

MAYFIELD

Disturbance Seneca Road

Officers responded around 3 a.m. Jan. 18 to a report of a disturbance at a home and learned that a woman was drunk and arguing with family members. The family agreed to allow the woman to go to sleep for the night, but police returned around 4:15 a.m. when the woman's sister reported that she was arguing and had caused minor injuries to family members. The woman was arrested for domestic violence and taken to the hospital after making statements about harming herself.

Property damage SOM Center Road

A vehicle struck the Pizzazz Pizzeria building Jan. 20 and the driver was subsequently located in the Heinen's parking lot. The driver, a 35-year-old woman, said she was not aware that she had hit the building.

Employees said they heard the building being struck from inside and said there was damage to the siding. Police and fire investigated and found only minor scrapes to the siding. A private property accident report was filed.

Suspicious activity Glenview Road

On behalf of a non-English-speaking resident, a woman reported Jan. 19 that the resident had two unknown people with shovels pounding on her door and demanding to be paid for shoveling her driveway.

Officers spoke to one of the suspects, a 17-year-old boy, who said he had spoken with the woman before shoveling and believed she had told him it was OK for them to shovel her driveway. The boy was sent on his way and told to make sure he gets residents to agree to payment before shoveling.

Welfare check Beta Drive

The staff at the Holiday Inn reported Jan. 15 that a woman in the lobby appeared to be drunk and unaware of her surroundings. A squad was requested for the woman, 38, after she said she was confused and was possibly having a bad reaction to medication. She was subsequently taken to Hillcrest Hospital for treatment.

Police Better

Saw 1/30/2020

MAYFIELD

Mayor gives options for Civic Center plan

Jeff Piorkowski *Special to Sun News*

Mayor Brenda Bodnar says 2020 will be filled with important business, including planning improvements to the village's Civic Center, reviewing its charter and continuing on with master plan upgrades.

The most visible of the three projects will be the work at the Civic Center, 6622 Wilson Mills Road, which, Bodnar said, could take one of a few different forms.

"We're looking at three different options," Bodnar said. "The first is basic ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, with an elevator and bathrooms (added).

"The second is a middle ground, with ADA compliance on the older section (the building includes two later additions), and we'd redo the front (west) part of the building and make a room that can be used for rental parties and other occasions, and make the front part a little bit bigger.

"The third option is to tear it down and rebuild the building. A couple members of council have asked the architect to take a look at that (rebuild) option."

Bodnar said she has been told that the oldest part of the building is about 100 years old. The building originally was constructed as a church. The oldest part includes the Reserve Hall, which the village converted into a theater in 2007. The hall once served as the church's sanctuary.

The village bought the building in 1999 and moved its operations there in 2005.

Bodnar said discussions on which option council may decide to take with the building are expected to begin sometime in February. "We have to get more information from the architect (Nancy Nozik of Brandstetter, Carroll Inc.) before we make a decision," she said.

The newest portion of the building is on its west side. It includes an entrance off the building's parking lot and the council chambers/meeting room.

"That's the part we would tear down and expand," Bodnar said, referring to the second option.

Bodnar said that if the option to raze and rebuild is chosen, the new building would be 7,600 square feet smaller than the current structure.

As for cost, the first option of making the building ADA compliant and replacing the HVAC system would total about \$2.5 million. The second option is currently estimated at \$5 million, while the raze-and-rebuild option is



Civic Center

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estimated at \$8 million to \$9 million.

Bodnar said the estimates, at this time, are preliminary, as further information from the architect is awaited.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The village names a Charter Review Commission every five years to look over and revise the charter. A Charter Review Commission has been named for 2020. Bodnar and each of the seven members of City Council selected a commission member.

Serving on the commission this year are residents Dona Kless, Diane Stricker, Lorry Nadeau, Mark Granakis, Larry Harrison, Paul Fikaris, Jim Thomas and Alexandra Jeanblanc. The commission, when it begins meeting next month, will choose its chairperson.

Also, serving as the village's volunteer Citizens Advisory Committee this year are Sandy Batcheller, Sara Calo, Mary Singer, Kay Phillips, Bob Haycox, Rosemarie Fabrizio, Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein, Loretta Williams, Joanna McNally, Lorry Nadeau, Mary Salomon, Katie Parker, Jim Thomas and Mark Granakis.

Bodnar said that the master plan committee began work in 2018 and will continue its work in 2020.

NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilman-at-large Stephen Schutt

was unanimously chosen by his council colleagues Jan. 6 at the council caucus meeting to serve as council president.

Schutt, 45, is in his third year as a councilman.

"I'm going to work to keep Mayfield Village moving forward and make sure we're fiscally responsible, as we have been in the past," Schutt said of his new duties.

Councilman-at-large Allen Meyers was elected pro-tem.

Also at the Jan. 6 meeting, new council members Jennifer Jurcisek and Dennis Murphy took the oath of office, as did returning Councilman Bill Marquardt. Bodnar was also sworn into her second term of office by Mayfield resident and Cuyahoga County Probate Court Judge Anthony T. Russo.

