ThisWeek in New Albany

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ENJOYING THE RIDE

By David Rea/*ThisWeek*

Michelle Mauger, a fifth-grader at New Albany Elementary School, takes a turn on "The Swings" ride set up for visitors at the New Albany Founders Day celebration. ***See story, page 4.***

Board ponders new try for issue

Information on inflationary effects needed

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The New Albany-Plain Local school board wants more information before placing another bond issue on the Nov. 6 ballot.

"Clearly, there are some inflationary factors we'd like to get our arms around," said Superintendent Ralph Johnson.

Johnson said if the issue is placed on the ballot again in November, the cost of the issue could be higher, partly because of inflation.

A $38-million capital improvements bond issue, Issue 10, failed by 54 votes on May 8.

It would have paid to build an elementary for kindergarten and first grade and expand the high school, among other improvements. Inflation was factored into the bonds for the high school expansion, which would not have been issued until 2003.

Board member Peter Horvath said the district may never know exactly why Issue 10 failed. Initial results show low voter turnout, which could have been a factor, but he said the close defeat might not mean the board should completely change the bond issue before putting it on the ballot again.

"I am confident we can get this done," Horvath said of the bond issue.

Board member David Martin suggested the district reconvene the facilities and finance committees to get all opinions and see if there is a way to reduce the millage amount.

"I think it's a good package, but before we put it on the ballot again I think we will want to look at every nickel again," he said.

Horvath said, "I wouldn't change it unless that would get it passed."

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Accord panel OKs new plans

312 acres are north of Central College, west of Business Campus

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord Implementation Panel on May 17 approved two previously tabled proposals for developments north of Central College Road and west of the New Albany Business Campus.

The developments by the Slane Co. and the New Albany Co. include 312 acres in Columbus. Both proposals were tabled Sept. 21, 2000, and both developers submitted new applications May 17 for office and residential development.

The accord panel is a recommending body that reviews zonings in the Columbus and New Albany portions of Plain Township to ensure land use standards in the accord are met.

The Slane Co. wants 294 acres between Central College and Walnut Street — east of Harlem Road and west of the New Albany Business Campus — rezoned from rural to various zonings for office and residential use. The New Albany Co. plan will affect 83 acres.

The Slane Co. lowered density from 12 units per acre in the previous application to seven units per acre overall, which is one to three units above accord standards, depending on the area's zoning. The plan now includes 330 single-family homes near Walnut Street and 820 apartments in the middle of the property. Space on the northwest corner is reserved for a park and a future Columbus school.

Dan Slane originally offered to build the school through a tax increment financing proposal, which was rejected by the district in September.

The Slane Co. now proposes to hold the Columbus school site for three years before pursuing a charter school for the area, said Ben Hale, attorney for the Slane Co.

"The issue is how far you've got to bus your kid ... The right thing to do is (build) a Columbus public school there," Hale said.

Slane's proposal also contains mixed commercial and retail, with the apartments and larger office sites closer to Central College Road.

"It appears to be a good mix of uses," said Jon Pawley, Columbus planner.

The accord panel raised seven issues with the plan. Pawley questioned a north to south road which exits the site on Walnut Street across from

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Founders Day celebration draws an estimated 5,000

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

An estimated 5,000 people laughed at clowns, listened to music, played games, ate lots of fattening food and walked over silly string during the 26th annual celebration of New Albany's founding fathers.

Founders Day, held May 19 on the New Albany Elementary School grounds, brought in more people than last year, organizers Beckie Knore and Linda Honaker said.

"To me the best part is if it turns out and everyone enjoys themselves," Honaker said.

It seemed everyone was having a good time, especially the people who made it to the rides, which were set up on the elementary school's newest parking lot in front of the gymnasium.

"The 'Scrambler' rocks," said New Albany sixth-grader Alex Jones.

Jones and fellow sixth-grader Kaylin Baird spent the day riding rides and winning posters and stuffed animals at the festival games. Baird said another of her favorite things was caricatures done by an artist.

