

A Southern Pines Rezoning Request to permit a 550-acre Planned-Unit Development at the edge of town awaits an impact study. The Knollwood Tract, as it's known, is again in the spotlight after years of fruitless attempts to win the support of Southern Pines Planners and Town Officials. This year, for the first time, owners of the prime real estate have recieved the blessing of the town council and that has led to a hearing before the town planning board. Kelly Miller, President and C-E-O of the family-owned Pine Needles Lodge And Golf Club, has submitted a meticulously researched development plan that includes office and commercial space, single-family housing and assisted-living units, a hotel and golf course. Town Manager Reagan Parsons has given his support to the Bell Family approach, calling it a "win-win for the landowners and the community.' Still, the plan has been greeted cautiously by Broad Street Shop owners, fearful of the impact such a large-scale commercial development could have on business. Marianne Lewis, the Co-Owner of Chef Warren's Upscalle Restaurant, prefers to wait until an impact study is completed. "I think that owuld be crucial," she says. Miller has assured Southern Pines that developers are not yet in the picture.