

# Connections

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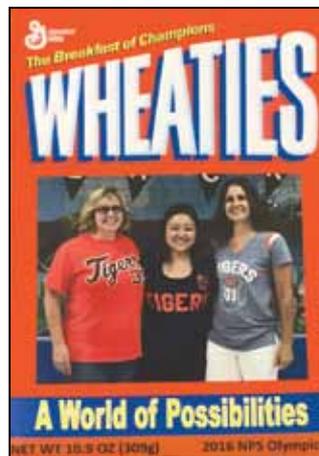
## New initiatives advance district's *World of Possibilities*

A Breakfast of Champions — complete with Wheaties cereal boxes featuring NPS staff — launched a district-wide Olympic-themed welcome back ceremony on August 30 at Northville High School. Moderating the event from the news booth for the 2016 *NPS World of Possibilities* broadcast were Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher, Dylan Curtis, NHS Class of 2017, and Rayhan Arayilakath, Class of 2024. The ceremony welcomed and honored 950 educators, specialists, and support staff, all wearing gold medals, and provided an opportunity to update educators on new initiatives, celebrate students, and gratefully acknowledge the Northville community for its support.

The award-winning 267-member NHS Marching Band fired up the crowd, along with more than 100 student leaders and singers participating in the event.

Torchbearers, including the Northville Chamber of Commerce, Mothers' Club of Northville, Rotary Club of Northville, Northville Educational Foundation, Northville Council of PTAs, the NPS Board of Education, and Northville High School Alum Josh Buoy Class of '09, passed the Olympic torch to Mustang mascot, Darwin, who lit the torch for the new school year. Singers from first grade to seniors, together with NPS music teachers and the Cooke School Signations, wowed the audience with a flash mob performance of Arlon Bennett's song, *A World of Possibility*.

Each school and program introduced



new staff members and student leaders, with broadcasters highlighting the following examples of exemplary student growth and a culture of leadership and learning across all of Northville Public Schools:

- **The NPS Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Program** serves over 1,100 pre-K and school-age students. The quest for academic excellence begins with the nationally accredited Early Childhood Education programs, laying the foundation for a lifetime of learning.
- **Cooke School**, the district's special education center program that serves students from ages three to 26 from across Wayne County, continues its groundbreaking work with students, forging new pathways for our most challenged learners to have a voice, communicate with those around them, and demonstrate their learning.
- Within each of the **district's six elementary schools**, deep leadership

*See World of Possibilities, page 2*



### Forging our past

Northville third graders watch a demonstration by blacksmith Gary Smith in the Hirsch Blacksmith Shop at Mill Race Historical Village during this year's Heritage Festival (formerly the Victorian Festival). This is the 28th year Northville third graders participated in the annual festival field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. *Photo by Stackwood Studios*

## Inside Connections

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Tickets available for NEF Cash for College Raffle



**Tuesday, November 8, 2016 • General Election**  
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day  
*(Please see Northville Board of Education profiles on pages 6-8)*

## World of Possibilities

*Continued from page 1*

work continues through the powerful framework of *The Leader in Me*. The innovative school-wide effort emphasizes student empowerment and goal-setting that helps unleash each child's potential. Moraine, Silver Springs, and Ridge Wood elementary schools have each achieved the prestigious Lighthouse School milestone, with Winchester, Amerman, and Thornton Creek schools advancing on the path to this distinction.

- **Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools** continue to deepen implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, and in 2015-16, launched Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes with grant funding from Mothers' Club of Northville and the Northville Educational Foundation. Through PLTW's hands-on, project-based STEM curriculum, students apply math and science to real-world situations, developing the problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills that 21st century employers identify as critical.
- **Northville High School** touted an accomplished Class of 2016, with a four-year cohort graduation rate over 98%, 19 National Merit Scholar finalists, one semi-finalist, and 12 commended students, along with the first class of 19 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Candidates. The Class of 2016 also included 19 graduates of the newly implemented Core Academy, with students who overcame significant challenges to earn their diplomas and the right to walk across the stage at graduation.
- Along with these academic achievements, Northville Public Schools is also home to one of the largest, most successful vocal and instrumental music programs in the state, a comprehensive visual arts program with work recognized at the local, state, and national level, and a vast array of athletic and extra-curricular opportunities for students.

