



Former Panther baseball player honored

(See page 4)

Marysville Journal-Tribune

If it's for the good of Marysville and Union County... We're for it!

WEDNESDAY | May 5, 2021

marysvillejt.com

172nd Year of Publication • Marysville, OHIO • 75¢

JA voters easily renew income tax



By MAC CORDELL mcordell@marysvillejt.com

Voters in the Jonathan Alder School District have renewed the district's income tax.

According to unofficial results from the Union and Madison County boards of elections, the levy passed with 823 votes for and 468

votes against. The levy passed in both counties, garnering about 60% of the vote in Union County and about 68% in Madison County.

"Overall, it is just wonderful to live in a district that values our students and education," said Jonathan Alder Superintendent Gary Chapman.

The levy will cost \$250 per year for a resident

making \$50,000. According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, the 0.50% tax generates about \$1.5 million annually for the district.

The vote renews the district's 0.50% tax on earned income for 10 years. The levy was originally passed in 2014 for seven years.

Chapman said the levy is "a significant source of revenue in providing long-

term financial stability and maintaining our outstanding programs and services for our students."

He said the income tax accounts for between 6.5% and 7% of the district revenue.

"This gives us some financial stability to where we can provide outstanding programs and

services to our students and take care of the overall needs of our kids," Chapman said.

Chapman said there will not be new programs or any major program overhauls - at least immediately.

"We will evaluate these programs and services, as we always do, and look at

our goals for the 2021-2022 school year and make some decisions at that time," Chapman said. "But we needed to get this behind us and know where we were as we provide for our students."

Until then, the superintendent said the money will be used to "fill in the gaps to continue to pro-

Please see JA on page 5

Jerome voters hammer development in referendum vote

85% oppose rezoning for the Farm at Indian Run



By Kayleen Petrovia kayleen@marysvillejt.com

Jerome Township residents decidedly struck down a recent rezoning, with a whopping 85% voting against it in Tuesday's referendum election.

The rezoning would have paved the way for Wicked Chicken, LLC to develop 40 single-family homes in a subdivision called the Farm at Indian Run.

According to unofficial results from the Union County Board of Elections, 750 voters opposed the zoning amendment, while only 132 were in favor.

Residents circulated a referendum petition in response to a decision by the trustees to rezone 24.74 acres on McKittrick Road, east of Mitchell-Dewitt Road, from Rural Residential District to Planned Development District.

In August 2020, the board voted 2-1 for the rezoning with Trustee Megan Sloat dissenting.

Zoning Inspector Eric Snowden said the election results, though, mean the zoning amendment will not go into effect. The land will remain zoned as Rural Residential District.

While the outcome differs from the decision made by the

board of trustees, now-Chair Sloat said township officials will honor the voices of their residents.

"If there are enough residents wanting the referendum issue on the ballot, then I certainly respect that process," she said Wednesday morning.

The proposed development met staunch opposition from a group of McKittrick Road residents who have regularly attended public meetings since July 2020.

Bob Chapman, whose home is nearest to the proposed site, has actively opposed the Farm at Indian Run throughout the rezoning process.

Wednesday morning, he said he is "very happy" with the election results, adding that there were even more "no" votes than he expected.

He said the large margin is indicative of feelings in the township toward recently proposed developments.

"Hopefully that will send a message to the trustees that many people are unhappy with the rezoning going on," Chapman said.

He noted that he understands development is inevitable but feels it should be approved selectively.

"We'll continue to support the idea that we should preserve the rural character of our township," he said.

While he is pleased with the outcome of the referendum, he said he has "no idea what comes next."

Director of Departments Douglas Stewart said it is "too early to tell" what actions the developer will take in response to the referendum. He said he is hopeful the developers and residents will be able to come to a "resolution."



Jerome Township reports light voter turnout

Despite having a pair of issues to decide in the southern portion of the county, turnout was light for Tuesday's election. Above, poll worker Martha Vincent checks the photograph and signature of Jerome Township resident Jeff Rymer as he prepares to vote at the Jerome Township Hall.

(Journal-Tribune photograph by Mac Cordell)

Biden aims to vaccinate 70% of adults by July 4

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden set a new vaccination goal to deliver at least one shot to 70% of adult Americans by July Fourth as he tackles the vexing problem of winning over the "doubters" and those unmotivated to get inoculated.

