NEW ALBANY NEWS

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Expect splash of fun at city's Founders Day

■ *The annual event, scheduled for 11 a.m. May 21, will have water-themed activities.*

By BRETT NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

Celebrate the birth of the New Albany community at the 2011 Founders Day celebration next week – and don't forget to bring your bathing suit.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Splash," and organizers have water-themed activities lined up, including special "wet zones" roped off along the route of the Founders Day Parade.

The 2011 New Albany Founders Day Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. May 21 at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road.

Some parade participants will be armed with water guns and will unload on kids and residents who camp out in special areas.

Those who would rather stay dry shouldn't worry – the zones will be small and clearly

See **SPLASH,** *Page 3*

SNP photo by Dan Trittschuh

A TIME TO DANCE Rehearsing for *A Time to Dance* at Reynoldsburg High School on Monday, May 9 are Eastland Performing Arts Program students (from left) Rhea Eubanks, Roberta Bailey, Rachel Paul, Myeisha Scott, Emily Lewis and Allyson Taulbee. The student-choreographed recital will feature seven pieces performed by 18 dance majors. Full story, Page 12.

Sounds of Mardi Gras highlight center's jazz-themed event

The Neville Brothers are considered the first family of Mardi Gras.

By BRETT NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

Mardi Gras comes to New Albany this weekend, courtesy of "New Orleans' first family of funk."

Nationally recognized jazz and blues group the Neville Brothers will travel from Louisiana to host the annual Center Stage Gala at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the McCoy Community Center for the Arts, 100 W. Dublin-Granville Road in New Albany.

Proceeds from the fundraising event – the

■ The Neville Brothers will play at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14 during the Center Stage Gala at the McCoy Community Center for the Arts, 100 W. Dublin-Granville Road in New Albany.

McCoy's biggest of the year – will pay for future programming.

Audiences will be delighted by the Neville Brothers' distinctive style of jazz and

See **EVENT,** *Page 2*

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SPLASH

Continued from Page 1

marked, said Founders Day Committee member Jeff Steckman.

The parade will take a left onto Market Street, a left onto West Main Street, and a final left on North High Street where the parade will end.

Family fun will follow at the Founders Day Festival, to be held on the grounds of the New Albany Elementary 2-5 building, 87 North High Street.

The festival will feature local food vendors, games, carnival rides and inflatable attractions for kids.

COSI will make its first Founders Day appearance, and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will be there to show off some of its wildest critters.

Lifelong resident Marge Bevelhymer will be honored for her longevity and commitment to the New Albany community when she serves as grand marshal of the Founders Day Parade.

Bevelhymer resides in the same spot where she was born 85 years ago on Central College Road. In the decades since, she became a mother of five and an active member of the community.

"In a community that has experienced so many rapid changes, its nice to find someone who has been here for so long and who can really comment on how things are different," Steckman said.

The Founders Day Community Connection Award went to New Albany Special Connections, a local nonprofit that provides resources and support for children with special needs.

"It's wonderful to be recognized by the community for the hard work we've done over the years," said NASC President Carol Balchick.

The celebration is free to attend but some rides and attractions will charge a minor fee to participate.

The celebration will wind down around 5 p.m.

Founders Day was established to celebrate the history of New Albany, founded in 1837 by Noble Landon and William Yantis in the center of Plain Township.

This year marks the city's 35th Founders Day event.

ThisWeek Community Newspapers

NEW ALBANY

50¢ Updated daily: www.ThisWeekNews.com April 28, 2011

BOE approves easement for roundabout

Project at Fodor, New Albany roads would help traffic flow, officials say

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Community Newspapers

Motorists trying to turn left on Fodor Road from New Albany Road during peak travel time may soon have an easier time if a planned roundabout is constructed this fall.

"It will improve access for people who are living in that area and will help with traffic in that area," said Rory McGuiness, assistant director of the Columbus Department Public Service.