Also highlighted during the Opening Ceremony were **two key initiatives** under way for 2016-17, including the implementation of a new *educator evaluation framework* consistent with new legislative requirements, and the ongoing work to *strengthen the district's security and safety protocols*.

NPS selected the research-based **Five Dimensions for Teaching and Learning Instructional Framework™ / 5D+™** as its educator evaluation tool beginning in 2016-17, because it fully aligns with and supports district and school improvement goals. The framework is based on the best practice instructional strategies that have the highest impact on student learning with a focus on equity (each and every student), an emphasis on the student's role in their own learning, and rigorous intellectual work. A key aspect of the framework is that it also empowers teachers to engage in professional inquiry and set goals for their own professional growth.

Northville Public Schools, with the support of the Northville Township Police department, along with the City of Northville Police, Novi Police, and the



ALICE Training Institute, are **strengthening security protocols** based on updated best practices recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Education, among others.

The district is adding the use of the ALICE protocol to enhance its response to any situation that may involve a violent intruder. ALICE is an acronym that stands for steps that can be taken IN ANY



The NHS Band took the stage as part of the 2016 NPS World of Possibilities welcome back celebration August 30. Silver Springs Elementary Principal Katie Booth (photo below) introduced the school's student leaders.

ORDER: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

ALICE training empowers adults and students with additional strategies to keep themselves and each other safe – through access to more information, a greater emphasis on evacuating when possible, enhancing lockdown protocols, and providing age-appropriate lessons and information. Training and educational opportunities began this summer with the district's leadership team, and will continue over the next several months with staff, parents, and students.

Partnering in this effort is Mothers' Club of Northville, who donated a copy of the children's book, *I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared* for each Pre-K/Elementary classroom, and Home Depot of Northville, which donated 500 five-gallon buckets to assist with emergency preparedness materials.

Another critical initiative for the 2016-17 school year is long-term facility planning including the disposition of Old Village School and options for the Main Street facility. *See story on pages 3 and 4.*

Building on its strong *Tradition of Excellence*, the district's initiatives for the 2016-17 school year will continue to open a *World of Possibilities* for all Northville Public Schools students. *For more information, including a detailed report on the district's progress toward its 2014-2019 District goals, refer to the 2015-16 Year-End Report, available on the NPS website at [www.northvilleschools.org](http://www.northvilleschools.org).*

Let the learning begin!

## Facility and infrastructure planning among district's priorities

The 40 participants in this summer's CAMP Meads Mill, sponsored by Northville Youth Assistance, were the first students to get a look at the renovation of the school's Media Center and collaboration studio. The transition program for incoming sixth graders — also offered concurrently at Hillside Middle School with 40 students participating — took place in mid-August during the school district's summer construction season.

Though not actually in the construction zone, the participants were supplied "hard hats" by staff at CAMP Meads Mill and allowed a first peek at the work in progress that transformed the area into a collaboration studio and innovation pod. Designed by TMP Architecture, the space will facilitate student collaborative work, and better utilize technology in those spaces. Funds from the 2012 Technology Bond were used to purchase technology and furniture for the renovated areas.

The remodeling of the Meads Mill Media Center and collaboration studio were one of several facility projects addressed by the district this summer, utilizing \$2.9 million from the fifth and final year of the 2011 voter-approved Sinking Fund Capital Improvement Millage.

### Other projects included:

- Lighting improvements in all classrooms at Meads Mill
- HVAC improvements at Silver Springs
- Installation of classroom doors on rooms currently without doors at Silver Springs and Winchester, and replacement of classroom doors at Amerman. In addition, security door hardware was installed on all new doors at the three schools.
- Paving of the front parking lot at Silver Springs, and remediation of a drainage issue at the rear of the school.
- Resurfacing of the athletic tracks at Northville High School and Meads Mill Middle School. Structural spray was also applied to the high school track to extend its life cycle.

