



THE MIRROR

ANTHONY WAYNE VOTER'S GUIDE

All Seats On November Ballot For Waterville Township

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

All three trustee positions and the fiscal officer are on this year's ballot in Waterville Township.

Incumbent Kyle Hertzfeld and newcomer Kim Anderson are unchallenged in their bids for the two four-year positions currently held by Hertzfeld and Duke Wheeler.

Karen Schneider and Julie Theroux are battling for the two-year unexpired term that Theroux was appointed to in March. The two women were among four applicants to a position vacated by Brett Warner in December. When trustees Wheeler and Hertzfeld were unable to agree on a candidate within 30 days, Judge Jack Puffenberger appointed Theroux.

The *Mirror* asked each of the candidates about their motivation for running, the most pressing issues in the township and their goals for the next year. Here are their responses:

Kim Anderson recently retired as an occupational therapist helping people with disabilities, so she decided to find ways to get more involved with the community.

"Often, people run for such a position because they disagree with how things are being run. That is not my motivation. I have a genuine love for Waterville Township, having lived here for almost 35 years," she said. "I was raised to serve others. I come from a background in rehabilitation health care, so I have a long history of listening to people in distress and helping them resolve their issues. My job required a lot of patience, compassion and adaptability. I had to be accountable for my time and resources – all traits that will serve me well as trustee."

Anderson said the township has grown and changed a lot over the past 35 years,



Kim Anderson

evolving from primarily farmland to more residential and businesses; and while change is inevitable, she would like to see the township maintain its rural flavor as the economy expands. One business she would like to see added in the area is more daycare options to meet the needs of a growing community.

"In addition to state and federal funding becoming available, we are in a position to use funding that has not been available before – through the American Rescue Plan Act," she said.

The parameters of the ARPA are still being defined, but Anderson said the township can look forward to their use in road improvements and broadband expansion, for example.

"As trustee, I can assure the residents that I will work this job with honesty, integrity and transparency to the best of my ability," she said.

Anderson is married to Robert, and they have three grown children and a grandson on the way.

Kyle Hertzfeld was first elected as trustee in 2005 and has overseen the road department, cemetery department and police department, served as trustee chairman and has been involved in many other aspects of township operations. He did not respond to requests for further information.

Hertzfeld is an Anthony Wayne High School graduate who attended technical school and owns AW



Kyle Hertzfeld

Heating and Cooling. He has been married to Renee since 1998 and they have three sons.

The next trustee needs to be someone with significant township government experience, said **Karen Schneider**, who was trustee from 2013-2017.

"I believe critical decisions regarding our fiscal status, police department, services provided to residents, and the overall future of Waterville Township are going to be facing the next board of trustees," she said.

The acting fiscal officer stated in January that the township will be facing a fiscal emergency in 2025. Trustees need to obtain a clear picture of the fiscal health of the township and take steps to ensure the township's longevity, she said. Finding new revenue streams, such as a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD), is a priority in stabilizing the township.

"Also, reconstituting our police department is vital," she said, referring to the recent departure of all of the full-time employees. "We are very fortunate to have our own police department. Returning it to full staffing with the best possible candidates is critical to properly serve the residents of the township."

During her five years as trustee, Schneider negotiated cost savings for township health insurance premiums, refuse and waste contracts, oversaw updates to the police department and launched a new township



Karen Schneider

website. Schneider previously served on the Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Land Use Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board.

"I will take the lead on being fiscally responsible, I will start by not utilizing health insurance offered by the township and I will not accept the stipend paid to a trustee for the first year of my two-year term," she said.

A lifelong area resident, Schneider is a sales professional married to AW teacher Mike Schneider. Together they have four children.

Julie Theroux said she is working hard to provide a government that works hard for the residents.

Appointed by Judge Jack Puffenberger in March, Theroux said she has enjoyed serving the community and wants to continue as trustee. Since joining the board, Theroux said she has worked to professionalize and modernize the police department.

"We have successfully brought stability to that department and are now in a position to provide a high level of service to meet our community needs going forward," she said. "As trustee, I'm working hard to provide a government that works for us and to stabilize our services."

Theroux stated that her goals include continuing to support the police for the benefit and safety of residents, communities and businesses; protecting property values and tax dollars;



Julie Theroux

applying for and utilizing grants to benefit the community; picking up the trash; paving and plowing roads; offering recreational opportunities; partnering with colleagues to meet the needs of the community; and working collaboratively with Waterville and Whitehouse where possible on collective goals as stewards of the community.

