

Village of Morristown



From Mayor Gordon Price

The Importance of Planning

Belmont County is facing record growth as a result of the oil and gas industry. We don't know exactly what will happen, but we do know that the development that comes with the industry will change things. Most of the changes will be good, others will not, and we must be prepared. There are plenty of examples in neighboring states where there were negative consequences because of a failure to plan. Here in Morristown, we are planning for the future and that is why a zoning ordinance is being considered.

The purpose of the proposed zoning ordinance is to:

- Guide future growth and development
- Protect the property you have now

New development must be in harmony with what we have. This ordinance was thoughtfully written and takes into consideration everything we currently have. Unfortunately, fear and misunderstanding about it have caused worry and strife. The purpose of this newsletter is to share information so you understand what zoning will and *will not* do.

Zoning is meant for the benefit of Morristown property owners and residents. Once you understand this basic purpose, the benefits are obvious. We have invested in our homes and I think you'll agree that whether we own, rent, or lease, we like where we live. That could change. No one should be permitted to decrease your quality of life or de-value your property by placing something next to it that is not consistent with the neighborhood. This can happen without proper legislation. Many years ago in a nearby community, a 24-hour grocery/carryout was built in a residential area. Residents complained, but nothing could be done because there was no legislation in place. So, the noise, flashing lights and nightly traffic forever altered the neighborhood.

Our zoning ordinance will make sure that new buildings or structures are in harmony with the ones that already exist. The ordinance affects only *new* buildings or structures. *What currently exists on your property will not change.*

We should welcome progress that enhances Morristown. Zoning makes properties attractive to developers who prefer to locate where there is some certainty that their investment will be accepted and protected. The legislation as proposed will help us plan our future growth

DIRECTORY Village Office 782-1551

Mayor
Gordon Price

Fiscal Officer
Cheryl Borkoski

Solicitor
Ed Sustersic

Council Members

Lois Barr
Judy Bonifield
Vaughn Butler
Doyle Groves
Pamela McCort
Robert Thomas

Water Board
Lowell Akers
Jack Akers
Michael L. Mudrak

Park Commission
Vicki Burghy
Robin Thomas
Don Hearn

Please turn over

Planning...continued from page 1

and development as more and more people become interested in our area.

Council meets on the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the village office.

I have mentioned what zoning will do. There are things it will not do. Consider this:

- The zoning ordinance will not change the size, shape or location of any building, porch, deck, barn, shed or fence that currently exists on your property.
- The zoning ordinance will not change the size or condition of your front yard, side yard, back yard or driveway.
- The zoning ordinance cannot change anything you are now doing.

You can read the proposed ordinance on the village's website, www.morristownohio.org Copies can also be obtained for a small fee (as permitted by law) by contacting the village offices at 782-1551. If you have any questions, please call me. There will be a public hearing on the proposed ordinance where your views will be recorded. Council will then take all of the comments and concerns into consideration. This process is required by law. The hearing date has not been set, but it will be published 30 days in advance.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. We have come a long way and made a lot of progress over the last 10 years or so. If our way of life is to continue, we must have vision for the future. The planning we do, or don't do, today will have an impact on that future.

Questions About Your Water Bill?

If you think there is an error on your monthly water bill or if you have a question about your bill, please call the village office at 782-1551 for assistance. If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction, it should then be brought before the Board of Public Affairs, which meets monthly. The BoPA is Lowell Akers, president, Jack Akers and Michael Mudrak. If, after discussing the matter with them, it is still not resolved, then it should come before village council for final resolution.

Water bills are due on the 16th of the month. When the bills are processed, the penalties are *automatically* applied. Penalty adjustments should be approved through the BoPA. Penalty adjustments are audited by the State of Ohio and must have merit. Adjustments are normally only made for leaks, misread meters, final bills, etc.

There has never been a grace period from the due date when penalties are not applied (there used to be a grace period for *disconnection* due to non-payment). Past due amounts should be paid by the 30th of the month to avoid disconnection.

The village has an automated billing system and water and sewer rates are calculated using the following schedule, which was set by the Board of Public Affairs and approved by village council.

Water base rate (minimum)	\$12.00 per month for 2,000 gallons or less
plus.....	\$ 6.00 per thousand - 2,001-12,000 gallons
	\$ 4.40 per thousand - 12,001 and higher.

Sewer base rate (minimum)	\$43.00 per month for 2,000 gallons or less
plus.....	4.50 per thousand - 2001 and higher.

Construction Fee	\$10.00 per month
------------------	-------------------

The Board of Public Affairs will meet October 17, 2012 at the village office.



TREAT NIGHT AND CAKE WALK

Treat Night for village children ages 12 and under will be Wed., October 31st, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Those wishing to give out treats should have a porch light burning. A Cake Walk will follow at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Morristown Auxiliary.

PARK WORK DAY OCTOBER 21st

The Park Board, which oversees operations at the Lynn-Hunkler Memorial Park, has scheduled a Park Work Day for Sunday, October 21 beginning at noon. Volunteers are always needed.

The Park Board has selected benches that will be purchased and placed throughout the park. If you would like to order one, contact Robin Thomas or Vicki Burghy. The benches are approximately \$229 with personalized engraving. They can have a standardized message, like *Lynn-Hunkler Memorial Park*, or other approved messages.