Funds generated from a sinking fund millage may only be used for necessary repairs to school facilities, not operating costs such as salaries, programs, textbooks, routine maintenance, furniture or technology. The community's overwhelming approval in 2015 of a renewal of the 2011 sinking fund millage will provide the district with approximately \$2.6 million for each of the next five years from 2016-2020 to address the next phase of identified priority needs within allowable use of sinking fund dollars. Those funds will become available with the 2016 tax levy to fund 2017 projects.

While the sinking fund millage provides monies for addressing the district's most critical facility repairs — preserving much needed general fund dollars for instruction and student learning — the district's aging buildings and student enrollment growth have placed long term facility and infrastructure planning as a top priority for the 2016-17 school year. The district saw an enrollment increase of 145 students in the 2015-16 school year and another 40 students this September, with growth in the northwest sector of the district, and increases in enrollment at Northville High School as larger classes move from middle school to high school.



Participants in this summer's CAMP Meads Mill were among the first to view renovations of the school's Media Center and collaboration studio. As renovations were ongoing during the popular elementary-to-middle school transition program, participants donned "hard hats" to take a first peek at the transformation.

*Photo by Shannon Hayes*

To address pending capacity issues at Moraine, last year the Board of Education approved an elementary school boundary adjustment that reassigns undeveloped property and homes under construction in certain areas of the Moraine attendance boundary to Thornton Creek and Ridge Wood elementary schools. The purpose of this attendance area reassignment was to proactively address the projected enrollment growth in the Moraine attendance area, which is already capacity constrained.

Two of the district's oldest facilities are currently awaiting proposals for possible redevelopment. The district's oldest building, Old Village School (closed in 2012 in order to reduce costs and better coordinate the district's special education center pro-

*Continued on page 4*

### Coffee with the Superintendent

Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher invites Northville parents, guardians and community members for coffee and informal conversation as follows:

**Monday, October 10, 2016 • 9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**Northville Community Center  
303 West Main Street in  
downtown Northville**

These informal coffees offer school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and learn more about the school district in a small group setting. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any point during the specified time period.



# Infrastructure

*Continued from page 3*

grams), was the focus of a joint-funded study to co-locate the City of Northville and Northville Public Schools' administration offices into the 1917 structure. Final report of the study released in February resulted in both entities concluding that re-purposing the historic structure to a joint operation was cost prohibitive.

Subsequently, the Board of Education agreed to proceed with the process of developing Requests for Proposals for the repurposing of Old Village School, and potentially, the Main Street facility (formerly Main Street Elementary), with the goal of finding a fiscally responsible solution that is in the best interest of the school district as well as the community. In June, the school board approved a contract with the Great Northern Consulting Group for pre-sale and marketing services. The scope of work includes the preparation, distribution and evaluation of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and developer/builder responses to the RFPs. The RFPs were released in September, with responses due back in late October.



**The newly-renovated Media Center and collaboration studio greeted Meads Mill students and staff at the start of the 2016-17 school year. Funds from the 2011 Sinking Fund Capital Improvement Millage paid for the renovation that will facilitate student collaborative work and better utilize technology. Furniture and technology was purchased through the 2012 Technology Bond.**

*Photos by Stackwood Studios*

Because both buildings are in the city's historic district, any plan to significantly change and/or build on these sites is subject to review by the Historic District Commission as well as the City of Northville Planning Commission.

Regarding Old Village and Main Street schools, as well as the broader long-term facility and infrastructure planning process, the Board of Education will provide opportunities for parent and community feedback.

As the district continues to develop its long term facility and infrastructure plan, consideration is being given to the potential relocation of Central Office functions and Early Childhood classrooms currently housed at Main Street; options for addressing capacity concerns at Northville High School, Moraine Elementary School and/or Thornton Creek Elementary School; facility and infrastructure needs at Hillside Middle School; along with classroom learning environment/furniture replacement needs across the district.

As consideration is given to proposals re-



## 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>



## New principals take the helm at Amerman and Hillside

Northville Public Schools welcomed two new principals for the 2016-17 school year. Marco Marando joined Amerman Elementary as principal, succeeding Debbie Madeja, who retired at the end of the 2015-16 school year. William Jones is the new principal at Hillside Middle School, succeeding Jim Cracraft, who was appointed superintendent of Clinton Community Schools.



