

## Kirkersville officials want to set the record straight

Editor:

We feel that the time is right to debunk some false information being circulated about the Village of Kirkersville government and the upcoming replacement tax levy.

1. A "replacement" levy maintains the current millage, but is based on the current valuation of a home or property. A "renewal" levy maintains the current millage but is based on the valuation of the home when the levy was originally passed.

2. The replacement levy will result in only an additional \$50.22 per year on a \$60,000 home.

3. The levy provides operating monies for the village's day-to-day operations, including road repairs, signage, police etc.

4. Failure of the levy will result in reduction of services, leading to potentially dangerous situations for Kirkersville citizens.

5. The "pay raises" voted for Village Council members, under Ohio law, cannot be given to currently seated officials. They only apply to incoming elected officials.

6. Council salaries are based on one meeting per month, with no additional compensation given for special meetings, seminars, conferences, committees, public hearings or other additional duties. The current \$90 per month breaks down to \$3 per day!

7. The mayor, council members, village clerk, police department and other village personnel are not engaged in any nefarious schemes or illegal activities. We are interested in one thing only: what is best for

the future of Kirkersville and it's citizens. Growth is coming to Kirkersville, We can either hide our head in the sand, and hope to maintain our small town feeling or control the growth, ensuring that the result is what we want.

8. The reason we have had to appoint persons to various positions is simple. Parties within the village spend so much time and energy in frivolous requests and malicious allegations against anyone brave enough to serve that they have intimidated all but a few from holding such positions for fear of baseless lawsuits, witch hunts to try and destroy personal lives and careers. (Remember, the lawsuit brought against the mayor, all male members of the Village Council, the police chief, and Village Council et al which resulted in dramatic increases in insurance costs and deductibles for YOU, the taxpayers. These same parties trumpet the fiscal irresponsibility of the current government.)

Council members will be conducting a door-to-door tour of the village prior to the election to allow citizens to ask questions regarding the levy.

Thank you from your village government.

**Council members: Brian Denton, Jamie Cloud, James Kincaid, Bobbi Miller, Rosemary Frischen and Steve Piatt.**

**Village Clerk Johnnie Adkins  
Zoning Chair/Street Commissioner Mike Cloud**

## New levy will just be used for fire, police departments

Editor:

I would like to encourage all Buckeye Lake residents to vote FOR the upcoming 3 mill levy that will appear on the May ballot (issue #12) and support our police and fire departments.

I know that we are all paying taxes and other things that severely cuts into our household budgets and those of us that are living on fixed incomes find it very hard to vote for more taxes. However, these two departments are a vital necessity concerning the life and death safety of our residents and our children. This levy will be used strictly for the police and fire departments and will provide the necessary equipment and manpower for them to do their job in protecting everyone in the vil-

lage. This will also free up much needed money from the general fund so that we may provide other services to the village. When money has to be transferred from the general fund to maintain other departments, that drastically limits our ability to provide much needed maintenance elsewhere in the village.

The present mayor, council, and staff are working very hard to serve the village but without your help in passing this levy, we are very much handicapped in what we can do and in the improvements that we can afford. Please help us to help you and vote FOR the levy.

**Jim Bartoe**  
Buckeye Lake Village Council

## Village in dire need for more taxes

Editor:

From the time I began on the Buckeye Lake Village Council, three years ago, my interest has centered on the village financial situation. Besides myself, the other two members of the Finance Committee, Drew Bourne and Jeryne Peterson, have financial backgrounds and we continually review all revenue and expenses in the village to ensure propriety. Reports are published monthly for the public that shows the Revenue and Expenses and Cash Flow of the village.

We are very aware that there is a dire need for additional funds to provide adequate safety services within the village. A 3 mill levy would cost a home owner approximately 25 cents a day on a \$100,000 property.

We ask that you vote for this levy so that fire protection, emergency and police services continue to be provided.

**Hilde Hildebrandt**  
Finance Chair, Buckeye Lake Village Council

## National Day of Prayer is May 3

Editor:

The National Day of Prayer is on the first Thursday of May. Each year the President makes a proclamation concerning the need for Americans to pray.

Seems simple doesn't it? It is not a

clarion call to bow to a particularly named deity. The National Day of Prayer merely recognizes that there might possibly be a "creative force" somewhere in the vast Universe who might intercept our thoughts and words and benevolently intercede in



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behalf of all humanity.

"I only work one day a week"; therefore, I am available at Noon on May 3rd to gather in a public place to bow my head and pray. I will be standing in the Bicentennial Park in Thornville and I invite anyone else who might be available to join me. There will be no ranting about political correctives that might be needed nor no bashing of people who walk a path that others might call "crooked". I have my beliefs; but I

will be at the Park to address one God and not an audience of many.

What about you? Could you stand, if only for one minute, at work or at a restaurant or by the side of the road? Who knows? God could possibly here our faint cry and "make straight" each of our lives.

**Doug Lynn**  
Pastor, South Shore Ministries  
Thornville

## Firebowl 2007 is May 5

Editor:

It's Firebowl time again. This will be the eighth year for the fundraiser that began in 2000 on the premise that it should be fun and give 100 percent of the monies collected. I was told it couldn't be done, but we've raised over \$30,000 since then.

Firebowl runs from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 5 at the Starlite Lanes outside of Baltimore. For the third year, it benefits the Thurston/Walnut Township Fire Department. Starlite owner Brad Williams is donating the use of the lanes and shoes. Eight teams volunteer to raise funds and bowl. I ask people for money. It's just that simple.

The reasons behind Firebowl aren't so simple. I respect people who use the talents they were blessed with and who do their best at their jobs. I respect the fact that we all are different. I respect those who try to make their community better. Civic-minded people get things done across America every day. A community must be strong to survive.

I respect our fire department personnel who answer our calls for help everyday.

They leave their homes and families to jump on a truck and face the unknown. Unfortunately, there are too few "thank you's," so they do their jobs and leave. I can write a lot more, but if you want to know more just ask one. You might be surprised to see tears in their eyes when they tell you some of the things they have seen or recall a successful save.

Firebowl raises money to buy equipment that isn't in the budget, but helps make our community safer. This year it will be used to buy computer programming for training and more. Extra funding may seem pointless until you need the ones who answer the call and then it's real important.

Really, I guess it's simple why we continue Firebowl - it's the right thing to do. I've been blessed by many people who have enriched my life by being themselves and giving more than taking. In return, I will do as I say and make my community strong.

**Ria Fox**  
Thurston

## Writer says no more new taxes for Buckeye Lake Village

Editor:

Well, here we go again. I knew it wouldn't be long before Buckeye Lake Village Council would try to reach in our wallets again.

What are they thinking? The county just raised our sewer rates by \$8 a month and they wanted a lot more. We've now been paying the "no water bill" for over a year.

How many times do we want to say "NO" before council gets the message - NO NEW TAXES. We budget our money and it's time council learns how to budget the money they already get from us. Please vote NO on Tuesday, May 8.

**Brenda Hileman**  
Buckeye Lake