

West LIFE

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The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢



The year of the Tiger

Jennifer and Brian Chang of Brook Park feed the lion a gift Feb. 6 during the Exotic Lion Dance celebrating the Chinese New Year at Pearl of the Orient in Rocky River. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Baker seeks return

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

Saying that jobs is the top issue across the Westshore as well as the state, Nan Baker formally announced her bid for re-election to the 16th District seat in the Ohio House of Representatives Feb. 2.

Baker, who with her husband, Craig, owns Cricket Yard Equipment, a lawn mower sales and service business, said she would continue to advocate for small business owners in a second term.

The ranking Republican member of the House's Economic Development Committee points to 10 job-related bills she helped assemble in consultation with state business leaders. Eight of the bills are now before committees, she noted.

One of the proposals would give businesses a \$2,400 tax credit for hiring previously unemployed workers. Another would grant five-year tax credits to Ohioans who receive a baccalaureate degree.

The tax credits will create new jobs, Baker argued. Any government revenue lost through the tax breaks would more than be made up for in taxes paid by newly employed workers.

"Any new job created is contributing," she said.

Baker said she has seen several well-intentioned bills proposed that would harm small business owners through burdensome regulation or mandates. In response, she has

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Stang had big heart for family

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

For his family and the rest of Bay Village, the heart of Randy Stang was always open.

True to form, Stang gave a "caring, compassionate" speech from the heart at the Feb. 3 City Council Recreation and Parks Committee meeting in support of the proposal to place a controversial bike and skate park in Bradley Park near where he, his wife Jacqueline and their four children, Lindsay, Taylor, Logan and Branson live. After sitting

down, officials said something apparently went wrong with Stang's heart and he slumped over.

Seeing this, City Recreation Director Dan Enovitch, Service Director Dan Galli and a nurse and doctor in the audience of 100 people promptly went to work trying to save Stang while Police Chief Dave Wright got the City AED machine. An EMS squad was called at 8:25 p.m., and Stang was rushed to the hospital. Efforts to save him were unsuccessful.

For Jacqueline Stang, having Randy speak up in support of a project to benefit youngsters and opening what she

characterized as "a big heart for everybody, particularly kids," was nothing new.

"That's Randy. He was always wanting to help out and do something for others," she said. "He believed in doing things which would help people out, whether it was something for the kids or the community and making sure people had a good place to go to."

Stang, a past president of the Bay Village Kiwanis Club, also was active in the Bay Education Foundation and

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Board mulls levy options, potential cuts

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMS TED

School board members Monday studied five different potential levy figures as the deadline for placing a continuing levy on the ballot nears.

Members approved district Treasurer Robert Matson taking potential millage amounts of 5.9, 6.5, 6.9, 7.9 and 8.9 mills to Cuyahoga County election officials for certification in preparation for an expected vote Tuesday to place a continuing operating levy on the May ballot. The deadline for getting the final levy proposal to the county board of elections is Feb. 18.

After listening to a presentation from Matson and Superintendent Cheryl Dubsky about the potential loss of jobs and program cutbacks for potential levy amounts of 4.9, 6.9 and 8.9 mills, the board decided to discard 4.9 mills as a potential figure. At its previous meeting, the board asked Dubsky and her administration to show the potential cuts required by the district to make the budget work with those three potential levy amounts.

District officials noted that it would only raise a projected amount of \$4,053,000 annually while still requiring cuts of \$5,887,000 over two years.

Administration figures projected cuts of 85.5 certified teaching positions,

57 classified non-teaching positions and four administrative posts to go with a 4.9-mill levy. A figure of 6.9 mills showed figures of 60.2 teaching positions, 42 non-teaching and three administrative positions. An 8.9 mill figure had projections from the administration of 35.7 teaching, 27 classified and two administrative jobs being cut.

Elementary intervention, elementary advanced study, middle school intervention, middle school honors, middle school ISD, high school SITES and high school ISD programs could be affected by cuts. The high school advanced placement intermediate computer class and high school electives could also be eliminated.

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