

WestLife

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

the YEAR in review



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2007 brought new superintendents, new schools

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

JANUARY

Poll shows residents pleased

WESTLAKE — A random-sample telephone poll of 317 Westlake registered voters identified traffic as the city's biggest problem. The results of

the poll, conducted in November by the Huron-based Impact Group, were released during a City Council committee meeting Jan. 10.

Tom Speaks of The Impact Group said the survey's results show residents are largely satisfied with Westlake's municipal services and political leadership.

The poll gave Mayor Dennis

Clough a 73 percent approval rating. Eighty-five percent said the city was moving in the right direction, according to the poll.

Giant Eagle opens in Fairview

FAIRVIEW PARK — Fairview Shopping Center's Giant Eagle held its grand opening Jan. 18. The Tops Friendly Markets store, which had

been at the Fairview Shopping Center location, closed Dec. 6. Giant Eagle had purchased 19 former Tops locations, including the one in Fairview Park.

Giant Eagle spokesman Daniel

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Court dismisses dog park lawsuit

By Ben Saylor

ROCKY RIVER

Rocky River's hopes to stop the noise at the Lakewood Dog Park suffered a setback Dec. 18, when the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas dismissed the city's lawsuit against Lakewood.

Judge Carolyn Friedland granted the city of Lakewood's motion to dismiss the suit on the grounds of sovereign immunity. Sovereign immunity is a doctrine that states that a government cannot commit a legal wrong, thus making it immune from criminal or civil action. Rocky River argued that the operation of the dog park is not a governmental function and is more akin to a function such as a

"public stadium, auditorium, civic or social center, exhibition hall, arts and crafts center, band or orchestra, or off-street parking facility," according to language in Friedland's decision. Friedland, however, agreed with Lakewood that the dog park is a governmental function, referring to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language's definition of "park" as part of her reasoning.

"The operation of the Lakewood Dog Park, and any dog park for that matter, is a governmental function," Friedland wrote in her decision.

In addition, Rocky River had alleged that sovereign

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Report addresses ADA accessibility

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials believe the recent report on how to make North Olmsted Municipal buildings more accessible for the handicapped has the city on the right path to fixing long-standing problems.

After the report drawn up by architect John Patrick Picard was given to the city in December, several officials said it can help the city fix many accessibility issues in the city. Workers have already started implementing some of the smaller solutions with the officials saying others are likely to be included in the 2008 budget being finalized in coming weeks.

"It's a blueprint we can

use for many years to come," said Mayor Thomas O'Grady. "The sad truth is that the city has had compliance issues in the past and we weren't in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements in different ways."

O'Grady cited as one example how long it took to bring the entrance to City Hall up to ADA requirements.

"It took much longer than it should have to get that done," O'Grady said. "For years, we didn't have the funds to deal with the issue or plans to do. Then when we did get a plan together, it got caught up as a political football with some members of council."

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