Advancing our Tradition of Excellence...by opening A World of Possibilities for all students

As Northville Public Schools prepares for 2015 and beyond, the district seeks to build on its strong Tradition of Excellence by forging a path forward that will open A World of Possibilities for students as they navigate an increasingly interconnected and digitally-rich world.

“Across the school district’s learning continuum, from early childhood through high school, we are deepening our focus on authentic learning opportunities that allow students to make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and real-world issues,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “The district is building a culture of student empowerment, along with enduring leadership principles that will ensure students are college- and career-ready.

“This is the story of how Northville Public Schools will equip every student with the skills and dispositions they will need to thrive in the 21st century world.”

Tradition of Excellence

Northville Public Schools’ history, which has its origins in Northville High School, can be traced back 145 years. Only four years after the close of the Civil War, Northville High School — then Northville Union School — graduated its first student, Alice Beal. The lone graduate in the Class of 1869, Alice’s diploma was hand-printed on parchment by Asa Randolph, a Northville pioneer and village trustee. This number grew to nine graduates in 1910 when seven young women and two young men posed for the school’s first graduation picture. Today, Northville High School’s most recent graduating class in 2014 included 590 graduates. The district currently serves more than 7,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as more than 230 students in our special education center program, and nearly 1,000 students in the district’s preschool and childcare programs. (See related box on page 2.)

In terms of outcomes, Northville students consistently score above national averages on ACT, SAT and Advanced Placement assessments. The district consistently graduates more than 96 percent of its senior class, and its graduates are among the top scholarship earners in Michigan. The Class of 2014 alone included 27 National Merit Scholar competitors. Northville Public Schools is also home to one of the largest and most successful vocal and instrumental music programs in the state, as well as a comprehensive visual arts program with work recognized at the local, state and national levels. And on our fields of play, the district’s athletic program attracts more than 1,000 high school and 800 middle

See VISION FOR SUCCESS on page 2

It’s magic!

An interactive experience with a magician was just one of many hands-on learning opportunities enjoyed by the more than 600 Northville third graders who took part in the annual Victorian Festival field trip in September that is the culmination of their study of local history. See the story and more photos on pages 7.

Photo by Stackwood Studios Photography
school student athletes in 27 sports and on 72 teams with a significant number of all-state, all-academic teams and athletes. Whether in the classroom, on our athletic fields, in the arts or out in the community, we are proud of these accomplishments on the part of our students.

Northville Public Schools’ Tradition of Excellence is a testament to the enduring dedication of the district’s students, teachers, staff and parents, along with the abiding devotion of the entire Northville community in making the education of our young people a top priority.

Opening a World of Possibilities

The following initiatives underway in our district today are inspiring new approaches to learning inside and outside our classrooms:

• Beginning with the district’s youngest students in our nationally accredited Early Childhood Program, our child-centered curriculum meets the real needs of these early learners, providing them with the freedom to enjoy childhood by putting their physical, emotional and intellectual wellbeing first.

• The district’s six elementary schools are setting the bar for strong school improvement processes, tiered intervention and support systems, and, in every school are advancing their work on building a culture of learning and leadership through the rigorous process of The Leader in Me. (See related story on page 6.)

• Cooke School, the district’s special education center program – serving students from age three to 26 – continues its groundbreaking work with students, forging new pathways for these most challenged learners to have a voice, communicate with those around them, and demonstrate their learning.

• The district’s two middle schools, along with Northville High School, are fully authorized as International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools offering the Diploma Program (DP) for highly motivated 11th and 12th graders and the Middle Years Program (MYP) for all students in grades six through 10. (See related story on page 5.) Northville Public Schools also has twice been named to the College Board’s AP District Honor Roll in recognition of increasing access to Advanced Placement courses, while continuing our strong student performance on AP assessments.

• Embedded within each of the district’s schools, and together with parents and the community, our students also have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of athletic, artistic, and extracurricular programs, and take part in a powerful network of service learning and community service experiences.

A Vision for 21st Century Learning

We are redefining Northville Public Schools vision for what the school district will look like five to 10 years down the road in order to maximize the success of our students in the 21st century.

