

OAKWOOD

City and School Scene



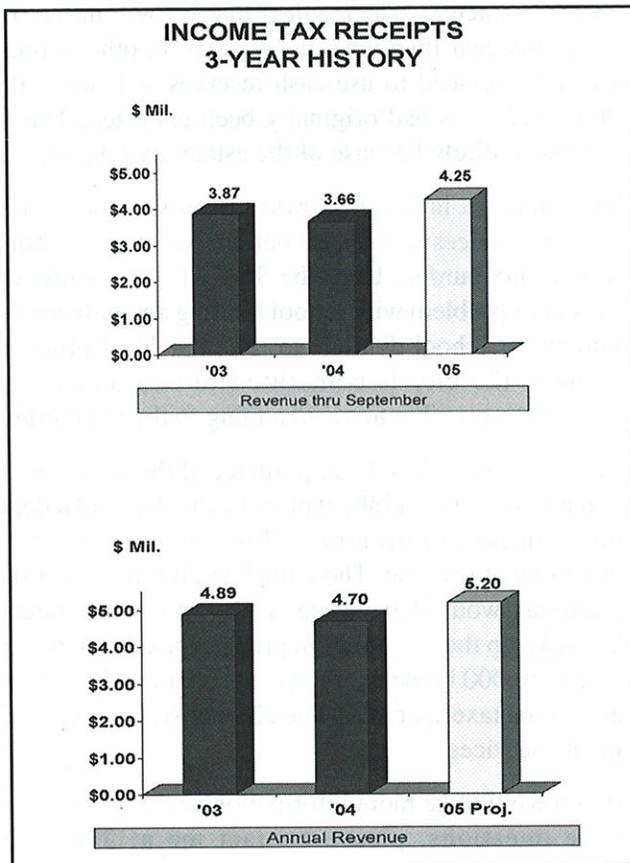
A Joint Publication Provided by the City of Oakwood and Oakwood Public Schools

October/November 2005

City	School
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Importance of Estate Tax

Over the past three years, I have repeatedly mentioned how important the estate tax revenue is to balancing our city budget. I cannot overemphasize this point. Our three primary sources of general fund revenue are income tax, property tax and estate tax. The graphs below show the amounts we received from each source through September in 2003, 2004 and 2005, and the total received for the year in '03 and '04 and a projection of what we will end with in '05.



Oakwood Schools Calendar Survey Results

This summer, Oakwood staff members and community members were invited to participate in a calendar survey to determine preferences about school year starting and ending dates and the traditional holiday, winter, and spring breaks. The survey was conducted online through the district's website over a six week period. Results are presented in this article. These results will be reviewed by the district's Calendar Committee prior to their recommendation to the Board of Education regarding the 2006-07 school year calendar.

Two hundred and seventy-two persons responded. They identified themselves as follows (some respondents qualified for more than one category):

- 21 or 7.7% residents with no children in school
- 106 or 39.0% residents with children in grades K-6
- 108 or 39.7% residents with children in grades 7-12
- 97 or 35.7% Oakwood staff members
- 14 or 5.1% current students or alumni

Ten statements about the general parameters of the school calendar were presented and respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement. A table of results is included with this article. To summarize, the majority of respondents:

- Prefer to begin school the fourth week of August (the week before Labor Day weekend) – 59%
- Want to retain the week-long winter break in February – 70%

(continued on page 10)

City Council

Judy Cook, Mayor
Carlo C. McGinnis, Vice-Mayor
William D. Duncan
Roger C. Blumensheid
Stanley Castleman

Administration

Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
Jay A. Weiskircher, Deputy City Mgr.
Glen Beddies, Public Safety Director
Brad Beachdell, Finance Director
Carol D. Collins, Leisure Services Dir.
Kevin W. Weaver Eng./Pub. Works Dir.
Dalma C. Grandjean, City Attorney
Dr. Mary Pryor, Health Commissioner

