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# XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning



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## ELECTION 2015

# 2 school renewal levies on ballot

By Anna Dembowski  
For Greene County News

XENIA — The Xenia Community City School District will have two levies up for renewal on the May 5 ballot. The renewals, which demand no

additional cost from taxpayers, provide revenue to cover the district's current expenses and avoid an operating deficit.

"They cover everything we're doing now, so they're covering, you know, teachers' salaries,

supplies for teachers, anything we're currently purchasing or instituting now for students," said treasurer Tracy Jarvis.

Issue 3 on the ballot is a renewal of an emergency property tax levy first passed in 2004.

Jarvis said the 11.75 mill emergency levy generates \$7.760 million annually. Since it is a renewal, the levy will generate the same amount of money for the Xenia school district as it did when it was first passed, superin-

tendent of schools Denny Morrison said.

"We're not asking for any new money. There's no new taxes," Morrison said.

Issue 4 is a renewal of a .5 percent school district income tax levy,

originally passed in 1997, Morrison said.

"Combined, these two renewal levies represent 24 percent of our school district's operating revenue, so they're extremely

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named Child Advocate of the Year in the "Community" category; Kenna Longstreath, a local parole officer, was named Child Advocate of the Year in the "Law Enforcement" category; and Kate Mezera, a caseworker with Greene County Children Services, was named Child Advocate of the Year in the "Children Services" category.

Charlie Harlow, a fifth grade student at St. Brigid

Services calendar.

Students receiving \$50 for their art submissions included: Autumn Shaver, a fifth grade student at Fairborn Intermediate School; Kevin McEntyre, a fifth grade student at Xenia Christian School; Layne Burke, a fifth grade student at Xenia Christian School; and Ashley Norris, a fifth grade student at Main Elementary School in Beavercreek.

Students receiving \$25

The annual Blue Ribbon Breakfast, which honors local child advocates, was held at the Walnut Grove Country Club in Beavercreek.

for their art submissions included: Julia Kuruvilla, a Xenia Christian Elementary School student; Grace Strickland, a St. Brigid School student; Ryan Donohue, a St. Brigid School student; Kaitlyn Crawford, a Xenia

Christian School student; Marisa Alfes, a Bell Creek Intermediate School student; Madilyn Brown, a Bell Creek Intermediate School student; Alyssa Hooper, a Xenia Christian School student; Josh Hamilton, a Xenia Christian

Nathan Pilling | Greene County News

School student; and Alexa Cantrell, a Xenia Summit Academy student.

Attendees at the event heard from current Wright State University student and soon-to-be graduate Nautica Hereford, a former foster child, during

"I share this story with you all because looking at my experiences, I am still getting ready to graduate, and I am ... able to reach all of my achievements," she said in her address. "There are children in Greene County who have similar stories, some different, some the same, but I'd like to say that what you all do is so important."

Reach Nathan Pilling at 937-502-4498 or on Twitter @XGNatePilling.

## Levies

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important to us," he said. "Passage of these renewal levies will help us to continue to put kids first and allow us to maintain and add programs for our students. We have many good things hap-

pening. We want to be able to continue those programs."

Morrison said those good things are increased enrollment, above average funding of classroom instruction, increased savings and academic growth.

He said 82 percent of last year's graduates are attending college, and

this year's enrollment in the district is up by 138 students. Seventy-one percent of the school's operating budget goes directly to classroom instruction though the goal is just 65 percent, Morrison said, and the district racked up \$1.4 million in operational savings last year.

"We're being fiscally

prudent," Morrison said. "We're doing a good job with our students."

He said the district's progress grade increased from a "C" to an "A," meaning that students are achieving two years of growth in one school year.

"We want to keep the good things going that are happening right now," Morrison said. "If

these levies do not pass, we would be in deficit spending in 2017, so then yes, we would have to be going back and making tough decisions on what to reduce."

Jarvis said the district has been operating with the same funds for a decade, so she's planning for the levies to be renewed.

"Something would have to be devised to take care of that (loss of 24 percent of revenue), but they've been approved and reap-proved, been on the books for over a decade. We're planning for passage."

If passed, both levies will be renewed for seven years.

Anna Dembowski is a freelance writer with Greene County News.



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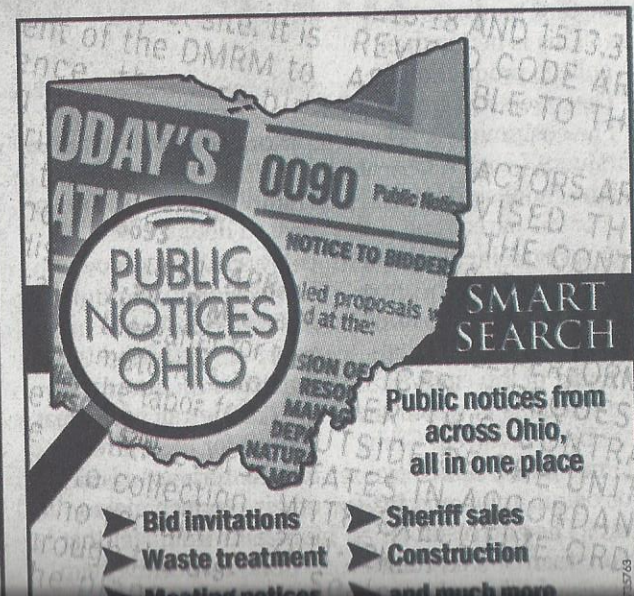
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