

# Library site plan approved

By Fran Suda  
Correspondent

**MAYFIELD** — The village Planning and Zoning Commission approved the final site plan for the new Mayfield branch of the Cuyahoga County Library on SOM Center Road.

That approval was granted Feb. 6, and a Village Council caucus reviewed its responsibilities for building an access road there. Both measures will come up for passage at council's next full meeting Feb. 21.

Village administrative di-

See **LIBRARY, A5**

## LIBRARY

From A1

rector Diane Wolgamuth said the library plan as approved contains no new major developments, just some tweaking on design elements such as the shingles.

The access road would allow access to Progressive Insurance-owned land behind the library in case the company decides to develop that land. Engineers say the 24-foot-wide asphalt access road will cost \$123,946, with contingency fees of \$32,550 in case soil borings show additional undercutting and backfill is necessary.

The road is part of the development agreement between the village and Pro-

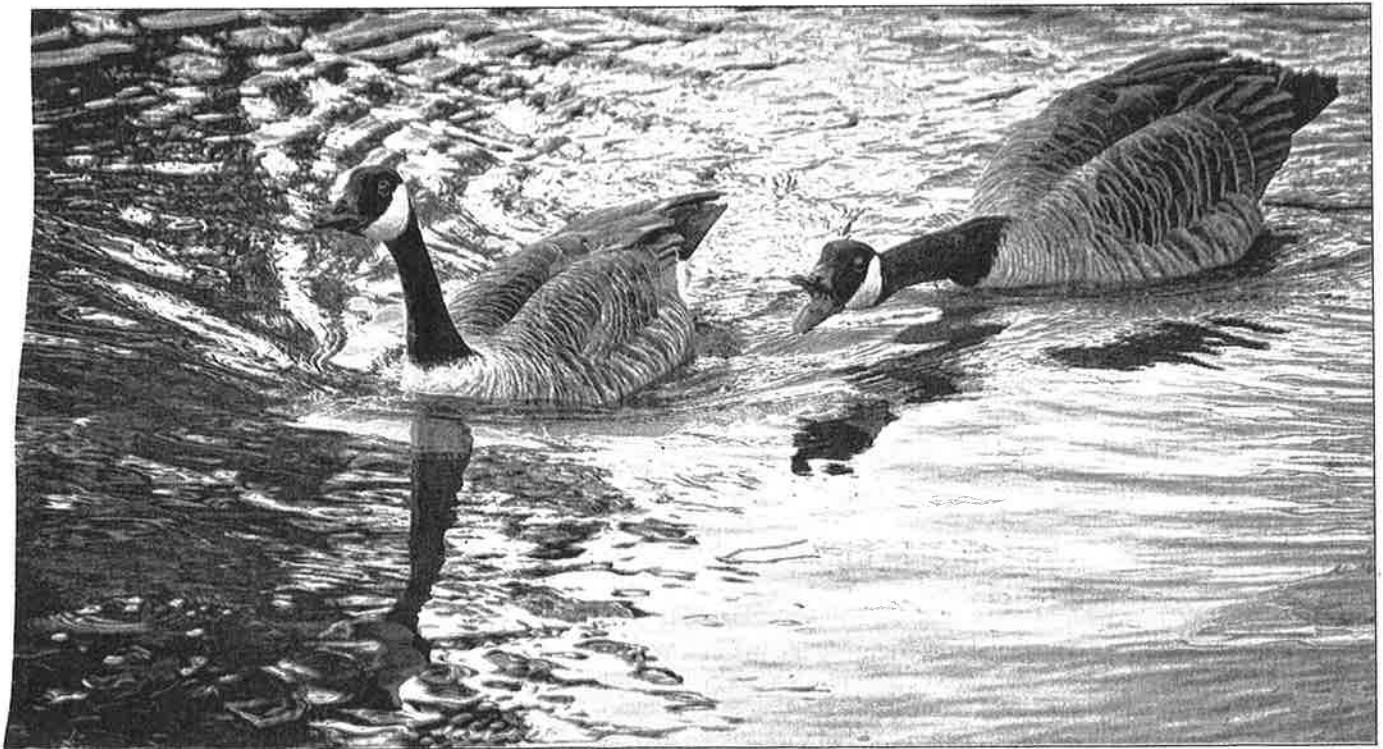
gressive signed in 2010.