"I was fortunate to be raised in Waterville Township and attended school at Anthony Wayne. Due to those great experiences, I made my home here and purchased a business headquartered in Whitehouse," she said. "As a resident, I remain extremely passionate about Waterville Township. I want to give back and offer my business skills, experiences and successes to continue to make this township a great place to live and raise a family."

Currently co-owner of CycleWerks, Theroux said she has decades of building businesses and great teams.

"My business philosophy is to listen, be open and approachable and use financial discipline," she said. "As trustee, I will work to make this a safe place for our children to grow up and provide services at a reasonable cost."

After retiring from a career in accounting and business, **Catherine Vorst** was looking for a way to stay busy and get involved in her community.

"I like working and I missed it," said Vorst, who is running unopposed as town-



Catherine Vorst

ship fiscal officer.

So she applied for the job in 2017 after Renee Hertzfeld resigned. Instead, Jennifer Bingham was appointed and served until mid-2019. Vorst applied again that year, as the township struggled to find and keep a fiscal officer. Eventually Judge Jack Puffenberger appointed Swanton Township fiscal officer Peggy Michael as deputy fiscal officer, as she had been filling in.

"The third time is a charm," said Vorst of her efforts to land the position.

A township resident since 2005, Vorst has a bachelor's degree in business education from the University of Phoenix, and a career that has included accounting manager, business manager and eventually the CEO of Michigan Institute of Aeronautics. She also worked as accounting manager at AHED of Ohio Inc. (Stautzenberger College). Vorst most recently served two years as fiscal officer for the village of Metamora, after a six-year part-time and volunteer position for the Learning Institute in Temperance. Her skills include accounting, record keeping and reports, supervision, preparing reports and budgeting.

Vorst knows that taking on the township's records and budgeting will be a challenge, but she's up to it.

"If you don't take on challenges, life can be kind of boring," she said. "I'm looking forward to taking this on as a way to be more involved and doing something for my community."

Four Candidates Compete For Two Monclova Trustees' Seats

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

Four candidates are on the ballot to fill two open positions for Monclova Township trustees. The seats are currently occupied by Brian Craig and Barbara Lang. Craig is stepping down after 16 years in office.

The candidates include:
Heidi Hess

As trustee, Heidi Hess said her goals would be simple.

"Bring in more commercial growth so that we can provide better safety services to our residents while keeping property taxes low," she said.

The community needs a better balance of commercial growth to serve the residential areas and provide for better financial stability, she said. To meet the increasing demands for service, full-time fire and EMS staffing is needed.

"We also need full-time police protection," she said. "These priorities have been expressed by our residents as well."

The township pays close to \$800,000 a year to have one Lucas County Sheriff's Office deputy patrol over 20 square miles of the township 24 hours a day.

"The taxpayers of Monclova Township deserve so much more," she said.

Since moving to the township 15 years ago, Hess has been active in the Waterside Homeowners Association board, serving as a board member, president and past president.

Hess retired after a 35-



Heidi Hess

year career in fire and EMS and was inducted into The University of Toledo Medical Center EMS Wall of Honor. She currently teaches EMTs and paramedics for Mercy Health Life Flight and at Owens Community College and serves as a community member on the Monclova Township Firefighters Dependency Fund Board.

A graduate of Central Wyoming College, Hess served as president of the student body. In the years since, she's served as president of the Springfield Township Firefighters Union, where she was instrumental in developing the initial union contract.

Barbara Lang

Barbara Lang is seeking her fifth term as trustee to provide a strong voice for residents when it comes to their neighborhoods, safety and tax dollars.

"The growth of the township managed by Barbara Lang will include an experienced vision and the willingness to listen. My conservative fiscal policy will ensure tax dollars are spent wisely on roads, safety and general service to residents," she said.

During her tenure, Lang



Barbara Lang

has focused on projects including road, fire and safety services and quality of life issues such as parks. Currently, the most pressing issues for the township include safety services and maintaining zoning that is business-friendly yet protects neighborhoods and the rural nature of Monclova, she said. These priorities can be achieved in a sound fiscal manner, especially as joint economic development districts and zones with other communities continue to flourish, she added.

Communication is also a priority, and Lang said she welcomes residents to contact her any time. She has advocated for information to residents through a variety of means: newsletter, website and alerts.

