NEW ALBANY NEWS

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'Super' resident marshals in '10 Founders Day

SNP photo by Jeffry Konczal

Mike Brown of New Albany, also know to New Albany High School sports enthusiasts as Superfan, will be the grand marshal in the May 15 Founders Day parade. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road.

By BRETT NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

For 10 years they called him "Superfan." Before each New Albany High School football game he donned a black and gold cape, a gold mask, and a wig of curling golden locks. His black and gold New Albany Eagles jersey tied the costume together.

Under the guise of his heroic alter-ego, New Albany pastor Mike Brown riled up local football fans for a decade. Though he recently put the cape away for good, the village will honor his dedication to the community as he takes on the role of grand marshal of the 2010 Founders Day parade on May 15.

It's been a long road back to Central Ohio

Brown came to New Albany in January 1989 with his wife and daughter, Stephanie, to become pastor at Franklin United Brethren Church.

He moved from Monroe, Indiana, where he lived for 14 years and served as pastor for another church. A Grove City native, he was eager to return to Columbus when a position opened in New Albany.

"We had no idea what New Albany would become," he said. "My bishop told us that it was a small town that had a lot of potential for growth, and that was enough."

In the years since, Brown has served as a member of the new Albany Chamber of Commerce, FCA Camp Advisory Board, and New Albany Ministerial Association. He is also the the founding member of the New Albany Business Association, and coached youth soccer in the community for 16 years.

Superfan, he said, was created for a youth group challenge.

See **SUPER,** *Page 3*

Historic day marks 34 years of parades, family fun

By BRETT NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

On Saturday, May 15, New Albany residents can celebrate the birth of the village with food, fun and, of course, a parade.

The Founders Day parade kicks off the annual celebration at 11 a.m. May 15.

The parade will start at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road. The procession will take a right onto Market Street, a left on West Main Street, a left onto High Street, and will continue on to the 2-5 Elementary School, where the main Founders Day celebration will be held.

Marching in the parade will be the New Albany High School marching band, numerous church groups, little league baseball and softball teams, the New Albany Lacrosse Association, drill teams from Gahanna and Westerville and more.

The New Albany High School orchestra

See **HISTORIC,** *Page 3*

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SUPER

Continued from Page 1

Brown challenged New Albany students to gather 100 kids at a post-game youth event he called "The Fifth Quarter." He promised to do something special for the next football game if they hit the target number.

It wasn't long before Superfan was born.

Brown's presence has helped stir up crowds during some of the New Albany football team's toughest times.

"There were periods when we were probably losing 80 percent of our games or more," he said. "I wanted to do something because the kids didn't always have a lot to be happy and cheerful about."

His daughter might have been the only New Albany fan who didn't cheer when Superfan made an appearance.

"I'm not sure that anything could have embarrassed her more," Brown said.

From the very beginning he kept his true identity secret, though many in the community were in on it.

> ***"Mike is on of those people who has been not only active in the community, but also enthusiastic, passionate, and willing to help in any way he can."***
>
> **–Stacey Adkins**
> **Founders Day planning committee member**

Brown retired after 10 years. His stint as Superfan was time well spent, he said.

"Winning or losing, I enjoyed watching the kids get into the game," he said.

Brown was selected to be grand marshal by the Founders Day planning committee after being nominated by several members of the community.

"Mike is on of those people who has been not only active in the community, but also enthusiastic, passionate, and willing to help in any way he can," said planning committee member Stacey Adkins. "We really thought he was the perfect candidate."

Brown said he owes everything to his church.

"The church has really been there to support me," Brown said. "And it has helped me to reach out to the community in a lot of ways."

The news that he had been selected as grand marshal came as a complete surprise.

"I was totally blown away," he said.

He's looking forward to representing his community during the May 15 Founder's Day celebration, he said.

"So many great, worthy people have been had this honor before me, and many more will come after," he said. "I feel very honored and privileged to have the opportunity."

HISTORIC

Continued from Page 1

will play on Market Street from 10:30 to 11 a.m. as the parade passes through, and local weatherman Jym Ganahl will be on hand at the corner of Main and High streets announcing the parade.