In October 2013, 35 members of the Northville community came together to discuss the impact of the changing 21st century landscape on the education of Northville students. (See related box on page 3.) The group’s diversity contributed to a thoughtful and engaging exchange of ideas as students, parents, teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, and alumni shared their insights about what education will need to look like for this generation of learners and beyond.

The dialog continued in a November 2013 Board of Education Study Session, and with teachers through facilitated workshops focused on the question of what teaching and learning should look like in the next decade to provide the best opportunities for success in a rapidly changing global environment. We have been supported in this groundbreaking work by Dr. Shawn K. Smith and Modern Teacher®, whose work is focused on maximizing teaching effectiveness in the digital world, through 21st century instructional design and delivery grounded in educational history and research.

Our vision work was expanded in spring 2014, as more stakeholders were asked to explore the key attributes of 21st century

About the Northville community

Northville is a suburban community in southeast Michigan. Located 31 miles west of Detroit and 18 miles northeast of Ann Arbor, the Northville of today is in the heart of the state’s educational, cultural, commercial and medical centers. The city’s Victorian downtown is rich in small-town atmosphere and history. The scenic landscape of the township has attracted considerable housing development and population growth over the past 35 years. Most residents are employed in professional career fields including engineering, education, management and medicine. Combined, the population of the City of Northville and Northville Township is more than 36,000. The median household income is $80,554 and the median housing sales price is $322,750.
learning. They joined in this discussion through a visioning activity facilitated by district leaders, together with students, at PTA and staff meetings across the district, as well as with student, business and community leaders. Throughout this effort, we have focused on crafting a vision that invigorates the culture of our district, deepens our work, and goes beyond simply having words on a page.

The Next Steps — Strengthening Teaching and Learning in Real Ways

After moving forward in the technology arena—thanks to the incredible support of the Northville community in passing the 2012 Technology Bond—our goal in this visioning process (which continues for the 2014-15 school year) is to create an overarching, compelling vision for Northville Public Schools that supports our mission, drives school improvement efforts and includes a detailed three to five year roadmap, with specific action items that support progress toward our vision. This will include identifying leading indicators that are supported by both qualitative and quantitative data in four key focus areas:

• Learner Profiles that Lead to Globally Ready Graduates through personalization of learning; and the alignment of globally ready characteristics with standards and assessments, supported by a Culture of Learning and Leadership in every school that empowers students, develops leaders, and fosters intellectual curiosity and a love of learning.

• Re-Imagined Curriculum and Instruction that is relevant, responsive, and personalized; aligned instructionally from preschool through 12th grade; customized to give students ownership over the time.

See VISION FOR SUCCESS on page 4

Did You Know 2014 ...

The top 10 in-demand jobs in 2013 did not exist in 2004.

We are preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist ...

Using technologies that haven’t yet been invented ...

To solve problems we don’t yet know are problems.

Our rapidly changing world

Northville Public Schools recognizes that the world its learners live in—and will eventually work in—is rapidly changing. Many historians have labeled the 20th century the “American Century.” However, at the dawn of this third millennium, America is finding herself wrestling with the changing demands of an interconnected, increasingly diverse, and technologically-rich workspace. Globalization has forced evolving workspace skill demands that require both a strong foundation of traditional content knowledge as well as increased competencies in collaboration, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and digital literacy. Now, almost 15 years into this new millennium, this century has already formed its own history and complexities, which will shape the way learners and the schools that serve them interact.

According to the Center for Public Education, new forces are reshaping the workspace—automation, flattening of organizations, and demographics. Technology has automated routine tasks and provided unique ways to supervise and structure management within organizations. As well, an increasingly diverse America has provided new challenges to education as society becomes more mobile and as the income gap continues to widen.

Northville’s student body is more diverse today than ever before with more than 1,000 students coming from homes where a language other than English is spoken, a 69 percent increase when compared to five years ago. There are more than 50 languages other than English spoken in students’ homes including Chinese, Arabic, Korean, Hindi, Spanish, Japanese, Guajarati, Punjabi, Urdu, and Romanian. With such diversity in our student and community populations, students are learning to be increasingly open-minded and reflective as they bridge cultural differences to build understanding and listen to one another.

