

WEST LIFE

October 21, 2009 - Vol. 69, No. 49

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

City preparing business survey

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials will be looking into what makes businesses successful in coming weeks.

City Planning Director Kim Wenger said North Olmsted's economic development consultant, Silverlode, and her department will be sending out an online survey to a wide range of businesses around the beginning of November. The purpose will be to gather information about what the businesses believe the city and community can do to help them succeed. Through that, the survey also will gather information about what the businesses believe can make them and the community successful.

Wenger said the survey will be designed to aid businesses — not hinder them.

"It's information which we

See **SURVEY**, p. 21



Flowing into fall

Leaves are turning toward their fall colors as the water runs through Cahoon Creek last Saturday. Advance forecasts said temperatures should begin climbing upwards again this week. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Regional fire study keeps Bay team

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City officials involved in the ongoing study about whether the Westshore should form a regional fire district will see some familiar faces at the helm.

Bay Village Mayor Debbie Sutherland, Fire Chief Jim Sammon and Lt. Chris Lyons, who has written the department's many successful grant applications the past few years, will be serving as project managers at the local level.

Since Sutherland is chairwoman of

the Westshore Council of Governments group this year, officials involved in the study by Emergency Services Consulting International of Wilsonville, Ore., felt she should remain at the head of area efforts involved in the study. The COG approved having ESCI do the study earlier this year. It also led successful efforts by area communities to obtain a \$100,000 grant to help pay for the study, which has a preliminary price tag of about \$137,000.

All the Bay officials said they appreciated the confidence the other communities are showing in them.

"I'm glad they feel we should con-

tinue in this role," Sutherland said. "We've worked hard to try and see if this is the right thing for our area to do."

Keeping Sammon and Lyons in their respective roles also makes sense, Sutherland said.

"Chief Sammon has taken a leadership role in the activities involved in the study and does a great job working with all the other fire chiefs and departments," she said. "Lt. Lyons has done top work in obtaining a series of grants

See **FIRE**, p. 21

Lights go out on Fairview Park hall sign

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

The marquee sign in front of Fairview Park City Hall is no longer lit up at night.

That's because its electrical circuits are shot, Mayor Eileen Patton said.

Patton is asking City Council to approve \$24,900 for the purchase of a new LED sign. But one councilman says that's too much to spend on a sign in these hard economic times.

The current sign was purchased from a Florida company 11 years ago, Patton told West Life. The problems with the sign are weather related, the



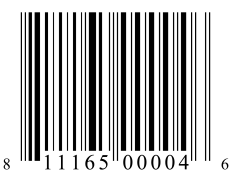
The marquee sign in front of Fairview Park City Hall is broken and needs to be replaced, city officials said. (West Life photo by Kevin Kelley)

mayor added.

The message on the sign is changed manually at least once and often twice a day on weekdays, Patton said. The sign is an important tool city leaders use to communicate with residents, she added.

First priority is given to city-related messages, such as times and dates of upcoming council meetings or leaf pickup dates, the mayor said. Information involving civic organizations, including area schools, is also posted on the sign. Finally, messages of congratulations to residents celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary or a

See **SIGN**, p. 21



8 11165 00004 6