent from AOL Mobile 

**ALACHUA COUNTY
DEPT. OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT/OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION ANNEX - 10 S.W. SECOND AVENUE, 3rd FLOOR
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601
(352) 374-5249**

December 30, 2019

Notice of Zoning Application # **ZOS-01-20**

Dear Property Owner:

As owner of property within the vicinity of the area covered by this request, you are hereby notified of the above zoning applications described on the attached map. The zoning process on this item will include two (2) public hearings: An advisory hearing with the **Planning Commission** followed by a final hearing with the **Board of County Commissioners**. The **Planning Commission** hearings and the **Board of County Commissioners** hearings will be held in the **Jack Durance Auditorium** on the second floor of the Alachua County Administration Building located at 12 SE 1st Street Gainesville, FL 32601.

Planning Commission date and time:

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners date and time: **To be determined**

You are invited to attend and participate in the hearings.

For your information, we have enclosed a zoning map and description of the application. The application files are accessible for review and a copy of the staff report will be available the Friday before the meeting. A pamphlet containing information about quasi-judicial proceedings is also available upon request.

You are encouraged to provide written comments in the space provided below and return your response to us no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020. You may also email comments to: planning@alachuacounty.us. This will allow us to make your response a part of the information packet presented to the Commissioners prior to the public hearings. Written comments received after this date will be given to the Planning Commissioners at the hearing.

If you have any questions, or desire further information, please contact the Development Services Section at (352) 374-5249.

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY/USE DARK INK

RETURN THIS PORTION

Comments: _____

See attached

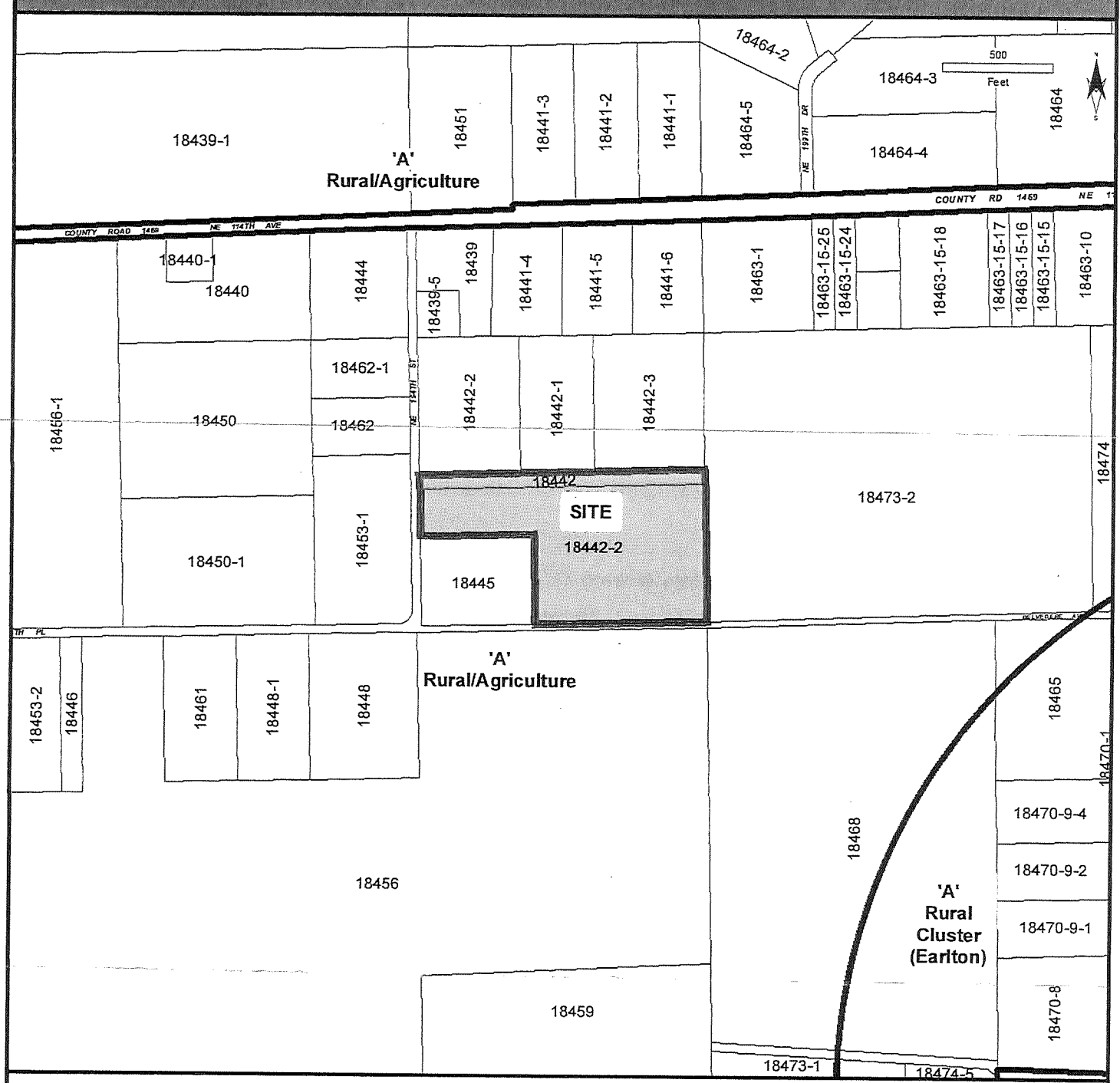
SIGNED:

