

Connections

Volume XXX, No. 1

Fall 2012



Voters consider \$20.87 million Technology Bond; will maintain existing millage rate for taxpayers

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, Northville Public Schools is asking voters to consider a bond proposal to replace aging technology and provide proven, interactive classroom technology to meet the needs of all students.

By maintaining the existing millage rate of 4.3 mills, the Technology Bond will generate \$20.87 million for much-needed technology improvements. This revenue will be generated by offsetting an otherwise anticipated debt millage retirement by the district that averages 1.09

mills over nine years for a net increase in the debt levy of 0 mills.

While almost 90 percent of the bond funds (more than \$18 million) are earmarked for technology needs, the bond proposal also includes approximately \$2 million for the purchase of replacement buses for the district's aging fleet.

The technology enhancements contained in the bond proposal will benefit Northville students and the community in the following ways:

- **Proven educational technology that adapts to individual student learning styles and needs.** The guiding principles throughout the district's Technology Plan are what will best support student achievement and prepare students for a lifetime of learning. As instructional delivery systems are updated and refined, true student-focused, immersive learning can take place when the most appropriate technologies are available in all classrooms.
- **College and career readiness for all students.** Technology is a powerful part of our daily lives, whether at school, work or home. Technology equipped classrooms that provide digital online access to mobile technology, distance learning and virtual proximity are essential tools as we prepare students for the ever-changing global society in which they will live and work. Educational studies show — and colleges and employers tell us — that technology as a resource and skill-set must be developed in today's young people to ensure success in college and the workplace.
- **Keeps General Fund dollars in the classroom.** If approved by voters, the Technology Bond will provide *See TECHNOLOGY BOND on page 2*



The secret is out!

Fun and learning were the order of the day for the more than 500 Northville students who stepped back in time this fall during the annual Victorian Festival field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. See the story and photos on page 9.

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VOTE Tuesday, November 6th
Northville Public Schools Technology Bond!

Technology Bond

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much-needed technology upgrades across the district that will enhance learning for all students, while also protecting the district's limited General Fund dollars needed to fund regular operational expenses. In the same way, the use of bond dollars to purchase replacement buses for the district's aging fleet will help to further protect the district's General Fund.



- **Maintains the current millage rate for taxpayers and keeps our community strong.** An anticipated reduction in the school district's debt millage beginning in 2013, means the Technology Bond will raise \$20.87 million for technology improvements over the next nine years if taxpayers are willing to maintain the 4.3-mill rate they currently pay.

"During these challenging economic times, severe cuts in state funding for public schools have forced us to delay much-needed technology improvements and bus replacements," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "Asking the community for bond funds is one of the few options currently available to school districts — along with Sinking Funds — to raise the dollars necessary to address these critical needs, while also ensuring that the school district's limited operating funds are available to support student learning."

In May 2011, Northville school district voters approved a 1-mill, five-year Sinking Fund millage that included technology network

infrastructure upgrades — completed over the past summer — along with numerous building repairs and improvements. These technology upgrades have increased the district's capacity so the network infrastructure can accommodate the increased volume of digital applications and devices, as well as provided building-wide wireless access in every school building. While the network infrastructure upgrades made possible through the Sinking Fund dollars provide an important foundation, Sinking Fund money, by law, cannot be used to purchase the technology equipment and software required for the next phase in the district's critical technology improvements.

"If approved, the Technology Bond will keep Northville's taxpayer dollars in Northville and protect our community's investment in the outstanding educational programs that are the hallmark of Northville Public Schools," Northville Board of Education President Dottie Garrity said. "Strong schools are the foundation of a strong community where people want to live, businesses want to locate, and property values are higher."

The Technology Bond funds would support the district's technology plan for at least the next 12 years by issuing bonds through two separate series.

