

WestLife

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Council fights PODS invasion

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

After receiving complaints in recent months from residents complaining about large, unsightly portable storage units in the driveways of neighbors, City Council is about to take action.

After researching the issue for several months, council began the task of drafting an ordinance which would require residents to obtain a permit to place such a storage unit on their property. The ordinance would also limit the length of time such a unit could be left on any city property.

The most popular company currently offering these storage units is PODS, short for portable on-demand storage. According to the company's Web site, PODS changed the storage and moving industry by delivering the storage units to the customer. The storage units come in two sizes — 8 x 8 x 12 feet and 8 x 8 x 16 feet. After the unit is filled, the company trucks it away.

Ward 2 Councilman Bill Minek, who received complaints about a storage unit left on West 211th Street for nearly a year, argued at a council committee meeting Oct. 23 that residents should have to justify the use of such a POD every 30 days.

But Ward 4 Councilman Bill Westfall said council should take into consideration legitimate, necessary reasons residents might have to use PODS, such as a fire or severe flooding.

"Let's not punish our residents for trying to improve their homes or if they have a disaster," Westfall said.

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Splashing into the playoffs

The Rocky River Pirates celebrate the school's first appearance in the state football playoffs following a triumph over rival Fairview Park Friday which clinched the outright WSC title. For more on the Pirates dream season, see West Life's special section on pages 13-16 in Section B. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

Two candidates vie for 16th District seat

By Jennifer Mitchell

ROCKY RIVER

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters-Cuyahoga Area sponsored the last event in a series of candidate forums at the civic center Thursday. Among the speakers were Westlake Democrat Jennifer Brady, 51, and Rocky River Republican Ed Herman, 32, both vying to represent the 16th District in the state House of Representatives. Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake comprise the district.

Moderated by Sally Ebling, the forum rules were simple: No debating, no personal attacks and no more than two minutes each for an opening statement. Ebling explained that only written questions from the audience would be answered. She also asked the crowd to refrain from voicing support or opposition while candidates spoke; however that didn't prevent cheers or boos as questions were answered.

Brady, a 25-year resident of the 16th District, is married to Ted. The couple has three children, Michael, 20; Neil, 15; and Patrick, 13. A former Social Security Administration employee,

Brady now devotes her time to raising her sons. She also volunteers at her children's school, St. Raphael School in Bay Village, and is a 20-year volunteer cook for St. Malachi hunger center.

Herman is married to Mindy Childress and works as a sales associate at RE/MAX Pros in Westlake. Prior to that, he served the Army in Afghanistan. Fluent in Arabic, Herman worked on a military intelligence task force interrogating Al-Qaeda operatives. His service earned him a Commendation Medal. In

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City seeking help filling food cupboard

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials are limiting the community food cupboard temporarily to make sure the cupboards aren't so bare.

Instead of having it open on all Saturdays as is usually the case, the city Community Life Services Department is shutting down the food cupboard — located in the basement of Old Town Hall next to City Hall on Dover Center Road — and asking for

help in replenishing its food supplies. The cupboard has provided foodstuffs and other supplies to low-income and needy families within the city for years. Officials plan to re-open the facility Nov. 18 in time for Thanksgiving after rebuilding their stocks. The cupboard will also be open for one Saturday in December for the Christmas season.

John Dailey, director of Community Life Services, said the city needs to get more supplies.

"It's gotten a little low by our usual

standards, so we want to take the time and get more supplies in so people can utilize the cupboard as they traditionally have," Dailey said. "We're asking other people and groups to help as they always have and bring some donations so we can provide assistance to some families and persons who can use it."

Dailey emphasized the city will still be providing the food and assistance to the low-income families in the holidays.

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