Pastor Mike Brown, known to many as his alter-ego "Superfan," will serve as the parade grand marshal.

Activities at the 2-5 building, which is located at 87 N. High St., will include putt-putt golf, mechanical bull rides, a climbing wall, an inflatable obstacle course, costumed characters, bake sales and dozens of food vendors. It will also feature face painting and photo booths.

The Ethel Schleppi Memorial Art Show will be held in the 2-5 Elementary School cafeteria, showcasing artwork produced by the elementary school students throughout the year.

Thrill seekers might enjoy the festival's carnival rides, including the new EuroBungy Trampoline, an attraction that propels kids and adults high into the air with the help of bungee cords.

A silent auction will be held from noon to 3:30 p.m. Guests will be able to bid on items including Columbus Crew Tickets, pool passes, a one-year membership to Broadway Bound Dance Centre and restaurant gift certificates.

Founders Day was established to celebrate the rich history of the village. New Albany was founded in 1837 by Noble Landon and William Yantis in the center of Plain Township. It is thought that the village was named by some of its original settlers who hailed from Albany, New York.

The annual Founders Day celebration was not established until 1976. The date was chosen to coincide with the United States bicentennial. This year the village celebrates its 34th Founders Day.

"It truly is a full day of fun," said event coordinator Beckie Knore. "It gets people out to meet their neighbors and it really brings everyone together as a community."

The celebration will wind down at 5 p.m.

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'Superfan' will lead Founders Day parade

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

By Chris Parker/*ThisWeek*

Erstwhile "Superfan" Mike Brown has been selected as grand marshal of the Founders Day parade.

The man whose alter ego, "Superfan," was a staple for years at local sporting events will be the grand marshal of this year's New Albany Founders Day celebration.

The Founders Day committee selected Mike Brown, pastor of the Franklin United Brethren Church for 21 years, after he was nominated multiple times.

"Obviously, we are not just nominating him for Superfan, but we thought we would love to honor him and everything he has done for the community," said Stacy Adkins, a member of the planning committee. "All the nominations we received were excellent candidates."

The Founders Day celebration, titled "No Limits," begins with a parade at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 15, at the Church of the Resurrection on Dublin-Granville Road. The procession will roll down Market Street to Johnstown Road and will end at the New Albany 2-5 building.

The rest of the day's activities will take place outside and inside the 2-5 building.

Brown has lived in the village with his wife, Chris, and their daughter, Stephanie, a 2001 graduate of New Albany High School, since 1989.

He said many local organizations, such as the Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord, the parks and recreation department and the New Albany Area Business Association, which became the chamber of commerce, all started at Franklin United Brethren Church during his tenure.

"Honestly, my first reaction was shock," Brown said. "It was really hard to believe. In all my years here, it is no doubt my biggest surprise."

Brown said he was excited to attend the parade this year.

"For years, I was not able to attend the parade due to middle school soccer tournaments on Founders Day. I guess this year I won't miss the parade," he said.

Adkins said the committee met last weekend to finalize plans for the May 15 festivities.

She said the school orchestra would play at Market Street during the parade and at the arts show in the 2-5 cafeteria, and the community chorus plans to sing in front of Eagles Pizza on High Street before the parade.

She said the event would feature favorites like a mechanical bull, a bungee trampoline ride and inflatables.

"The photo booth is back, and there are lots of great items in our silent auction," Adkins said.

The proceeds raised from the auction help the Founders Day committee fund next year's celebration.

For more information, visit www.newalbanyfoundersday.com.

Plain Township bicentennial

A special advertising section of ThisWeek Community Newspapers

First tract of township cost 4,000 gallons of whiskey

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

All photographs and information are courtesy of Plain Township and the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society.

There are four Plain Townships in Ohio — in Franklin, Stark, Wayne and Wood counties — and all were named for their ordinary rural features when the state was in its infancy.

Franklin County's Plain Township, at least, may be plain in characteristics but not in history.

The land on which much of township rests can be traced to Dudley Woodbridge at the turn of the 19th century.

