

# Supervisor Comments

## November 2018

### Status of Ordinance 3.8 ...

The elephant in the room for this month's meeting is none other than the now infamous Section 3.8 Ordinance regarding increasing the size and number of Accessory Buildings that one could have on their property. The discussion and concerns to date on 3.8 alone, has overshadowed and garnered the lion's share of attention and discussion over the last several weeks, while the other changes the Commission was intending to submit to the Board for review seem to have fallen off the radar, and quite frankly, I don't recall what they were! I have received well over 100 emails from residents that are not in favor of having, what is perceived to be a significant change that would not add value to properties, but would, in fact, possibly decrease property values in some areas. Rather than beautiful trees casting shadows over a property, tall buildings would be casting those shadows, and many find that objectionable. There was a Saturday hearing which was well attended by residents, who expressed their cumulative displeasure with the 3.8 change, while there was no discussion on the other proposed changes. The Planning Commission meeting last Tuesday (11/12) also saw 12 residents in attendance that had the same perceptions and voiced the same concerns. The perception is one size does not fit all. Allowing for this type of across the board change, irregardless of the area, whether it be residential or agriculture, is not perceived to be a good fit for Sims Township. My opinion is, while I do not object to increasing an accessory building footprint or height, it seems that it needs to be tied to zoning or districting. Around 2010, the Board, at the time, eliminated by vote, four districts/zones for reasons unknown. I believe for 3.8 to work, it would have to be tied to a district/zone with specific conditions as to what is allowable within each. I am in favor of returning 3.8 to the Planning Commission to incorporate the plan into a re-districting model by renewing the former districts and modifying them as required to make the ordinance less ambiguous and less of a free-for-all. In the meantime, a useful option for those anticipating major changes, is to file for a variance and for Sims Township, that is a process used infrequently. Within the last 10 years, there have only been 10 variance requests.

**Final Thought ...** One of the most famous Aesop's tales of gratitude is the Lion and Androcles. Androcles, a slave who was wandering in a forest, chanced upon an injured lion, which had a huge thorn stuck inside its paw. Androcles helped the lion by removing the thorn and gave the lion a new lease of life. Later, Androcles was captured, and thrown in a dungeon with a hungry lion. The lion rushed towards its victim, but it soon realized that Androcles was the same man who saved its life in the forest. The lion did not attack the slave. Instead, it licked his face like a pet dog and showered the slave with love. That's a simple story of gratitude that we tell our kids and grandkids to remind them about the importance of gratitude. The story of gratitude in Aesop's fable about the lion and the slave is a moral lesson where kindness and generosity triumphs. Even today, when the world is plagued by natural calamities people rise above these challenges with kindness. Teach your kids and grandkids the importance of gratitude with this Thanksgiving thought. Sow the seed of gratitude in their heart early in life, so that they can grow up to be humble and appreciative human beings. Simran Khurana

From the Sims Board and Staff, we hope all residents of Sims Township have a Joyous & Happy Thanksgiving ...!