**Dear Resident,**

You will be asked to vote on a new continuing operating levy for the Twinsburg Public Library Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

**Why a new operating levy?**
Over the past seven years State funding has not kept up with inflation and the growth of library expenses.  The LLGSF (Library & Local Government Support Fund) that began in 1985 brought Ohio libraries a 6.3% share of state income tax, but was reduced to 5.7% in 1993 and eliminated in 2007 after a seven year freeze.  It was replaced this year with a 2.2% share of Ohio's general revenue fund. Unfortunately, Ohio's economy has almost flatlined, and libraries do not expect to see any increases for next year.  In fact, the state has recommended that we look at reducing our budget by 10%.

**What will this levy cost me?**
The levy is for one mill, so the owner of a $100,000 house will pay approximately $30.63 more a year or $2.55 a month.

**Doesn't the library receive any revenue from the schools or local governments?**
Even though the Twinsburg Public Library is a "school district library," it receives no money directly from the school system or from the City, Township, or Village of Reminderville.

**How much property tax am I currently paying for the Library?**
Annual library tax per $100,000 is $26.23 in all three communities served by the Twinsburg Public Library. Check the Summit County website for more information. **www.co.summit.oh.us/fiscaloffice/defaultpropertytaxestimator.htm**

**Who can vote for this levy?**
As a school district library, registered voters of all three communities may vote for this levy.

**What happens if the issue fails?**
If the operating levy fails, the library will immediately be faced with some very difficult decisions.  All of our reserves have been used up during the past seven years.  Maintaining the library's current levels of services and hours of operation would be impossible.

**Times are tough for everyone.  Has the Library looked at ways to become more efficient and cost-effective?**
The Hennen Report that compares input and output measures of libraries across the nation has rated our Library consistently in the top ten (three times as #1) of libraries our size, because of our effective management of resources.  We are already as efficient and cost-effective as we can be without reducing services, hours, and staffing.

**What more will the library be able to do if the levy passes?**

Fifty percent of new revenues are immediately needed to maintain current levels of operations, replace reserves lost over the past seven years, and to cover cost of living increases mandated by the state for minimum wage employees. The first year will also include one-time expenditures (25%) to pay for projects and repairs we have put off due to lack of funds. The balance will go for new projects and services.

Our new strategic plan will allow the Library to do the following over the next three years:

- Increase library hours (9 am. to 9 pm.),
- Be open Sundays during summer months,
- Expand career and employment programs for library patrons,
- Ensure story hours meet Ohio's "Every Child Ready to Read" guidelines,
- Expand library services and programs for seniors,
- Explore new programs and services for after-school teens,
- Reconfigure circulation area to improve traffic flow and customer service,
- Install self service machines as an option to help reduce long check-out lines,
- Upgrade network connections to provide faster Internet access on library computers and to improve Wi-Fi access for laptops
- Create a Technology Fund for more timely hardware and software upgrades of both staff and public PCs.

# A Reminder about some of the things we did or provided last year…

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| ➢ Circulated 1,034,880 items<br>  - 762,836 Adult<br>  - 273,044 Children | ➢ 1,828 library programs,<br>  attended by 30,409 people<br>  -  Story hours<br>  -  Book discussions<br>  -  Writer's Circle<br>  -  Language classes for all<br>    ages<br>  -  Computer classes | ➢ Library card honored by all<br>  CLEVNET libraries; free<br>  access to Premium Databases |
| ➢ 24,406 registered borrowers;<br>  2,051 new card holders - '07 | | ➢ Family Place workshops and<br>  home-schooling support |
| ➢ 312,713 library visitors<br>➢ 6,329 used drive-up window | | ➢ Large Print materials and<br>  Seniors Scene |
| ➢ Open 4,368 hours<br>  - Main library - 3328 hrs.<br>  - Branch - 1040 hrs. | ➢ 1,279 - public meeting room<br>  use; 16,350 attended | ➢ Meeting rooms available at no<br>  charge for community groups |
| ➢ 14,168 new books<br>➢ 3,684 new DVDs<br>➢ 973 new Books on CD | ➢ Public computers used by<br>  46,428 library patrons<br>  throughout the Library | ➢ Homebound delivery service<br>  provided to 471 residents |
| ➢ Answered 88,868 reference<br>  questions | ➢ Provided after-school<br>  programs for teens | ➢ Drive-up window open during<br>  library hours and book<br>  returns open 24/7 |
| ➢ Added video game software<br>  for check out | ➢ Created new "Tween"<br>  collection and programming | ➢ High speed and Wi-fi Internet<br>  Access available |

5/22/2008