APPLICATION # ZOS-01-20

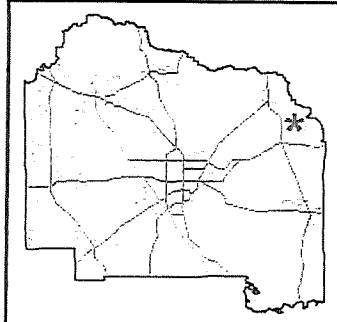
Debbie Matthews
William F. Black

Parcel 18473-002-000
Black and Matthews
11421 NE 205th Terrace
Waldo, FL
32694-4257

SUBJECT PROPERTY, WITH SURROUNDING FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING



Locator Map



ZOS-01-20

STR320822

A request for a special use permit for a personal wireless service facility (PWSF). The site is in the 'A' (Agricultural) zoning district and has a future land use designation of Rural/Agriculture (1 dwelling unit/5 acres). The site is approximately 15.8 acres and is located on tax parcel numbers 18442-002-000 (southern portion) and 18442-000-000 on NE 194th Place.

Attention: Alachua County Planning Commission

Notice of Zoning Application # ZOS-01-20

From: Denise Matthews and William F. Black
11421 NE 205th Terrace
Waldo, FL 32694-4257

To: The Alachua County Planning Commission

Our concerns focus on the choice of this location for the construction of the Vertex tower. The necessity of requesting an exception to the Agricultural/Rural designation of this property that will be used for a cell tower, to be rented for 30 years, indicates that this use is not an intended agricultural use. Any exception requires strong justification and we disagree that the construction of a cell tower to be rented to cell phone service providers is adequate justification and rather a detriment to the community alleged to benefit.

1. There is no guarantee of who the service providers will be, and if and how the service provider would improve the service to the area. Such guarantees are not possible.
2. The research is inconclusive on the benefits of a 5G cell tower even if we could be assured that it would be used to increase reliable cell service to the surrounding area.

In addition to these major inadequacies in the assurance of any benefit to the community, there are detriments to the community that are certain.

1. The Agricultural/Rural designation of our properties would be compromised by this one exception that would serve as a justification for future "exceptions." This trend could negate the long-standing agricultural character of this portion of the county.
2. We own an 80-acre pine tree farm. A tower in this location would stand on a piece of property that is contiguous with our forest land that we have worked hard to maintain as a natural habitat and that we plan to donate to the Alachua County Land Trust upon our passing.
3. The proposed location of this commercial exception as close as 400 feet to existing residences off of a dirt road, NE 194th Street, where some of the lowest income residents in Earleton live. We disagree that there is any justification installing a 199-foot cell tower so near to their homes.

In closing, we sincerely hope that Alachua County Planning Commission members will seriously consider these concerns and reject this application because of its detriments and lack of benefits to the citizens of our county.

Thank you for your consideration,

Denise Matthews and William Black

January 6, 2020

Attn: Mehdi Benkhatar / Co. Planning Commission

Re: Application / Earleton Cell-Tower
parcel # 18442-002-000 (N.E. 194th St.)

Dear Sir;

I would greatly appreciate your serious consideration to this written protest against the approval of the aforementioned application submitted by (Tampa-based) Vertex Development, LLC on behalf of Earleton Land-owner, Laura Tringenberg. (who resides in Calif.)

