

Lyons Mayor Hollie Rogin, Lyons Board of Trustees, Lyons Town Staff

Part of the requested PUD change at Riverbend is to allow outdoor amplification 5 days a week. There are lots of supporters for this change but the common thread is none of these supporters were affected by previous outdoor amplified events of Riverbend and none live in a proximity of Riverbend now to be affected by any potential new outdoor amplified events there.

Riverbend property was formerly a residential neighborhood for over 50 years. Surrounding the Riverbend property there are many longtime residents and homes including my home at 733 upper 5th built in 1964 and I have lived in for 20 years well before Riverbend had a temporary zoning change that allowed them to have amplified outdoor weddings. During the two year temporary zoning period where Riverbend had outdoor amplification the weddings events could always be heard when I was on my patio and often be heard within my house with the windows and doors shut. This clearly was violating the Town of Lyons noise ordinance. This unique property is surrounded by amphitheater-like cliffs that project noise out for long distances well beyond 300 feet. It can be louder at some locations off the property than it is within the property because of the unique acoustic qualities of this location. In general in many towns it is common for outdoor weddings to be required to be acoustic with no amplification. Where I had my wedding in Ithaca NY it was like this and my wedding was a wonderful success in an acoustic setting.

I believe that if the town approves outdoor amplification at Riverbend it will be doing so knowing that Riverbend will be violating the town noise ordinance as soon as the outdoor amplified weddings begin. Once this happens the complaints to the Sheriff, pressure from the neighborhood and any potential legal action will begin and the town will need to do something after the fact which will be more difficult for all parties.

There is a simple solution. Require all Riverbend amplified sound be in a closed structure that does not allow noise pollution into the neighborhood. I have attended weddings at nearby successful venues, Shupe Homestead and Lionscrest Manor and both keep the amplification indoors and the neighbors are happy.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service to the Town of Lyons.

Keith Johnson
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