

workers in the emergency room. Our son is fine, and the fire department got there so quickly that had he not been, they would have been able to save him.

I just want to say that I am all for looking to "trim the fat" in certain areas of our city government when there is a budget shortage. I think that we should definitely look to make sure all departments are running efficiently.

However, I find it disheartening that in those few moments of terror, the fear that help might not arrive quickly enough because of budget cuts even had to enter my mind. Unfortunately, it did enter my mind, and that is why I write this letter. I didn't approve of cutting public services before this incident; afterward, it hits home to me even more that you absolutely cannot put a price tag on that kind of peace of mind or the life of a child or any other human being.

Should we make sure that these departments are not being wasteful? Definitely. But when we have to cut back services to the public, it is never a good thing. All anyone in this city would want to know in a time of crisis is that help is on the way. When we take away that security, we are doing damage to our citizens both physically and psychologically.

Holly Lafferty, Lincoln

Arnold partnerships

It is exciting to see all the positive coverage of the new Arnold Elementary School in partnership with Lincoln Parks and Recreation and Lincoln City Libraries (Home-room section, LJS, Sept. 3). The coverage, however, gives the impression that the "community school" idea is new to Arnold.

For the past two years, the Lincoln Housing Authority has been the lead agency for the Arnold Community Learning Center, bringing together partnerships of multiple agencies to provide before- and after-school programs and activities at Arnold Elementary.

The Lincoln Housing Authority administers grant funding and provides staff and other resources to manage the many partnerships that keep the classrooms, multi-purpose room, media center and other spaces in Arnold bustling with after-school activities.

There are 20 after-school clubs, two school-age providers doing after-school care, behavioral health services, family nights, a School/Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and an integrated approach to working with school staff that is unique to the Lincoln Community Learning Centers. The Lincoln Housing Authority also offers many family support services through the Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center for people in need in the Air Park area of Lincoln.

I am proud to be a part of this effort by the Lincoln Housing Authority, and although we are not a part of the bricks and mortar that soon will become the new Arnold Elementary School, we will continue to work in the new school to maximize the resources of all agencies by using available space, bringing partners together, working closely with school staff, and most importantly, helping to provide quality before- and after-school programs and services to Arnold families.

Dayna Krannawitter, Lincoln,
site supervisor,
Arnold Community Learning Center