



West LIFE

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Talks held to avoid layoffs

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City government officials and safety forces union leaders will likely be reviewing possible changes and concessions in contract talks in an effort to avoid layoffs of city employees in the city at the end of the year.

During and after a Saturday five-and-a-half hour city council finance committee session, leaders for the city fire and police unions said they would be willing to meet with negotiators for the city to discuss ways of trying to stop the scheduled layoff of at least 15 city workers on Dec. 31. Mayor Thomas O'Grady said Sunday his administration and negotiators also are willing to discuss the matter. O'Grady has said the city will lay off five firefighters, five police officers and five members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to help combat a projected deficit of nearly \$2 million between anticipated city expenses and revenues. In addition, administration officials have said the amount of workers is contingent upon City Council passing a plan to cut the income tax credit from 100 to 50 percent for people who work outside the city. If not the layoffs would rise to between 25 and 30 peo-

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This house on Clague Road between Brookpark and Lorain roads show the Christmas spirit. In addition to lights, the yard features wood cutouts of characters from the 1964 Rankin/Bass television special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," including Sam the Snowman, Yukon Cornelius and the Bumble. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Dog park suit goes back to court

By Allison Pritchard

ROCKY RIVER

In the latest opinion released Dec. 11 from the 8th district court of appeals concerning Rocky River's attempt to sue Lakewood for injunctive relief on its dog park, the court chose to reverse and remand. Siding with Rocky River, the opinion said concerning the authority of the trial court to address government bodies and provide injunctive relief, the trial court had previously erred and that sovereign immunity doesn't apply in this situation. Rocky River is free to sue in order to ask for injunctive

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— Lakewood Law Director Nora Hurley

relief on the city to have Lakewood close the dog park, said Andrew Bemer, Rocky River law director. A date will be set for the case to go back to the Court of Common Pleas, he said.

Lakewood Law Director Nora Hurley said that Lakewood has made several attempts to come to an agreement. The city is always open to resolve an issue "between sister cities," she said, although Lakewood has no financial means to throw at the park.

The city plans to wait and see what the Court of Common Pleas does,

See **DOG PARK**, p. 15



Martin Savidge

Savidge's focus is the world

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

Despite spending the past several years traveling the globe reporting from numerous war zones and disaster sites, journalist Martin Savidge believed that Americans were being grossly under served when it came to international news.

That's why in October, the Rocky River native left NBC News, his employer for the past four years, to anchor a new public television program devoted exclusively to international

news.

Savidge, who was born in Quebec to British parents who later moved to Rocky River, may be the perfect person for the program, entitled "Worldfocus." While he was reporting for WJW in the 1980s, he convinced his news director to assign him to a few overseas trips. Those foreign trips caught the eye of CNN, where he spent nine years, many as the network's first anchor assigned to field reporting.

Savidge, whose family still resides in Atlanta, commutes on a weekly basis

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