



# The Madison Express

Since 2000



Mother's Day

Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2010

## LEVY Passes

Once again, the residents of Madison County have shown what we have known for quite a long time — they are great supporters of the programs of the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

County residents made a statement of historic proportions by casting votes at close to 65% in favor of the MCBDD Levy on May 4. That is the largest margin of victory by a MCBDD Levy in at least the past 20-plus years.

Thank you to all who made this levy passage a reality.



## The End of an Era

From the first time Peg Johnson stepped foot in Fairhaven School, she had a positive feeling about the place.

Now, close to 40 years from that day, Peg is saying good-bye after serving children with disabilities for four decades

“In September 1970 I came to Fairhaven for a practicum associated with a class I was taking at Wittenberg,” Peg said. “I was hooked.”

Except for an eight-year hiatus when she was a teacher of students with developmental disabilities in the Madison-Plains School District, Peg was a fixture at Fairhaven since the Nixon Administration.

The Peg Johnson Era will officially come to an end June 25, but the impact she has had on students and families will be felt for many years to come.

*Editor's note — A full account of Peg Johnson's storied career will appear in the June 1, 2010 edition of **The Madison Express**.*



### Say 'Thank You Peg'

Come and express your congratulations and appreciation as Peg Johnson prepares for her retirement

Wed., June 2, 2010

2pm to 6pm

Fairhaven School

## Self-Advocate group gets underway



Recently, four individuals served by the Madison County Board of DD participated in a regional meeting for the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) in Columbus.

Ernie Clifford, Laura Cotton, Michael Foster and Josh Miller attended the meeting with MCBDD Organization Services Coordinators Peggy Van Hoose and Jeff Gates lending staff support.

The reoccurring theme of the meeting was that “The self-advocate voice is important.”

The mission statement of OSDA is — ‘individuals with disabilities should have the freedom to plan their own lives and to pursue things that are important to them.’

At the printing of this newsletter, Laura Cotton and Michael Dillon have just returned from a self-advocate conference in

Columbus where they were trained how to teach others how to register to vote.

Madison County is excited about starting our own local self-advocacy group. If you are interested in finding out more about the group, please call Peggy at 740-845-2765.

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### Free Training Offered for Ohioans with Disabilities and Their Families

The Arc of Ohio is presenting a FREE training with developmental disabilities, their families and support staff on Friday, June 11 at the Worthington Holiday Inn (7007 North High Street, Worthington).

Among the sessions planned are ... ‘Proposed Changes in the IO Waiver and a New Waiver for Ohioans with DD,’ ‘Pain Management in Children with Disabilities,’ and ‘How to Access Medical Supplies, Adaptive Equipment, School & Office Supplies, Insurance, Trust Attorneys, and more, while promoting the quality of life for Ohioans with DD.’

For more information, please contact The Arc of Ohio by telephone at 614-487-4720 or email at [arcohio@rrohio.com](mailto:arcohio@rrohio.com).

*Special Olympics*

**Tigers gather medals at Denison**

A grand day in Granville.

The Madison County Special Olympics track/field and bocce squads earned 10 gold medals – plus 27 other medals -- in various events at a recent State Games Qualifying Meet held at Denison University in Granville. The Tigers' Special Olympics program is affiliated with the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Tigers are coached by Caternia Dummitt. She is assisted by Robin Cunningham and Wesley Pierce.

Leading the way for the Tigers were Jon Weeter, Taz Hamilton and Bobby Higgins who each grabbed a pair of gold medals.

Higgins finished in the lead in both the 200m run and the running long jump. Hamilton placed on top in his division in those same two events.



Weeter earned first place finishes in the shot put, and joined with teammate Duncan Gholson, as well as unified partners Raymond Higgins and Joseph Cunningham, to capture the top spot in the 4x100m relay.

Also earning gold medals were Debbie Morris in the 400m walk, and the bocce duo of Nathan Rouse and Kelly Kirts.

Earning silver medals for second place finishes were Nick Dummitt (100m run), Weeter (400m walk), Gholson (100m run), Shaundra Sayre (200m run and 100m run), Jay Large (shot put), Tyler Casey (shot put and running long jump), Rebecca Bell (400m walk), and the bocce duos of Sam Elliott/Dale Jones and Harold Wilson/John Bunn. Patty Rose also earned silvers in bocce.

The Tigers added a dozen bronze medals to go along with their pile of gold and silver. Third place finishers include a pair of bocce teams (Jeff Horn/Brian Goff and Brian Farris/Keith Farris), Arnold Quintanilla (200m run), Dummitt (shot put) Gholson (running long jump), and Morris (100m run), as well the 4x100m relay quartet of Quintanilla, Dummitt, Bobby Higgins, and Hamilton.

The earning ribbons for fourth through sixth place finishes were Quintanilla (100m run) and Bell (100m walk). Chris Zeeck participated in the running long jump and the 50m run.

The Tigers Special Olympians are working toward competing at the State Games to be held on the Ohio State University campus June 25-27, 2010.

*At left, Tyler Casey participates in the Running Long Jump*



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Developmental Disabilities**

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**Madison County Board of DD  
Monthly Board Update  
by Betsy Dodds**

- The Regular Monthly Board Meeting was held Thursday, April 15, 2010 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Mary Hopkins and Beverly Headings.
- The Board approved the minutes of the School Age Committee meeting held Wednesday, March 3, 2010.
- The Personnel/Finance and Future Planning Committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, April 29 to discuss future plans.
- The Board members were informed that Fairhaven Schools make-up days for the 2009/2010 school year will be Friday, June 4 and Monday, June 7.
- The Board members were informed that Fairhaven School's Graduation will be Monday, June 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- The OACBDD's Spring Conference will be held May 20-21 in Columbus.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Madison County Board of DD will be Thursday, May 27, 2010 at the Administrative Office at 4:00 p.m.

## DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGES!!

Please follow these rules when riding in a Madison County Ride vehicle:

- \* Always wear your seatbelt
- \* No food, drinks or tobacco products
  - \* Keep your hands to yourself
    - \* Stay in your seat
      - \* No cussing
      - \* No spitting
- \* No firearms or weapons of any kind
- \* Respect the driver and the vehicle
- \* Respect your fellow passengers



ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGES

*If you have any comments or concerns regarding your driver or your vehicle,  
please contact Transportation at 740-852-7050.*