



## Communicating With Our Community

# PIPELINE

RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS

Winter 2022 • Vol. 24, Iss. 1

[www.riversidelocalschools.com](http://www.riversidelocalschools.com)  
[www.facebook.com/riversidelocalschools](https://www.facebook.com/riversidelocalschools)

[@RLSD\\_Beavers](https://twitter.com/RLSD_Beavers)

[Riverside Local Schools](#)

### COMMUNITY

## Phase II Placed On The May 3 Ballot

The Riverside Local Schools Board of Education voted to place a 5.37-mill bond levy on the May 3 ballot during its January 27 Board of Education meeting.

If the bond levy is approved by voters, the District will construct a new 6-12 complex, consisting of a 6-8 middle school and a 9-12 high school with shared spaces, on the current Riverside Campus property. An estimated timeline would have the new complex ready to open to staff and students by August of 2026.

The proposed bond levy is a result of the District's Facilities Plan that originated in 2014. At the time, the District formed a Facilities Committee – consisting of community members, parents, board members, administrators and staff – to solve issues of aging buildings and poor infrastructure. All District facilities were assessed by the Ohio Schools Facilities Construction Commission (free of charge) and their recommendation in both 2008 and 2013 was to replace all of the school buildings in the District due to poor conditions and infrastructure, with the exception of LaMuth Middle School.

In November of 2016, the Riverside community passed a 1.92-mill bond levy (Phase I) that raised

\$38.5 million to construct two larger elementary schools while closing Hadden, Hale Road, Leroy and Madison Avenue elementary schools, which

were a combined 346 years-old. The Hadden, Hale Road and Leroy elementary properties were then sold to various entities for a combined \$660,000. The Madison Avenue building was demolished and replaced by Riverview Elementary, which opened in September of 2019. Parkside Elementary was built at 12428 Concord-Hambden Road in Concord Township, and also opened in September of 2019.

Since its creation, the District's Facilities Plan

has always called for Phase II, which would not only construct a new 6-12 complex on the current Riverside Campus property, but would also segue into a Phase III part of the plan, which would repurpose LaMuth Middle School into an elementary school. The District would then close Melridge Elementary and/or Buckeye Elementary depending on enrollment at that time.

If approved, the bond levy for Phase II will cost tax payers \$15.66 per month per \$100,000 valuation. Funds from a bond levy cannot be used for salaries or operational costs.

### INSIDE This Issue...

- 2.....FAQs About Phase II and the Bond Issue
- 4.....Newest RLSD Board Member
- 5.....National Honor Society Members Inducted
- 5.....Student Athletes Sign Letter of Intent
- 5.....Newest Spelling Bee Champion Crowned
- 6.....Thanks!
- 6.....Banner Sponsorships
- 6.....Spirit Store Opens
- 7.....Welding Lab Renovation
- 7.....Pre-Apprenticeship Programming Grant
- 7.....Chromebook Grant
- 7.....ODE Report Cards Released
- 7.....Purple Star Designation for Riverside High
- 8.....Egg Hunt Returns

Our MISSION . . .  
Through a culture of excellence, immerse students in educational opportunities and empower them to excel in an interconnected world.

### District Facilities UPDATE

*Riverside Community Will Vote On Phase II To Continue District Transformation*

**LEARN MORE!**  
FAQs about Phase II and the bond issue

See inside ... pages 2-4

#### Community Information Meetings

Thurs., March 10 ..... 6:00 p.m. .... LaMuth M.S.

Tues., March 29 ..... 6:00 p.m. .... Parkside Elem.  
Great opportunity to tour a brand new facility!

Mon., April 4 ..... 6:00 p.m. .... Riverside Campus

**Keeping Our Community Informed**



# Frequently Asked Questions . . .

**LEARN MORE!**



**Q. What is Issue 1?**

**A.** Issue 1 is a 5.37-mill bond levy on the May 3 ballot that, if approved by voters, will allow the Riverside Local School District to raise \$147,725,000 to construct a new 6-12 complex, consisting of a 6-8 middle school and a 9-12 high school with shared spaces, on the current Riverside Campus property.

