

Hunter sworn in as mayor

SHEFFIELD VILLAGE

By John Edwards

A crowd of about 60 residents and county and neighboring community officials attended the inaugural ceremonies for Mayor John D. Hunter, Clerk-Treasurer Timothy Pelcic and Village Council members Kevin Watkinson and Carolyn White at Sheffield Village's Municipal Complex on Dec. 27. All were re-elected — Hunter and Pelcic ran unopposed — on Nov. 8. Lorain County Probate Court Judge James Walther swore Mayor Hunter in to begin his second term, Pelcic and Watkinson to begin their fourth consecutive terms and White to begin her third term on Village Council.

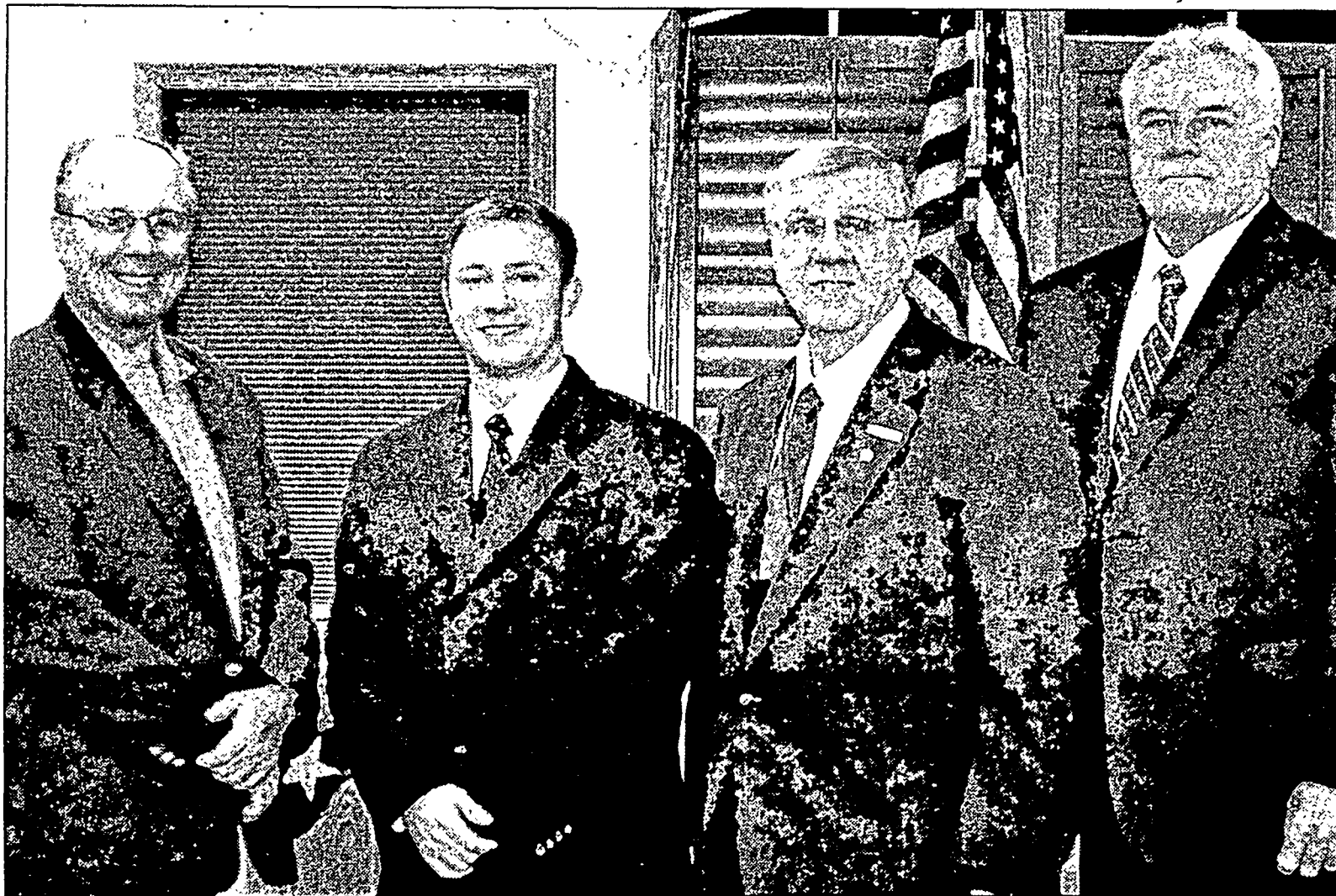
In attendance were neighboring mayors, including Jim Smith of Avon and the newly elected Mayors Chase Ritenauer of Lorain and Dennis Bring of Sheffield Lake as well as Lorain County Commissioner Ted Kalo, Prosecutor Dennis Will and Sheriff Phil Stammitti. Also present were Sheffield Village Law Director Tom Smith, Prosecutor Chris Cooke, Magistrate Kreig Brunsahan, police Chief Larry Bliss, fire Chief Jeff Young, Engineer Mark Skellenger and Sheffield Village historian Dr. C. Edward Herdendorf, Village Council members Jean Ackerman and Matthew Bliss, cemetery director Kathy Keefer and Mayor Hunter's assistant Lynne Jones, among

