

Letters to the Editor, Sept. 29, 1017

Problematic plan

Cities have a moral obligation to assist citizens in satisfying their basic human needs. For years, the city's Senior Center has successfully provided this vital social resources assistance to its elderly, dependent citizens.

Contrary to Ashland's financial interest, the City Council's vision for elders (in the Ashland 2020 Strategic Plan), and ethical and operational standards set by management professionals, the proposed reorganization of the Senior Program sabotages the center's ability to fulfill its purpose.

The performance auditors, whose work has been cited as the impetus of this plan, had limited their focus to the Senior Program's recreational activities and recommended augmentation that they felt the now-fired staff would have been capable of implementing.

To go forward with this reorganization is to confirm the mayor-council's preference for acting of and for their notions of the city's future wants rather than the reality of the city's present needs.

This management debacle would not have been possible without the mayor-council's refusal to fix the blunder made several years ago when the Parks and Recreation Commission — with its focus on recreational activities — was put in control of a complex social services program.

Fix the problem, save the center.

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