**Q. What is a bond levy?**

**A.** A bond levy is offered for construction activities with a specified term and amount. Proceeds from the levy are used to pay off the principal and interest on the bonds issued.

**Q. How will the funds generated from this bond levy be used?**

**A.** Funds from this bond levy are restricted to the purposes set forth in the bond levy language – which is for new construction, improvements, renovations and additions to school facilities. Funds cannot be used for District operational costs such as salaries, benefits or instructional materials.

**Q. What is the length of the bond levy?**

**A.** The bond levy is for a period of 37 years.

**Q. How much will Issue 1 cost taxpayers?**

**A.** If passed, Issue 1 would cost taxpayers \$15.66 per month per \$100,000 property valuation annually.

**Q. How was Issue 1 developed?**

**A.** The proposed bond levy is a result of more than eight years of effort by the District's Facilities Committee – consisting of community members, parents, board members, administrators, and staff – who were tasked with creating a long-term visionary plan to solve issues of aging buildings and poor infrastructure. The District's facilities were assessed by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) free of charge, and its recommendation in both 2008

and 2013 was to replace all of the school buildings due to poor conditions – with the exception of LaMuth Middle School. After the OFCC assessment, the Facilities Committee created a three-phase Facilities Plan, which was approved by the Board of Education in February of 2016.

- **Phase I** of the Facilities Plan has already been completed thanks to the community passing a 1.92-mill bond levy in 2016, which allowed the District to construct and open two new elementary schools (Parkside and Riverview) in the fall of 2019. Phase I also allowed the District to decommission four of its oldest elementary schools: Hadden, Hale Road, Leroy, and Madison Avenue.
- **Phase II (current phase)** will construct a new 6-12 complex, consisting of a 6-8 middle school and a 9-12 high school with shared spaces, on the current Riverside Campus property.
- **Phase III** will renovate and repurpose LaMuth Middle School into an elementary school.
- At the conclusion of Phase III, the District would re-evaluate District enrollment and consider the closure of Melridge Elementary and/or Buckeye Elementary.

**Q. What are the benefits of a new Riverside Complex?**

- A.**
- State-of-the-art technology will be available in all classrooms throughout the new 6-12 complex as well as common areas.
  - A larger campus will provide more opportunity for professional collaboration among, and between, staff and students.
  - Enhanced educational opportunities for students will be created via collaborative and flexible spaces and environments, which allow for a

multitude of models of teaching and learning.

- Dedicated and specially equipped spaces for science, creative arts, technology, and career-tech.
- Additional educational / curricular offerings for all students so that they leave Riverside both college AND career ready.
- With open learning spaces, natural lighting, and modern, comfortable furnishings, the classrooms and shared spaces will be more conducive to educational engagement for both students and staff.
- Enhanced safety and security.
- Having both the middle school and high school on the same campus will provide more operational efficiencies (use of shared spaces, parking lots, maintenance staff and more).
- Improved traffic flow along Route 84 in front of the Riverside Campus.

**Q. Why is a new high school needed?**

**A.** Riverside Campus will be the oldest high school in Lake County once Fairport Harbor completes the construction of their new high school. Built in 1949 (73 years ago), Riverside Campus has become increasingly difficult to adapt to 21st century learning. In addition, the cost of operating and maintaining the building continues to rise annually. In both 2008 and 2013, the OFCC ranked the entire Riverside Campus as 'poor' in the following areas: Plant Maintainability, Safety and Security, Educational Adequacy and Environmental Education. In addition, the Structural and Mechanical category was ranked 'borderline.'

**Q. Why not just renovate the existing Riverside Campus?**

**A.** The OFCC concluded the base cost of renovation of the existing Campus facility



# Phase II And The Bond Issue

## Keeping Our Community Informed



exceeds two-thirds the cost to build new.

- Renovation would not include moving walls or adding spaces for additional educational opportunities.
- Renovation would not include bringing the building up to 21st century standards in terms of safety and technology.
- Renovation would not include additional per-student space needed to meet the recommended per-student square footage requirements suggested by current OFCC standards.
- Renovation would not address additional items such as spaces designed specifically for creative arts or career tech.
- Renovation timelines would cause significant disruption to educational operations with 1,800+ students currently on Campus.