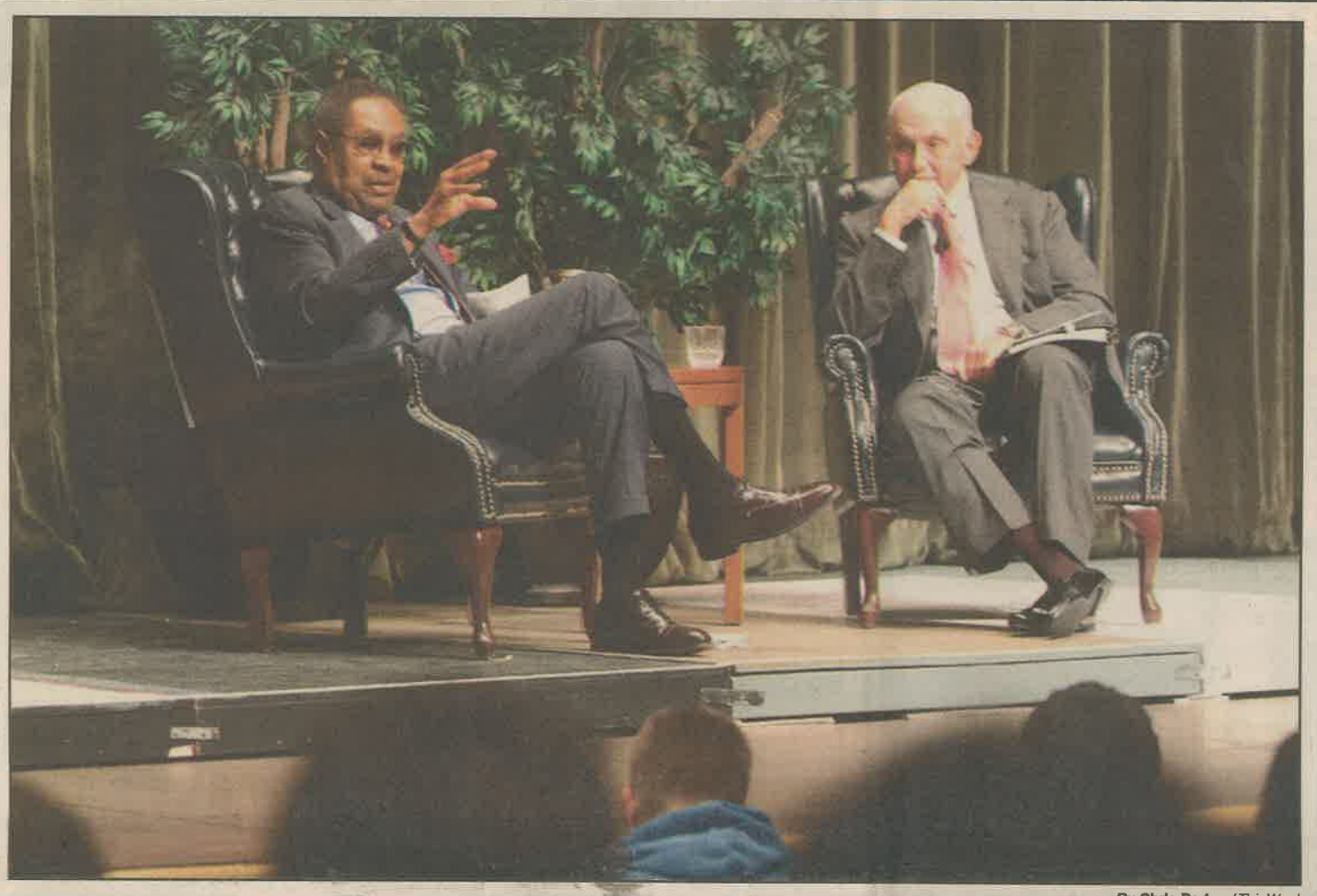
The intersection is in the Columbus city limits. The last section of right of way was obtained April 25 when the New Albany-Plain Local school board approved a 0.028-acre permanent easement and a 0.256-acre temporary easement for land on the south side of the intersection.

