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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

Strickland pulls plug on bulb distribution

By Danielle Toth

WESTSHORE

Gov. Ted Strickland issued a letter last Wednesday requesting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio postpone FirstEnergy's energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb distribution program.

In response, PUCO has asked FirstEnergy to postpone its distribution to the customers of Ohio Edison, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. and Toledo Edison.

The same day Strickland issued the letter, Rep. Dennis Kucinich asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate it.

FirstEnergy was set to begin distributing two energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs to homes throughout Ohio, including the Westshore area, this week, but the program was met with public

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Pumpkin Palooza

Maddy Koz and Megan Barilla, Magnificat students and Key Club members, show off the pumpkin they painted for Visiting Nurse Association hospice patients. Read the story on page 11. (West Life photo by Larry Bennef)

Faculty now involved in facilities decisions

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

A new series of meetings on the future of school buildings in the Westlake City Schools District began last week. The 24-member 20/20 Vision committee has been expanded to 68 to include faculty and staff from the district's schools.

Superintendent Dan Keenan said the expanded committee's goal is to pick a final facilities plan that voters will be asked to fund, presumably in May. A second goal, Keenan said, is to deter-

mine what realistically can be accomplished in terms of facilities, both physically and in terms of voter support.

Ultimately, the decision to go before voters is up to the board of education, Keenan noted.

A phone survey sanctioned by the district showed an increase in public awareness of the problem of aging and overcrowded school buildings, Keenan said.

The survey, conducted at the end of September, showed "a big jump in people knowing there is a problem," the superintendent said.

A second, larger phone survey is

planned for mid-January, Keenan has said.

In January, the 20/20 Vision committee submitted two master plans to the Board of Education:

- Option A is a single-phase project that would build a new high school and renovate and add on to the middle school. This plan would see the construction of two new elementary schools — one housing preschool through first grade and the other grades two and three.

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City tackling intersection issues

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials are looking for a combination of grant and traffic studies to help solve problems at a quartet of troublesome intersections.

City Council approved at its Oct. 6 meeting seeking a Liveable Communities Initiatives grant from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for technical support in improving the intersections/signals at the Lorain-Porter-Butternut Ridge and Lorain Brookpark roads intersections. In addition, the city will also be working with NOACA on traffic studies for

the Brookpark Road-Great Northern Boulevard and Columbia-Lorain road intersections, two intersections that NOACA rated among its 10 worst in roadways ranked in a survey by the multi-county organization in the last three years. The traffic audits or studies will be taking place this month and November.

North Olmsted Planning Director Kim Wenger asked council to approve the grant application by suspending the last two readings in order to get the application in on time.

"It was due Friday so we wanted to make sure we got this in there on time because there's no question we could use the assistance," Wenger said.

City officials have been looking to use grants for a variety of projects and potential upgrades during the last few years. Wenger has made applications for other assistance in the Great Northern Boulevard area as well as different federal Community Development Block Grant fund programs.

"We try to use all the different resources we can to help move the city and area forward," she said.

Wenger said the timing of the grant is good because the city was planning to work on traffic studies and with NOACA in those areas as well.

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