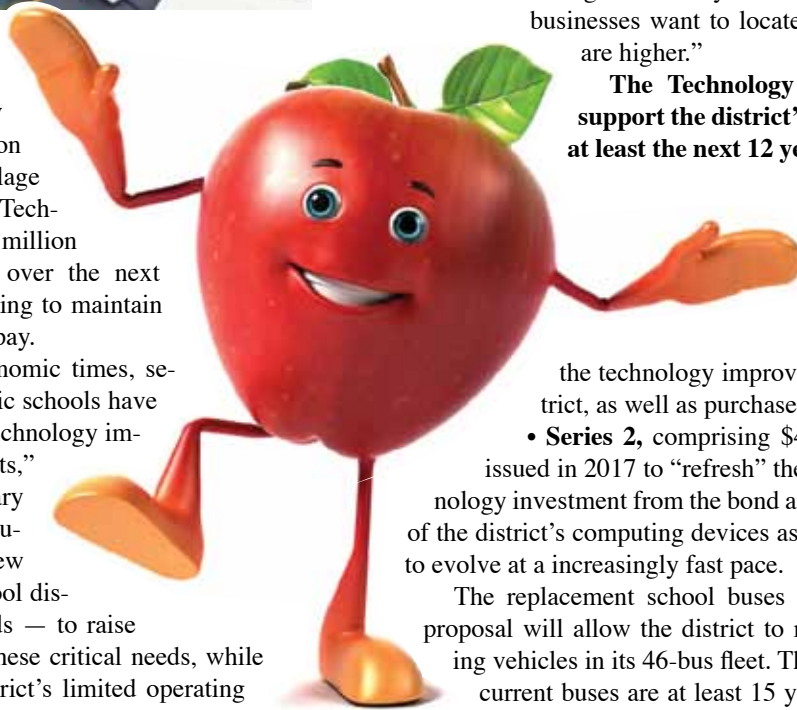
- **Series 1**, comprising \$16.27 million, would be issued in 2013 to implement

the technology improvements across the district, as well as purchase replacement buses.

- **Series 2**, comprising \$4.6 million, would be issued in 2017 to "refresh" the district's initial technology investment from the bond and extend the viability of the district's computing devices as technology continues to evolve at an increasingly fast pace.

The replacement school buses included in the bond proposal will allow the district to retire some of the aging vehicles in its 46-bus fleet. Thirteen of the district's current buses are at least 15 years old with an average of 153,000 miles. For several of these buses, it

is no longer cost-efficient to make the repairs that will likely be necessary in the near future to keep them operational.



For more information about the Technology Bond

For answers to frequently asked questions about the Technology Bond and Board of Education candidate profiles, as well as information about voting precincts, locations and times visit the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us and click on "Technology Bond and Board Elections." Questions regarding the Technology Bond can be e-mailed to nps@northville.k12.mi.us.

Maintains Existing Millage Rate

Current Debt Millage

4.3 mills

Millage After Bond Passage

4.3 mills

Five candidates vie for three school board seats

The five candidates vying for the three open seats on the Northville Board of Education are Michael (Mickey) Barrett, Roland Hwang, Cynthia L. Jankowski, Adam Phelps and Matthew Wilk. Below are profiles of each of the candidates.

Michael (Mickey) Barrett

A resident of the Northville school district for nine years, Michael (Mickey) Barrett is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Education.

Currently retired, Barrett has extensive experience as an educator, coach, business owner and entrepreneur. As an educator and coach, he has worked as a middle school physical education teacher, a substitute math teacher, a Division 1 college women's basketball head coach, Division 1 college men's assistant coach and academic coordinator, and a high school athletic director. He also consulted on the development of the Wayne County Community College District Athletic Department. Barrett has 20 years experience as an insurance adjuster; has owned and operated a Homemade Ice Cream shop; was a limited partner and worked at Americab Transportation Service; has managed a mechanical contracting company; and has managed and turned around an insurance adjusting company.

In addition, Barrett has volunteered his time and expertise by joining E. Realty of Northville to counsel homeowners in buying and selling real estate. Barrett and his wife, Mary, have been married for 28 years. Prior to moving to Northville, they lived in Novi for 12 years.

"I have a varied background that would serve the Northville Board of Education in many areas from marketing and counseling to construction issues," Barrett said. "We moved to the Northville area because of the community and the strong school district. If you have a strong district, then property values remain solid and strong, and the entire community wins."

"I have attended many of the Board meetings to get an understanding of the processes and policies that guide the Board," Barrett added. "The issues that the Board will be assessing in the near future will affect all of us in the community. The skills I have accumulated over my 40 years in business, entrepreneurial ventures, educational and coaching positions, and especially leadership roles, will serve the students, the people in the community, and complement the entire Board. We need to continue the excellent brand that the Northville school district has become. I can be an objective voice on the Board and being retired I will be available to the Superintendent and her staff. I look forward to serving, caring and giving back to the Northville community."



