

Opinions

of the Glymont branch library.

Library is 'vital' to community

The writer has asked the Maryland Independent to publish the following letter addressed to the Charles County Commissioners.

Dear Editor:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1800, Indian Head, at its meeting Monday, July 15, unanimously passed a motion requesting the commissioners of Charles County to reconsider any action which would close the Glymont Road Branch of the Charles County Library.

As you are aware, the Glymont Road Branch because of its proximity is vital to General Smallwood Middle School and Indian Head Elementary School, while serving Lackey High School as well. Many of the citizens use this library on a daily basis to keep themselves abreast of national, as well as local news. It was a tremendous struggle to acquire a library to serve this area. Please do not place western Charles County in the position of having to beg for something our citizens fought for during the 1950s, making it not only the first but oldest branch in Charles County.

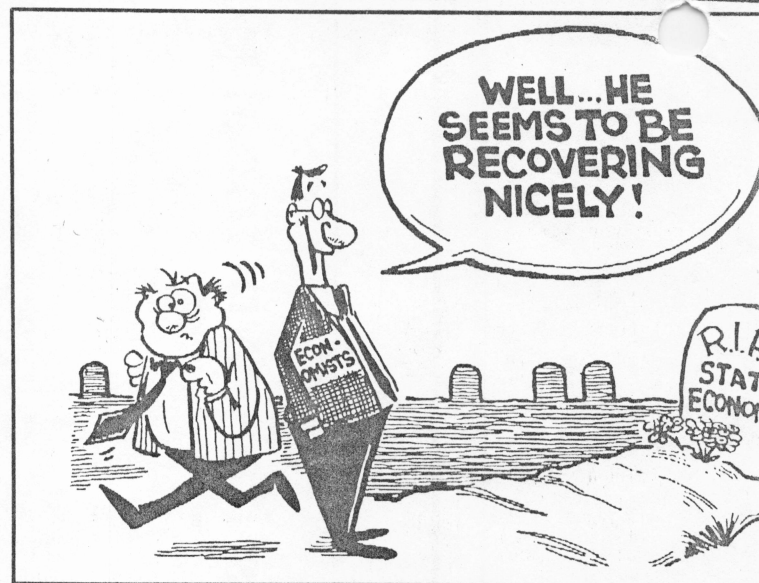
The Bryans Road Branch library will not serve Indian Head,

Potomac Heights, and their environments; only the Glymont branch will do this. It has been suggested that the more modern equipment now in use in the Bryans Road Branch will facilitate the needs of the citizens better. This is a matter of conjecture, but how many people need or use a facsimile (fax) machine in daily life? Libraries have existed for years before anyone ever heard of "bar coding."

The cost of allowing the Glymont Branch Library to remain open is minimal compared to the inconvenience you will bring upon your constituents in this area. There must be a better answer. If we are to believe the media, the new western Charles County library is at least five years away, and it is more likely longer than that if the truth were known.

Ben Franklin's words are truer today than when he established the first library in these Colonies, which is, "The citizens must have books easily available to keep themselves knowledgeable and alert in these trying times."

John Goff, Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Indian Head



Scouts help ease housing problem

The writer has asked the Independent to publish the following letter sent to Eagle Scout candidate Steve Brewer of La Plata.

Dear Steve:

Thanks for completing the "No Frills" aluminum can collection container which is now in place at the Charles County Government Building parking lot. You and your fellow Scouts from BSA Troop 1321 in La Plata did a fantastic job. Many individuals and groups are certain to follow your lead.

It is wonderful that you are walking the extra mile of managing the container for Habitat for Humanity on behalf of your troop during the summer. Habitat's half of the proceeds will be a big boost, and I'm sure your troop can use the other half. The \$25.50 you gave Habitat for its first share shows that the two key phrases in the movie "Field of Dreams" i.e., "If you build it, they will come" and "Ease the pain" has a close tie to your project. The "No friller" you built has the aluminum cans com-

ing, and Habitat's share of to "ease the pain" of housing in Charles County.

