

Letters to the Editor

Pool guest fee is all wet

To the Editor:

The Fanny Chapman Pool board has missed the boat on performing a community service. As a lifelong Doylestown resident and current YMCA member, the Y will be closed to swimmers for three weeks due to the building program. I read the Chapman board's generous offer to swimmers at the YMCA, charging a guest fee of \$7 a visit. Area YMCAs offer free admission.

In 1927, the Fanny Chapman Pool was given to Doylestown by William Mercer as a community pool. All pool assets were transferred to the borough in 1956.

When I was younger, my husband Bob Hansell and I spent our summers at Fanny Chapman for a meager 25 cents a visit until we paid the total sum of \$4 for the season. Fanny Chapman also had memberships available for children who could not afford it.

My five children learned to swim and spent their summers on swim teams. One son was a lifeguard, and my husband spent most of his life there, first as a lifeguard, then a board member and chairman of the board from 1976 to 1978. It was our summer life until it became too expensive for us to enjoy as senior citizens.

Yes, the economy has changed drastically.

But really, for three weeks, you couldn't think of a better offer for Y members? Several hundred people of all ages use the pool daily for lap swimming and recreational purposes. The YMCA also offers scholarship help.

A better offer may have exposed more families in the community to Fanny's family facilities for summer pleasure.

*Jody Hansell
Doylestown*

District focuses on wrong target

To the Editor:

Thank you for the article on the tax collector lawsuit. My personal experience with our tax collector Judy Patton has been nothing short of excellent and I cannot see how the district thinks it can collect tax monies better for less.

Consider that \$72 million annually is collected at a cost of less than \$45,000. Why the district is now spending thousands on attorneys to pay their tax collectors far less than minimum wage is complete insanity. I'd like to know how many of our tax dollars are being spent by the district to fight this out in court.

This past year Judy was a tremendous help when our escrow funds were mishandled, which resulted in a lien being placed on our home. If it were not for Judy's expertise, I don't know how much longer it would have taken to get it straightened out.

It turns out that there is a third-party company that

makes the payments from escrow accounts for banks and one was late with people's escrow payments.

One proposal I have heard is to use lockboxes. What happens when third-party companies are again late with payments and more people start receiving notice of tax liens because their banks failed in their fiduciary duties?

As much as we all love to hate the tax collector, they are just doing their job. One for which they should be paid a fair wage. The district needs to look elsewhere for savings. One suggestion is to cut unnecessary legal fees.

*Andrew Rumbold
Perkasie*

College students need to be safe

To the Editor:

September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month. As a sophomore at the University of Maryland and an intern at Network of Victim Assistance, I think it's important to remind college students how to be safe before they go back to school.

Many high school students looking at colleges don't have "crime" on their search lists. Yet in 2007, according to national nonprofit Security on

Campus Inc., more than 88,000 crimes were reported to police on college campuses.

Mandy Mundy, NOVA director of education and training, comments that college students "are exploring a heightened level of independence." It is this independence that makes it important for them to be aware of steps to reduce their own risk of victimization.

It's like when my mom tried to teach me how to do laundry the summer after I graduated from Central Bucks South. I carelessly put off learning this essential skill for so long that finally it was too late. After a week of college, I found myself looking at a set of her written instructions as I was forced to learn the difference between "lights" and "darks," hands on.

Parents, don't let your kids learn about crime hands on. Teach them some tips: Don't walk alone at night, have your swipe card ready when nearing your dorm, always lock your door, don't accept drinks from strangers, keep the campus police phone number in your cell phone, make sure a friend always knows where you are, and leave if you feel uncomfortable in a situation.

A great resource for statistics on every campus's crime is <http://ope.ed.gov/security>. If you're a Bucks County victim of sexual assault or another serious crime, you can call NOVA's free victim support hotline at 800-675-6900.

Protecting yourself from crime and doing laundry are more similar than you'd think. They're both a mix of knowing the instructions and trusting your gut.

*Lisa Davies
Network of Victim Assistance
intern*

How to get a letter published

The newspaper welcomes letters. Address them to "Your Turn," The Intelligencer, 333 N. Broad St., Doylestown, Pa. 18901, or FAX them to 215-345-3150.

Letters can also be sent via e-mail to:
intell_letters@phillyburbs.com

Letters must be signed and include a home address and telephone number. Short letters are encouraged. No unsigned letters will be published. The editor reserves the right to reject, condense and edit all letters.