

West LIFE

June 6, 2007 - Vol. 67, No. 31

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

Keenan appointed superintendent

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

The public will have a chance to meet Daniel J. Keenan Jr., appointed last Friday as the Westlake Schools next superintendent, this Monday between 7 and 8 p.m. The Westlake Board of Education will hold a reception for Keenan in the lobby of the Westlake Schools Performing Arts Center, adjacent to Westlake High School at 27830 Hilliard Road, after its next board meeting.

School board member David Beal resigns. Applications for vacant seat due June 11. See story on page 10A.

Keenan, who has served for the past five years as assistant superintendent of the Kenston Local Schools district in Geauga County, said he intends to build on the curriculum already established in the district, as well as promote and support involvement in extracurricular activities.

"I'm committed to continuing what I think are excellent practices, including utilizing resources wisely to maximize student achievement," Keenan said in a released statement. "I am very excited to be a part of what's been

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Bailey Harper, 5, of Bay Village, helps speed some entries along in the Rubber Ducky Race last Sunday in the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Family Fun Fest. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet.)

Baker seeking Ohio House seat

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

Ward 6 Council member Nan Baker announced last week that she is seeking the Republican nomination for the 16th District seat in the Ohio House of Representatives.

The seat is currently held by Democrat Jennifer Brady of Westlake, who upset Republican Ed Herman in the November 2006 election. Republican Sally Conway Kilbane, who

Nan Baker



held the seat for eight years, was prevented from seeking re-election by term limits.

Baker, 52, is the first to announce as a candidate for the seat, which represents Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake. She said she hopes making an early announcement will give her campaign momentum.

Already she has strong support in the local Republican Party. Her honorary campaign co-chairs are Conway

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District still wants middle school upgrade

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

School officials are looking at different ways of addressing district capital improvement needs including renovating the current middle school or finding some way of upgrading it.

During the May 21 school board meeting, board members Chris Glassburn and JoAnn DiCarlo both advocated forming a subcommittee or having the board re-examine the need for capital improvements such as upgrading the middle school.

"There is still a need to address that issue," DiCarlo said. "I would hope that we could find some way of dealing with the needs we have in the district."

Superintendent Kurt Stanic said the district and city residents are going to have to deal with the issue.

"It's like I've said before about both the operating and facility needs - the problems haven't gone away," Stanic said. "We've gotten the operating needs addressed after several attempts, but there is still a need to deal with facility problems, in particular the middle school. Anybody going through that facility would see that."

After district officials implemented some service cuts and said that jobs, school extracurricular programs and other areas would be eliminated or slashed, voters approved a new operating levy in February after the four previous attempts since November 2005 failed. District officials also tried twice in the last two years to get capital improvements levies passed which would have included funds for converting Pine School into the district's new middle school, converted the historic portions

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