Mickey Barrett

Roland Hwang

A 24-year resident of the Northville school district and the father of two children currently enrolled at Northville High School, Roland Hwang is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Education.

Hwang is an Assistant Attorney General in the Michigan Department of the Attorney General with 24 years with the department. He is assigned to the Labor Division. He also has worked as a staff attorney in the Ford Motor Company Office of the General Counsel and as an engineer for Ford at its Livonia Transmission Plant and Dearborn Auto Safety Center.

Hwang is also an adjunct instructor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of American Culture, a position he has held for 17 years. He also has taught at the University of Michigan—Dearborn in the Sociology and Education departments.

Hwang has a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration from U of M. He also has his Juris Doctor and Master of Law degrees from the Wayne State University Law School.

Outside of work, Hwang is secretary and a past president of the Maple Hill Homeowners Association; Scholarship Committee chair for the Association of Chinese Americans-Detroit for more than 20 years; a member of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission; a member of the Detroit Economic Club; a member of the State Bar of Michigan Law Related Education and Public Outreach Committee; and a board member of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. He also is a member of the Northville High School PTSA.

Hwang and his wife, Christina, have two children, Kevin, who is a senior at Northville High School and Aimee, who is a sophomore.

"As a parent of two Northville Public Schools' students, as a labor lawyer, and college instructor teaching in American culture, I would bring to the Northville school board my diverse professional and community experience," Hwang said. "I would concentrate on further improving our high quality education within funding limits. I seek enhanced teaching quality, continued development of core curriculum, and retention of our educational staff."

"The key for our children's futures focuses on attention to curriculum. I will advocate for more emphasis on the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math) and more language offerings," Hwang added. "Northville needs to prepare students for changing employment horizons on a global basis."



Roland Hwang

Five candidates for three open school board seats

Continued from page 3

Cynthia L. Jankowski

Chosen by the Board of Education in January 2012 to fill the vacancy created by the departure of long-time Board member Joan Wadsworth, Cyndy Jankowski is seeking to retain her seat on the Northville school board in the upcoming November election. Jankowski's current 11-month appointment will expire on December 31, 2012.



Cynthia L. Jankowski

A resident of the Northville school district for eight years, she had been an active parent volunteer at Silver Springs Elementary School, as well as an officer and treasurer for the Quail Eight Homeowners Association.

Relying on her 25 years of experience as a paralegal, first in litigation and now in real estate, Jankowski believes her background serves her well in analyzing and evaluating the various issues confronting the Board. Plus, this professional experience allows her to bring practical, unbiased resolutions to the table.

"When the opportunity for a board appointment arose, I thought it was the right time to throw my hat into the ring," Jankowski said. "I was ready to build on my involvement at Silver Springs and take that involvement to the next level. I appreciated the vote of confidence from my colleagues when I was appointed, including Ms. Wadsworth's support — who felt I had the requisite experience to serve as a member of the Board of Education."

"For me, it is truly an invigorating and fulfilling experience to be a school board member," Jankowski added. "The high caliber of the professionals who comprise the Board is exemplary. All of us bring a wealth of different experiences to the table and, while we do not always see eye-to-eye on a particular issue, when we do reach a decision, that decision is supported by us all, for the sake of all children in our district and in our community."

"When my family decided to move to Michigan, we chose Northville as our home because of the reputation of the Northville school district. We wanted our son to reap the rewards of an education in the public school system. It will always be my goal to maintain our district's reputation of excellence. Each decision will be made with an honest and fair evaluation of the facts; and I will work to implement creative, thoughtful solutions. My passion is our children — to provide each and every one of them with the skills necessary to compete locally, nationally and globally in the future of their choice."

Adam Phelps

A seven-year resident of the Northville school district with two children currently enrolled at Silver Springs Elementary School, Adam Phelps is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Education.



Adam Phelps

Phelps has worked for Ford Motor Company for the last 12 years in a variety of areas including Purchasing, Program Management and Human Resources. He is currently a purchasing manager in the Interior Department.

Phelps has a Bachelor's degree in Management from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

An active member of the Silver Springs Dads Club, Phelps also is a volunteer with Junior Achievement and the Gleaners Community Food Bank and is a youth soccer coach in the Northville Recreation League.

