

May 5, 2026

Mr. J.T. Newberry

jnewberry2@albemarle.org

RE: Special Use Amendment Watermarks Camp Case #SP-2026-00002

Mr. Newberry,

My Name is Sallie Massie, I reside at 9680 Warren Ferry Rd, Scottsville, VA. I am writing you today, as I was in attendance on April 30th at the Camp concerning the Critzers' amending their special use permit.

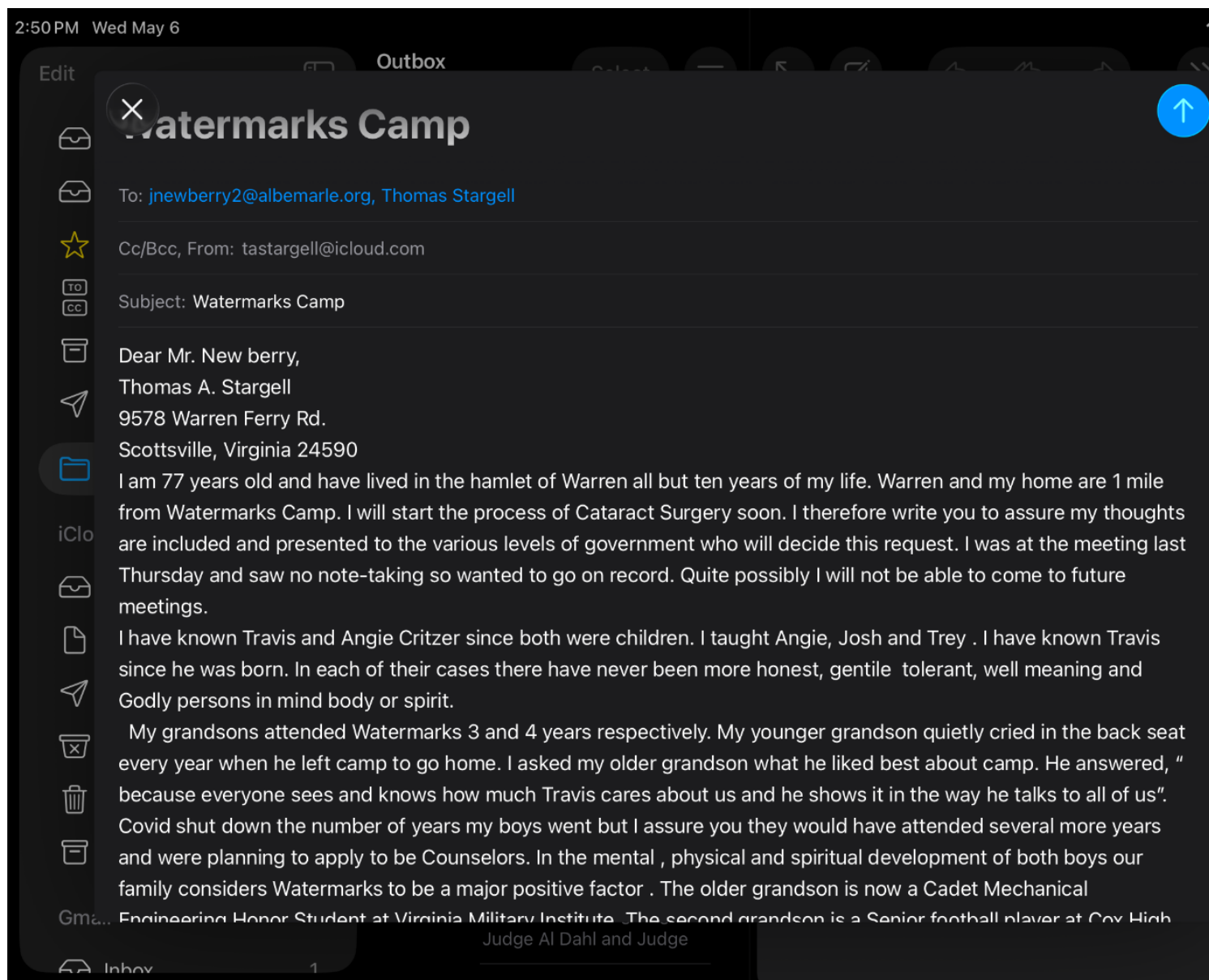
I wanted to reiterate my view on the noise level concerns that were mentioned at the meeting. In the entire 20 plus years that the camp has been operating, I have never had one issue with the noise level emitting from the location on James River Road. Until 3 years ago, my sister and I owned an adjacent 10 acre parcel to the camp on the Low Grounds. The Critzers, the Staff and the campers have always been respectful of community members and we never felt concerned or put upon by them being so close.