A traffic light at the site would be needed only if Progressive develops the property. Both the road and the light would be covered by tax incremental financing, a taxing formula which gives the village bonus property taxes on the land as it is developed versus its original cost, according to Wolgamuth's memo to council.

As part of the purchase agreement with the library, the village will receive two properties at 6120 and 6128 Wilson Mills Road from the library. Wolgamuth's memo indicates these properties are valued at \$147,200 and \$136,400 and rent for \$900 and \$650 a month.

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## LOVE IS IN THE AIR (AND THE WATER)



JIM OLEXA/SUN NEWS

**A male duck is hoping for a little late winter romance with a female duck as they swim across the water in the North Chagrin Reservation in Mayfield Village on a recent afternoon. We hope this lovesick duck reminds all the men out there that Valentine's Day is only five days away.**

# Mayors, superintendent honor Groundhog Day

By Andrew Attina  
Correspondent

**MAYFIELD HTS.** — The Mayfield Alliance held its first Conversations & Cocktails event Feb. 2 in honor of Groundhog Day, featuring Mayfield Schools Superinten-

dent Dr. Phillip Price and the four mayors of the cities comprising the school district.

Price, acting as a moderator, held a discussion at the well-attended event at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven, in which he presented the mayors with

questions regarding their respective municipalities and the schools.

He asked the mayors to give a brief statement about their communities, to describe the biggest challenges they face

See **GROUNDHOG, A10**

## GROUNDHOG

From A1

and discuss future plans.

The questions were answered with candid and humorous responses in an open forum style.

Mayfield Heights Mayor Greg Costabile touched on developing a community gathering area in the city. Highland Heights Mayor Scott Coleman spoke of property the city recently purchased that city officials would like to use as a community gathering place.

Mayfield Village Mayor Bruce Rinker mentioned breaking ground this year on the new library. And Gates Mills Mayor Shawn Riley spoke about raising funds to build another dam on the Chagrin River, which broke in the village last year.

All mayors also touched on reductions in tax revenues and economic goals to keep pace with the current climate.

In a more light-hearted portion of the forum, each mayor was allowed to ask one of the other mayors a question of his own.

Coleman asked Costabile



ANDREW ATTINA/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

From left, Mayfield Alliance president Charles Klass; Mayfield Schools Superintendent Phillip Price; Mayfield Alliance member Marybeth Mack and mayors Greg Costabile of Mayfield Heights, Shawn Riley of Gates Mills, Scott Coleman of Highland Heights and Bruce Rinker of Mayfield Village pose following the Feb. 2 event.

what fictional character he would like to be. Coleman said he asked this because during last year's re-election campaign, he was described as a fictional Pinocchio, called the "truth fairy." Costabile, after a few moments of thought, decided Superman would be his choice, but without any harm from kryptonite.

Rinker asked Riley, who was elected mayor in Novem-

ber and took office just last month, what his greatest accomplishment as a mayor has been. Riley immediately joked he'd only been mayor for 30 days and that in itself should be an accomplishment.

After the question and answer session, Price was presented with the Beyond a Shadow of a Doubt Award by Mayfield Alliance president Charles Klass for his contri-

butions to the district.

The event, which replaced the similar Breakfast with the Groundhog program from previous years, concluded with the unveiling of the celebrity groundhog.

Marybeth Mack, a member of the Mayfield Alliance and community outreach coordinator for Hillcrest Hospital, received the honor. She predicted that spring has arrived.