**Marco Marando**

Marando comes to Northville Public Schools from the Taylor School District, where he served as principal of Blair Moody Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. While at Blair Moody, Marando was instrumental in fostering the development and beginning the implementation of *The Leader in Me* framework, which resulted in the school being awarded a *The Leader in Me* Foundation grant. In addition to serving as an active and visible leader, Marando worked collaboratively with stakeholders at the school to successfully increase parent involvement. Prior to joining Blair Moody, Marando was a fifth grade teacher for five years with Lamphere Schools in Madison Heights, Michigan. While with Lamphere, he also served as a summer school principal, teacher leader and athletic coach. In addition, he was selected for participation in the Galileo Leadership Academy and the Oakland Schools Aspiring Principals' Leadership Academy.

"As a leader, Marco Marando aspires to create an atmosphere where students grow intellectually, emotionally and socially," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "He is excited to join the Amerman community and Northville Public Schools, with the goal of fostering student achievement and building on a school culture that works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that we make a difference in each of our student's lives."

Marando has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Oakland University and a Master of Education – Principalship from Saginaw Valley State University. He also serves on the Alumni Resource Development Board for the School of Education and Human Services at Oakland University and recently received "The Young Alumni 10 Within 10" award from the university for his accomplishments in education.

Jones comes to Northville Public Schools from Royal Oak Schools where he served as assistant principal at Royal Oak Middle School for the past five years. During his tenure at Royal Oak, Jones was instrumental in the school's extensive work to become fully authorized as an IB World School offering the IB Middle Years Program (MYP). Along with his day-to-day administrative duties at the school, Jones also led

and coordinated numerous staff professional development programs; designed and oversaw a fifth to sixth grade transition program culminating in a parent event highlighting the athletic, academic and social opportunities of middle school life; coordinated the building's Multi-Tiered System of Supports team; and led the building's Positive Behavior Intervention Supports team to design a framework of interventions and a system of student recognition. For the past two years, he has partnered with Royal Oak's six elementary schools to review achievement data and coordinate the academic transition of fifth grade students to the middle school.

Prior to joining Royal Oak Middle School, Jones served as dean of students at Jefferson Middle School in St. Clair Shores for two years, and as an English teacher at Lakeview High School, also in St. Clair Shores, for seven years, where he was named the 2007-08 Lakeview High School Teacher of the Year, as well as the Macomb County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Jones also has taught college courses as an adjunct professor at Baker College in Clinton Township.



**William Jones**

"Over the course of our multi-phase selection process, William Jones emerged as an exceptional candidate with experience, depth of knowledge, and a relentless focus on teaching and learning within a welcoming and supportive school environment," said Gallagher. "He is committed to working collaboratively with teachers, students and families to build on Hillside's tradition of excellence and nurture opportunities for continued

growth. We are excited to welcome William Jones to Hillside and Northville Public Schools!"

Jones has a Bachelor of Arts – Secondary Education from Western Michigan University and a Master of Arts in Education—Instruction and Curriculum from Central Michigan University. He also has an Education Specialist Degree in General Administration and Supervision from Wayne State University. As a community volunteer, Jones gives of his time as a youth sports coach, a Boy Scout den leader, and has served on the Royal Oak Salvation Army Advisory Council.

"I am excited to join Northville Public Schools and the team at Hillside Middle School," Jones said. "An MYP middle school is a special place whose focus on inquiry and leadership truly prepares students for success in future study and a lifetime of independent learning. I look forward to continuing Hillside's tradition of excellence, strong community involvement, and commitment to student learning in a supportive, welcoming environment."

## Five candidates vie for four open school board seats

Five candidates will vie for four seats on the Northville Board of Education in the November 8th election. Candidates seeking the four open seats are: Laurie Doner, Scott Frush, Cynthia Jankowski, Sarah Prescott and Matthew Wilk. Profiles of the candidates are as follows:

### Laurie Doner



A teacher for 22 years and a Northville school district resident for 14 years, Laurie Doner is seeking her first term on the Northville Board of Edu-

cation. Currently working as a teacher for Dearborn Public Schools, Doner has her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and her Master of Arts in Special Education, with a major in learning disabilities, from Wayne State University. She also has an Education Specialist Degree in Administration from Oakland University.