As a trustee, Lang served on the TMACOG Water Quality Committee, the Lucas County Township Association Executive Committee and the Maumee-Monclova-Toledo JEDZ Board. In her free time, Lang serves on the Central Catholic High School Board of Directors, the Lucas County Republican Party Executive Committee, the Unison



Ron Loeffler

Board and as a volunteer fundraiser for the campus ministry at The University of Toledo.

Lang has a B.S. in communications from Miami University and is the development director for Mercy Health Foundation. A 27-year resident, Lang lives at Brandywine with her husband Tom and their children, Alexander and Madeline.

Ron Loeffler

Effectively managing the township's growth and change - and how they affect services - is a top priority for Ron Loeffler.

As the community continues to grow, so will the need to focus on services that township residents expect, including fire, EMS, law enforcement and road maintenance, he said.

"My goal is to work together with residents, township departments, elected officials and government agencies while making decisions that are in the best interest of the township presently and in the future," he said. "We should also encourage small-business growth that would provide services and goods desired by our residents. We need to maintain



Trudy Yoder Vicary

and provide quality services that make Monclova a great place to work, live and raise a family."

Loeffler has lived in the township for 21 years and built Freeze Daddy's Ice Cream in downtown Monclova, running the shop with his wife Teri and children, Allie, Lauren and Charlie, for eight years before selling it in 2017. Now semi-retired and working part time as a licensed Realtor with Marketplace Realty, Loeffler said now is the right time for him to give back to the community. He has previously served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Land Use Plan Update Committee.

"I love Monclova Township. It's a great place to live and the community has been good to our family. Now it's time for me to give back and serve the residents as a trustee" he said.

Trudy Yoder Vicary

Trudy Yoder Vicary has been involved in Lucas County politics since adolescence.

"I come from a civic-minded, service-oriented family," she said, referring to her parents, Marilyn and Lowell Yoder, who were

elected to offices and served in Springfield Local Schools and Springfield Township for many years.

"Several prominent individuals knew of my background as a businesswoman and entrepreneur and believed I would be a great asset to the board of trustees," she said of her decision to run.

Vicary works for Yoder Machinery, handling accounting, insurance, payroll and employee management. She also holds real estate and auctioneer licenses and owns and manages rental properties with her husband, Ken Vicary.

The most pressing issue in the township is regulating subdivision developments, she said. As the township is in the process of updating its Land Use Plan, growth can be done smartly and deliberately, she said. Especially with the new proposed interchange at I-475 and US 20A, the township needs to have interaction with the leaders of the Joint Economic Development District and Joint Economic Development Zones on tax dollars that have been collected, she added.

Vicary also would like to see the expected funds from the American Rescue Program be put toward the best possible use according to the guidelines allowed.

"My focus will be on spending our tax dollars wisely and concentrating on the ascribed duties of a trustee," she said, referring to maintaining township roads and cemeteries and providing police and fire protection.



Louann Artiaga



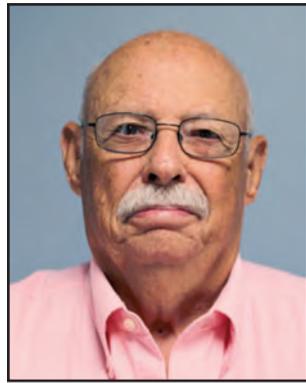
Richard Bingham



Bob Keogh



Morgan Kosinski



Bill May



Dennis Recker

Five Whitehouse Candidates Running For Three Open Council Seats

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

Five candidates are running for three four-year terms and incumbent Bob Keogh is running unopposed for a two-year unexpired term on Whitehouse Council.

Louann Artiaga, Richard Bingham, Morgan Kosinski, Bill May, Dennis Recker and Keogh all answered questions from *The Mirror* about their motivation for running and the challenges and opportunities the village will face.

Louann Artiaga wants to take care of some unfinished business – and start some new projects.

As a member of council since 2012, Artiaga has set long-term goals that she would like to see to fruition, including continued handicapped accessibility in the village park; building a community or senior center; and completing the downtown streetscaping project.

Economic development and increasing the commercial tax base are a priority as a way to support the village's public services, she said.

"As a friend of mine says, 'Change is inevitable, smart change is not,' and I want to be a part of that process," she said.

