

# West LIFE

March 3, 2010 - Vol. 70, No. 14

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

## Westlake police suggest race fee

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTLAKE

Citing a growing number of fundraising road races in the city last year, the Westlake Police Department is asking City Council to consider legislation to limit the number of races and impose fees on sponsoring organizations.

Council members will consider the issue at a Finance Committee meeting at 7:30

p.m. March 9.

In a Feb. 10 letter written to Mayor Dennis Clough and forwarded to council members, Police Chief Richard Walling said more race organizers are coming to Westlake for a specific reason — the lack of a permit fee.

“Information from the professional race management community indicates that Westlake is being targeted for fundraising races because there are no costs associated to the races’ organizers or those who bene-

fit from them,” the police chief wrote. “Instead, the city of Westlake absorbs these expenses.”

In 2007 and 2008, four races each year took place in the city, Walling noted. But in 2009, that number jumped to 11. The city has thus far received seven parade/race permits for 2010, the police chief added.

The growing number of races has put a

See FEE, p. 15

## Fire department revamping proposed

By Jeff Gallatin

### NORTH OLMSTED

A proposal eliminating four captain’s positions in the fire department and allowing the hiring of up to 15 part-time firefighters, was scheduled to be brought to City Council last night by Mayor Kevin Kennedy’s administration.

Kennedy said he planned to bring the matter up in a special Safety Committee meeting prior to the regular Tuesday council session and then try to get it passed on suspension by council. If approved, the move would reduce four captains in rank, with three being reduced to lieutenants and another going to firefighter. The proposed reorganization allows for seven lieutenants instead of the current four and maintains the number of positions ranked full-time firefighter as 44.

Kennedy said the move gives the city added flexibility during another tight budget year in which the budget revenue projections have been short of anticipated expenses by several hundred thousand dollars. However, Fire Union President Dave Boatman criticized the proposal Monday, saying it would cause major problems in the fire department.

Monday, Kennedy said the move was for budgetary reasons and not because the city and fire union have been unable to reach an agreement on a new contract. The union rejected a fact-finder’s report in late February, which both administration and union

See FIRE, p. 14



*Leading the way*

Leah Holloran, of Lakewood, leads a group of participants Saturday in the first Great White Winter Cross Country Ski Chase at Springvale County Club in North Olmsted. For more event photos, see page 18. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

## Region hopes to make most of airport

By Kevin Kelley

### WESTSHORE

Are the communities surrounding Cleveland Hopkins Airport taking full advantage of their proximity to the transportation center?

A study by Cleveland State University’s Center For Public Management is looking at the question. The city of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County have respectively pledged \$40,000 and \$20,000 for the study. Berea and Parma each contributed \$1,500. Other nearby suburbs, including Fairview Park, are also

involved in the process.

The study builds on the work of John D. Kasarda, a professor at the University of North Carolina’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. Kasarda, who has published more than 100 articles and nine books on airport cities, aviation infrastructure, economic development and competitiveness, is considered the leading developer of the aerotropolis concept.

According to Kasarda’s Web site — aerotropolis.com — an aerotropolis consists of “an airport city and outlying corridors and clusters of aviation-linked businesses and associated residential development.”

The growth of major airports and associated commercial businesses are making them powerful engines of local economic development, Kasarda argues.

“As more and more aviation-oriented businesses are being drawn to airport cities and along transportation corridors radiating from them, a new

See AEROTROPOLIS p. 15



Cleveland Hopkins Airport

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