

Here We Go Again?

To the Editor:

It comes as no surprise that Geri McCaleb sees no problem with turning our neighborhoods into residential hunting grounds. After all, the last time she was in office she was part of the deer debacle. She was a leader of and in support of a process marred by the placement of politics above science. She was part of the decision to go behind the backs of the community Deer Task Force and demand that the city manager spend tax dollars we don't have, to kill deer. To have her speak of deer feces during the mayoral forum, when our city is facing much bigger problems is disturbing. Shouldn't a mayor of a city like Grand Haven have a bit more to worry about than deer feces? Does Grand Haven want someone at the helm, who to this day, denies the fact that the killing of deer in the cemetery was done recklessly? Her quote that the methodology the last time they killed deer was safe is laughable and shameful. The link to the story is still available at <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=104823>. Eye witnesses speak of being in the cemetery walking their dogs while hired guns drove around in trucks and climbed the dunes shooting at deer – toward Lake Avenue! I called 911 that night from my home in Highland Park as I heard and saw the chaos. Citizens were not warned. I think we all know how far a bullet can travel. The recent events involving the Rod & Gun Club in GH Township come to mind. Miss McCaleb has been told what happened that night in January 2009 but to this day denies it. Grand Haven needs a mayor who is not afraid of the truth. Especially when the safety of citizens depends on it.

Grand haven does not need to relive the deer fiasco. Deer browsing is a home owner's responsibility. If they don't plant deer resistant flowers, use repellents, deterrents, or fencing, then the deer will eat their tulips and Hostas. If you build in the wooded dunes, you will have to be smart about what you plant. There are many sites online and MSU Master Gardeners to help. There is no justification for Grand Haven to implement a deer killing plan to address deer browsing - it's not an effective solution to the problem. It leads only to compensatory reproduction.

Miss McCaleb says we live in a city and should not have to put up with deer feces. Perhaps Miss McCaleb should move to Detroit. Grand Haven residents love the natural areas in their city, and they love the wildlife. We are a town in the woods – not a city where bullets fly because we become inconvenienced and unwilling to coexist.

Margaret Korcz