

## **Daily Tidings**

**Letters to the editor: Dec. 22, 2017**

### **Quality of life**

The quality of life in Ashland is greatly enriched by widespread volunteerism in every aspect of life — think OSF, OLLI, Hospice, Ashland Food Project, Ashland Park and Recreation, Ashland library, classrooms, to name a few. Many volunteers are senior citizens who generously share a lifetime of knowledge, skills and talents. How different would life in Ashland be without the generosity of these volunteers?

Seniors have needs, too, needs that were being met by the Senior Center. APRC seems to have been both ignorant and indifferent to senior citizen needs and how they were being met by the Senior Center.

What was the APRC's vision or action plan for the Senior Center when they laid off staff? Why hasn't this vision been shared with the public? How is it possible that the APRC could remove staff without having trained personnel in place to continue their work? Mike Black has had to play catch up, providing training after the fact to APR staff who have been transferred to the Senior Center. Who is doing the work these staff members were doing before being transferred? Representatives of various agencies have been drafted to help meet senior needs, but it is a Band-Aid operation at the Senior Center.

I applaud the APRC's efforts to address the needs of families in Ashland, but call upon the commission to also remember the needs of our seniors and to become informed about these needs. How can Ashland not provide for the needs of those who have given so much to the quality of our community life?

*Ellen Beck  
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