Still a sense of community

To the editor:

The Readers Viewpoint had two interesting letters recently. The letters were written by two community minded people. After reading the letters, I decided to once more express how some of us in Caspian still feel about the closure of our historic Caspian City Hall. The same paper that had the above letters had an advertisement in it advertising our City Hall. Some of us were hoping that maybe someday somehow our City Hall might reopen.

The first thing to see as a person drives into Caspian is the City Hall. It was always a welcome to our town.

In 1913, the town's name was Spring Valley, then shortly after, with one of the mines, called the Caspian Mine, turned out be the most productive mine in the area, the city fathers decided that the name of our town be changed to Caspian. In 1923, after a lot of planning the City Hall was built. It was first called the village hall, and then became the Caspian City Hall.

The City Hall took a lot of planning and there was excitement from the community that the town was going to have this work of art building put up for all the residents to enjoy. It was going to be our business office, a place for school plays, Christmas parties, a meeting place and even a place for area residents to come and bathe there.

The fire department and the police department were all in this beautiful building. In time there was even a library in the building and a gathering place for everyone. The citizens in the community were a combination of many ethnic groups. The people had built up a strong sense of community, and everyone was so proud of the City Hall. It was built by our forefathers, who, with the help of architects and contractors, had a building constructed that was built with the plan that the city hall would last forever for generation after generation. Our area still has mining company houses that are over 100 years old and well maintained.

Mr. Scarite of Alpha remarked in his letter about the pride and spirit that the residents in Alpha have had. People such as him are who communities need to survive. There is nothing more important than keeping the history of our towns kept for future generations. Over the years it has been shown the residents of Caspian have also been progressive and have had a strong sense of community.

What has Caspian had that made it so special – it has a City Hall that was built to perfection, and a community center, that was constructed with care and meant to last a lifetime. This was built to service the children and adults in the community.

These two buildings along with the Duc of Abruzzi were all recognized by the state of Michigan as historical sites. In spite of some bad economic times, we have been able to sustain the center building because we have had a community that has given their support to keep this historic place open for the children of the area.

Our forefathers would be proud of our town. Most of us have strong feelings about the history of the town, we now have a historic mining museum that we are also proud of, and a trail by the river that will also be part of the history of Caspian. The new site of our present City Hall is not ever going to be historic, and it is not in town. It is not going to be historic in any way.

We have always maintained a strong sense of community. It seems that something is now

missing. The closure of the City Hall has changed the wishes of the forefathers that had the building built to last forever. Everyone at that historical time built the building so that we could preserve the history and the welcoming building as people would see when they drove into town… it was and still is a unique building.

I wish that there were more people that felt like some of us in Caspian do – it is too bad that the residents could not vote on whether to keep the City Hall open. Iron River residents were given the courtesy to vote on their City Hall, and it did stay open, and it is where it should be in town. The closure of our City Hall was a poor choice for the history of our town. Over the years there were bad economic times, but the forefathers always kept their sense of community, and the town had survived.

-s- Mitzi Shepich McGreaham
Caspian

A positive program

To the editor:

We've been in the Windsor Center off and on during this last year and are amazed at all the activities that are happening there.

The Windsor Recreation Authority picked up some of the Community Schools Programs previously run by the West Iron County Public School District. You may not have school-aged kids at this time, but others have helped your kids in the past.

There is something for everyone from exercise, sports, plays, open Mic, as well as arts and crafts and cooking.

Do you really want people coming into town seeing the Windsor Center (the former West Iron County High School) looking like the Central School…sad and boarded up?

Let's make the Windsor Recreation a positive program in Iron County. Please vote 'yes' on May 3.

-s- Chell Anderson
-s- Bonnie Beck
-s- Judy Carlson
-s- Cyndi Couchene
Iron River

Good place to start

To the editor:

A nation of sheep breeds a government of wolves.

That is not original.I think it was T. Jefferson who said it but it rings true today. For a long time we have let the people elected to office make decisions because we thought they would do "right by us." Not necessarily so!!

So, it is up to us, the affected people, who must keep the elected officials feet to the fire and be diligent and observant of their actions. That starts at the local level. Mr. Hytinen wrote of the frustration of what he perceived as a basic waste of money. Would that there be a large number of citizens who were as concerned and voluble.

Perhaps the streets money was already earmarked for that and could not be spent otherwise, and maybe not. Perhaps it would be advantageous at this time to institute a volunteer citizens budget advisory group.

After much discussion and pressure to the City Council, we in Flagstaff have one and it is one of the most educating frustrations I have ever experienced. We went through each department of the city and what money was spent.

After a crammed five months of learning, we will present our findings and recommendations to the council and manager at the budget retreat next week. We have no power to change anything, but it is a fresh set of eyes to look at budgets differently rather than "business as usual."

In this time of a spending government, it has to start and stop somewhere. At the local level is a good place.

-s- Lee Harsh
Flagstaff, Ariz.