Phelps and his wife, Tina, have been married for 11 years and have two children, Jason, 7, and Jocelyn 5.

"The insight I will bring to the Northville Board of Education is the perspective of a local resident who is deeply invested in the success of the school district," Phelps said. "I have over a decade of experience managing complex budgets and staffing and policy administration, but my number one priority is to be an advocate for our students and teachers. As the father of young children who attend Northville Public Schools, my primary interest is to make sure the quality of education in our community continues to be among the best in Michigan."

Phelps also identified his key motivations for serving on the Board of Education. "I am a parent who will listen to the concerns and interests of other parents. Parents need to have confidence in the learning environment for our children and I am committed to making sure our parents and teachers have input in decisions being made by the Board of Education. In addition, we have a responsibility to minimize the number of students per class. This will be one of my top priorities."

The Northville Public Schools Board of Education meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Exceptions to the meeting schedule are noted on the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us, click on "Board of Education." All meetings commence at 7:30 p.m.



VOTE Tuesday, November 6th
Northville Technology Bond and School Board Election

Matthew Wilk

A resident of the Northville school district for nine years, Matthew Wilk was appointed to the Northville Board of Education in June to fill a vacancy created by the departure of Board Trustee Anita Bartschat. Wilk seeks to retain his seat on the school board in the upcoming November election. His current five-month appointment to the Board expires on December 31, 2012.



Matthew Wilk

Wilk has been employed as Vice President of Huntington Bank in Troy since 2009. Previously, he served as Vice President of Flagstar Bank in Troy; Senior Vice President of Milestone Realty Services in Royal Oak; Senior Vice President of Citizens Republic Bank in Ann Arbor; Vice President of Builders Bank in Chicago; and as a private practice attorney with D'Ancona & Pflaum, in Chicago. A native of Sterling Heights, Wilk has a Bachelor of Arts degree and law degree from the University of Michigan.

Active in the community, Wilk was most recently involved in the Pelotonia, a 100-mile bike ride to raise money for cancer research. He also has served as lead teacher at "JA in a Day" at the Bradford Academy in Southfield, as a judge of the Moot Court at the University of Michigan Law School, and helped raise money for the United Way and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. As an attorney, Wilk also has provided pro bono representation to a number of clients who couldn't otherwise afford legal representation.

"As a trustee of the Northville Board of Education, I am applying my financial and legal expertise, as well as my experience as the son of two long-time educators, to resolve the pressing challenges facing the school district," Wilk said. "As the parent of twins entering Winchester Elementary, I am a parent that understands and endures the challenges of parents raising children in this modern world. In an era of decreased funding and increased demands on students, parents, educators and administrators, continuous improvement must occur in order to provide what drew my family to Northville in the first place — the exceptional school experience provided to our children."

Voting Information

November 6, 2012 Election



Absentee ballot applications for those unable to get to the polls on November 6th are currently available through your city or township clerk's office. For information about voting precinct locations visit the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us and click on "Voting Information" under "Technology Bond and Board Election."

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day — Tuesday, November 6, 2012



28 NHS seniors receive National Merit Scholar honors

Twenty-eight Northville High School seniors have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as academically outstanding based on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test taken in their junior year.

Seventeen of these students are National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists, ranking them among the top 1 percent of their peers nationwide academically and giving them the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered in the spring. These Semi-Finalists include:

- Tristen P. Asmann
- Lily J. Chen
- Nikolai Hedler
- Stephanie S. Hong
- Joshua D. Lucksom
- Riku Momoi
- Sandra Y. Pui
- James Rhee
- Shilpi P. Sharma
- Nina Shekhar
- Jay L. Tyan
- Nilay Valecha
- Vikas L. Venugopal
- Megan Ye
- Carolyn C. Zhang
- Rosa X. Zhang
- Connie T. Zuo

In addition, 11 members of the Northville High School Class of 2013 earned National Merit Scholar Commended honors, ranking them among the top 5 percent of their peers academically nationwide. Commended students include:

- Sarah C. Cullen
- Thomas Deeds
- Sarah K. Hennessy
- Christina Hui
- Jahanzeb Jahania
- Dana M. Kim
- Joshua L. Sell
- Michael D. Shost
- Sean P. Wagner
- Haiwen Yu
- Cheryl Zhang

Progress continues toward Common Core Standards, International Baccalaureate

In keeping with Northville Public Schools' student-driven learning philosophy, district administrators, teachers and students continue to embrace the national shift to the Common Core Standards in math and English.

