

Writer says police search of his home violated his rights

Editor:

I'm a resident of the Village of Buckeye Lake and have owned a business here for 18 years. I'm also a registered voter, U. S. Army veteran and lived in the lake area for 34 years.

I've only been to one town meeting and that was to support our police department several years ago. I went on the belief that the fellows I grew up with on that department would do a better job dealing with their friends and neighbors than a stranger from the sheriff's office. So it is hard for me to complain.

My home is on the North Bank. I leave the rear door unlatched, but shut during the day. It is locked during the night. My living room, office and kitchen is on the lakeside of the home and I can't hear knocks at the rear door since two interior doors separate it from the lakeside part of my house. I've placed a red arrow directing all visitors to come around to the lake front door.

A couple days ago in the early afternoon, I brought a client to my home office to look at some remodeling products. When I realized I needed some additional information from a nearby job site, I left my client, a babysitter and my 17-year-old son in the living room and office.

The following is not an allegation; I have the documents to back it up. While I was gone, a Licking County Deputy came to the rear door to serve a warrant on my juvenile son for a curfew violation. This knocked the door ajar and he then contacted Buckeye Lake Police Chief Ron Small for assistance. The two then entered that door and were in the back 2,400 square feet of my 3,000 square foot home for an unknown amount of time. Their presence wasn't

detected until they opened an interior door into my living room. They identified themselves to the babysitter, arrested my son and left.

When I returned, I promptly called Chief Small for an explanation. He told me that when the door came ajar, the deputy didn't want to enter alone so he went in with him. When I asked him why they entered without a search warrant, he said they entered out of a concern for burglars.

When I asked him why one of them didn't go around to the front to watch for the possible burglars fleeing (where they would have seen three people in my home through a large window), he told me I was out of line and should call the sheriff's office.

I did just that, filing a formal complaint with the sheriff's office and the county prosecutor's office. Then I went to our village office where the clerk told me that a formal complaint had never been filed against our police department and that she didn't know how or where to do it.

I called Mayor Frank Foster who said I should file the complaint with him. I did so and included a copy of the arrest warrant for my 17-year-old son's curfew violation. The warrant does NOT order a search of my home.

I am very concerned about the violation of our constitutional rights. I am willing to lose some friends and comfort to protect our rights. Once an American soldier, always a soldier. I am waiting on the resolution, not revolution. An American, father, grandfather and your neighbor.

Chris Fowler
Buckeye Lake

Reader enjoys Cotton Sites Christmas decorations

Editor:

This letter is overdue as it is now March, and everyone's Christmas decorations have long been put away (well, maybe not, I still have a pine wreath on my door), but the letter is due none the less.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Cotton Sites for all the time and effort he puts into the Christmas display in the backyard of his home at the intersection of Ohio 37 and 79. For many years, my family, and I am certain many other lake area residents, thoroughly enjoy seeing the homemade animated displays every year. We adore seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus swaying back and forth in their yard swing as well as hearing the carols playing when we are waiting at the stop sign. All the windows on the north side of my car go

down no matter what the weather so that we can better hear.

But I would be remiss if I did not mention the "piece d' resistance"...the carousel of jumping reindeer. The Christmas season just has not begun until we see them! So thank Mr. and Mrs. Sites. When so many of us are out buying the latest and greatest gizmos to plug in, you are hard at work in your shed, building some new surprise for all to enjoy. Your talents do not go unnoticed and we truly appreciate them. If only we could see them all year long! Hmm...how about shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day, jumping bunnies for Easter, flags on the 4th? Thank you again.

Lisa Maughmer
White Cottage, Thornville

Park National collecting supplies for overseas troops

Editor:

Park National Bank is heading a program to mail needed items to our overseas troops. They have drop off boxes in their lobbies to collect all donations. The list consists of:

Disinfectant wipes, gum, toothpaste, hygiene items, Mac 3 razors, Aussie Shampoo, movies DVDs, coffee, hard candy, Oreos cookies, white T-shirts & socks, batteries, sun block, Q-Tips, Zip Lock bags, microwave popcorn, protein & granola bars, breakfast bars, beef jerky, powdered Gatorade, tuna packs, crackers, books,

playing cards, lip balm, hand cream, shaving gel, canned cheese, magazines, Easy Mac, foot powder and note pads.

I know I have become complacent in the support of our service men and women and assume others have also. It's time we got back in line to show how much we appreciate what they are doing for us.

A special thanks to Park National Bank for calling our attention to this very important issue.

Cindy Smith
Hebron



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Letters to the Editor

Your letters are welcomed and encouraged. We prefer 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 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.

'Watchdog' says water agreement hasn't been signed

Editor:

Contrary to Kirkersville Council member Miller's letter in the February 17th Beacon, David Goll, a Southwest Licking Sewer and Water District board member, announced at the Etna Township Trustees meeting held March 7, 2007, that Kirkersville has NOT signed an agreement with them regarding water. Ms. Miller's letter stated that a unanimous decision was made in the February 7th council meeting to sign the contract in order to "lock in the price set forth with SWL water."

Ms. Miller also stated that they decided not to raise the sewer rates at this time. That's wonderful but that means they are still going to be raised at some time! And remember, two of the three members of the Board of Public Affairs (which governs the sewer system), are NOT paying a sewer bill. This sewer rate increase should be removed from any further action!

An invoice from a local tire shop shows that bills (for police cruisers) are being sent to "Ben Evans" at a P.O. box that was used in the past solely for the police department. This was a HUGE problem in the past. The

bills were not being given to the village clerk to present to council in a timely manner for payment and often council had no idea that purchases had been made until 'well after the fact.' Maybe by next week, my public records request will be filled by the Kirkersville Police Department or we will have to bring up the word "mandamus action" once again.

It's a shame that Kirkersville is still paying Bill Harper \$30 per hour as computer geek and yet there is no website; no online documents; no nothing! It sounds to me like Bill Harper is being paid to help with someone else's job. If the Kirkersville officials started doing their own work and got rid of some of the paid assistants, they could probably save enough money to not have to raise your sewer rates! And I bet they would even have enough to pay back the gentleman who was illegally ticketed (which one, you probably ask)! Chuck Starr said it very well, "Quit playing politics and admit those wrongs. Right those wrongs, then learn the rules!"

Bonnie Mansfield
Kirkersville

Trustee: 'Change is progress'

Editor:

Once again it is another Liberty Township zoning issue in regard to the decision of our Zoning Board of Appeals on the Richardson appeal.

My questions are: Why are these issues occurring on almost a regular basis in our township? Who in charge let these issues occur? Has zoning been ill advised in the past?

Zoning Resolutions should be reviewed

on a regular basis. Cases, that come before zoning boards, must be decided on an objective basis. In my opinion, it must never be about personalities or become personal attacks. As a newly elected trustee, my duty is to ask our Zoning Commission to review and update our resolutions in accordance with state statutes. Change IS progress. But this is my opinion.

Nancy Montell
Liberty Township Trustee