Artiaga is co-owner of Anthony Wayne Tax Service and uses her financial skills to serve as treasurer for the State of Ohio Pythian Sisters and Destination Whitehouse and as trustee for the Whitehouse Library. She was treasurer for the Whitehouse and Waterville Township committees that campaigned for a fire co-op with Waterville and Waterville Township.

"I would like to be part of the committee that oversees the co-op to ensure the promises made during the campaign are carried out in the most efficient and financially responsible manner," she said.

Artiaga and her husband, Ricardo, have been residents of the village since

1988 and have four children and six grandchildren. She enjoys traveling and genealogy. She thinks every citizen's voice should be heard and welcomes comments.

Quality of life, village services and sustaining smart growth are priorities for **Richard Bingham**, who is seeking his second term in office.

"I want to continue representing the citizens of Whitehouse with the goal of supporting initiatives and projects that enhance the community to continue making Whitehouse a premier place to live, work and play," he said.

Whitehouse should continue to focus on improving the quality of life for citizens by supporting the downtown beautification project; enhancing parks; adding programs to promote healthy activities for all ages; and supporting and recognizing the work of fire, police and streets departments, he said.

"Also, I want make sure Whitehouse continues to sustain smart growth through thoughtful evaluation of infrastructure needs, education needs and safety services as much as possible," he added.

Bingham would like to see the implementation of a summer recreation program with water activities, such as a splash pad or reopening of the quarry. He also would like to work more closely with citizens and administration to improve esthetics of the community and identifying blighted areas.

This should all be done while at the same time being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, he said.

A 1985 graduate of Anthony Wayne, Bingham is a U.S. Air Force veteran with a degree in criminal justice management and a 35-year career in law enforcement that includes the departments of Wauseon, the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital, Waterville Township and currently serving as lieutenant for the Mercy Health Police Department, where

he is the manager of the Emergency Communication Center for the seven Toledo Regional Hospitals and Mercy College.

Bingham is involved in the AWAKE Community Coalition, Destination Whitehouse Committee, Spring Green Foundation Youth Diversion Program, Whitehouse American Legion and several law enforcement-related organizations.

Bingham and his wife, Jennifer, have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Whitehouse's growth has largely been through the addition of families with children, and **Morgan Kosinski** – the mother of two school-age sons – believes it's essential that someone from that demographic shares a voice on council.

Kosinski sees a lot of potential in terms of targeted economic development to meet the needs of this growing population.

"We need energy and creativeness to attract business owners to plant roots here," she said. "I will continue to support our current business owners, aid in growing their market share and find ways to improve their businesses through capital improvements locally."

Her priority is to maintain the balance of cozy community and the growing needs of the population – including parks, trails and open areas. She said she wants to see the installation of a splash pad, more bike racks, seating areas and business opportunities for grab-and-go food and drinks – taking advantage of the bike traffic generated by the Wabash Cannonball Trail and CycleWerks.

"We are perfectly poised to be the destination for a pit stop; not just cycling, but walking or jogging," she said.

Kosinski moved to Whitehouse in 2019 – which she said will make her more open-minded about new ideas and creative solutions.

"I will not be influenced to make a decision on anything but merit and evidence," she said. "I will treat my town like I treat my own home: thoughtfully, carefully and always looking for ways to re-invest to pay off dividends later. Also crucial to me: Do the right thing. Always. Being right is for ego, but being brave benefits everyone."

Kosinski works as a freelance writer and volunteers as the vice president of communications for the Junior League of Toledo and vice president of the Blue Prairie HOA. She is married to Stephen Kosinski, a sales leader at Owens Corning, and they have two sons, Brody and Maxwell, who are involved in hockey and flag football.

"Experience you can count on," is **Bill May's** campaign motto, and for good reason.

Living in the village for over 50 years, May has plenty of experience with the school, services and organizations – as well as 28 years as a member of Whitehouse Village Council.

"I am running again to serve our great village residents," he said. "Using my 50-plus years in the village, I want to hear ideas and thoughts from all residents. I pride myself in working for all residents and will follow up on any and all calls."

May's priorities include adding new businesses, upgrading older residential streets, adding a traffic light at Providence and Waterville (SR 64) streets, improving the parks and working with the Metroparks.

"I am very proud of our schools, services and safety forces," he said. "I want to make Whitehouse a safe, clean, wonderful place to life. We are Whitehouse."

