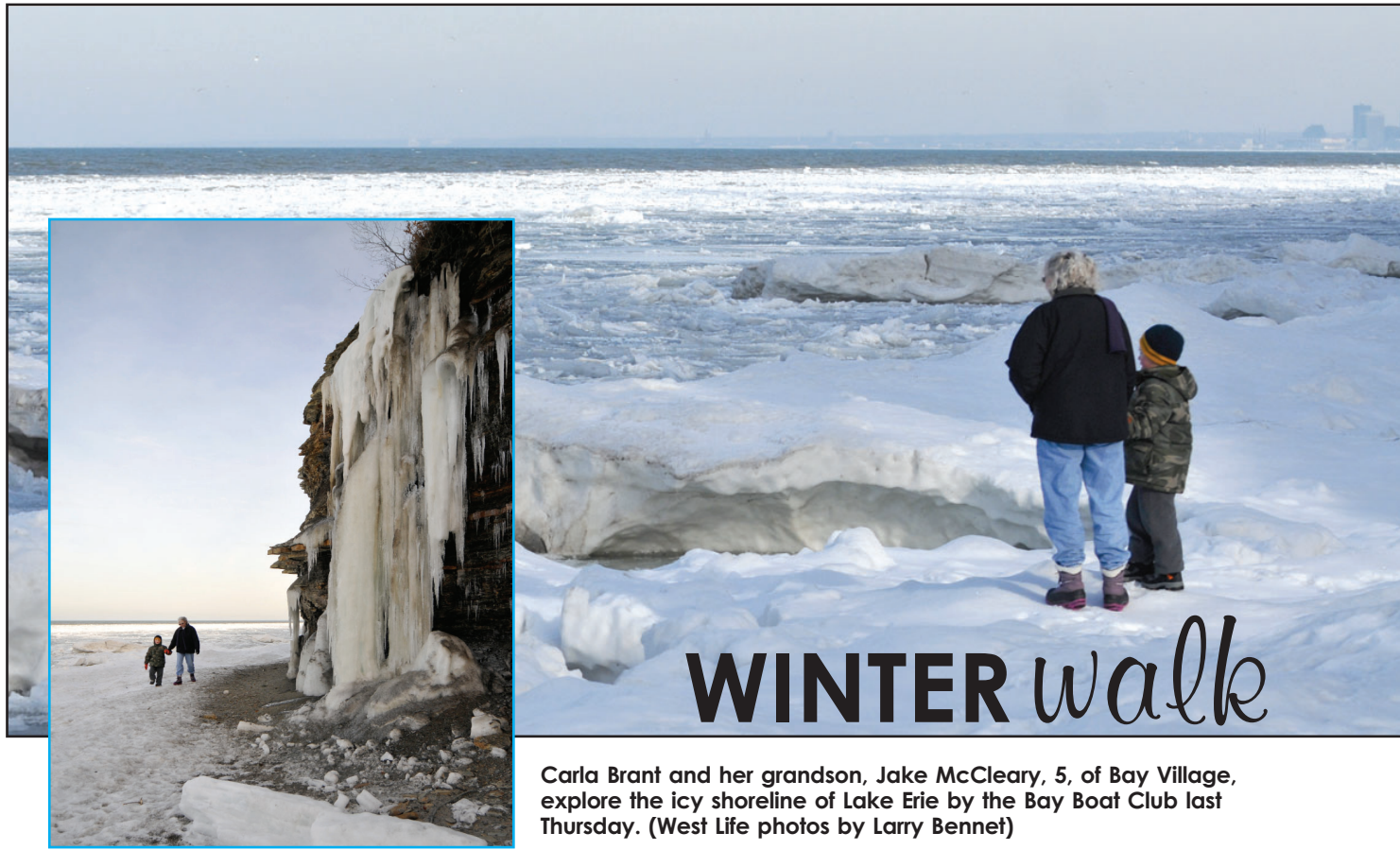


West LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢



Carla Brant and her grandson, Jake McCleary, 5, of Bay Village, explore the icy shoreline of Lake Erie by the Bay Boat Club last Thursday. (West Life photos by Larry Bennet)

Kennedy looking to stimulate development

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

Newly-elected Mayor Kevin Kennedy told the Chamber of Commerce Thursday his administration will continue to look to the future while using key past achievements to enhance that future.

