

Enterprise article for 01/02/2013

Happy New Year to all! It is amazing that a new year is upon us. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Mayor and look forward to initiating many new programs in the village this year.

As mentioned in a previous article, Police Chief Talbott and I will attempt to establish a Block Watch Program throughout all Swanton neighborhoods, dividing the village in quadrants using the railroad and Main St. as the boundary lines. Our first meeting will take place in Swanton Council Chambers at Village Hall on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM and we are inviting residents from the southeast quadrant to attend. We will be canvassing door-to-door with flyers explaining the program, and placing a few personal phone calls as well, to encourage participation. Meetings for the other sections of the village will be held every few weeks. Our intent is to assign a Swanton Officer to each section as a resource person, but with the residents running each neighborhood Block Watch according to their own needs and wishes.

A newly appointed tree commission met on December 10, 2012 and all are excited to be a part of this new group. Four of us will be attending "Tree Academy" sponsored by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources two days in late January, with three other sessions throughout the year. I will be reporting on our progress in later articles.

Good news was received by Governor Kasich on December 13 when he announced that the Ohio Turnpike would stay intact and in control of the Ohio Turnpike Commission. If you have not yet read the plan, it includes several aspects. The first is to sell bonds which will be backed by the profits realized yearly in order to raise funding for three billion dollars in road construction projects much needed to keep our state highway system running smoothly. He estimates that approximately 65,000 jobs will be created as a result of the improvements, and he stated that 90% of the money raised will be used on projects in Northern Ohio. He also promised to not raise tolls for those who use the epass system, and to keep toll increases on non- epass users in line with the cost of living. All of these concepts sound reasonable, and I commend the governor for listening to Ohio citizens and municipalities who adamantly opposed the selling or leasing of the turnpike.

It is my pleasure and privilege to communicate with you through this column, and I once again, ask those of you who subscribe to this newspaper to share the information you read in it with other residents who may not subscribe. Please encourage them to consider a subscription, and also remember that the village has a website at www.villageofswantonohio.us which has very useful information for all residents. Recently, we have added several pages of safety and security tips and forms on the Police Department link for your use. I hope you will check it out.