Elected in 1993, May is in his seventh term in office and has served as council president for several years. Over the years, he has been involved as a member of the Whitehouse Volunteer Fire and EMS Department, the Lucas County Fire Chiefs Association and the

Northwest Ohio Volunteer Firemen's Association. In 2005-06, he spent five months as captain of the full-time Antarctica Fire Department at McMurdo Station to support the federal government's National Science Foundation research programs.

Bill and his wife, Kathy, have four adult children, including a son and grandson who serve on the Whitehouse Fire Department.

An excellent school system and a charming, natural environment continue to attract families who want to live, work and play in and around Whitehouse, said **Dennis Recker**. This will increase the demand for services, require infrastructure expansion and increase personnel costs. Recker said he would also propose the village offer senior citizen discount rates on water and sanitary sewer billings.

As a member of council, Recker said he would prioritize funding for police, fire and EMS; public services such as water, sanitary sewer, storm water collection and road maintenance; and quality-of-life projects such as the downtown improvements. He will also encourage economic development initiatives, including encouraging the addition of a pharmacy and family medical practitioner to town if demand warrants them.

Like the rest of the nation, Whitehouse residents will have to contend with economic uncertainty and the impact of inflation on purchasing power, and the village will deal with the increased costs of providing services, maintaining infrastructure and funding rising personnel costs. Recker said he's ready to make tough funding choices as a member of council.

A native of Darke County, Ohio, Recker's career includes 21 years in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of major in 1997. With a master's degree in business, Recker has pursued a civilian career that includes work as an admin-

istrator for three municipalities.

Recker served as village administrator for Whitehouse from August 2005 to March 2010, leaving to take on the role of Jasper County administrator in Georgia. When he returned to Ohio, Recker served as administrator for Northwood until May 2012. He also won a seat on Whitehouse Village Council, serving from January 1, 2012 through July 31, 2015, when he retired. Bob Keogh was appointed to fill the remaining five months of his term.

"I seek to put my time, knowledge and experience to use serving our village," Recker said. "I will be accessible to citizens and will welcome their ideas and listen to their concerns."

Robert Keogh is running unopposed for a two-year, unexpired term for council.

First appointed to office on August 4, 2015 to replace Dennis Recker, Keogh was re-elected to a four-year term and reappointed in 2020.

"Being in business in Whitehouse for 45 years and a resident for 40 years, this community has been very good to me and my family. I appreciate the opportunity to give back. My activities with many local organizations have provided insight into the wants and needs of the community," said Keogh, who is currently president of council.

Those organizations include Waterville Rotary and Community of Christ Lutheran Church, as well as serving as a trustee of the AW Regional Chamber of Commerce. He served as a member of the original Charter Commission after moving to Whitehouse 36 years ago. He has a degree in human relations; and for 39 years, he operated a business offering insurance and tax preparation.

The most pressing needs right now are to support the local businesses and maintain fiscal responsibility, he said. He would also like to see the completion of downtown streetscaping.

Five Board Of Education Candidates Weigh In On Schools

BY KAREN
GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

Five candidates are running for two four-year positions on the Anthony Wayne Board of Education.

The Mirror asked each candidate about the district's challenges and opportunities, as well as their personal reasons for running.

Robert Kimball Jr. said he stands by the path that Anthony Wayne Local Schools has taken – especially as he sees changes in the country and culture that could have potentially negative impacts.

He said he's glad to see that "critical race theory" isn't taught in AWLS and wants to keep it that way.

"I want our children to learn real history, the good, bad and the ugly, because if it was not for that history, we wouldn't be the country we are today," he said. "Our children should learn to accept people for their character."

He sees mask-wearing as a temporary setback and a necessity to keeping kids in school.

"I respect everyone's own personal opinions on whether they wear a mask or not," he said. "Ideally, I'd like there to be no mandates, but if the health department feels the district's COVID cases hit a certain level, they will send us back to virtual learning. So, what is most important?"

Having worked with health departments during his 25 years in the restaurant industry, he said he understands that the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's guidelines are more than just suggestions – they must be followed. The vocal minority who opposes the guidelines should work with local boards to encourage the TLCHD to change its policies instead of blaming the district, he said.

Kimball has lived in the district for nine years since



Bob Kimball Jr.

marrying 2003 graduate Melissa Rozic. With an 8-year-old daughter attending Whitehouse Primary School, Kimball became involved in the Whitehouse Parents Club, serving as treasurer. The couple has two younger children and another on the way.