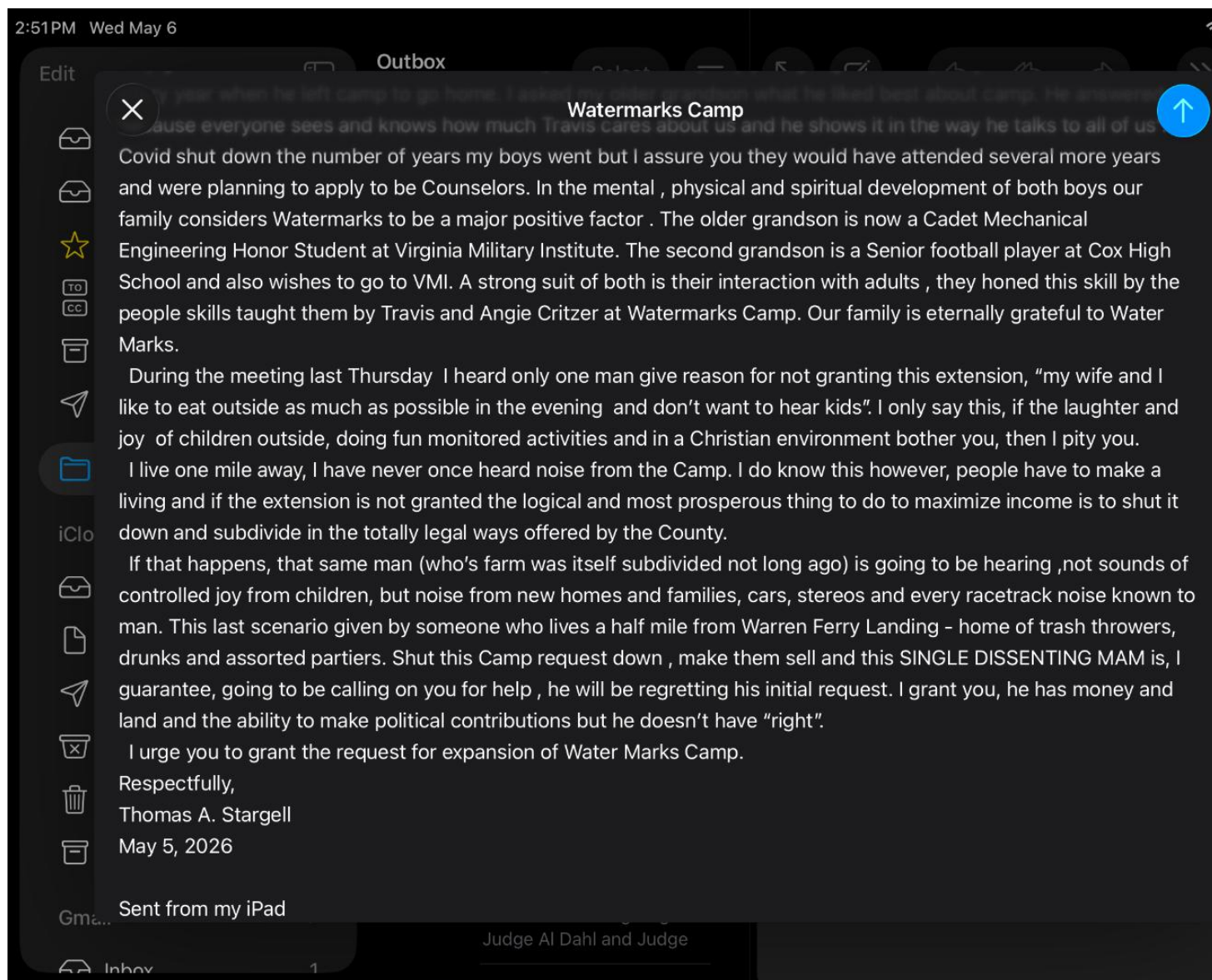
As for the noise issue that was brought up for discussion.... I don't hear the noise from the camp the noise that I hear is coming from the Warren Ferry boat landing and the stretch of River that is in between there and the camp. The noise level is obnoxious; the drunken screams, the loud music, gun shots and abnormal use of fireworks that goes on into the night has become an issue for all that live on Warren Ferry Road.