As the explosion in technology brings the world close together, Northville Public Schools strives to ensure that students today—and all those who come after them—will be ready to compete in a global society by unleashing the potential of our young people as engaged learners, and contributing, passionate and compassionate world citizens.
Vision for Success
Continued from page 3

place, path and pace of their learning; and learning environments that reflect the technology tools of today.

• **Effective Two-Way Communication** to and from all Northville Public Schools stakeholders that is timely and relevant and that creates opportunities for active involvement.

• **Organizational Effectiveness** that strengthens strategic planning and provides leadership at all levels of the school system, with performance management indicators including quality school system standards, fiscal responsibility and facility maintenance.

As a part of the next phase in this visioning process, in May 2014 the district kicked off district-wide visioning teams in the areas of **Curriculum & Assessment Design and Technology Design** that began their work over the summer. The 23-member Curriculum & Assessment Design team is focusing on developing user-friendly knowledge maps and a unit design framework, while the 15-member Technology Design team is building capacity around digital learning tools and providing input into the development of a robust digital learning platform. A guiding principle of the district’s technology planning is focused on rigorous curriculum design and learning outcomes, with technology serving as a tool to support learning.

The work of these two visioning teams are intersecting throughout this process. Their work to date is being shared with all teachers, with ongoing work including feedback from and with stakeholders. Already this fall, more than 140 kindergarten through eighth grade teachers have come together in intense daylong sessions to begin building content area maps across the grade levels in subject areas including math, science, English language arts, world languages and social studies. This is learning-focused, ground-breaking work that is building a culture of leadership and learning for all students that is advancing in each of our schools.

The students in our school system today will be the leaders and innovators of tomorrow, entrusted to care for our world and raise the next generation of compassionate world citizens. It is our responsibility – as Northville educators, teachers, students and community members – to ensure they are ready to shoulder these responsibilities.

Join us on our journey
We invite you to join in this journey as we continue to **Advance Our Tradition of Excellence** and **Open a World of Possibilities** for each of our students. For more information about this groundbreaking work and how you can be a part of it go to [http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/6467](http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/6467).

**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 naughtonja@northvilleschools.org. You also can find **Connections** on the district’s website at [www.northvilleschools.org](http://www.northvilleschools.org).
**IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs offer learning experiences from a global perspective**

Northville High School, Hillside Middle School and Meads Mill Middle School are fully authorized by the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization as IB World Schools offering the Middle Years Program for all Northville students in sixth through 10th grade and the IB Diploma Program for highly motivated 11th and 12th graders.

“This unique and innovative approach to learning through the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs means our middle and high school students and teachers are part of an unparalleled global network committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who are equipped to succeed in the 21st century and who have the tremendous potential to make the world a better place for future generations,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Deanna Barash. “These authorizations—granted last spring—are the culmination of a multi-year initiative on the part of the entire school district that is a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and leadership at Northville High School, Hillside Middle School, and Meads Mill Middle School.”

**IB Middle Years Program**

Rather than inviting participation in IB to only those students interested in the Diploma Program — designed for academically talented high school juniors and seniors — Northville Public Schools has chosen to impact all learners through the IB Middle Years Program beginning in sixth grade at the district’s two middle schools and continuing through 10th grade at Northville High School.

The IB Middle Years Program (MYP) provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and to understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, by becoming critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP emphasizes intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth through all domains of knowledge and prompts students to understand how they learn and to connect and apply that learning. Students study in eight subject areas — English language arts, a world language, social studies, sciences, math, the arts, physical education, and technology. Teachers organize the curriculum through units that emphasize inquiry through global contexts. Global contexts provide the framework for learning and give relevance and meaning to that learning. In their capstone 10th grade year, MYP students also undertake a “personal project” that allows them to demonstrate their understanding and skills developed throughout the Middle Years Program.

