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THE EAGLE EXAMINER

Sponsored by the Sunbury / Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce

October 2017

Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential

A Message From Our Superintendent: *Angie Pollock*



With the school year fully underway, we can focus on the future educational and operational planning side of our work. Much of that work and conversation has focused on the Tuesday, November 7 ballot issue for our schools.

We have worked hard to communicate with and inform our community of what our schools are facing: the growth is here and only more on the way. Along the way, residents have asked great questions. They want more information and we are happy to provide it. Inside these pages we have attempted to summarize the main questions that were raised within the last month.

This is all very important work. So, too, is the work that we do in our classrooms each day. We enjoyed a smooth start to the school year and we are excited about the great learning taking place in our classrooms. There are many moving parts that go into making all of this happen and I am always deeply appreciative of all those many people who play a part in our everyday success-- people like our bus drivers who get our students to school safely and on time, our educational assistants who provide important assistance throughout the school day to our teachers, and to all of the teachers and staff who inspire and guide our students each day.

Thank you for your support of our students. We are very fortunate to have a community that cares and supports our schools.

Go Eagles,

Angie Pollock

Angie Pollock

[@angiepollockBW](#)

[@AngiePollock2](#)

What does the bond cost me if I'm a home owner?

ESTIMATED COST PER MONTH FOR \$100,000 MARKET VALUE

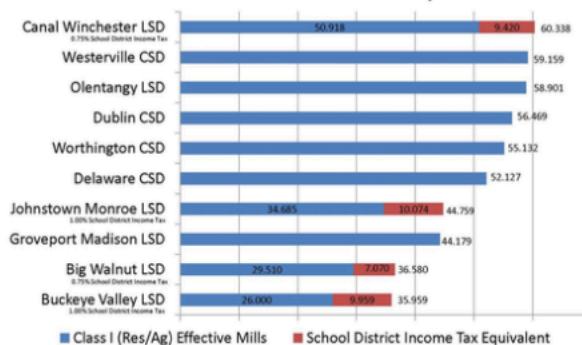
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total (Ballot)
Estimated Cost	\$4.55	\$8.28	\$18.84	\$19.13	\$22.90
Estimated Millage	1.56	2.84	6.46	6.56	7.85

ESTIMATED COST PER YEAR FOR \$100,000 MARKET VALUE

	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total (Ballot)
Estimated Cost	\$54.60	\$99.40	\$226.10	\$229.60	\$274.75
Estimated Millage	1.56	2.84	6.46	6.56	7.85

*Even with the passage of the November 7 ballot issue,
Big Walnut will still one of the lowest tax rates in the area.*

School District Mills Comparison



Sources: Delaware, Franklin and Licking County Auditor's Offices; Ohio Department of Education; Ohio Department of Taxation

Big Walnut Local Schools

A Message From Our Board

With the release of the latest state report cards and our Big Walnut Quality Profile (which can be found at bwls.net), it is clear that we have much of which to be proud. Our schools offer an excellent education and at a good value. While we are constantly looking for ways to improve, compared to area districts, we are definitely headed in the right direction academically. The state report card is one way that we measure our progress, but we also are continuing toward the implementation of our 2020 Vision that focuses on preparing our students for success after high school. We are grateful to have strong teachers and staff and a very supportive community to help us in achieving our 2020 Vision.

There is much work, planning and community support that goes into providing the excellence we enjoy today. It did not happen overnight. Our Big Walnut community is a special one. As we continue to change, evolve and grow,



it will remain important that we recognize the contributions of those who have helped build our schools into what they are today. In doing so, we must always have an eye to how we are evolving and building for the future.

For many months now, I have commented on the very real need that we have for new facilities. These are needed to address the overcrowding that is in our schools right now and for what is coming our way soon. Without a doubt, this growth is the single biggest issue facing our schools.

If we do nothing and stay the course with our facilities,

then we will need to divert funds from our daily operating budget for purchases like trailers and other short-term fixes. It means we divert money away from the classroom and we will be less able to add teachers to accommodate our growing student population.

