LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Slandering family hurts community

This past Tuesday, Aug. 4, I attended a Bedford Township meeting. In these meetings you are allowed a public comment time of two minutes and five minutes to express your opinions, views, and comments. I know that people are busy but this is your Township and the only way this Board will know what you are thinking or want of them, is to show up at these meetings and express your opinions and support.

While I was there, the Bedford Watch group expressed concern about the area of Lewis and Sterns roads where the Ford Dealership is located. While they were speaking the word "greed" was mentioned concerning the Whitman family. The facts are that this family has given at least $2,000,000.00 to Bedford Township in the form of the Francis Family YMCA and the Whitman Center. If that's greed, then let's get more families like this in the township. Yes, they have provided goods and services that we and people in surrounding areas have purchased from them. They have chosen to give back to this township without any strings attached.

This Bedford Watch group has a right to their opinions, but to attack a good family like this is just plain wrong.

Frank Knoll
Lambertville

Settle rezoning issue once and for all

Mr. Whitman has filed yet another lawsuit, challenging the Bedford Township Board's decision regarding the rezoning of his property and the Referendum vote.

A referendum vote was won by the people of Bedford Township to not change the zoning of the Whitman property. For 8 years his zoning requests have been denied. The message, loud and clear, is that the citizens of our community do not want that property zoned to allow for a big box store.

It is time to look at a plan that would allow for responsible growth at Lewis and Sterns. A plan that could be accommodated by the current zoning.

But Mr. Whitman has chosen to put this township through another court battle.

Everyone of the 3,209 people who voted No on the referendum deserves to be heard and to have their vote validated in court. The only acceptable conclusion to this issue is in court. In the last Whitman lawsuit, which Mr. Whitman lost, a portion of Judge Costello's decision was based on the will of the people and elected officials obligation to listen to their constituents.

The claims that a court trial will cost the township money, has not yet been proven. In comparison to years of paying for road improvements and other tax burdens that a big box store brings over the years, it would still be the lesser of two evils.

During the 2006/2007 Whitman lawsuit, the Township Board tried to settle out of court, but because of a huge public outcry, they voted to go to trial. I am asking Mr. Wilburn and the Township Board to allow this lawsuit to go before Judge Costello. I hope you will, too

Judy Frankowski
Temperance
Bedfordwatch member

Festival kicks off Labor Day weekend

St. Joseph Catholic School in Erie will host its annual Labor Day Weekend Festival.

The festival will take place beginning Sept. 4. The festival will be open from 5:30 to 12:30 a.m. Sept. 4; noon to 12:30 a.m. Sept. 5 and 12:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sept. 6.

Live entertainment will be available. Featured groups include Empire Drift on Friday; Second Wind, Saturday and Exit 17 on Sunday.

Specialty dinners will take place throughout the weekend and include a chili cook-off on Friday, barbeque rib dinner on Saturday and chicken dinner on Sunday.

Additional activities include kids' games, a baby contest, raffles, rides, bingo, gambling tent with Texas Hold'Em poker. Tournaments will take place for softball, basketball and horseshoe tournaments.

For a complete listing of events, visit www.stjosephechurcherie.catholicweb.com.

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