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Oakwood students taking a break from their volunteer duties to have their picture taken with their teacher and the founder and co-director of the Prize in the Schuster lobby. L-R: Christina Davis, Emma Couch, Ms. Kaye Carlile – Sr. High Art Educator, Karin Mueller, Matt Kissell, Will LeBoeuf, Mrs. Sharon Rab – Founder and Co-Chair, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Maggie Carey, John Stathopolous, Elizabeth Rasmussen, Celia Rasmussen

Art students take part in Peace Prize ceremony

Each year Kaye Carlile, senior high art educator at Oakwood High School, leads her students in a special project in which they play a very colorful role. They take part in the Awards Ceremony for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize – an International Award. This year once again, they not only made over one hundred peace cards, which were strung with silk ribbons

and worn by the attendees of the Awards Ceremony, held recently at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Center for the Performing Arts, they also presented an exhibition of 22 works of art, created with the theme of Peace as inspiration.

Additionally, a group of students from the Oakwood Peace Club, which Ms. Carlile advises, volunteered to assist at the event.

The students find this volunteer opportunity not only fun, but also rewarding, knowing that they are assisting the important mission of the better understanding of peoples and cultures from around the world. When asked about their experience, Elizabeth Rasmussen and Christina Davis, both seniors and members of Ms. Carlile's Advanced Art Class, in addition to being Peace Club

Members, replied "taking part in the Literary Peace Prize awards ceremony was a valuable opportunity to interact with community members as well as expand our knowledge of achieving global peace through literature."

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize, inaugurated in 2006, is the first and only annual U.S. literary award recognizing the power of the written

word to promote peace. The Dayton Literary Peace Prize invites nominations in adult fiction and nonfiction books published within the past year that have led readers to a better understanding of other cultures, peoples, religions, and political points of view. It was founded by Sharon Rab, a resident of Oakwood. Mrs. Rab and Mark Meister are the co-directors of this very special prize..

The city budget, taxes...and Thanksgiving

By Norbert Klopsch
Oakwood City Manager

My initial intention for this column was to discuss in some detail our Oakwood city budget... it is that time of year again. Yes, we have developed a 2010 budget that provides the resources needed to continue offering the comprehensive city services for which we are accustomed. I will present that budget to city council at our December 14 meeting. We, like most other local governments, have many financial challenges ahead but I am confident that we can address them appropriately when needed. I will explain this in my next column. Today I wish to talk about five things for which I am thankful.

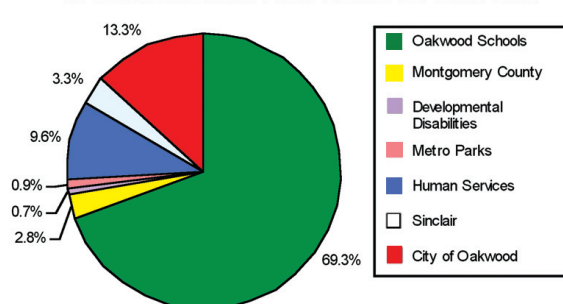
1) We have a city where people truly care about one another. You can see it in any Oakwood neighborhood on any given day. A recent example was Halloween night on my street – Volusia Avenue. As is the case each year, we had hundreds of children... of all ages, wandering up and down

the street in a totally safe environment thoroughly enjoying the evening. Every porch light was on and gobs of goodies were given out.

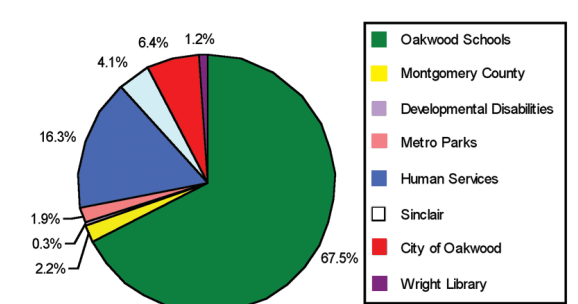
2) We have a community that truly values important things like education and taking care of property. Our Oakwood schools continue to offer the finest learning experience available laying the foundation for our children to achieve great things. With my two children succeeding in college, I am clearly seeing the benefits of the Oakwood education. Our homes and properties become more beautiful each year because we invest so much in them. Yes, they are old but they are so well cared for and have always increased in value at levels far higher than the area average.

3) We have citizens who are willing to pay the extra costs to have this special Oakwood community. As former city manager J. David Foell (1962-1992) once said, "It's not a question of how much you pay in taxes; the question is whether you receive good value

1992 Residential Real Estate Breakdown



2009 Residential Real Estate Breakdown



for each dollar spent." I believe that Oakwood residents and business owners continue to get good value for their tax dollars.

4) We have residents who get involved in what we do and in how we do it. This is critically important, particularly when we address important issues. We are currently writing a master plan for athletic and recreation facilities and are benefitting significantly from the large number of citizens participating in the process. We have a 25-member citizen committee that is giving many hours in direct sup-

port of the project and have already had over 500 residents provide their input. There will be several additional opportunities to get involved over the next few months.

5) We are a community that is very generous when it comes to supporting regional efforts. Our generosity is reflected in how Oakwood residents consistently vote to increase their property taxes to support things like the Montgomery County Human Services programs, Sinclair Community College and Five Rivers MetroParks. The percentage of our

property taxes that funds programs outside our city increased from 17 percent in 1992 to 25 percent in 2009. The following pie charts show the comparison:

I am certainly thankful for many other things but these are five about which I am presently mindful. As I celebrate Thanksgiving this year, I am very thankful for my family and friends, my health and this wonderful country in which we live... and I am also very thankful for our wonderful Oakwood community. I wish you an enjoyable holiday.