There is a good side to the growth. More residents moving in means that there are more who can contribute to the overall tax base. Moreover, in being deliberate, and not reactive or lagging in our response to growth, we can help control and shape what all of us want for the future of our community.

Thank you for your trust and dedication to our students and community.

Andy Wecker
President

Finance Article

Offering a great education while remaining fiscally responsible go hand-in-hand. Being good stewards of both students' well-being and the community's finances continue to be important.

We continue to operate in a frugal manner. Even with the passage of the Tuesday, November 7 ballot issue, our tax rate will be one of the lowest in the area. The issue on the ballot is a lean request and we are only asking for what we absolutely need right now.

Those needs entail two new school buildings and a much-needed permanent improvement fund that would provide dedicated funding for building repairs and fixes. This is a critical need as the district has had to divert funds from the already lean operating budget for emergency fixes such as the replacement

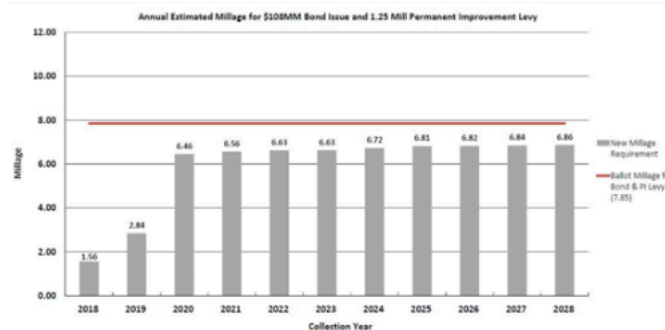
of a \$40,000 boiler at the high school and a \$6000 fix of our septic system at Hylen Souders Elementary.

In being frugal, the district and board were also sensitive to the community in how the collection on the bond issue would be structured. Collection on the bond issue would not begin immediately and would be collected only when absolutely needed.

These needs do not go away with failure. The growth is here. Instead, the urgency only increases because our

schools only become more overcrowded, more financially stressed and fixes are likely to be more expensive with time.

We have the opportunity to address a serious concern when it comes to overcrowding in our district. At the same time, we can continue to improve what we are able to offer our students to prepare them to be successful after high school, without sinking our budget.



Big Walnut Local Schools

Meet Our New Treasurer



At its September 14, 2017 meeting, the Big Walnut Local Board of Education unanimously approved a contract with Jeremy Buskirk to serve as the district's new Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer. In this role, Buskirk will oversee the district's financial operations, such as the accuracy and timeliness of all state and federal reporting, the development of the annual district budget and the district's Five-Year Forecast.

Previously, Mr. Buskirk served as the Dublin City School District Assistant Treasurer, a position he held for 4 years. Prior to that, he was the financial accountant for the district for 6 years. Before beginning his career in school finance, he was an Assistant Auditor for the Ohio Auditor of State's Office for 3 years. Mr. Buskirk received a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Michigan, and a master's degree majoring in business administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Mr. Buskirk is a member of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association. He has been a Big Walnut LSD resident for 10 years and lives in Sunbury with his wife Amanda, his two daughters, ages 8 and 5, and his 2-year-old son.

Operating Exp

We have shared in multiple communications that we do not plan on asking for an increase in operational money, but we do plan on asking for a renewal of our Substitute Replacement levy in 2020. This issue was initially passed in 2010 as a \$4.9M levy and was renewed in May of 2015 as a Substitute Replacement levy. These revenues grow as new folks move into the district and our base 20 mills of operating millage also grows as new homes are built. We also have an income tax that increases as folks move into the district. Between this growth and the approximately \$3M we receive from the AEP Vassel substation, we do not anticipate asking for an increase in operating funds (unless the state would drastically change our funding formula). Even with the income tax equivalent in millage, with the passage of the ballot issue we would continue to have one of the lowest tax rates in the area.

