

News-Press

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Section: Lehigh Acres

Letters to the Editor

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Thanks for time, effort

I would like to thank the ladies and gentlemen who gave their time and effort for the cause that they wholeheartedly believe in. They should be commended.

They have the desire to make Lehigh Acres a community that we can all be proud to call home. Whether Lehigh Acres decides to incorporate or not, I believe there is one thing that everyone can agree on. It is that we have issues that affect our quality of life. And unless we come together on how to address these issues our community will continue to decline.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the process. I met people of all walks of life, men and women, young, old and several different nationalities. Without fail everyone wanted Lehigh Acres to become a town they were proud of. Even those who opposed incorporation wanted the best for the community. And out of respect for our fellow neighbors all of their viewpoints were taken into account. We may not agree all the time but we did not throw barbs or call names.

I also respect those who were willing to stand up and be heard. As a business owner I have both customers and employees whose loyalties are vital to the success of a company. I hope that those of us who were willing to stand up and be vocal for what we felt was a worthwhile cause are not chastised. My belief is that someone who is willing to defend their position would also be someone you can trust to defend you. I hope we have earned respect for the willingness to help better the place we live.

Fred Elliott

Lehigh Acres

Faith and fact

The latest debate over Florida state science standards, specifically, the theory of evolution, reeks of the same consensus thought process that is found with global warming. What is sadly lacking from both debates is an adherence to the scientific process.

In order to treat any scientific statement as fact, rather than theory or hypothesis, one must be able to prove the statement multiple times, under different conditions, and in separate locations.

This cannot be done with the theory of evolution, at least as it applies to distinct species sharing a common ancestor, such as a horse and a dog. Portions of the theory, such as natural selection, certainly can be proven and have been. We, as humans, have taken a direct role in natural selection through the vast variety of dogs we have bred from very few ancestral wolves.

The inability to apply the scientific method to the biblical account of Creation also disqualifies it from being taught as fact in science class. My belief in the Creation of the world by an omniscient God takes faith, no different than the faith found in a believer in macroevolution.

We have not yet scientifically proven how our universe came into existence. The reluctance of any side to admit this reality proves their bias in the situation.

Matthew Caldwell

Lehigh Acres

Looking at park options

I am a resident of Gateway, a business owner in Gateway and the chairman of the recently created Gateway Park Committee. One of the committee's goals is to inform the community, much more than it has been in the past, about a proposed park that our local government had been planning for the land adjacent to the Gateway Commons Pool.

On Jan. 10, the Gateway Services District Board of Supervisors, at our committee's request, unanimously approved a two-year moratorium on any new park construction.

Our committee will now take this cooling-off period and discuss options for that land and present them to Gateway residents for input and discussion. We're also hoping everyone will use this time to take a deep breath, help us by getting involved and refrain from personal attacks.

The interaction of ideas in an open and free society is a beautiful thing ... until heated tempers shout out reasoned debate. We've witnessed community gatherings turn very heated, which is great, until it reaches a point where a few get downright nasty. We hear what you are saying. We're working on a solution.

The committee is conscious about the things that concern you, most importantly, the cost and what you would be getting for your money if a park is ever built.

Keep in mind that one of the options will always be that nothing gets built. Please feel comfortable that all meetings are and will always be open.

Many, if not most of the residents I've spoken to are opposed to the park as it was originally drawn up. However, we've learned that not everyone opposed to the original park is opposed to some sort of park.

Here are some recent suggestions:

- an all-green park

- softball fields

- a dog run

- a building to hold meetings and play cards

- no park at no price

Keep suggestions coming.

Ed Ryan

Gateway

Run for board seat

Gateway residents have discovered what a Community Development District (CDD) is and that it has unbridled powers to spend, tax and lien.

I am working with members of the Senate and House to amend Statute 190 to cap spending by elected-CDDs on non-essential projects and property transfers at \$500,000 without a referendum and to give the electorate the right to recall supervisors.

CDD supervisors enjoy a four-year term and are accountable only to those who elect them. Gateway Services District supervisors were elected by default because they ran unopposed.

This is a wake-up call for qualified candidates from the Gateway community to step up and run for three vacant seats on the board in November 2008. Call 533-8683 for details. June 2008 is the deadline.

The Park Advisory Committee's first priority should be to represent the Gateway property owners.

Rod Senior

Gateway

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