others. Sheffield Lake Clerk of Council Kay Fantauzzi, Councilwoman-elect Debra Belaska, grant administrator Bill Gardner and Law Director David Graves attended along with Bring.

In brief remarks, Hunter thanked all the Village employees and credited them with Sheffield Village's recovery from its fiscal distress of 2008-09. He also thanked his wife of more than half a century, Chris, their children and several grandchildren for their support during his first term.

Hunter also credited village employees for the fact he ran unopposed in the November election, saying, "I've been blessed to have the finest group of employees anyone could have. These people don't just do what's expected of them, they go beyond that all the time because they really care about Sheffield Village and its residents. Sheffield Village truly is the heart of Lorain County."

Standing with Mayors Bring, Smith and Ritenauer beside him, Hunter said that together they would help make the Lorain County Mayors and City Managers Association a more cooperative and effective entity and said they would all work together for the betterment of not only their own communities, but for all of Lorain County as well.



L-R, AVON MAYOR Jim Smith, Lorain Mayor (then mayor-elect, since inaugurated) Chase Ritenauer, Sheffield Village Mayor John Hunter and Sheffield Lake Mayor (then mayor-elect, since inaugurated) Dennis Bring at the Sheffield Village Municipal Complex for Hunter's second inauguration.

Mayor, council sworn in Sheffield Lake

SHEFFIELD LAKE

By John Edwards

Sheffield Lake City Council unanimously approved the city's \$12,539,968.60 budget for 2012 in time to meet the Lorain County Auditor's Dec. 31 deadline at its last regular meeting of 2011 on Dec. 27.

The highlight of the meeting was the swearing in of the city's new Mayor Dennis Bring, Treasurer James Woods, Council at Large members Debra Belaska and Kerry McCullough (all elected Nov. 8 and beginning their first terms in those offices), Ward 1 Councilwoman Leanna Stark, Councilman at Large Steve Kovach and council President Edward Podmanik by Lorain Municipal Court Judge Mark Mihok.

Stark was appointed to replace former Ward 1 Councilman Edward Diebold, who resigned, and was elected in her own right Nov. 8. Kovach was re-elected to his fourth term as councilman at large. Podmanik, a former Ward 4 councilman who ran unopposed, won his third term as council president.

Bring thanked outgoing Mayor John Piskura, Councilwoman at Large Diana Huska and Treasurer E. James Hoenig for their service to the city. Piskura, who did not run for re-election mostly due to his ongoing battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, had served two terms as mayor, one term as Ward 3 councilman and one term on the Planning Commission. Huska, who is retiring, served three terms on council. Hoenig was defeated at the polls by Woods on Nov. 8, after having served two terms as city treasurer.

Lorain County Probate Court Judge James Walther, who attended the 7 p.m. meeting after swearing in Sheffield Village Mayor John Hunter and others at 6 p.m. in Sheffield Village, arrived at the meeting to congratulate his Brookside High School classmates (class of 1978), Podmanik and McCullough, on their inaugurations, and noted that Ward 4 Councilman Rick Rosso and Service Director Len Smith were also members of the BHS class of '78, while Ward 2 Councilman Alan Smith was "a couple of years behind us, and Mayor Bring was more than a couple of years ahead of us. It's nice to see so many Brookside alumni in public service and elected offices."

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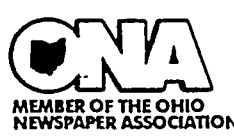


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