

**Mayfield Village Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical House, 606 SOM Center Road, Mayfield Village, Ohio.

<u>Present:</u>	Bob Haycox (Chair)	Peter Gall
	Robert Gessner	Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein
	Rosemary Fabrizio	Lorry Nadeau
	Monica Syracuse	Mary Salomon

<u>Absent:</u>	Mark Granakis	Sara Calo
	Sandy Batcheller	Patti Ferris
	Joanna McNally	Maureen Washock

Also Present: George Williams, Council Representative
Steve Schutt, Council President/Alternate
Allen Meyers, Council Member
Joan Gottschling, Historical Society President
Mary Betsa, Council Clerk
Meghan Perez, Mayfield Schools Levy Committee
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Haycox opened the meeting and asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the Sept 30, 2024 meeting, previously provided for review. There were none and the minutes were approved as written.

Historical Society Update

Mr. Haycox thanked Historical Society President Joan Gottschling for hosting the CAC again this year. Ms. Gottschling said it was a privilege to have the Committee come to the house and added that she thinks it is a good idea for the group to visit different venues in the Village.

Ms. Gottschling passed out the Historical Society's schedule of events for 2024-25 along with a membership application (copies attached). She described the work the docents do at the House and asked the members to share the information with friends that might be interested in volunteering. She advised that the Historical Society members are currently selling tickets for a gift card raffle and will be selling them at the Civic Center on election day.

Ms. Gottschling described that a record 96 people attended a recent meeting about “the mob.” She added that one of their volunteers has been bringing historical artifacts to each meeting and people enjoy seeing them.

Ms. Gottschling advised that one of their volunteers recently contacted the Fire Dept. to ask about having an automated defibrillator installed at the House. One was donated by Mayfield Village and many of the volunteers received training.

Ms. Gottschling noted that, in 2026, America would be celebrating its 250th birthday. “America 250” has been requesting that events be planned or existing events be expanded to include the celebration. She has spoken with Diane Wolgamuth about planning some events and thought that this group might want to get engaged in this project.

Ms. Gottschling thanked the Committee for coming to visit the Historical House and encouraged them to call if interested in a tour.

Meghan Perez – Mayfield Schools Levy Committee

Meghan Perez introduced herself as living in Gates Mills, being the President of the Parent Teacher Group, and working on the Levy Committee to share information about Issue 51. She passed out flyers to the Committee (copies attached) and described that the Committee is in its “final push” as the election is only a week away. She reported that over 6,000 absentee ballots have been requested out of 24,000. She is happy to attend this meeting to get the word out and provide information so members can answer any questions out there in the community.

Ms. Perez described that there is a lot to be proud of in the Mayfield City School District. The State’s educational report cards just came out and Mayfield received the highest rating. A representative from the Ohio Dept of Education came to visit the District and had high praise for the work being done here.

Ms. Perez stated that funds from the levy will be used to expand career readiness programs, provide additional mental health and wellness assistance, improve safety and security, and expand early education. “This is the first ask in eight years. The last levy was stretched, through prudent financial management, from four to eight years.” She described that the levy is based on 2023 home market values and would remain fixed at that value for the duration of the levy, explaining that, “The Schools don’t receive additional money when home values improve.” She advised that the levy will cost \$14.58 per month per \$100,000 of home value. Ms. Perez concluded by stating that a strong public school system is important and benefits everyone by keeping home values high.

Mrs. Betsa commented that she heard a radio program about people deciding whether to vote or not and that many felt that their vote does not matter. “The radio host reminded them of a school levy situation where the levy lost by two votes, so it matters on the local level.” Ms. Perez said she couldn’t agree more. “It all starts with local votes.”

Ms. Perez left several Issue 51 signs for the members to take home and advised that the Levy Committee could use support at the polling location on election day, if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Mary Betsa – Fraud Awareness

Mrs. Betsa began her presentation stating that bank fraud has been an issue for decades. She remembers back in the 1980s when someone came to her house selling magazines. They took her check and used it to buy other things. She

advised, "These days, everyone's personal information is on the internet. We all know to keep our important documents in a safe place. I also suggest that you don't keep documents any longer than needed."

Mrs. Betsa described an experience with bank fraud while working in the Village's Finance Dept. "I received a call from a vendor about not receiving payment. I told them we paid the invoice and they cashed the check. They said they never received it, so I requested a copy of the check from the bank. The amount had been changed from several hundred dollars to over \$43,000. I filed a police report and contacted the State Attorney General's Office. Luckily, we got the money back and the perpetrators were caught and indicted."