Woodbridge found a prime opportunity when the federal government realized it had set aside too much land for Revolutionary War veterans. In 1800, he purchased 4,000 acres of the military district to start what would become Plain Township.

Two years later, he sold he sold the land to John Huffman, a farmer from western Pennsylvania, for 4,000 gallons of whiskey.

At that time, farmers struggled to transport their grains before they rotted, so they made whiskey to use the crop. A gallon was valued at about $1.

Plain Township's history can be traced to that whiskey deal.

Huffman's family members, with the still recognizable names of Swickard, Baughman and Dague, soon settled in the township.

Then came Archibald Smith, for whom Smith's Mill Road is named, and the Clouses and Kitzmillers, who both have township roads named after them.

About 50 years after Huffman purchased the land, traveler and entrepreneur John McCurdy rolled into town with a wheelbarrow holding all of his possessions.

He built a house on Dublin-Granville Road, identical to the Phelps House that currently is being used by the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts staff on U.S. Route 62. It later was the home of the Swickard family, who were relatives of those pictured at right.

McCurdy opened a general store at the corner of Main and High streets — one of the first businesses in the township. His nephew ran the store until 1905.

Eagles Pizza now sits on the site, and the general store's original walls and tin ceiling can be seen in the dining area, according to the pizza shop's website.

Some historic landmarks, like that of McCurdy's in Eagles Pizza,

See **4,000 GALLONS**, *page B4*

John McCurdy came to Plain Township in the 1850s with nothing but a wheelbarrow full of his belongings. He built a home on Dublin-Granville Road and formed the first general store in the area at the corner of Main and High streets.

The Swickard family, including their pet dog, sit outside their home near Harlem Road and U.S. Route 62. The home, was built between 1823 — when Daniel Swickard purchased the land — and 1842. The home still stands on the west nine of the New Albany Country Club golf course.

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purchased the land, traveler and entrepreneur John McCurdy rolled into town with a wheelbarrow holding all of his possessions.

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Schools are important to township's history

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, an estimated 14 one-room schoolhouses dotted the Plain Township map.

Going by names like the Plain Hill School, the Miller School and the Forest Hill School, these buildings served the needs of students within walking distance of their family farms.

The large yellow school buses idling in the bus loops on the New Albany-Plain Local central campus were more than 150 years in the future.

John Saveson, one of the leading members of the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, currently lives in the house where his grandfather, E. W. Clouse, resided on Clouse Road.

"My grandfather walked to Softhead School about a mile every day," he said. "They would place (schools) at a certain miles to serve a certain number of families."

The Softhead School, also known as the Plain Hill School, was built in 1839 near the intersection of Kitzmiller and Central College roads.

The building still stands across Kitzmiller Road from Zeros Pizza.

The land on which the double log cabin was built was leased by Archibald Smith, the namesake of Smith's Mill Road, to the Plain Township schools "so long as it should be used for a district school," according to his biography at the historical society.

He had petitioned Plain Township school officials because the previous schoolhouse was "entirely out of the center of the district."

The school to which Smith referred in his biography was the first school in the township, which was built in the early 1820s and was considered a private school because public schools did not exist at the time. The school was located on Central College Road near Cedar Brook. Tuition for one term cost $1.50.

The Plain Hill School was near the intersection of Kitzmiller and Central College roads. The land was leased to the Plain Township schools by Archibald Smith in 1839. The building was converted into a home in 1926, almost 100 years later.

The Miller School was on Schleppi Road.

The Miller School on Schleppi Road held classes from 1835 until 1911.

"It had an old potbellied stove in the center of the room, which roasted the people that sat close to it and froze the ones that sat farther away," one resident described for the historical society years ago.

In the early 1900s, schools in the New Albany-Plain Township districts began to resemble more modern buildings. Instead of one room, the buildings were larger and housed all grades.

The New Albany School of Plain Township, or the 1902 building, had four classrooms, a library and a cloakroom to serve all grades.

