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### Letters to the editor

#### Police right in busts for obscure laws

I have had more than my fill of criminals and defense attorneys using our laws to threaten our neighborhoods and render our law enforcement officers almost powerless. Our concerned citizens must put up with young men hanging on the street corners and bicycles "innocently" and doing their business. I say, use everything we can to *legally* make our neighborhoods safe and secure. If it takes spitting on sidewalks, loitering, walking on the wrong side of the street and any other obscure law to disrupt their trade and clean up our neighborhoods, then so be it. These were not young men without records and relationships with the Bradenton Police Department.

To defense attorneys, if they came to this and other crime-infested neighborhoods, which are low-income and minority, as a white guy in a suit to just hang out, "alleged" dealers would get to them first, long before the police. I also would guess that the neighbors in *their* neighborhood would *not* allow them to do that - hang on the corner or just walk up and down the street all day and night - either.

I am not advocating unlimited police powers. I don't completely support the Bradenton Police Department in all they do, but neighborhoods must be made secure and safe. Neighborhood associations and citizens are begging the police to develop working relationships with them and do something to clean up our "homes." Let us work together using all of our resources.

*Clovia Byrd Russell*  
Bradenton

#### Where's electric car?

It's a blur, and it's my paycheck spinning away, another \$70, to fill my van (regular gas). My wife's PT Cruiser sucked up another \$42 just the day before. It's running about \$280 a month for both of us to drive to work (12 miles), and each time I face the pump I get really angry.

Really angry because our leaders had a preview of this in the mid '70s and have done nothing in those 30-plus years.

Really angry because there is absolutely no alternative to petroleum. No electric cars you can buy. You could buy them in 1909 (Baker Electric Car, check out Jay Leno's garage to see one still running). You could lease or buy them in 1996 in California (GM's EV1 and the Toyota RAV4 EV). I get extremely angry when I see the documentary "Who killed the Electric Car" (should be seen by everyone), and see big oil, the auto makers and our government are all responsible. Let's all hope the Tesla Motor Company can survive big oil and maybe ramp up production enough to make the Tesla Roadster more affordable - \$90,000 is a little too much (but it is a phenomenal vehicle).

We need a full-blown grassroots revolution against the gas/diesel automobiles and big oil. Maybe if we didn't buy a single new gas/diesel vehicle for one year and demanded something different, everything would start to change.

To see how radically different your household economics could be, go to You Tube and search for "Free power from the sun. Solar EV charging." Imagine running two cars and your house for only \$2 per month! I'm ready. It is time for a big change.

*John Zimmerman*  
Bradenton

#### TE election fair

This is in response to Sharon Benson's letter of May 10 about Trailer Estates' Board violations.

In her last paragraph she states, "It would be wonderful to use a fair and honest election here at Trailer Estates."

Our elections are not handled by the Trailer Estates Board but by the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections office. I was a poll worker. Due to back problems I resigned a year ago. I worked at many positions but mostly as precinct clerk. The same equipment, rules and training are the same as in all elections, i.e., federal, state, county and Trailer Estates. Workers are trained before every election no matter how much experience they have. The list of eligible voters is the only difference. For Trailer Estates elections it is the list of homeowners from the assessor's office and for other elections the list of registered voters.

Until last December's election, poll workers living in the park donated their time to save the park some money. Due to all the controversy, it was handled by staff from the elections office. In all the years I have never seen an unfair or dishonest election, nor have I been asked to participate in anything that could be considered so. Many Florida counties have had problems that may be considered so but not Manatee.

If Ms. Benson has knowledge of, or feels that is the case, she should contact Bob Sweat at the Supervisor of Elections office, not our embattled trustees.

*Evelyn Stilson*  
Bradenton

**Candidates, list Senate deeds**

How strange it seems to one that all the presidential candidates brag about what they will do as president but never mention the facts of what they have done as senators.

In the Senate they have the power. The power to introduce bills and work to get them passed. If nothing gets done in this nation, the senators and representatives are the ones to blame. I'd like to hear how they have helped our nation.

The president, while important, cannot make laws. Let's hear about something the candidates have done.

Nancy O. Rehfeldt

Bradenton

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