

# WESTLIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Man arrested in assault; victim still in hospital

By Michelle Payne

### ROCKY RIVER

Police have arrested the man responsible for assaulting an 86-year-old Rocky River resident after breaking into her Westover Ave. home on Sept. 23.

Matthew Moore, 21, of Cleveland was arrested at Ponciana Ave. and Rocky River Drive Monday evening after police received tips from area residents that connected him to the assault on Bertha Lavelle.

"We received tips through Cleveland," said Lt. Terry Hudec of the Rocky River police department.

"The guy has very distinguishing tattoos and we also developed tips through the man arrested with Lavelle's car."

Around 11 a.m. on Friday Lavelle opened the door of her home to find Moore waiting outside. According to police, he forced his way into her residence and beat her with an unknown object. Moore then stole her purse and 2000 Toyota Corolla. Lavelle was taken to Fairview Hospital where she is still recovering from a broken jaw, cheek and nose.

Moore has a history of drug use and police believe he was looking for drug money when he attacked Lavelle.

"Apparently he took a bus out to Lorain Road, got off at W. 204th Street with the original intent to steal a bike, saw the victim and

See **ARREST**, p. 22

## Dog Day Afternoon at the Pool



It was man's best friend's turn to take a dip in the Rocky River Water Zone pool on September 19 as part of the "Gone to the Dogs" event. Over 125 dogs enjoyed the water on the pool area's final day of the season. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

## Candidates face off at LWV forum

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

Despite the heated nature of the election campaign in Westlake, a candidates forum Sept. 20 sponsored by the Westlake-North Olmsted League of Women Voters (LWV) offered relatively few fireworks. However, several opposition candidates expressed unhappiness over the format, and mayoral candidate Joe O'Malley wants more opportunities to debate incumbent Mayor Dennis Clough.

Last Tuesday's forum, which took place in the city council chambers of Westlake City Hall, consisted of two questions and answers and a closing statement by each candidate for mayor, law director and council seats. The forum was recorded for a web cast using the same equipment which records council meetings. Webcasts can be viewed from a link on the city's Web site at [www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org).

The forum was also recorded by WHBS-TV, Westlake High School's TV

station, and rebroadcast yesterday. No future airings of the forum are scheduled by WHBS-TV.

Several opposition candidates, including O'Malley, Ward 2 council candidate Vern Long and Ward 5 candidate Joe Kilbane, expressed displeasure that members of their families were not permitted inside council chambers during the forum. Under rules set by the LWV, only officials from that organization, a video crew from WHBS-TV, a representative from the web casting contractor and a reporter and photographer from West Life were inside during the forum.

"I have no idea why the LWV would devise a format that essentially keeps the public from attending and participating in the event at a public building," Kilbane said.

"The public should be given a live forum to hear these candidates and these issues debated," he added.

Anne Engel, co-president of the LWV



Law director candidates John Spellacy and John Wheeler face off during the League of Women Voters forum Sept. 20. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

chapter, said lack of public participation in past years was the reason for the change in format.

See **CANDIDATES**, p. 20

## Girl riding to combat rare disease

By Jeff Gallatin

### NORTH OLMS TED

For 11-year-old Ashley Gribble, taking part in a charity fundraiser to help combat the rare disease which her grandmother and a young friend suffer from is just another ride in the park.

Gribble, a sixth-grader at Pine School, will be riding 10 miles on the towpath trail Saturday in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to raise funds for research into Fibromuscular Dysplasia, a disease which causes a decrease in blood flow through arteries. Because the disease can be hereditary, Ashley is

aware both she and her mother could develop it. She said that knowledge is only one of the reasons she will be riding in the fundraiser, along with her mother and a nine-year friend who also has the disease.

"I have a really good relationship with my grandmother and my friend who has the disease so I want to do something which will help them and other people who have it," Ashley said. "I know I could get it or my mom could so we're getting tested for it. We just need to do things which can help them deal with this disease."

Both Ashley's mom, Chrissy Gribble

and her grandmother, Pam Mace, said Ashley's desire to take action is typical of the young lady.

"It's totally in character for her," Chrissy Gribble said. "She's always been a very responsible and caring person when it comes to other people. She made friends with the nine-year-old girl when she met her while trying to help her grandmother deal with the disease."

Because the nine-year-old girl's family has asked that she not be named publicly, Chrissy said Ashley has honored

See **RIDING**, p. 22