

Writer appreciates Kirkersville's low crime, safety

Editor:

I will respond to the most recent watchdog letter. This is not something I intend to make a habit of. I work an opposite shift than my husband. Between caring for our two small children and working full time the adults in my home are very busy taxpayers.

I don't need public records to understand that name-calling brings no positive results. I don't need to search public records to know that if you break the law, even if it's something as unimportant to you as failing to properly identify your vehicle, you should be prepared to make the necessary restitution. I don't need to spend time following folks around to know that I'd be unwelcome to ask off-topic questions (or any questions for that matter) to someone whom I'd treated with significant hostility. I don't need the records to tell me that speeding on the freeway is still speeding, or to tell me that it would be dangerous to pull out of the Flying J without stopping. If there is a stop sign there, you should stop. There is something to be said for obedience to the unenforceable. I don't need to look up public records to know that it's dangerous to drive 50 mph in front

of a busy truck stop. As you stated, the officer did not cite the driver, he warned them for their own safety. Again, thank you to the Kirkersville Police.

I did find some time this evening to do a bit of "homework", and what I learned was rather interesting. It's amusing, Ms. Mansfield, that you were disappointed that a member of the CDAC was not a resident of Licking County. I see that you are a resident of Buckeye Lake. You're signing your editorials "Kirkersville" when you are no longer a resident of the village? Where is this honesty that you're demanding from others?

Ms. Mansfield, you absolutely have a right to exercise the first amendment. That doesn't mean that the manner in which you are exercising it is appropriate, or effective.

And Mayor Evans? You and I have never met and had a conversation, but I'd like to take the opportunity to tell you that my family and I enjoy living in Kirkersville. We appreciate our low crime rate, and safe community. Thank you.

Erika Mudd
Kirkersville

Writer grows sour on political process, politicians

Editor:

Recently I got a personal phone call from State Senator Tim Schaffer asking me to help with funding his campaign. Below was the e-mail I sent back to him. I wanted to share it with you so you get a better picture of who I am and what I believe.

Tim,

I just wanted you to know I did receive an expensive looking invitation to your fund raiser along with your personal phone call. Some how, when I gave you a check last year I ended up on every Republican mailing list and some others as well. It taught me a lesson as most of life does every day. Since you saw fit to take the time to make that personal phone call, I feel it gave me cause and an invitation to respond.

I am fast becoming a non-believer in America's government as do many of the people I interact with during the course of any given day. I am at the point where it is clear that voting for anyone, Republican or Democrat will get you un-represented. Voting gets you the lesser of evils? By the time any politician has any power, they owe so many favors to the wrong people that the rest of us get screwed.

Please don't miss understand me Tim, that check I sent last year was because you stood up on the House floor and said what should have been said. I realize many politicians would not have stuck their neck out.

I saw you at the Buckeye Lake VFW Memorial dedication which is where you should have been along with many others that couldn't be bothered. I would thank you, but I feel that is where you belonged. Below is a list of things that have me so soured on "the process" of American politics. Until they are fixed I won't find a dime to give any politician.

1). The soldiers who serve this country and their families are sometimes treated

like third class citizens when it should be just the opposite. America is willing to put a gun in an eighteen year olds hand, but not a beer. A veteran can't smoke a cigarette in his/her own club even though they were willing to give their life for that freedom.

2). The health insurance piracy in this country is disgraceful. I don't need to elaborate.

3). God is being ripped from everything that this country was founded on. It has proven to be a bad road to go down and it's getting worse daily.

4). Foreigners use to take pride in learning America's English language. Now we who are third, four and fifth generation Americans have no choice but to press 1 for English.

5). If politicians and government officials were part of the same Social Security System that most of us are on, they would make huge changes at a very fast pace.

6). I think the obscene amount of money raised for campaigns is the saddest thing in America today. A limit should have been placed on campaign funding a long time ago. Just imagine how much money there would be to support our soldiers if there was a limit. Sadly they wouldn't see a dime and there in lies my bottom line.

Funding a politician's campaign is the last place my money is needed. My humble opinion is if you represent the majority along with what is right and just, you will be reelected with out my little bit of chump change. One thousand dollars can help buy a leg for a veteran. It could buy a couple of days of hospice care for the dying.

Tim, I love being an American, but I can't say I respect the direction we are headed. I hope you will understand where I'm coming from. Good luck to you in your re-election, I do think you're one of the good guys in a "process" that sucks.

Victoria G. Wolfe
West Bank



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Letters to the Editor

Your letters are welcomed and encouraged. We would appreciate 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 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.

Guest column: Enjoying Ohio's natural resources

By State Representative Dan Dodd

COLUMBUS – For a lot of folks, some of our earliest, and fondest, memories involve a fishing trip with a parent or grandparent, a relaxing day on a boat with a gentle breeze and still waters, or a fall hike to see the leaves that are changing color. Many of these occasions took place in an Ohio State Park. Fortunately for Ohio, more and more people are creating new memories for a lifetime in our state parks.

A recent report issued by Michigan State University for Ohio and other Mid-western states confirmed what many of us have known for years: Ohio is rich in natural resources and our economy benefits from our utilization, enjoyment and preservation of Ohio's natural treasures.

One of the most popular forms of recreation is boating. Last year, Ohio ranked ninth in the country in the number of watercraft registered with 412,578. These boats and the recreational boating industry generate about \$3.5 billion for Ohio's economy and support more than 26,000 jobs, according to a new study by Michigan State University's Great Lakes Commission and the Recreational Marine Research Center. While much of this activity focuses on Lake Erie, boating in lakes around the 91st District, including Buckeye Lake, Deer Creek, Lake Logan and Burr Oak Lake, not only provide enjoyment for thousands of Ohioans each year, but also provide a much needed boost to local economies.

While some folks do not see the

benefit of spending state tax dollars on areas that are only used for recreation, all Ohioans benefit from the enjoyment and preservation of Ohio's natural resources by in-state and out-of-state visitors. According to the Ohio Department of Development, approximately 37% of visitors to Ohio come between July and September, and no doubt many come in order to take advantage of Ohio's natural wonders, many of which are nearby. In addition, tourism provides approximately 560,000 full-time jobs to Ohio and creates \$9.9 billion in wages.

Locally, hikers from all over Ohio and the United States make Hocking Hills State Park one of the biggest tourist destinations in Ohio. Over 2 million people visited the park last year and, according to the Hocking Hills Tourism Association, studies shows that visitor expenditures in 2005 had an impact of \$267.6 million in Hocking County with \$6.6 million of that money going to local taxes.

While our natural resources provide wonderful opportunities for economic benefit, it is important for us to keep in mind the importance of preservation. After all, if these natural treasures disappear, the economic benefits will disappear along with them. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and members of the Ohio General Assembly are dedicated to enforcing and adopting regulations and laws to ensure that we can preserve what we have for future generations to create a lifetime of memories.