I hope that you all will consider all the positive feedback you received from the meeting and take into consideration all the support of the proposed amendment from the neighbors that live next door and with in close proximity and grant the camp permission to proceed.

Sincerely,

Sallie Massie





J.T. Newberry

From: Rupert de Vink <rupertdevink@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 1:14 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Re: Watermarks Camp

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Yes—very loud. Sorry. It's amazing how far noise can travel.

On May 6, 2026, at 1:11 PM, J.T. Newberry <jnewberry2@albemarle.org> wrote:

Hi Rupert,

Yes, I received the message below. Thank you for sending it, and I apologize for not sending a response earlier.

One clarification question - - the last sentence says, "The camp already is so load..." I think this is a typo and it meant to say "so loud..." Is that correct?

Thanks again,

J.T. Newberry
Senior Planner II
[Albemarle County](#)

jnewberry2@albemarle.org
434-296-5832 ext. 3470
401 McIntire Road, North Wing, Charlottesville, VA 22902

From: Rupert de Vink <rupertdevink@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 1:05 PM
To: J.T. Newberry <jnewberry2@albemarle.org>
Subject: Re: Watermarks Camp

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Hi JT, just confirming you received this email? Thanks, Rupert

On May 1, 2026, at 2:14 PM, Rupert de Vink <rupertdevink@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi JT—

Thanks again for taking the time earlier today to discuss Watermarks Camp. As I mentioned, I don't have an issue with the camp itself, but I strongly believe it should not expand beyond its current scope. The camp is already so active and has a noticeable impact on neighboring properties.

In particular, I wanted to highlight a few key concerns:

- **Noise & Disruption:** Increased activity—especially if expanded to 250 occupants and year-round use rather than remaining more seasonal—would materially change the character of the area and further impact nearby residents.
- **Traffic & Road Safety:** Additional traffic on James River Road raises safety concerns, given the rural nature of the area and narrower sections of the roadway.
- **Environmental Impact:** Expansion could strain septic capacity, increase water usage, and create runoff concerns, particularly given the camp's proximity to the James river.
- **Zoning & Precedent:** Expanding the special use permit risks setting a precedent that could alter long-term use expectations in the area.

The camp already is so load and the special use permit would only erode the rural character that defines Albemarle County. I appreciate your consideration and lets please continue the dialogue.

Thanks,

Rupert de Vink

Rupert de Vink
Office (434) 295 - 0332 ▪ Cell (646) 468 - 0301

Rupert de Vink
Office (434) 295 - 0332 ▪ Cell (646) 468 - 0301

Rupert de Vink
Office (434) 295 - 0332 ▪ Cell (646) 468 - 0301

May 7, 2026

J.T. Newberry
Senior Planner
Albemarle County
404 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Special Use Permit – Watermarks Camp
Case #SP-2026-00002

Dear Mr. Newberry:

We are writing in support of Watermarks Camp, located in southern Albemarle County just outside of Scottsville, Virginia. Watermarks Camp is a Christian-based camp that has been in operation since 2004 and provides a peaceful environment removed from the distractions of daily life. Its mission is to make a lasting Christian impact on young adults and support their growth throughout their lives.

We reside approximately half a mile from the camp and have never experienced any issues related to its operations. On the contrary, we have consistently heard positive and life-changing feedback from families who have utilized the facility. Watermarks Camp has demonstrated itself to be a well-managed and respectful neighbor within our community.

We support the proposed amendments to the existing Special Use Permit to allow year-round weekend operations, increase attendance to a maximum of 250 participants, and permit the use of existing buildings for camp activities. These reasonable changes will enable the camp to continue fulfilling its mission while remaining an asset to the surrounding community.