These new rigorous standards — adopted by 48 states including Michigan — encompass grades K-12 and allow students to learn at deeper levels while making connections to real-world situations and applications. The shift to the Common Core helps answer the age-old question of “why do we need to learn this?”

Moreover, the Common Core shifts instruction and assessment to a focus on best practices for instructional delivery. There is an emphasis on collaborative groups, problem solving, use of technology, and higher order thinking skills — all-important qualities to prepare students for college and career readiness.

Another way Northville Public Schools is meeting the needs of learners today and into the future is by pursuing rigorous learning opportunities such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma Programs — which fit hand-in-hand with the Common Core Standards.

The school district is currently in the candidacy phase to become an IB World School. In order to move toward authorization, staff development is fully underway, and many of the district's middle and high school teachers are already sharing the innovative curriculum with students. In addition, the district has been assigned an IB consultant, and Northville teachers now have access to the IB Online Curriculum Center. A team from IB will conduct verification site visit to Northville to ensure the district has taken the necessary actions and is prepared to become an IB World School.

How you can support Northville Public Schools' IB initiative

In 2011, the Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) identified implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma Programs in Northville Public Schools as a funding priority, committing to raise \$300,000 over three years through its “Invest in Your Kids & Community Campaign.”

To date, the Foundation has raised \$60,500 toward this goal. To donate or for more information on how you can help, please contact Foundation Manager Jennifer Pearson at 248.344.8458 or NEF@NorthvilleEdFoundation.org. All donations are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.

Established in 2000, the Northville Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to attract, manage and distribute charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools commitment to excellence.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.

“The IB program will advance the excellence that exemplifies Northville Public Schools — deepening our comprehensive curriculum while continuing to educate the whole child,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “In particular, the IB Middle Years Program — focused on sixth to 10th graders — is designed for all learners, and emphasizes intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth through all domains of knowledge and encourages learners to understand how they learn and to connect and apply their learning.”

Following the Middle Years Program, highly motivated students may choose to continue with the IB Diploma Program for their 11th and 12th grade years, a rigorous course of study that prepares students for university and career success in a global society.

During a daylong Professional Development session in late-August led by an international team from IB, Northville middle and high school teachers focused on the consistent knowledge base that is in keeping with the key elements of the Middle Years Program and their foundation in the international approach to the art and science of teaching.

“This solid foundation of shared knowledge will help our educators work together to create a successful Middle Years experience for students and give teachers a launch pad for the further exploration of the program's constituent parts in subject-specific workshops that will take place over the school year,” said Northville IB Middle Years Program Coordinator Janice Henderson.

The Middle Years Program consists of eight subject groups (English, science, math, the arts, a second language, humanities, physical education and technology) integrated through five areas of interaction, which provide a framework for learning across the subjects. In the final year of the program (10th grade), students can choose to engage in a personal project, which demonstrates their understanding and skills.

The district hosted an IB Diploma Program Information Night at Northville High School on September 27 for the families of current ninth graders to learn more about the program, which will be an available option for highly motivated 11th and 12th grade students beginning with the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years.

The Diploma Program is a two-year program of studies across disciplines that includes successful completion of courses in six different subject areas, internal and external assessments in each area, participation in the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) Program, completion of the Theory of Knowledge course, and the writing and submission of an Extended Essay in an area of interest to the student.

“The IB Diploma Program offers the rigor, the structure, and the experiences necessary to challenge academically talented students,” said Northville IB Diploma Program Coordinator Dr. James Davis.

See COMMON CORE/IB on page 11

Supporting student learning continues to drive district goals for 2012-13

At Northville Public Schools, supporting student learning is the touchstone on which every action and every decision is measured. That's why six years ago, the Northville Board of Education and district leaders set student learning as the ongoing, overarching goal that influences decision-making in every other area from budgeting, to programming, to staffing.

"Everything we do has to focus on how we can best support student learning and success," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "This is the hallmark of our Tradition of Excellence. The process of putting it into writing and defining student learning and success helps to keep all of us — leaders, teachers, students, parents and the community — focused on what's important as we make tough decisions now and in the years to come."