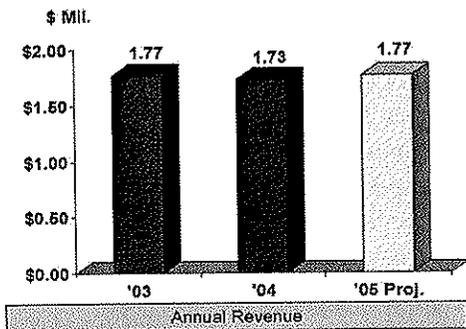
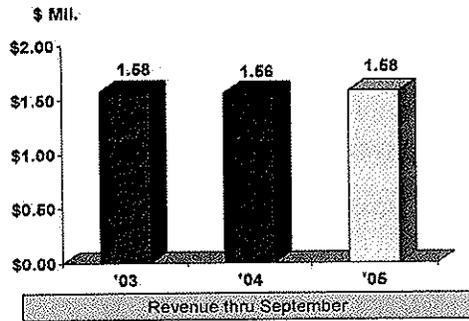
Board of Education

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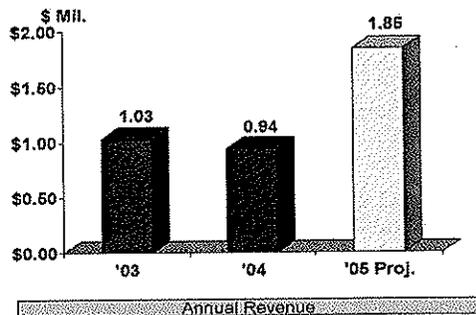
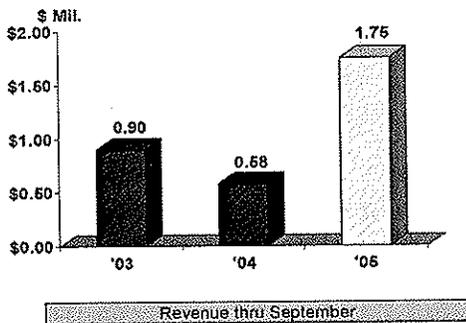
Administration

Mary Jo Scalzo, Superintendent
Kimberly Kappler, Dir. of Curriculum
Kathy Johnson, Dir. of Educational Svs.
Joe Boyle, Senior High Principal
John Kronour, Junior High Principal
Mark Hughes, Athletic Director
Nance Bradds, Smith Principal
Gretchen Loper, Harman Principal

**PROPERTY TAX RECEIPTS
3-YEAR HISTORY**



**ESTATE TAX RECEIPTS
3-YEAR HISTORY**



Estate Tax (continued from page 1)

The money from these three revenue sources pays for our unique and comprehensive city services including police, fire, emergency medical services, street and park maintenance, a significant portion of our leisure services programs, the majority of our refuse collection operations and the administrative services required of our city government.

In my budget messages over the past year, I have stated that we expected to spend approximately \$800,000 more this year than our projected revenue. The reason for this is that our costs continue to rise due to inflation and increasing personnel costs, yet we have not asked the community for a tax increase to support city services since 1991. As you see on the graphs above, our estate tax receipts thus far this year are significantly higher than the receipts at the same time in 2003 and 2004. The \$1,750,000 received thus far significantly exceeds the \$600,000 we budgeted and the \$1,000,000 that we had hoped to receive based on previous year receipts and other factors. The result is that we will not spend more this year than what we receive. In other words, we will not need to use cash reserves to balance the 2005 budget as had originally been expected. This is the case entirely because of the estate tax revenue.

The estate tax, in effect, allows us to provide the highest level of services without burdening our citizens with a heavier tax burden. Until the State of Ohio addresses the major problem with school funding and reduces the burden on school districts to tax their local property owners, the city is committed to continue to do everything possible to avoid adding to the tax burden.

Please keep in mind the importance of the estate tax as you periodically read about plans by the state and federal governments to eliminate this tax and source of government revenue. The complete elimination of the estate tax would have a major impact on our budget. To make up the loss through property taxes, the owner of a \$250,000 home would pay approximately \$330 in additional taxes per year. The alternative is a major cut in city services.

If you would like more information about this issue or have questions, please contact me at 298-0600 klopsch@oakwood.oh.us.

Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager

Scarecrow Building Contest

The Oakwood Community Center is very excited about having the 3rd Annual Scarecrow Building Contest in October. We encourage families, neighbors, organizations, co-workers and their groups to participate in this special festive community event. Registration packets are now available at the OCC. The building and placement of the scarecrows will take place on Sunday, October 16 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with judging promptly at 5:00 P.M. If you have any questions, please call the OCC at 298-0775.