# Wildcat Project receives approval from Mayfield

By Andrew Attina  
Correspondent

**MAYFIELD** — Village Council unanimously passed a resolution Feb. 6 approving the recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to allow an addition and renovations to the athletic area at Mayfield High School.

Council received a presentation from Jeff Henderson, a project architect of Then Design Architecture, whose firm is working with the Mayfield Schools on the Wildcat Project, a privately-funded project planned to improve many areas of the athletic grounds inside and outside the high school.

Henderson reviewed and explained the designs of which the Wildcat Foundation, the non-profit group raising the funds, has envisioned since setting up the foundation. Among the highlights TDA focused on were the new turf to be added to the football

field, replacement of the home bleachers and press box and a new track surface.

With Council's approval, the district and TDA have the go ahead to begin renovations at the school. Bids have been received as well by the district, which will manage any construction on the schools grounds. Treasurer Scott Snyder said the district will pay for renovations regarding

safety and structure, as well as infrastructure.

"Improvements such as the restroom facilities, the bleachers and lighting can be handled by the district but we are currently reviewing the bids with the foundation to see what they can afford to do at this point," said Snyder, who explained certain improvements cannot be made if

the foundation cannot provide for its part.

Snyder, who handles the finances for the foundation, said \$300,000 in cash and \$100,000 in pledges have been received and he has heard an additional \$200,000 through a variety of other commitments will be made available.

See more Mayfield Village news at [cleveland.com/hillcrest](http://cleveland.com/hillcrest).

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## Mayfield High show choir to perform at Cuyahoga Classic

The Mayfield High School Show Choir is among 14 schools taking part in the 14th annual Cuyahoga Classic Show Choir Invitational Competition, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 11 in the Cuyahoga Falls High School auditorium, 2300 4th Street.

The Strongsville Sensations Jazz Choir will make a special guest performance at 11:30 a.m., and the Cuyahoga Falls

M&M's exhibition performance is slated for 5:10 p.m. Awards from the Day Competition will be presented at 5:30 p.m. The top six schools will then compete for the Grand Champion Awards beginning at 7:30 p.m. and culminating with the awards presentation at 10:45 p.m.

Tim "Ripper" Owens from Judas Priest will be one of the judges, along with Scott Po-

sey, Kim Sulek, Jennifer Culver and Ron Hazelett.

Admission is \$15 for an all-day pass, or \$10 for either the Day Competition or Evening Finals. Parking is free. Refreshments will be sold in the

cafeteria, and souvenirs and videos of the performances will be available for purchase.

Call Sherri Berdine, co-chair of the Cuyahoga Falls Choral Music Association, at (330) 045-6906.

# APPROVAL

From A1

## Approval of graphics for sign not done deal

By Andrew Attina  
Correspondent

**MAYFIELD HTS.** — LED graphics have not yet been approved for a proposed sign in front of Mayfield Middle School.

A resolution was approved by Mayfield Heights City

See **APPROVAL, A9**

Council Jan. 23 granting the Mayfield Board of Education a variance to include the graphics within a proposed sign in front of the SOM Center Road school.

However, Law Director Leonard Carr said the resolution technically is not approved and will go back before council Feb. 13.

Only six members of council were present Jan. 23, as Councilman Nino Monaco was absent from the meeting. The vote resulted in a 3-3 split and, although the variance was granted, Carr said any split vote simply means nothing happens and no resolution is approved.

The variance was granted at the time because according to the codified ordinances, five of seven votes by council are required to overturn any recommendation by the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. However, Carr said according to the same ordinance, no decision may become effective or final until council has taken action by resolution.

"It's really an anomaly and it is confusing," Carr said, attempting to explain the contradiction in the ordinance. "It's convoluted and needs to be corrected. It's not the fault of anybody."

Carr said he sent an email explaining this to council members Jan. 24. He said he then spoke with Mayfield Superintendent Dr. Phillip Price and the district's lawyer. He said the lawyer agreed with him.

