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License, fee proposed for rentals

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

If you rent out a house or condominium in Fairview Park, you may soon have to get a license and pay a fee to do so.

The city is also in the process of creating a database of rental dwelling properties to better maintain the community's housing stock. The database will include single-family and double and triple houses as well as condominiums that are rented out.

Bridget Hinkel, administrative assistant to Mayor Eileen Patton, is overseeing the creation of the database.

Hinkel told West Life residential rental properties are being identified through county property records and by comparing tax mailing addresses with home addresses.

At Monday's committee meeting, council defined rental properties to exclude residences occupied by one family member but owned by another family member who lives elsewhere.

An ordinance requiring licenses for renting such dwellings had its first reading before council Oct. 6. The fee, to be paid by the property owner, will be \$100 per year.

Ward 2 Councilman Bill Minek, chair of council's Environment, Public

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Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin addresses a small group of guests at the Welcome House Michael T. George Center in North Olmsted. On the right are Michael T. George, whom the center is named for, his mother Kristine George and father businessman Tony George. (Photo courtesy of Annie Kilbane)

Palin visits Welcome House

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

For supporters of Welcome House, the North Olmsted group home which works with people with Down Syndrome, it was an unexpected pleasure.

Tony Thomas, the director for Welcome House, said last Friday's visit by Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin to dedicate a plaque in front of the home before a small group

of officials and visitors, came about very quickly.

"It's a great opportunity to make people more aware of Down Syndrome," said Thomas. "It started when Tony George spoke to the McCain campaign about us. He's been a contributor to the campaign and asked if Mrs. Palin would consider visiting us."

George and his wife Kristine, like Palin, have a young son with Down Syndrome, a chromosomal disorder which can cause some impairment of cognitive ability and physical growth.

The Michael T. George Center for Community Living operated by Welcome House is named for the George's son, Michael. The George's are major backers of the project.

Thomas said Welcome House was contacted early last week and met with representatives of the McCain/Palin campaign and Secret Service last Tuesday.

"It happened pretty fast," Thomas said. "They said she was going to be at

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Workers' illnesses not related to work

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

A curiously high number of cancer cases among workers from two buildings at the NASA Glenn Research Center were not caused by environmental factors, according to a government study.

The study, conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Ohio Department of Health, investigated 65 cases of cancer reported by employees or former employees of Buildings 500 and 501 since 1985. The buildings, located north of Brookpark Road, contained administrative offices,

Glenn Director Woodrow Whitlow Jr. said. The buildings contained no laboratories, he added.

"The institute concluded that the cancers that were reported are not associated with the fact that people worked in these buildings," Whitlow said.

"Evidence leads to non-occupational causes," the Glenn director said.

The investigation showed that the number and types of cancers reported did not appear unusual, according to Thomas W. Hartline, Glenn's director of Safety and Mission Assurance.

"They really are not much different than what we would expect to see in the general population around here, especially considering the age factors and lifestyle factors," Hartline said.

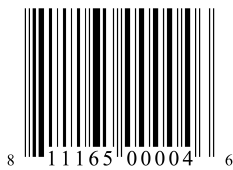
By contrast, cancer clusters linked to an environmental cause tend to consist of a single, rare type of cancer, the study said.

Of the 65 cases, nine were diagnosed prior to working in the two buildings. That left 56 cases in 54 people. Of those, eight were diagnosed within five years of working in the buildings.

Of those 54, 11 people worked on the first floor, 13 on the second, and 30 on the third. Those diagnosed with cancer tended to be older and were more likely to have smoked, the study said.

Hartline said the center worked with the employees' union and NIOSH, a division of the federal Centers For

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