



City of Seven Hills, Ohio

7325 Summitview Drive Seven Hills, OH 44131

Dear residents,

I'm going dedicate this quarterly newsletter to Issue 41. Although the City cannot ask for your "yes" or "no" vote either way, whatever your decision, it is important to know why Council and the Administration put this issue before you this fall.

What to know:

1. We have an Expiring Levy - Bond Issue for the recreation center
2. We have a Proposed New Levy (Issue #41) for Parks & Recreation.
3. Impact on Seven Hills Residents Property Taxes – Net Reduction in Tax.

Impact on Seven Hills Residents Property Taxes – Net Reduction in Tax

If the levy before the electors on November 3 were approved, a tax for debt service on the bonds issued for the to provide funds to pay costs of the construction of the Recreation Center back in 2001 that expires at the end of this year would, in effect, be substituted with a slightly less costly levy for parks and recreation. Please don't be confused by the term "additional tax." that is on the ballot language. In fact (as illustrated in the chart below), if passed this tax will be lower than what you are currently paying on the expiring issue.

Per \$100,000 valuation	<u>Expiring Recreation Center Bond Levy</u>	<u>Issue 41 - Parks & Recreation Levy</u>	<u>% Reduction</u>
Millage	1.65	1.40	
Annual Tax	\$57.75	\$49.00	(15.2%)
Less Homestead Exemption (if applicable)	12.5%	0%	
Annual Tax (Less Homestead Exemption)	\$50.53	\$49.00	(3.0%)

The proceeds of the proposed levy will be set aside for expenses related to our municipal parks and the operation, maintenance and improvements to our Recreation Center. **Why is this important?**

Our Parks: While we have refocused in recent years on some needed park maintenance, the fact is they are not all they can be. One reason is that parks and recreation always come last when funding is discussed. In Seven Hills (and virtually all communities) our safety forces come first

(rightfully so) and then comes our Service Department (Roads, Sewers, Snow removal etc) leaving very little for projects related to our Parks. We have identified a number of improvements that could be funded by Issue 41. They can be found on the City Website at <http://www.sevenhillsohio.org/en-US/City-Parks.aspx>. Throughout my time as a leader in our community I have heard from many residents that are not members of the recreation center but utilize our parks. The expanded use of funds to include our parks will allow all our residents to benefit from improved recreation opportunities that are not membership based.

Our Community Recreation Center: While the expiring bond levy covered the recreation center construction, no mechanism was put in place to address legacy costs. The need for a recreation center operating levy was first identified 20 years ago. -However, it has now become critical as many capital improvements are on the horizon as the facility approaches 20 years old and equipment approaches the end of its useful life.

Without the proceeds from Issue 41 the expenses noted would have to come out of our General Fund, effectively decreasing necessary funding for other City operations and projects.

This is our last newsletter of 2020. I encourage you all to vote. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. I look forward to a better / healthier 2021 for everyone.

Stay Safe,
Mayor Tony Biasiotta