

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cedarburg citizens, neighbors support Salvation Army Bell ringers campaign

To the editor:
I would be remiss if I did not thank the citizens of Cedarburg and our neighbors that shop in Cedarburg, especially during the 2022 Christmas holidays. The Red Kettles were put in place at two different places of business and the response for the next eight weeks was tied for last year, which was the best in the past 14 years. I would like to sincerely thank:

■ Olsen's Piggly Wiggly grocery store and Fiddleheads Coffee Shop for allowing our Bell Ringers to locate outside their place of business in order to provide financial help for the Ozaukee County needy.
■ Cedarburg American Legion: Dan Calbow, Brian Kjell, Dennis Jaeger, Jim Loving, Keith Mason, Jeff Hoffman, George Maume, John Katzka, John Szudowitz, Larry Tutewohl, Fred Schmitz, Deb Gabert, Dick Diffenbach, Mick Callen, Kristen Burkart, Mike Kenney, Ed Downey, Rick Wallock, Craig Witte, Bob Skidmore and Tyler Myers.

■ American Legion Ladies Auxiliary: Sue Grosskopf, Nancy Wallock, Chris Sandoval, Mary Garner, Chris Skidmore, Jeannie Paplocki, Leslie Toepfer, Kelly Killian and her husband.

■ Private citizens: Nancy Severson, a Salvation Army volunteer; Alice Bush and Darlene Emmer of PyraMax Bank; Al Boyle and Trudy Ulm.

Other groups: Scout Troop 835 and 836 (sponsored by the Cedarburg American Legion Post 288) and Cub Scout Pack 3836.

The Christmas greeting was exchanged by everyone donating money to our Red Buckets and they also thanked our Legion members for their service, which is what a veteran loves to hear.

Our sincere thank you and appreciation to the citizens of Cedarburg and everyone that was a part of this special team. The money that is collected at all Bell Ringing locations in Ozaukee County remains in Ozaukee County for our less fortunate citizens.

God bless our veterans serving this wonderful country of ours and God bless America.

First Vice Cmdr. James Lee and Sgt. At Arms Keith Mason
Cedarburg American Legion Bell Ringing Committee

Francour is the outstanding board member we need

To the editor:
Most all of us chose to live in Mequon or Thiensville because of the top-notch school district. Although we agree that we want what's best for our students, the definition of "best" can greatly vary among residents.

Wendy Francour deserves our vote on April 4. She focuses on meeting the needs of all students in our district. Her ability to listen, understand and connect with parents, administration, teachers and students is remarkable.

Wendy's involvement with the school district as a parent, volunteer and now school board member gives her a depth of knowledge that is second to none.

Wendy is 100% non-partisan; school board members should be non-partisan but as we all know, partisan politics is trying to creep

into public education. We need board members who are able to listen to all viewpoints in our community while always keeping the board's responsibilities at the forefront.

Our four kids were in MTSD from 1995-2015 and I observed numerous school boards in action. I am in awe of those who choose to devote their time and energy for the betterment of our community.

Vote for Wendy on April 4 to ensure that our school district continues to be one of the best in the country.

Sarah Kerkman Dwyer
Mequon

Barikmo and Francour will serve MTSD well

To the editor:
While I have no children in the Mequon-Thiensville School District, I am pleased to support public education through my tax dollars. I followed the recent turmoil of the school board recall election, which is still significant as two people associated to some degree or another are attempting to get elected to the board. Fortunately, we have two other excellent choices on our ballot. We vote for two of the four.

Candidate Kate Barikmo has wanted to be a teacher since she was a young student. Teaching is a calling as it requires many diverse skills and a passion. I respect the profession and those who choose it. Kate Barikmo is a 7th grade teacher in another district, so there is no conflict. She has a Master's of Curriculum and Instruction from UW-Madison after receiving a Bachelor's in sociology and history. Knowledge of students' and teachers' experiences is invaluable insight for the school board. From what I've learned about Kate Barikmo through forums and newspaper questionnaires, I feel good about her desire to unite through collaborative and thoughtful decision-making.