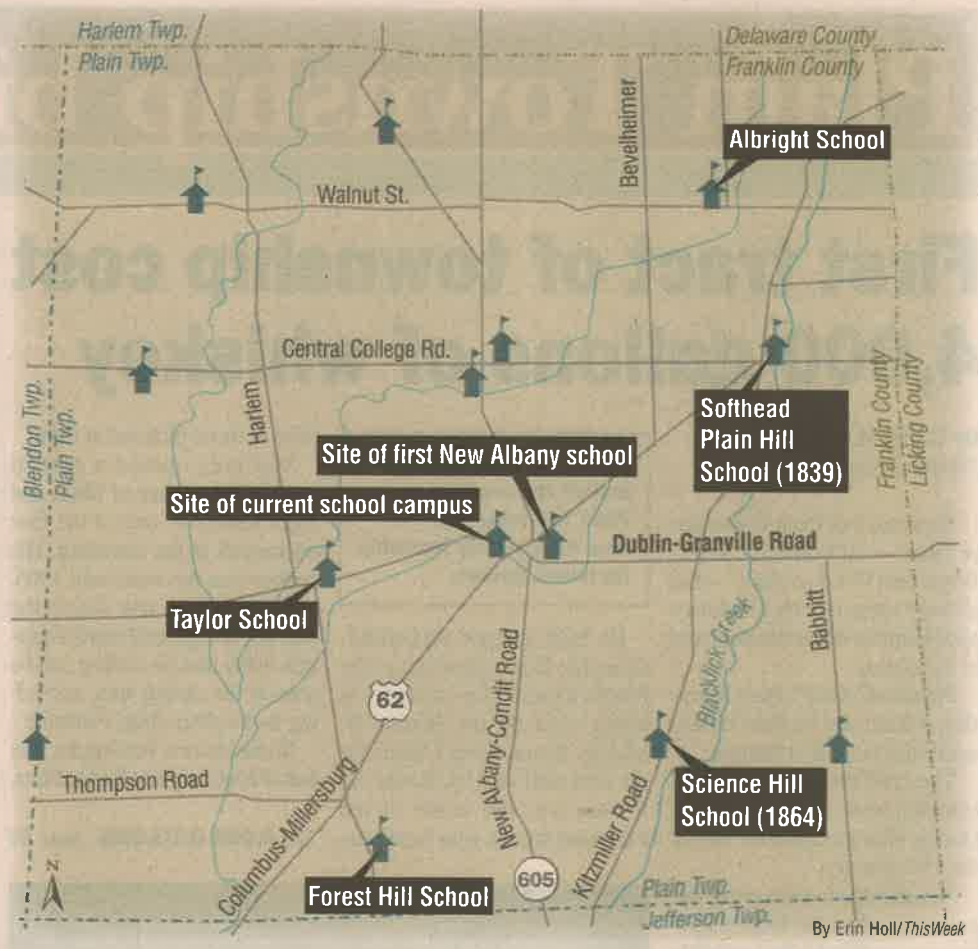
In 1910, the district added on to the 1902 building with an additional classroom and a finished basement.

The New Albany Elementary School was built next door to the 1902 building, which became Plain Township High School in 1914.

The new building had two rooms and housed first- through sixth-graders.

By 1925, the population of Plain Township and the New Albany area had grown too big for the ways of the past.

All the country schools were closed.



By Erin Holl/*ThisWeek*

Students posed outside the Forest Hill School in 1889. The school was located on Harlem Road between Route 62 and Morse Road.

District officials razed both the 1902 and 1914 buildings and made way for the 1925 building, which served as New Albany High School. The building currently sits in front of the NA-PLS 2-5 building and houses four classes of fifth-graders.

Since it was built, it has served as a high school, a middle school, the home to the Columbus Jewish Day School and the Jewish Community Center; it is now the 2-5 annex.

One of the plans for possible campus renovation has the building being used for administrative and wellness offices.

In 1944, Sherman Strait's estate was donated to the district after the death of his brother, James. The land, valued at $70,000, is where the NA-PLS campus sits today.

Instead of small schools dotted across the map of Plain Township, modern-day New Albany-Plain Local Schools officials have worked to keep one large central campus as the heart of the community.