Thanksgiving Dinner

All Oakwood residents are invited to attend the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24 from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Oakwood High School Cafeteria. This free dinner is sponsored by the Oakwood Fraternal Order of Police and the Oakwood Rotary and is provided in cooperation with Oakwood City Schools.

Come and enjoy turkey and all the trimmings with fellow neighbors and friends. Home delivery is available to those who prefer that option. For more information, call FOP Secretary, Tony Gressel at 298-2122.

Lighting Up Oakwood and Holiday of Lights

The City of Oakwood and the Oakwood Environmental Committee is "LIGHTING UP" Oakwood with luminarias on Sunday, December 11, 2005 beginning at 6:00 P.M. Oakwood residents are invited to put luminarias out in front of their house and to consider participating with their neighbors. Then at 6:30 P.M. come to Shafor Park for an evening of community fellowship with songs, refreshments as well as horse drawn carriage rides throughout the city to see the beautifully lit night and, as always, enjoy a visit from Santa Claus.

Beautification Awards

Congratulations to the owners of the following residential and business properties that were selected to receive July and August Beautification Awards:

July

- ⊗ 557 Hathaway Rd.—Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morling
- ⊗ 532 Irving Ave.—William H. Larkin
- ⊗ 208 Forrer Blvd.—Mr. & Mrs. Mark Laidler
- ⊗ 132 Greenmount Blvd.—Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Benford
- ⊗ 345-347 Triangle Ave.—Karl Bustard & Kathy Trangenstein
- ⊗ 301 Orchard Dr.—Richard Sievers
- ⊗ 1800 Southwood Ln.—Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hall
- ⊗ 1135 Ridgeway Rd.—Patrick Smith
- ⊗ 2400 Far Hills—Design Architectural Designs
- ⊗ 1211 Far Hills Ave.—Oakwood Manor Condo

August

- ⊗ 552 Hathaway Rd.—Rosemary Musial
- ⊗ 911 E. Schantz Ave.—Kathleen Hause
- ⊗ 30 Patterson Rd.—Max Heintz & Laura Nyquist
- ⊗ 225 Lonsdale Ave.—Jayson & Cristine Dock
- ⊗ 313 Aberdeen Ave.—Leona Sowder
- ⊗ 2320 Hathaway Rd.—Francis Shampton
- ⊗ 2501 Shroyer Rd.—Kevin & Jennifer Ketterer
- ⊗ 2700 Shroyer Rd.—Johce Wolfe

The city extends thanks to members of the property maintenance board and environmental committee for selecting the monthly winners.

Beggar's Night—October 31

Watch for ghosts and goblins on Monday, October 31, between the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. If you plan to hand out Halloween treats, please turn on your porch or front door lights. If you're driving during those hours, please use extra caution.

Mark Your Calendars!

City Council will meet on Mondays, October 3 and November 7 in regular session at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. You are invited to attend or view meetings live or rebroadcast on cable television. Please check your cable guide for broadcast times. All televised regular sessions are preceded by an open work session beginning at 6:30 P.M. Council will also meet in work session on Mondays, October 17 and November 21 at 5:00 P.M. in the conference room at 30 Park Avenue.

City Offices Closed

- **Veteran's Day**—City offices, the Public Works Center and the OCC will be closed on Friday, November 11. The public works department will collect trash that week on the regular schedule.
- **Thanksgiving**—City offices, including the public works department and OCC, will be closed on Thursday, November 24. Additionally, city offices, the Public Works Center and the OCC will be closed on Friday, November 25. However, the refuse collection department will be open on November 25. Trash collection during the week of Thanksgiving will run its regular schedule, except that Thursday's route will be collected on Friday.

The OCC Business Office and Health Center will re-open with special hours on Saturday, November 26 from 9:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Johnny Appleseed Tree Planting Project

The City of Oakwood and the Oakwood Environmental Committee is again offering the Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project to Oakwood homeowners. Applications and detailed brochures describing the project and tree species are available from the Oakwood Community Center or by calling 298-0775. The trees selected are approximately 2" in diameter and discounted 50% to residents. One tree will be allocated for each approved property site at the discounted price and must be planted in the city right-of-way. Trees will be planted by a local nursery in late November or early December. All trees will be wrapped, staked, mulched and guaranteed for one growing season.