Watermarks Camp has been a positive presence in our area for many years. We respectfully request that Albemarle County approve the proposed amendments so the camp may continue to thrive and provide a safe, faith-based environment focused on the well-being and development of young adults.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James & Susan L. Tapscott
850 Hatton Court
Scottsville, VA 24590

May 8, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of Watermarks Camp in Scottsville, VA and their request (*Special Use Amendment Watermarks Camp Case #SP-2026-00002*) to expand weekend operations year-round, increase their capacity, and repurpose existing farm buildings for camp use.

As a former Youth Director, I have partnered with Watermarks for nearly 20 years, bringing groups for retreats and camps. In that time, I have watched them operate with exceptional intentionality — placing safety, structure, and the well-being of young people at the center of everything they do.

The impact on individuals has been profound. I have personally witnessed teenagers from unstable homes — without direction or confidence — grow through their time at Watermarks into young adults with purpose, stability, and a positive presence in their families and communities. This is not an isolated story; it is a pattern I have seen repeated year after year.

Beyond the young people they serve, Watermarks is a genuine asset to the Scottsville community. They maintain strong local relationships and consistently look for ways to serve their neighbors. Church groups, colleges, and businesses alike use the facility as a place of reflection and growth, bringing outside visitors into the community regularly.

The property itself is beautifully maintained and fosters a rare sense of peace and belonging for everyone who visits. You can't help but to feel a much needed breath of fresh air and a reminder of what it means to be "home", no matter who you are. I have seen teens and adult leaders be renewed and inspired by being there for one weekend. The staff pours their heart out to invest in every group that comes and gives space for students to be kids. Expanding their ability to operate year-round and serve more guests would only multiply the good they are already doing — for individuals, families, and the wider Scottsville area.

I wholeheartedly recommend approval of their Special Use Amendment Request and am happy to speak further if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Paquette".

Michelle Paquette

mishpaq@gmail.com

J.T. Newberry

From: Tommy Tapscott <tommytapscott@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 3:37 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermarks Camp Case #SP-2026-00002

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Good afternoon Mr. Newberry,

It was a pleasure to meet you last week at Camp Watermarks, and I appreciate the opportunity for the community to bring up questions and concerns regarding the proposed changes to their special use permit. I just wanted to drop you a note and make sure that I am on the record as being completely in favor of approving the increase in capacity and additional weeks/weekends of use throughout the year.

I also want to speak toward a concern that was brought up by one of the attendees, sound or noise coming from the camp. I have lived here at 1241 James River Rd for more than 20 years. My house is closer to camp activity areas than almost any other home and we have never had any problems or concerns with noise. Of course when there are children outside playing we can hear them sometimes, but it is nothing more than anything else we hear from the neighborhood. We can hear traffic on the street, lawnmowers, farm equipment working in the fields, trains nearby, and most of all as we discussed at the meeting, people on the river. The occasional sound of children playing has never been a problem.

For 20 years, the camp has been a good neighbor and I appreciate the positive impact they have had on countless children and families. I support their efforts to continue and I recommend the county approve their application.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide some input and feel free to reach out if you have any questions about anything I have brought up.

Tommy Tapscott
434-960-7801

J.T. Newberry

From: Connie L Knight <standnstrong4jesus@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 6:48 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermark permit

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the amended permit for Watermark.

I am totally supportive of their amendments. I have been a resident of the area all my life. I'm 63 years old.

I have never had an issue or a complaint with them .

I love knowing that they are investing and planting seeds of faith, love and hope into our next generations.. In this day and age, the kids need a place to find that and the camp is a much better venue than the streets that teach otherwise .

