

Readers' turn

Send your letter to the editor to:

The News-Herald, 7085 Mentor Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094; E-mail: editor@News-Herald.com; Fax: (440) 975-2293

Good work

Courage is what it takes to be different, to embrace change, to execute tough decisions and what Mentor residents showed to change business as usual last November.

Courage is what our newly elected council exhibited with their decision to change the face of our city manager. Additionally, leadership is what they showed when canceling a fitness center study pushed through by past council members. This leadership will generate savings of approximately \$50,000 on something we voted down overwhelmingly.

We as a community nearly lost a valuable business partner, Avery Dennison, and ultimately lost a prime 10-acre parcel under the old council and city manager.

Is this the kind of forward thinking we have lost? Current actions of our new council have shown fiscal responsibility, vision and courage to do what other councils couldn't.

I'm not sure why the local paper's opinion, which is supposed to be impartial and unbiased, continually expressed a one-sided negative viewpoint on the change of city manager.

Could it be the direct line to city hall has been disconnected? This direction is nothing new and was debated several times in the past.

As an 11-year Mentor resident, I am not so willing to crucify new members of council for their decision as others recently have. Many of our council members are respected and degreed individuals of our community.

They will work relentlessly to move our city forward now and in the future. We must afford them the chance and respect as our elected city officials to make the changes they feel necessary to help our city prosper.

Remember, it is those with courage and leadership who will

lead us forward and not those who always make the popular choice. Keep up the good work, council members.

Frank Maresh
Mentor

Just imagine

I realize times are tough, and an increase in taxes is not what anyone wants right now. I would like to take an opportunity to share some of the things I've heard and thought about.

Many people I have spoken to said if the schools get really bad, they will just move. My question is, "To where?" Look around. Where will you find a school system rated as excellent as ours?

And who do you think will be purchasing your home? Would you purchase a home for you and your family in a community where the schools have nothing but the basics to offer?

I've also heard that the extracurricular activities are not important. Parents have said if levies continue to fail and we lose extras like music, art, library, drama and sports, to name a few, they will simply pay for their children to do those activities elsewhere.

Have you checked the cost of private music lessons? Consider what the cost would be to enroll your children in art and drama classes. The cost to play on private sports teams add up as well. Remember to add the cost of gasoline, since you will have to drive your children to all of those activities.

And what about the teachers? Many have said they make too much money and have benefits that are way too good. Spend a day in a classroom, and it will be clear that teachers don't make nearly enough. Consider what they are responsible for: Your children. I know I want the best. Don't you?

Take a good look at what an excellent place Madison is to live. Imagine what it could be

like. Please vote yes on Feb. 7, not only for the children but also for all of us.

Beverly Dietrich
Madison

Helpful

As a community service, the Geauga County Sheriff's office has initiated a program to assist victims of crime. This program was developed as a result of concern by the sheriff regarding the severity of physical, emotional and financial impact that crime has upon its victims.

My primary job as the Geauga County Sheriff's Office victim advocate is to serve victims of crime.

This holiday season, area businesses coordinated together and were able to provide assistance to families in Geauga County that were facing a very difficult time.

These families were able to enjoy their holidays because of the area businesses' compassion for fellow community members; and because of their kindness, the families learned there are people who are willing to assist others in need.

One family that received assistance wrote, "We want to thank you for the Christmas gifts. He loved them. He specially took a liking to the stuffed lizard, which is a little unlike him. As I'm sure you can imagine, the holidays were incredibly hard. Again, thank you and God bless you."

Contributions like this send a message to other community members that they also can help. A special thank you needs to go to the members of the Chardon Lions Club for their donations that were much appreciated.

I also would like to thank Hill Hardware in Burton for coordination of donations for a family.

Tracy Jordan, CA/CCR
Victim Advocate
Gauga County
Sheriff's Office
Chardon