Wendy Francour, a survivor of the recall effort, is running again and should be re-elected. She handles herself with grace and brings valuable institutional history. I encourage you to vote and vote for Kate Barikmo and Wendy Francour.

Nancy Camden
Mequon

MTSD needs Francour's leadership

To the editor:
The Mequon-Thiensville School District lies at the center of our community. Families rely on our local schools to equip their children for their chosen future endeavors. Taxpayers depend on the district to preserve its outstanding reputation, which keeps the mill rate low so the assessed values of their homes stay high and taxes stay low.

Wendy Francour's leadership, through tough choices and challenges, in the face of accolades and attacks, offers what a worthy public servant

requires: wisdom. That she is willing to run for school board again is a testament to her undying commitment to all of us who live here. Above all, Wendy prioritizes students' needs and promotes respectful, two-way communication, including listening to those who disagree.

I have witnessed Wendy's ability to look at a situation from a fresh angle and see a solution where others see only roadblocks. Likewise, she has vision — considering how today's decisions and direction will affect the future. We need her. She brings passion, experience, and dedication to her role, keeps politics out of her approach to the work, and understands the immense responsibility of serving on the school board.

Sharing my personal view as a mom of two Homestead graduates and long-time resident of Mequon, I urge all to vote for Wendy Francour and to carefully consider which other candidate will be able to lead well in a polarized time period when our kids need non-partisan advocates for their education, not political agendas.

Angelina Cicero
Mequon

Why Mark Gierl deserves your vote

To the editor:
I have known Mark for a great number of years, and he is a devoted to the office of aldermen.

I have read Mark's thoughts on a great number of issues that affect Mequon and he always has Mequon's interest first. He has been a resident of Mequon for many years as well.

Keep Mark in office, vote for Mark Gierl.

Bob Walenstein
Mequon

Bachs vast support is well deserved

To the editor:
I live in Mequon's Alderman District 5. Gregg Bach lost by only three votes three years ago to the current Alderman Mark Gierl. This was at the height of the pandemic when all in-person campaigning was suspended. Being a newcomer to most of us, it's impressive that Bach received so many votes against an incumbent. It shows that people were not happy with Gierl and saw a good opportunity for better representation with Gregg Bach.

Gierl has twice sued the Mequon-Thiensville School District, financially backed all four of the school board recall candidates. All five former mayors living in Mequon have endorsed Gregg Bach. I trust their assessment, as they've had a much closer view than most of us.

From what I have observed, Gierl is divisive. Testimonials and Bach's history of service show him to be a community builder. This is what we needed three years ago and need even more now. I've voted for Gregg Bach.

Larry Sanders
Mequon

Look at Knodl's background

To the editor:
January 5, 2021: Attempted to interfere with the smooth transition of power as required by law. He violated his oath to support both the Wisconsin and U.S. Constitution by signing a letter asking Vice President Pence not to certify the 2020 election as required by state and federal law. That letter stated, "There are extensive and well-founded accusations," and it goes on, stating there is "evidence of a coordinated and structured multi-state effort to undermine state law." However, after two years of investigation by former Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, costing the taxpayers over \$2 million, no evidence was found.

July 2015: Tried to reduce access to public records that are paid for by the public. Wisconsin legislators already are the only state officials exempted from public records retention and voting transparency. As assistant majority leader, he put forward a bill to take this even further — to expand exemptions to other people and public records, but there was a public outcry. This past year, one legislator on the Joint Finance Committee was able to vote anonymously and take no responsibility for stopping allocated funds going to the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust for the purchase of Cedar George Clay, the last major piece of land on Lake Michigan for our communities. But because of legislator exemptions and lack of responsible transparency, we don't know who did this and we never will.

October 2008: Charged with falsifying campaign material before the Washington County Circuit Court. If convicted he was facing up to six months in jail and \$1,000 fine for making at least four false statements on his campaign material, including listing one dead person as a supporter. He admitted falsifying his campaign material, but called it "a mistake." The charge was changed to a citation for disorderly conduct.

Does Dan Knodl deserve our votes?

June Allison
Fox Point

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