Earleton is a quiet community, (largely) made up of Retired, Semi-Retired and hard-working folks who enjoy the peaceful life-style, along with an abundance of wildlife and acres of wildflowers on both sides of our (only) County-Road. The surrounding area is made up of an Agriculture life-style, where cattle graze in wooded and open pastures next to small horse farms, along side Blueberry farms and small Pecan farms with Ponds & Lakes. The area has a number of very old homesteads, each with their own story to tell.

The approval of a tower in Earleton would certainly be an eye-sore, a big disadvantage to the surrounding property owners and more important - not really needed - as we have an existing tower in Orange Heights, a few miles away.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration to my request, I remain,

Sincerely,
Gail Fabian

17-316 N.E. 114th Ave.
Waldo, Fl. 32694

TO The planning Commisiner

I am against the tower being
up in earleton because of the
elders & their health & because
we don't get dropped calls. we
have history in our town. we have
grave sites that are history in
It Self.

Nitan Green

DEPT. OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT/OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION ANNEX - 10 S.W. SECOND AVENUE, 3rd FLOOR
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601
(352) 374-5249

December 30, 2019

Notice of Zoning Application # ZOS-01-20

Dear Property Owner:

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Planning Commission date and time:

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners date and time: **To be determined**

You are invited to attend and participate in the hearings.

For your information, we have enclosed a zoning map and description of the application. The application files are accessible for review and a copy of the staff report will be available the Friday before the meeting. A pamphlet containing information about quasi-judicial proceedings is also available upon request.

You are encouraged to provide written comments in the space provided below and return your response to us no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020. You may also email comments to: planning@alachuacounty.us. This will allow us to make your response a part of the information packet presented to the Commissioners prior to the public hearings. Written comments received after this date will be given to the Planning Commissioners at the hearing.

If you have any questions, or desire further information, please contact the Development Services Section at (352) 374-5249.

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY/USE DARK INK

RETURN THIS PORTION

Comments: EARLETON IS A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL
GREENSPACE. WE WHO MOVED HERE DID

SO BECAUSE WE DID NOT WANT TO LIVE
IN THE GAINESVILLE TO WESTERN ALACHUA

COUNTY SPRAWL. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS
ZONING CHANGE APPLICATION. WE DO NOT WANT

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN OUR NATURAL
HAZEN. Thank you.

SIGNED:

APPLICATION # ZOS-01-20

From: [Eric Sallustio](#)
To: [Patricia Mcallister](#); [Gerald L. Brewington](#); [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: Email from Development Projects Site -- Vertex Personal Wireless Service Facility SUP --
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:58:02 PM

I am emailing to put my support in for building this tower. Recently some neighbors have been against this for some unknown reasons, however I would quite enjoy the safety and comfort that would be afforded to my neighborhood and myself by having cell service, which I currently struggle getting. Please help my neighbors and me get better cell service!

Thanks,

Eric Sallustio
352-474-9448

From: [Ellyn Ahlstrom](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: Opposition to Application ZOS-01-20 Vertex Tower
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:42:31 PM

Greetings!

I am a resident of Earleton and am writing in opposition to the proposed cell tower. My opposition is based on the fact that the proposed location is in a residential neighborhood. There are many other places nearby where a tower could be placed that wouldn't impact the quiet enjoyment of peoples' homes. Has the applicant even looked at nearby commercial land that could accommodate a tower that wouldn't require a special exception?

I urge you to reject this application. If it goes ahead, I recommend that there be requirements that no activity occur on the tower that would require lighting. It also seems that the applicant should pave the road to accommodate the increased maintenance traffic that a multi use tower would necessitate. That would be really difficult on the neighborhood.

Thanks for your consideration of these issues.

Ellyn Ahlstrom
11508 NE 199th Dr.
Waldo, FL 32694

From: [Mark Pacheco](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: #ZOS-01-20
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:41:36 PM

Dear Planning Commission,

Regarding the requested zoning change and cell phone tower construction via application # ZOS-01-20 on parcel #18442-002-000, I oppose the request and would like to ask for your consideration to not suggest for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

Being vested in the property along NE 108th Place (18621 and 18719), I am concerned about the negative effects a zoning change and construction of such a tower may have on the property. One of my concerns is regarding property value. This proposed area of Waldo/Earleton has the lowest socio-economic status and lower property values. A tower with no benefits to any of the surrounding residents will certainly decrease property values. If an area with higher property values is requesting such a tower, feel free to approve for the tower to be approved down their road, not in the small, quaint community down NE 194th Street and 108th Place, which houses a historic cemetery and community church.

