

## Liberty Union gets state funding commitment for construction

Editor:

I recently received a copy of the July 7th edition of the Beacon and read the article concerning funding for Liberty Union-Thurston Schools.

Just last week the Ohio School Facilities Commission notified the District of the availability of funds for the state share of their building proposal.

Supt. (Paul) Mathews had met with me on April 10th of this year to raise awareness of the plight facing the district due to the unpredictable nature of the priority list we are required by law to follow. The frustration of constantly being told that money would be available and then having a new equity list push them out of reach again was certainly understandable.

The recent influx of dollars to our Commission from the Tobacco Securitization Plan in the state budget has allowed us to make funding commitments to school districts through #305 on the equity list (614 total districts in Ohio).

In April we began to structure a proposal to temporarily freeze the current equity list until the Tobacco dollars are spent. In reality that means that no district will be bumped to a higher position for

funding if they fall in the 1-305 range. This policy change will eliminate the uncertainty of "When?" that has faced high-growth districts in the past.

Liberty Union-Thurston also benefits from the fact that they have "locked-in" the local funding share at 40% by proceeding with their project rather than waiting on state dollars.

Governor Strickland's veto of a budget amendment will NOT affect funding for Liberty Union-Thurston!

As the new executive director at OSFC, I promised the supporters of the school that we would do everything possible to fulfill our part of the bargain to provide excellent educational facilities for all students.

It is my strong personal belief that we have a moral commitment to the boys and girls of our state. This is a commitment that is shared by the staff at the Ohio School Facilities Commission and Governor Strickland. These actions that have been mentioned strongly reinforce that commitment.

**Mike Shoemaker**

Executive Director  
Ohio School Facilities Commission

## It's time for the BLASST thank-you's

Editor:

Well thank God, the 2007 BLASST is over. Well, almost. My last job is to thank everyone. There's a full-page listing in this issue. I certainly hope I didn't leave anyone out, but if I did please accept my apology. Trust me, any omissions were inadvertent and your donations are all appreciated. I want to thank everyone for their love, caring and patriotic spirit embodied in this tri-county community tradition.

Plus a special thank you to the following people for all their efforts to keep this unique community tradition alive and well. Thank you Michelle Glen, Eddie & Bev Hulls, past and present Redneck Women, Mike & Marilyn, Dave & Patty, Henry, Allen, *The Beacon*, Terry Dupler

& Buckeye Lake Marina, Buckeye Lake Hardware, all the businesses that sold our t-shirts, Charlie Prince, Merv Bartholow, Kim Oxley, Buckeye Lake State Park Manager Tim Waln and his staff, ODNR Regional Park Manager Mark West and officers from other state parks, Billy Phillips, Mike Jolly of Hamburg Fireworks and last, but most of all Bud & Marty Springer. I am blessed and proud to work with such fine people.

As always, it was a privilege serving our community and I hope everyone is pleased with their investment in our Buckeye Lake Area Star Spangled Tradition.

**Victoria Wolfe**

BLASST co-chair

## Big thank you for the BLASST

Editor:

This is just a BIG THANK YOU to the Wolfe Foundation, Tory Wolfe, Bud & Marty Springer, Redneck Woman and everyone else that works endless hours putting together one of best fireworks displays around. You have certainly out done yourselves this year with this huge task and project. GREAT JOB!!!!!!!

Also a thank you to all of businesses and individuals that donated money along with this hard working crew to make this possible each year. What a great community we live in that supports an event as large as this by donations and hard working volunteers ONLY.

## New flags thank veteran

Editor:

On July 4th there was a flag raising and dedication with no fan fare, mayor or any newspaper there. We did this at Louie's Corner House as a surprise for Buck Malott. He's the owner and has been since Oct. 1976. Buck is a U. S. Air Force veteran and has done lots for the vets and veterans' organizations. He has also raised a lot of money for Tips for Tots. Willy Cupples arranged all of the day's festivities and also

got the pole for the flags. Willy and my boyfriend, Irvin B. Small III raised the flags. Irvin and I donated the POW/MIA flag.

We all would like to say thank you to all the friends and family for showing up and showing your support. When you drive by honk your horn and let people know you are supporting our troops and country.

**Irvin Small III**

**Shelly Swick-Schwarz**, Council Member  
Buckeye Lake



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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](mailto:thebeaconnews@hotmail.com) or mailed to PO Box 1542, Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008.

## 'Watchdog' says police rehire is a liability for the village

Editor:

In my last letter, I wrote about a meeting I attended concerning a complaint about the Licking County Planning Commission's Housing Rehab Program. Kirkersville Mayor/County Rehab Inspector Bennie (Jim) Evans has been inspecting jobs done by his son-in-law, Steve Piatt (also Kirkersville Council Member) via a company owned by his own daughter. But since my last letter, I have found that Piatt's name has been taken off the contractor's list at the county. I called the planning commission to see why Piatt is no longer on the list. Beth Jones, community development specialist, answered the phone, but said she was "not qualified" to answer my question and that I would have to talk to Director Jerry Brems or manager Warren Weber (who is also a member of the Kirkersville International Property Code Board). Though Mr. Weber did return my phone call, he would not give me a straight answer when I asked him why Piatt's name had been removed from the list. Personally, I would like to see a few names removed from the STAFF list at the county and replaced with personnel who would actually give taxpayers straight answers!

Speaking of staff and personnel... Chris Martin, one of the most aggressive police officers that Kirkersville has ever had, has been rehired by Kirkersville Mayor Bennie Evans. If you recall, Chris Martin was said to be TOO AGGRESSIVE for the Buckeye Lake Police Department. This is the same police

officer who was shooting at another officer with a pellet rifle at town hall IN FRONT OF CHILDREN! He was also the officer who harassed and frightened my daughter at her home in Pataskala and the officer that I had to call security on at the Licking County Courthouse after my son won a court case in which Officer Martin accused him of running a stop sign. Please remember at election time, that the current council and mayor do not seem to care that an aggressive officer is a liability to all of us.

A couple of versions of a crash involving the Kirkersville Police cruiser have been floating around town. When I get the records, I will share the information, but I do know that the cruiser was wrecked in BROWNSVILLE while in pursuit of a vehicle. Could this be yet another liability?

In answer to my inquiry, Village Clerk Johnny (Bob) Adkins told me that Bob Frye is no longer the zoning inspector. He says that Frye never did any work as zoning inspector (in the 7 months he was employed) and thus never received any payment from the village. He also said that another zoning inspector has not yet been hired. But I suspect Bennie Evans will not have to look any farther than a hand's reach to find a replacement. There's no doubt that he will 'hand-pick' one of his GOB's (Good Ole' Boys) to fill the spot. The only question is which relative, friend or coworker will it be?

**Bonnie Mansfield**  
Kirkersville