

My Turn

Another 'no' regarding proposed cell phone tower

Frank E. "Dirk" Murchison

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As a full-time employed and full-time resident of the town of Taos, I am shocked that our Town Council would even consider letting a 150-foot cell tower be placed right in the heart of Taos.

The tower would be in very close proximity to our school children, house residents, elderly, parish church and retail businesses — in exchange for the insignificant sum of \$18,000 a year and claimed "better cell service" for one group of cell customers (Choice Wireless).

As Taos resident Lawrence Baker so accurately pointed out recently in "My Turn" — Taos News May 12, 2016 — the people have spoken time and time again.

Whether multigenerational Hispanic and Native Americans, or transplants from other parts of the world, our citizens simply do not want Taos to be turned into just another ugly homogenized community full of national corporate chain stores, strip centers and, yes, cell towers.

Our citizens live in this one of a kind community because of its cultural diversity, unique history and pristine natural beauty. I believe that most tourists (very important to our economy) come here for some or all of these same reasons. If they wanted to see chain stores, strip centers and cell towers they could have stayed at home. However, I suspect that many of these visitors recognize what ugliness has been inflicted on their communities and come here to see a place that has not been ruined like so many places in America. Do we want to lose that?

Our beloved Plaza and surrounding area serve as a significant part of the social, spiritual and economic life blood of the community.

Please do not compromise centuries of culture for a questionably needed cell tower. Is the beauty of what we have worth damaging that?

Murchison is a Taos resident