

Mayor's Report
Village of Buckeye Lake
December 2019
Submitted January 6, 2020

1. Toby Miller and I attended an ODOT District 5 meeting regarding our Municipal Bridge Project. We discussed the potential Right of Way impacts for ODNR and the Village of Buckeye Lake, as well as a general discussion about the project.

2. Along with Council President Zwissler and other interested parties of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (SLWCD), I attended the annual Conservancy Court held in Licking County Court of Common Pleas. On behalf of our village, I expressed concern related to log jams backing up the South Fork which may cause flooding. I also gave a brief update of our current and future projects addressing our own storm water issues and praised the district's efforts.

3. Regretfully, I accepted the resignation of Fire Chief Clifford Mason who has stepped up as the Chief for the new Refugee Canyon Joint Fire District. Chief Mason has done an incredible job for our department and was a great service to the village. He's set us up with 911 so that we no longer wait six minutes for mutual aid to be dispatched in the case a crew is not on station. We also now have a two-person crew on station nearly 24-7. He initiated our contract with Lexipol to update our policies and procedures. We have new furniture at the department thanks to his efforts and personal donations. The chief also had the exterior of the building painted and updated the chief's office at no expense to the village.

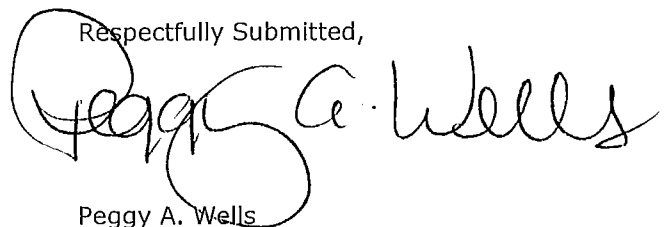
4. Welcome to our new Fire Chief Scott Hite who was sworn in December 29 along with our four new council members Melissa Beard, Don Cable, Linda Goodman and John Lemmon.

5. The accomplishments of our administration's first two years were featured on the front page in the December 29 Sunday issue of The Advocate. They also gave front page placement to our new Fire Chief Scott Hite in the January 2 issue.

6. Clerk-Treasurer Rochelle Menningen officially resigned December 20 but continued to work with Local Government Services of the State Auditor's office to tie up loose ends before she completely cut our ties. We are grateful for the tremendous contributions she's made to our village in straightening out many prior issues with process, accountability and human resources. Rochelle also made some very wise decisions with our investments allowing us to earn more annual interest than in past years. Her patience and kindness even in the most challenging of times are a testament to her character and temperament.

7. Due to the high cost of our current legal services, I spoke to Solicitor Brian Zets of Isaac Wiles to ask if we could be released from our two-year contract and he kindly agreed. After discussions with Police Chief Wardlow, we decided we wanted to change directions with some procedures in Mayor's Court, so we contacted current Prosecutor Mark Gardner and discussed ending his engagement January 31, 2020. I have appointed (pending council's approval) Brad Nicodemus to serve as both Solicitor and Prosecutor. The appointment was tabled at a December 30 council meeting. Mr. Nicodemus is attending tonight's meeting and is available for questions. His appointment cuts our hourly legal costs by 33 percent and his experience with the City of Whitehall along with serving as Baltimore's mayor will be invaluable.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peggy A. Wells