

Council president asks voters to support more taxes

Editor:

The May primaries are just around the corner and the Village officials would like let you know about our two ballot items. One is the 3 mill levy (Issue #12). All of us have enjoyed our safety services throughout the past years. The money generated, approximately \$134,213, by the upcoming levy will be set aside and used specifically for our police and fire services.

The Police Department will receive 60% of the money, or approximately \$80,527.80. The current police levy covers less than half of the total amount of money required to fund the department.

The Fire Department will receive 40% of the money which will be used to purchase either a new fire truck or a new medic. The Fire Department is receiving a lower percentage because they will be

asking voters to approve a renewal levy in the very near future.

The second ballot item is asking you to approve the changes for the Charter (Issue #11). These changes will increase the number of Planning Commission members from four to seven and the number of members on the Parks and Recreation Commission from four to five. No one will be paid for being a member on either commission. The wording provides the potential to pay should we have enough business. Fees collected as a result of resident requests of the Planning Commission would provide any payment for services. Call the Village Office if you have questions.

Charlene Hayden, Council President
Buckeye Lake

Decision leaves 'watchdog' almost speechless

Editor:

Just when I thought the Kirkersville version of the "New Rome Shenanigans" couldn't get much worse, the Kirkersville GOB's (Good Ole Boys) proved me wrong! I requested a current "roster" of the Kirkersville public officials and guess who I found on the roster? Former Kirkersville Police Chief Robert Frye (who resides in the Columbus area) is now the Zoning Inspector! Can you believe this! The Kirkersville GOB's are beginning to make New Rome look like Kindergartners!

Not being a resident of Kirkersville isn't the biggest issue with Mr. Frye. He was cited by the State Auditor's office for what is commonly known as "double-dipping" while he was police chief and a street employee in Kirkersville. He was scolded by a former village solicitor for misleading council regarding an invoice from a shooting range where he spent more than double the amount that council approved and then tried to claim that the shooting range was double-billing us.

While in Kirkersville as the police chief, he ordered EXTRA CREDIT CARDS without the consent or knowledge of council or the village clerk. He and another officer ordered several hundreds of dollars worth of items at a uniform shop in the Columbus area. Council found out, a year later, that these purchases were made and the bill was outstanding. These were deemed personal purchases and the individuals had to pay for these items. Frye was the police chief when we found that NONE of the officers were qualified to carry a gun! Is this really the type of

person you want running your lives? How can the Kirkersville GOB's justify bringing someone like this back?!

This roster shows that the "International Property Code Board" still exists. Its three members are still NOT Kirkersville residents and include Warren Weber (Bennie Evans' boss at the county), Gary Wilhelm, and Tom Stratford.

Also on the roster is Mike Cloud as the Street Commissioner and the Zoning Chairman. Apparently your tax dollars are paying for a phone line for zoning, since the roster lists Mike Cloud and Bob Frye as sharing the same phone number. In most other cases, personal phone numbers are listed for each public official.

However, this is not the case for ANY of the Cloud family. Council member Jamie Cloud, BPA member Missy Cloud and, of course Zoning Chairman/Street Commissioner Mike Cloud are all listed using phone numbers of the village that, of course, restrict their contact with citizens. Perhaps they don't want to be inconvenienced by the public!

Over the past week, I received, anonymously, a copy of a letter written to the Kirkersville GOB's by a Keller Road resident who is asking that Keller Road be repaired. I drove down this road and nearly lost my car in the pot holes! Keller Road (a thru street used by the school buses) should have been paved BEFORE Community Drive (a dead end street that some of the GOB's live on).

Bonnie Mansfield
Kirkersville



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More Than 14,500 copies distributed in the Buckeye Lake area.

• Free in distribution area •
 Mail \$29/year; Students (Sept.-May) \$22/year
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News Deadline-Friday 4:00pm
 P.O. Box 1542 • 4675 Walnut Rd. • Buckeye Lake, OH 43008
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www.buckeyelakebeacon.com

Published by Impact Publications
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Letters to the Editor

Your letters are welcomed and encouraged. We would appreciate typewritten letters of 250 words or less. All letters must be signed and include your name, address, and a daytime phone number where we can reach you for confirmation purposes. All letters published will include the writer's name and community. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and legal liability. We will endeavor to print all letters received, but reserve the right to refuse any letter at our discretion.

Letters may be faxed to 928-7960, e-mailed to thebeaconnews@hotmail.com or mailed to PO Box 1542, Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008.

New police chief to address crime in two ways

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Talbert doubts the village's budget could support it, but she believes the village could use larger police force in addition to the full-time police chief.

Tussey is ready to hit the ground running May 28. First, the new chief said he needs to get into the position and speak to the citizens and the business people to see what they feel are the major crime issues facing them. Then, as a police agency, the Baltimore Police Department will need to develop a plan to address those problems. "Because of my background I have access to many resources that can be utilized," he said.

Tussey said the availability of law enforcement will be doubled when he takes office. Residents will see more rigid scheduling of part-time officers to fill any gaps in coverage. "Having lived here I must say that I have great respect for what (Rodgers) and his staff have been able to accomplish with somewhat limited resources," said Tussey. "This is the foundation that we are going to build on."

In regard to crime suppression, Tussey believes any crime problem needs to be addressed in two ways. First is education. Whether it's educating people as to the dangers of identity theft or educating parents and their children as to the curfew law, communication is key. Second is the fair and consistent enforcement of laws along with prudent decisions as to who will be reeducated and who will be placed into the judicial

system. "With our close proximity to three major population centers, the threat of transient crime is a ever growing issue," said Tussey. "That is why my officers and I will be out in the community speaking to business leaders and members of the community." Who better, he said, to know when something doesn't appear right in their neighborhood than those who work or live there?

Previously, Baltimore Mayor Kalish said there are several reasons why an experienced police chief will benefit the village:

- Establish accountability- The full time chief would devote primary attention to the business of operating the Baltimore Police Department, and firmly establish who is in charge and accountable for the actions of the department.

- Improve communication, operational consistency, and service quality- The full time chief will monitor day-to-day operations of the department and take immediate action when necessary.

- Establish a clear direction and vision for the police department- The ideal candidate will have several years of varied full-time law enforcement experience. The individual must have strong knowledge of all the common aspects of police operations, impeccable integrity, solid written and interpersonal communication skills, and the energy and willingness to overcome the challenges of building a professional operation within tight budget parameters.

One more week for election letters!

Next week is the last week for Letters to the Editor about candidates or issues on the May 1 ballot. Since we aren't expecting a large number of letters, letters up to 600 words will be accepted. All letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24. Letters may be emailed to charlesprince@buckeyelakebeacon.net, faxed to (740) 928-7960 or dropped off at our Blue Heron Boardwalk office on Ohio 79 in Buckeye Lake.