

# Celebrating 50 Years!



## West Life: ONA 2009 General Excellence Award Winner



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# WEST LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Grant won to study Huntington shoreline

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

Metroparks officials believe a recently awarded state grant will help them upgrade the Huntington Beach and Lake Erie area.

James Kastelic, senior planner for the Metroparks, said the \$68,250 Coastal Management Assistance Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will allow the parks system to develop a shoreline management plan for the Huntington Reservation. The area includes the beach and waterfront areas utilized by thousands of people every year.

"Since the park area was originally designed in the 1930s this will help allow us to look at how we can upgrade and improve the area for people," said Kastelic.

Kastelic said the state grant is being matched by the Metroparks for a total of \$136,500 for the project, which will include three different major components. The components include beach protection and bluff stabilization, ecologic restoration and public access to the site.

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**ROAD RACING:** John Bodell of the SPIN team, second from right, is in the lead among cyclists during a training race May 19 along Clemens Road in Westlake. Cycling races are held every Tuesday evening during the summer, with the start at the Westlake Board of Education service building at 1097 Bassett Road. For more information on the races, go online to [carbon-racing.org/westlake/](http://carbon-racing.org/westlake/). (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Land purchase to double park size

By Kevin Kelley

### FAIRVIEW PARK

The size of Nelson Russ Park will more than double once the city completes the purchase of 2.3 acres from three property owners for \$64,000.

Ordinances authorizing the purchase of partial lots from three West 220th Street property owners had their second readings at Monday evening's City Council meeting.

According to the ordinances, 61, 671

square feet will be purchased from Stephanie O. Duran for \$37,000. The city will purchase 40,950 square feet from Joseph J. Schork for \$25,000. St. Mary Magdalene Church will sell 10,544 square feet to the city for \$2,000. Money for the land will come from the city's recreation fund.

The negotiations for the properties were fairly straightforward, according to Recreation Director Tim Pinchek. The prices paid were based on fair market value as determined by valuations listed on the county auditor's Web site.

One of the landowners initiated the discussions after the city demolished the former recreation department building at the park last year, Pinchek said.

The land added to the park through the purchases will be used for soccer and football fields, Pinchek said.

"This will give Fairview Park a dedicated soccer-football complex that it never had before," Pinchek told West Life.

Jack Abbruzzese, the recreation

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## State of the city is good news for River

By Allison Pritchard

### ROCKY RIVER

Not everyone gets a standing ovation before and after they speak — but Mayor Pam Bobst did when she gave the yearly state of the city speech at the Rocky River Chamber of Commerce meeting May 28. The mayor cited the ways Rocky River rocks as a city, as well as noting the challenges it continues to face.

"If you know me, you know I don't exhale in 45 minutes," Bobst said, about her fact-filled speech in front of a crowded room of luncheon guests.

While introducing Bobst, Chamber President Jim Riedl called her one of the best mayors in the state of Ohio and someone who keeps the city moving in



Mayor Pam Bobst.

the right direction.

Bobst noted the financial stability and quality city employees as reasons why the city is running smoothly, before tearfully getting out the end of her speech and tearfully choking on the words "I'm honored to be mayor."

One of the first facts Bobst presented was that income tax (1.5 percent) hasn't been raised and is one of the lowest in the region.

A conservative budget has also allowed Rocky River to be successful in finances, Bobst said.

The total 2008 revenue for the city was more than \$27 million, Bobst said, and the total 2008 expenditure was more than \$23 million. When you do

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