Mrs. Betsa described on-line fraud in situations where someone gets a message that says something is wrong with their bank account. "Then you can't get into your account and, when you do, your money is gone. So, you call the bank and tell them something is wrong." When this happened to her, the bank asked if she was sure that her husband didn't take out the money. She went back on-line and, since the transaction was still pending, she was able to stop it. Their accounts were frozen, including her daughter's account because her name is also on it. She suggested that everyone should request regular bank notifications about money being withdrawn from their accounts.

Mrs. Betsa recounted another situation regarding an Amazon Prime account. "The person received a message that their account had been compromised and they needed to purchase an Amazon gift card to clear it. In that situation, the individual could not fight with the bank because it was a legitimate purchase." She advised that people should not answer calls if they don't recognize the number and never say "yes" while on a call because you may be approving something without knowing it.

Mrs. Betsa spoke about additional protections, including using biometrics (facial or fingerprint recognition) and signing up for informed delivery through the postal service. <https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm>. Through this service, people can see what mail is coming before it arrives and know if it is not delivered.

Mrs. Betsa added, "Don't post pictures on Facebook and talk about being away on vacation."

Mrs. Gottschling stated, "Never click on a link." Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein added that if she receives an email or text saying there is a problem with your account, she goes to the App to verify that everything is fine.

Mr. Haycox stated that he has a friend who is a computer expert and he recommends changing your bank account setting so that you receive a text every time you use your credit card. He also recommends using two-step authentication whenever possible. Mr. Haycox stated that his wife experienced a data breach and had her information stolen. "It can take years to get everything sorted out." Mr. Haycox also recommended freezing your credit on all credit reporting agencies.

Mrs. Syracuse related that she had received a message about a \$1.00 charge. When she called the bank, they said it was someone "testing" their ability to get into the account and they immediately shut the account down.

Mr. Haycox added, "Online Social Security accounts should be opened, even if you opened the account in person years ago. This help avoid others creating an account in your name instead."

Mrs. Betsa concluded by stating that banks can't stop people from getting scammed and it is up to each of us to protect our accounts and identities.

Council Report

Mr. Williams advised that he submitted his resignation from Council, effective December 31, 2024. He and his wife are moving to be nearer to family "It's been a great experience living in Mayfield Village. Loretta was on this Committee as well. We have really enjoyed our 20 years here." Mr. Williams advised that he has one year left on his term and Council will be selecting someone from Ward 4 to fill the term.

Mr. Haycox expressed that it has been a pleasure knowing Mr. Williams and that we will all miss him.

Mr. Williams reported that a new Police Officer, a new full-time Firefighter and two part-time Firefighters were recently sworn-in at Council.

Leaf pickup started on October 14 and there are still openings for the Senior Snow Plow Program.

Other Matters

Ms. Wolgamuth asked the members if they had received the recent issue of the VOV. Mrs. Fabrizio thanked her for including the information on Ohio Issue 1. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that all the upcoming holiday events are included in the VOV, but she wanted to specifically mention two upcoming events:

- The Garden Club's Holiday Market is scheduled for Nov 23 in the Community Room from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They have changed the format this year. There will not be outside vendors, but people can come and make mini gingerbread houses from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- In cooperation with the Solid Waste District, the Village is hosting a Composting Seminar on December 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein asked if anyone had heard that Mayfield Village was having a problem with political signs being stolen. No one had, except for one incident.

Mrs. Fabrizio mentioned that the County had announced a taxpayer assistance program for seniors that are behind on property tax payments. She asked if that program could be advertised to residents. Ms. Wolgamuth advised that she would include information in the next VOV and make sure that Senior Services is aware of the program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Diane Wolgamuth

Mayfield Village Director of Administration

MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024-25 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

We are the historical society for Highland Hts., Mayfield Hts., Gates Mills and Mayfield Village and represent the area of the original 5-mile square, 1819 Mayfield Township that these 4 communities make up today. We are located in the Bennett-Van Curen historic house at 606 S.O.M. Center Rd, Mayfield 440-461-0055.

Meetings are held at the Mayfield Village Community Room, 6621 Wilson Mills Rd., second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. You don't have to be a member to join the meetings, free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Join us for refreshments after the program. Join our volunteer group if you feel you have a skill to help us at the historic house: tour guide, research, light weeding, garden care, handyman skills, computer skills, hospitality, baking cookies for a meeting. Please leave a message with your name and phone number: 440-461-0055.

Our Fall programs kick off with a nostalgic trip down Cleveland's memory lane!

September 11, Wed. 6:30-8 pm. Ice Cream Social. Join us at the historic house, 606 SOM Center. Meet to socialize and enjoy the end of summer, a tour of the house and then make your ice cream sundae outside in the Wiley Park Pavilion complete with homemade cookies. \$1 kids, \$3 adults. Bring the whole family.

October 9 – LOST RESTAURANTS OF CLEVELAND-- Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bette Lou Higgins, author & artistic director of Eden Valley Enterprises, takes us on a trip back in time to visit some of the lost eateries of downtown Cleveland where we will experience, once again, the flavor and atmosphere of these popular places in their heyday. Her book will be available for purchase.

