

Levy renewal on Spring 2012 ballot

Letter to families: Encourage others to vote!

Dear Parents, Family Members and Friends:

On Nov. 22, the Licking County Commissioners voted 3-0 to place a 1-mill, five-year renewal levy for the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the March 6, 2012 ballot. As of this writing, the Ohio Legislature is considering a measure that may change this to a primary ballot sometime in April or May. Nevertheless, we will go before voters in Spring 2012, to ask for the renewal of our 1-mill, five-year levy.

Licking County voters first approved the 1-mill levy in May 1987 for a five-year period. Since then, voters have replaced the levy every five years beginning in May 1992. It was most recently on the ballot in May 2007. Because it is a five-year levy, the voters must have the option of continuing to support the levy or not in order to continue to collect the money it generates. Please refer to the "Basic Levy Facts" box on page 2 of this newsletter for more details.

Property owners will not see an increase in their taxes if the levy is approved in Spring 2012. Approval of this renewal levy is critical to the continuation of service the Board currently pays for or provides. Licking County voters have supported this levy for 24 years, but we cannot afford to take passage of the levy for granted. Taxpayers feel challenged to keep up with the many levy requests with which they are faced. We are just one of many organizations that asks voters for financial support. **We will need active support from all of you.**



Superintendent Nancy Neely

In the coming weeks and months, you may be contacted by our levy committee, known as "Citizens for Developmental Disabilities." This group will provide you with information about ways you can help. They also will have campaign literature and other levy-related items to distribute.

We strongly urge you to be a part of our communication efforts by joining the Board's online experience. We have a Facebook page that has been up and running for several months. Just search "Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities." You can "Like" us, and add your own positive comments to our individual posts. When you "Like" us, your Facebook page will be linked to our page and you can serve as a source of information for others who view your "Wall."

Each weekday, we put up at least one new interesting Face-book post that pertains to
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VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE VOTING FACTS:

- Voter registration forms and absentee voter applications are available in the three Board-owned buildings -- The E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark; Service Coordination, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath; and Adult Services/LICCO Inc., 600 Industrial Parkway, Heath.
- Voter registration forms also can be found in other public buildings and in local libraries. You also may call the Licking County Board of Elections -- (740) 670-5080. Online forms and details can be found at www.electionsonthe.net/oh/licking/.
- Just call (740) 349-6588, and give us your name, address, city and zip code. We will gladly mail these forms to you.
- Completed forms must be received by the Board of Elections 30 days before the election (if the levy is held March 6, then the deadline would be Feb. 6, 2012), in order for registration to be processed in time.
- Absentee voting is convenient for those who can't make it to the polls. Absentee ballot requests must be submitted in writing and contain your name and date of birth; your Driver's License number or the last four digits of your Social Security number; and your signature and date.
- Written requests for absentee ballots can be made to the Board of Elections beginning now.
- Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Board of Elections no later than 7:30 p.m. on election day. Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked the day before the election (if the primary is to be held March 6, then you would need to postmark your absentee ballot no later than March 5).

Letter from the Superintendent (continued from page 1)

people with developmental disabilities and our services. We believe that your Facebook connections will be very important so that we can get information out to others -- your friends, family members and acquaintances. You also may encourage others to go to www.LCountyDD.org to get the information they need to make an informed decision. News postings and newsletters, along with detailed information about each one of our service areas can be found there. You can also check out data from community, individual and family satisfaction surveys, and other pertinent information. Those who have questions about the levy should call me, or Heather Odendahl in our Public Information Office -- (740) 349-6588.

Sincerely,



Nancy Neely, Superintendent

Basic Levy Facts

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

- Two levies currently generate 2.3 total mills for the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Together, they account for about 70 percent of the Board's operating funds.
 - The first levy is a 1.3-mill continuing levy. A 1-mill continuing levy passed in 1979, and a 0.3-mill continuing levy passed in 1984, combined and replaced in 1999.
 - The second levy is a 1-mill, five-year levy. It was first approved by voters in May 1987. This levy expires every five years. Without specific action by voters to renew or replace it, the levy ceases. This levy was replaced in 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007.
 - The current 1-mill levy will expire on Dec. 31, 2011. Because tax collections are retroactive, the levy will continue to generate funds until Dec. 31, 2012. If renewed in Spring 2012, the levy will be effective on January 1, 2013.
 - The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is asking voters to renew the 1-mill levy at the current collections rate. **Property owners will not see an increase in their taxes if they approve the renewal levy in Spring 2012.**
 - The 1-mill levy generates about \$3.7 million each year. It costs the owner of \$100,000 worth of property about \$30.33 per year.
 - The Board serves more than 1,400 individuals and their families each year. **Enrollment has grown by about 400 individuals and families since this 1-mill levy was last replaced in May 2007.**
 - The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has not asked voters to approve additional mills -- beyond the total 2.3 mills -- since 1987.