**Q. How will all students in the District benefit from Phase II passing?**

**A.** While students may attend different elementary schools, eventually all students attend our middle school and high school campus. Phase II would also transition into Phase III, which would allow all elementary students to have similar learning experiences in facilities designed with age-appropriate spaces.

**Q. If Issue 1 passes, what happens to the current Riverside Campus building?**

**A.** The current Riverside Campus would remain open while construction of the new 6-12 complex is being completed. The new complex would be built either behind, or adjacent, to the current building. The current Campus would be abated and demolished once new construction is complete and, if needed, baseball/softball fields and parking lots would be moved and/or re-built.

**Q. Will the Stadium and/or Field House be demolished to make room for new**

**construction?**

**A.** There are no plans to demolish the Stadium or the Field House as the District has plenty of room for new construction.

**Q. What due diligence did the District perform to ensure a new campus can be built on the current site?**

**A.** The District completed an initial geotechnical exploration services study (soil borings), an environmental site assessment, a topographical survey, and a wetland delineation study in 2021. No significant issues or concerns were noted from these studies that would prevent construction.

**Q. Is there room for growth in the new Riverside Complex in case enrollment increases?**

**A.** Yes. The new complex will be built to accommodate the expected growth in enrollment due to the current and future housing developments over the next decade and beyond.

**Q. If Issue 1 passes, when would the new campus open for students?**

**A.** If Issue 1 passes, it is expected that the planning and construction process would take approximately three to four years. If there are no significant setbacks or complications, the new campus is expected to be open to students by August of 2026.

**Q. What happens if Issue 1 fails?**

**A.** If Issue 1 fails, the District will continue spending money to repair and renovate Riverside Campus over time. Major improvements would not be affordable, and a limited approach to maintenance would be required. The Facilities Plan will be further delayed and the repair costs for all of the older schools will continue to increase.

**Q. What happened to the old elementary schools that were closed?**

**A.** • In December of 2019, the District agreed to sell the back portion of the Hadden Elementary property, which remains a park, to Painesville

Township for \$40,000. In June of 2021, the District sold the

Hadden Elementary building to the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve for \$500,000.

- In February of 2020, the District sold the entire Hale Road Elementary property to the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve for \$110,000.
- In the fall of 2021, the District sold Leroy Elementary to Leroy Township for \$10,000. Because the property was sold, the District is not responsible for any costs associated with the abatement and demolition of the building, which saved the District an estimated \$200,000.

**Q. How do school tax rates in the Riverside community compare to other school districts in Lake County?**

**A.** Out of nine school districts, Riverside currently has the third lowest school tax rate in Lake County. Should Issue 1 pass, Riverside would still have the fourth lowest tax rate in Lake County.

**Q. I don't have kids in the District. Why should I care about new facilities?**

**A.** Whether you have students in the District or not, the entire community benefits from a strong public school system. High quality schools build a stronger sense of community, improve home values, attract new families, and, most importantly, develop and educate the youth of our community to prepare them for a successful future. We believe that in order to move our community forward and give our children the education they deserve, our facilities should:

- Be educationally competitive

*FAQs . . . cont'd on page 4*



# FAQs . . . (cont'd)

**LEARN MORE!**



- Be technologically up-to-date
- Provide for collaborative learning methods
- Have competitive science and math (STEM) learning centers
- Be safe and functionally sound

This is our ultimate goal as a District to benefit the entire community.

**Q. The timing is not great for a levy. Why now?**

**A.** The truth is, there is never a great time for a levy. There will also always be unknowns about future costs, inflation, interest rates, etc. The District has been working on the Facilities Plan for more than eight years and, in particular, talking about and working toward Phase II for more than four years. It is important that we let the

community decide on whether or not they wish to go forward with the entire Facilities Plan that was originally presented to them.

**Q. Will the 5.37 mills for the bond levy be reduced during the 37-year period?**

**A.** The County Auditor will adjust the mills annually so the District only collects enough revenue to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. It is likely that the mills will be reduced due to several factors:

- The actual interest rate achieved once the bonds are issued.
- Increased tax valuation from new residential and commercial development in the District.
- Increased tax valuation from triennial updates and sexennial reappraisals performed by the County Auditor as required by law.
- Refinancing of the bonds as market

conditions allow.