The Middle Years Program strengthens learning across the domains of knowledge, while supporting the development of a strong learner profile with experiences that require students to understand themselves as learners, apply their learning, and consider multiple perspectives to strengthen their understanding of complex issues. The IB Middle Years Program also builds on the transformational *The Leader in Me* initiative taking root in the school district’s six elementary schools, based on Stephen Covey’s *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and designed to teach leadership to students. (See related story on page 6.)

**IB Diploma Program**

The IB Diploma Program is a demanding two-year curriculum that works in an interconnected and cross discipline manner and leads to final examinations and qualifications for students that are recognized by leading colleges and universities across the country and around the world because of its focus on critical learning and thinking. The Diploma Program is a holistic approach to education that requires participating high school juniors and seniors to take six subjects over two years chosen from five groups — literature in the student’s native language, a world language, science, math, and a humanity or social science — plus an art or another choice from the first five groups. In addition to this coursework, students in the Diploma Program complete three core requirements that challenge and broaden their educational experience. These include a 4,000-word extended essay, a “Theory of Knowledge” epistemology class, and 150 hours of activities focused on creativity, action, and service (CAS). Northville High School juniors and seniors also may choose to take individual IB Diploma courses outside of the full Diploma Program. These “a la carte” courses enhance the college readiness course options offered to students and enables more students to experience the Diploma Program curriculum. Northville High School currently offers 20 IB Diploma Program courses starting with the class of 2016 with 21 students in the 11th grade fully enrolled in the Diploma Program and more than 50 students taking one or more Diploma Program classes.

For more information about the IB Programs at Northville Public Schools, visit the district website at http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/1165.
The Leader in Me framework at elementary schools builds culture of leadership and learning

With all six Northville Public Schools elementary schools embracing the transformational The Leader in Me framework, the opportunity to build on a culture of leadership and learning across the school district has never been greater. Based on Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, the initiative is designed to teach leadership to students.

The Leader in Me is an innovative, school-wide model that emphasizes a culture of student empowerment and helps unleash each child’s full potential. Applying the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, teachers and students internalize enduring leadership principles that nurture the skills students need for success in the 21st century. This is powerful work that fits hand-in-hand with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and brings students, teachers, parent and families together with the collective focus on learning in a way that loosens the leadership capacity and potential within each learner.

“Through The Leader in Me framework, the 7 Habits infuse everything our school does,” said Denise Bryan, Principal of Moraine Elementary School, one of two Northville elementary schools, along with Silver Springs Elementary School, that have earned the prestigious “Lighthouse School” status in their The Leader in Me journeys. “Every student sets goals in the areas of literacy, math, and leadership, which support our school improvement goals. Each student also has a personal action plan, and a Leadership Notebook where they track their progress. Teachers have goals too based on their classroom data. And as principal, I have goals based on our school-wide data. Our students are learning that by setting a goal and working toward it diligently, steady, incremental growth over time yields remarkable results.”

Northville’s Winchester and Ridge Wood elementary schools are in their second full year of the implementation of The Leader in Me process, and Amerman and Thornton Creek elementary schools are in the first full year of their journeys after receiving grants last spring from the I Am A Leader Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing programs and services that build student character and leadership in elementary schools around the world.

For more information visit The Leader in Me website at http://www.theleaderinme.org/.

Voting Information
November 4, 2014 Election

Absentee ballot applications for those unable to get to the polls on November 4th, as well as information about voting precincts and locations, are available at your city or township clerk’s office.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day - Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Stepping back in time

For the 26th straight year, Northville third graders took a step back in time in September during the annual Victorian Festival field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. The more than 600 students dressed in Victorian costumes toured Northville on the Friday before the popular weekend-long festival opened to the public. They participated in a variety of activities coordinated by Northville Public Schools with support from the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the Northville Educational Foundation, local businesses and the City of Northville, along with school district teachers, staff and students.

In their travels, students played Victorian-era children’s games, heard stories about the community’s past, enjoyed an interactive experience with a magician, listened to Victorian songs sung by the Northville High School choirs, 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 dressed up in Victorian wear to serve as guides at Mill Race, sharing skits depicting life in Northville more than a century ago.

