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Letters to the editor

Law should prevail in Trailer Estates

This letter is in reference to the April 7 and April 8 articles in the Bradenton Herald concerning Trailer Estates.

We must be factual. In the April 7 article, John Van der Molen stated that only about 1 percent of the owners were dissatisfied. In a park of 1,200 units, that is 12! Since Ms. Denson received more than 300 votes in the last election, obviously more than 12 were dissatisfied. And the April 8 article states that Ms. Denson and Ms. Smith had been residents for two years. They have lived here more than five years.

Ms. Opper was only a visitor 40 years ago when her aunt moved here. At this time she has been in the park about two years as a part-time resident and is not a resident of Florida.

Some of this misinformation was given to reporters by a board member and "supporters" of the board. The smaller group of "dissidents," as they have been called, do want to change the way things are done. They want them done legally, according to the laws of Florida that govern our community. Legal vs. illegal, how should it be?

As a full-time resident of this park for more than eight years, and a resident of Florida since 1977, I feel that if a change is needed, as it appears, it should be done in a peaceful rational manner, according to the laws and statutes that govern our park.

One thing that was omitted from the second article was the demeanor of the two groups. The dissidents were fairly orderly and quiet as they "huddled" together, while the group of supporters were loud and disrespectful of fellow residents, shouting obscenities and making obscene gestures. They interrupted the reporter as he was talking to a resident by shouting at him and striking him in the chest with their pointed finger. They had to be asked twice to stop. This demonstration is not how I want my park to be represented. Please, all of you, think before you act.

Judith Riedel
Bradenton

Do the crime, pay the time

Let me get this straight. You are in someone's home committing a crime and the owners come home and one of you shoots him. Now we have a fatality . . . no, no, a murder! And because you did not do the shooting, you are not responsible? What is wrong here? Why is there any question about guilt?

Society should not support this claim, regardless of color lines. We lose someone who is above all this and now try to absolve someone because of color? We need people to tell other people to grow up and accept responsibility for their actions instead of trying to absolve them. You were there, you contributed, therefore you must pay the price.

Tom French
Bradenton

Island cities pay more for trash

I was intrigued by the April 9 front-page article stating the new contract for trash collection and recycling in unincorporated Manatee County will result in a residential rate of \$12.69 per month. This represents over 97 percent of Manatee County and excludes only six small incorporated cities and towns, primarily in western Manatee. These, including the four island cities, will be paying: Anna Maria, \$18.15; Holmes Beach, \$17.84; Longboat Key, \$17.49; Bradenton Beach, \$16.25.

The services to be rendered for all areas are identical, except for Bradenton Beach, which does its own recycling at approximately \$1.75. After significant research, including a long conversation with Waste Management officials, it appears the main difference is that Manatee County puts its contract out to public bid.

The islands should really be getting lower rates than the rest of the county since they are more densely populated. Waste Management said the county has a higher proportion of businesses that pick up a disproportionate share of their costs. But the company still makes a profit on the county residential rate. The six cities and towns are all too small to get preferential rates on their own and so are precluded from obtaining realistic bids.

I feel this is a very unfair business practice on the part of the company. It would be a simple matter to resolve if the company would simply agree to amend the six cities and towns' contracts to read that their residences will not be charged a rate that exceeds the county rate.

D. S. Schofield

Holmes Beach

Campaign spending wasted

There were many voting years I felt there weren't good candidates to put into office. But I did vote.

I feel that it is such a waste of money put into campaigning to gain votes. The candidates should be voted on by the people on their merit, past performance and qualifications.

Think of all that money spent that could have been put to better use. With the threat of recession, many families and elderly are losing their homes. The homeless situation also is a big concern, along with all the organizations that need funds to save lives and help those in need.

I am sure there could have been some means to direct campaign monies to needy causes to help with the economy. And then, there will be the Inaugural Ball - another waste of monies.

It is time to stop seeking popularity or inappropriate money-spending. I am not big on politics or how to save the economy, but when you have to spend millions of dollars to become the president of the United States, that somehow seems such a waste.

*Lorraine Anspach
Bradenton*

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