

# WEST LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Another fire union upset over staffing

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

Add Westlake to the list of Westshore cities where firefighters are upset with management over staffing issues.

According to Patrick Grealis, president of Local 1814, members are upset over two matters.

First, Grealis said, the fire department is allowing shifts to go below the nine-man minimum levels traditionally set by the city's fire chief. This has been happening once or twice a week of late, Grealis said, because of personnel being on sick leave or vacation.

Fire Chief Ronald Janicek disputed this, telling West Life that since Nov. 25, the department has had fewer than nine firefighters on duty only seven times. The department has never been below eight for any extended period of time, the chief added.

Janicek said he dropped minimum staffing standards in favor of the practice of calling in firefighters for overtime work on days when the city



**READY TO PLAY:** Parkside Intermediate School sixth-grader Caryn Wascovich is focused and ready while on stage at the school's choir and orchestra concert March 16 at the Westlake Schools Performing Arts Center. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Storefront rebate program starts

By Allison Pritchard

### ROCKY RIVER

Rocky River business owners are now able to fix up their building facades with a little help from the county — a 30 percent rebate for exterior improvements.

Since the Storefront Renovation Rebate Program began March 2, one application, from Leo Luck's Auto Repair, has already been reviewed and approved by the county on March 6, said Kory Koran, director of economic and community development for the city of Rocky River.

The program, sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners Department of Development, is designed to assist business owners with improving sides of business buildings

that the public sees and addressing exterior code violations, according to the program's Web site.

An additional five percent rebate will be given to businesses that use green, sustainable or recycled components in their projects, Mayor Pamela Bobst said.

This is the first time Rocky River is eligible for these funds, Bobst said, who thinks the program will be very worthwhile to local business owners, Bobst said.

Leo Luck's has already begun its project that consists of adding glass block windows and a new awning.

After completion, the county will reimburse the company with 30 percent of the cost the awning and 35 percent of the cost of the glass block windows because they meet the county's standards as "energy efficient," Koran said.

Several companies have inquired,

and applications are now being accepted, Bobst said.

Improvements may include façade improvements, signs, awnings, windows, doors, front parking lots, painting, cleaning, exterior code access, lighting, ADA compliant access and landscaping (only in addition to the aforementioned). Interior buildings improvements are ineligible, according to the Web site. The rebate maximum is \$6,000 per store.

Visit [development.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/2009-Storefront-Renovation-Rebate-Program.aspx](http://development.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/2009-Storefront-Renovation-Rebate-Program.aspx) for more information.

Leo Luck's Auto Repair is located at 19985 Detroit Road.

Questions regarding the storefront renovation rebate program can be forwarded to the county's contact Pequita Hansberry, (216) 443-8397, or Koran at (440) 331-0600.

## Skate Park plan falling into place

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

Organizers for the proposed skate park said work on getting phase one of the proposed facility near city recreation facilities underway in the next few weeks is progressing nicely.

"Everything seems to be falling into place," said Lawrence Kuh, one of the project's leaders. "It's come a long way

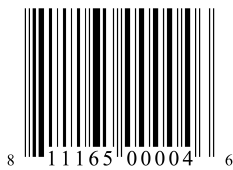
in five years."

Kuh made the remarks prior to last night's meeting of the Municipal Planning Commission, which was scheduled to discuss the proposal after West Life's deadline. The matter had been sent to the MPC by City Council March 16 after it heard Kuh's proposal to have the Skate Park Foundation group fund the first phase of the park without city assistance. Kuh said cooperative contractors have given the group

time and price assurances which would allow it to have phase one concrete pad work done this year as long as they were able to start the work in the next few weeks before the busy portion of their construction season gets underway.

During both the March 9 meeting when Kuh initially discussed the pro-

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