

Emergency coordination

# County halts plans to build \$21M operations center

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Cuyahoga County will no longer build an Emergency Operations Center because officials have concluded the project is too expensive.

Rather than invest at least \$21 million in a state-of-the-art center in Broadview Heights, the county expects to spend about \$3.5 million to upgrade and enhance its current emergency operations and dispatch, County Executive Armond Bud-

ish said in an interview.

"We are going to make sure we operationally can accomplish the same thing, but find a different way to do it," Budish said.

The emergency dispatch center, which is in the Sterling Building, will be relocated and

upgraded to one of the county's regional dispatch centers at a cost of about \$3.1 million, Budish said. That would be completed in time for the Republican National Convention in 2016.

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## CENTER

FROM A1

The county has spent \$1.6 million on consultant contracts and site work for the Broadview Heights project. It will spend \$500,000 to restore the five-acre site behind the city's police department. The city may choose to keep some utility and electrical upgrades.

The project began three years ago, when the administration of then-County Executive Ed Fitzgerald decided to consolidate dispatch, communications, training and administration to handle weather and other emergencies.

Originally estimated at \$18 million, the center's cost ballooned to \$23.5 million once a design/build team took over. That estimate was pared to \$21 million.

Ground was broken in April, but little has been done in recent weeks as the County Council and county officials discussed whether the project was feasible.

County Council member Mi-

chael Gallagher, who chairs the public safety and justice affairs committee, said Friday that council members realized at a committee meeting last month that the project had major issues.

"I think collectively we all just looked at each other and said there are just way too many problems with this," Gallagher said. "We were somewhat comfortable with \$21.5 million and the administration was hooked into the \$18 million, and I don't blame them."

He said the uncertainty over the cost and whether they could consolidate and enhance emergency operations without a new building led to a meeting with county officials this week.

He said Budish agreed the project may not be feasible.

"It was something that would have been an incredible mistake to move forward until we were all on the same page and we weren't," Gallagher said.

Budish said he could not say if the project was ill-advised.

"I was not here," he said. "I inherited it thinking it would cost \$18 million."

Gallagher said the council and the county will likely discuss options in July.

Budish said his current proposal is to keep the emergency management administrative offices in the Courthouse Square building on Lakeside Avenue.

The county would spend about \$500,000 to expand its backup Emergency Operations Center in the Juvenile Justice Center. The county also has two emergency operations mobile units.

The county sold \$15 million in bonds and earmarked \$3 million from fees collected on cellphone bills to cover the cost of the new operations center in Broadview Heights.

It will continue to use the fees from cellphone bills to fund the proposed upgrades. The bond funds can be diverted to another project, Budish said.

The county recently diverted about \$14.7 million from \$18.7 million borrowed to build a new data center for a demolition program. The data center will be located in a state building in Columbus.

## Getting behind the Cavs

# At Progressive, sprinkles become a rallying cry

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PD 6/10/15

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS — Progressive Insurance is celebrating the Cleveland Cavaliers' unprecedented performance in the NBA Finals with Flo's irreverent tagline: "Sprinkles are for winners."

Progressive slapped the popular slogan on a white ice cream truck filled with Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream, T-shirts and commemorative wine-and-gold sprinkles and treated more than 9,000 of its Northeast Ohio employees to free ice cream on Tuesday afternoon to celebrate the Cavs' return to Cleveland in the playoff series.

The company also brought local food trucks to campus, set up basketball hoops and invited employees to answer LeBron James' request to "Get Loud" in support of the Cavs' home court advantage at The Q on Tuesday night. Thousands of employees were more than happy to oblige, screaming, "Progressive! Let's Go Cavs!"

The company even flew a drone over the crowds to record some of the festivities, including a hoops contest with cash prizes held near the parking lot.

"Sprinkles are for winners" has become more wildly popular than anyone could have imagined since the commercial was launched during the Ohio State-Oregon championship football

game on Jan. 13, says Jeff Charney, Progressive's chief marketing officer.

He said that when improv actress and comedian Stephanie Courtney, who portrays Flo, ad-libbed the line when she was supposed to be consoling a deflated Progressive salesperson, he didn't know if audiences would find it too mean-spirited. He was wrong.

"Just hashtag it, Google it — it's everywhere," Charney said. "Everybody's identifying with it. You can't go wrong with sprinkles."