Doner is a Galileo Teacher Leader, has extensive knowledge in *The Leader in Me* framework, and has served on numerous district and school curriculum committees as an educator for Dearborn schools. Doner is a PTA member at Northville High School (NHS) and Meads Mill Middle School, and an active parent participant in NHS Women's Lacrosse and the Northville Middle School Dance Team. She and her family are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville where Doner previously served as a Sunday School Teacher. She also has served in the past as a Girl Scout leader.

Doner and her husband, Bradley, have been married for 21 years. They have two daughters. Ashlyn, 14, is a sophomore at the high school and is involved in Girl Scouts, Lacrosse and Choir, and was selected as a Freshman Orientation counselor. Julianne, 12, is a seventh grader at Meads Mill Middle School and is involved in Girl Scouts, Dance Team and Choir.

"I bring a wealth of direct educational background and strong leadership skills within the classroom, school and district level that will enhance the current North-

ville Public Schools Board of Education," Doner said. "Through the knowledge I have attained as an educator of 22 years, I will be able to make decisions on the Board while always keeping the best interests of the children, as well as the district, in mind.

"I believe in working collaboratively with all district stakeholders to uphold the mission and vision of the district," Doner added. "In dealing with school budgets, I will lead with the knowledge that it is important to get the best return from the dollars allocated to the district and will appropriately utilize those funds in a manner that ensures and upholds the district's mantra, *'Tradition of Excellence... A World of Possibilities.'* As a parent of two daughters currently enrolled in the district, I am proud of the exemplary education continually offered. I stand committed to maintaining its educational excellence for all students for years to come."

### Scott Frush



A Northville school parent, local volunteer, and school district resident for five years, Scott Frush is seeking his first term on the Northville Board of Edu-

cation. Currently Vice President and Investment Advisor in the Wealth Management Group of PNC Bank in Ann Arbor, Frush is the author of 11 books, including six finance-related books published by McGraw-Hill. Previously, he served as an Instructor of Finance at the University of Michigan.

Frush is Treasurer of the Northville Educational Foundation, Vice President of the Friends of the Northville District Library, and a member of the Finance Committee at Meadowbrook Country Club. In addition, Frush has served two

terms as a Director on the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Alumni Association Board.

Frush earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from EMU and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame. He has completed coursework from the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago and is pursuing related educational coursework at the University of Pennsylvania. Frush plans to begin a Doctorate of Education program in the near future. He also is a credentialed Chartered Financial Analyst and Certified Financial Planner.

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 and his wife, Christina, have two children, a daughter, Gabriella, in fourth grade, and a son, Ryan, in third grade, at Ridge Wood Elementary School. Both children are actively involved in the Northville Soccer Association and the family are parish members at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth.

"Naturally, I am very excited by the opportunity to bring a vested parent's voice to our Board of Education," Frush said. "I will bring a fresh perspective and vote to the Board, rooted in prudence, integrity, high expectations, fiscal conservatism, and a passion to advance Northville's Tradition of Excellence. I am running for a seat on the Northville Board of Education to ensure the interests of our students are always put first in every decision made or influenced by the Board. We need leaders and education advocates who will collaborate with all stakeholders for the personal and in-

tellektual achievement of each student, each day.”

### Cynthia L. Jankowski



First appointed to the Northville Board of Education in January of 2012, Cynthia (Cyn-dy) Jankowski is in her fifth year of service on the

Board. Currently serving as Vice President of the Board, she was supported by her colleagues to serve as President in 2015, and Secretary in 2014 and 2013. Jankowski is seeking her second term on the Northville Board of Education in the upcoming November election.

A real estate paralegal at Oxford Companies in Ann Arbor, Jankowski brings 30 years of legal experience to the Board and believes her background serves her well in analyzing and evaluating issues confronting the district. In her role as a Board member, Jankowski said she strives to be a fair and unbiased advocate for Northville students, seeing both sides of the coin and providing positive long-term results for all learners.

