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I was in attendance at the Swanton Township Meeting that hosted the design engineer for the ODOT "road diet" on Airport Hwy and SR 295. If you read the article in the Enterprise, it covered all the reasons why the road diet was the chosen plan. However, the design engineer did admit that this type of design was only the second of its kind in the state of Ohio. The other is in Cincinnati, and according to ODOT, seems to be working well. The residents of Swanton Township at the meeting voiced their frustrations clearly, but at the present time, no one seems to have a solution to improve the design, outside of returning it to the previous design, of course which, ODOT will not do. My understanding is that until there are excess dollars in the ODOT budget or someone creates a design that meets Federal and State "warrants", this intersection will remain as it is. The Swanton Township Trustees have all the contact information available for ODOT if you wish to contact them.

Last week I attended two meetings scheduled by Barbara Sears. She is a native of Sylvania, current resident of Monclova Township, and our State Representative. Her background is in finance and insurance, and she has an excellent grasp on these subjects in the State of Ohio. She updated elected officials from both Lucas and Fulton Counties on bills presently being discussed in the State Legislature and reviewed the State Budget. One particular item of concern for the Village of Swanton and other municipalities is HB 5. This is a bill to standardize local income taxes across the state and the collection by the state of local taxes. Swanton Village Council opposes this measure and we have informed the state via a letter. It is being promoted by certain business groups that would benefit from the standardization of forms and rates. It is still being sorted out in committee, but I suspect there will be a decision yet this year.

With the arrival of spring, I have been able to schedule many community service groups, most including youth, for the clean-up of our village and the planting of flowers. If you belong to a group that would like to be involved in community service, contact me at 419.826.0335. I have a list of projects I can suggest, and the village will supply guidance and tools as needed.

I will be participating in "JA for a Day" at the Swanton Middle School on May 15. This is a day where local business leaders teach the students principles of business. It will require a training session from the local JA representative. I always enjoy the opportunities I am afforded to work with our local school students. Their enthusiasm and interest is refreshing.