

## Quasi-judicial Re: Please Help Fox Lea Farm

John Holic

Mon 10/14/2019 7:41 PM

**To:** Daila Lybarger <dailal@instridetherapy.org>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

401 W. Venice Ave.

Venice, FL 34285

Office: 941-882-7402

Cell: 941-303-3357

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**From:** Daila Lybarger <dailal@instridetherapy.org>

**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2019 5:03:30 PM

**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

**Subject:** Please Help Fox Lea Farm

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Dear Venice City Council Members,

I am writing today about the rezoning issue related to the property that sits North of Fox Lea Farm in Venice. There is great concern among the community that granting this rezoning request will have negative short and long term effects on Fox Lea's ability to continue to operate at it's current level. I am sure you are aware that Fox Lea Farm is one of – if not *the* – largest economic drivers in Sarasota County for Sports Tourism. Even more importantly, many businesses and people depend on them for their livelihood, and many nonprofit organizations benefit from the partnerships they have with Fox Lea.

InStride Therapy is one of those nonprofits that benefit from their partnership with Fox Lea Farm. InStride is located in Nokomis, just minutes from Fox Lea Farm. For almost 25 years, we have served thousands of children and adults with disabilities by providing equine assisted activities and therapies, and our programs have grown to include services for veterans, survivors of abuse and trauma, and at-risk youth. We are also the official provider of equestrian programs for Sarasota County Special Olympics. For the past five years, we have partnered with Fox Lea Farm, participating in their Show Jumping Under the Stars events, which has provided a relatively simple way for us to raise money,

drive community engagement and awareness of our organization, and develop other beneficial partnerships within our community. InStride has gained many new supporters, clients, and partners as a direct result of our partnership with Fox Lea Farm.

As a community partner of Fox Lea Farm, InStride respectfully requests that the City Council please VOTE NO on any development plan that may negatively impact Fox Lea's ability to continue operations. Additionally, we ask that the development plan for the property include the largest buffer possible between the development and Fox Lea Farm's property line to the South.

I sincerely hope you understand how important it is to protect Fox Lea Farm's ability to continue running their operation that is so beneficial to Venice and the surrounding communities. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this very important matter.

*Respectfully,*

*Daila Lybarger*

Director of Programs & Services  
InStride Therapy, Inc.  
1629 Ranch Road, Nokomis, FL, 34275  
941-412-9333 (office)  
941-483-3653 (fax)  
941-539-1000 (mobile)



[www.instridetherapy.org](http://www.instridetherapy.org)

**Mission:** *"Partnering with horses, we challenge individuals with special needs to reach their fullest potential."*

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To donate through our web site go to: <http://www.instridetherapy.org/giving> Our programs depend on the generosity of many faithful supporters - Thank you!

## quasi-judicial RE: Fox Lea Farms

John Holic

Tue 10/15/2019 9:33 AM

To: New Dawn Travels, Inc. - Dawn P <dperreault@dreamvacations.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

Thank you for your e-mail. The City Council sits as a quasi-judicial body in land use matters (such as rezonings and conditional uses) and must behave as judges in making such decisions. As in judicial matters, decisions must be based on factual information made part of the record during the public hearing. The due process rights of all participants include notice, the opportunity to be heard, and the right to be advised of all facts on which the decision makers rely.

For this reason, our Council Members are advised by the City Attorney's Office to not respond to letters, phone calls, e-mails, or requests for meetings with constituents outside the applicable public hearing.

Your correspondence is an important part of the public process and will be placed in the public record for all concerned to read. It is important that you know your correspondence will be read by every City Council Member prior to the public hearing and given its due consideration. You are encouraged to attend the public hearing on this matter and to testify as to any facts that you believe are important to the Council's determination.

John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice

John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice  
Office (941) 882-7402  
Cell (941) 303-3357

**From:** New Dawn Travels, Inc. - Dawn P [mailto:dperreault@dreamvacations.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 8:51 AM

**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

**Cc:** Dawn Perreault <dperreault@dreamvacations.com>

**Subject:** Fox Lea Farms

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Hello,

Fox Lea Farm is an important partner to our community and non-profits. I'm involved in several non-profits that benefit from the generous donations Fox Lea Farms provides our organizations. Partnering with Fox Lea around their Show Jumping Under the Stars events have provided a relatively simple way for us to raise money, drive community engagement and awareness of our organization, and have a good time!