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

Photos by Stackwood Studios Photography
Four candidates vie for three open school board seats

The four candidates vying for the three open seats on the Northville Public Schools’ Board of Education are: Scott Frush, Roland Hwang, Ann Kalass and James Mazurek. Below are profiles of each of the candidates.

Scott Frush

A Northville school district resident and school parent for three years, Scott Frush is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Education. Currently the owner and investment advisor for Frush Financial Group in Northville, Frush is the author of 11 books, including six finance-related books published by McGraw-Hill. He is also the publisher of the ETF Market Watch newsletter. Previously, he served as an Instructor of the ETF Market Watch newsletter.

In 2010, Frush was named to the Detroit-based dbusiness magazine “30 in Their Thirties” annual list in recognition of his professional achievements before the age of 40. In 2007, Frush received the prestigious CFA Magazine’s “Most Investor Oriented” award, which recognizes one Chartered Financial Analyst Institute member who has made outstanding contributions to investor education.

Frush is a member of the Ridge Wood Elementary School PTA, and is currently serving on the Northville District Library Development Committee and Fundraiser Subcommittee as Chairperson. He also is a member of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth. In addition, Frush has served two terms as a Director on the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Alumni Association Board and as a Councilperson for the St. Hugo of the Hills Parish Council in Bloomfield Hills.

Frush earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from EMU and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame. He also is a credentialed Chartered Financial Analyst and Certified Financial Planner.

Prior to moving to Northville, Frush and his family lived in Wixom for six years. Frush and his wife, Christina, have two children, a daughter, Gabriella, in second grade, and a son, Ryan, in first grade, at Ridge Wood. Both children are actively involved in the Northville Soccer Association.

“In addition to being an education advocate, I’m a certified financial planner professional and a Northville business owner—two essential skillsets for a Board member given Northville Public Schools’ $65 million annual budget,” Frush said. “My independent investment advisory office is located inside my in-laws’ Cantoro’s Italian Market in Northville Township. As a local business owner, I have a vested interest in and commitment to our community. With over 20 years of financial experience, I am well-prepared to tackle school finances (budgets, expenditures, reporting, etc.) and then make prudent decisions. That means I can hit the ground running and be more impactful on the Board.”

Roland Hwang

Roland Hwang is a 26-year resident of the Northville school district and the father of two children, one enrolled at Northville High School. Currently a member of the District Curriculum Committee, Hwang is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Education.

In his role on the District Curriculum Committee, Hwang has participated in a curriculum review process that examines the best global practices, with the Committee’s work done in math leading to the adoption of the Singapore system.

Hwang has experience as a lawyer, engineer, and nonprofit board member, I would bring to the school board a diverse professional and community experience. I would concentrate on further improving our high quality education with smart fiscal management, ensuring that expendi-
tures enhance the learning experience. As a listener, I will give parents their voice on school issues. My commitment is to exercise fiscal discipline, to foster innovation in teaching and learning, and to provide the tools needed to ensure each student receives the best opportunity for a successful, productive life.”

**Ann Kalass**

Currently serving as a Trustee on the Northville Board of Education, Ann Kalass is seeking her first four-year term on the Board. Kalass was appointed by the Board in January 2014 from among a group of seven candidates to complete a one-year term left open when Joseph Hige, Jr., opted not to serve the additional one-year extension of his term that was the result of a change in Michigan election laws.

A resident of the Northville school district for the past 11 years, Kalass and her family have also lived in Coto de Caza, California; Longwood, Florida; Dunwoody, Georgia; and Troy, Michigan, during her time working for Ford Motor Company. For the past seven years, Kalass has served as Chief Executive Officer of Starfish Family Services, a private, nonprofit agency serving vulnerable children and families across metropolitan Detroit. As CEO, she is responsible for strategic planning, fund development, board development, fiscal management, and program and organizational management for the $35 million agency. Starfish programs include early childhood education, with over 1,000 children five and under served daily. Prior to joining Starfish, Kalass worked for 13 years in a variety of marketing and sales executive positions at Ford Motor Company, including running Lincoln-Mercury’s largest sales region in the country and overseeing the brand’s marketing communications with a $400 million annual budget.

