

Where are you from?

As we meet new people in life, a common question is “Where are you from?” Many times, it is a quick answer like Dover, Ohio and you move on to the next question. As I look at everyone that has joined together to build the new Dover High School, my answer to this question is much more than just the name of our town.

I am from the town where residents support each other and work together for good. Starting with the levy campaign in 2016, this community has joined forces to build a new, modern learning environment for our students. This building will benefit our youth as they prepare for their life beyond high school, but it has already benefited our community.

Of the \$46.2 million that will be spent on this project over \$18 million will go to local contractors and building supply companies. This is a tribute to the competitive skilled trades and manufacturers of our area. They had to compete for the contracts and they earned them. We are thankful to have their tool sheds on site and teams hard at work building the future DHS. The inclusion of so many local tradesmen and businesses who call Dover home will make the new DHS even better because they are building it for their own children and community.

Another local business, Dover Chemical, offered to allow construction crews to use their land and a building as a staging area for the job. Because the new school is being built on such a tight site, there is limited room for materials. Contractors have a specific schedule for access to complete their work, so that others can do their work in the same spaces. Having the Dover Chemical building will allow finishing work to be completed off-site and then brought to the building when it is time to install. This is a great help to minimizing cost and keeping to the timeline of the project.

There are other small projects that arise each year that will benefit our students or keep our property looking good. Many community members are eager to assist in any way they can. We have many students who design their Eagle Scout project to enhance our schools. This summer the band podium at the practice field needed attention. A band parent assumed this responsibility and worked with a friend and some band members to give it a makeover, without even being asked to do this.

The Historic Canal Dover Association had the vision of placing new signs for the high school and Crater Stadium at the corner of Slingluff and Walnut. Completing that vision has involved a community member donating the land, the demolition of a house on the property that had been damaged by fire, and the installation of the new signs. All of this work was directed by community members who care enough to act on their ideas and plans to make Dover, Ohio a better place to live, work, and visit.

The list of those who have taken the time to contribute to the success of our schools is endless. Many volunteer time and talents on a weekly basis to enhance our students’ classroom experiences. Our city safety forces work hand-in-hand with school personnel to keep our students safe. Dover is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. So when I’m asked, “Where are you from?” I am blessed to say, “Dover Ohio.”