Example: The District refinanced \$13,720,000 of its 2017 bonds in December of 2019 realizing approximately \$1.3 million in savings. In addition, increased valuations from new construction and valuation updates reduced the mills for the Phase I bond levy from the voted amount of 1.92 mills down to 1.35 mills currently.

**Stay Connected!**

The District has several social media pages including **Facebook, Twitter and YouTube**. Search for Riverside Local Schools to better follow what is going on within the District on a daily basis and to find the **most recent facts and figures relating to Phase II and Issue 1**.

**www.facebook.com/riversidelocalschools**

**@RLSD\_Beavers**

**Riverside Local Schools**

**Keeping Our Community Informed**



**www.riversidelocalschools.com**

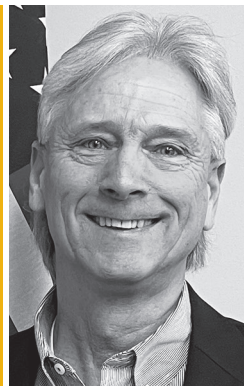
## DISTRICT

# Board Of Education Update

At the January 5 Board of Education Organizational Meeting, we welcomed in our newest board member, **Scott Fishel**.

Mr. Fishel was born and raised in Lake County and is a 1976 graduate of Eastlake North High School and attended and played basketball for Lakeland Community College and Dyke Business College. He started his roofing company in 1978 and continues its operation today. Mr. Fishel has lived in Concord Township for 32 years with his wife, Kathy. Three of his four children graduated from Riverside High School and his youngest graduated with a 2-year degree from Lakeland Community College while attending Riverside.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Fishel to the Riverside Local School District's Board of Education.



We also celebrated the re-election of **Belinda Grassi** (fourth term) and **Jennifer Harden** (third term) while also appointing **Lori Krenisky** as Board President and **Thomas Hach** as Board Vice President. Congratulations to all!

In November of 2021, we celebrated Jack Miley, who attended his last meeting as a Board of Education member. We want to thank Mr. Miley for his service and dedication to not only the Riverside Local School District, but the entire community during his eight years on the Board. Prior to serving on the Board, Mr. Miley had a long-celebrated history with the District as an educator and an administrator for 29 years. Mr. Miley's service will be missed by all.



— **2022 RLSD Board of Education Members** —  
Mr. Scott Fishel, Mr. Thomas Hach, Mrs. Lori Krenisky, Mrs. Belinda Grassi, Mrs. Jennifer Harden



# Newest NHS Members Inducted

Riverside High School is proud to announce its newest inductees into the Dr. Mary Allen Porter Chapter of the National Honor Society.

To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of leadership, service and character. Members of the Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes that met the G.P.A. requirement and completed the NHS application process were evaluated and screened by the five-member Faculty Council.

Leadership is based on the student's participation in community and school-sponsored activities, as well as an appointment or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have

been active in three or more service projects in the school or community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty.

Congratulations to the 20 students inducted into the Riverside Chapter of National Honor Society in a ceremony held in November in the D.W. Shaner Auditorium.



*A'ishah Abdussatar  
Chloe Banno  
Kayla Bobeczko  
Belle Bozic  
Mya Chapman  
Tyler Coad  
Abigail Conway  
Mackinley Covell  
Giovanna DeMarco  
Ava Haehn  
Jenna Leonard  
Grace McCoy  
Mackenzie Nichols  
Anna Pennock  
Paige Puhalsky  
Eleanor Ramos  
Juan Rico Palomino  
Marissa Szeker  
Olivia Taylor  
Tyler Wade*

## College-Bound Student Athletes Sign Letter of Intent

Congratulations to the following Riverside High School seniors for signing their Letter of Intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college.



