



# The SHORELINE

Volume VI Issue II

January 1, 2008

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# \$ 11,073,675.00

A million here and a million there, before long you are talking real money!

The figure in the headlines is the difference between a 30 year bond at 6% and a 20 year loan at 1% on \$ 10,500,000.00.

As this article is being written, the Buckeye Lake Sewer District is in the final stages of the application process for a special 1% loan through the Ohio EPA. As you read this, the process should have been completed and we should know the outcome.

But, the story doesn't end there. It was just about a year ago [1/31/07] when the Licking County Commissioners met with the local residents at Lakewood High School to discuss the planned rate increase for the sewer plant improvement project.

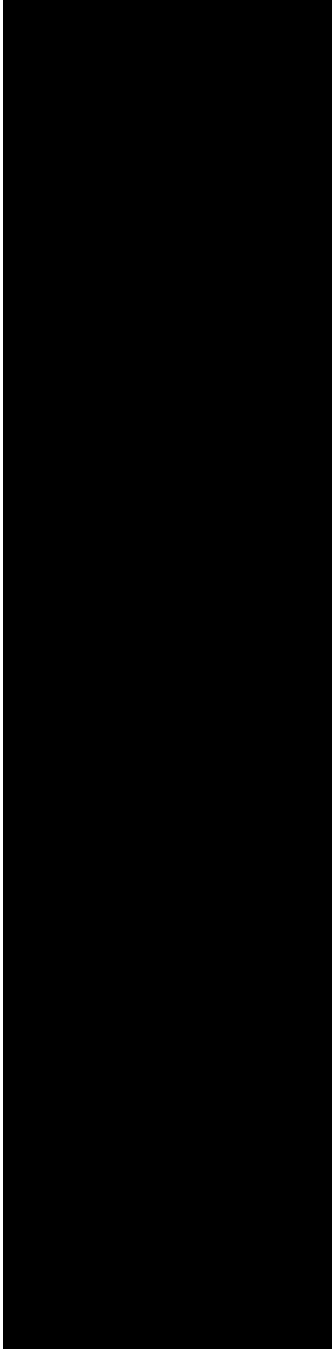
Many residents who spoke at the meeting requested the Commissioners to re-examine their financing options as well as the projected increases in the sewer district's operational budget.

Over the course of the past 12 months, much work has been done and progress has been significant.

During the early months of 2007, the Licking County Commissioners took a lot of heat as they responded to various questions regarding the proposed increase. These public meetings required the best efforts of both the Commissioners as well as the citizen groups to maintain some level of professionalism as they worked through the various options and scenarios.

A great deal of research was conducted and it seemed that every conceivable spreadsheet was developed to address the various operational expense issues impacting the proposed rate increase.

This summer, a new director was hired to replace the retiring director of the sewer district. Kevin Eby, having several years experience with the district, was named as director and



# The Challenges for 2008

As we welcome another New Year, it is appropriate to consider the challenges that we will face this year and the plans to address them.

New development continues to remain on most of our minds. With over 3,000 potential new homes in the planning, approval or construction stage, we find that we do not have the necessary infrastructure to support this growth.

In the area of water and sewer service around the lake, the Buckeye Lake Sewer District is moving forward with their expansion project and the Honey Creek sewer project is well underway. Public water is still not available to the residents of the Village of Buckeye Lake, Avondale, Edgewater Beach as well as Fairfield Beach and existing water tables are at risk of over utilization. Each new well that is drilled places an additional burden on the limited water supply found in many areas around the lake.

Roadways around the lake are not designed to handle the increased volume of traffic that new development will create. Federal funds are available through the High Risk Rural Roads Program [HRRRP], however, little work is being done to identify problem areas in engineering, enforcement and education.

The increased number of docks on the lake add to the current overcrowded conditions that exist on all holidays and certain weekends, forcing local residents to enjoy the lake at other times during the week. In addition, increased boat traffic that ignores no-wake areas, contributes to the degradation of the shoreline, add-

ing to the sediment and decreasing the depth of our lake that is already too shallow.

We will continue to work with the various governments around the lake in addressing these issues and are hopeful that the newly established Buckeye Lake Regional Planning and Information Exchange will make a positive impact on the decisions regarding new development in our community.

The Dam— The increased attention created, following a recent visit by CNN to Buckeye Lake and the accompanying television segment on failing dam structures is certain to place the dam improvement project back on the front burner with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

We continue to maintain an open line of communication with ODNR and the West Bank residents to assure a safe and effective structure that also addresses the needs and concerns of the people who make their homes on the existing dam.

Dredging is another high priority issue for all of us. An effective dredge program requires that the dredge material be removed from the lake and deposited on an upland site. The Maple Bay project and the planned dredging of the bay in front of the Port, both remove the material to upland sites away from the lake.

BLACA will continue to work with ODNR to develop additional upland sites and assist in identifying those areas of the lake, most in need of additional dredging.

Flooding continues to plague many neighborhoods around the

lake and “Octobers” come and go as the promised date to begin construction on the widening of the South Fork of the Licking River, to address the increased flooding conditions created when the Sellers Point Spillway was constructed. Monies have been appropriated and releases have been negotiated with property owners, yet the project remains unfinished.