When making your decisions regarding the new development, please take into consideration the largest buffer possible between the development and Fox Lea Farm's property line to the south.

In closing;

***Please VOTE NO on any development plan that may negatively impact Fox Lea's ability to continue operations.***

Warmest regards,



Dawn Perreault, LS.  
Luxury Vacation Specialist

941.786.0223

[www.NewDawnTravels.com](http://www.NewDawnTravels.com)

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**quasi-judicial RE: VOTE NO - Oct 22 - on any delvelopment plan that may negatively impact Fox Lea Farm's ability to operate**

John Holic

Tue 10/15/2019 9:34 AM

**To:** Tricia Cook <triciacook@earthlink.net>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

Office (941) 882-7402

Cell (941) 303-3357

**From:** Tricia Cook [mailto:triciacook@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 8:55 AM

**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>; Richard Cautero <RCautero@Venicegov.com>; Robert Daniels <RDaniels@Venicegov.com>; Mitzie Fiedler <MFiedler@Venicegov.com>; Jeanette Gates <JGates@Venicegov.com>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicegov.com>; Charles Newsom <CNewsom@Venicegov.com>

**Subject:** VOTE NO - Oct 22 - on any delvelopment plan that may negatively impact Fox Lea Farm's ability to operate

**Importance:** High

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Attention City Council Voters,

I belong to one of Venice's oldest non-profit organizations, who has become a new partner with Fox Lea Farm's "Jumping Under The Stars" event, however, I'm writing as an individual so not to conflict with our policies and procedures.

I've attended in the past, this is a very generous and fully engaged in our community's well-being organization, helping clubs like mine raise money relatively easily and drive awareness of what the great City of Venice has to offer its visitors. It would be a horrible loss if they had to cease operations because of careless development threatening their horses.

My request is simple enough, if you can't vote **NO**, at least see that the largest buffer possible is mandated to be installed between Fox Lea's southern property line and any new development.

Thank you,

Patricia M Cook  
19099 Billfish Ave  
Venice, FL 34292

Tricia Cook  
WinTel Communications Corp.  
203-249-8819 (cell)  
[triciacook@earthlink.net](mailto:triciacook@earthlink.net)

**From:** [John Holic](#)  
**To:** [Judith McGinty](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Kelly Fernandez - Persson & Cohen \(kfernandez@swflgovlaw.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Quasi-judicial Re: Foxlea  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:16:10 PM

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John Holic  
Mayor, City of Venice  
401 W. Venice Ave.  
Venice, FL 34285  
Office: 941-882-7402  
Cell: 941-303-3357

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**From:** Judith McGinty <heyjude43@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:11:56 PM  
**To:** John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>  
**Subject:** Foxlea

**Caution:** This email originated from an external source. **Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information**

October 15, 2019

Dear Mayor Holic

This note to you today is regarding Foxlea Farm. There are 4 important reasons that I write. They are:

- Foxlea Farm is being threaten with a large housing project that will destroy the bucolic setting the farm needs to assure the continuance of their activities.
- Foxlea Farm supports charity and service clubs regularly, year round.
- Foxlea Farm supports children's activities in a way no other organization in Venice can.
- Foxlea brings millions of \$ to Venice from visitors, year round.

If this housing development is allowed, it must be a very low unit density with a very significant sound barrier between it and the Farm.

I am a member of the Board of the Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County. We teach hundreds of illiterate adults to read and write and teach immigrants to speak, read and write in English. We help them become citizens. By partnering with Foxlea Farm we are able to support our operating expenses. Foxlea Farm allows its charity partners to collect and keep a significant part of the admission price and to run concessions during the shows.

As a member of Rotary, I have seen how much Foxlea contributes. Service organizations and charities benefit from Foxlea as partners. If the Farm is hampered by encroaching housing, we will all lose! Please understand, I am not a no-growth supporter. This is the only time I have objected because this is a different situation.

Foxlea Farm holds camps in the Summer for budding child equestrians. This is so unique. Children

learn how to ride, become good sportsmen and care for their horses.

I don't know how much Foxlea adds to the tax income in Venice; but it is significant. Visitors from all over the western hemisphere participate in the Foxlea horses shows. They are above average in wealth and support our restaurants and shops.

Please don't allow this beloved iconic farm to be spoiled by the greed of developers. The noise will cause the horses much anxiety and unrest and the controllable traffic will become untenable.

Sincerely,

Judith McGinty

605 Madrid Ave

Venice, FL