For more details, call Carol Collins or Brian Caldwell at 298-0775.

Leisure Service News

Homecoming Hot Dog Supper: The annual event will be held at the OCC on Thursday, October 13 at a new time, 6:00-7:30 P.M. The parade forms at the OCC and will begin marching at 7:30 P.M.

Flu Shots: The Montgomery County Combined Health District will once again offer flu shots. Appointments are not necessary. Anyone 18 years of age and older is eligible. The event is scheduled for Monday, October 24 from 8:30 to 10:45 A.M. at the OCC.

American Red Cross Babysitting Course: The course will be taught at the OCC on Saturday, October 29 from 9:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. Students must be at least 11 years of age to enroll in this course.

Mother/Son Dance: This dance is scheduled for Saturday, November 19 from 7:30 — 9:00 p.m. The dance is open to all Oakwood Moms and Grandmothers with sons and grandsons between the ages of 5 and 11 years. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the OCC.

Breakfast with Santa: This special event is held for children under 10 years old on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.

Safety Department News

The Oakwood Public Safety Department sponsors a number of programs for the community. All of the programs are free and available to all residents. Some of the programs do not get used with regularly frequency and are being reviewed to ensure they continue to have value for our citizens.

Examples of offerings include: Fire Inspections for all businesses, Vacation House Checks for residents while they are out of town, Traffic Site Enforcement to address specific traffic concerns, and Crime Prevention offering home security recommendations.

Other programs include: School Fire Drills, School Lock Down Drills, Home Inspections, Fingerprinting, Safety Department Tours, Bike Licensing, Senior Special Needs, D.A.R.E., Youth Services, OCC Certifications, Block Party Visits, Anonymous Crime Tip Hotline (296-5150), 293-INFO and Ride-alongs with Officers.

If you need additional information or wish to participate, please call us at 298-2122.

Annual Leaf Collection

We will begin our annual leaf collection program on Monday, October 10. As in previous years, the program will provide bi-weekly leaf pickups of all areas throughout the city. The city is divided into ten sections with each being collected on a 2-week interval. The program is scheduled to continue until Friday, December 16, but will be shortened or extended if conditions warrant.

The map on the right shows the scheduled dates for leaf pickup in each of the ten sections. We will make every effort to stay on this schedule, but may vary a bit from time to time based on weather conditions and other factors.

To help us provide the best possible service, please remember the following things:

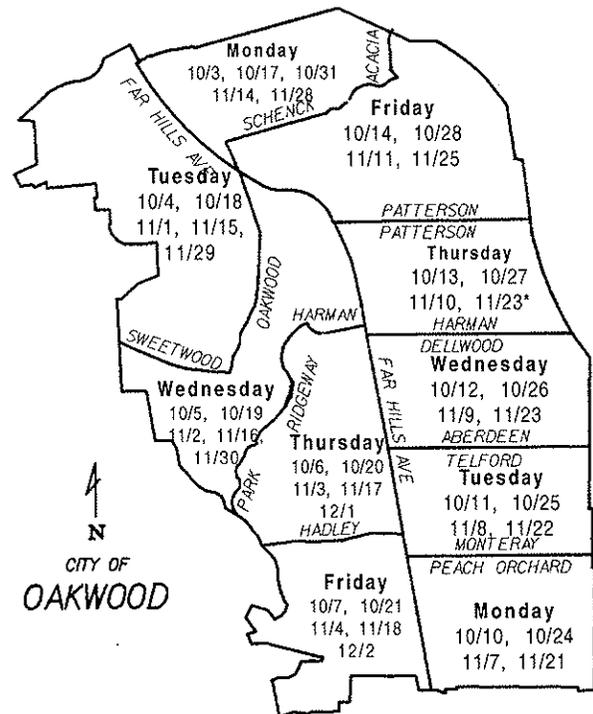
- During the 10-week collection season, all leaves should be raked directly into the street gutter or, if conditions demand, in the area just behind the curb. Please make an effort to do this just a day or two before the scheduled pickup and make sure to pile the leaves in a narrow row to least obstruct the traveled roadway.
- Under no circumstance should you place brush, branches or other yard debris, pumpkins, corn stalks or bales of straw in the street gutter with the leaves.
- Do not bag the leaves—leave them loose.
- Do not park vehicles in the street on the day your area is scheduled for leaf pickup.

