



THE VOTER

President's Podium

Congratulations go to league members Linda Poinar for her re-election to the First Ward Council seat, Christine Cipa for retaining her seat on the Board of Education, Carol Kilway for winning the Ward Four Council seat on her first time running for public office and Megan Raber who became city Law Director in an uncontested race. We are so proud of you all!

Sixteen members and friends joined together at dinner in Rose's Car at Erie Station before the November meeting and had such a good time that we would like to continue getting together periodically prior to meetings. Stay tuned for our next dinner which will probably be sometime in the Spring. Dr. Steve Brooks, the scheduled speaker at the November meeting, was called away on a family emergency. Our gratitude goes to Dr. John Green, Director of the Bliss Institute at the University of Akron, who stepped in at the last minute to be our speaker. His insightful comments and analysis of the recent election was both fascinating and thought provoking.

The Presidents of the five leagues in Summit and Portage Counties are getting together at the end of the month to share ideas, best practices and possibilities for collaboration. Some of you may remember when the leagues collaborated in sponsoring a very successful leadership training program for high school girls a few years ago. We look forward to renewing old friendships and finding new ways to interact.

Don't miss our December Holiday Express Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 10th. Kim Ray is in charge of the fun and games and experience tells us she will provide lots of both!

Warm holiday wishes to you and your families,

Nancy Treichler

Nancy Treichler

HOLIDAY EXPRESS

Saturday, December 10, 2011
10:30 a.m.
BRUNCH

Rose's Car at Erie Station Grille

Favors, Games and Fun!

Bring a non-food item for
Good Neighbors
e.g. soap, paper products,
cleaning supplies

*RSVP by December 8th to
Marlene Fire (330) 633-3829
You may email: mgfire@gmail.com*

No General Meeting in January

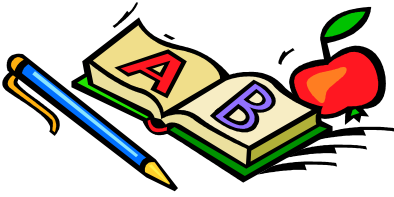
Save the Date!

February 16, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

Health Care Reform



Les Bennett Center
Tallmadge Middle School



BOARD BYTES

By Valorie Prulhiere

Election Day has come and gone, and with it, the community has spoken. Chistine Cipa, appointed by the Board earlier in the year to fill a vacancy, was elected to retain her seat for a full term. Jennifer Justice Carter was also elected to a four year term.

Tim Bryan, who elected not to run to retain his Board position due to conflicting work and Board schedules, will conclude his Board service on Dec 31. Please join me in thanking Tim for his service.

I'd like to highlight two ongoing examples of the school's collaboration with its stakeholders:

- Earlier this month, close to 100 community members met with the school leadership team to participate in a long range planning process for the district, with the focus on needs in grades K-8. This is part of the 5 year strategic plan that encompasses curriculum, finance, community engagement, facilities and technology. If you are interested in participating, or have an questions, please contact Superintendent Jeff Ferguson or any Board member.
- Parents, staff and students are currently meeting to discuss possible adjustments to the school calendar beginning next year, which could align the end of the semester (and final exams) with the Christmas break.

Congratulations to the Blue Devil football team for their successful season and strong showing in post season play.

NOVEMBER 2011 CITY COUNCIL REPORT

By: Linda Poinar, Ward 1 Councilperson

The last council meeting of the year is December 8. A public hearing is scheduled for the 2012 City of Tallmadge Budget that evening. As we look forward to the new year, the city faces challenges as we continue along the path to economic recovery. The positive news is that we have recovered much of our loss in income receipts, although this merely returns us to revenue levels of three years ago. Continued reductions in local government funds from the state of Ohio will impact the 2012 budget, resulting in a stagnation of resources.

The city has been able to withstand the recent budget constraints due to consolidation of services with the county and other communities, including moving our dispatch center to Stow and eliminating our building department, by utilizing Summit County's services. The utilization of RITA for income tax collections and employee retirement has also streamlined the city's payroll. The city is committed to continue to explore other collaborative efforts with local communities, our school system and local universities.

The 2012 budget is a conservative budget, but it will continue to provide quality services to our residents. Capital expenditures are limited to two new police cruisers and a fire squad, two new plows and new 800 mhz radios for the road department, continued replacement of equipment at the Rec Center, as well as the completion of the North Thomas Road water line.

City Council will meet with the Heritage Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission to further discuss the alterations to the boundaries of the Historic District on December 13.

Lastly, I would like to thank Law Director Penny Taylor and Finance Director Jill Stritch for their many years of service to the City of Tallmadge. They will both be retiring at the end of this month. Their knowledge and expertise will be missed. I wish them happiness and wellness in their retirement and future endeavors.

