



ROAR!

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

CFCSD Dates To Remember:

- May 4 **Active Adults - Senior Prom**
CFHS Library, 4:30pm - 7:30pm
- May 5, 6 **Black Coffee: Music Fest 2017**
CFHS Auditorium, 7:00pm
- May 13 **Senior Prom**
U of Akron, 8:00pm - 11:00pm

Need more info? Check out cfalls.org

A Special Section Dedicated to Black Tiger Headlines & Achievements

Late April 2017

CFCSD: Five-Year Renewal on the Ballot in May

The Cuyahoga Falls City School District has a five-year, 4.75 mill operating levy RENEWAL on the May 2, 2017 ballot. This levy was first approved in 2002 and was renewed in 2007 and 2012; thus, 2017 is the last year of collection and the levy is in need of RENEWAL.

The current effective rate of the levy is 4.46 mills. That means the current cost to the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 is \$140.49/year. If the owner is also the occupant of the home, the current cost is \$136.59/year. Likewise, the levy generates approximately \$3.3 million/year for the district. Thus, the RENEWAL of Issue 12 is vital to the district and WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES.

Why is RENEWAL so important?

As stated, the renewal of this levy will not increase taxes; as such, our revenues will not increase. Further, we have consistently shared that the district is in a difficult financial position. In fact, a review of October Five-year Forecasts since 2013 have predicted the current situation. Over the years, we have attempted to offset the position by placing a permanent improvement levy and a combination levy (bond and permanent improvement) on the ballot. Unfortunately, neither were successful.

As a result, we will present a financial plan, May 3, that reduces expenditures by approximately \$2M for fiscal year 2018 even if the renewal passes. If the renewal is not successful in calendar 2017, further reductions in programming will be recommended. To do so would jeopardize many of the traditions to which the district has become accustomed.

What have we done to reduce expenditures?

In addition to the reductions previously identified (\$125,000 saved on staffing; \$60,000 in the HVAC and plumbing area; and \$400,000 saved on

revised contracts for student services, security, and academic assessment), the following additional reductions have been made:

- Decreased staffing levels in food service – approximately \$15K;
- Revised uniform contracts for our custodial, cleaning, and maintenance staff – approximately \$7K;
- Renegotiated our security contract – an additional \$3K in savings above the \$4,500 in savings shared previously;
- Re-imagined our transportation routing – approximately \$11K;
- We have decided not to purchase additional Chrome carts (each cart contains approximately 30 Chromebook computers) which removed an additional \$50K from the FY17 budget;
- Transitioned assessment software resulted in \$12K of actual savings above the estimate previously reported;
- Reassessed our nursing services contract – an additional \$34K beyond previous estimates;
- And, as you know, Kathryn Brugger has taken on the role of interim treasurer while maintaining her capacity as assistant treasurer.

Ultimately, these decisions represent an additional savings of at least \$150K above what has been previously reported.

If interested, yard signs are available in each of our buildings. If you have any questions, feel free to call us 330-926-3800.



Recognition Well-Deserved!



Judy Ray greets CFHS office visitors with a smile!

Since August of 1986, Mrs. Judy Ray has been a fixture with the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. And this year, the *Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce (CFCC)* is recognizing Mrs. Ray as the 2017 *Citizen of the Year!*

Each year, the Chamber of Commerce recognizes a resident in the City of Cuyahoga Falls who has contributed significantly to the quality of life in Cuyahoga Falls through volunteering and community involvement that includes business, government, or community service.

According to District Superintendent, Dr. Todd Nichols, “Go to any basketball game and you will immediately see the impact Judy has had on the students, past and present, at Cuyahoga Falls High School. Literally, people will line up to get their hug from her and to show their respect and appreciation for the love and attention she’s given. Judy is the epitome of **Black Tiger Pride!** As such, I can’t imagine anyone who is more deserving of this recognition.”

Congratulations Mrs. Judy Ray!

Falls Music Program Again Earns High Marks!

On Friday, April 21, three of our four concert bands had the honor of participating in the *Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) State Band Contest* at Glenoak High School. The Freshman Band, under the direction of Ms. Lambert, and Gold Concert Band, under the direction of Mrs. Culver, both earned a rating of EXCELLENT in class “C” level of difficulty. This is the second highest rating you can receive at OMEA contest!

Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mr. Harris, earned a rating of SUPERIOR for the second year in a row in class “AA” level of difficulty. “This is the highest possible rating in the most advanced class. All of these students represented our school and community in a very positive way. We are so proud of them!” said Harris.

GO BLACK TIGERS!!!!