PNB Cares:

Bank employees reach out to communities, families

We offer our sincerest gratitude to Park National Bank and its employees for the incredible work they performed as part of the recent PNB Cares initiative. More than 400 very generous PNB employees volunteered their expertise and about 1,700 total hours of their time on 40 projects throughout the communities where they do business, along with Park National affiliate companies. Nearly all of the projects were managed in collaboration with with local service- and education-based nonprofit organizations, including the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Projects included painting, yard work, sorting toys, packaging food and building a home. For the County Board of DD, volunteers performed yard cleanup work at a home in Newark occupied by people with developmental disabilities.

Another volunteer group built a wheelchair ramp for a Johnstown family that receives Early Intervention services.

The three-day ramp construction was spearheaded by Dave Rice, PNB maintenance coordinator. He played a major role in securing monetary donations from area businesses to purchase lumber and supplies for the project. To say that Dave went above and beyond the call of duty would be an understatement.



PNB's Dave Rice (above, center) and Chairman/ CEO C. Daniel DeLawder (above, left) worked with a host of employee volunteers to design and build a wheelchair ramp (far left) for Lucy Heller, daughter of Teri and Ed Heller of Johnstown.



The Heller family, recipients of the new wheelchair ramp for their daughter Lucy, is extremely appreciative.

“We feel so blessed that we were selected by the PNB Cares project,” said Lucy’s mom, Terri Heller. “This will make a marked impact on Lucy’s mobility going forward and will allow us to continue to aid in her progress.”

Thank you Dave, and all of the PNB volunteers, for your exceptional commitment to helping people in our communities!

Life-changing donation to help Hebron woman

Heather Hofmann, a Hebron resident who receives services from the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has received a special gift from Milk-Bone and Kroger as part of a national campaign. Heather has generalized dystonia, a neurological movement disorder. She has difficulty performing many everyday tasks such as picking up dropped items and operating light switches. Now life is about to become easier for Heather with the help of a new four-legged friend.

Milk-Bone and Kroger are donating a specially-trained service dog from Canine Assistants, an organization providing assistance dogs to people with disabilities. Heather will no longer have to ask someone for help for certain routine daily tasks – her service dog will provide some independence that she needs. Among other tasks, her dog will be trained to assist her with retrieving dropped objects, opening doors, turning on lights, and obtaining help in the event of an emergency.

Heather was honored Oct. 13 at a special ceremony inside Kroger, 600 E. Main St., Hebron. She was presented with a stuffed toy representation of her dog, but Heather’s actual service dog will be selected and trained to meet her specific needs. It will be given to her at a two-week Canine Assistants training camp she will attend in the coming months. Milk-Bone partners with grocery/retail chains throughout the United States in support of Canine Assistants and will donate service dogs to about 50 people with disabilities this year. Canine Assistants is a nonprofit organization that runs entirely on individual and corporate donations, such as those from Milk-Bone.



Heather Hofmann

LICCO News

'Tis the season for Spirit Line jewelry

As they have for the last couple of years, LICCO's Spirit Line jewelry department has geared up for another successful holiday shopping season.

LICCO workers and staff participated in numerous craft shows this year, and Spirit Line products are now sold in more stores and businesses than ever.

And LICCO even has a newly-renovated onsite retail store just inside the workshop lobby. The new store offers improved customer service and an enhanced shopping experience.

The public is encouraged to stop by and browse the latest Spirit Line selections at 600 Industrial Parkway, Heath. It is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The online store is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so check it out: www.SpiritLineJewelry.com.

