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Crossing guard locations reduced

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City school and municipal officials have cut the number of crossing guard locations for the district from 14 down to two because of tighter economic conditions.

School Superintendent Cheryl Dubsy sent a letter to district parents last week outlining the situation and placed the letter on the school Web site while city Mayor Thomas O'Grady has also placed a letter about the situation on the city

Web site. The new staffing level will begin next Monday. City officials discussed the situation at the Jan. 13 City Council safety committee meeting. In addition current DARE officer Glen Adamson will continue working on the program with fifth graders through the end of this academic year, with district teachers doing drug and alcohol education starting in the 2009-10 academic year.

Tough economic times have necessitated the decision after the schools and city reviewed

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Big hole

A water main break on Hilliard Boulevard near Westlake High School disrupted traffic when the road buckled Monday. Traffic was completely restored by Wednesday, according to Westlake Police. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Fire shift manning levels dip with budget woes

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

Tight economic conditions continue to put a damper on city fire department staffing.

Fire Chief Tom Klecan said the department's minimum staffing level has gone down to nine per shift for the two fire stations with a strong possi-

ty that many shifts will go down to eight at times in the summer with vacations and when someone calls off. Klecan went over the issue at the City Council Safety Committee meeting Jan. 13. Committee Chairman Kevin Kearney had called the session to have Klecan and his Police department counterpart Wayne Wozniak discuss how they were handling staffing in lieu of having five members each laid off at the

beginning of January to help the city deal with a projected budget shortfall of close to \$2 million.

Klecan said his department is dealing with changes as best as possible. In addition to the layoffs, the position of assistant Fire Chief was laid off causing Todd Kirkpatrick to return to the ranks of the firefighters. Klecan said the department would prefer having the staffing level at ten but added he sees

no way of doing that right now.

"Do I want the staffing at nine or lower? No absolutely not," he said. "But, the economic conditions pretty much dictate that's where we have to be right now."

He said the department would keep five shift firefighters at Station 1 to man both an engine and EMS squad. He said

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The Cleveland Motel, located at 22735 Lorain Road, will be demolished and the property purchased by the city of Fairview Park. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

City to purchase Cleveland Motel site

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Say goodbye to the Cleveland Motel. Fairview Park has reached an agreement to purchase the property, located at 22735 Lorain Road, for \$120,000. City Council unanimously passed an ordinance authorizing the purchase at its meeting Monday night.

Under the purchase agreement, which was completed Thursday, owner

Jitendra Kapasi must vacate the property within 45 days and pay for the demolition of the structure.

City officials have long complained that the motel was a nuisance to the neighborhood. Mayor Eileen Patton said that the city received constant complaints from neighbors over noise and motel guests coming and going at all hours.

"The police were there all the time," Patton said. "It's been a constant battle with (Kapasi) over the years over the

safety and health and welfare of the business he was running."

The mayor said the purchase was made for the benefit of the residents. She added that she believed the eventual redevelopment of the site will result in a rebirth for the western section of Lorain Road in Fairview Park.

Patton said the motel had outlived its usefulness and become a burden to

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