Demand for vaccines has dropped off markedly nationwide, with some states leaving more than half their available doses unorderd. Aiming to make it easier to get shots, Biden on Tuesday called for states to make vaccines available on a walk-in basis and he will direct many pharmacies to do likewise.

His administration for the first time also is moving to

shift doses from states with weaker demand to areas with stronger interest in the shots.

"You do need to get vaccinated," Biden said to the White House. "Even if your chance of getting seriously ill is low, why take the risk? It could save your life or the lives of somebody you love."

Biden's goal equates to delivering at least the first shot to 181 million adults and fully vaccinating 160 million. It's a tacit acknowledgment of the declining interest in shots.

Already more than 56% of American adults have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and nearly 105 million are fully

vaccinated. The U.S. is currently administering first doses at a rate of about 965,000 per day — half the rate of three weeks ago, but almost twice as fast as needed to meet Biden's target.

"I'd like to get it 100%, but I think realistically we can get to that place between now and July Fourth," Biden said of his new goal.

He said the administration would focus on three areas as it tries to ramp up the pace of vaccinations:

— Adults who need more convincing to take the vaccine.

— Those who have struggled or are in no hurry to obtain a shot.

— Adolescents aged 12-15, once federal authori-

ties approve vaccination for that age group.

Acknowledging that "the pace of vaccination is slowing," Biden predicted the inoculation effort is "going to be harder" when it comes to convincing "doubters" of the need to get their shots.

He said the most effective argument to those people would be to protect those they love. "This is your choice: It's life and death."

Biden's push comes as his administration has shifted away from setting a target for the U.S. to reach "herd immunity," instead focusing on delivering as many shots into arms as possible. Officials said Biden's vaccination goal is to reach 70% of the U.S. population by July 4.

Please see Biden on page 2



University of Maryland entomologist Paula Shrewsbury displays a handful of cicada nymphs found in a shovel of dirt in a suburban backyard in Columbia, Maryland, April 13. This is not an invasion. The cicadas have been here the entire time, quietly feeding off tree roots underground, not asleep, just moving slowly waiting for their body clocks tell them it is time to come out and breed. They've been in America for millions of years, far longer than people.

(AP Photo)

Trillions of cicadas about to emerge

COLUMBIA, Md. (AP) — Sifting through a shovel load of dirt in a suburban backyard, Michael Raupp and Paula Shrewsbury find their quarry: a cicada nymph. And then another. And another. And four more.

In maybe a third of a square foot of dirt, the University of Maryland entomologists find at least seven cicadas -- a rate just shy of a million per acre. A nearby yard yielded a rate closer to 1.5 million.

And there's much more afoot. Trillions of the red-eyed black bugs are coming, scientists say.

Within days, a couple weeks at most, the cicadas of Brood X (the X is the Roman numeral for 10) will emerge after 17 years underground. There are many broods of periodic cicadas that appear on rigid schedules in differ-

ent years, but this is one of the largest and most noticeable. They'll be in 15 states from Indiana to Georgia to New York; they're coming out now in mass numbers in Tennessee and North Carolina.

When the entire brood emerges, backyards can look like undulating waves, and the bug chorus is lawnmower loud.

The cicadas will mostly come out at dusk to try to avoid everything that wants to eat them, squiggling out of holes in the ground. They'll try to climb up trees or anything vertical, including Raupp and Shrewsbury.

Once off the ground, they shed their skins and try to survive that vulnerable stage before they become dinner to a host of critters including ants, birds, dogs, cats and

Raupp.

It's one of nature's weirdest events, featuring sex, a race against death, evolution and what can sound like a bad science fiction movie soundtrack.

Some people may be repulsed. Psychiatrists are calling entomologists worrying about their patients, Shrewsbury said. But scientists say the arrival of Brood X is a sign that despite pollution, climate change and dramatic biodiversity loss, something is still right with nature. And it's quite a show.

Raupp presents the narrative of cicada's lifespan with all the verve of a Hollywood blockbuster:

"You've got a creature that spends 17 years in a COVID-like existence, isolated

Please see Cicadas on page 2

INDEX

Classifieds.....pg. 6 Crossword.....pg. 7

Horoscope.....pg. 7 Lottery.....pg. 2

Society.....pg. 3 Sudoku Puzzle.....pg. 8



Download iPad, Android or Amazon App today