Leagues Interview Summit County Board of Election

Background

In June 2009, the State of Ohio settled a four-year-old lawsuit with the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County, and 12 individual plaintiffs. The lawsuit asserted that Ohio's voting system arbitrarily denied its citizens the right to vote or made voting more difficult based on where they lived, and was so unfair as to deny Ohioans' fundamental right to vote. The complaint chronicled deficiencies in Ohio election administration over more than three decades, including widespread problems with election planning, voter registration, the absentee and provisional ballot processes, the training of poll workers, the organization of polling places and precincts, the allocation of voting equipment and resources, disability access, and voting technology and security.

The settlement agreement outlines a number of terms with which the Secretary of State and, by extension, county boards of elections must comply during the five-year settlement period. The League has every expectation that the Secretary of State and local boards will make a good-faith effort to comply with the terms, but we also recognize that it is the responsibility of the League to monitor compliance and take action if we find that the state is not complying with the settlement terms.

While the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund can monitor compliance at the state level, they cannot determine whether county Boards of Elections are actually implementing the requirements of the settlement agreement. Many Leagues, including the Akron and Hudson Leagues, interviewed their Boards of Election following the 2009 general election and their findings were reported to the Secretary of State. Once again, local Leagues across Ohio are being asked to interview their county Boards of Elections in a cooperative effort to ensure that every eligible voter can vote and that every qualified vote is counted.

November Meeting Report

Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce

By Rose Strebler

Mr. Nick Ciofani, Deputy Director of Regional Representatives, speaking on behalf of Josh Mandel, State Treasurer of Ohio, explained that the Treasurer's office is available to help small business programs as well as citizens with questions. Mr. Ciofani's e-mail address is Nick.Ciofani@Tos.Ohio.Gov, cell phone (330) 301 4830.

Mayor Dave Kline reported that some people are unhappy with the plan to reduce the design control district, however, there is more support for reducing the district to Tallmadge Circle and contiguous parcels. Legislation on this matter is still pending.

Mary Cea, Chamber Director, spoke about the Chamber sponsored "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" program to be held on Sunday, December 4th from 1 - 3 p.m. in the Tallmadge Community Center. Activities and complementary cookies for the children will be provided and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there for pictures. Raffle tickets for the Chamber Christmas tree are available in the Chamber Office Monday through Friday from 9 am. to 1 p.m.

President Jerry Feeman introduced Don Cockroft, a former American football punter and place kicker who played thirteen seasons in the NFL with the Cleveland Browns. Mr. Cockroft authored a book, *The 1980 Kardiak Kids, Our Untold Stories*, dedicated to Brown's fans which he said was about a team that wouldn't give up. Additional details and a book overview are available on the web at TheKardiakKids.com.

Redistricting Update

Members of the Ohio House continue to negotiate for a new congressional redistricting plan, but time is running out. The first plan was included in HB319 , which was signed into law on September 26, 2011, but is currently being challenged through the referendum process. Lawmakers are now debating another redistricting plan developed by Republicans and included in HB369. HB369 also consolidates the March and May 2012 primaries into one March 2012 primary. To avoid the two primaries lawmakers need to approve the new congressional redistricting map before the December 7, 2011 filing date for candidates for Congress for a March primary.

Information provided by Sarah J. Lowry, Graduate Student Intern. LWV Greater Youngstown

LEAGUE WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Barb Deleone, a 27 years resident of Tallmadge and owner of Caritas Counseling, became our newest member in November. She and husband Joe, a union electrician, raised their three children here during which time Barb taught school. After her children grew older, she obtained a master's degree in educational counseling and four and one half years ago founded her own business which is located on Northeast Ave. We are delighted to welcome her into the League.



**Tallmadge
League of Women Voters**

*PO Box 435
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278*

Officers

Nancy Treichler, President 2011–2013
Marlene Fire, Vice–Pres. 2011–2012
Leslie Zaynor, Secretary 2011–2013
Barb Mattern, Treasurer 2010–2012

Elected Board

Nancy Wack 2011–2013
Peggy Manson 2011–2013
Helen Fire 2011–2012
Carmen Thompson 2010–2012

Appointed Board

Sue Yatsu 2011–2012
Susan Schunk 2011–2012
Sue Ellen Hughes 2011–2012

Ex Officio Members

Kim Marfy
Kim Ray
Julia Spiker

LWV of Ohio Liaison

Meg Flack

*The Board of the TLWV meets on the first Saturday
of the month.*

*General membership meetings are on the third
Thursday of the month September thru November
and February thru April. December and May
meetings are held on Saturday.*

*No meetings are scheduled in
June, July, August or January.*

THE VOTER

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Melanie E. Wasson, Editor

*Contributions to our newsletter
are always welcome.
Please e-mail articles
by the 30th of each month to
Nancy Treichler at nancyt@neo.rr.com*

We're on the Web!!
For more information, visit
www.lwvtallmadge.org

Great Christmas Gift

Tallmadge throws available in navy blue
and cranberry – \$50

Contact: Barb Mattern at

blmattern@att.net,

or

Nancy Treichler at nancyt@neo.rr.com