A resident of Northville Township for 12 years, Jankowski and her husband of 20 years, Ray, are proud baseball parents to Joe, a sophomore at Northville High School. Participating in fundraising endeavors for Northville Freshman Baseball and Football, Jankowski also has served as an active parent volunteer at Meads Mill Middle School and Silver Springs Elementary School. In 2014, Jankowski was a concession leader for the Northville Early Bird Tournament, using her fundraising talents to provide a large return on investment to the Northville Baseball and Softball Association.

“For me, it is truly an invigorating and fulfilling experience to be a school board member,” Jankowski said. “The high caliber professionals who comprise the Board are exemplary. We all bring our own talents to the Board, which only deepens the thought process in our deliberations. Over the last four to five years, the Board has completed initia-

tives started by our predecessors, including implementation of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; *The Leader in Me* in all six of our elementary schools; the annual STEAM fair; and various curriculum changes to broaden academic opportunities to support our graduate profiles.”

“My goals for Board service remain the same – to maintain our district’s reputation of excellence and look for opportunities to broaden the student experience. 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.”

### Sarah Prescott



Selected by the Northville Board of Education in September 2015 to fill the vacancy created by the departure of another Board member, Sarah Prescott is

seeking to retain her seat on the Board of Education in the upcoming November election. Prescott’s current 16-month appointment will expire on December 31, 2016.

Prescott has undergraduate degrees in biology and psychology from Northwestern University, where she graduated magna cum laude. She also has a law degree from Harvard Law School, where she graduated cum laude, and was editor of the Harvard Law Review. Prescott currently sits on the State Bar of Michigan Professional Ethics Committee and the Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

A resident of the Northville school district for 10 years, Prescott recently founded the Salvatore Prescott & Porter law firm in downtown Northville, specializing in employment and civil rights litigation. Her cases often involve contract negotiations, troubleshooting employment relationships, and working within collective bargaining frameworks. Prior to establishing her own firm, Prescott worked for Fortune 500

companies at a law firm in Washington, D.C., specializing in tax and employee benefits, and as a judicial law clerk for a federal judge.

In addition to serving on the Northville Board of Education, Prescott has taught at the University of Michigan Law School. She also is a member of the Silver Springs Elementary School PTA. Prescott and her husband, J.J., have three children – Annelise, a second grader at Silver Springs (and an alum of the district’s Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Program); Alexander, a kindergartner at Silver Springs (and an alum of the Early Childhood Program); and William, age two.

“Serving on the School Board has been an honor for me,” Prescott said. “I try to bring equal parts thoughtfulness, common sense, smarts and heart to what we do. That means I draw on my own education at Northwestern and Harvard. I draw on my practical experience as a local business owner. I draw on my skills as a lawyer. I draw on my empathy and love for our kids. I just try to always give the job my level best, and I hope I will get to keep doing that.”

### Matthew Wilk



A resident of the Northville school district for 13 years, Matthew Wilk is seeking his second term on the Northville Board of Education.

Wilk has served as the Treasurer of the Board of Education since 2014, as well as Chairman of the Board’s Finance Subcommittee.

Wilk has been employed as a Senior Vice President at HomeBanc, N.A. since 2013. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President of Huntington Bank in Troy; 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 &

See *CANDIDATES*, page 8

## Candidates

*Continued from page 7*

Pflaum, in Chicago. A native of Sterling Heights, Wilk has a Bachelor of Arts degree and Juris Doctor law degree from the University of Michigan.

Active in the community, Wilk is involved with the Winchester Elementary School Dad's Club; as a coach for the last four years in the Northville Baseball Softball Association; and as a coach of YMCA Basketball. 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 has helped raise money for the United Way and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. As an attorney, Wilk has provided pro bono representation to a number of clients who

### Candidates Forum available for viewing

A videotape of the October 4th Northville Board of Education **Candidates Forum** will be available for viewing at 8 p.m. Monday, October 10, on the Cable Channel. The forum, held from 7:30-9 p.m. at Hillside Middle School, offers voters an opportunity to hear from the five candidates vying for four seats on the Northville Board of Education in the November 8th general election.

could not otherwise afford legal representation. Wilk and his wife, Kim, have been married for 14 years and have 9-year-old twins, Mark and Elizabeth, who are in third grade at Winchester.