Since 2012, Kalass has served on the Oakwood Healthcare System Board. Previously, she also was an Executive Committee Member for the Great Start Collaborative-Wayne, a collaborative body designed to engage the entire community in a coordinated system of services and resources for families and children through age five.

In her year on the Northville Board of Education, Kalass has served as the board liaison to the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Wayne County Association of School Boards. As a school district resident and parent, Kalass and her family have experienced the full range of Northville Public Schools offerings from early childhood through high school, attending Silver Springs Elementary School, Meads Mill Middle School and Northville High School. She and her family also have been PTA/PTSA members and contributors for the past 12 years. Kalass and her husband, Scott, have two daughters Katie, a senior, and Natalie, a sophomore, at the high school. Kalass earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and her Master in Business Administration from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire.

“Since January, I’ve been privileged to contribute my time and perspective to the success of Northville Public Schools,” Kalass said. “The daughter and sister of teachers, I’m an advocate for our public education system, and Northville is a shining example of how public education can work in a community that has prioritized education. I bring demonstrated leadership and a balanced, pragmatic perspective to the Board’s governance role. My 25 years of professional experiences, including challenging management roles at Ford and now leading the vibrant social services organization Starfish Family Services, have prepared me well to constructively contribute to important decisions in our district.”

**James Mazurek**

A resident in the Northville school district for 20-plus years, Jim Mazurek is seeking his second term on the Northville Board of Education. Currently Assistant Vice President of Automotive Sales for Neusoft America, Mazurek previously worked in numerous management positions for more than 26 years at Ford/Visteon.

Mazurek and his wife, Suzanne, have a son, Jordon, attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and a daughter, Rachel, who is in sixth grade at Hillside Middle School. Mazurek has been an active parent volunteer helping at Thornton Creek Elementary School. He has also served as secretary for eight years on the Beekenham Home Owners Association Board and is a member of St. James Catholic Church in Novi. He has regularly attended Northville Board of Education meetings since August 2009 and was elected to his first four-year term in 2010. Over the past four years, he has held multiple positions on the Board including Secretary, Vice President, and currently President. During that time he also has served on several Board committees; been a district representative to the Wayne County Regional Education Agency and the Claude N. Ely Memorial Fund Committee; and is currently the Board representative to the Senior Advisory Commission.

Mazurek received his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan — Dearborn and his Master of Science in Engineering from the U of M Rackham Graduate School. He also has a Master of Business Administration through the Michigan State University Executive Management Program.

“I have always believed in getting involved, and this is my way of giving back to provide the best education I can for the district and my own child,” Mazurek said. “Educational excellence is a key factor for success in today’s global economy. Over the past four years we have managed through tremendous amounts of change. We have put our district on firm financial footing. We also have shifted the focus to education for the 21st century. We are already one of the top districts in the state educationally, and we want to keep pushing the effort forward.”
Candidates

Continued from page 9

“We have put some very good programs in place to make that push, including The Leader in Me at the elementary level, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma Programs at the secondary level,” Mazurek added. “We also have upgraded the district’s technology infrastructure. The effort now is to take these programs and fully embrace them and gain expertise. We are now in process of working with teachers, staff and administrators to modify the curriculum to take advantage of what we have started. I want to see this through to final implementation.”

“As a member of the Northville Board of Education, I will continue with a practical approach to maintaining and improving our education system; focus on prioritizing our spending to maintain educational success; look at each item and determine how it impacts the education goal; have a real willingness to listen to the community; and deliver strong educational programs.”

Board of Education member Ken Roth named Northville’s 2014 Citizen of the Year

Dedicated Northville Board of Education member and passionate community volunteer Ken Roth is the Northville Chamber of Commerce “2014 John Genitti Northville Citizen of the Year.” This marks the first year in the award’s 38-year history that it is being given in honor of longtime Northville business owner and community activist John Genitti, who passed away earlier this year.