**Skylar Blatnik,**  
Capital Univ.,  
basketball



**Grace Fisher,**  
Notre Dame  
College, softball



**Luke Griffith,**  
Waynesburg Univ.,  
soccer



**Amanda Kolar,**  
Ashland Univ.,  
softball



**Nick Lastoria,**  
Univ. of Mount  
Union, baseball



**Jack Longstreet,**  
Mount Vernon  
Nazarene Univ.,  
track & field



**Nick Messenger,**  
Baldwin Wallace  
Univ., football



**Jaclyn Napier,**  
Westminster  
College,  
lacrosse



**Dylan Simpson,**  
Baldwin Wallace  
Univ., football



**Olivia Usatch,**  
Robert Morris  
Univ., lacrosse



**Bryce Weber,**  
Bowling Green  
State Univ.,  
cross country/  
track & field

## “Bee” Champion!

Congratulations to Melridge Elementary 5th grader Kendall Brown for winning the District Spelling Bee, a competition between the 4th through 8th grade spelling bee champions held in January. Kendall represented the District at the Lake County Spelling Bee in February. Congratulations to each of our grade level spelling bee champions!

**Henry Simon** (4th Grade),  
**Kendall Brown** (5th Grade),  
**Claire Siegel**, (6th Grade),  
**Chloe Clark** (7th Grade),  
**James Ozinga** (8th Grade)





# Thanks!

The District would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for the following donations, which were approved by the Board of Education between June 2021 and February 2022:

- **Lake County Landscape and Design** for donating 10 yards of mulch for two summer projects at Riverview Elementary
- **Buckeye Elementary PTA** for donating \$24,995.89 for ViewSonic ViewBoards, professional development training sessions and carrying cases
- **Leroy-Thompson VFW Post 7939 Auxiliary** for donating personal protective equipment, antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer
- **SK Dey, Inc., DBA Smoothie King** for donating \$200 to S.I D.E.
- **Custard Guys LTD, DBA East Coast Custard** for donating \$125 to Riverside boys cross country
- **RHS Gridiron Club** for donating \$11,080.90 for two additional football coaches for the 2020-2021 school year

## COMMUNITY

# Banner Sponsorship Program

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the District launched a new Banner Sponsorship Program for interested businesses, organizations and community members. Funds raised from the Banner Sponsorship Program have benefited the Athletic Department, which supports all high school and middle school athletic programs.

Many different sponsorship opportunities are

offered within the Banner Sponsorship Program.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in the Banner Sponsorship Program for the 2022-2023 school year, please contact Nick Carrabine, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Riverside Local School District, at 440-358-8216 or by email at [nick.carrabine@riversideschools.net](mailto:nick.carrabine@riversideschools.net).

## Thanks! "Tier 1: All-In Sponsors" — 2021-2022 school year

<i>Adventure Subaru</i>	<i>Johnson Funeral Home</i>	<i>Redhawk Grille</i>
<i>Auburn Career Center</i>	<i>Emily Kerwood, Realtor,</i>	<i>Smoothie King</i>
<i>Clean Eat3</i>	<i>McDowell Homes</i>	<i>Vector Screenprinting</i>
<i>Fire &amp; Ice</i>	<i>Real Estate Services</i>	<i>WellFit Nutrition &amp; Energy</i>
<i>Huntington Learning Center</i>	<i>Lew's Reliable</i>	<i>WR Dawson Homes</i>
<i>JEMM Construction</i>	<i>Heat &amp; Air Conditioning</i>	<i>Zappitelli Financial Services</i>

## RIVERSIDE CAMPUS

# Beaver Nation Spirit Store Opens

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Riverside High School Beaver Nation Spirit Store.

The store was created earlier this school year by students in the Principles of Business course, taught by Mr. Bill Ross. The course was designed by Mr. Ross, with facilitation by members of

the administrative team, the Business Advisory Council, and a Willoughby South High School business teacher.

The course is aligned with the federal business standards.

The students have created several designs to choose from and develop products on demand using an apparel press purchased with grant money awarded from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

The store has been open to students during the school day and the plan is to open the store to parents and community members during some future school/athletic events. T-shirts are \$10, long-sleeve shirts are \$15, and hoodies are \$25.



- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| • <b>RHS Gridiron Club</b> for donating \$11,302.56 for two additional football coaches for the 2021-2022 school year | • <b>Rita M. Carfagna and Peter A. Carfagna</b> for donating \$500 to Riverside girls basketball | • <b>Dance) and Wellness, LLC</b> for donating \$250 to Recognizing RHS | donating \$7,000 to the RAVE program                                  |
| • <b>Captains Concessions, LLC</b> for donating   | • <b>Fairport Dance Academy (FDA</b>   | • <b>Mentor Rotary Club</b> for donating \$400 to Riverside Drama       | • <b>1922 Coffee &amp; Brew</b> for donating \$100 to Riverside Drama |
|   |  | • <b>EMI Corporation</b> for  | • <b>GCXC</b> for donating \$500 to National Honor Society            |



## RIVERSIDE CAMPUS

# Renovated Welding Lab State-Of-The-Art

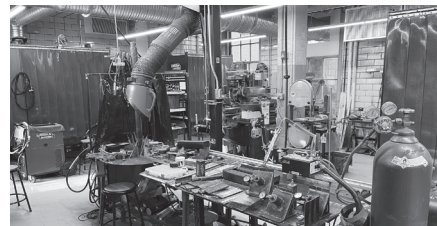
In 2021, the District received \$444,585 through the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Grant. The funds covered nearly all of the costs associated with the newly renovated state-of-the-art welding lab at Riverside High School.

Beginning this school year, Riverside High School has been offering a senior-only Welding program intended to get students the necessary credentials in the welding field.

The Welding program is great for students who love to work with their hands, enjoy working with metal, like to create new

products and have an exceptional attention to detail. The students have the opportunity to learn basic processes, theory, application and hands-on work pertaining to welding, cutting operations, pipe welding, fabrication and welding quality control.

The Welding program is one of several senior-only programs available for students this year. Riverside is also partnering with Perry and Mentor schools to offer off-site programs in Construction, HVAC, EMT and Advance Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship.



## RIVERSIDE CAMPUS

# Pre-Apprenticeship Programming Grant

The District is part of a consortium that was recently awarded \$707,000 through the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant.

The consortium includes Riverside Local Schools, Madison Local Schools, Painesville City Schools, Perry Local Schools, Ohio School for the Deaf, Ohio State School for the Blind and Edison Local Schools.

The funds received will allow these districts to create high quality pre-apprenticeship programming in the next several years that will enable students to demonstrate entrepreneurial mindset and innovation skills while learning critical technical skills to prepare them for in-demand jobs in their region.

## Chromebook Grant Received

*In the fall of 2021, the District applied for the Emergency Connectivity Fund for funding for 1,571 Chromebooks and Verizon Hotspots. The District was awarded \$503,421 in funding and the Chromebooks and Hotspots were delivered in October.*

## DISTRICT

# High Performance Ranking Achieved

In October, the Ohio Department of Education released the State Report Card for the 2020-2021 school year. For the second year in a row, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Report Card did not assign letter grades for school districts.

However, we are pleased to announce that the Riverside Local School District ranked second out of nine Lake County school districts in the Performance Index rating.

The Performance Index, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education, “measures the achievement of every student, not just whether or not they reach “proficient.” Districts and schools receive points for every student’s level of

achievement. The higher the student’s level, the more points the school earns toward its index. This rewards districts and schools that improve the performance of highest- and lowest-performing students.”

In addition to the District ranking, Riverside High School ranked third among 10 Lake County public high schools in the Performance Index rating.

While we are pleased with these rankings, there is always room for improvement. We will continue to strive to provide the best quality education to our students to help them grow and develop.

Ohio

Department  
of Education

## RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

# Purple Star Designation

We are excited to announce that Riverside High School has received the Purple Star Award by the Ohio Department of Education.

The Purple Star is awarded to schools that support and recognize our military students, families and veterans.

Riverside High School has a long standing tradition of supporting our military and this recognition is a great honor for our school district.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the various military support functions at Riverside High School in the past and in the future. We especially want to thank our Veterans Committee (Jenny Cavell, Jeff Eckles, Rich Schmidt, Rich Frimel, Becky Bartholomew, Dean Bader, Rich Brady and Peter Hliatzos) for all of their hard work on various projects throughout the District.