During the 2011-12 school year the district's goal-setting process was further refined to set forth more specific measures of student success and additional checkpoints for reporting progress to the Board of Education, in addition to reinforcing greater alignment and accountability between district goals and individual building-level school improvement goals. This is reflected in the District Goal Metrics/Target (Dashboard) document, which includes each goal, the metric by which it is measured, baseline data, and the 2012-13 target.

The following is a synopsis of the Northville Public Schools 2012-13 District Goals approved by the Board of Education in September. For the complete District Goals document, as well as the Goals Dashboard for the 2012-13 school year, visit the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us and click on the "District" page in the menu.

Overarching Goal: Student Learning

All students will successfully complete each grade level and/or course taken, demonstrating proficiency on local and state assessments.

In order to help achieve the overarching district goal, best practice, research and the following critical questions will guide curriculum, assessment, and intervention in every school and school improvement plan:

- *What is it we expect learners to learn/be able to do?*
- *How will we know if they've learned it?*
- *How will we respond if they haven't?*
- *How will we respond if they've already learned it?*

2012-13 District Goals

- I. All students will achieve proficiency in reading, writing and math while demonstrating growth as a quality contributor as detailed in the District Improvement Plan and respective building School Improvement Plans. Student outcomes are aligned to specific measurable goals as contained within the district and school plans.
- II. Increase innovative and responsive instructional opportunities and programs for students at all levels while aligning curriculum, and increasing achievement for all students.
- III. Enhance the collection, interpretation, and use of data to drive instructional and program decisions for teachers and administrators.
- IV. Develop an understanding of Northville Public Schools' revenue and cost structure among all district stakeholders, allocate financial resources to meet district educational goals while minimizing the district's structural deficit.
- V. Upgrade and improve district buildings, infrastructure, and facilities.
- VI. Enhance communication and customer service throughout all levels of the district.

"Everything we do has to focus on how we can best support student learning and success. This is the hallmark of our Tradition of Excellence.

The process of putting it into writing and defining student learning and success helps to keep all of us — leaders, teachers, students, parents and the community — focused on what's important as we make tough decisions now and in the years to come."

— Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher



Community support key in district's success

Northville Public Schools is grateful to be part of an incredible community that values education for its young people in both word and action.

Two most recent examples of this tremendous community support are the completion this past summer of \$1.2 million



Cooke students enjoy their new outdoor learning and play area specially designed for them.

in Phase I improvements at the district's athletic facility on Eight Mile Road (now called *Tom Holzer Ford Field*) that included the installation of artificial turf and a new scoreboard, and \$364,000 in donations for a new multisensory, adapted playground at Cooke School. Unveiled on August 1, the outdoor learning and play area is specially designed to meet the needs of the severely cognitively and multiply impaired students who attend the school.

"Both of these projects have become a reality almost exclusively through

the incredible generosity of numerous donors, including school families, community members, local businesses and community groups — and without taking money away from the class-

room," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "We also are grateful to the Northville Educational Foundation, which played a critical role in bringing these two projects, as well as numerous other district initiatives, to fruition."

"Along with the Northville Educational Foundation, our strong and active PTAs and PTSAs, Mothers' Club of Northville, TURF CLUB, and Athletic and Music Boosters are just a few more examples of how this community comes together in support of children, to ensure an ongoing commitment to excellence and opportunity — in academic arenas, in the arts, and on our athletic fields," Gallagher added.

The Northville Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to attract, manage and distribute charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools commitment to excellence.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.



The new artificial turf field will benefit Northville high school and middle school teams as well as numerous community youth athletic teams.

Sale of refunding bonds results in savings for district, taxpayers

Northville Public Schools will save taxpayers \$2.2 million and make lower debt payments over the next 12 years after the successful sale of its 2012 refunding bonds. The Board of Education adopted a ratifying resolution for the bond purchasing agreement at its October 9, 2012 meeting. Northville Public Schools will have slightly lower debt service payments beginning in May 2013, and taxpayers will notice a lower school debt millage beginning with their 2013 tax bills.

Bond refunding is similar to a homeowner refinancing a mortgage to exchange high cost debt for low cost debt. The district is taking advantage of the current historically low long-term interest rates to issue the refunding bonds.