November 13 – LOST CLEVELAND/CLEVELAND THEN & NOW--Wednesday, 7 p.m., Laura DeMarco, author, noted arts & culture writer, joins us for a tour of notable Cleveland landmarks of the past. Her presentation will paint a vivid picture of the vibrant downtown Cleveland we knew in our youth! Her book will be available for purchase. *(Tonight is **Pie Night** for our refreshment. Members, please bring in your money and ticket stubs for our local restaurant Gift Card Raffle to be drawn this evening. You can still purchase tickets tonight at 6 for \$5, \$1 each. Taking nominations for officers for the February election.)*

December 11-Holiday Luncheon, Wed., 12:00-3:00 . Mayfield Village Civic Center, 6622 Wilson Mills Rd. Information will be sent out in November with menu and cost to be returned by Dec. 5 for your advance reservation. Open to all. Ask a friend to share the holiday season and socialize with us. We have a Brown Bag Auction, 6 tickets \$5. If you have a new, gently used gift item to donate for it, bring it to the house by Dec. 8.

January- No meeting. Membership month. Please turn in your membership form and dues: \$15 single, \$25 family, \$50 contributing, \$500 lifetime to 606 SOM Center Rd, Mayfield, OH 44143 Thank you for your support.

February 12 – WHO HAS SPRING/CLEVELAND GUARDIAN FEVER? Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bob DiBiasio, Senior V.P. of Public Affairs for the Guardians, will join us to kick off the Guardians' Spring Training season with stories of our Cleveland team's storied past and review the upcoming MLB season for the team. Grab your favorite team jersey or hat and join us! We'll get the popcorn ready! Officer election and swearing in.

March 12 – THE HEINEN'S STORY – FROM ONE TO MANY! Wednesday, 7 p.m., Jeff Heinen, grandson of the founder of the Heinen's grocery stores, will tell us the Heinen's story – how it started; how it's grown; how they source the quality of the products they sell, how the Heinen's food brand developed and what the future holds. Bring your questions.

April 9 – THE CULTURAL GARDENS ON LIBERTY BOULEVARD, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Rebecca McFarland will share the story of how the Cultural Gardens came to be as one of Cleveland's most treasured landmarks in celebration of our diverse population and heritages. Ms. McFarland's books will be available for sale at the meeting.

May 14 – LAKE ERIE MURDER & MAYHEM, Wednesday, 7 p.m., author, Wendy Koile, invites us to dive into the mysteries and evil misdeeds of pirates, robbers, and even murderers who have used the 240-mile stretch of the open waters and dark shoreline of Lake Erie to commit such bloody offenses. Her books will be available for sale at the meeting. Members are reminded to turn in quilt raffle tickets/money, the drawing will be held tonight. You can still purchase 3 for \$5 or \$2 for 1.



**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 606 S.O.M. CENTER ROAD
 MAYFIELD VILLAGE, OH 44143
 Phone: 440.461.0055**

mayfieldtownshiphistoricsociety@yahoo.com
 like us on Facebook: mayfield township historic society

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 FOR THE MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
 Membership year goes from Jan 1-Dec 31. Payment is due by the February meeting
 Mail memberships with check to the address above or bring to a meeting

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Individual.....	\$15.00	_____
Family.....	\$25.00	_____
Contributing.....	\$25.00	_____
Business/Professional.....	\$50.00	_____
Sustaining Membership (Lifetime)	\$500.00	_____

MTHS can receive matching funds from Progressive employees through the employee giving program.
 Please contact us for more information.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

The Mayfield Township Historical Society is sponsoring a Brick Walkway. Remember a loved one or family member with a permanently inscribed brick in the walkway leading to the Bennett-VanCuren Historical Museum at 606 S.O.M Center Road. We also have a veteran's section. Cost per brick \$50.00. Up to 3 rows (13 letters per row)

If you need any historical questions about the township (Gates Mills, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights) answered, contact our librarians by phone or email or have photos/artifacts etc.to donate.