Berkshire Learning Trail



Berkshire Township is building its first Community Park. As part of the project, United Way of Delaware County is participating with the installation of a Born Learning Trail. Born Learning Trails are being installed in parks across the nation. The trail is a series of 10 interactive signs that offer fun, active learning activities for young children and their families. On the trail, artwork is painted on cement by the signs which allows the kids to step into the space, learn colors, shapes, numbers, etc. Typically the artwork is simple stencils; at the Berkshire Township Trail, the art has been custom designed by students from the Big Walnut High School National Art Honor Society. Led by teacher Melissa Maxson, the



students created the site on September 7 and 8, 2017. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 24. The trail is located at the Berkshire Township Hall, 1454 Rome Corners Road, Galena, OH 43021.

Big Walnut Local Schools

When you
Know
it helps
your child
Learn
and
Grow

Screen early. Developmental checkups
help your child learn and grow.

**CHILD CHECK
DEVELOPMENTAL
SCREENER**

**TO SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT CALL
740.965.7846**

**2017-2018 Child Check Schedule
Friday, October 13, 2017
Friday, February 2, 2018**

Location: BWLS Administrative Offices
110 Tippet Ct, Sunbury (behind McDonalds)

**Inspire
and
Guide
Eagle
Pride**

Child Check is an educational screening for children ages 3-5. Child Check is NOT a Kindergarten screening. This screening is provided by Big Walnut Local Schools and is free to families within the Big Walnut School District. The purpose is to provide parents with information regarding their child's development in: Speech and Language Skills, Gross/Fine Motor (Large & Small Muscle) Skills, Basic Academic Concepts, Vision and Hearing.

The screening can help parents determine how their child is developing in comparison to other children the same age. If a child has weaknesses, or is delayed in one or more of these areas then he/she will be referred for further testing. This additional testing is more comprehensive and will determine if the delay is significant enough to qualify for special education.

A child who passes the screener and is 4 years of age, is eligible to be a PEER Model n the Big Walnut Preschool Program. For more information regarding the PEER Model Program please call 740.965.7846 or email headkoon@bwls.net.

Community Library

Reading Leads to Longer Life

We all know the benefits of reading at a young age. Volumes of research have demonstrated that reading (or being read to) at a young age bolsters academic success later in life. Recent research has found that reading also benefits adults. A study that came out of Yale University of Public Health last year documented that reading actually increases longevity.

According to the research, life expectancy increased 20% for readers when compared to non-readers. The gain was observable in all readers, regardless of sex, race, education, and wealth; however, the gain was only observable in those that read books, not periodicals.

The research suggests that the advantage is related to the immersive nature of books. Reading longer texts encourages deep-reading, cognitive engagement, and building meaningful mental connections. It improves vocabulary and critical thinking. Additionally, reading improves empathy and emotional intelligence, which helps strengthen relationships and reduce stress -- all of which lead to a longer, fuller life.

This is exciting news for the Big Walnut community, because we continue to see readership increase at the Community Library. This year alone, we have seen a dramatic increase in reading across all age groups.

Circulation of children's books has increased 20%. While circulation of adult print books remains unchanged, the use of ebooks has increased 23%, indicating a rise in adult readers.

We always knew that the library contributed to the quality of life in the Big Walnut area by providing open access to information, encouraging the free exchange of ideas, and supplementing education. Now we have evidence that we're contributing to a longer life by connecting the community to books. Getting lost in a good book is adding years to your life.

If you ever need assistance finding a good book, visit the Community Library at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury. Any library staff can point you in the right direction. You can also try NoveList, a resource that offers reading recommendations based on your interests and other books you like. Access NoveList from the library's database page at <http://databases.yourcl.org>.

Happy reading!

Chauncey Montgomery
Director/Fiscal Officer
Community Library



FUN CLASSES

KIDS LOVE

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WESTERVILLE (BEHIND HOME DEPOT) SUNBURY (ACROSS FROM POST OFFICE)
MRDUE.COM
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TURNING POINT HAS THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS BY PROVIDING SHELTER, COUNSELING, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND TO IDENTIFY AND CONFRONT THE CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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We're honored to serve Sunbury residents through Supplies for Scholars and the Delaware County Hunger Alliance.