The new bonds will be used to redeem the \$21.9 million in principal remaining from the \$35.7 million bond proposal approved by voters in 2004 that paid for classroom additions at Ridge Wood Elementary School and Meads Mill Middle School; cafeteria/multi-purpose room additions at Silver Springs and Winchester elementary schools; a to-

tal roof replacement at Hillside Middle School; playground improvements at Moraine and Thornton Creek elementary schools; and technology upgrades and other capital improvements across the district.

"The refunding of bonds at this time will translate into real savings for school district residents," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "During these difficult financial times for our state and our schools, one of the primary goals of our Board of Education is to look for ways to achieve long-term savings without impacting the outstanding educational programs and services we offer our students."

This is the second time in as many years that the district has taken advantage of the historically low long-term interest rates to issue refunding bonds. In August 2011, the Board of Education approved a bond purchasing agreement to redeem the \$5.6 million remaining from the \$27.5 million bond proposal approved by voters in 2001. The move saved taxpayers nearly \$275,000 beginning with their 2012 tax bills, and lowered the district's debt payment beginning in May 2012.

Exploring our Victorian Roots



Students big and small enjoyed playing Victorian-era games at Ford Field.

Northville third graders traveled back in time once again this fall during the annual Victorian Festival field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. This year marks the 24th year for downtown Northville’s popular weekend-long festival, as well as the unique hands-on learning experience for students.

The 500 students, dressed in Victorian-era costumes, toured Northville the Friday before the festival opened to the public, participating in a variety of activities coordinated by Northville Public Schools with support from the Northville Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and the City of Northville, as well as numerous community volunteers, and school district teachers, staff and students.

In their travels, students played Victorian-era children’s games at Ford Field, heard stories about our community’s past at the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, enjoyed an interactive experience with a magician at the Town Square, listened to Victorian songs sung by the high school choirs at Genitti’s Little Theatre, and took a guided tour of Mill Race Historical Village where they examined Victorian architecture, culture and community.

Northville High School National Honor Society students also

donned Victorian wear to serve as tour guides at Mill Race, sharing skits depicting life in Northville more than a century ago.

“I cannot think of a more wholesome experience for our community’s third graders from both the public and private schools,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Robert Behnke. “This interactive learning experience allows history to come to life in meaningful ways for these students. This is our community’s opportunity to spark their interest in learning more about their personal heritage and the vibrant history of Northville. I am proud that our community unites behind such an outstanding event.”

Many students and families returned to downtown Northville on Friday evening to march in a parade kicking off the weekend’s festivities.



Third graders learned about Victorian culture and community during tours of Mill Race Historical Village.



This marks the 24th year for the unique hands-on learning experience for students.

Check out the new-and-improved Northville Public Schools district and school websites

Log on and check out the recently redesigned Northville Public Schools district and individual school websites at www.northville.k12.mi.us. The website addresses are the same, but the look and access to information is new and improved.

The district's high school and two middle schools unveiled their redesigned websites last year, and the new district and elementary school websites were launched at the beginning of this school year.

Visitors to the websites will notice:

- The use of "News Feed" updates to put the most relevant and recent information first within the page.
- The ability to search the content of the website for specific information.
- A new calendar system which allows for sharing between building and district events, as well as the display of upcoming events, which can be sent to smart phones or electronic calendars.
- Expanded use of photos and graphics within articles to reinforce key messages.
- The ability to translate the website into different languages.
- The "most popular" articles identified near the top of the page.
- Stronger integration between building and district calendars, updates and information.

"The launch of these new websites is just another way Northville Public Schools, and all of our individual school buildings are providing better service and access to information for parents, students, and the community," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher.

Visit our website at www.northville.k12.mi.us

Northville Public Schools Contact Information

Central Administration	248.349.3400	Mary Kay Gallagher, Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction		Finance & Operations
Human Resources		Special Services

HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Northville High School	248.344.8420	Robert Watson, Principal
Hillside Middle School	248.344.8493	Jim Cracraft, Principal
Meads Mill Middle School	248.344.8435	Dr. Susan Meyer, Principal

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Amerman Elementary School	248.344.8405	Dr. Stephen Anderson, Principal
Moraine Elementary School	248.344.8473	Denise Bryan, Principal
Ridge Wood Elementary School	248.349.7602	Alicia Parsons, Principal
Silver Springs Elementary School	248.344.8410	Melissa Hunt, Principal
Thornton Creek Elementary School	248.344.8475	Alison Epler, Principal
Winchester Elementary School	248.344.8415	Patricia Messing, Principal
Early Childhood Education & Extended Day Programs	248.344.8465	Eileen Freeman, Coordinator