The Newsome High School Wolves softball team near Tampa, Florida, adopted "Sprinkles are for winners" as their motto and rallying cry. The players would chant it while their coach doused them with sprinkles. Newsome defeated rival Hagerty High School and went on to beat Miami Coral Reef to become state champions for the first time in school history, the school's first team title in any sport.

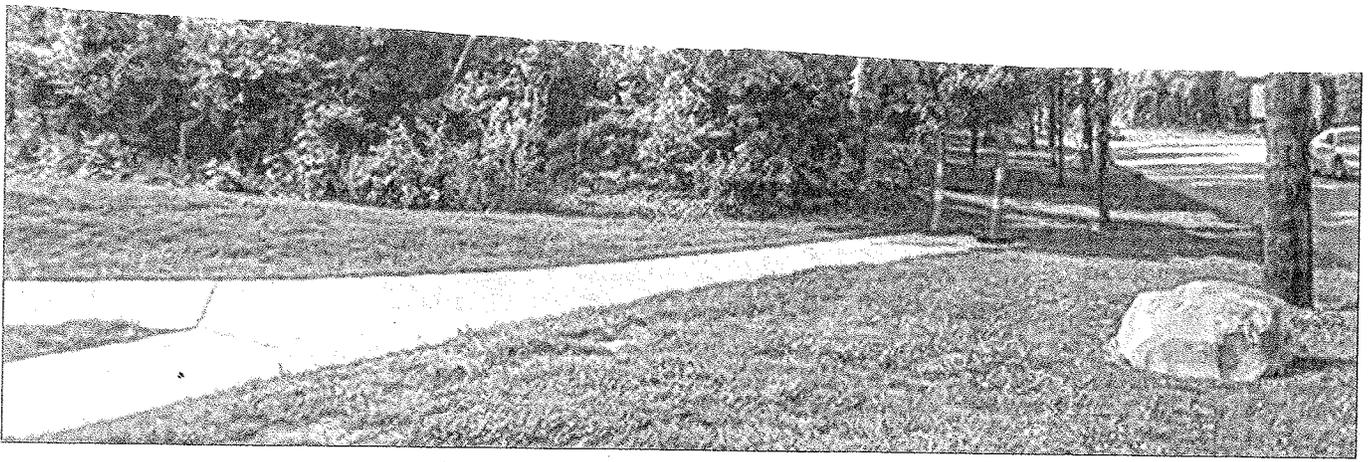
After the game, the players overturned a Thermos of sprinkles over their coach's head, according to a story in USA Today.

Courtney last month was invited to speak at the SUNY Binghamton University commencement, her alma mater.

And fans of all stripes have used her mantra to cheer on their teams and poke fun at their opponents.



Progressive rented an ice cream truck, filled it with Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream and wine-and-gold sprinkles, and invited 9,000 of its Northeast Ohio employees to celebrate the Cleveland Cavaliers. The orange signs on the truck say: "Sprinkles are for winners," a line made famous by Progressive's pitchwoman, Flo.



JEFF PIORKOWSKI | SPÉCIAL TO SUN NEWS

The sidewalk on the west side of SOM Center Road would extend beyond the orange cones seen in this photo. To the left, and not pictured, is the beginning of the Mayfield Village Greenway Trail, just north of the fire station.

# Village plans to extend sidewalk on west side of SOM Center Road

SUN 6/11/15

JEFF PIORKOWSKI  
*Special to Sun News*

Village council will vote at its next meeting on legislation that would approve \$294,000 for an extension of the sidewalk along the west side of SOM Center Road.

The extension plan, discussed June 1 at the Safety & Service and Finance Caucus committee meetings, would see the addition of 2,200 feet of sidewalk. The new portion of sidewalk would

begin where the Greenway Trail begins, just north of the village fire station, and extend to Beta Drive.

Village Engineer Tom Cappello, of Stephen Hovancsek & Associates, said the concrete extension would measure the standard sidewalk width of 5 feet in width.

"If it gets approval at the next council meeting [June 15], we can get started on it this summer," Cappello said.

The extension will gently wind as it passes in front of several private properties and Fisher's Tavern, 718 SOM Center Road. It will include three brick-paved seating areas just north of where Thornapple Drive is located, on the opposite side of SOM Center

Road.

Eventually, the village plans to extend the sidewalk on SOM Center Road from Beta Drive north to White Road.

The sidewalk extension will run almost parallel to the Greenway Trail, which was completed last November. That 10-foot-wide asphalt all-purpose trail connects to several destinations, including the Metroparks' North Chagrin Reservation, Beta Business Park, the Progressive Insurance campus, Cuyahoga County Library's Mayfield Branch and Wiley Park.

