

WestLife

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

Mac fans welcome Apple to Crocker Park

By John Payne

WESTLAKE

Rain early Saturday morning didn't keep Apple's fans away as around 100 eager customers lined the sidewalk for the grand opening of the franchise's newest location at Crocker Park.

While some had the foresight to don ponchos or bring umbrellas, many in line stood for hours soaked to the bone in order to be among the first to peruse the products in the retail store when it opened at 10 a.m.

Tracy Hall, the first person in the long, wet line, arrived at 5:30 the previous afternoon in anticipation of the grand opening. Clad in a black poncho and some thoroughly waterlogged footwear, he had a nonchalant attitude about voluntarily waiting nearly 17 hours to set foot in a store.

"People have done it before and it seemed like a fun idea," he said. "It's just a different kind of experience. Plus I figured if I was going to stay overnight then I might as well be first in line."

He was one of about 10 people who spent the night outside of the frameless glass windows of the Apple Store.

Occupying spots number two and three were Jeff Morin and his daughter Robyn. Jeff fondly remembered being first in line in 2003 for the opening of the Apple Store in Legacy Village in Lyndhurst. The store at Crocker Park is Apple's fourth fixture in Ohio. The other two are in Columbus and Cincinnati.

"I just like trying to support Apple coming into Northeast Ohio," Morin said. "And I noticed that a lot of peo-



Customers and employees pack the Apple Store in Crocker Park minutes after its doors opened for the first time this past Saturday. Previously, the closest Apple Store was located in Legacy Village in Lyndhurst. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

ple in line here were also at the opening in Legacy Village."

Morin, who worked for Apple at one point, clearly passed his enthusiasm onto his daughter, who beamed, "I'm pumped! I can't wait to stand inside the Apple Store."

Approximately 40 Apple

employees scuttled around all morning, rousing the crowd with chants, clapping and attempts at starting a "wave." They even brought out a ball game for the queuers to play.

"It reminds me of a birthday at a restaurant," said Phil Dinovo of Sandusky, who arrived with his friend Kevin Bauer at 8 a.m. "You know, when you can see all the employees coming down the aisle clapping and singing. They're really trying to keep everyone pumped up."

When 10 o'clock finally rolled around, the effervescent staff, wearing bright blue shirts, gathered in a ring inside the store. Barack Obama would have been jealous of the amount of clapping and shouting they generated. And when the doors finally opened and Tracy Hall bemusedly crossed the threshold, he was greeted like a celebrity. The entire store was a blur of high-fives and hollering for the first 20 minutes it was open.

"As with anything Apple does, this was phenomenal," said Dan Norman, Apple's man in charge of the operation. "With all the rain, having even one person outside would have been fantastic. Obviously people have been wanting this."

At 10:20 a.m., a bearded man raised his arms high and belted, "First purchase!" He was quickly corrected by the genuine first customer, Megan Roth, who bought the new iPod nano, which was unveiled on Sept. 9.

"I'm going to tell everyone every time I come back here that I was the first sale ever," she said.



Tracy Hall (left, in baseball cap) prepares to be the first customer to cross the threshold of the new Apple Store. He said he had waited in line since 5:30 p.m. the previous day. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Candidate primary deadline to be in June

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City officials are looking at a late spring blooming for the city primary filing deadline.

Council President Brian Cruse said June 15 or the next business day seemed to work best for the filing deadline.

The actual primary would be in mid-September.

"We wanted to have something where people could refer to a specific date and time and be prepared," Cruse said. "We need to get something set up so we didn't have it turn into a situation where people didn't know when the primary was going to be or the filing deadline."

Cruse and other city officials discussed the matter Monday and at council's committee sessions Sept. 9.

Cruse and other officials noted that

some Cuyahoga County officials have discussed setting a uniform primary date. Cruse acknowledged that city officials have given consideration to seeing how that works, but added that he wanted to make sure the city and its voters are taken care of.

"We just had an election where people voted to have a primary set up," Cruse said. "I didn't want to be going

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Public forums to address aging school buildings

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

Aging school buildings and growing enrollment are forcing the Westlake City Schools to closely examine the need for renovations or new facilities.

Superintendent Dan Keenan, who was hired in June 2007, said he was initially reluctant to address the facilities issue so early in his tenure. But repeated questions from parents, employees and staff have caused him to

confront the issue now.

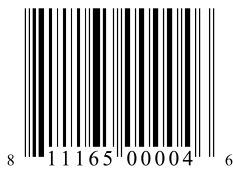
The district will hold four public forums in coming weeks to gauge the community's views on the need for new public school facilities and/or renovations and its willingness to fund them.

The first forum is scheduled for Sept. 23 in the gymnasium of Dover Elementary School, 2300 Dover Center Road. The second is set for Sept. 29 in the lecture hall of Westlake High School, 27830 Hilliard Road. Parkside Elementary School, 24525 Hilliard Blvd., will host a meeting Oct. 1.

A final meeting, at which Keenan hopes to commission a committee to develop a formal facilities plan for the district, is scheduled for Oct. 14 at Holly Lane Elementary School, 3057 Holly Lane.

Heating, electrical and plumbing systems in many of the district's buildings are old and not up to state standards, Keenan said. Roofs and windows are also in need of replacement, he added.

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