

West LIFE

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Officials check possible grant, trust rules conflict

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City officials are examining possible conflicts between guidelines for the Ohio NatureWorks grant being sought for the bike and skate park and provisions of the Cahoon Memorial Park Trust since the latest proposal would put the facility in Cahoon Park.

Law Director Gary Ebert sent a memo to city officials outlining his concerns that grant guidelines requiring any program receiving funds must be open to the general public. Provisions in the park trust which help City Council acting as park trustees govern the facility limit access to Cahoon Park to city residents and friends.

"It's something which we have to address in the grant application," said Ebert. "There is potential conflict between the different guidelines, and it's something we will have to be aware

of."

Lawrence Kuh, one of the bike and skate park project leaders, said he has tried to alert state officials to the situation.

"I have talked to ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) about this and forwarded a copy of the (Cahoon) will to them," Kuh said.

Kuh and others have been raising funds for the project, with the city also saying it will apply for the grant and provide other matching resources.

He said state officials have told him they will try to work within the guidelines of the Cahoon trust provisions while still meeting their requirements.

In his memo, Ebert outlines how NatureWorks guidelines specify public access.

"The materials make it very clear that any project that receives funds MUST be open to the public," Ebert said in the

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Post struggles financially

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Increasing taxes and utility costs are combining with declining membership to put American Legion Post 738 in a financial pinch.

In recent weeks, those associated with the Post have written letters to West Life appealing for temporary financial assistance.

Ron Hulec, a former post commander and member of its executive board, last week appealed for donations of even five to 10 dollars to help the organization help its cash flow prob-

lems through the winter.

"We are trying to do everything possible so as not to lower our flag and play Taps," Hulec wrote.

The post raises the American flag at Fairview High School home football games and provides color guards at local civil events.

"Our basic mission as a post has been to serve the city," Hulec said.

The Post's hall, located at 19311 Lorain Road, receives a property tax bill of about \$4,200 every six months, Hulec told West Life. Utility bills run around \$700 a month, he added.

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A dive-in movie



Poolgoers at the Don Umerley Civic Center in Rocky River take in a showing of the film "Finding Nemo" during the center's "Family Dive-In Movie" event held Dec. 27. The event utilized the center's new pool, which opened last fall. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Gemini Center set to debut this weekend

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Santa must have stuffed a lot of Christmas stockings with gift certificates for memberships at the city's new \$19 million recreation center.

Before Christmas, rec center memberships numbered around 400.

But as of Friday, 916 memberships were sold, city recreation department officials said. The goal for the first year is to sell between 3,500 and 4,000 memberships.

"We've actually sold a lot of them for Christmas," said Tim Pinchek, the city's recreation director.

Residents who purchase memberships before April 1 will get 15 months of membership for the price of 12, Pinchek said.

Annual membership fees for individual residents will be \$100. A family of four can join for \$275. High school students will be charged \$75. Those 60 and older can join for \$75.

An individual whose employer is located in the city, and who thus pays city income tax, can join for \$200. Family corporate rates begin at \$375 for



These exercise bicycles and other fitness equipment await members of Fairview Park's new Gemini Center, which opens this weekend.

a family of four.

Pinchek said residents are starting to come and visit the Gemini Center, located at 21225 Lorain Road, now that they see it's built and they see the electronic sign in front in operation.

Jack Nairus purchased a membership at the center Friday so he can do his daily workout and use the center's 1/12th mile track.

"I like to walk outside during the summer but not in the winter," said

Nairus, who lives less than a block away from the Gemini Center.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the center takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday. Public tours of the facility will be given from noon to 2 p.m.

Saturday evening, from 7 p.m. to midnight, the Gemini Center will host a gala celebrating the center's opening. Tickets for the adult-only event, which are sold out, cost \$25.

The center officially opens to members at noon Sunday.

The center's community rooms, which have kitchen facilities and can seat 250, have already been booked for 20 events, including three wedding receptions. Fairview High School and St. Joseph Academy will hold their after-prom events there this spring.

The original plan was for the center to open between Christmas and Dec. 31, city officials said. However, last-minute odds-and-ends-type issues prevented the center from opening by year's end.

"The delivery guys are still delivering stuff," Pinchek said Friday.

And aerobics classes scheduled for

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