

Writer says costs are too high for retirees

Editor:

We as retired people and many who are on a fixed income wonder how much longer the greed of our government, utilities, prescription drugs, garbage pick up, home taxes, sewer and water rates, gasoline, hospitals, and, of course, the doctors are becoming more greater.

My gas company has been sold again and now is listed as a co-op, and therefore is not subject to the PUCO and can charge whatever they want to. My natural gas bill has risen by almost one half, and no one in government will help fight this. On top of this they have a \$55 disconnect fee, and a \$1000 fee for a reconnection fee. They have someone else doing the billing, someone else doing the maintenance service – they just sit back and take the money.

I am on insulin for diabetes and it has gone up \$40 after our government gave us Plan D this year. I have already hit the donut hole by the first of July. And then

there are the doctors; they want to retire in twenty years...

Garbage pick up has gone up more than \$20 for three months,

My house tax appraisal has gone up \$41,290 this year again with the same house. So much for our governor's new 25% homestead exemption; it has just been eaten up.

Sewer rates are doubling in the next three years, water rates are going up soon.

As far as rasing the value on our homes, I would like to know what I am getting for my buck and for the life of me I cannot find one improvement they have done for us. My road has needed repaved for the last three years and I still do not have working storm sewers. Our building inspectors still allow people to get by with anything. We also need more law enforcement.

Noel Dusan
Millersport

'Watchdog' says she supplies the information for others to act on

Editor:

In response to Erika Mudd's letter in last week's *Beacon*: First of all, I take the time to look at public records and then exercise my First Amendment rights and write a letter to the *Beacon* reporting what the minutes say. I inform the citizens of things such as the GOB's (Good Ole' Boys) spent \$400 on a chain saw and \$500 on signs, so that you can make your own determination on expenditures. Some of us see that and say, "HmMMM, didn't they just buy signs and a chainsaw? And why do they need a chainsaw since they hire a tree service company?" You can find the answers and then make an informed decision when you go to the polls.

As far as you thanking the police for all of the citations, it is certainly your privilege and right to do so, but, please, do your own homework before you believe that all citations are for speeding and that they are deserved. You will probably find tickets are being written for things such as 'no front tags' and I'm pretty sure you will also find that there are still citations being written on an UNENFORCEABLE stop sign at the Flying J and that most speeding tickets are written on the freeway. And, finally, get your neighbor, Bennie (Jim) Evans to explain some of the following issues.

The Licking County Community Development Advisory Committee held another meeting on July 11th to address a complaint from a homeowner participating in the Licking County Planning Commission's rehab program. The complaint about poor quality work was made against Bennie (Jim) Evans' son-in-law who was one of the program's listed contractors. Evans is the inspector for the program. While several of us were waiting for the meeting to convene, I asked Bennie Evans who was the Kirkersville Zoning Inspector. He snapped that he "wasn't here to discuss Kirkersville." Not two minutes later, one

of the CDAC members arrived and sat down near Evans and politely asked him, "How's things in Kirkersville?" Evans had the look of the proverbial 'deer caught in the headlights' while he answered, "Okay, I guess."

One of the CDAC members came in and told the others they would have to get him "up to speed" on this case since he missed the first meeting. He was nominated to serve as acting chair (by the others) since the chair was not present. I was disheartened that he had an entire month to review this case and obviously had not done so. While some of the members of the CDAC seemed very caring and conscientious, I was also disappointed to find that at least one of the members of this LICKING COUNTY committee is not even a resident of Licking County and another member's spouse is one of the contractors on the Planning Commission's list of contractors. Only about five members of this nine member committee showed up at each meeting.

Although my question was not answered by Bennie Evans, I soon found the name of the mysterious Kirkersville Zoning Inspector. And just as I suspected, one of Evans' former coworkers has been "recycled" into the position. Tom Frederick is the new Kirkersville Zoning Inspector according to a notice on the door of town hall. Mr. Frederick retired from the Licking County Planning Commission a couple of years ago.

Here's another tidbit from public records. One police officer's log makes it appear that he is patrolling in front of Flying J. He then stops a vehicle who he claims is traveling 50 mph in a 35 mph. Even though this traveler was given a warning, does the officer realize that the speed limit in front of Flying J is FIFTY mph?

Bonnie Mansfield
Kirkersville



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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 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.

Writer questions Cookston's motives

Editor:

I'm responding to the letter about Peggy Wells from Kellie Green. To my knowledge, Karen Cookston has never had a problem voicing her opinion to divert her vested interest. I do not know of any job where multitasking is not mandatory from time to time. Maybe Ms. Cookston has "too much on her plate!"

I would imagine a financial advisory position would be very time consuming. I would guess the majority of us would never work that many hours a day unless at some point there would be a grand payback.

Ms. Cookston's single defense is to always declare "personal issues" whenever you don't agree with here. That is so lame. I do not care for her politics. I did not care for the fact that sometimes the "i's" were not dotted and occasionally the "t's" were crossed. At least Ms. Wells has been consistent.

In the past I truly loved my former community of Buckeye Lake. Many residents travel for the winter. In the summer, we were home seven days a week, not just

for some weekends. I have lost count of how many years that Ms. Cookston was the president of the Cranberry Bay Homeowners Association. Her position there has always been a conflict of interest.

I have not always agreed with Ms. Wells. Here's my take on the situation. I love to garden, but I have found some weeds to be very invasive while, on the other hand, I have found weeds that supply greenery and don't choke out other plants.

I have relocated to another residential area at Buckeye Lake. Unfortunately, I am beginning to think there is some school out there that teaches Civic Duties and Homeowners Association Board Member 101. I need to take the part of the course that teaches you how to control with no tact and above all – don't do it fairly. Oh and also keep that ulterior motive right on top of that to do list. Maybe that is why Ms. Cookston works all those precious hours.

Anita Chaffins
Harbor Hills

Benefit supporters thanked

Editor:

Thanks to all the businesses that donated and to all the people who helped make Tara Kirk's Benefit successful.

Special thanks to Terry Figgins for the all day DJ service and the The Port Lounge and Smokehouse for hosting the benefit.

Again, thanks to everyone who was there with donations and moral support for the cause and me.

I greatly appreciate you all.

Jeff Neff
Fairfield Beach

Your Letters are welcome!