The standard yard debris pickup and dumpster programs will continue through the leaf collection season. **However, as in the past, we will suspend the special pickup program.** If you anticipate the need for a special pickup over the next few months, please schedule it to be completed prior to October 10 or plan to wait until the week of January 3rd.

If you have any special needs during leaf season, please contact Theresa Caldwell or Kenneth Perkins at the Public Works Center (298-0777).

Storm Water Management Program

The city is continuing to strive to meet the goals of its Ohio storm water permit which include street sweeping, dry weather screening of storm water structures, public education and pollution prevention. As part of this process we are issuing a few reminders about your storm sewers. Please keep in mind that these are direct conduits to creeks and streams in the area. Water quality is directly affected by the material that enters the storm sewers. The public can help by never placing any material into a catch basin. Items that we commonly see when cleaning the sewers are grass clippings, brush and trash. Also, please do not put any material in the street, with the exception of leaves from mid-October through the end of the year. This will help keep material from inadvertently washing into the sewers. Please pick up after your pet as the bacteria in pet waste is extremely harmful to aquatic wildlife. Finally, please try to limit the use of herbicides and pesticides in lawn care as they also have a direct impact on the water quality. Thank you for your help in preserving our natural resources!



* Holiday Pickup

The following two roads are scheduled as follows:
 Far Hills Avenue: 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1
 Shroyer Road: 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/23*

Recycling Program

Please remember that we have an extensive co-mingled recycling program. You may co-mingle newspaper, junk mail, catalogs, magazines paperboard, cardboard (small quantities—flattened), plastics (#1 and #2 in the little triangle on the bottom), various metal cans, and glass. Larger amounts of cardboard may be taken to the containers at the Creager Field parking lot just north of 210 Shafor Boulevard. For a complete listing of recyclable materials, see Montgomery County Solid Waste District's daily drop-off recycling listing at www.mcswd.org. The city of Oakwood's requirements are driven by our hauling and sorting contractor, Waste Management, Inc. which uses the Montgomery County standards listed above. Any questions, please contact Refuse Foreman Kenneth Perkins at 298-0777.

Found Bikes

The City of Oakwood Public Safety Department has recovered the following bikes. If a bike listed below belongs to you, contact the Safety Department at 298-2122. Owners must provide proof of ownership. Unclaimed property will be disposed of in accordance with City Ordinance #151

Brand Name	Model Name	Color	B/G	Use
Razor	Scooter	Silver		
Razor	Scooter	Silver		
Magitec	Scooter	Silver		
Razor	Scooter	Silver		
Razor	Scooter	Black		
Kent	Super 16	Red		
Huffy	Mont Claire	White	B	Street
Sears	Free Spirit	Blue	B	Street
Dyno	NSX	Chrome	B	BMX
GT	Mach I	Silver	B	BMX
Sears	Free Spirit	White	B	Street
Huffy	Baron	Red	G	Mountain
Schwinn	Z Factor	Black	B	BMX
Next	Avalon	Black	B	City
Unk	Unknown	Black	B	BMX
Sharper Image	Electric	Silver		Scooter
Thruster	Dirt	Blue		Mountain
Rand	ProATB	Black	B	City
Magna	Alpine Eagle	Yellow	B	Mountain
Roadmaster	MT Furry	Blue	B	Mountain
Penny	Unknown	Green	G	City
Murry	Intracity	Green	B	City
DSX	Manchester	Green	G	City
Thruster	Maximum Terrain	Blue	B	Mountain
Giant	UPLAND	Purple	B	Mountain
Trek	Navigator 100	Black	G	City
Specialized	Hardrock	Silver	B	Mountain
Murry	Explorer	White	G	City
Roadmaster	Techno280	Purple	G	Mountain
Radical Racer	Scooter	Silver		