To learn more about these programs and others, visit
LIVEUNITEDDELAWARECOUNTY.ORG



Brian K. Duncan
Attorney at Law | 740-965-1347

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- Contracts
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Or
info@SunburyBigWalnutChamber.com

Big Walnut Local Schools

How are we addressing any overcrowding right now?

As overcrowding occurs, we will do one of the following, depending upon the situation:

Allow class sizes to increase
Purchase/renovate trailers to use as classrooms
Bus students around the district to where there is room

Can't we just make the growth work with doing all of that?

No. The growth is here and only continuing at a steady pace. We need a long-term solution to a long-term issue.

In addition, the above solutions present concerning safety issues and stress our operating budget. In fact, with the growth headed our way, we would need approximately 67 classrooms provided by trailers over the next eight years. That's a cost and safety inefficiency that we cannot afford.

What is on the November 7 ballot for our schools?

A combined bond and permanent improvement levy, two issues combined into one vote. The bond will be for 37 years and will appear on the ballot for 6.6 mills, although we anticipate the millage to decrease after this year's reappraisals. The permanent improvement levy will be continuing for 1.25 mills.

What will the bond issue provide?

A new high school and additional elementary school as well as security upgrades to our existing buildings. The remaining grades would be switched once these buildings open according to the following:

What will the ballot issue cost me as a homeowner? Will the issue collect at the ballot millage?

The total millage for the combined ballot issue is 7.85 mills. This amount includes 6.60 mills for the bond issue and 1.25 mills for the permanent improvement levy. Based on estimated growth of property value in the community and a plan of finance that phases in the bond issue debt during four separate years, the school district does not expect the full amount of 7.85 mills to be collected early in the repayment schedule. The following are estimated millage amounts and costs per \$100,000 of market value during the first few years and eventually may reach the ballot amount toward the end of the 37-year repayment. (See chart of front page.)



BOB SINGER

FOR HARLEM TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

**Married to Nancy for 43 years : 2 Children : 35 Year Township Resident
Successful Business Career**

Cares About Our Community

The Delaware County, Township Boards and Committees Served:

- | | |
|---|---|
| *Heritage Committee Chicken Noodle Dinner Volunteer | *Sunbury Community Library Forum |
| *Harlem Township Neighbor-to-Neighbor Committee | *Delaware County 20/20 Committee |
| *Sunbury Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce Board | *Harlem Township Civic Association |
| *The Alpha Group of Delaware Board | *Big Walnut Area Historical Society Board |
| *Volunteer AARP Tax Preparation for area residents | *Grady Hospital Development Council Board |

My Trustee Action Items

- *Distribute a Harlem Township Trustee Newsletter to township residents.**
- *Review Harlem Township Master Plan.**
- *Conduct a Township Survey addressing township needs and concerns.**
- *Community Strategic Plan for Future Township Growth.**
- *Continue review of the Harlem Township Zoning Code to ensure continuance of the rural character of our Township.**
- *Work closely with other township, county and state officials to accomplish Harlem Township's goals.**
- *Form resident committees to review ongoing township issues.**
- *Complete negotiations with Delaware County for local control of EMS services.**

Paid for by Bob Singer for Harlem Township Trustee

Sunbury / Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce

Christmas is Right Around the Corner!

Christmas on the Square, presented by the Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce, is truly a wonderful family event! And none of it would be possible without the generous community and business sponsors from the Big Walnut area.

This year, festivities will take place on Saturday, December 2nd, from 4:00pm - 8pm. We expect another great turnout, regardless of what mother nature dishes out! With thousands of people visiting the Square, your business, organization or you as an individual will benefit greatly if you choose to be a sponsor of this evening of good cheer! It's a great way to support this growing community while keeping the tradition of a Christmas on the Square alive and well.

We present the following levels of sponsorship for your consideration:

PLATINUM - \$500.00; you will receive exposure on all printed material, front page of the flyer w/company logo as well as periodic mention by our Christmas MC on the Square, DJ Meeko and a light pole banner sign which will be displayed around the Square.