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Connie Knight

9464 Hatton Ferry Rd.

Scottsville, VA 24590

J.T. Newberry

From: Tracy Cleveland <tcleveland1126@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 8:17 AM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: camp case #SP-2026-00002

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Dear J T Newberry,

My name is Tracy Cleveland and I am writing in favor of the proposed changes for Watermarks Camp. All three of my daughters attended this camp when they were teenagers and it changed their lives. They each came off of that week more confident in who they are and quite frankly more respectable human beings and as a mom of teenagers that was a huge blessing. I also attended a weekend retreat there myself and I can still today tell you how it impacted my life and that was 10 years ago. My husband and I own a tree Service in Albemarle County and we consider that camp to be worthy of chip donations to keep the grounds looking good, because not only is it a worthy cause, but they take great care of the land there. I believe Watermarks to be a wonderful asset for Albemarle County and its residents and I hope that the county also realizes what an amazing asset it is for our community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tracy H Cleveland

J.T. Newberry

From: Jesse Gibson <gibsonjesse123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 5:58 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Camp watermarks

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Sent from my iPhone

To whom it concerns,

My name is Jesse Gibson, my wife Leigh and I live accross the road from the camp and also own property beside them on the river bottom. We understand that the county is looking into the camp and just want to let our support of their operation known. We're glad to see a positive operation for the kids visiting our neighborhood. Yes, we do hear them sometimes but it's always quiet by 10pm.

Travis has always been transparent with us and routinely asked if we've had any issues with what's happening there. It's good to see the land used in a positive manner that keeps community rural. Please feel free to reach out to me for any questions or feedback.

Jesse Gibson

J.T. Newberry

From: Tom Harrison <harrison.tom@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 10:18 AM
To: J.T. Newberry
Cc: Richard A. Harrison
Subject: Special Use Amendment Watermarks Camp Case #SP-2026-00002

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J.T. Newberry

My husband and I wish to add our support for the changes proposed for Watermarks Camp. As a neighbor, Watermarks continues to provide a nurturing place for children to enjoy friends and meet new ones.

Watermarks has taken all actions to mitigate noise and traffic regarding the camp's activities. We continue to support their operations and wish them continued success.

Respectfully:

Thomas and Richard Harrison
1161 James River Rd
Scottsville, VA 24590
(434) 260-7001
(434) 260-7002

J.T. Newberry

From: June Clifford <june@beautifulgate3.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:41 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermarks Camp

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To Whom it may concern

I am writing on behalf of Watermarks Camp. My husband and I worked with Travis and Angie in the very creation and assistance in the building of the camp. The camp is now one of the most beautiful, inspirational, exciting Christian Camps in the state of Virginia. Thousands of young people's lives have been touched and transformed through the work of the leadership and staff.

I have brought hundreds of children and teenagers over the past few decades. Travis and Angie and Josh Critzer have extraordinary testimonies and their reputations are impeccable.

Watermarks maintains the highest standard of cleanliness and godliness! I can recommend the leadership, the staff, and the facilities as being of the highest caliber.

I have been a Pastor for over 30 years, and feel privileged and grateful to have a camp like Watermarks accessible to my church community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Reverend June Clifford
Pastor of the Beautiful Gate Church
Fluvanna County, VA

J.T. Newberry

From: Teresa Bryant <t.bryant2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 2:23 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermarks Camp Capacity

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J. T. Newberry
Senior Planner II
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, Va 22902

Via: email jnewberry2@albemarle.org

RE: Watermarks Camp Capacity

Mr. Dewberry,

We are writing in regard to the number of children allowed to attend Watermarks Camp. We think it is a wonderful thing that Travis and Angie Critzer are doing at this camp. It gives children the opportunity to get exercise and be close to nature and interact with the children all in a Christian setting. We know that some people have complained about the noise. We live beside the driveway and very near the camp. If we are outside, we can hear children playing. However, when inside our home, we don't hear any noise. We don't have any issues with noise or any of their activities. Also, people traveling on James River Road can't see any part of the camp, except the sign and the gated driveway. We think Watermarks Camp should be allowed to increase the capacity of children attending and continue to operate the camp for years to come.

We would like for this letter to be presented at all Albemarle County meetings concerning the capacity of Watermarks Camp.

Thank you,

Paul Bryant
Teresa Bryant
1151 James River Road
Scottsville, Va 24590

J.T. Newberry

From: MITCHELL CARR <mitchcarr@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 5:44 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermarks Camp comment

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Hello,

My Name is Mitch Carr and I own Rock Island Farm, and share the second longest boundary with the camp.

