



In The News...

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Preserving history is good, but we must focus on future

As a young girl, I remember going with my father to watch as part of the abandoned H-O Oats building burned. Ever since, when visiting my parents, I drive by the remains of the half-charred building. You can feel one way or the other about the casino, but the fact of the matter is these buildings sit unused and aren't even acknowledged until someone wants to develop the area.

I feel very strongly about preserving our history. I know how important it is to our future. But when the past stops the prospect of the future, where does that leave us? There are about 15 grain elevators that line our waterfront and very few people are doing anything to make them a productive part of our future. If these buildings are so important, why haven't these people been doing something to maintain them and utilize them?

In the Dec. 6 News, one resident was quoted as saying that it is like living in a historical museum. Well, what good is a museum if there aren't any people left to come see it? This isn't just about H-O Oats; it is about every recent project in Buffalo. It seems that every time we turn around, someone is holding up development for a building that has no alternative plan of use.

As a daughter of longshoreman and someone who grew up right alongside the grain elevators, I appreciate and probably value them more than the next person. But there has to be some way we can preserve our history and further develop our future.

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