

BLV Mayor's Report
May 13, 2019

1. Voters approved our first additional police levy in many years last week. Thanks to the voters who recognized the improvements being made under Police Chief Vicki Wardlow. This will eventually allow us to stop subsidizing the department, freeing up some general revenue funds for other needs in the village. Thanks to Casey Clark and everyone who helped pass out literature or allowed us to display a yard sign. Thanks to the voters who also renewed our one mill levy for current operations. It's commonly known as the streetlight levy.

2. A big thank-you to Clerk-Treasurer Rochelle Menningen, who has now twice, graciously extended her employment upon my request as none of the applicants we have to date are either qualified or available until next month.

3. I attended an Opportunity Zones Showcase on April 24, at COSI, hosted by Director Lydia Mihalik of the Ohio Development Services Agency. Both Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther spoke. The conference included investor and adviser panels plus six showcase presentations from communities around Ohio. Our entire village is one of the 320 federally-designated Opportunity Zones in Ohio. An Opportunity Zone allows investors to completely shelter a capital gain if it is invested in a project in an Opportunity Zone for at least 10 years. I spoke with Grow Licking County executive director Nate Sturm at the Showcase who will help us market our zone.

4. Police Chief Vicki Wardlow, two police officers, our Mayor's Court bailiff and I attended the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce's Full Pool Breakfast, at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club on April 30. I believe the exposure helped pass our new police levy. Thanks to Dr. Poorman for paying for their breakfast.

5. Toby Miller and I hosted a meeting with the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club Commodore and area business/property owners who are experiencing a flooding issue behind the dam.

6. Thanks to the Licking County Land Bank, the eyesore at 340 Highland Avenue has been demolished. An old house along Ohio 79 next to the spillway channel was privately demolished last Friday (May 10).

7. Our stepped-up property maintenance code enforcement is getting noticed. I have taken several calls from concerned residents hoping to avoid having their old cars towed. I also worked with a property owner/landlord on the four-lane to have them remove a large pile of trash along the sidewalk.

8. Code Enforcement Officer Rex Adkins and I met with Roy VanAtta and Greg Ketter of the Licking County Land Bank today. It appears we will be able to recoup our assessments for expenses related to abandoned properties except for delinquent utilities. Land Bank has established a \$5,000 annual budget (for our village) on which we can submit invoices to be reimbursed. Rex and I also met with Advocate reporter Michaela Sumner to address her questions about Code Enforcement.

9. Christy Cooper has planned a Memorial Tractor Procession on Saturday, May 18, in honor of her deceased husband, Jimmy Cooper. The route will start at 11122 Baltimore Road SW, Millersport (south of Flying J) and end at 10767 Mill Dam Road. From Route 158, they will proceed to Palmer Road; right onto Rt. 37; left onto Rt 79; through the village to the Cooper Farm on Mill Dam which is across from our water tower.

10. We are coming down to the wire on JHP's offer to settle its claims on former OPEC-HC members for less than 50¢ on the dollar. Right now, our special legal counsel on this issue is recommending that we wait to see if OPEC-HC's receiver will sign the Settlement Agreement's Release of Claims on behalf of OPEC-HC. If we accept the Settlement, we would be agreeing to pay JHP a total of \$8,777.03 in four equal payments of \$2,194.26 due 6/30/19, 12/31/19, 6/30/20 and 12/31/20. We could also face additional payments of \$3 - 4,000 should the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas allow OPEC-HC's receiver to assess former members to pay non-medical claims. Council has previously authorized me to accept this settlement on the recommendation of our special legal counsel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Peggy A. Wells