I hope your first Habitat C-boree at the Scout Jamboree

convincing someone "inadequate" every community

Charles County struck out by losing minor league

Dear Editor:

This letter is not about the yearly increasing tax bill, the lack of adequate funding for our teachers and school supplies, the disgraceful lack of funding for our hard-working sheriff's office, building moratorium that placed such a hardship on the small plumbing or electrical contractor, lack of new county roads to facilitate more rapid traffic movement, D.C. stinking sludge or our "open spaces," numerous vacations for the commissioners, taxpayer-funded tuxedo and cars, lack of

full-time attorney for the county, hiring of at least four assistant county administrators, appointing cronies to important boards (then citing "high ethical actions in office"), hiring, (at a high salaried contract) that "special" person to handle their affairs, or continued perks for themselves, but no salary increase for the dedicated county employees.

No, this letter is about something that "was in the bag," an accomplished fact, something for every family to participate in, a place to take our children, a place

to train our children in a great sport, a place that other counties across the nation (including our mighty neighbor to the north, Prince George's County) are fighting to have located in their area.

I'm talking about minor league baseball. That subject that has appeared in the past weeks in *Parade*, several times in the *Washington Post*, telling how profitable it is for the county that has it, telling of the wonderful companionship it fosters in families. As stated in the July 19, 1991, arti-

cle in the *Post* titled "Take Me Out to the Farm Game:" "The most compelling reasons have to do with the ballpark priorities of kids. ..."

We had a franchise! But the present group of "old" commissioners (not the two "new men") nullified, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, gave it all away, choosing not to think of our kids or the financial benefit to be reaped.

We had a Cleveland Indians minor league team signed up to be Charles County's team. And our

commissioners

We had the stadium, and family entertainment of our hands. A ers gave it away

Every time monitor or real of a gang of y gating outside center or outside some parking we had a Cleveland league team signed in Charles County

We thought

Stepparents aren't all wicked

Dear Editor:

I was disheartened by Friday's editorial headline, "When it comes to emergency care, we are state's stepchildren."

My parenting days began as a stepmother more than eight years ago, and the implication that a stepchild would be denied humane treatment by virtue of his/her legal, rather than natural, attachment to a parent is an insult and perpetuation of a harmful myth.

While I do not deny that there are Cinderellas in our midst, the numbers of stepfamilies are on the

be the majority rather than the exception.

For many years, society-at-large and sometimes even members of my own family led me to believe the myth that I was a wicked stepparent.

Then I became a member of the Family Education Center of Southern Maryland Inc., where I was introduced to coherent parenting skills that have changed my life and that of my family to the better.

If stepparents are cruel and unreasonable, it is because they are inadequate parents, not because

rather than nat

It is a disservice to families to as child is doomed worse than a p dren.

We have w living f the rural m lives. Archaic the one played headline have veloping a coh more challeng be.

Children wh parental divor of all parent

Maryland Independent

Ralph Martin
Publisher

Karen Acton
Group Manager

Linda Engle
Circulation Director

Jim Brocker
News Editor

Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Editor

Rees Brown
Production Manager

Monty Wood
Sports Editor

Joey Crossen
Advertising Director

Dale Foster
Classified Manager

Debra Zimmerman Murphey
Community Editor

Established 1872

7 Industrial Park Circle
St. Charles Industrial Park
Waldorf, MD 20602

Telephone: 645-9430, 843-9600, 769-2600
Classified: 645-0900
1991 Chesapeake Publishing Corporation

The Maryland Independent USPS-331-820, is published every Wednesday and Friday by Chesapeake Publishing Corp., Edson, Md. Second class postage is paid at the Waldorf Post Office, 9800. Mail subscription rates at \$27 per year, in county; single copy, \$5.00. Out of county rates by quote. To Postmaster: Send all address corrections to Maryland Independent, 7 Industrial Park, Waldorf, Md.

Opinions

Nanjemoy community deserves its own focal point

In its heyday when ferries crossed the Potomac, the Nanjemoy area was a busy place. These days, a stranger could drive right past the town without even noticing it.

