

I voted yes the first time the new amenity center was proposed and was very disappointed when it didn't pass as I'm sure others were very happy it didn't pass. We all have opinions on what's best for the community. I usually keep mine to myself but feel this is an important enough issue and more than likely our last affordable opportunity, so please bear with me.

Linda and I spent a year looking at communities from Virginia to Hilton Head. We were constantly drawn back to Lockwood. We became equity members not for the golf (we rarely play) but because we didn't want an outsider making decisions for us.

From 2003 to 2009, I was a realtor selling property at Crow Creek. It is a beautiful community but doesn't have anywhere near as much to offer as Lockwood does – boat storage and launch, incredibly gorgeous water views, maritime forest, natural beauty and only minutes from the beach. What Crow Creek does have is top notch amenities and Henry Bennett (owner/developer), who clearly cares about, and is committed to, how his community looks and feels. My clients were always very impressed with the amenity centers / club house and these definitely had an impact on their decision to buy.

Our property values never kept pace with other upscale communities during the real estate boom and, based on my experience, I believe our aging amenities were a significant contributor to that lackluster performance. In addition, the word got out about all the in-fighting between the POA and the CC which also had a negative effect.

Coming together as a community, not two separate entities, and voting yes for the new amenity center would show we care about the future of Lockwood and are capable of overcoming our differences between the POA and CC. I know there are pros and cons to every decision but I feel this is an opportunity we can't afford to pass up.

***Mark Bolduc***