

Embrace the diversity of Rossmoor

By Susan Hildreth

District F candidate

Rossmoor residents bring with them a rich variety of life experiences, skills, philosophies and cultural practices. I believe that our current diversity gives Rossmoor a vibrancy that is truly special.

During the past year, a policy change has placed limitations on residents' freedom to share their thinking within the Rossmoor community. The new policy for conducting demonstrations (related to demonstration location and pre-approval of signs used in a demonstration) was approved despite concerns voiced by residents.

Demonstrations have been approved at alternative locations, which is an indication that the Board should consider revising this policy. Although the Board has the right to determine rules for GRF property, I believe the rules should facilitate demonstrating on GRF property when residents have strongly felt concerns.

The elimination of the political columns in the Rossmoor News also has created dissent in the community. This elimination will not influence the different points of view that are expressed among residents. The im-

pact of the columns regarding staff cost for fact-checking and potential legal liability for content are valid concerns that must be considered by the GRF Board. Yet despite the fact that many residents repeatedly voiced concerns about the policy change, there was little acknowledgment of those comments. Although the current policy can be revisited in the future, residents are left with a sense of frustration.

The Marketing Task Force is committed to developing a positive image to attract new residents to Rossmoor. That positive image can be supported by a welcoming community that respects the diversity of its members. We have made strides. Rossmoor Advocates for Diversity is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The Diversity Fair is an annual event. If I am elected to the GRF Board, I will strongly advocate for a commitment to respect all voices and cultures in our community.

Editor's note: Candidates running for the GRF Board are permitted to submit up to four articles (maximum of 300 words each) about issues pertaining to Rossmoor and its residents. Susan Hildreth is running for director in District F.