I would like to offer my thoughts on the current application before the planning commission.

I will offer my opinion from three perspectives, my personal concerns, the community concerns, the county concerns, and then a short summary.

1) As for my concerns personally, I am in full support of the camp and wish for another 20 years similar to the first 20. The concern that I have is that should the camp not survive there is hardly a single alternative that could be better than the camp for me. With the existing division rights and current infrastructure there could easily be some very interested developers who would love to come in and by right make it a multi home community with all the associated issues that come with it. Building multiple single family luxury homes would be years of ongoing construction and the multiple families with multiple by right parties would surely be more noise than I experience now. The second likely alternative if they do not succeed would be it being sold to a winery by right and become a destination wedding event venue, and thirdly, we are already being surrounded by the recent sale of 1500 acre liberty farm to what is going to be a large Turkey factory farm with its by right odors, and this venue would most certainly be on their radar, as they have already made an over 20 million dollar investment and will surely look to expand as they have in other places.

2) Community concerns. The local community, as far as I have heard, has had no direct issues with the camp with the exception of nearby Hatton Grange, who does have some noise issues. There were promises made to work with them and knowing and dealing with the camp for 20 years, I believe and have full faith that those concerns will be addressed. I also believe that much of the noise that is heard emanated from the beach on Rock Island where up to 100 people hang out all summer until and sometimes after dark. I believe this is being dealt with for the separate issue that it is, and will point out that Watermarks Camp has allowed law enforcement to use their access point on the river to enforce the laws, just as I allow water rescue to use mine for emergencies and training. In 20 years I have never seen any traffic congestion caused by the camp and do not believe that the current proposed changes would add to that. I feel the community will not suffer any noticeable noise changes and if they do they will be on the whole scheme of things less than any alternative that might occur including cattle farming or crop farming with loud diesel equipment and trucks going in and out year round as occurs on my farm daily.

3) County concerns. There is a desire to protect the rural areas and I agree with that goal, however, sometimes unintended consequences do more good than harm. Specifically, the vast majority of the

children that come to the camp have never been to a rural area, and the education they get about the lifestyle is exponential. Plastic bag taxes do not cause less litter, but children pulling plastic bags from the river as part of a clean up exercise does. Children who learn at a young age not to litter do not usually litter as adults. The camp is situated where the Kanawa canal came through prior to the railroad, which allows the children to learn and understand first hand how the farmers used the river for transport and how waterways were so important; additionally Watermarks is located between two former ferries and the land that it is on has been in the same family lineages since the 1700s and was Native American lands for thousands of years before that. The occasional arrowhead found on the grounds provides even more context than can never be achieved in a modern day classroom. Hopefully inspiring an interest in Virginia history to some of the participants will help create a desire to be a part of the land, and keep the rural life rural because of the personal satisfaction they discovered in a place that many didn't even know existed prior to attendance. Simply put the camp and the proposal meets all the criteria for preserving the rural character of the county. Most certainly more than a housing development, winery/wedding venue or turkey processing factory ever could.

SUMMARY: As you can tell I am an avid supporter of the camp's goals and methodology, but I do believe that I have made a very strong and unbiased case to support the proposal on its face. The camp needs this permit to be able to transition from the "survival" mode to a place where it can thrive. It has been a net positive to the taxpayers and community, and never a burden in over two decades, and there is no reason to think that allowing the proposal to be approved would change that well established fact.

I thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,
Mitch Carr
1415 Jame river rd
Scottsville Va 24590

Dear Mr. Newberry and Members of Albemarle County,

I am writing in support of Watermarks Camp and their Special Use Amendment, Case #SP-2026-00002.

My relationship with Watermarks Camp goes back many years. As a youth pastor at Effort Baptist Church in Fluvanna County, I was among the early groups to bring students to the camp. Later, when I moved to Northern Virginia, there was no question where we would bring our students. Beginning in 2010, we started bringing our youth group to Watermarks, and have returned almost every year since.

As a pastor, many of the things I value most about Watermarks are spiritual in nature: the sincere love of the staff, the authenticity of the environment, the sense of peace on the property, and the way students are invited to grow in faith, character, and community. But Watermarks' impact extends beyond a church or youth ministry setting.

