

Longtime Council President Richard Martin has announced his resignation.

The city engineer's office is presently surveying over a dozen city streets to determine which ones will be repaired.

John Wheeler has been sworn in as the last mayorally appointed law director.

QUESTION
OF THE WEEK

Who should be the Cavaliers' next head coach?

E-mail us at:
info@westlifeneews.com
by Friday, March 25.

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Inside

A legend retires

St. Edward hockey coach Bob Whidden steps down after winning his 10th state title earlier this month.

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Winter sports awards

The local Westshore high schools have announced their winter sports award winners. And most of them have sent the lists to us. Check it out yourself.

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Pre-Easter visit

Big brother, Connor Kelly, 4, watches over his younger siblings, 4-month-old triplets Quinn, Tessa and Jack, as they meet the Easter Bunny and Easter Chick at "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" last weekend at Fairview High School. The Bunny and the Chick were assisted by volunteers Bridget Corcoran and Karen Salamon. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

Mayor still pursuing Springvale records

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OL MSTED

What officials recently hoped would be the end of the battle instead turned out to be only a truce in the legal fight which began last year when Mayor Norman T. Musial sought the confidential police records of the Springvale investigation.

Officials from both sides said the apparent settlement they thought had been reached in February has fallen through, thus placing the case back before the Ohio Supreme Court.

"We were unable to reach an agreement when we met in mediation this week (March 15), so the case will go forward before the Supreme Court," said Gary Ebert, who has been one of Musial's attorneys since the case was before the 8th District Court of Appeals in February 2004. Ebert did say that Jon Musial, a son of the mayor and like his father an attorney, would be taking over the bulk of the legal work.

"I will still be involved but Jon Musial will be serving as lead attorney on the case now," Ebert said.

Norman Musial said there were items still to be settled in the appeal.

"There are some important legal issues which need to be decided," said the elder Musial, who declined further comment because the case is still pend-

ing. Jon Musial could not be reached for comment.

On Jan 7, the appeals court ruled that the bulk of the police department investigatory records sought by Musial should remain confidential. Musial and Ebert did say the court ruling required the release of some of the records sought by the mayor.

An appeal was filed with the state supreme court, but shortly afterward both Ebert and North Olmsted Law Director Jim Dubelko said discussions between the two sides had led them close to a settlement.

"Prior to the mediation, the mayor's attorney, on or about Feb. 11, proposed a settlement of the appeal," Dubelko said. "I instructed the city's outside counsel (Todd Hunt and Fred Whatley of Walter and Haverfeld) to settle the appeal on the terms proposed by the mayor, because the settlement, as it was proposed, would have both preserved the city's privilege to keep confidential the records of police department investigations, where no suspect was ever arrested or charged with a crime, and would have saved the city thousands of dollars in outside counsel fees that will be incurred in defending the appeal."

Dubelko said the city's outside counsel sent a written settle-

Musial leaving office to deal with family health

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OL MSTED

After March 31, Mayor Norman T. Musial will be in a position he hasn't been in since 1991 — that of a private citizen.

Musial resigned from the mayor's post March 17, effective March 31, by announcing it to a small group of city directors and members of the news media. Terming it a "retirement" and citing family health reasons, Musial said it would take effect midnight March 31. He has served as mayor since 1998, beating current Councilwoman-at-large Carolyn Kasler to win a second term in 2002. He served as a councilman-at-large from 1992 to 1997.

With Musial leaving, Council President Thomas O'Grady moves into the top spot for the remainder of 2005. O'Grady is also one of five candidates for the mayoral post in this year's elections, along with Joseph Bouman, Charles Dial, Thomas Herbster and Thomas Ryan. Musial had already opted not to seek re-election, also citing then the ill health of other family members.

A brief press release noted the health issues in Musial's family.

"Although he is currently in excellent health, some family occurrences have happened recently, which have demonstrated not only how fragile life really is, but also how quickly someone's health can change," the release said.

He said in the release he's happy with the current state of the city.

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Neighbors fighting Bradley Bay decision

By Eric J. Eakin

BAY VILLAGE

"We are going to court."

So says Gerald Phillips, lawyer for the group of residents fighting a planned expansion of the Bradley Bay Health Center (BBHC).

The group's decision to sue comes on the heels of a vote by the board of zoning appeals (BZA) two weeks ago to approve a request from BBHC owner John O'Neill for a special-use permit for independent-living suites that will be included in the \$7-million expansion planned for land adjacent to the existing center.

That vote effectively gave O'Neill the right to submit the project to the city to begin the usual approval process.

"We are going to appeal the BZA decision," Phillips said. "We think it's a travesty."

"It was apparent at the BZA meeting that they had made up their minds prior to the public hearing. It was an orchestrated, pre-arranged deal. The board didn't listen to the comments of the residents, many of whom I thought were excellent."

"It's a shame they (BZA) ignored the information and wiped out the city council's and the planning commission's decisions," he said.

Both city council and the planning commission had earlier voted against the project. The opposition, however, was based on the fact that the new building contained what the city considered too many independent-living suites, making the new structure more of an apartment building than nursing home.

The BZA's approval of a special-use permit, however, trumps those earlier votes.

Phillips said the group planned to file the appeal with the Court of Common Pleas by the April 9 deadline.

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