

This weekend's 17th Annual Celebrate Westlake race previewed in Section C.

# Westlake

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢



**COMING RIGHT AT YOU:** Sarah Whitney leads the North Olmsted High School Marching Band down Lorain Road Sunday afternoon. See page 4A for more photos of the parade and other North Olmsted Homecoming activities. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Counties spar over proposed I-90 interchange

By Rebecca Turman

### WESTSHORE

An Aug. 22 public meeting about a proposed I-90 interchange in Avon at Nagel Road became heated with public comments, heavy with an east (Cuyahoga County) vs. west (Lorain County) mentality.

The grand room of the Stocker

Center at Lorain County Community College was filled with 100-plus community members and regional officials convening to discuss the heavily debated interstate interchange.

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency is scheduled to vote on the interchange on Sept. 14. The public forum was held to update community members on the status of the review.

A presentation was made by NOACA Executive Director Howard Maier and the economic impact analysis study was presented by D.B. Hartt,

Silverlode Consulting and Oxbow, who have been working on the interchange study since authorized by NOACA in May.

David Hartt of D.B. Hartt explained to the audience that the study "focused on 'likely' outcomes, not 'hoped for' outcomes."

Collectively, D.B. Hartt, Silverlode and Oxbow, as explained at previous NOACA meetings, believe that the interchange will clearly "have positive benefits to Avon and no material adverse impacts to the region or surrounding areas."

### WESTLAKE'S CONCERNS

Westlake Planning and Economic Development Director Bob Parry questioned the final conclusion of the study - "that it won't adversely affect the region."

Parry voiced concern that building the interchange would result in an "over-supply" of retail in the region.

"In the area of industrial development, in Westlake, we now have 367,000 square feet available for lease," Parry said. "Over the last decade or so,

See **INTERCHANGE**, p. 16

## New school marks Fairview renaissance

By Kevin Kelley

### FAIRVIEW PARK

Sarah Mayhew got a head start over her classmates in getting ready for the new school year. The fourth-grade student attended the open house for the new Gilles-Sweet Elementary School Sunday and took the opportunity to visit her new classroom and drop off school supplies.

Her mother, Beth, said Sarah has been excited about attending a brand new school building.

"It's a beautiful building," Beth said while touring the school at the open house.

Joining Sarah at the Gilles-Sweet this year will be her younger sister, Jill, who will be attending first grade.

"It's neat that they're going to be together in the same building," their mother said. "They thought that was going to be fun."

Gilles-Sweet will be home to stu-



**Richard Mason, 10, is taught to open a combination locker by his sister, Destiny, 14, and friend Jack Flynn, 11, at Sunday's open house for the new Gilles-Sweet Elementary School. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)**

dents in kindergarten through grade six. Last year, kindergarten classes were at the Coffinberry Early Education Center, grades one through three were at Garnett Elementary School, and grades four through six were at Parkview Intermediate School.

Peg Fishell, Sarah Mayhew's fourth-grade teacher, is also glad the early grade classes are under the same roof.

"I like the fact that we're all together - kindergarten through six," she said, adding that she's looking forward to being able to have conversations with colleagues teaching all elementary grade levels.

Fishell, who noted that the classrooms are painted in colors that researchers have said are conducive to learning, said she was grateful to Fairview Park residents for passing the Gemini Project levy that funded the construction of the new school.

See **GILLES-SWEET**, p. 15