"My experience with the Board over

the last four years has been rewarding," Wilk said. "As a parent of third grade twins at Winchester Elementary, I know that furthering a child's education is the most important task our parents undertake. During my current term, I hope that my financial and legal expertise has helped us guide the district in a positive direction. During my term, the finances of the district have improved dramatically, with the help of our staff, educators, parents and other stakeholders. But further challenges remain, and we must remain vigilant in pursuit of two goals: to provide our children with an exceptional school experience and being good stewards of the public's money. With those goals in mind, we can continue providing the highest-quality education, and the most bang for the buck, in Southeast Michigan."

## Wayne County Education Enhancement Millage Proposal on Ballot

Voters from school districts across Wayne County—including all Northville Public Schools residents, regardless of county of residence—will be asked to consider a county-wide, two-mill, six-year Education Enhancement millage proposal as part of the upcoming Tuesday, November 8, 2016 General Election. If approved, these millage dollars will provide additional operating funds beyond the state and local funding already received by the more than 30 Wayne County school districts -- including Northville -- that are part of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WRESA).

When Proposal A was approved by voters in 1994, the Michigan Legislature included a county-wide enhancement millage option so school districts would have a potential revenue source, if supported by voters across the county, to generate additional operating funds for each district beyond state allocated resources. Under Proposal A, individual school districts are prohibited from asking voters to consider general operating millages beyond the 18-mill non-homestead levy, and for a limited number of districts, a hold harmless levy. The enhancement millage is a millage that, if approved, is assessed on all taxpayers in the county

and distributed on a per-student basis to each public school district in that county.

Education enhancement millage proposals have come under consideration by Michigan school districts in recent years as they have faced funding and enrollment challenges. If school district boards of education representing more than 50 percent of a county's K-12 public school students request that an enhancement millage proposal be brought forward to voters, state law requires it to be placed on the ballot for the next statewide election. While the Northville Board of Education, at its June 28, 2016 meeting, unanimously voted against the resolution for the proposed enhancement millage to appear on the ballot, the 50 percent threshold was exceeded in Wayne County, with school districts representing 75 percent of students enrolled in K-12 school districts voting in favor of the resolution. This is the second time such a measure will go before Wayne County voters. A similar Enhancement millage request was defeated by voters in August 2014.

By law, the enhancement millage must be collected county-wide from residents and businesses of districts assigned to Wayne RESA, and distributed on a per-pupil basis to each public school district

in Wayne County. As a result, some school districts will receive more funding than collected locally from district taxpayers, while other school districts—such as Northville Public Schools—would receive less funding than collected locally from taxpayers. For example, the two-mill increase would generate approximately \$5.4 million in tax revenue from Northville taxpayers in its first year, with Northville Public Schools receiving back approximately \$2.9 million, or approximately 54-cents for each \$1 of Northville tax revenue collected. School districts across Wayne County would receive approximately \$385 per-pupil in additional funding, if the proposal is approved by voters. Under the millage request, property owners across Wayne County would pay an additional \$200 each year for every \$100,000 of the taxable value of their property.

Northville school district voters are encouraged to take the time to become informed about the Wayne County Education Enhancement millage proposal and its potential impact on Northville Public Schools, as well as all of Wayne County. Additional information regarding the Wayne County Regional Enhancement Millage is available on the Wayne RESA website at: <http://www.resa.net/millage/>