For many of our students from Northern Virginia, Watermarks has been their first meaningful experience of this beautiful part of the Commonwealth. They have encountered rural Virginia, the James River, and the landscape around Scottsville in a way that gives them a deeper appreciation for the state they call home. A place in Albemarle County has helped form young people from more than 100 miles away into thoughtful, service-minded, character-driven adults. That impact deserves to be celebrated and supported.

I also want to speak personally about Travis and Angie Critzer, the founders of Watermarks Camp. They are two of the most faithful, compassionate, authentic, courageous, and generous people I know. For more than two decades, they have poured themselves into this work and treated their land, home, and resources not as something to hoard, but as something to steward for the good of others.

That kind of generosity reflects well not only on them, but also on Scottsville and Albemarle County. Watermarks Camp has become a place where people experience hospitality, beauty, growth, joy, and transformation. It is a gift to the young people who attend, to the churches and organizations who bring them, and to the broader community.

I understand that Watermarks is seeking to bring its facilities into proper compliance and alignment with county expectations. From my perspective, this is an important step that would allow an already meaningful and impactful ministry to continue serving people well into the future. I respectfully ask that you give favorable consideration to their request.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kris Clifford
Co-Pastor
Columbia Baptist Church
Falls Church, Virginia

J.T. Newberry

From: Denise Davis <Denisedavis@keydisplayllc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 4:10 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Camp Watermarks

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Dear Mr. Newberry:

I am writing to you on behalf of Camp Watermarks. We recently received a notice from A/C which I believe the camp is applying for an extension on their special use permit regarding the amount of visitors they can accommodate at the camp. Please note, as a neighbor we are totally in favor of this happening. We have owned this property (1322 James River Road) since 1999 and have not experienced any issues or problems with Camp Watermarks. It is actually a pleasure to hear fun and laughter coming from the camp. However, there are those who would complain if Jesus himself were there but fortunately we are not one of those people. Travis Critzer and his crew have and continue to contribute something positive and beneficial to the ones who attend the camp as well as to the surrounding community. Camp Watermarks has benefited many young people throughout the years and as a neighbor I am totally in favor of anything Mr. Critzer would like to do to continue this. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You!

Denise Davis & John Billies
1322 James River Road
Scottsville, VA 24590
(434) 286-2891 (Home)
(434) 960-4245 (Cell)
denisedavis@keydisplayllc.com

J.T. Newberry

From: Ricky Ward <shrekward@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 7:31 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: My name is James Ward jr.

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This is in regards to the special use amendment Watermarks camp case #sp-2026-00002.
As a landowner of 2 properties on James river rd, both with houses, and only a couple hundred yards from waterersmarks camp. Myself and my wife are in full support of all changes and additions that Waterersmarks camp has applied for.

Thank you,
James Ward

J.T. Newberry

From: Tina Bolen <tinabolen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 4:30 PM
To: J.T. Newberry
Subject: Watermarks Camp Case #SP 2026-00002

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This correspondence serves to formally express my unequivocal support for the proposed Special Use Amendment concerning Watermarks Camp, situated in Scottsville, Virginia.

As a long-standing resident of the Scottsville area, having resided within a two-mile radius of the camp for over three decades, I possess a unique and extensive perspective on its operations and profound community contributions. My family has been an integral part of this locality for more than thirty years.

Under the dedicated leadership and vision of its founders, Travis and Angie, Watermarks Camp has consistently cultivated an exceptional and secure environment. It provides a sanctuary where diverse groups can engage meaningfully with the natural surroundings, forge positive interpersonal relationships, and foster spiritual growth. The unwavering commitment to creating a safe, enriching, and values-driven experience for its participants is truly exemplary.

For several decades, Watermarks Camp has proven to be an invaluable asset to our local community. Its family-owned and operated structure not only underpins its strong values but also ensures a deep-seated commitment to the area's well-being. The camp significantly enriches our community by promoting positive engagement, youth development, and a strong sense of collective spirit, all while maintaining a harmonious relationship with its neighbors.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this Special Use Amendment, which is vital for enabling Watermarks Camp to continue its beneficial mission and positive impact on our area for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,
Tina Bolen

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)