

# West LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Bay mom's efforts aid disabled children

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

One Bay Village mother's effort to make her son's ride through life a little easier has resulted in a nationally known training program coming to her city this week to aid 35 disabled youngsters from throughout the United States.

For Nancy Geschke, having Dr. Richard Klein and his Rainbow Trainer's Inc. program at the Bay Middle School is important not only to her and her son Brian in their efforts to let him ride a regular two-wheel bicycle, but also to the 34 other youngsters

and their families.

"All the families that have contacted me and that are taking part in the program are so excited that the program is coming to Cleveland to help all these children," Geschke said. "They, like my husband and I who have a disabled child, are desperate to have their children riding regular two wheelers."

Klein, a retired mechanical engineer from the University of Illinois, travels the United States teaching children with mental and/or physical disabilities how to ride regular bicycles without training wheels in his "Lose the Training Wheels" bicycle camps. Children start off on stable, roller-wheeled bikes and progress to increasingly less stable bikes. Klein said by the end of the week-long session, the majority of the children in the camp are on regular bikes without any support.

Children attending the camp come from a wide area. Ohio cities with children in the camp include Avon Lake, Bay Village, Brookpark, Chagrin Falls,

Fairview Park, Lakewood, Medina, North Olmsted, Olmsted Township, Rocky River, Sandusky, Sheffield Lake, Westlake and Westerville. In addition, children from Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania will be there.

"It's a pretty good range of communities," Geschke said. "With a full camp of 35, we had to put 15-20 other families on a waiting list."

Geschke said her primary intent in getting involved was to help Brian, her 9-year-old son who has Rasmussen's Encephalitis, a rare chronic inflammatory disease that mostly occurs in children under 10 and is characterized by frequent, severe seizures, paralysis on one side of the body, loss of motor skills and inflammation of the brain.

"For the most part he's your normal 9-year-old fourth grader who wants to do all the things kid his age would do, like ride a two-wheel bike," Geschke said. "It's just this disease has hit the one side

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Steve Madden helps Andy Brown, 10, as he learns to ride at the nationally known "Lose the Training Wheels" program held this week at Bay Middle School. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

## Crocker Park requests changes in remaining development

*Revised building plan moves hotel site, adds Cleveland Clinic building*

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

Crocker Park officials are requesting significant changes to the development plan Westlake City Council approved in the summer of 2000.

The changes include:

- Building a hotel at the corner of Detroit and Crocker roads, just east of The Promenade Shopping Center.
- Adding a freestanding medical office building at the south end of the retail/residential district. The building would contain doctor offices and other medical facilities associated with the Cleveland Clinic, according to Robert Parry, the city's director of plan-

ning and economic development.

• Extending Main Street south an additional block. But instead of first floor retail stores with apartments above, the new block would have townhouses on the ground level. The townhouses represent residential space previously slotted for the medical office building site.

Crocker Park filed an amendment to its development plan July 10. While the original development plan allowed for minor changes, this revised plan will require the approval of the city's planning commission and council, Parry said.

"It's a big change," he said.

Council is under no obligation to approve the

requested changes to the development plan, Parry said, although Crocker Park has the right to ask.

Why are changes being requested now? Parry said he was told by Crocker Park officials that they want to add the Cleveland Clinic offices. The Cleveland Clinic wants to be in a separate section, he was told.

Crocker Park officials have requested time at an upcoming work session of the planning commission but have not yet been scheduled, Parry said.

With council on summer recess through August, approval of the amended plan, if it's given, would not

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## City clears Koran of wrongdoing

By Jennifer Mitchell

### ROCKY RIVER

City Law Director Andrew Bemer said an investigation shows that a recent business purchase by Kory Koran, the city's economic development director, was above board, despite recent scuttlebutt.

Koran paid \$150,000 in May for the 1,750-square-foot vacant Doruntina's Deli on Lake Road. In 2004, the man who sold it to him, Hidajet Jasarevie, paid \$400,000.

A July 11 article published in the The Plain Dealer, "Official's property purchase raises conflict issue: Rocky River mayor considers restrictions" brought the purchase to light and raised several questions regarding the ethics of such a transaction.

Mayor Pamela Bobst then asked Bemer to investigate whether the purchase was made within the confines of Ohio ethics law.

The law specifically says whether elected or appointed to office, or an employee, those involved in government cannot personally benefit from inside information gleaned through their position. The sale was listed on the publicly available city Web site under vacant properties listings, which is how Koran said he learned of

it. When Koran discovered the property, it was listed at \$175,000, real estate records show.

As part of the investigation, Bemer got in touch with real estate agent Brian Kirk, with Remax Pro of Westlake. According to Bemer's report, Kirk contacted City Hall first

after reading the July 11 Plain Dealer article "as he did not believe it fairly reported the circumstances of the sale."

Prior to Koran's interest in the property, Kirk said he had another potential buyer, who was going to pay \$150,000 for the property. Jasarevie, the former owner, was trying to "liquidate his holdings and return to Eastern Europe."

The original bidder signed a contract for the property in February, but it was dissolved when he had difficulties securing financing. Soon after, Koran also offered \$150,000.

Kirk told Bemer that "\$150,000 was a fair and reasonable price."

Bemer also spoke with the listing agent, Sead Dizdarevic, in the course of the investigation. Dizdarevic confirmed that Jasarevie had returned to Bosnia. He also said that Koran's purchase price of \$150,000 was reasonable and said he

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