

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Suburban towns like Malta don't want to be just like cities

Re Oct. 5 editorial, "How dense should Malta's 'downtown' be?": Funny that your editorial embraces the city-like projects that are planned for Malta. If you look at a picture of the project and the build-out that will occur if we continue, you'll find that it looks a lot like Schenectady.

What is happening to our urban centers? Now that the Tri-Cities of Albany/Schenectady/Troy have the dubious distinction of being ranked sixth on the Forbes list of abandoned cities, one has to wonder where our planners and thought leaders are headed with their ideas of urbanism in the country.

From where I sit, it seems like their answers are to let the cities continue to decay and build new urban centers in Malta and in other semi-rural areas where development is cheap and taxes are low.

I, for one, believe this is a lose/lose situation for everyone. Should we undermine the urban centers by building another city in Malta? Should we create high density housing in Saratoga County so more commuters can clog the Northway each morning? No, it just doesn't make sense. Let's rebuild our cities and let Malta and the rest of our suburbs be the small towns that people want them to be.

Malta residents overwhelmingly like our small-town charm — a hamlet with one- and two-story buildings with green space and sidewalks in front; a hamlet

with local jobs and services that meet our needs. Walkable, yes, but not another urban center.

**PAUL J. SAUSVILLE**

Malta

*The writer is Malta town supervisor.*