

MadrasPioneer

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Come on, Madras!

I truly love Madras. Close to Mt. Hood, near a beautiful lake, 30 minutes to an airport, lots of outdoor activities, a superb annual air show and fair, "relatively" affordable housing and just nice people. But of late I have become concerned.

Background: I was raised in Oregon, had a home locally, and I have been

investing in the downtown for 15 years. I am in the defense industry now and live in Annapolis but plan to be back as soon as I can. I just lost an amazing tenant on 5th Street. She decided to move to the industrial area primarily because of the homeless situation. And I've seen it firsthand - people sleeping on the sidewalks, throwing up in front of buildings, peeing openly, harassing

customers, and the list goes on. On top of that, I have had my buildings graffitied multiple times with little recourse.

Then, we've all seen the soap-opera drama with the MAC, the revolving door of city leadership and the loss of the brewery I thought was a step in the right direction in attracting youth to the town and offering an additional local

gathering spot.

Let's get it together as a community and focus on what is truly important - creating a vibrant city people want to visit and call home, one where our kids are safe and offers plenty to do. How can I help? I am willing to roll up my sleeves? It's crisis time.

Jeff Hassannia
Edgewater, Maryland