

3.8.16

Dear Community Members:

Spring Fever is now officially in the air! Going to be a nice stretch of weather for sure!

I would like to begin by offering my condolences to the Waynick Family. Recent grads Kyle and Kelsey lost their dad unexpectedly last weekend. Robbie was a great bowler, which rubbed off on both kids as Kelsey was a cog on the Girls State Championship team and Kyle who currently bowls at BGSU. To Tammie and his extended family, we offer our deepest sympathies. Here is the visitation information:

<http://www.marshfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=813596#/obituaryInfo>

There are a couple of important pieces of information listed below.

LAWSUIT HAS BEEN DISMISSED

Last Friday, Eastwood Schools learned that the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled in favor of the district by upholding Judge Mayberry's decision to dismiss the lawsuit aimed at stopping the construction of the new K-5 school.

My reaction to this may be a little different than you may expect. While pleased that the attempted suit to stop the project has been dismissed, it is muted by the continued divide over the district's efforts to provide students with a great school worthy of them. No one "wins" in these kinds of disputes. My hope is that at some point we can come together and work collaboratively to address areas of mutual concern.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

Later this week, you will see the first signs that work will commence on the new building. The first stage of the project will be to prepare the site for construction. We anticipate that next week work will begin in earnest to construct the building pad and prepare for utilities. They will be putting up the silt fencing that you see all around any new construction site as well as fencing for security.

The biggest part of this phase is stripping the topsoil and putting down the stone pad. The pad will cover not only the spaces for the building, but will also cover the areas for the construction trailers. We are pleased the contract for this first phase is well under estimates. We are hopeful that this is a positive sign of things to come.

We may plan for some official groundbreaking at some point later in the spring, but with the weather being so unpredictable we plan to wait on any formal ceremony.

ONE WEEK UNTIL THE ELECTION

Next Tuesday March 15th, voters from Ohio will go to the polls for the presidential primary, and Eastwood voters will be asked to renew the current 1% Earned Income Tax. Here are some basic facts about the renewal of the Income Tax.

1. The Income Tax was first passed in 2006 and was renewed in 2011. We are asking for another 5 year renewal.
2. Collects roughly \$2 million which is about 1/8 of our total operating funds.
3. This is now the ONLY operating levy outside of the state minimum for the district. This is because the district did not renew the other operating levy last year saving taxpayers \$878,000 per year.
4. This only taxes earned or W-2 taxes and does not tax pensions or social security. This does help senior citizens who are often the most vulnerable members of our community.
5. Eastwood has the lowest local tax effort of any district in Wood County, yet one of the best academic performances. **Attached is a spreadsheet** that includes property tax effective millage rates, income tax percentages, a total tax effort and the performance index based on the 2014-15 Report Card.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS INFORMATION

We had a huge turnout last night for the College Credit Plus meeting. Next year Eastwood will have 12 classes taught on our campus that will earn students college credit, and they will be in every core content area. The information and links will be posted on the district webpage within the next couple of days. Please make sure students meet all the deadlines as established. Students and parents can always contact their guidance counselors at [419-833-3611](tel:419-833-3611).

TICKETS FOR THE MUSIC MAN!

Tickets remain on sale for the Music Man which premieres next Friday night. Tickets are \$10, and you can contact the HS Office for additional information.

Have a great rest of the week!