Revised 12-22

OVER

Do you have a volunteering skill you can share with us? Please check below:

I can help the following ways this year when I am available:

- Bake and bring 1 dozen cookies for meeting nights (2nd wed of month)
- Get decent training and learn the information for one room in the Historical house to be a tour guide for visitors
- Volunteer to pick up and drive someone to a meeting who can't drive
- Join the hospitality group and arrive 1 hr. before meetings to help make coffee, set up the dessert tables, or help clean up

The following jobs are done on Mondays from 10-2 or when you are available:

- Iron and sort quilt squares on Mondays for an hour
- Join/learn quilting every Monday from 10-2 with the Mayfield Quilters
- Data entry on the computer
- Documenting and photographing artifacts in the collection
- Research librarian-filing, researching questions, organizing files
- Light seasonal garden work; pruning, weed pulling, dead heading
- Cutting the grass at the house on the riding mower
- Light maintenance and house repair work/painting, handyman items
- Stuffing and stamping envelopes for mailing each month
- Sell raffle tickets at our booth during election days May/November and Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
- Community education in our historical booth during community days, and concerts
- Working with our social media sites to post current information
- Sunshine committee; thank you, get well and sympathy notes and calls to members
- Donate 1 hour a month to dust the house
- Help with the Ice Cream Social 2nd Wednesday of September
- Help to find interesting speakers on appropriate topics for meetings
- I am interested in helping the historical society by (other) _____



Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.



5 STAR RATING

2024 OHIO STATE REPORT CARD



Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

KNOW THE FACTS

ISSUE 51 5.0-MILL OPERATING LEVY

WHAT'S IT FOR?

- 1 Maintain excellence in the classroom**
- 2 Support school safety & mental health**
- 3 Expand literacy, math & career readiness**

HOW MUCH?

INVESTMENT

Of Property Value

\$14.58 a month / \$100,000

\$29.16 a month / \$200,000

\$43.74 a month / \$300,000

QUESTIONS?

Ohio's school funding system is complex and confusing.

If you have further questions, please contact Mayfield City Schools Treasurer Scott Snyder 440.995.7230 or email ssnyder@mayfieldschools.org



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

MAYFIELD CITY SCHOOLS awarded Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended 2023

8 YEARS

2016 was the last time Mayfield City Schools asked voters for additional money. It has been 8 years since MCSD have been on the ballot. Through prudent financial management the District's last levy was stretched from 4 to 8 years.

PASS

If the levy passes, the District can meet the operational needs to maintain & enhance our excellence.

FAIL

If the levy fails, the District would need to consider districtwide cuts and reductions.

District earns highest achievement rating from Ohio Department of Education

including a 99% Graduation Rate

ISSUE 51 LEARN MORE FACTS

Scan the QR code



FYI

According to guidance from the Ohio State Auditor's Office, school district personnel are not permitted to advocate for or against the passage of any levy or bond issue during times they are being compensated by the Mayfield City Schools. Therefore, the District will only provide factual information about its 5.0-mill levy request.



KNOW THE FACTS

ISSUE 51



HOW MUCH WILL ISSUE 51 COST ME?

\$14.58 a month / \$100,000

\$29.16 a month / \$200,000

\$43.74 a month / \$300,000

HOW DOES PROPERTY REAPPRAISAL IMPACT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCES?

While the District will see an increase in taxes collected due to reappraisal, it is not sufficient to offset the current year operating deficit and ongoing projected deficits.

WHEN WAS THE LAST MCSD LEVY?

The last levy request was approved by voters in 2016. Through prudent financial management, the 2016 levy was stretched from 4 to 8 years.

WHY DID THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DECIDE TO PLACE THE LEVY ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR?

It has been 8 years since Mayfield Schools asked for additional funding. Additional dollars are now needed to stabilize the budget for at least the next four years.

HOW DOES THE LEVY - ISSUE 51 - IMPACT THE BROADER COMMUNITY, EVEN THOSE WITHOUT STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS?

This issue is an important investment in the community's future. Strong schools protect property values and improve quality of life, and Mayfield Schools' high quality programs and student support are part of why families continue to choose to live in this district. Additionally, Mayfield schools help bring the community together, uniting the four communities that make up the Mayfield School District.

HOW WILL THE 5.0-MILL LEVY BE USED?

The funds from the levy - Issue 51 - will allow Mayfield Schools to keep the programs and supports that contribute to its 5-Star rating on the State Report Card and 99% graduation rate:

Safety Enhancements: Improving school security by installing additional cameras and upgrading the security of windows and entrances.

Increased Student Services: Funding additional mental health support, counseling, and other interventions to ensure students are ready and able to learn effectively.

Expansion of Early Education Programs: Enhancing early literacy and math initiatives. Mayfield recognizes literacy and numeracy are fundamental to all learning, and is dedicated to equipping every student with these essential skills.

Career-Readiness Programs: Expanding career-readiness programs for high school students to prepare them for careers in healthcare, construction, trades, engineering, and other high demand fields. The demand for these programs is so high that Excel TECC currently must turn away 100 Mayfield students each year.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEVY FAILS

Without the issue, the schools will begin deficit spending next year by \$1.5M. Because schools are required to provide the state with a balanced forecast over the course of 5 years, we would have to show immediate budget reductions. This levy is vital for maintaining Mayfield Schools' daily operations and ensuring that teachers and staff continue to deliver high-quality education and prepare our students for their futures.

ISSUE 51 - Mayfield City Schools