McGuiness said the Kroger Co. has agreed to pay $130,000 toward design costs and $1.2 million in construction costs, with construction costs being reimbursed through a tax-increment financing (TIF) district set up in Columbus about two years ago, said Tom Rubey, development director for the New Albany Co. A TIF is an economic development mechanism available to local governments to finance public infrastructure improvements and, in certain circumstances, residential rehabilitation, according to the Ohio Department of Development. A TIF works by locking in the taxable worth of real property at the value it holds at the time the authorizing legislation was approved.

Rubey said the New Albany Co. is involved because it sold land to Kroger with deed restrictions that precluded Kroger from adding a gasoline station without company approval.

When Kroger wanted to build the gas station behind Burger King, Rubey said, NACo and Kroger officials discussed improvements to Fodor and New Albany roads. The intersection already is busy

See **ROUNDABOUT**, *page A4*



By Chris Parker/*ThisWeek*

Clarence Jones, an adviser and speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., and local businessman Leslie Wexner speak with high school students from all across central Ohio on April 20 during the Leslie H. Wexner Leadership Academy program at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts in New Albany.

Jones, Wexner share leadership perspectives

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Community Newspapers

Clarence Jones, an adviser and speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., was rendered speechless for a moment last week after watching seven New Albany High School drama students interpret his book, "Behind the Dream: The Making of the Speech that Transformed a Nation."

"I'm overwhelmed at having the privilege of seeing a dramatic presentation of the words which I wrote," Jones said. "I'm so grateful."

Prior to the dramatic presentation, Jones and local businessman Leslie Wexner spoke April 20 to an audience of students from New Albany and several other central Ohio high schools.

The program, held at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, was part of the Leslie H. Wexner Leadership Academy and provided Wexner the opportunity to ask Jones some questions about his life and his career, questions that focused on his development as a leader.

Jones said he went to a Catholic boarding school at age 6. He stayed there until entering a public high school and said the nuns instilled a strong sense of worth in him, along with providing him with an excellent education.

During high school, Jones said, teachers and a principal served as mentors and he encouraged the students to seek out people who can help them.

Those teachers and the principal continued to help guide his career even after he graduated, he said. When they learned he was enlisting in the military to pay for college, they raised some funds to help Jones apply to several colleges. They then helped him apply for scholarships. Jones attended The Julliard School on a scholarship to study music.

Jones emphasized the importance of education.

"I learned early on … that it was important to educate myself," he said. "Education was encouraged, celebrated."

Jones recounted some defining moments in his life when he faced adversity and had to overcome it. One was at age 10, when the family that employed his parents in service jobs took him on a trip to the beach.

See **LEADERSHIP**, *page A4*

Jones' visit brings history to life for local students

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Community Newspapers

Students from all over central Ohio learned a great deal about history from Clarence Jones and Leslie Wexner on April 20 during the Leslie H. Wexner Leadership Academy.

Jones, a speechwriter for and adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil-rights movement, described King and the type of man he was.

"I've learned that we have gone through a lot of changes, but we've not totally gotten better," said Lauren Omlor, a sophomore from DeSales High School.

Both men talked about prejudices against them. Jones is African-American and Wexner is Jewish.

Jones spoke about some of his work with King, including his defense against a tax-evasion claim and helping King write speeches.

New Albany High School senior Jessica Horner said hearing that first-hand account helped bring the history to life, rather than just reading about it in a textbook. Katie Washington, an NAHS junior, said it was interesting to hear a behind-the-scenes account of Jones' life and work.

After the presentation, seven stu-

See **HISTORY**, *page A4*

Founders Day

Lifelong resident will lead parade

New Albany Special Connections earns community award

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Community Newspapers

The New Albany Founders Day committee recently named longtime resident Marge Bevelhymer grand marshal of the 2011 parade and announced New Albany Special Connections as the recipient of the Founders Day Community Connection award.

"For both awards, we are looking for people and organizations who make a difference in New Albany," said Stacy Adkins, a Founders Day committee member. "We are looking for active members of the community who go above and beyond to make New Albany a better place."

