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# WestLife

August 27, 2008 - Vol. 68, No. 41

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Flammable materials left on roof

By Allison Pritchard

### ROCKY RIVER

The Manor House condominiums fire from Aug. 6 is still officially under investigation, according to Robert Crowe, Rocky River fire prevention officer. However, the insurance company hired private fire investigators to look over the scene and has come up with a conclusion that has not yet been announced, said Crowe.

Workers had been re-tarring the roof and left the site. According to Crowe, they had put all of their leftover materials in a pile on a roof, which according to witnesses, was the same spot where the fire took place around 2 p.m. Items in the pile included materials that could support a fire, such as wood and fresh tar. There is no reason to suspect that the fire was intentionally started by anyone, Crowe said.

Seven area fire departments had responded to the Pease Drive fire that damaged six units.

Before fighting the flames, Bay Village fireman Patrick Hauck discovered and saved a photograph. The picture was of a resident couple from before they were married and the husband was home on leave from being

See FIRE, p. 13



## Sound the trumpet — it's football season

Fairview High School student Ellen McConville plays the horn in the marching band Friday at the school's season opener in football against Lutheran West High School. Lutheran West won, 40-21. Read more about the game on page 21. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Court rejects appeal on fire ballot issue

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

An appeals court decision rejecting a citizens group plea to put a minimum staffing level for fire department shifts issue on the November ballot has city officials moving ahead with plans for filling department openings.

In rejecting a plea by the Bay Citizens for Safety group, the Ohio Eighth District of Appeals said the language of an initiative petition must avoid misleading electors.

Mayor Debbie Sutherland said the city was not surprised by the ruling and is moving ahead.

"Based on the incorrect language, we felt the ruling would come out like this," the mayor said. "We're going to act on the manning issues by first hiring a firefighter to fill the position left open with Matt's (Linder) death and then we will hire a floater."

Sutherland said city officials plan to have the moves made by the end of the year if not sooner.

Officials from the citizens group and the Bay Village firefighters union

expressed disappointment with the ruling and said they are still considering their next move.

In the opinion, the appeals judge cited language in the citizens' group petitions preamble which said it "was circulated and voted upon by the people of the city of Bay Village" is misleading. Bay Village Law Director Gary Ebert had cited the language in telling the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections the proposal shouldn't go on the November ballot because the peti-

See APPEAL, p. 13

## Teachers start year with new technology

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

The way students are learning is undergoing a significant change, and teachers at Lee Burneson Middle School spend part of their summer preparing for that change.

As part of the \$500,000 state grant the district received to improve instruction in what has come to be known as the STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering and math — each classroom at Lee Burneson had a mounted screen installed on which teachers can

project content from their computer screens. Teachers can make annotations on the screen during lessons. Those annotations or notes can be saved and posted on the Internet for students who were absent or for those who want to later review them.

Seventh-grade teacher Sandy Sopko said the mounted screen will make teaching easier. In the past, she had to awkwardly turn her desktop computer to the students if she wanted to show them something from the Internet.

"I can bring the world into the classroom," she said.

Sopko and fellow seventh-grade

teacher Sue Weitzel also plan to make use of another tool — the document cam. Weitzel compares it to an old-fashioned overhead projector. It can magnify any item being studied — from a paper document to a Petri dish — so every student can get a good look at it on the mounted screen.

Another tool the teachers plan to use is Activevote, a wireless handheld device students will be given on which they can "vote," or be quizzed, on questions.

See TECHNOLOGY, p. 7

