

INSIDE:

Airport noise study updated

See page 19

ON THE WEB:

June 23 online chat with St. John Medical Center

www.westlifeneews.com

SPORTS:

Zastudil, Dawson help a good cause

See page 1B

SUBSCRIBE to WEST LIFE!
(440) 871-5797



2010 WINNER OF TWELVE AWARDS FROM



West LIFE

June 16, 2010 - Vol. 70, No. 35

The Award-Winning Westshore Weekly 75¢

Serving Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls, Rocky River & Westlake since 1959

Finance director flies to Sunshine State job

By Kevin Kelley

WESTLAKE

Anne Fritz, the city's finance director since 2000, has taken a similar position with the city of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Fritz was one of three incumbent directors who had not been reappointed when Mayor Dennis Clough started his seventh term as mayor in January. Fritz was instead appointed acting director of the finance department by the mayor.

According to Ward 1 Councilman Ed Hack, Fritz had the support of Clough but not of council. The issue, Hack said, was Fritz's "management style."

See FRITZ, p. 16



Enjoying life's simple pleasures

Two-year-old Alex Malloy is full of wonder while enjoying the water playground at Crocker Park Saturday. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

Homecoming beer mulled

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

City officials are preparing to give Homecoming patrons another option for raising their glasses this year.

Mayor Kevin Kennedy introduced legislation at Tuesday's City Council meeting which would allow the sale of beer at the annual Homecoming festivities in City Park Aug. 26-29. If approved by Council, the North Olmsted Veterans of Foreign War post would sell the beer in 12-ounce plastic cups in a separate area cordoned off by a fence.

Kennedy, who as City Council president two years ago supported the sale of beer after a Labor Day parade which ended in the park, said he sees the proposed change in policy as good for the community and the annual festivities.

"It gives people a little more of a choice," Kennedy said. "If you do it responsibly, it can be a good thing for adults to have a choice like that available. There's nothing wrong with having a beer if you want."

See HOMECOMING, p. 16

Community Challenge honors David LaRue

By Danielle Toth

ROCKY RIVER

In 1992, David LaRue helped start the Basketball Challenge Cup, an annual staple in the Rocky River community. Now, 19 Basketball Challenge Cups later, Community Challenge honored LaRue, executive vice president and COO of Forest City Enterprises, with its 2010 Exemplar Award.

"David is a dedicated, passionate, successful leader in the community," said Community Challenge Board Chairman Ray Marvar. "I've known David for many years now in Rocky

River. He's a man of great character, but his great love and dedication to his family is what makes him who he is."

LaRue shared the story of the first Basketball Challenge Cup, a tradition that pits school officials against city representatives for a night of family fun and healthy competition.

"We thought it would be a great idea to have the Cleveland Browns come play at the cup, so we paid for 10 to come," he said. "There was so much excitement as kids and the community came to the high school that day. But we waited, and there were no Cleveland Browns. We waited 30 minutes, and the crowd began to get rest-

less. Finally, one by one, 45 minutes late, they showed up to our great relief, although only five showed up.

"Regardless, we put on a great show and laid the foundation for success in getting the community together. We want to help our youth make better decisions, and it gives us true motivation to get involved in the community."

LaRue attended the award reception with his wife, Cindy, and three of his four children, Anna, Andre and Paul. He also has a daughter, Tessa.

He continued his support of

See LARUE, p. 19

Judge upholds city in Westmoreland case

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City officials acted within their rights and did not violate the first amendment rights of a veteran firefighter when they sought to discipline him for speaking out at a City Council meeting, a federal judge ruled Friday.

"Upon review, the court agrees with defendant and concludes that certain statements made by the plaintiff during the City Council meeting were false statements made with a reckless or intentional disregard for the truth," Federal District Judge Patricia Gaughan said in her most recent ruling in Firefighter Ron Westmoreland's appeal. The firefighter had been suspended for

three shifts by Mayor Debbie Sutherland for remarks made at a September 2008 City Council meeting.

In November, Gaughan dismissed one count of Westmoreland's suit, which alleged the city hadn't followed proper procedure in disciplining Westmoreland. The discipline stemmed

See WESTMORELAND, p. 16