This was the second time the decision to grant the variance came to vote. Council President Anthony DiCicco said it had previously been returned to the BZA for some specific guideline adjustments, such as the graphics, to be worked out.

John Folkman, the district's business services director, said the sign will include green LED letters with a white background. It will only run three sentences per minute and be turned off by 9 p.m. each night.

Councilwoman Donna Fin-

ney wanted the resolution to be tabled Jan. 23 and sent back to the BZA, because she said residents had contacted her expressing concern the lights from the sign may flash in their windows.

"I've always been a supporter of the schools," said Finney, a former Mayfield school board member. "I just didn't see the need for it and I'm worried it may set a precedent in the city that will truly affect residents who live near these types of signs."

Councilwoman Diane Snider agreed, stating she had spoken to residents who were not in favor of the sign. She added it will be a distraction to motorists, who may slow down or even stop to read the information on the sign.

"This wasn't personal, as I have children in the school district and am very involved in the schools. But I have to honor the requests of the residents and I feel the school just didn't need it," Snider said.

Councilman Joe Mercurio, who serves as the council representative on the BZA, said he felt the sign was tasteful.

Folkman, though admittedly still unclear on the circumstances of the resolution, was still optimistic and excited about the sign.

"It's going to be a beautiful monument sign with stone planters and movable LED graphics," he said.

The district is also placing a new sign with a very similar design in front of the high school on Wilson Mills Road in Mayfield Village. In that case, Mayfield Village had similar specific ordinances prohibiting movable graphics. The variance for that sign, though, has already been passed by Mayfield Village Council.

Folkman said the signs will likely rise in the spring. He said construction could begin now, but it would cost more because the area would have to be tented off due to the low air temperatures.

Carr and Price said they expect the variance to be reconfirmed by council Feb. 13 and for it to be granted.

Staff writer Faith Boone contributed to this story.

See more Mayfield Heights news at [cleveland.com/hillcrest](http://cleveland.com/hillcrest).

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Police Blotter

### MAYFIELD VILLAGE

**FRAUD, ECHO DRIVE:** A woman reported Jan. 31 her computer was hacked and all her contacts received an email asking for money for her because she was stranded outside the country. The woman was told to copy the police department on the emails and they would upload the information into a scam website.

**TRAFFIC STOP, INTERSTATE 271:** An East Cleveland woman, 33, was arrested for driving under suspension and no operating license when her car was stopped Jan. 31. The woman also had warrants out for arrest by Euclid and Shaker Heights police, in which holders were placed.

**IMPAIRED DRIVING, WILSON MILLS ROAD:** A Kirtland woman, 36, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol Feb. 3. She said she was returning home from a Cleveland bar and had only had one drink.

**FRAUD, JOYCE ROAD:** A man said Feb. 4 his debit card had been compromised and this was the second time it happened in the last few months.

**IMPAIRED DRIVING, RIDGEBURY VOULEVARD:** A man reported at 2:16 a.m. Feb. 5 a vehicle just drove up on his lawn and damaged his property. Officers located the vehicle and arrested the driver, a Mayfield Village man, 23, for driving under the influence.

See more Mayfield Village news at [cleveland.com/hillcrest](http://cleveland.com/hillcrest).

## MESSEN' AROUND

# Child rearing 101

When my children were born, the staff at Hillcrest Hospital did an outstanding job of caring for their needs. However, with both children, the hospital staff made a vital mistake when they sent us home. They forgot to give us the child-raising handbook that I was certain came complimentary with the birth of all children.

As it is with most children through the years, mine, ages 8 and 11, have presented dilemmas where the troubleshooting section of the children's owner manual would have greatly benefited. But as we all know, there is no such instrument to turn to when a parent requires a solution to an issue involving children.

