

The giant data centers next door

How a Haymarket townhome community wound up in shadow of 70-foot-tall concrete buildings

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“They say it’s 200 feet, but 200 feet isn’t much,” Dale Erickson said. “And then they plant these little trees, and it’s going to take years for them to mature. They don’t do anything for us.”

“I’m moving next year away from here,” said Gloria Jones, whose condominium is even closer to the buildings than the Ericksons’. She added, “I’m not living next to this.”

Karen Sheehan said data centers are completely incompatible with the historic town of Haymarket. **“The fact is that 70-foot, six-story-tall data center buildings in that location are absolutely ridiculous.”**

Kenny Boddye, one of the Prince William County supervisor who voted in favor of the Village Center Technology Park, appears to be having buyer’s remorse after the data center walls went up. **“That’s not exactly what was communicated when the developers brought it before the board. They advertised a lot more robust buffers (and) much higher trees and shrubs than (what) you see,”** Boddye said.



A resident of Village Place who asked not to be identified looks out at the data centers from her condo balcony.

Photo by Peter Cary, Fauquier Times



A view of the nearly finished 70-foot data center built behind the Village Place townhomes and condominiums. .

Photo by Jill Palermo, Fauquier Times