A number of local businesses and offices also are offering LICCO Spirit Line jewelry for sale. If you can't make it to the new LICCO store, please visit any one of these other locations:

- Arlington Nursing Home, Newark
- California Concepts 2, Newark
 - Electric Hair, Newark
- Flying Colors Public Preschool, Newark
 - Hopewell Dental Care, Newark
- Licking County Real Estate Office, Newark
 - Small & Smart, Newark
- Svaboda's Styling Center, Newark
 - Nona's Quilts, Zanesville
- Dr. Thomas Beattie, Orthodontist, Newark
 - Christy's Pizza, Newark
 - E.S. Weiant Center, Newark
 - Gifts by Us, Newark
- Licking County Treasurer's Office, Pataskala
 - The Village Spa, Alexandria
 - Sol's Exchange - The Palace, Berlin
 - Wilson's Garden Center, Newark
 - Executive Hair, Newark
 - Hair Dimensions, Columbus
- Drs. Neely & Hanbaum, Optometrists, Newark
 - Licking County Auditor's Office, Newark
 - Susie's Hallmark, Johnstown
- Tuscarawas County Board of DD, New Philadelphia
 - Sophisticuts, Heath
 - Cottage Restaurant, Hanover

October LICCO Team Member of the Month

Clay Lanning

Clay Lanning is a hard worker, his supervisors say. That's why he was named LICCO Team Member of the Month for October.

"He is ready to begin working as soon as he arrives, and sometimes it's hard to get him to quit at the end of the day," exclaims Workshop Specialist Lynn Ridenbaugh.

Clay possess many skills and is eager to learn new ones, Ridenbaugh adds. He's always willing to help whenever needed.

Adult Services Facilitator Doug Price notes that Clay recently transferred into the production department and is an asset to his team.

"He is focused on his job and strives to do his best at all times," Price says.

Clay lives in Newark, and has worked at LICCO since July 2010. Congratulations, Clay, and keep up the great work!



November LICCO Team Member of the Month

Harold Fogg

Diligence and pride take center stage whenever Harold Fogg is at work in the Spirit Line jewelry department.

For his hard work, Harold's supervisors have chosen him as the LICCO Team Member of the Month for November.

"Harold is very proud of the jewelry he makes and is always determined to break his record for the number of pieces made each day," says Workshop Specialist Vicki Wilkey. "He is a ray of sunshine every day, and is kind to everyone. It is a pleasure to work with Harold."

Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman adds that "Harold's positive attitude and friendliness to everyone serves as an example to others."

Harold is a Pataskala resident who has worked at LICCO since March 2010. We congratulate and thank you, Harold, for your dedication!



Adult Services update

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently distributed a new issue of *Possibilities* -- our full-color, community-wide newsletter. This edition spotlights the variety of Adult Services programs available to eligible adults who have developmental disabilities and live in Licking County.

If you didn't receive a copy of the *Possibilities* inserted into your local newspaper, please be sure to view it online at www.LCountyDD.org. Click on the 'Publications' icon, and there you will find a newsletter listing. Select the Fall/Winter 2011 edition of *Possibilities*.

We hope you will take a few moments to browse through it and learn more about the Licking County Board of DD's role in funding these programs.

It's just one of the many ways the Licking County Board of DD partners with community resources to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. If you would prefer to obtain a paper copy of this newsletter, we would be happy to mail one to you. Contact our Public Information Office at (740) 349-6588.

Thank you to all the photogenic people who volunteered their smiling faces, and special thanks to all the Adult Services providers who gave us valuable insight into each of their programs during the preparation of this publication.



*Pataskala resident
Brittany Wright is featured
on the cover of the Fall/Winter
2011 edition of 'Possibilities.'*

Book drive now underway

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is conducting a "Leave A Book Behind" drive to benefit infants and toddlers who are eligible for Early Intervention services. Please consider donating new or gently-used board books at the Donald D. Hill Licking County Administration Building, 20 S. Second St., Newark, now through Jan. 20. There are donation boxes located near the elevators on each of the building's four floors. Donated books should be appropriate for children up to age 3.

The purpose of "Leave A Book Behind" is to get books into the hands, homes and hearts of every infant and toddler served by the Early Intervention department. As Early Intervention team members make home visits to families, they leave a book behind and encourage families to spend time looking at books and reading together. Reading has a positive impact on a child's development and encourages families to read together daily, ultimately aiding in development. For more information, please contact Barb Wheeler - (740) 344-6921.

Early Intervention news:

Newsletter launching

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has launched a new quarterly calendar and activities newsletter exclusive to parents and families of infants and toddlers who are eligible for Early Intervention services.

Watch your Inbox, mailbox and our website -- www.LCountyDD.org -- for this important resource. To be sure you are added to the distribution list, please contact Barb Wheeler at (740) 344-6921.

Youth Service Coordination news:

Parent Group forming

Parents and guardians of school-age children with developmental disabilities are invited to attend a series of new support meetings, sponsored by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The purpose of the meetings is to introduce you to other parents and to provide information about services available to children.