DIAMOND - \$250.00; you will receive exposure on all printed material, inside first page of the flyer w/company logo as well as a light pole banner sign with your company or organization's name displayed around the Square.

GOLD - \$100.00; you will receive exposure on all printed material, inside flyer w/company logo.

SILVER - \$50.00; you will receive exposure on all printed material; inside flyer, company name listed.

Sponsorships to non-profit organizations are tax-deductible. To become a sponsor for Christmas on the Square, you can register online through our website - www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com, click on "Events", then "Christmas on the Square" and "register now," call the Chamber office at 740-965-2860, or email John Fox or Sarah Maar at info@sunburybigwalnutchamber.com.

Deadline to register is Friday, November 17th 2017, at noon.

The Big Walnut Community thanks you!

*John Fox, Executive Director
Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce*





Sunbury Chiropractic Center
www.sunburychiropractic.com
123 State Route 3
Sunbury, OH 43074
(740) 965-4301



Our team of skilled, respected chiropractors — Dr. Tom Erndt, Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, and Dr. Amanda Golden — look forward to meeting you and helping you feel better through natural healing techniques. Our office, founded by Dr. Tom Erndt, has been present and active in the Sunbury, Ohio community for over 35 years. We effectively utilize state-of-the-art chiropractic techniques and rehabilitative treatments to restore proper spinal function and maximize the body's natural healing ability. Please contact us at 740-965-4301 to set up an appointment and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

Open Monday through Saturday, offering the following:

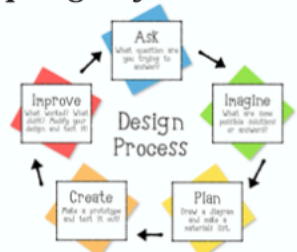
- Wellness Care
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- Massage Therapy
- Sports physicals, nutrition, orthotics and more

Proudly serving the Sunbury community for over 35 years!

Big Walnut Local Schools

2020 VISION

Spotlight of the Month



The first grade teachers and students at Big Walnut Elementary take time out of their week come together and solve a "real world" problem by using the **Design Process**, where students **Ask** (What question are you trying to answer?), **Imagine** (What are some possible solutions or answers?), **Plan** (Draw a diagram or make a material list.), **Create** (Make a prototype and test it out.), **Improve** (What worked? What didn't? Modify your design and fix it.).

Their current topic: creating a solution to help sea turtles. During a Skype call with a Zoologist from the Columbus Zoo, students learned that on average only one sea turtle survives out of each nest. Using the design process the students will design something to help the sea turtles through their struggle. Mrs. Bojc, Mrs. Yankie and Mrs. Estep will be facilitating the design challenge.



BWHS Evening of Excellence



The second annual Evening of Excellence was held on September 13, 2017. This

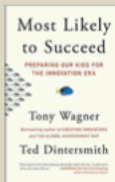
is a night we honor students in grades 10-12 who have achieved academic excellence during the previous school year. Students who have earned a 3.5 or higher for that school year are recognized with a certificate for first year success, an academic letter (or chenille) for a second year of success and a pin for the third year. Students who have had perfect attendance are also recognized with a certificate.

Academic Advisory Council



BLURB

Community Book Study



Last year, the Big Walnut staff read the book "Most Likely to Succeed" by Tony Wagner and Ted Dintersmith. This book presents an urgent call for a reimagined American education that will equip students for the realities of our 21st-Century society and economy. We used this book as a springboard for our 2020 Vision and for conversation with our staff about what the future of education looks like in Big Walnut.

