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WEST LIFE

January 24, 2007 - Vol. 67, No. 12

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

District seeks first-class win

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

School officials are hoping a mailing campaign will help deliver voter approval of the proposed 6.5 mil operating levy in a February special election and avoid personnel and program cuts.

School Superintendent Kurt Stanic said the letters were mailed out to the community last week, with the intent of reaching out to the parents of students in the district.

"We're seeking the parents of both public and private school students with this because they're our primary audience," Stanic said. "They have a specific interest in making sure there is a strong educational system for the students."

He said there isn't too much new in terms of informational content from the district in the letter.

"There shouldn't be any surprises in this for them when they open it up and read it," Stanic said. "We've been telling them about

the situation for some time now. We do let them know there is urgency to this."

School officials have said between 50 to 60 teaching, counseling and support staff jobs will be cut, district sports programs will be cut and the summer enrichment program eliminated if the levy doesn't pass this time. It would raise more than \$5 million. Current district estimates also place the projected shortfall if the levy fails at more than \$5 million.

District voters have rejected the last four attempts by the district to pass operating levies in a little more than a year. They defeated a combined capital improvements/operating levy in November 2005, separate operating and capital improvement levies in May 2006 and single operating levy proposals in August and November.

As a result, the district has already implemented several cost saving measures and said it will take others if the latest operating levy doesn't pass. In addition to the non-personnel cuts implemented earlier this month, the dis-

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Study: Spruce up Lorain Road

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

The western edge of Lorain Road within Fairview Park has many well-maintained buildings, but is not pedestrian friendly enough.

That's the conclusion of a study by the Akron-based Floyd Browne Group, which was commissioned by the city to analyze western Lorain Road from its border with North Olmsted to West 223rd Street.

Experts from the engineering and planning firm will discuss their findings at a public meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the Fairview Park Senior Center, located just south of City Hall.

Owners of several Lorain Road businesses are expected to attend.

Mayor Eileen Patton said the goal of the study is to identify manageable and achievable projects which can enhance that part of Lorain Road. The enhancements would be achieved through a public-private partnership, she added.

"We want to review with the business owners our design guidelines that were approved a couple years ago identifying signage and how to handle storefronts that may not have the room to allow monument signs, along with appropriate colors to enhance the area," Patton said. "We are interested in hearing from the

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IN HOOPS HEAVEN

Alaina Banal, and Shannon Mann, both 9, of Bay Village, are having a good time at the Bay Village-Avon basketball game last Saturday. The Rockets won 58-55 in overtime on a buzzer-beating shot from half-court by Joe Stilphen. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

Giant Eagle opens at former Tops location

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Marcy Feldt and her daughter Breana Reed, two residents of Fairview Park, did their grocery shopping in their hometown Saturday for the first time in over a month.

The two made their first visit to the new Giant Eagle grocery store at Fairview Shopping Center on Lorain Road to shop for fresh produce, among other items.

The Tops Friendly Markets store, which had been at the location, closed Dec. 6. Ahold, the Dutch parent company of Tops, had announced its decision to divest of its Northeast Ohio Tops stores in July. Giant Eagle purchased 19 former Tops locations, including the one at Fairview Shopping Center, in the ensuing months.

Fairview Shopping Center's Giant Eagle held its grand opening Jan. 18.

While their local grocery store was closed, Feldt and Reed said they shopped at the Giant Eagle on Center Ridge Road in Rocky River.

"We basically had no other choice,"



Customers shop the frozen foods section of the Giant Eagle grocery store Saturday afternoon in Fairview Park. The store held its grand opening Jan. 18. (Photo by Larry Bennet)

Feldt said.

Apparently others switched to that store as well; Reed told West Life she noticed it was a little busier than normal in recent weeks.

Both say the new Fairview Giant Eagle will be more convenient for them, although Feldt said she was a fan of Tops.

"I'm hoping they're going to have a

gas station sooner or later," Reed said, referring to the GetGo gas stations owned by Giant Eagle which offer customers gas discounts based on grocery purchases through its "Fuel Perks" program. However, company spokesperson Daniel Donovan said Giant Eagle cur-

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