

Then there were three

The field of candidates for mayor has increased to three after Michael O'Boyle announced his candidacy.

Third-grade students at St. Angela Merici School got to perform alongside members of the Cleveland Opera On Tour.

Sydni Gordon has been named one of the five finalists in Jif's national peanut butter and jelly sandwich making contest.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Besides robins, what sign of spring do you look for?

E-mail us at: info@westlifeneeds.com by Friday, February 25.

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Local wrestlers and swimmers are bound for state.

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Getting it done

After falling short so many times in two different sports, Fairview finally beats Bay to win a D-2 sectional title in girls basketball.

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Board misses levy deadline

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

It's unlikely Westlake voters will see an operating levy on the May ballot because the County Board of Elections did not receive the board of education's paperwork by the deadline.

In two separate votes Feb. 11 and 14, the school board voted 4 - 1 to place a 5.7-mill replacement levy on the May ballot which, if passed, would have generated about \$5.4 million annually for operating expenses.

However, Treasurer Mark Pepera sent the forms to the Board of Elections by certified mail after the Feb. 14 meeting. But the forms did not arrive until Feb. 18, one day after the deadline. Board of Education President Renee D'Ettorre Wargo said board members were under the impression Pepera would take the paperwork to the Board of Elections in person.

"In the future, (paperwork) will be taken in person," D'Ettorre Wargo said.

"I think it was a mistake in judgment," she said, adding that the board has otherwise been pleased with Pepera's performance as treasurer. Pepera was unavailable for comment. However, D'Ettorre Wargo said he accepted responsibility and apologized to board members.

Westlake Schools will likely make an appeal to the Board of Elections members at their March 7 meeting to get the levy on the May, D'Ettorre Wargo said.

However, D'Ettorre Wargo said at the moment it appeared unlikely the levy will be on the May ballot. She said if the



Send in the clowns?

West Life humor columnist Dave Schwensen makes a point and has some fun with North Olmsted School District Communications Manager Vera Brewer, while giving a talk on using humor in the workplace.

Meanwhile, D'Ettorre Wargo said the board of education would look into why the certified mail package did not arrive by the deadline.

The district paid Triad Research Group around \$19,000 for a telephone opinion poll last month of 400 registered voters who said they were likely to vote in the May primary election.

When asked how they would vote on an operating levy, the district will most likely place the levy on the November ballot.

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Parking meters precede ordinance at Crocker Park
Garage parking to remain free

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

Although the management of Crocker Park has installed approximately 135 coin-operated parking meters along the main boulevards of the residential-retail-office development, an ordinance authorizing them has not yet been approved by city council.

City Council introduced an ordinance on first reading Feb. 17 creating a special parking enforcement district in Crocker Park. Under the ordinance and associated memo of understanding, parking meter proceeds will be used for the maintenance and improvements of Crocker Park's roads and sidewalks.

Under the current schedule, the ordinance is not set to go to a vote until council's March 17 meeting.

While the signs dictating a two-hour parking limit by the meters say "Enforceable by the City of Westlake," Crocker Park security officers are given the main responsibility of enforcing parking regulations and collecting parking meter money under the agreement. Westlake Police

reserve the right to patrol Crocker Park and enforce the city's traffic regulations there.

The agreement calls for Crocker Park management to make arrangements with Rocky River Municipal Court to transfer any parking ticket money to a maintenance fund for the development's streets and sidewalks.

Council President Michael Killeen said under the complex lease agreement that established Crocker Park, the streets there are technically publicly owned but practically under the control of Crocker Park management.

"Effectively any costs related to the streets have to be borne by Crocker Park," Killeen said. These costs include snow plowing and cleaning, he said.

There appeared to be uncertainty about whether tickets could legally be issued before the ordinance is passed.

Killeen said until the ordinance is passed, Crocker Park security personnel do not have the legal authority to write tickets.

Capt. Guy Turner of the Westlake Police said they would not issue any tickets before the

Contract extension will cost city more

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

If the city wants another contract extension for the North Olmsted Municipal Bus Line it's going to have to leave a lot of quarters in the Regional Transit Authority's fare box.

Law Director Jim Dubelko, a member of the city negotiating team, quoted RTA officials as saying it would cost North Olmsted \$500,000 to get another three-month contract extension while they talk about the NOMBL agreement with the larger agency.

Dubelko said RTA officials said another extension would cost it money to continue operating under the old agreement with NOMBL, so it said the city should pay for it since North Olmsted is seeking the extension. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, along with County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora and the Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association have backed requests for another three month-extension.

Dubelko said RTA has set some hard deadlines. "Basically, they want answers about the negotiations or if they agree to an extension, we're going to have to

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