Update: Master Facilities Plan

We know everyone is anxious to see progress with our facilities project on the Bolich/Newberry site. We share in your excitement! That said, we are still awaiting notification from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) regarding the release of funds in early July. We have been led to believe that we will have more information in the next few weeks.

Even though we are awaiting notification from OFCC, behind the scenes preparation continues. For example, requests for proposals (RFPs) have been issued and returned to ThenDesignArchitecture (TDA) last Friday. The RFPs were issued for preliminary site work including a land survey (completion in 4 to 8 weeks), geotechnical study (includes 25 soil borings and will take 4 to 6 weeks to complete), and the first phase of an environmental study (completion in 2 to 4 weeks). The three studies can occur simultaneously.

We have also met with our banker, RBC Capital Markets, and our bond counsel, Squire Patton Boggs, to discuss the timing of financing based on a July release of funds. In short, we will be in the process of preparing an Official Statement. The process includes establishing a new credit rating with Moody’s or Standard and Poor’s which is targeted for release during the week of August 24 and bond issue pricing scheduled for approximately September 9 with a closing date of September 23.

In the midst of these items, the Board of Education (BOE) will work with OFCC on the selection of an architect of record and a construction manager at risk. Selections of these two key firms is expected to be complete by September 1, 2020. Again, everything is contingent upon the release of funds in July.

(The construction materials near the marquis at Bolich are not part of the project. Those materials belong to Thompson Electric who is conducting some underground electrical work for the city.)

CFHS Artists: Bringing Home the Hardware!

There’s never been a better time to become involved in your local schools. Go to cfalls.org and learn how you can help. Go Black Tigers!

On January 25, 2020, Kent State University at Stark hosted the 66th Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art Exhibit and Awards Ceremony, a regional juried art competition for area middle and high school students, grades 7 to 12.

According to the organization’s Facebook page, “Year after year the program grows with increased participation from students and communities across the country. In the past five years alone, submissions have topped 700,000 works, and students have been eligible for over $25 million in awards and scholarships.”

Jack McWhorter, Ph.D., professor of art and regional affiliate coordinator of the Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art Exhibit and Awards Ceremony, states “The best way to characterize this competition is it truly sets the standard for work at the middle school and high school levels.”

Middle and high school art and photography students representing districts in Stark, Summit, Portage, Wayne, Tuscarawas and Medina counties were competing to receive Silver or Gold Key awards for their efforts. Other special awards, including the American Vision awards, were also presented.

The artwork of Gold Key winners and American Vision Award nominees will be sent to the national competition in New York City. Winners will be announced at the National Student Art Exhibition of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in June.

Cuyahoga Falls High School visual artists competed in the 2020 Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art Competition. The judges awarded Gold Keys to 15 of the 89 total portfolio entries and Silver and Gold Keys to 360 of the 3,177 individual entries submitted. Our CFHS artists had an incredible showing at this year’s competition. Gold and Silver award winners’ artwork had the honor of being on display at the Conference Center at Kent State University at Stark this past January. These artists were recognized in an award ceremony at the university on January 25.

In all, six of CFHS’ artists received awards in this prestigious art competition!

- Anna Leon - Silver Key
- Chelsea Sokira - Honorable Mention
- Marjorie Spinner - Silver Key and Honorable Mention
- Katie Spinner - Gold Key and Silver Key
- Logan Webb - Gold Key

And leading the way,

- Natalie Huryn with five Gold Keys, three Silver Keys, and a Best in Show Portfolio of 8 Artworks. Her portfolio was also nominated for the National American Vision Award which will determine a winner on a national level!

Congratulations to all of our amazing Black Tiger artists!

Calendar Change Reminder

The original 2019-2020 School District calendar identified March 10, 2020 as a district professional development day. Due to a change in the primary election date, the calendar was changed. The new primary election date is March 17, 2020; therefore, the district professional development day has been changed to March 17, 2020.

The bottom line is, school will be in session March 10. School will not be in session March 17. If you have any questions, please call your respective school(s).
DeWitt GeoBee! 

DeWitt GeoBee winner Tommy Smas pictured with teacher Mrs. Sarah Suboticki.

The GeoBee held at DeWitt Elementary School this year gave us a first! DeWitt student Tommy Smas won the school-level competition and, out of the nine years, this is the first year that a 4th grader has won the school competition!

The school competition is the first round of the annual National Geographic GeoBee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students’ curiosity about the world. Questions not only cover geography, but also ancient and world civilizations, cultures, and physical features.

School champions will take an online qualifying test, and up to 100 of the top test scorers in each state then become eligible to compete in their State GeoBee. The winners of the State GeoBees receive an all-expenses-paid trip to participate in the GeoBee national championship in the spring, where students will be competing for cash prizes and scholarships among other prizes.

Tommy has taken the state qualifying test and is anxiously awaiting his results to see if he will have the opportunity to move on to participate in the state bee in April.

According to DeWitt 4th-grade Science and Social Studies teacher and event coordinator Mrs. Sarah Suboticki, “I wanted to start a social studies related club for students here at DeWitt, and we have such high interest in joining the GeoBee team that we have to hold try-outs each year. This year, 18 students were on the team and they had after school practices twice a month beginning in October. District Superintendent, Dr. Todd Nichols, and Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Ellen McClure, graciously serve as our emcees for the event each year.”

DeWitt Principal Catherine Perrow says, “We are fortunate to have teachers step up for things like this. Sarah Suboticki, Heidi Short, and Joan Pinkerton work together to support this event. They stay after school and volunteer their time. This is really something special at DeWitt.”

Good luck Tommy! Your Black Tiger Family is pulling for you!