4,000 GALLONS

Continued from page B3

can still be seen today.

The New Albany Mill, which was called the Wilkins Lumber Mill when it was built in 1881, still sits at the corner of Dublin-Granville and Johnstown roads. Today, retailers sell spring flowers and Christmas trees in its front lot during the different seasons.

But just as many landmarks have faded into the past. The New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society and its volunteers are trying to preserve what is left for the future.

Historical markers, like the one to be presented to the Ealy House on Saturday, May 15, help preserve the history of Plain Township.

Plain Township has always had 'sense of community'

BEN COLLINS

First organized in 1810, Plain Township is an original surveyed township, measuring 6 miles by 6 miles square. Since 1810, the township has provided local schools, roads, cemeteries, police and fire, welfare and health services. Although its duties and functions have changed over time, the township government continues to serve all of Plain Township that remains.

With Rocky Fork and Blacklick creeks, sweeping vistas and natural wetlands, Plain Township enjoys a bucolic setting, which continues to attract residents. As both residential and commercial development continues, we should all make an effort to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the township.

Recognizing the bicentennial of Plain Township is an opportunity to reflect on the history and community. While touring the Ealy House, one will find pictures of the Plain Township community picnics.

These annual gatherings began in 1900 and brought together the whole community. That sense of community is still found in the schools, parks, neighborhoods and community organizations.

Plain Township maintains several historic cemeteries that provide insight into the township's past. The oldest cemetery is the Smith burying grounds, dating to 1814, with the oldest existing headstone dated 1827. Plain Township's cemeteries hold members of many founding families, such as the Smiths, Straits, Dorans, Kitzmillers, Taylors, Bevelhymers and Clouses. Preserving these historic cemeteries is an important function that connects the present with the past and provides a tangible community history.

The bicentennial is really a celebration of 200 years of community. Since 1810, the community has changed in many ways. Originally a handful of families farmed the area and set up homesteads. Now several thousand residents call Plain Township home. While some of the original farm tracts remain, the township is largely developed as residential neighborhoods and commercial districts in the incorporated areas of New Albany and Columbus.

As we progress into the 21st century, the face of Plain Township will continue to change. The Plain Township Board of Trustees will continue to serve all township residents and seeks to maintain the quality of life that makes the township a great place to live. As we recognize Plain Township's bicentennial, I hope that our residents will reflect on the history of this community and remember all that makes Plain Township a great place to live.

Ben Collins is the Plain Township zoning officer and assistant township administrator.

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Ealy House to receive historical marker during Founders Day

The Ealy House will be the next stop on the Ohio Historical Society's Remarkable Ohio tour.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, May 15 — Founders Day — the Ealy House will receive its official designation as an Ohio historical place.

The New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society plans to celebrate its marker by hearing a few words from society members as well as from a representative of the state historical society.

The Ealy House marker will be the sixth in the community.

Other sites include a marker at the intersection of U.S. Route 62 and state Route 605 to commemorate the founders of New Albany and a marker at Central College Road and Cedar Grove where the Wagnor pioneer cemetery and the first log school building were constructed.

Marilyn Saveson, historical society trustee, said society officials have been working to restore the house to create a museum and offices since the group received the home in 2004.

John Henry Ealy paid $225 in the 1830s for 75 acres where the Ealy House currently sits today on modern Dublin-Granville Road. The home now serves as a museum and headquarters for the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society.

She said the society hopes eventually to have regular hours for people to tour the home, use the library for genealogy research and do crafts.

Saveson also said she hopes school groups will use the home to help students learn about their area's past.

The home, which was built in 1860 by George and Christina Ealy, sits near the corner of Dublin-Granville and Fodor Roads.

A small reception on the new back porch will follow the marker dedication.

— Gail Martineau

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ThisWeek Community Newspapers

NEW ALBANY

50¢ Updated daily: www.ThisWeekNews.com May 20, 2010

Village believes TJX is a 'good fit'

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The TJX Cos., the parent company of T.J. Maxx, HomeGoods and Marshalls, will be the next business to set up operations in New Albany, if all goes according to plan.

