

# WEST LIFE

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## Westlake Park-N-Ride adding space for more cars

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

RTA plans to add more than 200 parking spaces to its popular Park-N-Ride that has entrances off Columbia and Sperry roads.

Westlake City Council approved plans for the expansion at its July 16 regular meeting. The city's planning commission had given its approval earlier in the month.

RTA is planning to purchase 6.9 acres south of the access drive off Columbia. But only half of the new land will be utilized initially, according to Westlake Planning Director Bob Parry.

Council and the planning commission placed a condition that the new parcel be legally combined with the existing one once the purchase is completed.

A new bus shelter will be added along with 218 new parking spaces. According to Parry, the new spaces are badly needed. Because all existing parking spaces had often been

See **PARK-N-RIDE**, p. 14



Firefighters from Rocky River and Fairview Park faced off in a cook-off contest July 22 at the Westgate Chic-fil-A to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Above: Rocky River firefighter Steve Golobic and the Chic-fil-A cow accept a donation from Jan Priebe of Fairview Park. Right: Fairview firefighter J.D. Weinberg grills chicken during the contest. See story on page 12. (West Life photos by Larry Bennet)

## Firefighter grill-off



## Arbitrator backs city in firefighter dispute

By Jeff Gallatin

### BAY VILLAGE

City officials acted properly in disciplining veteran firefighter Ron Westmoreland for remarks in which he alleged at a September 2008 city council meeting that municipal decisions and policies helped cause the drowning of a small boy in Lake Erie.

"The employer acted reasonably and

with just cause when it disciplined the grievant for his unacceptable conduct," arbitrator Robert G. Stein said in his 40-page decision document, which was dated July 21 and released several days later.

After a hearing, Mayor Debbie Sutherland suspended Westmoreland for a week or the equivalent of three shifts. Westmoreland appealed the decision with the city, with the matter ultimately going to arbitration in late

March. In addition, he filed suit in United States District Court on a First Amendment challenge to the suspension.

Sutherland said Monday she was pleased and planned to again seek the disciplinary action against Westmoreland.

"I am happy that the arbitrator believed the city acted reasonably and

See **DECISION**, p. 14

## Mall proposes multi-million-dollar upgrade

By Jeff Gallatin

### NORTH OLMSTED

Westfield Great Northern Mall officials have proposed a multi-million dollar remodeling project which they believe will help what the area's appetite for using the facility.

Mall and Westfield officials presented the proposal to the North Olmsted Municipal Planning and Design Commission July 22. The proposal involves relocating the existing food court to the area on the north side of the mall in the vicinity of Dick's Sporting Goods. The existing food court will be renovated to accommodate two new major retail tenants for that area while existing food businesses, those located above the food court and mall offices will move to other parts of the



Westfield Great Northern Mall officials are proposing a multi-million dollar upgrade including a new food court depicted here. (Graphic courtesy of Westfield Great Northern Mall)

mall.

In addition, Westfield will update the building façade and exterior for the new tenants, create a new mall entry near Sears and improve the mall entry near Dick's as part of the proposal, which Westfield officials hope to begin later this year if city officials give final approval to the plans.

Kurt Reddick, general manager for the mall, said Westfield officials have worked hard to present the best possible proposal for the mall and the surrounding community.

"We realize there is an ongoing need to revitalize and upgrade the mall to present the best possible environment for people using it and the area around it."

See **MALL**, p. 14



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