



# SCHOOL REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District

www.ofcs.net

March/April 2011

## DISTRICT MONITORS IMPACT OF PROPOSED STATE BUDGET Projections Estimate Cuts of Ten Percent to Current Funding

Governor John Kasich released his first two-year biennium budget in mid-March, providing school districts across the state with the information they have been waiting for to confirm how their financial forecasts of anticipated cuts match up with reality. Since last spring, school districts have been advised to brace for cuts in their state funding of up to 30 percent. Olmsted Falls City Schools, and many surrounding districts, have been budgeting for a cut of 10 percent in the five-year forecasts.

While it will take time to determine the exact impact on our District, a preliminary review of the cuts seem to reveal that District projections (of 10%) are relatively close to actual. In early April, the Ohio Department of Education released a spreadsheet detailing the specific financial impact of the Governor's proposed biennium budget on local school districts across Ohio. The box at the right features the breakdown provided for Olmsted Falls School District.

STATE FUNDING PROJECTIONS FOR OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT	
2010-2011	\$12,191,918
2011-2012	\$10,933,967
2012-2013	\$10,586,143

It is important to note that these figures are simply estimates that were generated from the Governor's proposed budget. As this legislation moves through the Ohio Legislature, things will almost assuredly change. However, the general trend points strongly to a future with fewer state dollars flowing to Olmsted Falls Schools. It is clear that the Olmsted Falls School District will have to continue to operate in an arena of decreasing budgets. Passage of the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy on May 3, 2011 will be critical to helping our District stretch existing dollars and have the funds available to address facility maintenance issues.

## 2.8 MILL P.I. LEVY OFFERS MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR TAXPAYERS WITHOUT INCREASING CURRENT TAX LEVEL



*Cross-section view of original 42-year-old plumbing pipes at the High School currently contain significant blockage due to decades of built-up sediment deposits.*

Since January, the Olmsted Falls School District has been working to educate the community about the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy that has been placed before voters on the May 3rd election ballot. **While the ballot language must classify this levy as "additional" because it is a new P.I. Levy, the corresponding timing of a scheduled reduction of 2.8 mills of existing bond millage will result in no increase to the current school tax level for residents.**

Proceeds from the passage of the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy would provide a dedicated funding stream for permanent improvement projects and purchases (with a useful life of five years or more), **and help lengthen the span of time before the next operating levy is needed.** This revenue stream would help protect the community's long-standing investment in its school facilities by providing funds needed to adequately handle pressing renovations needed at older facilities. For example, parts of the plumbing and electrical systems at Olmsted Falls High School are

*Continued inside...*

## OFHS STUDENT AWARDED \$15,000 SCHOLARSHIP BY MALTZ MUSEUM



*\$15,000 Scholarship Award Winner  
Hayleigh Sanders*

Congratulations to Olmsted Falls High School's Hayleigh Sanders on being named second runner up in this year's "Stop The Hate: Youth Speak Out!" essay contest sponsored by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Hayleigh placed third overall in the pool of the more than 1,700 students from seven counties who participated in the annual contest.

Hayleigh highlighted the High School's recent "Let It Go" campaign in her essay and represented Olmsted Falls High School as a leader of change in the school.

She was awarded with a \$15,000 scholarship for her outstanding entry at a special awards gala held at Severance Hall in April.

School counselor Mrs. Sherry Davis and teacher Mr. John Mercer joined Hayleigh and her family for this very special event.

Congratulations again, Hayleigh!

Great work!

## 2.8 MILL P.I. LEVY BENEFITS

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original to the 42-year-old building. Having this dedicated revenue stream will be critical to completing projects, such as electrical and plumbing systems upgrades/renovations at the High School, without having to tap into already stretched general fund dollars.

**With the cuts to education at the state level now becoming more clear (see lead cover story), passage of the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy on May 3rd is even more critical to the financial stability of the Olmsted Falls School District.**

"By placing this P.I. Levy on the ballot in the same amount (2.8 mills) as the scheduled debt retirement, we are asking our community to maintain their current level of support," says Board of Education President Mr. Frank Pedicini. "These funds will be critical to supporting much-needed building maintenance projects and to increasing the length of time before the next operating levy is needed."

Following the passage of the operating levy in February 2010 - the District's first operating levy in 11 years - the Board of Education pledged no new operating levy for a minimum of three years.

Passage of the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy on May 3rd will extend the length of time before the next operating levy beyond that original three year projection - without increasing the current level of school taxes.

