

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Amending county plan laborious

In an article Sept. 5, "Panel: Revisit public input," members of the Sarasota County Planning Commission complained that 20 signatures was too low a bar to initiate a public amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. That is an extreme oversimplification of the process.

After getting 20 signatures from citizens, a request for an amendment has to go to the Planning Commission, then get approved by the county commissioners.

After the request is approved, then the detailed amendment can go through the normal process of review by the Planning Commission and the County Commission.

If the amendment is again approved by the county, it goes to the state for review. It then comes back to the County Commission for final approval.

While developers need only one approval for a comprehensive plan amendment, citizens require three approvals by the County Commission!

Mike Hutchinson, Sarasota

Don't give in to CROSS during pandemic

I thoroughly enjoyed Carrie Seidman's satirical column labeling what's ailing us in the pandemic: CROSS, or Coronavirus Rage and Oppositional Sourness Syndrome.

After reading it, I hopped on my bike to play tennis at Payne Park, riding down Shade Avenue to avoid traffic.

I had the most pleasant experience with three different sets of crossing guards, who were cheerful, cordial, congenial, cautious and considerate as they held up stop signs for me to cross at their corners (with no other students or people around).

These CROSSING guards must have the antibodies to end CROSS as they showed no signs of the syndrome and are to be commended for curing this senior citizen's CROSS (at least for one day!).

JoMarie Privitera, Sarasota

No big revelations about Trump in new book

Every time our society has a crisis (hurricane, blizzard, etc.) on the horizon, government leaders routinely try to project calm and avoid panic.

"We are ready for this storm. FEMA has supplies staged. All municipal workers are on call for the duration of the storm."

Is anyone really surprised by the Bob Woodward "revelations," in his new book "Rage," that President Donald Trump was fully aware of the seriousness of COVID-19, but was concerned about not causing a panic?

Given that in one day all the toilet paper on retail shelves was gone and hoarded certainly argues in favor of that strategy.

In late February and early March, Joe Biden, Rep.

Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Chuck Schumer, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Dr. Anthony Fauci are all on record (videotape) urging Americans not to curtail activities. On Feb. 29, Biden said, "There is no need to panic."

The Woodward-Trump interviews took place from December 2019 to July 2020. Surely, if there was any validity to the caterwauls of the left that "Trump intentionally lied and cost American lives," then Woodward would have written an exposé right away for the front page of the Washington Post.

In September, it's "Much Ado About Nothing."

Tom Smith, Sarasota

President's negligence led to many deaths

I am a New Yorker. Every year, I watch the 9/11 ceremonies at Ground Zero and mourn.

The murder of 3,000 Americans was *unthinkable*. I look at the pictures and think about the horrible loss of life, and cry. I also remember how we all pulled together, honoring our heroes and shouting "USA, USA!"

However, the deliberate negligent murder of more than 190,000 Americans by President Donald Trump is beyond unthinkable. If he had only been honest with us about the pandemic's true danger at the start, many lives would have been spared.

When this divider-in-chief is forced out, maybe we can pull together once more.

Randy Kraft, Bradenton

Americans benefit from social welfare

There is a loud squawk from the White House and the elected Republicans that we are headed for a terrible socialistic disaster.

I, for one, would be very uncomfortable, physically and economically, were it not for the benefits that I receive from Medicare, Social Security and many other government-run programs that make my life more pleasant and actually more tolerable!

I can hardly imagine the hue and cry when these social welfare programs are defunded or allowed to disappear into the swamp!

Jane S. Oaks, Longboat Key

Get full measure of veep candidates

In this era of unusual "firsts," I'd like to see a new element introduced to our political forum.

Why not add to the presidential debate season two additional options: a head-to-head between President Donald Trump and Sen. Kamala Harris and another debate between Vice President Pence and former Vice President Joe Biden?

We might as well learn the full measure of these pairs. After all, one of these vice presidential candidates might end up as president one day.

Barbara K. Bailey, Sarasota