Troy Lutz was appointed to the board in April after longtime board member Doug Zimmerman moved out of the district. Since then, he's seen the challenges the district has faced in navigating the COVID-19 safety protocols, recommendations and requirements while keeping teachers, staff and children safe in an in-person school setting.

"Learning is better in person and keeping the schools open is paramount," he said.

Lutz and his wife Elizabeth have three children currently enrolled in the district.

"I bring the perspective of a parent with children currently in the district as well as a professional background and education that has taught me to be patient and listen to all sides of every situation," Lutz said. "I believe we must work together as a community and solve problems together."

Lutz has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Michigan State University and an MBA from the University of Findlay. He is employed by Tenneco Automotive as executive director of program man-



Troy Lutz

agement for the Americas aftermarket business.

Living in Monclova Township for nearly 20 years, Lutz said he has a desire to give back to the community that has done so much for him as he's raised his family.

"Monclova has been wonderful to our family and given us an opportunity to raise our children in a safe, family-oriented community with a high-quality school system. I want to do what I can to help this continue for our family and others."

Kyle Miller said he wants to ensure that children are being taught conservative educational principles.

The most pressing issues for the district right now are student safety, education and parental involvement, Miller said. Drugs in the district are a major issue, and he wants the district to do a better job of monitoring and screening for illegal drugs and paraphernalia in the schools.

The current mask mandate could put some students at risk, Miller said, adding that only parents should decide whether their children should wear masks.

Internet bullying is another safety concern, and Miller wants to find a way to work with teachers and parents to monitor online bullying and hold those who participate accountable.

"A child's mental health is just as important as their physical health," he said.

Education should focus on traditional, conservative



Kyle Miller

values – giving them the tools they need to be model citizens, he said.

Miller said he wants to be the voice for parents who want to have a voice in their children's education.

A 2012 AW graduate who has lived in the district for 21 years, Miller and his wife Addie have two young children. Miller is a compliance director and account manager for Reliable Drug Testing in Sylvania. A member of Monclova Township Fire and Rescue since 2012, Miller is also a firefighter/EMT – serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and consulting with experts in the health field. Miller also serves on the Lucas County Republican Party Central Committee for Waterville District 1.

Andrew Prine said seeing the effects of the school board's COVID-19-related decisions on children prompted him to take on a larger role in the schools and the community.

"I believe strongly in parental choice and want to ensure all parents can choose what's best for their family," said Prine, who has asked the board to allow masks to be an option rather than a requirement.

Prine and his wife Brianne moved to the district six years ago and have a daughter in third grade and a son in kindergarten. Board decisions prompted the Prines to homeschool their daughter last year instead of sending her to school, he



Andrew Prine

said.

"Based on recent board meetings and parental feedback, it seems COVID-19 protocols and mitigation measures have everyone's attention," he said. "Determining the proper balance between a quality educational experience and COVID mitigation measures are likely going to dominate the discourse for the remainder of this school year."

With a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from Western Michigan University, Prine works as the quality manager for the Johns-Manville manufacturing complex. He said his experience in the manufacturing industry gives him insight into the skills and talents that employers seek.

"Northwest Ohio has a substantial manufacturing footprint and is struggling to find qualified employees. It is my hope that we can help spark interest in these vital, well-paying jobs," he said. "We should strive to equip interested students with the skills and experience needed to thrive in our local industries and community."

For **Andrew Teet**, participation on the Portrait of a Graduate committee was the first step in his decision to run for the school board.

The committee of 50 community members created a list of qualities that graduates should possess.

"This work made me excited about our school district and I believe my



Andrew Teet

background in agriculture and other experiences can bring a unique perspective to our schools and students," he said.

Before graduating from AW in 2013, Teet was involved in agriscience classes and FFA, including as FFA District 1 president. While earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture from The Ohio State University, he interned with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and now works as a cattle business manager for Pettisville Grain Co. He has served as an advisor to the Penta Career Center satellite agriscience education program at AWLS and as an officer for the AW FFA Alumni and Boosters.

"I am proud of my ability to work with others from different backgrounds to achieve a common goal," he said. "As a cattle manager, I manage risk and that requires gathering information and making decisions that benefit the company. I will bring that level of thoroughness and decision making to the board of education."

COVID-19 is a multifaceted issue that poses several challenges, but Teet said the No. 1 priority should be keeping students in school for in-person instruction. He also sees a need to continue preparing students for life after graduation and the many paths of success, including entrepreneurship, enlistment, education or directly entering the workforce.