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Roland Park strives to keep its character

November 24, 2008

The president of the LifeSpan Network recently took Baltimore's [Roland Park](#) neighborhood to task for opposing the Keswick Multi-Care Center's plan to construct a care facility on land now owned by the Baltimore Country Club ("Retirement communities have a positive impact," letters, Nov. 16).

Having just visited my sprightly, 93-year-old aunt near Pittsburgh, I have a far more jaundiced view of the benefits afforded the elderly by warehousing them in even the finest continuing care retirement communities than I did when this controversy began.

Those concerns aside, the attempts by the letter writer and Keswick to sidestep overwhelming community opposition by dangling the lure of added tax revenue before budget-strapped city leaders are troubling.

Most people in Roland Park oppose the Keswick facility not out of snobbishness but because the development would drive a commercial wedge into the community's historic, residential character.

That character is fundamentally important to us, and we therefore

adamantly oppose any kind of zoning change.

For years, developers have had their way in Baltimore. Just ask people in [Federal Hill](#) and [Locust Point](#).

We are hardly alone in believing it wiser to respect and preserve strong neighborhoods than to heed the siren call of corporate promises. Robert I. Cottom Baltimore

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