“Northville Public Schools is the cornerstone of our vibrant community, and Ken has confidently been elected to three, four-year terms by the voting public,” said Northville Board of Education President Jim Mazurek in nominating Roth for Citizen of the Year. “During Ken’s tenure on the Board, our district has transitioned from one superintendent to another, witnessed 19 individual school board trustees come and go…and welcomed 10 new central office administrators. During this time Ken has served as a steady champion for Northville children and our district, providing time, energy, wisdom, passion and continuity to our community’s most prized asset – our schools!”

A 17-year resident of Northville, Roth, who has chosen not to seek re-election this fall, has served more than 12 years on the Northville Public Schools Board of Education. First elected to the Board in 2002, Roth is currently serving as Vice President. While on the Board, Roth has served 10 terms as an officer including three as President, three as Vice President and four as Treasurer.

Roth also has been involved in many other organizations and activities throughout the Northville community and beyond including as the school board liaison to the Northville Parks and Recreation Commission, as a member of the City of Northville’s Downtown Development Authority; as chairman of the city’s Art Placement Committee; as a member of the Northville Downtown Steering Committee for Phase I; as a member of the city’s Citizens Budget Advisory Committee; and as a member of the Committee for Non-Motorized Vehicle Access. In addition, he has served on a local Citizen Advisory Committee to Maybury State Park and is involved in promoting winter activities at Huron Meadows Metro Park, in Brighton, as a key organizer of the annual “Frosty Freestyle” cross country ski race at the park. Earlier this year, he was honored as a 2013 Huron-Clinton Metroparks “Volunteer of the Year.”

In addition, Roth has been a small business owner for the past 22 years, operating a successful law practice. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and his law degree from Boston University. He has been married for 18 years to Dr. Amy Kostrzewa.

“Ken has demonstrated a deep commitment to the entire Northville community,” said City of Northville Mayor Chris Johnson in a letter supporting Roth’s nomination. “In all these activities, Ken has offered solutions. This is a real hallmark of Ken’s service to our community.”

In addition to the Citizen of the Year honors, Roth will also be recognized at the Tuesday, December 9, 2014 Northville Board of Education meeting as he completes his more than 12 years of service on the Board.

“I want to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the entire Northville school community our heartfelt thanks to Ken for his wisdom, compassion and ongoing dedication to Northville’s young people over these many years,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “I can’t think of anyone more deserving of the Citizen of the Year honors. As Ken’s service on the Board of Education comes to an end, we wish him well in whatever the future holds, and know that he will continue to be a strong advocate for our schools and our community.”
Choir Honors — The Northville High School Chamber Choir has been selected to perform during the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Choral Hour at the prestigious Michigan Music Conference. The 20-member choir is one of only three high school vocal music groups in the state selected for this honor. The Chamber Choir will represent Northville Public Schools on Friday, January 23, 2015 at a 3 p.m. concert at the J.W. Marriott Ballroom in Grand Rapids. Chamber Choir members include Jack Baligian, Nick Barba, Maria Cholack, Heather Donnelly, Jack Ernst, Maddie Green, Jack Kallas, Samantha Kargilis, Nathan Lane, Laura Khoury, Hoon Oh, Nick Ralph, Emily Peck, Mercy Rede, Isabel Rocha, Andrew Schafer, Alex Thomas, Camille Tish, Scott Tobin and Patricia Vekima.

National Merit Scholars — Thirty-four 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.

Eighteen 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 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $35 million that will be offered in the spring. These Semi-Finalists include: Kavya Adiga, Nabiha Y. Biviji, Pooja Dandamudi, Weiyi Ding, Helen C. Garby, Urvashi Gupta, Perry Jiang, Samantha N. Kargilis, Aliya R. Kahn, Erin G. Kim, Sree M. Lanka, Rachel McIlvaine, Simran R. Reddy, Nirek R. Sharma, Tejas L. Venugopal, Shunhe Wang, Kevin Yu, and Geoffrey Zhu.