Now, for advice, we could turn to our parents, doctors and friends who have already raised children, but not one child and their mannerisms are the exact same. So, often we are instead left to figure out a solution on our own based on what we feel is our best judgment regarding the circumstances.

The issues that require



Andrew  
Attina

some guidance are not limited only to misbehaviors, although many often are. There are often times when we as parents are left asking ourselves how to handle this

situation as the child's parent.

Each parent tries tirelessly to instill a rough set of moral values as they raise their children. In my situation, it's the obvious values that most of us would also like to see the children grow up with. To obtain the ultimate goal of successfully raising a child into an adult, many small traits have to be taught to achieve the ultimate goal.

Not claiming by any means to be an expert on raising children (and yes, I hear the teenage years are far more challenging), I know some of the simple traits I'd like to teach my children and do my best to teach those.

Among them, and one of the more recent issues, is the obvious quality of respect. The need to respect your parents, friends and other human be

See **MESSEN, B4**

## MESSEN

From B3

ings should be obvious but to my kids, at times, they seem to have a blatant disregard all together for human life. I cannot tell you how many times they simply walk right through people at the grocery store or simply forget to say please or thank you when it's applicable.

The school they attend is also very conscious of teaching the need for respect. Its three ground rules are to respect yourself, others and school property. The staff at the school obviously feels the need for respect is also an important trait in child rearing.

Dick Blake is a man with whom many are familiar. For years he has made a career out of teaching both children and adults proper etiquette to achieve success both personally and professionally.

The Mayfield Village Rec-

reation Department has utilized Blake's talents for years by offering his programs to the public.

The next course available will deal with parent and child etiquette and will be instructed by his wife Lorraine, a retired elementary school teacher.

Focus will be on teaching children social skills and table manners that will teach them how to act like young ladies and gentleman. A good amount of respect, I would imagine, will be learned through this lesson.

Parents who may find themselves in the same dilemma as I described for myself, may learn a few tips as well.

The class will be held from 5:15-6:00 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26 at the Mayfield Village Civic Center, 6622 Wilson Mills Road.

It is available to children in grades 1-4. The cost is \$45 for both the parent and child to-

gether. Additional children are \$35 each. The deadline to register is Feb. 15.

Contact (440) 461-5163.

### LOOKING TO BE CERTIFIED:

Residents of Mayfield Village, Mayfield Heights and Highland Heights are encouraged to join the Tri-Community Emergency Response Team.

Free training for the team, which could assist police and fire in the event of an emergency, begins with the first of nine modules Feb. 16 designed by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

The Tri-Community CERT was established in 2009 and has 33 members, but is looking to add more. The skills learned will not only be useful in the event the team is deployed, but will also help one better handle situations that could impact their families.

Contact (440)442-2323, ext. 221.

## THURSDAY

**Mayfield Village-Human Services Department**, Mayfield Village Community Room, 6621 Wilson Mills Road. Card games, 50 cents. 1-4 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. (440) 919-2332.

**ALSO:** A special exhibit of watercolor paintings is on display through Feb. 24. The exhibit can be seen Mondays

through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library**, 4645 Mayfield Road, South Euclid. Family Storytime, 6, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. (216) 382-4880.

**Community Partnership on Aging**, South Euclid Community Center (SE), 1370 Victory Drive, or DeJohn Community Center (MH), 6306 Marsol Drive, Mayfield Heights. Arthritis exercise (\$3)(MH), 9:30 a.m.; open studio (SE), 10 a.m.; senior exercise (\$2) (SE), 10:30 a.m.; library (SE), 11 a.m.; creative paper recycling, 1 p.m.

**Business Alliance Chapter - Business Network International**, Mayfield Village Civic Center, 6622 Wilson Mills Road. Meeting time Thursdays is 7:30 a.m. Bring business cards. (440) 442-8030.

