

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. Longer letters may be edited for length and all letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include a daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to jwarner@grossepointenews.com.

Recall equals no confidence vote

To the Editor:

The time to sign all five of the recall petitions is now.

There is absolutely nothing wrong or undemocratic or even un-Grosse Pointe about signing the five recall petitions.

The recall petition signature drive is both necessary and timely because the normal election cycle is too far into the future to allow time for the village to change the way it conducts business in response to an extreme change of economic circumstances.

A recall is in no way similar to a vote for impeachment. An impeachment vote would imply some acts or omissions involving some degree of moral turpitude or illegality.

A recall is something altogether different. None of our elected council members have performed in any way other than what they believe is in the best interests of the residents.

What the recall effort is and should be limited to, is a request for a public continuing confidence vote either for or against the manner in which the council majority, as represented by the council members named in the recall application, chooses to conduct the business of the village.

I support a vote of no confidence in the majority of the council because after more than four months of negative but accurate press coverage of

the village's deteriorating financial condition plus heavy lobbying by many residents at public council committee and full village meetings, this majority of council members has yet to respond with any votes or even serious discussion to change its custom of allowing the village to spend in excess of its revenues.

Residents of Grosse Pointe Shores and council members, please listen. Because our city has exhausted its reserve general fund, no more money is on hand to offset the month after month negative operating cash flow.

And, with the village credit rating in tatters, the only alternative to close this funding gap is a very steep increase in millage for 2010, an increase which will be out of sync with the surrounding communities, all of whose tax rates will be lower.

In 18 months, if nothing changes except taxes, the village will max-out permitted millage increases and face the financial Armageddon of a state takeover and probable forced consolidation with one or more neighboring Wayne County communities willing to assume our net liabilities.

It must also be noted Grosse Pointe Farms, which holds several million dollars in banked reserve funds earning interest, has absolutely no business reason to weaken its balance sheet by spending its resident's tax money on a Shores bailout.

If the residents of Grosse Pointe Shores do not take immediate action to prevent this meltdown, we run the very serious risk of seeing the Shores erased from the map of Michigan.

In fact, the No. 1 reason for holding a recall election sooner rather than later is that in 18 to 24 months there may no longer be a village of Grosse Pointe Shores in which to hold any elections.

JOHN L. BOOTH, II
Grosse Pointe Shores

Coyotes

To the Editor:

Our new neighbors — formerly of Michigan — subscribe to the Grosse Pointe News and occasionally share articles on Grosse Pointe's "wild neighbors" — coyotes, squirrels.

As a wildlife advocate and volunteer at Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Educational Foundation, I feel compelled to respond to staff writer Brad Lindberg's articles on coyotes, and "Coyote still at large," in Dec. 17 Grosse Pointe News.

Ignorance seems to breed as much fear in your "neck of the woods" as in mine. Grosse Pointe police are fighting futile battles and will not win the war.

Education, not guns, is the answer to coexistence with wildlife. Coyotes are highly intelligent, hence thriving against all odds. There are documented reports of coyote sightings/encounters in downtown New York City and Chicago's Michigan Avenue, in broad daylight.

Predators are needed for checks and balances. People move to Arizona from around the country and world, unfamiliar with the Sonora Desert's abundant fauna and flora. They build homes amid wildlife habitat, yet some choose to wall out their wild neighbors.

It doesn't matter these ani-