All meetings will be held at the Service Coordination building, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath. The group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

- **January 10, 2012**

Topic: Family Support Services (FSS)

- **March 13, 2012**

Topic: All For One Summer Day Camp

- **May 8, 2012**

Topic to be determined

- **July 10, 2012**

Topic to be determined

- **September 11, 2012**

Topic to be determined

- **November 13, 2012**

Topic to be determined

Questions about the new parent group can be addressed to Laura Middleton at (740) 349-1420, or send an e-mail to Laura.Middleton@LCountyDD.org.

West Licking Warriors

By Mike Sussman, Treasurer

One way to witness the sounds and sights of pure joy was to have been present at the Denison University Recreation Center Gym on Oct. 13. This was the day for the first basketball practice for 33 basketball players representing West Licking Special Olympics. On one of the three courts, eight cheerleaders also were enjoying their first practice of the year. The cheerleaders are one of the most entertaining elements of our program.

West Licking has three teams this season, tutored by seven dedicated coaches. The hosts of this first practice every year are the men of Denison University Varsity and JV basketball -- 25 heroes for our Special Olympians. The 90-minute practice includes four teaching areas on the floor, with the last 30 minutes dedicated to teaching scrimmages. After the practice, West Licking hosts a pizza party at the Rec gym for all of the basketball players. It is our way of saying thanks to the men of Denison for their part in our annual cash-drop morning (more on that later).

Denison head coach Bob Ghiloni became interested in our program in 2006. He attended a practice and went back and told his team members that they might try to enjoy practice as much as the Special Olympians do. One has to understand our practices include much encouragement among the players. Hugs are plentiful. Coaches are always positive, never singling any player out except for praise. Success is not as much measured in wins as it is in personal achievement. One of our adult players barely could dribble five years ago. This year in one of the scrimmages, he dropped in three baskets from 15 feet while being closely guarded.

Denison's players are men who play purely for the love of the game. There are no athletic scholarships in NCAA Division III basketball. They receive no special scholastic treatment because they are basketball team members. Coach Ghiloni also serves as an assistant professor at Denison.

With the basketball schedule including 25 games and the difficult scholastic requirements, it is amazing that usually all athletes graduate on time. Their time with the Special Olympians is a great sense of accomplishment for this outstanding group of athletes and coaches. Our team members will attend one home Denison game this season as a group, and the players at Denison will view our teams once during the season. Our season opens in December. Our Adult Team Gold will play at Hebron Elementary School. Our School-Age Team Black and our Unified Team White will play at the old Etna School. We thank the Lakewood and Southwest Licking school districts for the availability of facilities for our Special Olympians.

On the morning of Sept. 10, for three hours at four locations, and for four hours at one other location, Licking County residents demonstrated their hearts and caring nature by dropping \$4,298.

Special Olympics updates:

Licking County Eagles

By Ashley Johnson, Coordinator

The Licking County Eagles participated in the Ohio Special Olympics Team Bowling Tournament on Oct. 22 at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus.

There were doubles and teams of four competing -- they all did great.

In the doubles competition, Mike Stewart placed third; James Jefferies and Tom Olson earned fourth place; Daniel Stallworth and Terry Fischer placed first; Kim Wages and Don Bolton earned second place; Chad Kaylor and Aaron Smith placed first; and Byron Ferrin and Matthew Wheeler placed second.

In the team competition, Amanda Morrow, Rosemary Cartwright, Nicole Doelfs, and Traci Byers placed second; Brittany Ferrin, Brenda Jefferies, Hannah McAfee, and Crystal Wilson earned fourth; and the unified team of Don Miller, Donnie Miller, Tonya Dillon, and Kyle Howell placed fourth.

Singles bowling will begin in late February. Watch the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Facebook page for updates and announcements.

On Oct. 29, Josh Wallace, Tonya Dillon and Crystal Wilson competed in a regional Special Olympics swim meet in Upper Arlington. All competed in the 25-yard freestyle and received first place. In the 25-yard backstroke, Tonya and Crystal earned second place; and Josh took first place. They have now qualified to go to The Ohio State University on Dec. 17 and 18, for the Ohio Aquatic Special Olympics meet. Stay tuned for results.



Licking County Eagles had a great showing at the state swimming qualifier. Pictured in back, from left to right - Josh Wallace, Crystal Wilson, and Tonya Dillon; seated - Ashley Johnson, coordinator.