Village council members were scheduled to vote on a resolution Tuesday, May 18, to enter into a community reinvestment area agreement with the Massachusetts-based Fortune 500 company.

Though council members were slated to vote on the agreement that includes a 65-percent, 15-year abatement on the property, TJX is not a "done deal" for the community, according to New Albany communications director Scott McAfee.

Jennifer Chrysler, community development director, is waiting to hear back from the state about the company's economic-incentive package.

Village officials already have offered the company their local abatement, which is the general 65-percent property tax abatement package offered to data centers.

McAfee said Tuesday's scheduled vote was part of the process of attracting a company to the business park.

He said the state plans to take action Monday, May 24.

The proposed 60,000-square-foot TJX building, which the company is calling a corporate technology center, would employ 28 people with an annual payroll of $1.5-million.

The location is estimated to generate about $165,000 annually in property taxes for the New Albany-Plain Local School District and about $101,000 for the village.

Chrysler said she is excited the village can bring in another well-known business.

"We are excited because, once again, it seems that the infrastructure we put in place ... is doing well to attract high-tech businesses to the community," Chrysler said. "Our hope is for them to grow. It's a benefit for everyone."

See **GOOD FIT**, *page A2*

Founders Day

By Ann Tormet/*ThisWeek*

Bob Beach, of New Albany, drives his vintage Allis-Chalmers tractor in the Founders Day parade Saturday, May 15. For more photos from the Founders Day celebration, see page A6. For video of the event, log on to www.ThisWeekNews.com.

District will not take part in Race to the Top

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The New Albany-Plain Local School District will not participate in the federal Race to the Top program.

The Plain Local Education Association decided not to sign the memorandum of understanding for the effort, which allows states to compete for grants based on state and school districts adopting new education achievement goals and policies.

The policies include measuring teachers' performance based on students' academic growth, evaluating teachers more often and using pay to reward effective teachers, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Mike Covey, PLEA president, said the teachers union voted against the measure after "deliberative consideration."

"Although the association believes the federal grant indeed does offer an interesting opportunity, the cost-benefit ratio does not justify our commitment to this process, given the amount of funding we would receive compared to the changes we would have to make in our present course of action," Covey said. "The PLEA executive board concluded the resources — time, people and money — devoted to creating a quality educational strategic plan for New Albany is more important than the investment of the considerable amount of teacher and administrator time into the Race to the Top process."

According to district officials, Race to the

See **RACE TO THE TOP**, *page A3*

School board

Financial committee meets for first time

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The New Albany-Plain Local school board held the first meeting of the new financial review and reporting committee earlier this week.

Community members Dave Demers, Phil Derrow, Chris Luffler and Dave Maul joined board liaisons Cheri Lehmann and Laura Kohler, district treasurer Brian Ramsay, Superintendent Steve Castle, director of business operations Ken Stark and Plain Local Education Association president Mike Covey on Monday, May 17, at the administrative offices to review the committee's role.

Member Lesa Shoemaker was absent.

The first meeting included a brief overview of Ohio school funding and the committee's expectations for administrators.

The financial review and reporting committee, which operates in accordance with the state's open meeting laws and whose members were selected after a lengthy interview process, will provide feedback on best practices from the public and private sectors.

A closer look

The financial review and reporting committee will provide feedback on best practices from the public and private sectors. It also is charged with reviewing revenues and expenditures, the district audit, levy schedules, topical financial topics — such as the athletic boosters' turf project — and the district's annual five-year forecast.

The committee also is charged with reviewing revenues and expenditures, the district audit, levy schedules, topical financial topics — such as the athletic boosters' turf project — and the district's annual five-year forecast.

"I think that the reason why we felt it was so important to invite community members is because we feel very strongly about the first duty, which is we want to develop a working relationship so you feel free to share your best practices," Kohler said. "In terms of our overall philosophy, we need to ensure that our work and the district's financial planning process supports our overall (educational) mission and philosophy."