The other phase of the flood control project involves the South Licking Conservancy District and BLACA will continue to support the efforts of the volunteer board of the Conservancy District to develop a proper resolution to this special challenge.

The VIP program, in effect for several seasons now, will be the focus of our Parks and Recreation partnership with ODNR in preserving the parks around the lake as a positive asset to the private properties owned by the residents around the lake.

Of course, there will still be time for some fun around the lake and we will continue to coordinate the annual Tour of Homes which will celebrate its 23rd anniversary this year. We will also continue to be a part of the 4th of July celebration with the annual decorated boat parade.

Fund raising will also continue to enable us to contribute back to the community and support the financial needs of the Civic Association. Our primary event is the Reverse Raffle held in May and will be followed with the OSU football pool in September.

Looks like 2008 will be another busy year. Now..... take a breath!

## Tips for Tots

The monies have been collected, the donations accounted for, the auction held and the toys have been distributed.

Our community is blessed to have dedicated people like this year's co-chairs Bud and Marty Springer, Tory Wolfe and, of course, the Redneck Women. Without the generosity, commitment and compassion of these wonderful people, many children in our community would not celebrate Christmas with new clothes

or toys, like the rest of us.

Started 10 years ago by Dave and Sandy Adams followed by Eddie and Bev Hulls, the Tips for Tots events have raised more than \$100,000.00 helping more than 2,000 families put presents under their tree on Christmas morning.

With only 304 days until next year's Tips for Toys auction, it is never too early to volunteer to help in this worthwhile effort. Give a call to Bud or Marty @ 467-



3120 and let them know that you would like to help. I am certain that they will welcome you with open arms.

**Merry Christmas**

## The Future is in our Hands

The Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association (BLACA) has been promoting the general welfare of the residence districts around Buckeye Lake since 1947. During that period, through the dedication and efforts of countless volunteers, much has been accomplished for the good of the community.

The accomplishments of the past are important and deserve much recognition, however, it is equally important to look toward the future and the challenges and opportunities that we will be facing as a community.

Much has been written and many studies completed regarding the growth and expansion of the residential neighborhoods that make up the communities surrounding Buckeye Lake. We believe that it is the responsibility of the current residents to be active in the planning process for new development. Increased involvement in BLACA gives a collective voice to the issues we will face and strengthens our position when discussing the issues with devel-

opers and elected officials.

Maintaining navigable depths in Buckeye Lake will remain a challenging task, however, with focused effort in dredging operations, enlightened approaches to shoreline management and protection of the surrounding watershed will preserve our lake for generations to come. BLACA will strive to be involved in all matters pertaining to the future of the lake.

Participation in local government forums, as individuals and collectively as BLACA, will assure that we are involved and informed on issues that impact our lakeside neighborhoods. Our elected officials need and want our input, as they make decisions affecting our future. As citizens, we have an obligation to be a part of that process.

Safe boating practices and the overall care and maintenance of Buckeye Lake can best be accomplished through a positive working relationship with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

As co-owners of the 32 miles of shoreline, surrounding this 3200 acre lake, it is in our best interest to be actively involved in the process of managing this unique resource.

Working together to achieve an improved community is not just a dream. The future will provide us with many challenges that will test our ability to resolve them. The future will also develop many opportunities to grow and succeed.

The Officers and Trustees of the Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association look forward to both the challenges as well as the opportunities and welcomes the involvement of everyone with an interest in the future of Buckeye Lake.

To be an active part of the happenings around the lake, call any of the trustees, drop a note in the mail with your membership renewal or send us an Email to [blaca@columbus.rr.com](mailto:blaca@columbus.rr.com).

You'll be glad that you did!

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The Shoreline is published and distributed quarterly to members of the Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association and elected public officials with an interest in the general welfare of the resident districts around Buckeye Lake in Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties.



Happy New Year

# 2008 Planning Calendar

**January**

16th—Trustee Meeting

**February**

20th—Trustee Meeting

**March**

19th—Trustee Meeting

**April**

15th—VIP Day

[Volunteers In the Park]

16th—Dinner Meeting

25th—Full Pool Breakfast

[Greater Buckeye Lake Chamber of Commerce]

**May**

15th—Reverse Raffle

17th—VIP Day

21st—Trustee Meeting

**June**

12th—Leaders on the Lake

18th—Trustee Meeting

24th—VIP Day

**July**

3rd—BLASST Fireworks

4th—Boat Parade

16th—Picnic Meeting

22nd—VIP Day

**August**

10th—Tour of Homes

20th—Trustee Meeting

**September**

17th—Dinner Meeting

**October**

15th—Trustee Meeting

**November**

19th—Trustee Meeting

**December**

17th—Trustee Meeting

## FREE Membership Offer

Once again, we are offering a free membership to one of your friends or neighbors. The free membership application is a part of your renewal invoice for 2008 and we encourage you to take advantage of this offer.

Over the course of the past 5 years, we have increased our membership, as a direct result of this special offer, by over 125 new paid members. Once people become a part of the Civic Association and see the impact that is being made around the lake, they are likely to become active members.

It is a real pleasure to see so many new faces at our spring and fall dinner meetings and to have several new people volunteering to assist with the various projects and activities around the lake.

Do your part and help your Civic Association grow.



### New Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$10.<sup>00</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP (\$25.<sup>00</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_