Regional DD collaboratives catch Ohio governor's attention

Superintendent Nancy Neely and Board President David Wigginton recently met with Ohio Gov. John Kasich and representatives of several other Boards of DD in an hour-long session. Kasich requested the Sept. 26 meeting with local officials after hearing of their efforts to become more efficient as the state's level of financial contribution to local boards' budgets has significantly declined in recent years.

County Boards of DD in Ohio are facing tough financial times as slashes to state and federal funding, and loss of the tangible personal property tax portion of local property tax levies have cut substantially into their overall budgets. They say the goal is to minimize, where possible, the impact on services offered to eligible children and adults with developmental disabilities. In Licking County, cuts in state and federal funding have resulted in a loss of 2.3 million dollars annually in the last decade.

"We were glad to have an opportunity to discuss our efforts with Gov. Kasich, and appreciate his interest in our cause," said Neely, who presented to the governor, along with Superintendent Natalie Lupi of the Tuscarawas County Board of DD. "Gov. Kasich is eager to support our progress in sharing services, and developing other strategies for reducing costs to the system that can result in more money for services to people. That means a lot and we are grateful to have that kind of backing at the highest level in state government."

In addition to officials from Licking and Tuscarawas counties, Gov. Kasich met with officials from Fairfield, Belmont, Harrison, Noble, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Monroe, Washington, Guernsey, Carroll, Holmes, Muskingum, Knox, and Coshocton counties -- all of which are a part of the 18-county collaborative project being supported by John Martin, director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

The Licking County Board of DD has implemented several new and creative measures in recent years to lower costs, explained Neely: "In some cases, that means sharing costs for staffing and other services across county lines to save everyone money. For example, we work with the 17 other counties in east-central Ohio to share administrative costs for certain functions we are required by the state to perform. That kind of approach has helped us at least tread water during the last several years of declining revenues."

Kasich praised the efforts of the 18-county collaborative in the east-central Ohio region that is currently working to re-engineer and standardize eligibility determination, intake, assessment, service planning and service monitoring functions. Meanwhile, the Ohio Department of DD is building new computer systems that support the standardized processes designed by the 18 counties. Currently, counties use separate systems and procedures that often result in inefficiency. Neely and Lupi lead the counties efforts and work in conjunction with Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities officials.

"We are pretty excited about this project and what it means for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families," Neely said. "Gov. Kasich seems to truly care about the population we serve. We hope he will remain open to discussions like this one as we find new ways to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities."

Photos from the collaborative meeting with Gov. Kasich can be viewed on our Facebook page -- just search "Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities."

People First member earns ESDY Award

Tonya Dillon keeps popping up in so many Accent articles lately -- mainly because she is very active in the Licking County Special Olympics, and was honored in September as the Self-Advocate of the Year by the Licking County Chapter of People First. Now Tonya's reputation has taken her to a whole new level -- she has earned a highly-respected ESDY Award from the Ohio Self-Determination Association. She was nominated by Diana Shannon, People First advisor. Tonya received the award at a recent conference held in Columbus, and was among only a handful to be honored with an ESDY.



Tonya Dillon

"Tonya has assumed her role as Treasurer (with People First) with the utmost sense of responsibility and commitment," Diana explains in her nomination letter. She cites how Tonya was instrumental in promoting and organizing two fundraising events, and always is looking out for the betterment of the group. Tonya has been vital to the growth in People First membership, and has blossomed herself as a result.

"I have noticed enormous growth in Tonya, both in her professional and personal life," Diana says. "She is an essential part of People First of Licking County, and a strong self-advocate."

The OSDA hands out ESDYs each year to recognize self advocates, family members and/or professional staff for going above and beyond in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of self determination. Congratulations, Tonya -- you've worked very hard and deserve it!

Parting shots...

Removable stickers now available

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has a limited number of removable bumper stickers available to families and friends.

It is our hope these will serve as an awareness tool and that you will use them to promote our services as beneficial to you and your family. The stickers are durable and made with a special adhesive that allows for easy removal from your vehicle or other surface. You also can reuse them! The reusable adhesive won't cause damage to surfaces when used properly -- just don't subject them to intense heat, or keep them in the same place over long periods of time.

Stickers are available in each of our three buildings -- Administration Offices at the Eleanor S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark; Service Coordination, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath; and Adult Services/LICCO, 600 Industrial Parkway.

If you'd like to have a sticker mailed to you, please call the Public Information Office at (740) 322-6911, and please provide your name and complete address. Thanks for showing your support to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities!



The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is helping children and adults pursue their dreams and building a caring community that sees the possibilities in people with disabilities.

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