# CALENDAR

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## FRIDAY

**Community Partnership on Aging**, Highland Heights Community Center (HH), 5827 Highland Road, or DeJohn Community Center, 6306 Marsol Road, Mayfield Heights. Foot Clinic appointments (\$20), 9 a.m.; arthritis exercise (\$2) (HH), 9:30 a.m.; woodcarving (HH), 9:30 a.m.; intermediate line dancing (fee) (MH), 9:30 a.m.; Wii bowling league (HH), 9:45 a.m.; Nimble Needlers (MH), 10 a.m.; Zumba Gold (HH), 10:30 a.m.; advanced fitness (MH), 10:45 a.m.; blood-pressure testing, 11:30 a.m.; gentle yoga (fee) (MH), noon; cards (HH), 12:30 p.m.; Wii bowling league (HH), 12:30 p.m.

**East Shore United Methodist Church**, 23002 Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid. Community/Family Valentine Concert and Dance, 7:30-10 p.m. (216) 261-1688.

## MONDAY

**Mayfield Village-Human Services Department**, Mayfield Village Community Room, 6621 Wilson Mills Road. Seniorize/Chair exercise for adults of all ages who want to increase heart rate and help tone and strengthen muscles. Participants may attend classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays, 9-9:45 a.m. The fee for three classes per week is \$49; for two classes per week is \$39. Drop-in rate is \$4 per class. (440) 919-2332.

**ALSO:** Games, including mah jong, Scrabble and jigsaw puzzles, 1-4 p.m.

**Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church** 5312 Mayfield Road. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is accepting new members. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

**Rotary Club of Hillcrest Sunrise** meets at 7 a.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, 700 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village.

**Rotary Club of Hillcrest** meets at Hilton Garden Inn, 700 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village. Meeting at noon every Monday. (440) 386-8208.

**Community Partnership on Aging**, Lyndhurst Community Center, 1341 Parkview Drive. Mah Jong, 9 a.m.; tai chi (fee), 10:30 a.m.; library, 11 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; qi gong for balance (fee), 1 p.m.

**Nicotine Anonymous** South Euclid United Methodist Church, 1534 South Green Road, Room 18, South Euclid, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (216) 382-5769.

## TUESDAY

**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library**, 4645 Mayfield Road, South Euclid. Magician and illusionist Rick Smith performs at 7 p.m. Registration requested.

**Community Partnership on Aging** Lyndhurst Community Center 1341 Parkview Drive. Arthritis exercise (\$2), 10:30 a.m.; library, 11 a.m.; pinochle and Scrabble, 12:30 p.m. (216) 650-4029.

**Mayfield Village-Human Services Department**, Mayfield Village Community Room, 6621 Wilson Mills Road. Card games, 50 cents. 1-4 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. (440) 919-2332. **ALSO:** Watercolor classes, 9 a.m. to noon. The fee for the four-week series is \$35, plus a \$5 non-resident fee (if applicable) and a \$3 material fee.

**Park Synagogue Sisterhood** meets at Park Synagogue East, 27500 Shaker Blvd., Pepper Pike. Call for lunch reservations: (440) 442-5378. (440) 442-5378.

## WEDNESDAY

**Mayfield Village-Human Services Department**, Mayfield Village Community Room, 6621 Wilson Mills Road. Tai Chi Fan for Health and Balance, 1-2 p.m. Students may also drop in at any time at a cost of \$8 per session. (440) 919-2332.

**ALSO:** Active Game Day for senior adults, 2:30-4 p.m. No charge.

**ALSO:** A new six-week session of Tai Chi Fan for Health and Balance, 1-2 p.m.

**Gates Mills Library**, 1491 Chagrin River Road. Family Storytime, 10 a.m. This is a program of rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories for children not yet in kindergarten. (440) 423-4808.

**Hillcrest Community Church**, 5631 Ridgebury Blvd., Highland Heights. Bible study, 7 p.m. (440) 442-6230.

**Business Network International**, Mayfield Village Community Room, 6622 Wilson Mills Road. Meeting at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday. RSVP: (440)