

INSIDE:

North Olmsted hires new safety-service director

See page 13

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See page 1B

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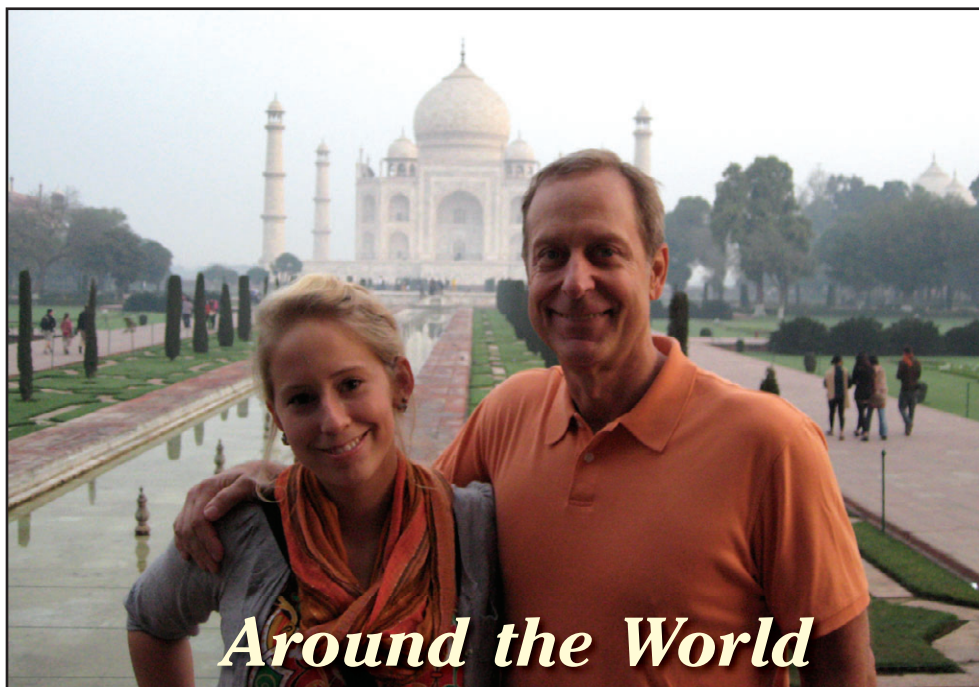


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Around the World



Magnificat senior and Rocky River resident Zoe Walters took a trip to India in February with her father, a urogynecologist at the Cleveland Clinic. Read more about their trip on 8B. Above: Mark and Zoe Walters in front of the Taj Mahal. Left: an example of the taxis Mark and Zoe used to travel. (Photos courtesy of Mark and Zoe Walters)

Pact freezes wages, gives back pay hikes

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

A new two-year contract with the North Olmsted teachers union which gives back a scheduled pay raise, freezes base pay and saves about \$2.1 million was approved at a special meeting Wednesday.

The move comes as district officials continue to campaign for a 7.9-mill levy on the May ballot which would raise about \$6.53 million annually. Officials say it would cost a homeowner \$241.94 annually per \$100,000 of home valuation.

District officials have said the levy is necessary because of declining revenues. The district will have to make cuts whether a levy passes or not, but have said passing a levy will make the cuts less severe.

Superintendent Cheryl Dubsy said the new contract will assist the district in dealing with the budget crunch.

"The North Olmsted Education Association has agreed to give back the negotiated salary increase (2.55 percent) for the 2010-2011 school year and

will continue to freeze their wages in 2011-12 if the levy passes," she said. "These concessions total \$2.1 million. With the additional budgetary cuts that will be made, we will be able to cut our expenses by \$4.5 million."

District administration officials have devised several different plans for cutting costs depending on if a levy passes and/or concessions are received from employees.

Rich Bauer, spokesman for the teachers union, said the group is aware of the financial problems facing the district. The union on March 22 approved giving back the negotiated salary increase.

"In light of the unprecedented financial crisis facing the district, the North Olmsted Education Association voted to give back the negotiated salary increase that was scheduled to go into effect for the 2010-11 school year," Bauer said in a statement.

"Currently in the second year of a three-year agreement, the NOEA approved a new, two-year contract that

See PACT, p. 18

Genealogist stumbles onto mystery at Fairview Cemetery

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Chris Gerrett, a genealogy researcher who has been conducting research on Fairview Park Cemetery, has come to a startling conclusion about the graveyard, located on Lorain Road near West 196th Street.

Part of it is missing.

Gerrett, a Fairview Park resident and cemetery restoration specialist, estimates she's spent about 2,000 hours researching the cemetery. During that research, she's come

across records of individuals buried in section I of the cemetery.

The problem is, none of the maps of the cemetery show section I.

About 45 persons were buried in section I between 1889 and 1905. The earliest map of the cemetery Gerrett has found is from 1916. The question is what happened to section I between 1905 and 1916.

Unlike other sections, which have several people with the same family name, section I includes a variety of names.

"There's quite a few children," Gerrett said of the section I records.

What happened to these people is a mystery, she said.

Several possible explanations exist for the missing section.

"My best guess is it's off the back," Gerrett said, referring to the southern-most section of the cemetery, which borders the Rocky River Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. More than a century ago, the back sections of cemeteries were reserved for indigents, she said.

Gerrett said another possibility

See CEMETERY, p. 18



Cemetery researcher Chris Gerrett has identified about 45 burials made in a section of Fairview Cemetery that cannot be found on any maps.

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