Maul asked Ramsay to provide the committee a list of the detailed monthly line-item expenditures and revenues.

See **FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**, *page A2*

Zarley Street

Restrictions on turns take effect soon

By GAIL MARTINEAU
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Construction and improvements near U.S. Route 62 and Zarley Street should be completed a little earlier than expected.

Students add voices to strategic-planning process

New Albany celebrates Founders Day

Photos by Ann Tormet/*ThisWeek*

(Above) Marissa Payne, 6, of New Albany, takes a turn on a bungie trampoline ride, which was one of the activities for children at the Founders Day celebration in New Albany May 15. (Right) McKenzi Hald, 14, of Millersport, warms up with the Ohio Twistars prior to marching in the Founders Day parade.

Attendees of the Founders Day celebration in New Albany sample some of the food stands at the event Saturday, May 15. The annual festival featured a student art show, a mechanical bull and other carnival rides, a parade, live music and food. For video from Founders Day, visit www.This-Week-News.com.

Mary Stevens, 5, and her brother, James, 8, of New Albany, enjoy a carnival ride during Founders Day.

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2010 CREW SOCCER ACADEMY TRYOUTS!

WHAT IS THE CREW SOCCER ACADEMY?

Crew Soccer Academy is the program that provides the greatest opportunity and exposure for players to reach their highest level, and is one of the few programs in the country that is fully funded. No costs—for player fees, travel, accommodations, meals and Crew replica gear—are incurred by families. Players train and play at the Obetz Training Facility and Crew Stadium.

Crew Soccer Academy is a charter member of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy (www.ussoccer.com, click on Development Academy). Supported by the U.S. National Teams, it is the top level of competition in the country. Crew Soccer Academy is the only member of the Development Academy in Central Ohio, and is the top boys level in Ohio.

CREW SOCCER ACADEMY TRYOUT SCHEDULE

DATE	AGE GROUP	LOCATION
Wednesday, June 2	CSA U15/16 & U17/18 Boys	OBETZ

CREW PLAYER DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

4 CREW MLS
3 CREW SOCCER ACADEMY (U15/16 & U17/18)
2 CREW JUNIORS GOLD

CREW SOCCER ACADEMY COACHING STAFF:

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Andrew Arthurs
Brian Bliss
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FESTIVE FOUNDERS DAY

New Albany celebrates its history with rides, food and games Saturday, May 15

ABOVE: Celia Boushelle, 7, of New Albany climbs the rock wall.

RIGHT: Noelle Agler of New Albany snaps a photo with her daughter Isabella.

Photos by Jeffry Konczal

ABOVE: Friends (from left) Megan Hoover, 17, Jessie Jurkovac, 17, and Lindsey Cohagan, 16, let out their inner child while at the New Albany's Founders Day activities Saturday, May 15.

LEFT: Jonathan Stewart, 5, and his dad, Carter, have fun enjoying a new blow up hammer.

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Ealy House earns a 'Founders Day' in the sun

■ *A dedication ceremony honoring the newly-restored, 150-year-old home is just one feature of this year's May 15 Founders Day celebration.*

By BRETT NUCKLES
Suburban News Publications

A Founders Day gathering in New Albany will commemorate the restoration of one of village's most historic homes.

The New Albany Historical Society will celebrate efforts to renovate the village's historic Ealy House at a dedication ceremony May 15.

The society is putting the finishing touches on the house, a 150-year old structure located at 6359 Dublin-Granville Road.

An official marker of the Ohio Historical Society will be placed on the property to mark the occasion during a ceremony at 2 p.m on the house's front lawn. An open house will follow until 4 p.m.

Founders Day, which celebrates the village's history from its 1837 inception to today, is the perfect moment for the dedication, said New Albany Historical Society member Marilyn Saveson.

"It's a day to celebrate history," she said.

The marker will bring further recognition to a house that was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

With the renovation nearly complete, the historical society will also be celebrating the renewal of the house's occupancy permit. The Ealy House will become a historical museum

See EALY, *Page 3*

SNP photo by Dan Trittschuh

New Albany Plain-Township Historical Society member Marilyn Saveson poses on the lawn behind the historic Ealy House on East Dublin-Granville Road. Society members will celebrate the conclusion of the renovations made to the 150-year-old home during Founders Day, May 15. The porch is a new addition to the structure.