CFHS Gold Tones and Choir Groups Bring the Café to the Stage



Some of the students from the Gold Tones and choir get together for rehearsal. Front row: Mikayla Mair, Gabriel Mule, Leanna Gibbons, and Jasmine Moore. Second row: Samuel Wilson, Damian Moore, Christopher Landis, and Morgan Coleman. Back row: Andy Mee, Sydney Smith, Alex Abood, Julia Urasek, Daniel Rinehart, Zach Dunphy, Michael Emmett, Kayla Miller, Juliana Vrba, and Sam Alvis.

On May 5 and 6 at 7:00pm, some of the most talented instrumental and vocal student musicians at Cuyahoga Falls High School will gather for a combined concert event, entitled *BLACK COFFEE: Music Fest 2017*. The evening of music is inspired by the atmosphere of a café open-mic night and will feature the *Gold Tones Jazz Orchestra, A Capella Choir, Melodymen and Melodettes, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Freshman Treble Choir*.

"I am very excited about bringing the coffee shop experience to the CFHS auditorium in a collaboration with the CFHS choirs and the *Gold Tones*," says Ian Crane, CFHS vocal music teacher. "It's a real pleasure to present

songs everyone knows and loves, and to join with the very talented *Gold Tones* on several numbers. It's an end-of-year treat for students and audience members alike."

"Putting on a joint concert like this gives our students a unique professional performance experience, and my hope is that the community will see that we have a wide variety of musical talent here at CFHS," adds Jim Lang, *Gold Tones* director. "As always, it's an honor for me to get to work with the hardworking and talented members of the *Gold Tones* as we prepare to put on this great show."

The students will perform traditional favorites such as *Sentimental Journey* and *String of Pearls*, along with hit songs from artists such as Queen, Huey Lewis, Colbie Caillat, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and more.

The café vibe will be enhanced coffee and treats from *Nervous Dog Coffee Bar* and *Main Street Gourmet*, which will be available for purchase before the show and during intermission.

Tickets are available at the door for \$5. Proceeds benefit the *Instrumental Music Patrons* and the *Choral Music Association*, which support music education throughout the district.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to support the music programs in the CFCSD, donations can be sent to:

Instrumental Music Patrons (IMP)
Cuyahoga Falls High School, c/o Mr. Dustin Harris
2300 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Full STEAM Ahead!



Richardson students enjoy getting their hands messy creating Elephant Toothpaste.

On Tuesday April 18, Richardson Elementary students were given the opportunity to participate in a series of five experiments that were fun and educational! From a boat design and testing station, to creating elephant toothpaste, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) event gave students hands-on learning.

Each of the five stations took around 20 minutes to complete and were created to integrate one or more of the STEAM elements; How does science, or technology, etc. play a part in the experiments?

The favorite of the night was the Oobleck station. Oobleck is an example of a non-Newtonian fluid. Many common liquids like water and alcohol have a constant viscosity. But Oobleck can be liquid when held loosely in your hand, and can also act like a solid if it's hit more violently.

Imagination and Education with "ArtSparks"!

On April 20, all *Black Tiger* third grade students came together and treated the audience with an amazing "*Wonderful Einstein*" themed performance!

From early in the school year, and under the direction of the *ArtSparks* staff of choreographers and musicians, Falls' students practiced their routines once a week for 30 to 40 minutes to perfection! All of their hard-work and dedication culminated in the big finale at CFHS on the 20th.

The mission of *ArtSparks* is to engage children through movement, music, and performance to

strive for excellence, embedding a lifelong quest in each child to reach their full potential in the classroom and in life.



Third Graders from across the District show-off their "ArtSparks" performance.

Get Your Dancin' Shoes On!

The Cuyahoga Falls High School Student Council is putting on its first ever Senior Prom. This event will be for anyone the age of 55 and over. The theme of this event will be the 1950's and will be referred to as the "*Senior Sock Hop*." There will also be a sock competition at the Sock Hop, so don't forget your best pair of socks!

The event will be hosted on Thursday, May 4th from 4:30- 7:30pm in the Cuyahoga Falls High School library. Admission for this event will be free, with food and refreshments provided.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated but not mandatory.

CFCSD Presents Monthly Events for Active Adults

The CFCSD is pleased to announce a monthly event for active adults, residents of the community that are 55 years of age or older. These events will be highlighting the educational opportunities in the schools. A different school building within the District will host these FREE monthly events. Our active adult community members are encouraged to attend the various themed events and activities.

To RSVP, please contact the host school.

"Senior Prom" - May 4, 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Cuyahoga Falls High School