Though the day started out a little gray, a light sprinkle was the only threat to the festivities and that did not turn many people away.

"There were gobs of people here," said Norma Massie, who worked in the New Albany-

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GREECE

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required to survey the area, which requires walking long stretches and recording the land's layout for future digs.

"Take old clothes. You're going to get dirty doing cleanup work," Fullerton warned.

Students also wondered how well the Greeks speak English.

Fullerton, who has spent three years in Greece, said the Greeks are wonderful, friendly people who will help English speakers as much as they can. Many people also speak English. Children may come up and say hello but not be able to respond further, she continued.

The students learned how to say "yasoo" or "yasas," which means hello, "parakato," which means please and "efcharisto," which means thank you.

Fullerton told the students to look for a "W.C." sign if they have to go to the bathroom. That stands for water closet. And she said they may find a few Turkish restrooms, which have a hole in the ground, a place for each foot and nothing else.

Many toilets, including the one in their hotel, cannot accept toilet paper because of small drainage pipes, so Fullerton told youths to watch for paper receptacles close to toilets.

They also have to dress for warm weather but need to carry appropriate clothing to cover themselves if they want to visit a church, for example.

Sunscreen, water and hats are a must, as is bug repellent to keep mosquitoes away, Fullerton suggested.

While in Greece, the students will visit Athens (where their plane will land) Delphi and Nemia. They also plan to visit local art museums and the Aegean Sea, which Robbins is particularly looking forward to.

The students are most excited about seeing Greek art and architecture first-hand.

"The lion's gate at Mycenaea is what I hope to see," said Kelly Korreg, a sophomore.

Sophomore Jacki Craig said she is anxious to see how a dig is conducted.

"I want to see the archaeological procedures you have to go through. You don't want to mess up anything," Craig said.

Robbins added, "I want them to see the precise care and respect given to a historical site."

Craig said it will be interesting to see how the people lived. Sophomore Tara Griffith said, "We will walk through the path they walked."

The students said they are not bothered that they will stay in primitive conditions, with no television or washing machines, "because that's an interesting part of the experience," Griffith said.

Sophomore Cameron Stewart is particularly interested in seeing Greek architecture, something Robbins encourages.

"I hope when I finish teaching I will have had at least one architect out of all the classes I have taught. This (trip) might do it," she said.

Robbins is accompanying students with her husband, Tom, an architecture professor at OSU, and New Albany social studies-humanities teacher Eric Carmichael.

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The Eagles' track girls shattered marks while winning the district

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Annexation forces way onto council's agenda last night

By RYAN HORNS
New Albany News Reporter

■ **New Albany students won't be sent to Columbus, Page 9.**

Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Tim Butsko and developer Joe Ciminello held another resident meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station offices on Monday and the mood in the air was not exactly optimistic.

This meeting, and mood, later spilled over into last night's gathering of the New Albany Village Council.

Although there were no annexation talks scheduled on the Village Council agenda, its open forum provided more than an hour for township residents to speak their minds on the issue. Columbus and New Albany are currently discussing who can annex, and provide water and sewer service, to areas of Plain Township known as C1 and C2.

The original 1997 Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord, which planned growth in northeast Franklin County, designated some areas to go to Columbus and some would go to New Albany. C1 and C2 were left to future negotiations.

Many landowners would prefer to be annexed into New Albany, but Mayor Colleen Briscoe said, "We can only annex areas inside our service areas."

The village is negotiating to keep as much of C1 as it can, Briscoe said.

New Albany wanted to keep Bevelheimer Park in its service area, which Columbus has granted.

In regards to the school issue, some C1 residents are still worried their children will end up in the Columbus Public School system.

Basically, every five years Columbus and New Albany renegotiate their service agreements. In the past their agreement stated those residents with seven acres or less can decide not to be annexed into either New Albany or Columbus.

They also stated, through the seven-acre agreement, children currently in the New Albany-Plain Local School District would stay put.