In addition, 16 members of the Northville High School Class of 2015 earned National Merit Scholar Commended honors, ranking them among the top 5 percent of their peers academically nationwide. Commended students include: Derek Gan, Alina Haque, Zal D. Joshi, Una Koh, Nathan S. Lwo, Jonathan M. Mitchell, Anika P. Mukherji, William T. Peck, Sneha Rathi, Malika S. Sachdev, Mira J. Sanghvi, Matthew S. Schafer, Jacob M. Sirois, Kevin Yang, Victoria A. Zaremba, Katie T. Zhang.

Learn more about Stormwater Management

Northville Public Schools is committed to the environment and strives to be a good steward of the land within its jurisdiction and to use appropriate Best Management Practices to contribute to the improvement of water quality within the Rouge River Watershed where the district is located.

Northville Public Schools encourages all students, faculty, staff, parents, and visitors to get involved through opportunities provided by the local watershed groups including Friends of the Rouge and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). The district is committed to “promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life of the people, plants and animals of the watershed”.

To this end, the school district has developed and is implementing a “Stormwater Management Program Plan” in compliance with state and federal regulations. Stormwater carries untreated water runoff directly into creeks and rivers and, by doing so, impacts the environment. Improper disposal of wastes, such as oil, paint, fertilizer and pesticides will pollute the stormwater and destroy plants, endanger wildlife and affect drinking water.

To learn more about the district’s “Stormwater Management Program Plan” and how you can help protect the environment, visit the district’s website at http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/271.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education and the School District not to unlawfully discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability. Concerns or questions may be directed to the following offices at 248-344-3500. Title IX and Title VI, the Office of Instructional Services; and Section 504, the Special Services Department. (See Board Policy No. 1440.93.)
Thank you NEF and the Northville school community!

The Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) contributes to the excellence that exemplifies Northville Public Schools through the funding of academic, artistic and athletic initiatives that allow the district’s schools to not only continue to offer comprehensive programming, but to strengthen pathways for success for all students in the 21st century world. With its sole financial purpose to fund programs at Northville Public Schools, which the district would not otherwise be able to support, NEF is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization that raises and professionally manages, and, in partnership with Northville Public Schools, distributes donated funds to supplement and enrich educational programming.

Celebrating 15 years of supporting Northville students, teachers and families, the Foundation has allocated $76,800 to the school district for the 2014-15 school year in the following areas:

- International Baccalaureate ($23,000)
- The Leader In Me ($18,000 -- $3,000 to each elementary school)
- Innovative Teacher Grants ($15,000)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives ($10,000)
- Student Financial Aid ($2,500)
- Coaches Programs and Athletic Assistance Grants ($2,500)
- Third Grade Victorian Festival Field Trip ($1,000)
- National Merit Scholars Breakfast ($800)
- Other/miscellaneous needs that may arise throughout the school year ($4,000)

In addition, the Foundation is managing two directed donations to support the district’s Cooke School special education center program library and to renovate the school’s kitchen facilities for use in teaching students important life skills.

The Foundation also hopes to raise another $20,000 or more that will be donated directly to the district’s schools to support academic, athletic and arts programs through its annual Night for Northville event being planned for mid- to late-March 2015.

“Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every donor – including businesses, individuals, families, staff members and community organizations – who contribute to the Northville Educational Foundation,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “Since 2010, the Foundation has raised and granted more than $2 million for Northville Public Schools. Contributing is a great way to keep local dollars here in Northville, and to support an organization committed to enriching our schools and inspiring our future.”

Most recently, Northville Public Schools teachers and staff donated more than $10,000 to the Northville Educational Foundation during its 2014 Staff Giving Campaign.

“As ambassadors for the youth of Northville, the Northville Public Schools staff already works hand-in-hand with the Northville Educational Foundation in raising the bar for excellence in Northville Public Schools” said Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Roosenberg. “The fact that so many staff members were willing to go above and beyond to support students in the district is a testimony to the high level of dedication among staff district-wide.”

The Foundation’s fundraising goal for the 2014-15 school year is to raise $30 for each of the approximately 7,320 students in the school district or more than $200,000. For more information about NEF and how you can contribute and/or get involved visit www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.