If the 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy does not pass, District residents would experience a reduction in their school taxes of about \$80 per \$100,000 in home property value annually effective January 1, 2012.

### 2.8 MILL P.I. FACTS-AT-A-GLANCE

- **WILL NOT INCREASE CURRENT LEVEL OF SCHOOL TAXES**

While the ballot language must classify this levy as "additional" because it is a new P.I. Levy, the timing of the corresponding reduction of 2.8 mills of existing bond millage will result in **no increase to the current school tax level.**

- **WILL HELP LENGTHEN TIME BEFORE NEXT OPERATING LEVY IS NEEDED**

A dedicated P.I. funding stream for building maintenance and allowable capital expenditures, will help preserve limited general fund dollars and increase the length of time before the next operating levy is needed.

- **CANNOT BE USED FOR SALARIES NOR BENEFITS**

**RESIDENTS WHO HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2.8 MILL OPERATING LEVY ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE AT 440-427-6000**

## RIGHT TO READ WEEK GUESTS



Olmsted Township Police Chief John Minek joined other guest readers from the community during special activities for the annual Right to Read Week celebration in March.

## DESIGN SQUAD CHAMPS



OFMS students (from L to R) Morgan Ashton, Zach Buchta, Jacob Conder and Stephen Miller pose for a photo with their first place trophy and team advisor Mrs. Anne Miskimins following their first place win in WVIZ's Edward P. Campbell Design Squad Challenge in March. Great job!

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Congratulations to 4th, 5th and 6th grade members of the Olmsted Falls Science Olympiad Team on taking 3rd place overall in the Elementary Science Olympiad competition held at Cleveland State University in March. Students competed against other well-prepared teams from Northeast Ohio. Well done Bulldogs!

## A SPECIAL VISIT IN D.C.



U.S. Army Capt. Michael McClelland (Bulldog Class of 2000 graduate) joined OFMS students at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the annual Washington D.C. trip in April.

## OHIO PTA HELPING HAND WINNER



Congratulations to Mrs. Kim Cleary on being selected as this year's Helping Hand Award recipient for the state of Ohio! Mrs. Cleary is currently an active member of the Falls-Lenox/ECC, OFIS, and OFMS PTA units. She is also an active member of the Olmsted Falls PTA Council. Mrs. Cleary's nomination, by fellow PTA parent Mrs. Linda Parkowski, advanced from the

local PTA Council level to the PTA District 12 level, where it was selected to advance to the state level as the official nomination from District 12. Mrs. Cleary was selected as the Ohio PTA Helping Hand Award winner and she will be formally recognized at the upcoming Ohio PTA Conference.

## RECORD SETTING PERFORMANCE



OFHS Academic Team members Mike Coury, Jim Coury (captain), and Sohan Vartak (pictured above with *Academic Challenge* host Jason Nicholas) set a new all time high scoring 840 points during their match which aired in March. That was not only the high score for this season (so far), but became the all time record for the show!

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*The Olmsted Falls City School District hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in the educational programs and activities operated by the district.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

<b>Tuesday, May 3rd</b> ELECTION DAY	<b>Thursday, May 19th</b> OFHS Spring Pops Choir Concert
<b>Friday, May 6th</b> OFIS Annual Art Show	<b>Friday, May 20th</b> OFHS Annual Art Show
<b>Friday, May 6th</b> Kiwanis Bulldog Relays	<b>Wednesday, June 1st</b> OFHS Baccalaureate
<b>Tuesday, May 10th</b> 6th Gr. Spring Concert	<b>Thursday, June 2nd</b> OFHS Commencement
<b>Wednesday, May 11th</b> 7th Gr. Spring Concert 8th Gr. Spring Concert	<b>Tuesday, June 7th</b> Last Day of School for Students
<b>Thursday, May 12th</b> OFHS Spring Pops Band Concert	

**HIGH SCHOOL MAY ART SHOW  
SEEKING LOCAL ENTRIES  
FROM ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF  
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

The annual High School May Art Show is scheduled for Friday, May 20th. In addition to the large collection of student artwork, the show also showcases a section of artwork created by alumni, faculty, staff and community members.

High School Art Teacher Mariel Krakowiak is currently seeking entries for this year's show.

Official entry forms can be downloaded from the High School page on the District website at [www.ofcs.net](http://www.ofcs.net) or picked up from the High School's main office.

**The deadline for completed entry forms is Friday, May 13.**