One of the reasons the tower is being proposed is due to complaints regarding dropped calls. The majority of dropped calls along highway 301 are related to cell phones of certain service providers leaving connection with one tower and obtaining connection with a closer tower. In this case, a tower at this location will only contribute to dropped calls. I have not experienced any dropped calls in the area, but I may if this tower is built. Also, a 5G tower will not help with 4G cell phone connectivity, so the proposed reason is void to begin with. There is a current tower within 5 miles of the proposed location, so the tower will not be beneficial in this respect at all.

The proposed 5G technology that this tower will accommodate serves no purpose to this area's residents. The applications that use 5G technology (smart home, automated driver, smart city) are not applicable to this area as residents would like to keep the historic and agricultural essence of the area. We are currently connected via internet, phone and cellular service, in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The location of the tower is a concern as well due to the many residents that live in close proximity. Some residences will be within a few thousand feet of it, a few much closer than that, and these residents would have to live with the sights and sounds of initial construction, ongoing maintenance and potential unknown (due to the newness of 5G frequencies) health effects.

Please consider my opposition and the concerns and opposition of other interested parties, residents and property owners in the area. There is not one benefit from this tower to our residents; only detriments.

Sincerely,

Mark Pacheco

From: [Jean Robinson](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Subject: Earleton Cell Phone Tower
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 4:32:22 PM

Good Afternoon -

I am a registered voter in Alachua
County and live at:
11622 NE 199th Dr.
Waldo, Florida 32694

I am contacting you to voice opposition to the construction of a cell phone tower in my residential area. I feel there is a lot of unclear information regarding health concerns and cell phone transmissions. My primary opposition is I do not feel a tower should be placed adjacent to residential homes. Please visit the area to see this and ask yourself if you were living there would that be acceptable to you? Please vote no.

Thank you,
Jean Robinson
PO Box 101
Earleton, Florida 32631

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jeffrey L. Hays](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#); [Patricia Mcallister](#)
Subject: FW: ZOS-01-20
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 8:53:16 AM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)



Jeffrey Hays, AICP

Principal Planner, Growth Management
10 SW 2nd Ave, Gainesville 32601
352.374.5249 (office)



From: Rob G <robgriscti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Planning <planning@alachuacounty.us>
Subject: ZOS-01-20

This email is to advise that I oppose this zoning application on multiple grounds, which I'll distill:

- Telecommunications: The proposed tower will not enhance telecommunications and is not in conformity with federal and state law, nor with the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan.
- Equitable Impact: The proposed tower would be located directly in a small and primarily rural community of citizens in Earleton that do not have the resources to mount opposition, and therefore is discriminatory under federal and state law.
- Environmental: The proposed tower may have detrimental environmental effects to the Lake Santa Fe water bodies, which are a navigable Outstanding Florida Waterway and merit

environmental impact analysis before authorization to construct an almost 200 foot tower close to those waters and directly in their surrounding watersheds.

- The proposed tower may cause health concerns. The science of this technology is under current review by significant medical institutions nationwide and should be considered carefully by Alachua County before allowing this project to move forward.

I write as a resident and also as a business owner in Earleton.

Please consider this email as opposition on the grounds stated above and a request under Chapter 119 for the following:

- the application;
- all attendant documentation to the application, including emails and other correspondence between the County and the applicant;

As provided by Chapter 119, I request an estimate of the cost of the County's response to this request before those costs are incurred.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Robert Griscti
PO Box 56
Earleton, FL 32631
352/256-8268

From: [Neil Euliano](#)
To: [Mehdi Benkhatar](#)
Cc: [Tammy Euliano \(teuliano@gmail.com\)](mailto:teuliano@gmail.com)
Subject: Earleton radio tower
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 2:12:20 PM

Mr. Benkhatar,

I wanted to express my support for the application for the new radio tower in Earleton. I'm sure you are aware of the opposition to this tower and I just wanted you to know that I (and likely many others) support the large need for improved service on the west side of Lake Santa Fe. Our service is horrible in this area. There have been many emails going around about this tower and based on some of the responses, I suspect there are many people in the area who feel like me.

Please don't take the "loud voice" of some to represent the desires of all of us. Let me know if I can help in any way.

Thanks

Neil Euliano

20708 NE 117th Ave