October 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Saturday School
PSAT 7-9:30 p.m.	City Council 7:30 p.m.	Detention	Plan Comm 4:30 p.m.	Detention	Interims Mailed	SAT Saturday School
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Ath. Boosters 7:30 p.m. IOWA Test	Detention IOWA Test	IOWA Test	Detention Homecoming Parade IOWA Test Zoning App 4:30 p.m.	Homecoming Game	ACT Saturday School Homecoming Dance JA Dance
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Grades 9/10 Parent Mtg-Aud 7 p.m.	Detention		Detention		Saturday School
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 JH Sports Recog. Aud 7:30 p.m.	Detention Choir-Aud	Picture Retakes Choir Concert 7 p.m.	Detention		Saturday School
	Beggar's Night 6-8 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Oakwood Schools Calendar Survey

1. Please tell us about yourself. Check all responses that apply. You will need to check at least one response to gain access to page 3 of the survey.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Oakwood resident with no children currently in Oakwood Schools	7.7%	21
Oakwood resident with child(ren) in grades K-6 at Lange, Harman, or Smith	39%	106
Oakwood resident with child(ren) in grades 7-12 at OJHS or OHS	39.7%	108
Oakwood staff member	35.7%	97
Other (please specify)	5.1%	14
Total Respondents		272
(skipped this question)		1

2. Please respond to each of the following 10 options. Select some level of "Agreement" for every option that is an acceptable option in your opinion. Select some level of "Disagreement" for every option that is not an acceptable option in your opinion.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response Average
Begin school the third week of August	28% (72)	29% (74)	6% (15)	21% (55)	16% (41)	2.68
Begin school the fourth week of August (the week before Labor Day weekend)	12% (32)	22% (58)	7% (18)	39% (104)	20% (53)	3.33
Begin school the day after Labor Day	33% (85)	23% (58)	7% (18)	17% (44)	20% (52)	2.69
Retain the week-long winter break in February	11% (29)	15% (41)	3% (9)	11% (30)	59% (156)	3.92
Reduce the February winter break to the Friday before and President's Day (Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon)	43% (114)	25% (66)	5% (13)	17% (46)	10% (26)	2.26
Reduce the February break to President's Day only	60% (158)	21% (56)	5% (12)	7% (19)	6% (17)	1.78
Retain the week-long spring break during the first week of April	5% (12)	10% (27)	23% (59)	25% (65)	38% (98)	3.80
Change the week-long spring break to the second week of April	15% (40)	19% (49)	31% (81)	21% (55)	14% (37)	3.00
End school the first week of June	3% (9)	12% (32)	11% (30)	26% (68)	47% (124)	4.01
End school the second week of June	29% (74)	25% (64)	14% (37)	22% (56)	11% (28)	2.61
Total Respondents						269
(skipped this question)						4

3. Comments or suggestions for consideration:

Total Respondents	93
(skipped this question)	180

Survey (continued from page 1)

- Prefer to retain the week-long spring break during the first week of April – 63%
 - Would like to end school the first week of June – 73%
- Comments were categorized and summarized.

First Day of School (24)

Even though 56% of all respondents disagreed with beginning school after Labor Day, thirteen of the twenty-four comments were in favor of beginning after Labor Day. Nine persons wrote in favor of beginning school before Labor Day with half of these respondents citing the start of athletics as a basis for their perspective.

Last Day of School (10)

Eight of the ten respondents were in favor of ending school in late May or early June. Several cited the June summer school schedule and August athletic schedule as reasons for ending the regular school year as early as possible.

Fall Break (4)

These respondents addressed the lack of breaks in the calendar between the beginning of the school year and Thanksgiving. Suggestions ranged from scheduling several long weekends to a weeklong break in October.

Thanksgiving (3)

Two of the three comments endorsed having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a vacation day.

Holiday Break (9)

The majority of these comments suggested that the December break be two full weeks. Two respondents suggested that the semester end in December rather than mid-January.

Winter Break (43)

Thirty-one respondents requested that we continue winter break in its week-long format; five suggested that we shorten it; and four respondents urged us to eliminate it.

Spring Break (24)

Eleven persons expressed a preference for scheduling this break in conjunction with Easter or Passover. Three respondents asked us to consider coordinating the spring break with other districts and/or colleges.

Additional Comments (10)

These comments included a suggestion for year-round school; several requests to return to a pre-construction school year calendar; a request that we not alter our lunchtime schedule; suggestions for scheduling teacher inservices; and a request for more career mentoring opportunities.

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Oakwood, Montgomery County
Dayton, OH 45419