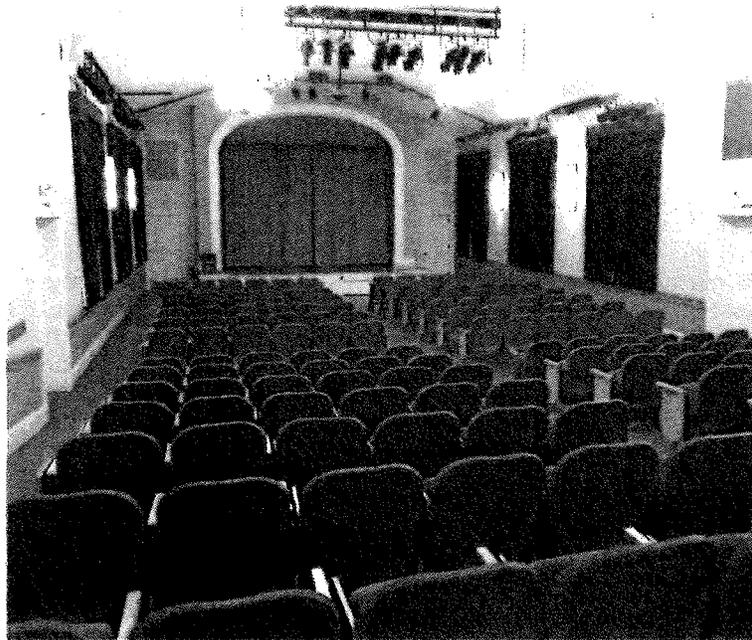
CONCERTS AT CIVIC CENTER

For the first time, the village's recreation department will hold concerts at Reserve Hall in the Civic Center.

The concerts include performances by the Chardon Polka Band at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13; Kevin Sutton, performing folk, Irish music and more, at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20; and Justo Saborit, performing Latin jazz at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27.

In addition, musicians from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform at 6:30 p.m. March 5.

Seating is limited for the free Winter Break Concert Series shows, and there is no reserve seating. For more information, call 440-471-1041.



Reserve Hall inside Mayfield's Civic Center was converted to a theater in 2007. Jeff Plorkowski, Special to Sun News

City seeks grant to create trail on Gates Mills

Jeff Piorkowski *Special to Sun News*

City Council approved legislation Monday that will have the city seek a grant from the state that would lead to the formation of a trail on Gates Mills Boulevard. It is hoped that the trail will be the start of a system that will not only connect the entire city, but also connect with other communities' paths.

If money is granted, the grassy, 130-foot wide median on the city's 3,900-foot portion of Gates Mills Boulevard would come to include a 10-foot-wide walking/jogging/bicycle path. This trail would be the first leg of what is called the Gates Mills Boulevard Connector Project, and would extend from Cedar Road north, to the circle at S.O.M. Center Road.

"We're short on recreational areas now and, just by doing this, it's going to give the city 10 acres (of new recreational space)," said Mayor Anthony DiCicco. "It would connect to Pepper Pike's trail (a bike trail on the Gates Mills Boulevard roadway), and we hope to eventually connect it with Mayfield Village's trail (the Bruce G. Rinker Greenway that runs along the west side of S.O.M. Center Road), which leads to the Metroparks (east of S.O.M. Center Road in Mayfield Village)"

DiCicco said that the Pepper Pike trail connects to Beachwood, which connects with cycling trails in Shaker Heights and then Cleveland Heights.

"It's (the Mayfield Heights proposed trail) a regional piece, also," DiCicco said. "Besides providing a whole new park for the city, we're connecting a big region."

Mayfield Heights conducted a survey regarding the trail and found support for it, especially among families. Initial inter-

est led to the city pursuing a county grant, which has yet to be decided, to make an underpass improvement on Marsol Road to make way for a trail connection, and a NOACA grant for intersection enhancements to provide for safe pedestrian crossings at six locations, including Ridgebury Boulevard and Lander Road; S.O.M. Center and Mayfield roads; and Mayfield Road, Commonwealth Avenue and Chelmsford Road.

"That is actually the first phase of the project," DiCicco said of the addition of traffic signals to make way for the trail. In future anticipated phases, per residents' requests, Mayfield Heights would have trails throughout, connecting pedestrians and cyclists to main streets such as Lander Road, Ridgebury Boulevard, S.O.M. Center Road, Mayfield Road, and City Park, off Chelmsford Road.

Council passed Monday legislation to seek a Clean Ohio Trails Fund Program Grant from the Department of Natural Resources. The Gates Mills Boulevard Connector Project has a total estimated cost of \$795,000. Mayfield Heights is seeking almost \$500,000 of that total through the grant, with additional money to come from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. DiCicco said that the city would pay \$95,000, with the remaining \$75,000 coming in the form of in-kind services as provided by city's service department employees.

The Gates Mills Boulevard trail would take about one construction season to complete. It would not, at least initially, include lighting or fencing.

SEE TRAIL, A7

"We're short on recreational areas now and, just by doing this, it's going to give the city 10 acres (of new recreational space)."

Mayor Anthony DiCicco.

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Trail

FROM A1

The trail surface would be made of an, as yet undetermined, permeable material.

Mayfield Heights should know by late fall or early winter this year if it is to receive the grant, meaning that construction could start and be completed by fall 2021.

DiCicco said that many residents would like to see the city add a dog park. While a dog park is not part of the initial plan for the Gates Mills Boulevard median, he said that one could be added there in the future.

"We've got to see if (a dog park is) a good fit," DiCicco said. "Eventually (a dog park) is going to be somewhere, we're not just sure where."

"We're excited because it will make another park," said Recreation Director Sean Ward of the Gates Mills Boulevard project. "It's a piece of property that we already maintain right now, that no one ever gets any benefit from. It will be exciting to have trails and other amenities for our residents to enjoy."

Speaking about the project's benefits, DiCicco said, "It opens up the whole city to pedestrian and biking traffic. So anyone who is living on any of the streets off of Mayfield Road, or S.O.M., or Gates Mills Boulevard, or any of those places, instead of jumping in a car and having to maybe fight the traffic on Mayfield Road, we'll get you there on the trail.

"It's healthier for our residents, and it's an alternative that a lot of young families want to see in their community. So, we're trying to remain a vibrant community for the younger families. I think it's an important addition to the community."