"Mayfield Village strives to be a walkable community," Mayor Bruce Rinker stated in an email. "With the completion of the Greenway Trail, we were able to

provide easy walking and biking access from the center of town at Wilson Mills and SOM Center roads to the Mayfield Branch library and the village's recreational areas, including Parkview Pool, The Grove Amphitheater, our ball fields and, ultimately, the North Chagrin Reservation of the Metroparks.

"The sidewalk proposed along the west side of SOM Center Road only enhances the connectivity of the village and allows our residents to enjoy the outdoors while safely traversing to all these destinations."

The lowest and best bid of three submitted came from Perk Co. Inc. The engineer's estimate for the job was \$270,000, about \$24,000 lower than the actual best bid amount.

At the June 1 meetings, committee members noted that while the job will cost more than expected, bids for other work that were discussed that night came in lower than expected.

The village also took bids in recent days for the demolition of the former Ohio Department of Transportation garage at 734 SOM Center Road, and the expansion of the Palermo Pond water retention area.

Bids for the demolition were expected to come in at about \$75,000, with the actual low bid being \$58,910. The Palermo Pond expansion bid was projected at \$150,000, and actually came in at \$126,385.

SAN 6/11/15

## Mayfield Village

**Harassing communication, Beta Drive:** An employee of a business said May 26 she received a disturbing voicemail from a male caller who rambled on about nonsense. She said he stated if he asked 10 rich people for \$10,000 each he would have a \$1 million and could live on an island with rich people. She believed he also mentioned something about a knife. She said the voicemail cut him off, but he called again and continued leaving the message and also mentioned her name. Officers said the phone number returned to a Euclid address and believed the call was some kind of prank.

**Disturbance, North Commons Boulevard:** An employee of an assisted-living facility reported May 26 that an irate ex-employee was in their lobby and the staff wanted her removed. Responding officers spoke with suspect and told her she was not wanted on the property and she would be arrested if she returned. A family member arrived to give her a ride home.

**Public indecency, Wilson Mills Road:** Officers responded to a trail behind Center Elementary School on May 27 for a report of a disabled adult that urinated on a tree in front of students. They learned there was a group of disabled adults on the trail from Koinonia Career Center. A staff member was told to have more supervision or not walk toward the school.

**Impaired driving, Wilson Mills Road:** A Cleveland woman, 42, was arrested for operating a vehicle while impaired on May 27 after officers pulled her over when they learned she was driving with an expired license.

Police Blotter

### **Disturbance, Wilson Mills Road:**

Officers responded to the lobby at Wildcat Sport & Fitness on May 28 after a male tried to sneak inside without a membership and then began arguing with the staff. The suspect was told not to return until he gets his membership card or he could be arrested.

**Theft, SOM Center Road:** A CVS manager said May 30 that surveillance video was reviewed from the previous week and three boys were seen opening cans of drinks and bags of chips and consuming them while in the store. They were also seen returning the empty cans and bags to store shelves when they were finished. The incident occurred on two separate days.

**Suspicion, Meadowood Drive:** A resident said May 31 he received a phone call from someone claiming to be from CVS and stating his prescription was ready. He said he went to the store the next morning, but was told nobody called him and the prescription was not ready. The man believed it was possible the computers at CVS had been hacked and someone received his information.

**Fraud, SOM Center Road:** A woman reported on June 2 that she was informed by her bank that someone made a fraudulent \$10,000 purchase at Jared Jewelers using her credit card account. The incident is under investigation.

**BOUQUETS:** To Skoda Minotti Chairman Gregory J. Skoda, on being named one of Smart Business magazine's 2015 Northeast Ohio Smart 50 award winners.

The Smart 50 Award honors Northeast Ohio's top business executives who are leading the region's smartest companies for their ability to effectively build and lead successful organizations, Skoda Minotti stated in a news release. This is the second straight year that Skoda, who's also a certified public accountant, has been recognized with the Smart 50 award. He is the only executive from a locally owned CPA and business advisory firm, the news release stated.

Skoda co-founded and built the 250-employee professional services firm from a small tax and accounting business in 2001 to a full-service business and financial advisory firm. Today, the Mayfield Village-based company not only provides CPA services, but also wealth and financial services, professional staffing, risk advisory, strategic marketing, technology solutions, and valuation and litigation advisory services.

We believe Skoda's recognition is well deserved.