

## **Letters to the Editor, Dec. 14**

### **Where was respect?**

Let's talk about respect, why don't we?

I am responding to your editorial "Speak up — respectfully." I was left apoplectic for a few moments after reading it.

No matter what side one may be on when it comes to the hot issue that is Ashland's Senior Center changes, one has to wonder where was the respect that Michael Black felt for these seniors when he summarily fired the experienced staff there? Nowhere to be found, apparently.

Did he respect those seniors enough to have experienced staff, knowledgeable in all things geriatric as well as social services, to seamlessly pick up where the former experienced staff left off? Hell, no.

What was he thinking? Obviously not of the well-being of the senior population who use the services on a regular basis or new seniors who may have wanted help with any of myriad situations. That was callous and unprofessional on his part.

We will never know how many folks fell through and continue to fall through the cracks because expertise in senior issues is not presently there. Does that sound respectful to you? I should hope not.

The two current staff people (one full-time, one part-time) in the senior center office work their butts off (in my humble opinion) to help meet the needs of the seniors who do ask for information and assistance. Their learning curve has been fast and steep. They are sometimes criticized for their lack of senior issues

knowledge and are compared to the former experienced staff which is akin to comparing apples and oranges. Black has put them in a very awkward, stressful and unfortunate situation. Surely Black's leaving the seniors high and dry as he did would be grounds for his own dismissal.

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