

Vote for community improvement Nov. 6

Letter to the Editor,
Norton has been our home for the past 42 years. During this time we have seen many positive changes in this community thanks to progressive, forward looking citizens making a difference.

Today we are blessed to live in a safe, wholesome town which provides all the basic needs such as clean air and water, a state-of-the-art hospital and medical clinic, fine churches, excellent schools, a beautiful library, well kept parks, a nice movie theatre and job providing industries.

On November 6, we have an opportunity to continue making a positive difference in our community by voting "YES" for a new swimming pool.

Our present pool built in 1954 is in very poor condition. The structural deterioration of the pool during the last 58 years is not acceptable. Experts consulted agree, the pool needs to be replaced, not just repaired. Citizens attending the Open House at the pool on Sunday, Sept. 30 learned, first hand, the need for a new pool.

Living across the street from the swimming pool for the past 40 years, we have witnessed the importance of a swimming pool to the community. The high usage has created many happy memories for the swimmers.

A new pool will be much more efficient and less costly to operate. A big plus is that it will save water, our most valuable resource. The present pool is leaking an estimated water loss of nearly two million gallons per season! A new pool would result in an estimated water savings of \$7,000 a year.

Norton needs to stay in step with surrounding communities with new pools or pools under construction. These towns include WaKeeney, Hays, Plainville, Beloit and Colby. A new pool now under construction in Phillipsburg will open next spring. Voters in Sheridan County recently voted "YES" for a new pool in Hoxie. Oberlin citizens will be voting on a new pool on Nov. 6.

The new pool would be financed only by sales tax. In Norton, we are currently paying 7.55 percent sales tax, which is considerably lower than most area towns. The Kansas Legislature has reduced the state portion of our sales tax by .60 percent, effective July 1, 2013. When we pass a sales tax of .75 percent to fund the pool and the Legislature takes .60 percent off, the additional sales tax for the pool will be only .15 of a percent or 15 cents on every \$100 purchase. That's pocket change for most people. This means that the timing is perfect for a new swimming pool in Norton.

A "YES" vote for the pool on Tuesday, Nov. 6 is a "YES" vote for community improvement. At the same time, we suggest a creative way for you to recover that extra 15 cents on every \$100 you spend by making a vow to be kind to our environment. Say "NO" to those plastic bags you carry home from the grocery store. Use your own cloth bags to sack your groceries and some grocers will take 5 cents off your bill for every bag you furnish. This savings will add up quickly and you will be helping your community, yourself and our environment.

Mary Beth and Dick Boyd
Norton



Working together for a better Norton

When someone reaches the point they see political parties or candidates as either 100 percent right or 100 percent wrong, then they are no longer thinking objectively. It just doesn't work that way, so if you thought your candidate was spot on in the debates, their platform, or the only one with workable ideas, regardless which candidate, you better rethink your stand. No party or individual has it all right.

Our right to vote and our freedom to choose is the strongest power we have. No one candidate is going to meet the whole of our criteria. In the primary election, "Doc" Peterson defeated incumbent Carolyn Applegate to run for County Commissioner.

In the upcoming election, Carolyn Applegate is campaigning as a write-in candidate and I support her effort. Is it because I agree with her on every issue? Most certainly not, but an issue that to me a litmus test for Norton is at stake. It comes down to a choice

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



between swimming pool and Christmas lights, and in this case I chose the former. I want to see someone seated as a county commissioner who will work to advance Norton as a place to live, work and play. A place welcoming to businesses and families and so I hope those who are eligible will write in Carolyn Applegate.

The swimming pool committee has gone to great lengths to present the facts related to the present conditions at the pool. The Open House offered tours so the public could better understand the damage and deterioration.

Some say they don't oppose a pool,

they just don't think we need one that expensive. A little bit like I feel when I go to buy ground beef. When we were married in 1965, I could buy three pounds for a dollar, now I am lucky to get one pound for two dollars. Everything costs more.

I always admired my mother for her lack of cynicism as she aged. Some people, as they grow old, become fearful and cynical. They become afraid of making a mistake, of not making the right decision and sometimes we will make mistakes and we will choose poorly. Welcome to life. But when the facts are put before us, the need explained and a solution proposed, then we need to set aside our fear, put away arrogance and bite the bullet, so to speak. Nothing is ever achieved without this process, so lets move forward and work together for Norton. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Keeping the rights of women in perspective

I recently got to see the stage version of the 1970's movie, "9 to 5". I did not expect to enjoy it so much. I watched a woman slightly older than I, continually nod her head in agreement about issues raised. You could tell she identified.

To me the play was surreal. Did that stuff really happen?

Of course, it did. But I guess I don't hold a grudge. At least not for 40 years! Maybe I never had any aspirations of making it big in a man's world. Or I was not all that angry over "the good old boy" way of doing things. Though, believe me, I saw plenty of it.

It is unfair women were and are objectified. Who knows what great advances society might have made centuries ago if women had been allowed to contribute as equals.

A woman, who I consider a contemporary, once cried to me, "When we were in college the only careers we were steered toward were teaching and nursing." Whether she really believed that is up for debate. It was during a time of crisis in her life. A time when she was thinking "if only" and "should have."

We've come a long way, baby! It's rather ironic that phrase was used to sell cigarettes to women. Virginia Slims liberating us via lung cancer! (Warning: if someone is trying to sell you something they may not have your best interests at heart!)

This Too Shall Pass

Nancy
Hagman



Over forty years change is inevitable. Among my friends, I see differences in the attitudes of those who reached adulthood a mere five years before I did.

Some women have always been ahead of the curve. A woman in the dorm during college was in Vet School. She had single room and studied all the time. There were questions about her choice of a vocation. Was she strong enough? Was she smart enough? Was it a waste to so highly educate a woman, who might chuck it all for marriage and children?

Now more women than men are admitted to vet school, law school, and medical school. The questions linger. In the case of Veterinarians, there is a shortage of large animal vets. Our Vet used to say it was partially because women tend to choose small animal practices and also because livestock producers are tight with their money. They never call a Vet until a critter is ready to die. After it dies; they don't want to pay the bill. You can make a lot more money off beloved pets!

Earlier in the presidential campaign much was made of the "War on Women."

Some will always look down on women's accomplishments. Or even actively attempt to repress them.

In other countries, women are subjected to practices like female circumcision. Forced to practice birth control and have abortions; sold into prostitution. They are not educated or receive only minimal education. They are considered the property of men. Their manner of dress and all social contacts are strictly monitored.

Tuesday, a 14 year old Pakistani girl, Malala Yousufzai, was shot but not fatally wounded, for her stand about the need to educate girls. The Taliban strongly opposes it.

A Taliban member shot her, and wounded another girl, on a school bus. Reportedly, "The extremist movement was quick to claim responsibility."

So ladies, you think you had a bad day?

It is insulting to women facing such attacks when American women play the victim in a "War on Women".

If you need a cause; find a way to support organizations that aid women whose lives are in peril just because they are women.

Then go see "9-5". It will help to keep it all in perspective!



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