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News Journal

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Loud sounds have hidden health risks



When using power tools, lawn equipment or other machinery, wear properly fitted earplugs or earmuffs from the start, rather than waiting until the noise becomes uncomfortable. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Noise pollution a serious but often forgotten hazard

Laura Coco
San Diego State University | THE CONVERSATION

The human body is remarkably good at getting used to the environment around it. You’ve probably experienced this if you’ve ever gone to a matinee and emerged from the dark theater into sunshine. Your eyes sting, so you squint and shield your face until they adjust to the bright sunlight. • In the same way, the body can grow accustomed to constant noise. With repeated exposure to traffic, leaf blowers, construction, loud music, crowded restaurants, fitness classes and sporting events, you can become accustomed to loud environments. Over time, what once seemed unusually loud may barely register.

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Hearing damage is only part of the story. Noise acts as a stressor, activating the autonomic nervous and endocrine systems and affecting heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological processes.

RICHLAND COUNTY

Dems decide to sell main hub

Mark Caudill
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The decision to sell the building that housed the local Democratic headquarters has weighed heavily on Larry Weirich. “It’s really tough,” said Weirich, the chairman of Richland County’s Democratic Party Executive Committee. “It’s just gut-wrenching to have to sell that building.” Weirich fears he is letting down stalwart local Democrats such as Ken McCartney, Rod Reid and the late Joe Mudra. The building at 16 S. Park St. near the downtown square had housed the headquarters for at least 20 years, he said. “It’s something that the Democrats in Richland County have always wanted, our own building, our own place to meet,” Weirich said. “Richland County was one of the only in the state to have headquarters.”

The headquarters served as the meeting place for affiliated organizations, including the Richland County Democratic Women’s Caucus and the Richland County Young Democrats. It also hosted regular central/executive committee meetings, community movie/social nights, and annual legacy and fundraising dinners.

The issue is the downtown building is falling apart. Weirich said repairs to the structural damage alone would cost an estimated \$300,000. “We’ve been trying for three years to see if we could fix the structural issues with the building,” he said. “For us, it wasn’t feasible to come up with that level of money.” Weirich said most of the issues exist in the basement. “It appears someone took out the structural wall and didn’t support it,” he said. “Everything started to sink down over the years.” He added that a number of local labor organizations donated their time and work to try to make the repairs, but they weren’t enough. “It was an old building to begin

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Poll find 6 in 10 Ohioan voters back photo ID rule

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Six in 10 Ohio voters support amending the state constitution to require photo ID for voting, according to a new Suffolk University/USA TODAY Ohio Network

poll. Issue 3 is a proposed state constitutional amendment to require voters to present photo ID when casting ballots in person. Proponents argue that requiring photo ID protects against imposters casting ballots. Opponents argue that the requirement is already in state law and vot-

er impersonation is virtually nonexistent. Like current law, the amendment would require voters to present an unexpired driver’s license, state ID, passport or military ID to cast ballots in-person. It allows the Legislature to decide whether to preserve or change the current rules for

mail-in voting. Right now, Ohioans who vote absentee can provide a driver’s license or Social Security number in lieu of photo ID. Judy Corbett, 78, a retired public school teacher in Circleville, said she

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