

Writer says Baltimore has many junkyards

Editor:

If Baltimore's "junkyard dogs" succeed in ridding the village of the salvage yard on east Ohio 256, they should consider further expending their energies in preserving the town's otherwise pristine image by attacking the village's other and more extensive junkyards. Straddling Ohio 256 on the west, there exists possibly the finest example of an agricultural junkyard in Fairfield County. What the villagers miss most is the choking odor of cow manure that was previously dumped as fertilizer along the Ohio 256 roadway. The VFW's neat and honorable location has been largely destroyed by the clutter of unsightly businesses that line the highway. And if the huge propane tank at the railroad were to be dropped on Iran, the explosion would obliterate that nation's entire nuclear capability.

Since the village has many junkyards, it becomes necessary to specify what section of the town that we are referring to. Occupying the center of the village, we have a unique and long-time facility for producing hydrogen sulfide and other foul-smelling gasses. As a byproduct to this operation, the plant also produces some paper.

Approaching from the north, we pass a slaughter house and what appears to be a graveyard for old tractor trailers before we reach downtown. Here we are greeted by a row of ancient structures that, mercifully, could be obliterated by a good demolition crew and imploded into a pile of rubble in probably 45 minutes. Front loaders could then have the entire mess in the backs of trucks and out of town within the week. But what if this was to happen? The present administration, with its lack

'Watchdog' may expand her territory

Editor:

A couple of weeks ago, Etna Township Trustee Paul George called me and asked if he could have a citizen call me to talk about Etna Township merging with Kirkersville and also asked if I knew of some other people who might be interested in talking about this. I told Mr. George that I was against this merger when it was mentioned several years ago and did not know of anyone who was for it. There was no benefit to Kirkersville then but I was willing to listen to the pros and cons. A couple of nights ago, David Goll called me and said that Paul George gave him my number. Mr. Goll said that he had spoken to Mr. George and another Etna Township Trustee, Dick Knapp about this. I was under the impression that this talk of a merger is being instigated by Mr. George. I questioned Mr. Goll about Mr. George calling me and he stated that Mr. George "handed it over to him."

Very recently, I have heard that Mr. George was questioned by a news reporter and he denied that he had called me. I attended the Etna Township Trustee

Family thanks community

Editor:

THANK YOU MILLERSPORT

There are no words to express our heart felt feelings to this community, except a huge THANK YOU!! The love and support our family has received from this town has been overwhelming. We want you to know that your loving friendship has touched each and everyone of our

of foresight, would probably replace the whole complex with blacksmith, buggy and harness shops.

For guidance, Baltimore should look eastward to the Village of Thurston. Without exception, this town has clean and uncluttered highway approaches to their village - north, east, south and west. Congratulations to the Village of Thurston.

Although there is probably few who would welcome a salvage yard in the village, in truth, the site is far less noticeable and unsightly than the other locations mentioned above. The village sports many sites equally objectionable. The administration constantly makes light of the progress made by the Pickerington community, but, at the same time, conducts its official business out of a renovated blacksmith shop in the basement of a 102 year-old Town Hall. But I am not not making fun. I myself have lived in the village for more than 58 years. I am simply saying that the village deserves better. But change cannot come until the residents realize that our officials are incompetent and are without leadership or foresight.

But one must be wary in their observations. Free speech seldom comes without a price and there is a fringe element in every village who would burn-you-out for criticizing their operations. (The barn fire of some years ago south of the village was clearly an act of arson).

And now, as the sun sets slowly on our easternmost junkyard and the western sky darkens, I crouch at my door, garden hose in hand, waiting for the burn-out.

Dave Mooney
Baltimore

meeting and asked Mr. George in the meeting about his call to me. While he did admit to having called me, he claimed he called me for an Etna Twp. resident. But I have found that this resident is actually an appointed Etna Township official as well as an official with the Water and Sewer District (who were involved in negotiations with Kirkersville). I made the statement that I would not support a merger between Kirkersville and Etna as I think the Good Ole' Boys system is going strong in Etna and we certainly have enough of them in Kirkersville!

Incidentally, according to Council member Miller's letter, Kirkersville has signed an agreement with the Water and Sewer District even though the citizens were against this! I'm sure there will be more agreements, developments or expansions that the people don't want. Maybe I will expand...how about "Etna Township Watchdog" or why not "Licking County Watchdog!"

Bonnie Mansfield
Kirkersville

lives. The outpouring of compassion and love from this community, has taken the cross we bear and has given our family the strength to endure. You have renewed our hope! Thank you and God Bless you all. Love,

Dennis & Shawna Channel
Millersport



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Letters to the Editor

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We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and legal liability. We try 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.

Skate at a rink, not on lake

Editor:

I would like to make a suggestion to those who wish to skate on ice and I consider my suggestion very reasonable.

Two words - ICE RINK.

It baffles my mind that people would choose to risk their life instead of taking a few extra minutes and extra dollars to drive

to an ice rink where 'their safety' would not be at risk.

I also think it's very inconsiderate for people to want to 'force' somebody into possible property damage that could be prevented.

Susan Mardis
Fairfield Beach

Police coverage to increase in May

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the council meeting. The village plans to take applications through March for paid part-time police officers that will be funded by the police levy voters approved last year. "We want to take baby steps," Matheny said. "Our first concern is finding qualified officers." The village hopes to find three to four part-time officers to supplement the part-time chief's hours. They would like to have the new officers on the street by May 1. The objective is to add 2,000 coverage hours this year.

There will be more officer coverage during the summer, Matheny said. Set schedules will be avoided. He added that the village is cracking down on operation of quad runners or ATVs on village streets. Violators will be charged by police.

Michael Carder, president of GGC Engineers Inc., updated members on the water treatment plant project. The firm has a construction observer on site. Construction is running behind due to the weather. The contractor, Crace Construction, is moving to 10 hour days, four days a week with eight hours on the fifth day. The raw and finish water lines to the new plant have been installed. Excavation for the clear wells and the footers began this week.

Carder said a pump test of one of

the two new wells went very well. The pumping rate exceeded expectations. "You are blessed," he said, noting that groundwater resources are very spotty in this area.

Carder asked for an additional \$2,750 to complete the sewer collection and capacity study. Most of the additional money is to cover meetings and informational requests about possible connection to the Buckeye Lake Sewer District. Millersport currently has about 550 connections.

The village's current wastewater treatment plant could handle about 140 additional residential customers according to Carder. However, the concern is about new phosphorus discharge limits and requirements for more highly trained operators. "Council wants to make sure the horse is ahead of the cart," Carder said. The objective is a long-term plan. It might be more cost effective for residents for the village to join the Buckeye Lake Sewer District rather than continue to operate independently.

Council members also reelected Sandra Lines as President Pro Tem. She will chair meetings when the mayor is absent.

Council's next regular meeting is set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13 in the village hall.