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Cooke School	248.344.8489	Mary Meldrum, Supervisor
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Common Core/IB

Continued from page 6

Also on the agenda for the school district, in preparation for a visit from an IB Team later in the school year, is the creation by the IB Advisory Council of task forces to address areas of implementation including the following: assessment; scheduling; Diploma Program course offerings; creation of subject-specific Middle Years units; planning for the Extended Essay/CAS and Personal Project; planning for additional IB-focused Professional Development; and the review and revision of district policies.

“The school district’s commitment to the Common Core and transition to an IB World School extends what we have begun,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Robert Behnke. “Northville Public Schools is already recognized for its excellence and the IB Program’s philosophy and research-centered requirements will enhance the whole educational environment by increasing learning opportunities.”



Connections is a publication of the Northville Public Schools. We would like to hear your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to e-mail Janet Naughton, Editor, at jmnaught@aol.com. You also can find **Connections** on the district’s website at www.northville.k12.mi.us.

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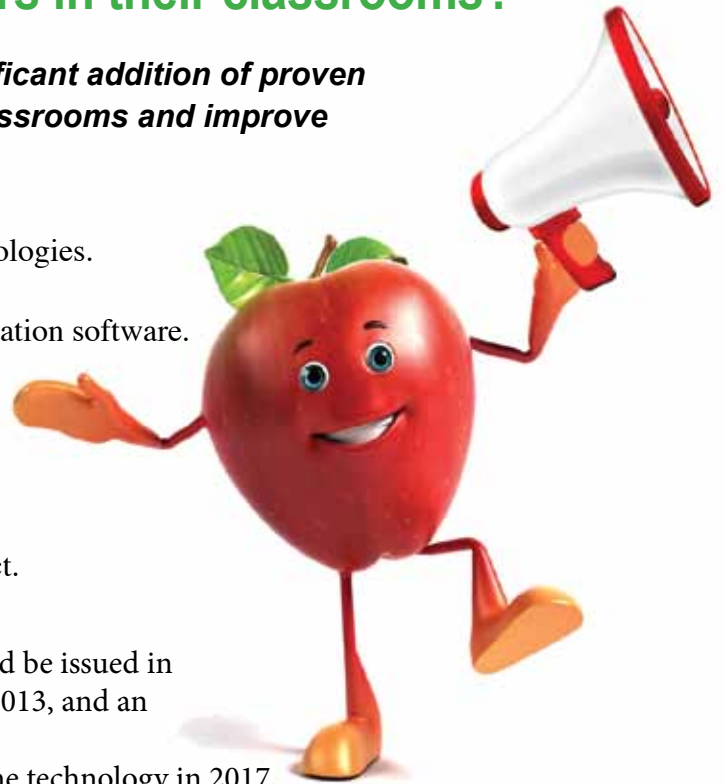
ECRWSS

TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

Have you heard what the Technology Bond will provide for students and teachers in their classrooms?

Essential in the Technology Bond is the significant addition of proven instructional technologies that will impact classrooms and improve learning across the district.

- New computers in classrooms and learning labs.
- Large, interactive, multi-media presentation technologies.
- Integrated sound/voice enhancement systems.
- Document cameras linking to instructional presentation software.
- Flexible sets of multi-use devices to support student learning and assessment.
- Digital web streaming capability, lesson capture/recording, cable, and DVD through computers and multi-media tools.
- Replace aging phone system throughout the district.



Keeping pace with evolving technology

- Under the Technology Bond Proposal, bonds would be issued in two separate series — \$16.27 million in February 2013, and an additional \$4.6 million around May 2017.
- Issuing bonds in two series enables a “refresh” of the technology in 2017, allowing for classroom technology to be up to date over the entire length of the bond.
- **Maintains the current 4.3-mill millage rate for taxpayers and keeps our community strong.**

Maintains Existing Millage Rate

Current Debt Millage

4.3 mills

Millage After Bond Passage

4.3 mills



VOTE Tuesday, November 6th
Northville Public Schools Technology Bond!
It's the Last Item on Your Ballot!