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Letters to the editor

Wares Creek plan deals with issues

In response to the Bradenton Herald's May 17 editorial on the temporary disposal site for the Wares Creek dredged material, please allow us to provide the facts.

First, the materials to be dredged from the creek originated in our own residential back yards. They may contain some materials that may be toxic to sensitive marine organisms normally found in a salt water environment. This is why the FDEP had concerns about disposing the material in the Manatee River.

Second, the dredged material will be placed and confined on an asphalt surface while large objects are removed. After that operation is complete the material will be mechanically dewatered prior to hauling to the county landfill. The operation should be continuous with no planned material storage. Trucks hauling the material will utilize sealed tailgates to prevent leakage.

The site will be properly secured to prevent trespass. No odor problems from a similar South Florida project have been reported.

As for location, there is no perfect solution. More than a dozen sites were studied prior to selecting the Old City Hall site. Hauling the material to a disposal site further away from Wares Creek only threatened to escalate the cost of an already expensive project. We would prefer another disposal site away from the downtown core, but we also took into account the residents living near Wares Creek who, for decades, have dealt with chronic flooding on account due to continually increasing storm flows and long-term sediment deposition.

Rest assured the City of Bradenton will require all necessary controls to ensure environmental protection and minimal impact to our residents. Anyone with concerns should call 708-6300 for more information.

John Cumming,

Director, Public Works Department

City of Bradenton

TE board in the wrong

RE: Trailer Estates.

I'm in total agreement with Mrs. Janet VanderMolen (May 10) that open government is crucial in a democracy. I feel strongly that when the law is abused or ignored, whatever the excuse, there is cause for grave concern.

Being one of those who, in the opinion of Mrs. VanderMolen, is being compared to the "ooze and pollution" of an oil spill and possibly has "mad cow disease," I must wonder why an expectation that a public Board of Trustees obey the law puts one in such a category and subjects one to mean put downs. The behavior I have witnessed on the part of some board members since I began questioning the actions of the Board of Trustees has been, in my opinion, very self-serving and not in the best interest of the residents of Trailer Estates.

For example, the board refused to join the Florida Association of Special Districts, which would have provided much needed guidance for \$1,250 this year and reduced attorney bills dramatically. The board has refused to purchase security equipment to improve the safety of residents, despite recent criminal activity in the park and fears expressed by residents.

The park owns a router for computer Internet access, but a trustee has decided that residents may not use it. Residents are paying for the router and the trustee has hidden or lost it. It does not belong to the trustee. It belongs to the people, like everything else in the park. Residents must go out of the park for common Internet access. This is not in the best interest of the residents. It is an abuse of power by an elected official. I could go on, but I think my point has been made.

I also fail to understand why Mrs. VanderMolen would use the newspaper to cause helpless elderly residents to be more fearful with her ridiculous assertions about the use of public information to victimize the elderly, especially in light of the board's refusal to address safety issues coupled with their active resistance to a group of residents trying to address the issues (SAFE Committee) after the board's refusal to act. The peace of mind of elderly residents was sacrificed so that a resident could be publicly "punished" for daring to challenge the almighty Board. It is disgusting.

Mary Lou Smith

Bradenton and East Lansing, Mich.

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