Kennedy emphasized efforts to stimulate economic development and progress while giving his first state of the city address to a jammed luncheon crowd of more than 100 at the Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon. Chamber President Jeff Herwick noted it was the largest luncheon crowd in several years, saying they apparently wanted to hear the new mayor.

"The planning department is very much aware and in support of my administration's desire to renew the city's focus on economic development in 2010, focusing on business retention, marketing and recruitment," Kennedy said. "We will reach out directly to North Olmsted businesses to improve communication with City Hall, and we will aggressively pursue new businesses to bring additional jobs and new tax revenues to the city."

Kennedy, who has run a successful computer business for many years, said the city will utilize previous accomplishments while also implementing and seeking new programs and resources. He cited the previous work on the Great Northern Multi-Modal Transportation Plan

See **KENNEDY**, p. 12

Bradley Park site favored for skate park

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

Skate park and city officials are moving west in their quest to find a home for the proposed facility after more than five years of attempting to obtain approval and the right location.

After more than an hour of discussion in a council chamber filled with residents, City Council approved sending a tentative proposal to place the skate park in Bradley Park in the property footprint used for ice skating in winter months to its Parks and Recreation Committee for discussion.

Council President Brian Cruse pro-

posed the move into committee after he began the process earlier in the meeting by saying the city should consider one of three options: putting the facility in the Bradley Park location, going back to the original site behind the police station or dropping city support for the project. Voting to send it to committee were Cruse, Paul Koomar, Scott Pohlkamp and Dave Tadych. Jim Scott and Mike Young supported the police station site, while Dwight Clark, the newest member of council, said he could support either of the two sites.

Cruse was pleased after the meeting with council's move.

"This gives us direction which we didn't have previously," he said. "We

needed to give the skate park group an answer as to where we were coming from, be it a specific site or even us not supporting it any longer."

Bay Middle School teacher Lawrence Kuh, the longtime primary organizer for the skate park proposal, said group members also are pleased.

"Bradley Park is a very viable site for us and a logical site which we like," he said. "All along, all of the primary sites we've looked at have been in or near other park and multi-use recreational facility sites. We also can seek the Nature Grants grant again, which

See **SKATE PARK**, p. 12

New Hope Church looking for bigger quarters

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

The Rev. Dan Sewell, pastor of New Hope Church, said his congregation has outgrown its current home and is seeking a bigger location.

As a result, the church is seeking to rezone its current 1.41-acre property on West 220th Street in anticipation of a sale. The church also owns a single-family house immediately to the south of the church along West 220th Street.

Sewell spoke about his congregation's wish to relocate and sell its property at City Council's Jan. 20 meeting.

The east end of the church's proper-

ty abuts the Fairview Park Schools' Early Education Center, formerly Parkview Intermediate School, located on Mastick Road. Sewell said the church has held discussions with the school district on a possible sale of its land on and off for roughly a decade. However, those discussions simmered off after the district pursued the Gemini Project plan about five years ago.

Ironically, New Hope purchased its property from the school district for \$10,000 in the 1950s, Sewell said.

The property is currently zoned for civic/recreational use. That classification limits the potential buyers, Sewell said.

Under the city charter, all rezoning

changes require a vote of the public. Zoning changes also must be approved by council and the city's Planning Commission.

The church is seeking rezoning to the general office category, which would provide both property and income tax revenue for the city.

At the Jan. 20 council meeting, Mayor Eileen Patton said rezoning to the general office category was a better choice for the site than general business, which has fewer restrictions.

The rezoning issue will be further studied by a council committee.

See **NEW HOPE**, p. 12

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