There is still a "downtown" Nanjemoy, just off Route 6, but these days, there is little to distinguish Nanjemoy from the other surrounding rural communities. There are no stores in the town proper; there are no service stations. Only the post office and fire department serve as reminders of the "town" of Nanjemoy. And there is also the abandoned Nanjemoy school on Route 6.

Our view

When the school closed a few years ago, it was a big loss for the Nanjemoy community, especially the area of town. In an area that lacks a center, a focal point, the loss of the school took one away. Yes, Nanjemoy is the handful of homes around the post office and fire department, but it is also the surrounding area; in fact, when most Charles County residents refer to Nanjemoy, they are referring to the vast

tracts of farms and forest that cover the entire western section of the county.

That area has few businesses and services. Most residents drive to La Plata, 20 minutes to a half-hour away. There isn't much to tie the community together, except for the bond of relative isolation that its residents have from the rest of Charles County.

That's why the county is doing a good thing by trying to locate something — anything — in the building of the old Nanjemoy school. A committee will begin studying uses for the structure. We hope that the building proves to be repairable, that checks for asbestos and of its structure will show that it can be

refurbished.

Of the many proposals for the use of the building, we like the ones that offer community use. Programs like Head Start could be housed there. Perhaps a county library branch, or a community or recreation center. Anything that would give the Nanjemoy community another focal point. And it would show the residents, who often feel like the forgotten ones of the county, that they are considered just as important as those who live in the more populated areas.

Those wishing to comment can attend a meeting with the commissioners on Tuesday, July 30, at 7 p.m. at the Nanjemoy Volunteer Fire Department.

Letters to the editor

Glymont branch offers residents 'outstanding' services

The writer has asked the Independent to publish the following letter, also sent to the Charles County Commissioners.

Dear Commissioners:

The Board of Directors of Potomac Heights Mutual Home Owners Association, at its meeting on July 18, directed that a letter be sent to the commissioners of Charles County, as well as the library board, to protest the closing of the Glymont branch library.

Many of the citizens of this association have voiced strong concern over the proposed closing of the Glymont branch library. The branch is outstanding in its services to Potomac Heights, Indian Head, and the two schools located nearby, as well as its service to the surrounding area.

The "story hour" for children has a standing-room-only crowd for their weekly sessions. The literacy program is well supported,

and what is more important than assisting our adult citizens in learning to read? Both of these programs will be lost. The Bryans Road branch library is not large enough to accommodate either of these citizen-oriented endeavors.

The financial ratio of the counties in Maryland as it relates to libraries shows Charles County ranking seventh in income, but 20th in the library support. This is not a commendable position.

Once again, the "old saw" has

arisen about western Charles County being a stepchild. Please use your efforts to correct this mistake on the part of the library board. The library board is responsible, as are all people holding a public trust, to be responsive to the citizens of Charles County. Its members are not doing this.

On behalf of our board of directors, I contacted Byrd Raby, the owner of the Glymont property who leases space to the Glymont branch library. Raby informed

me that the rent has not increased since the original lease was signed. The only increases have been for cost of living and the library's share of tax increases based on square footage. Further, both parties are entitled to a cancellation of the lease upon a 30-day notification.

Raby advised me in our conversation that he was very interested in retaining the library as a tenant. The original lease was prepared by the county's attorney.

There are, as of this date, countless vacant commercial properties on the Route 210 corridor, and they will remain such until additional residential development takes place.

We, therefore, respectfully request you use your good offices to correct this wrong about to be perpetrated "on our side" of the county by non-elected officials.

Max E. Bowen
Manager, Potomac Heights
Home Owners Association

Library is 'vital' to community

The writer has asked the Maryland Independent to publish the following letter addressed to the Charles County Commissioners.

Dear Editor:

Potomac Heights, and their environments; only the Glymont branch will do this. It has been suggested that the more modern equipment now in use in the Bryans Road Branch will facilitate



Restore energy funding

Dear Editor:

In June, the House of Representatives cut funding for the low-in-