We would now like to share this book with our community! We are looking to host a coffee-chat style book study around "Most Likely to Succeed". What does this look like? It would involve meeting with other parents and community members for about an hour 2-3 times this year, in a district school building, and having discussion around the book. If you're interested in joining us, please fill out this short survey: tinyurl.com/bwbookstudy

Big Walnut Local Schools: Student Rage Cage



Everyday High School Heroes

It takes a village to make a building of 1,000 students run smoothly. Here are two people who work to make BWHS better every day.

by Alex Williams, BWHS Senior & Rage Page Editor-in-Chief

Big Walnut High School is a well-oiled machine, going through each day without a hitch. Every day that runs smoothly can be credited to Big Walnut's very own unsung heroes. Gene Simpkins and Kim Ishler are just two of the many heroes Big Walnut is lucky to have.

Ishler started her journey with the district 16 years ago at Harrison Street Elementary. She is now the head cook of the high school cafeteria. Ishler shared that she enjoys her job and "teasing the kids and having fun with them each day."

There are struggles, however, that Ishler faces each day. "Trying to meet the government standards each year is difficult. Less sugar, less fat, less calories - and finding food that tastes good with that."

It might seem like a pretty clear-cut job, but Ishler wants students and faculty to know "that being a lunch lady is a lot of work, there is paperwork, calculations and government process that you have to go through. It's not just your regular old lunch lady anymore."

Simpkins, head custodian, began working with the district 11 years ago. Simpkins said he enjoys being around the student life. "The kids keep me young," he said.

Simpkins is a student and staff favorite, and he has been given the opportunity to hand many students their diploma. This has been one of the "most, greatest and wonderful honors" he has received.

Though the job comes with a few challenges, "making sure everything is clean and everyone is happy" are Simpkins' greatest concerns.

Before ending our interview, Simpkins had a few words to share with the student body. "I got a high school education, but I never went to college. The job is great, but it is never where I expected my life going."

The last thing he expected was to be inspiring and guiding the students around him. One good piece of advice he has for students is to "stay in school, get an education and find a job you really enjoy."



Above Top: BWHS Head Cook Kim Ishler. Above Bottom: BWHS Head Custodian Gene Simpkins. Photos by Alex Williams.

MORNING RITUALS GONE WRONG

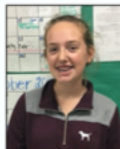
The struggle of a 7am wake-up call is real for high school students.

Photos and text by Hannah Brown, BWHS Senior

SLEEP WALKING:
"I got completely ready at 1am," sophomore Lindsey Stein said. "I didn't realize I was sleepwalking until I had already put on my make-up, put my contacts in and plugged in my straightener."



WAKING UP CRABBY:
"I woke up to hermit crabs in my bed," sophomore Madison Withrow said. "My brother was eight. He was only going to leave them in there for fifteen minutes, but he forgot and went to bed."



ALTERNATIVE BREAKFAST:
"Sometimes I eat Chinese food or if I'm feeling in the Japanese mood, some sushi. Or sometimes I'll eat Mexican food for breakfast," senior Julia Vrancken said.



YOU know?

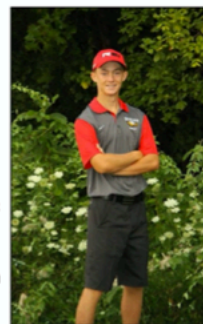
DID ATHLETICS UPDATES

TEE TIME:

Senior Michael Ford (right) shot a 78 at the Ohio Capital Conference (OCC) Boys Golf Championships. He shot an average score of 74.75 over all of the OCC contests. Ford won the OCC Boys Golf Championship and was named OCC Player of the Year. Photo by HR Imaging.

WE'VE GOT GAS:

Certified Oil Co. on 110 E. Granville Street has begun donating proceeds from gas sales on one pump to the BWHS Athletics Department.



Forman REALTORS



We're proud to have served the Big Walnut area for more than 50 years.

Happy Halloween from Forman Realtors!



Come see us on the Sunbury Village Square.

28 S. Vernon Street, PO Box 71
Sunbury, Ohio 43074
formanrealtors.com | 740-965-1212

Realtors, standing from left: Michael Pankuch, Linda Wehrle, Roland Higgins, Steve Barbeau,
Kelly Forman, Jennifer Fielding, Don Poland. Sitting, from left: Martin Forman, Mike Forman