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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Quality-of-life issues also deserve attention

Economic development supplies the lifeblood of a community, but access to a fulfilling, quality life makes a community truly desirable.

The White Township supervisors have focused on development for a number of years with some success. But White Township and its leadership now need to work toward a balance between development and quality of life so we all benefit from those economic successes.

The imbalance has become clear recently as revealed by two issues: the plan to log White's Woods and the coal tippie controversy. In these cases the existing laws and the supervisors supported economic development while ignoring the negative impact on our quality of life. It appeared that the supervisors were insensitive to the expressed concerns of large numbers of citizens.

After a day of work, home chores or school, we need a place to restore our spirits, relax and enjoy our families and friends. Some might choose a quiet walk in a magnificent mature forest; others might prefer a cookout in the serenity of their backyard.

But a quiet walk is not the same if the most magnificent mature trees are being selectively logged and the forest

further damaged by the logging process. Our backyards are not as relaxing with the sounds of nearby coal trucks, increased train traffic and coal dust in the air.

White Township needs logging, coal trucks and coal trains to provide necessary jobs, but we do not need logging in our parks and coal trucks in our neighborhoods. Quiet walks and get-togethers with friends and family are not luxuries; they are as essential to happy, healthy lives as are jobs.

Two things concern us. First, that the current laws and supervisors do not sufficiently acknowledge quality of life issues; and secondly, the supervisors ignore the wishes of so many White Township citizens.

We need leadership in White Township that promotes a proper balance between economic development and quality of life. We also need leadership that is responsive to the needs and expressed desires of the citizenry.

We urge the White Township supervisors to continue their good work promoting economic development but not at the sacrifice of the quality of life we all seek.

Michael and Christine Kerner
White Township