

Opinion

What Kind of Logic Is This?

The Spring semester is underway at Saddleback Community College (SBC). When the summer semester starts, non-residents will be charged \$10 for a parking pass, and, next fall the parking pass will cost \$20.

"If you take a class at the college," state the justifiers, "you will have to pay for a college parking pass." Good Logic! Because someone else pays a fee, we should charge a fee!

Perhaps we should look around and see if our golfers shouldn't pay an equitable fee for the use of the LWV golf course. Then too, a tennis club will charge several hundred dollars to use their tennis courts and ours are available to earn money for the mutuals. Aren't they?

BUT, we've heard, LWV can earn \$60,000 in parking fees from those mean old non-residents. It will be guaranteed that the cost to implement the collection and recording of parking passes will exceed \$60,000 by at least double. Can't you picture the crowds at the administration building when classes start and several thousand non-resident students line up to get their passes?

Attending SBC classes should be as simple and easy for a student, resident or non-resident, as possible. Interjecting unnecessary hurdles is not the objective of a retirement community. Or is it?

PROBLEM: Why do we want to charge the parking fee? Because the clubhouse parking lots are full during many class days and it is inconvenient for some of us to find a parking place.

OUR SOLUTION: Charge a parking fee. Will that reduce the parking lot requirements? No! It will only antagonize those who paid the fee, and, those who still cannot find a parking place.

It will only make the initiators of the fee feel good because they are generating an inconvenience for the non-residents. Instead of maintaining a positive symbiotic arrangement between residents and our community, we lash out with the intent of making everyone uncomfortable and at edge with one another.

Most of us retired and selected LWV as our home because, "It feels like one big family." The shared cost concept that was originally created was accepted by most all of the residents. As our average age is increasing, the majority still feels content with paying our share even though we might be utilizing the facilities less and less.

The non-residents do not charge us for attending the state classes and making them possible by the state's requirements. Why should we charge them for attending our classes? Especially when no-one except PCM benefits from the parking fees.

Only PCM comes out ahead by having to increase their headcount to manage this fiasco. That cost comes out of OUR ASSESSMENTS.

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