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Letters to the Editor Jan. 22, 2015

Nanc Junker

Colleen Kisel

Megan Fox

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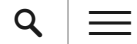
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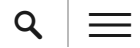
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Letters to the Editor Jan. 22, 2015

11:25 am CST January 20, 2015

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Pray for OPPL Board to see the light

Dear Editor,

How sad to see our Orland Park Public Library Board flaunting an award for allowing pornography veiled as intellectual freedom. They are using our tax dollars to pollute the air in our village. I am embarrassed to admit I voted for at least one of those pictured in the current "Connection" newsletter. Sometimes the concept of service gets distorted when authority and public funds mingle.

Is courage too much to ask for, in not only the positions to be filled in April but the existing board members? It takes courage to admit error and make amends. I ask readers to join me in prayer for a braver and stronger leadership in our Village of Orland Park.

Nanc Junker

Orland Park resident

-

Supporters of Treasure Chest deserve thanks

Dear Editor,

The mission of the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation is to provide comfort and distraction from painful procedures to children and teens who have been diagnosed with cancer by providing a toy, gift or gift card from a Treasure Chest. During this past December, two local schools and several businesses hosted holiday toy drives, which resulted in an enormous donation of toys.

Each year, I am amazed by the fact that these organizations — all located within close proximity to our Orland Park headquarters — are able to provide enough toys to directly benefit more than 9,000 children and teens monthly at 48 children's cancer treatment centers in 17 states across the nation. As the Founder and CEO of the Treasure Chest Foundation, I would like to convey my personal thanks and deep sense of gratitude to the following organizations: American Sewing Guild, Ameriprise Financial Services, Carl Sandburg High School, Dave & Buster's, Elim Christian Services, Fernway Park School, Gym-Kinetics Gymnastic Club, Let's Polka USA Club, Massage Envy, Orland Fire Protection District, Palos/Orland Swim Association, P.E.O. Chapter NV, P.O.S.A., Thomas Place and Orland Park Toastmasters.

On behalf of the children and teens who have been diagnosed with cancer, the Treasure Chest Foundation Board of Directors and staff wish to thank the parents, students, staff and administration of our community schools along with the area businesses for their tremendous response. We truly feel blessed to have such support.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Colleen M. Kisel

Founder and CEO, Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation

-

OPPL should reimburse public for meals, parties

Dear Editor,

In Illinois, public bodies are mandated by law to only use tax dollars for public benefit. This means that an entity like the Orland Park Public Library must have a purpose directly benefitting the public for it to lawfully spend tax dollars.

While most Orland residents expect the OPPL to buy books and DVDs for its collection, many are shocked that the library has instead been spending tax dollars on meals and parties for board members. I argue there is no public benefit for such purchases and they are, thus, I am arguing not lawful.

Last January, the board bought themselves sandwiches from Potbelly to munch on during a board meeting. They seem to have enjoyed those tasty (and expensive!) sandwiches so much that they did it again on Feb. 12th. Yum!

This was especially troublesome because that Feb. 12 meeting was held illegally, in violation of our state's Open Meetings Act, which prohibited the OPPL from holding a special meeting on a legal holiday. The OPPL held the meeting anyway (on Abraham Lincoln's Birthday) and then ordered themselves sandwiches to boot!

This defiance is an example of why Cook County is infamous nationwide as a place where politicians believe they are unaccountable to the people and can do as they please without consequence. They don't believe the law applies to them.

In March, the OPPL spent \$441.78 on a lunch for Mary Ann Ahl, who was retiring from the board. This included 7 pounds of Italian beef, 1 quart of sweet peppers and one large tray of salad. There were special instructions to hold the onions. That was the only restraint I believe was shown with this meal.

I don't see how throwing a party for a retiring board member and spending more than \$400 on the affair benefits the public. The lunch wasn't open to library patrons, just the board and chosen staff. The public wasn't given any of the Potbelly sandwiches ordered for the January and February meetings either. The only thing the public got out of all this was the bill.

At some point, will the people of Cook County ever have enough of this? Tax bills will be mailed out to Orland residents in a few months. When you receive yours and have to write those checks, stop and wonder how much will go to buying sandwiches or Italian beef for well-fed OPPL board members.

Megan Fox

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