"The village is planning on re-asserting the seven-acre clause and Columbus has not said 'No' yet," Mayor Briscoe said at last

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News photo by Tim Norman

Chamber of Commerce President Eileen Leuby speaks to the crowd at the corner of Dublin-Granville Road and state Route 605 during the New Albany Founder's Day Parade Saturday.

Columbus wants a path to Licking County, taxes

By BILL MELVILLE
Suburban News Reporter

"We are dedicated to preserving our ability to grow."

– Steve Campbell
mayor's deputy chief of staff

Few weeks go by when Columbus City Council does not approve the annexation of a parcel of land from Plain Township.

But if the city has it way, it could soon annex a much larger chunk of the township, opening the door to New Albany's growth into eastern Licking County and redevelopment of Columbus' older neighborhoods.

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman called the area an important growth corridor for the city.

"We are dedicated to preserving our ability to grow. This agreement would provide a growth corridor for Columbus which would reach the Licking County line," said Steve Campbell, Coleman's deputy chief of staff.

The dialogue continues but no date has been set for completion of the agreement, he added.

In its discussions with New Albany, Campbell said the city has stressed four points:

■ Columbus and New Albany will negotiate appropriate growth corridors for each municipality.

■ make appropriate changes to water and sewer contracts.

■ revenues the city of Columbus raises through the annexation would be placed in a special fund earmarked for redevelopment in older city neighborhoods.

■ Columbus and New Albany will work together on planning future growth for the northeast corridor.

In 20-year forecasts for sewer and water line expansions, the city planned for growth in northeast Franklin County, so the development is not expected to stress those systems, Campbell said.

Despite the extension of water and sewer lines, both Columbus and New Albany are

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Founder's Day brings parade, chess, smiles to town Saturday

By RYAN HORNS
New Albany News Reporter

■ **Founder's Day in pictures, Page 16.**

The clouds parted mysteriously over the weekend and left just enough good weather for the 26th Annual Founder's Day celebration.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and parade emcee Eileen Leubey said, "It was great. It all went very well. There was no rain. I noticed there were more people who attended; every year it gets bigger."

As far as the parade went, Leubey reported there were four winners. Each walked away with their spoils after finishing the parade route.

The Grand Marshall Award for Best Historical Float Unit went to a recipient one might find pretty understandable. The Plain Township Historical Society won this year's award.

"They usually walk away with that award every year," Leubey said.

She added the Chamber of Commerce Best Business Float Award recipient was the Heartland Bank.

The Mayor's Award for Originality went to The Faithful Family Fellowship.

"They had singers and a very excellent mic system. They also had arches across the top and it was all very colorful and decorative," she said.

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ANNEXATION

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night's council meeting.

According to Councilwoman Nancy Ferguson, there are only 32 parcels of land larger than seven acres. Residents must petition to be annexed, but if their land ends up in Columbus' zone, they would not be able to annex to the village.

"We're definitely fighting an uphill battle," Ciminello said at Monday's township resident meeting. "I don't think any of (C1) will go to New Albany. That's just the unfortunate reality."

What Ciminello urged landowners with properties larger than seven acres is to consult an attorney and divide that land up into sections to avoid the seven-acre clause.

Many Plain Township residents voiced their opinions at the Monday meeting and are standing behind Butsko and Ciminello's plan for the parks corridor between Bevelhymer and Harlem Road Parks.

Township . resident and owner of Eagle's Pizza in New Albany Dennis Keesee said he was going to head down to the Columbus courthouse and divide his land.

The main problem, Plain Township Trustee Chairman Don Shoemaker said, is township residents have been faced with decisions for future growth in the past and have chosen to not do anything.

The township has opted not to join planning bodies such as the Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord, choosing to follow its own land-use plans. At this point he feels everything has come to a head.

"In the world we live in, you either move forward or you move backwards," Shoemaker said.

At Monday's meeting Andy Show, a member of the Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord panel, was in attendance as a resident to answer any questions from the township.

First and foremost, he wanted to stress for residents to go online to columbusinfobase.org, find the Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord document, and become familiar with it.

Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord panel member Dave Olmstead said there are two options for the C1 residents: Either ask to be annexed into Columbus or do nothing and stay in the township.

Residents cannot be annexed into Columbus unless they ask to be, under the seven-acre clause. It's mainly large landowners who need worry about becoming part of Columbus, he said.

Whereas the Columbus annexation will also bring in students, there would not be much development until some 15 years later, Olmstead said. Therefore the change would not be as great as if the land becomes part of New Albany.

"I would prefer the development which would take longer," he told the council.

However, any decisions as far as loading the school district with kids will have to pass through the .Board of Education first. A rise in students could mean the need of a future school development, which would then mean higher taxes for residents who already displayed they were not ready for them through the failed levy.

As Village Administrator Joe Stefanov said, "That is a decision that the school board will have to endorse."

COLUMBUS

Continued from Page 1

looking to ban alternative waste water treatment systems, such as developments which include on-site sewage treatment facilities.

"(The ban) continues to promote the best possible (waste water management) technology for Central Ohio. You have to take every opportunity to enforce that issue," said Mark Barbash, director of the Columbus Trade and Development Department.

At present, the city will stick with Area C-1 – the official name for the corridor it would annex in Plain Township – and has no plans to extend into Licking County at this time. But with the rapid growth seen by the area, it could happen down the road, Campbell said.

The city has a substantial amount of revenue to gain from the project – the village would give it a lump sum payment of $2 million and Columbus would receive 15 percent of the 1 percent income tax collected in the Licking County areas annexed into New Albany for 15 years.

That money offset the costs of extending sewer service into the newly developed area, as New Albany buys water and sewer services from Columbus. It would also provide a new resource for central city redevelopment.

"We're using that for neighborhood economic development. That's a very different way of encouraging growth corridors while bringing up the old neighborhoods," Coleman said.

Though it will make the final decision on any annexation legislation, City Council has not seen it yet, said Fred Alverson, council spokesman.

FOUNDER'S

Continued from Page 1

Finally, the Founder's Day Award for interpreting the parade's theme, "As Years Go By: Families, Friends and Neighbors" went to the Broadway Bound Dance Center with its use of songs and dance as well as the banner bearing the theme across the float.

Resident Becky Knore, who worked with Linda Honaker on the Founder's Day vendors and businesses, reported the people involved got along very well over the weekend.

"No one said they weren't coming back," she joked.

The Girl Scouts were a hit with their "walking tacos," as were other participants such as Bob Evans, the Resurrection Church, and various others, she reported.

All eyes were on the human chess match between New Albany Elementary School student Kevin Brand and New Albany Plain-Local Schools Superintendent Ralph Johnson. How did the Super fare against the student?

"(Brand) actually beat Johnson in about 15 minutes," Leubey laughed, "It was a very spirited game and all the players seemed to enjoy themselves immensely."

Westerville office closing

The Westerville office of Suburban News Publications, 130 Graphic Way, will close at the end of the business day on Friday May 31.

Reporters assigned to the office, including those who work for the *New Albany News*, have been relocated to Suburban News Publications' North Office at 5257 Sinclair Road, between Morse Road and Route 161.

For the convenience of residents, a drop box for press releases and other materials is being installed next to the building walkway on Graphic Way. Pickups will be made daily.

To reach reporters formerly based at the Westerville office, please call 785-1199. The number for Classified Advertising is 785-1200; for Retail Advertising 785-1212, and for Circulation 847-0085.

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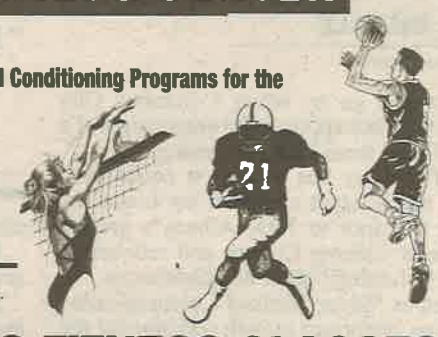
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