CLIP AND SAVE

## NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT K-12 Calendar – 2016-17

Parent/Teacher Conferences – NHS	October 17 & 19	Monday & Wednesday
Parent/Teacher Conferences – Middle Schools	October 18 & 20	Tuesday & Thursday
End of Card Marking 1	November 4	Friday
Teacher Professional Day – No School	November 8	Tuesday
Parent/Teacher Conferences – Half-Days for Elementary School Students Only	November 17 & 19	Thursday & Friday
Thanksgiving Recess – No School	November 23 (Half-Day) November 24 & 25	Wednesday Afternoon, Thursday & Friday
Winter Recess Begins – End of Day	December 23	Friday
Classes Resume	January 9	Monday
Teacher Work Day – No School	January 16	Monday
End of Semester / Card Marking 2 – Half-Day for Students	January 27	Friday Afternoon
Mid-Winter Recess – No School	February 20	Monday
Classes Resume	February 21	Tuesday
Parent/Teacher Conferences – Half-Day for Middle School Students Only	March 7	Tuesday
Parent/Teacher Conferences – NHS	March 8	Wednesday
End of Card Marking 3	March 31	Friday
Spring Recess Begins – End of Day	March 31	Friday
Classes Resume	April 10	Monday
Teacher Professional Day	April 11*	Tuesday (Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors attend for testing)
NHS Only: M-STEP Testing/ Teacher Professional Half-Day	April 12*	Wednesday (Juniors attend school at regular time for M-STEP testing.)
No School—Good Friday	April 14	Friday
Parent/Teacher Conferences – Half-Day for Elementary School Students Only	April 20 & 21	Thursday & Friday
Memorial Day Recess – No School	May 29	Monday
Last Day of Classes – Half-Day	June 15	Thursday
End of Semester/Card Marking 4		
Teacher Work Day – No School	June 16	Friday

*Students do not attend school on Teacher Professional Days or Teacher Work Days, with the exception of High School Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors for M-STEP test periods as noted below.*

*\*\* The M-STEP testing dates noted on April 11-12 are subject to change if the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) schedules the SAT/M-STEP on a date other than April 11. The fourth professional day will align with the M-STEP/SAT test date as scheduled by MDE. Possibility of three to four additional late start days at the high school for Seniors for M-STEP testing for Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors in the spring.*

*Check building calendars for specific dates and times for evening conferences, open houses, etc.*

## 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 water shed 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.”

## Why worry about stormwater?

Many people may not realize that stormwater collected in drains located on the curbs of their streets does not flow to their local water treatment plant. Rather, this water remains untreated and is discharged directly into the waterways. During this journey to the waterways, stormwater collects and carries a broad range of pollutants. Stormwater is a non-point source of pollution, thus making it extremely difficult to address and the single greatest threat to our water quality and watershed health. Non-point source pollution comes from many diffuse runoff sources such as rainfall, snowmelt, flowing over and through the ground, picking up pollutants as it goes. Some of these pollutants occur naturally, such as nutrients from sediments, manure, or pet wastes. Others pollutants such as fertilizers, automotive grease, and oil occur from our interaction with the environment. Stormwater acts as a carrier of non-point source pollution and is therefore considered a major cause of water quality problems both in Michigan and nationwide.

## Public Notice of Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)

To this end, Northville Public Schools has developed and has implemented a “Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP)” to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) to the Maximum Extent Practicable and protect water quality in accordance with the appropriate water quality requirements of Michigan Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, Part 31, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the district National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES).

A copy of the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) is available for review on the district’s website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org>. Any questions or comments regarding the Stormwater Management Plan should be directed to the district’s Operations Department at 248-344-8445.

## 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.)



## Voting Information November 8, 2016 Election

If you are not registered to vote in the community, you must do so by **Tuesday, October 11, 2016**, to participate in the November 8th General Election. You can register at your city or township offices or any Michigan Secretary of State Office, as well as online or via mail. Local clerks encourage citizens to register in person to avoid the “Must Vote in Person” requirement if they are voting in their first election.

**Absentee ballot applications** for those unable to get to the polls on November 8th are available through your city or township clerk’s office and website. Northville Township voters who have requested absentee ballots in previous elections received dual applications for both the August Primary and November General Election back in May. Those voters who requested absentee ballots for the November 8th Election should begin receiving their ballots the first week of October.

Once you have voted, place your completed ballot in the envelope provided by your clerk’s office. Absentee ballots can be hand delivered to your clerk’s office or mailed (First Class postage is required). Your completed ballot must be delivered by U.S. Mail to your clerk’s office by Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th, or hand-delivered by 8 p.m. on November 8th.

**Voting precincts and locations** for Election Day are available on your city or township website or by calling your city or township clerk’s office.

**Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016**



## Connections

is a publication of 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](mailto:naughtonja@northvilleschools.org)

You also can find **Connections** on the district’s website at [www.northvilleschools.org](http://www.northvilleschools.org).