Village Council moves forward with plans for first hotel

By BRETT NUCKLES
Suburban News Publications

Plans for New Albany's first hotel are officially underway.

New Albany Village Council formally authorized plans to work with Oxford-based Hotel Development Services at its meeting Tuesday night. The final development plan for the hotel was submitted to the New Albany Planning Commission April 19.

The120-room operation will be located across from the Mount Carmel New Albany Surgical Hospital on Smith's Mill Road.

The village's new bed tax was the key to making the development plan sustainable, said New Albany's Development Director Jennifer Chrysler.

The tax will collect 6 percent from every transaction at a New Albany hotel. Half the tax revenue will be used to cover the additional costs that hotels will bring to the village, like

See COUNCIL, *Page 4*

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EALY

Continued from Page 1

later this year.

The house is notable for its architecture and its history, Saveson said.

The first reason is its distinctive architecture which represents a combination of the Greek Revival style popular in the early 19th century and the more elaborate Italian Age style.

"It's a real historical treasure because it was never torn apart or changed in any major way," Saveson said. "The fine architecture is still very much intact."

The age of the house was determined when residents discovered the names of the craftsmen who built it written in pencil on the attic wall. Alongside the names was the year the house was completed: 1860.

The house was built on the site of a 150-acre farm owned by George Ealy in the mid-19th century. Ealy also owned an orchard and the sawmill that stands behind the house on Rose Run.

Saveson said that the Ealy family is representative of the pioneers who came from the East to Central Ohio between 1800 and 1830.

The house was in good shape considering its age and history, New Albany mayor Nancy Ferguson said.

"A lot of bricks needed to be refurbished, and a lot of work was done pulling off wallpaper, but the house was in very good shape overall," she said.

One of the big projects the restoration team tackled was rebuilding the back porch, which had been left in disrepair.

"It was rotting and worn away," Ferguson said. "The new porch we have constructed is similar to what was probably there originally."

A modern addition is a new ramp for handicapped access.

The restoration process also gave the house something it never had before – a bathroom in the basement.

"We added new elements but the vast majority of the original hardware is all there," said Saveson. "The windows, locks, and doorknobs are all original."

The renovated house will serve as a historical museum and will feature artifacts from the community. All items displayed at the museum will predate World War II.

On display will be a collection of antique toys donated by former New Albany resident Aziel Shockley, who died last year shortly after celebrating her 100th birthday.

"These are the toys she played with as a child," Ferguson said. "They are a very precious part of New Albany history."

The museum also features a collection of antique spinning wheels, and a collection of medical instruments that once belonged to the village's first doctor.

It's proximity to nearby schools will allow for field trips, Ferguson said.

"It's wonderful to see so much of New Albany's early history being preserved," she said. "We should be very thankful to the residents of the community who have come together to make this happen."

Prevention of identity theft to be program topic

A free workshop on protection from identity theft will be held at from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. May 20 at New Directions Career Center, 199 E. Rich St., in downtown Columbus.

A representative from Consumer Credit Counseling-Apprisen Financial Advocates will provide facts and answer questions.

This event is free and open to the public, however, registration is required.

For reservations call 614-849-0028, ext. 100.

OBITUARIES

Royce Metcalf

Royce Harold Metcalf, age 74, of Westerville, died Sunday, May 2, 2010 at Mt. Carmel East Hospital.

He had retired from the Ohio Dept. of Taxation after 33 years service.

Royce is survived by wife, Judy; sons, Terry and Todd (Kayla); granddaughters, Jenna and Jessica; sister and brother-in-law, Maxine and Mjr. General Llyle Barker; two nephews, Llyle Jr. and Daryl Barker; mother-in-law, Laurabel Glassburn.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Hill Funeral Home, 220 S. State St., Westerville, Pastor Mark Stier officiating. Private family interment Union Cemetery.

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