

# Mail Tribune

## **Letters to the Editor, Dec. 9 (was mandated to be shorter than submitted)**

### **A noble effort**

This I know for a fact. Everyone has a mother and father. Hopefully, those who have been making decisions about the Senior Center here in Ashland treat their own parents much better than what has been happening here lately. Decisions are being made about the leadership and “reorganization” of the Senior Center without any consultation (survey) from the seniors themselves..

For example, the director had the experience and expertise to be connected with numerous agencies that the aging population might need. In addition, she dealt with each and every one with compassion and dignity. But she was dismissed with no regard for these important factors, leaving the seniors in need of these services to more or less shift for themselves. It is at this stage of life where the Senior Center becomes the place where they obtain referrals and take part in activities to improve their quality of life. The petition to recall three commissioners represents an incredible, noble effort to point out these discrepancies. This because the present Parks Department director, together with the parks commissioners, made these poor and disingenuous decisions.

Will the ad hoc committee or the recall efforts make a difference? We can only hope.

Mary Bertrand  
Ashland

**this is how it appears in the Tidings - printed in full**

# ASHLAND DAILY **TIDINGS**

## **Letters to the Editor, Dec. 6**

### **Something is amiss**

This I know for a fact. Everyone has a mother and father. And hopefully those who have been making decisions about the Senior Center here in Ashland treat their own parents much better than what has been happening here lately.

I'm talking about the fact that until very recently the senior citizen population has been treated with respect, courtesy and acknowledgement of their contribution to society. However, decisions are being made about the leadership and "reorganization" (whatever that means) of their beloved Senior Center without any consultation (survey) from them. The director had the expertise, experience and knowledge to be connected with the numerous agencies that this aging population might need. And it is well documented that she also dealt with each and every one of them with compassion and dignity. She, however, was dismissed with no regard whatsoever of these factors, leaving the seniors who were in need of the services provided at the Senior Center to more or less shift for themselves.

At this stage of life, vulnerability becomes a factor and they need someone there to help when many do not have family close by to be of assistance. Aging is a fact of life whether one is rich, middle class or poor.

I am grateful for the educated, articulate groups who "get it" and are trying to improve the present ludicrous situation. That's why the petitions for recall represent an incredible noble effort to point out these discrepancies of not treating the senior citizens of this city with the respect, courtesy and dignity they deserve. To all appearances, it seems that a new leader came aboard at the Parks and Recreation Department and together with the parks commissioners are the ones making these poor and disingenuous decisions.

Something is amiss and needs to be fixed immediately. Will that be the ad hoc appointed committee? Will it be the recall efforts?

The seniors deserve to be consulted on any changes that are being made for them, not *without* them as is the present situation.

Mary Bertrand  
Ashland