Marge Bevelhymer

The Founders Day celebration is Saturday, May 21.

When told by the Founders Day committee that she had been chosen as grand marshal, Bevelhymer responded: "You mean I'm going to be the grand marshal the first year New Albany's going to be a city?"

See **FOUNDERS DAY**, *page A2*

Voters will decide parks levy May 3

The only local issue on the May 3 ballot is Issue 8, a 1-mill replacement levy for New Albany Parks and Recreation.

Issue 8, a permanent levy, would replace the 0.75-mill permanent levy approved when New Albany Parks and Recreation initially was established as the New Albany-Plain Local Joint Park District in 1999. According to the group's website, the district was formed by New Albany, Plain Township and the New

See **PARKS LEVY**, *page A2*

Founders Day

Continued from page A1

While growing up on a farm on Central College Road, Bevelhymer never imagined New Albany would grow to have so many residents. The results of the 2010 census certified New Albany's population at 7,724 — well beyond the benchmark of 5,000 needed for city status.

"I was born in this same field," she said, jokingly referring to the land just down the street.

Bevelhymer, born Marge Foulk, still lives on part of the family farm, in a house built on 1 acre her parents gave to her and her husband, Ed Bevelhymer, to whom she was married 48 years before he passed away in 1997.

Bevelhymer has a special connection to the area and a special connection to Founders Day: Her daughter and granddaughter have organized the celebration for many years. Bevelhymer said she asked why her daughter, Linda Honaker, and her granddaughter, Adkins, would have nominated her. Adkins told her they didn't.

"The committee accepts nominations from the community for the grand marshal each year," Adkins said. "Some years we have quite a few including letters and pictures explaining why each person should be honored. This year we had five nominations for the grand marshal."

The Founders Day committee chooses the grand marshal from the nominees, Adkins said.

"I think it's great because it's an honor to be here this long," Bevelhymer said.

Bevelhymer said has spent all her life in New Albany and has no plans to leave.

"It's nice out here," she said. "I really like New Albany. I think it's a great community."

Bevelhymer graduated from New Albany High School in 1943 and still has lunch once a month with four of her high school girlfriends. She started her career as a telephone operator at Ohio Bell and continued to do the same type of work, eventually retiring from ABB in Columbus. She is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and has been part of several local singing groups, also working annually during the Founders Day celebration. She said she likes to golf, tap dance and line dance.

As for the Founders Day Community Connection award, which was established in 2008, Adkins said it recognizes a group that has "impacted the community in a positive way."

"For the Community Connection award, the Founders Day committee brainstorms organizations that have impacted the community in a positive way," Adkins said. "We had three excellent groups to choose from this year."

New Albany Special Connections, a nonprofit organization formed in 2002 "dedicated to serving the population of children with special education needs from preschool through high school and their families," according to its website, is the 2011 recipient of the award.

"It is rewarding to have the community recognize our efforts," said Carol Balchick, president of New Albany Special Connections.

Parks levy

Continued from page A1

Albany-Plain Local School District and each entity appointed a representative to a parks board.

New Albany Parks and Recreation has grown to include programming for 3,700 participants annually and operates three park complexes in northern Plain Township.

Parks director Dave Wharton said the current 0.75-mill levy generates $496,000 annually. It is being collected at an effective rate of 0.53 mill.

According to the parks board, the owner of a home valued at $400,000 currently pays $65.32 a year for the parks levy. If the 1-mill levy passes, that homeowner would pay $122.50 per year, or an additional $57.18.

The increase to 1 mill would generate $922,000 annually for parks programs, such as improving field maintenance with the installation of irrigation systems to help fertilize fields. Also, according to New Albany Parks and Recreation, Bevelhymer Park would receive some lights for athletics fields and more leisure options for families, such as basketball courts, a pavilion, a playground and fitness stations along the walking path. Thompson Park would receive grills and landscaping and Wexner Park would receive grills and sliding doors on its pavilion.

— Lori Wince

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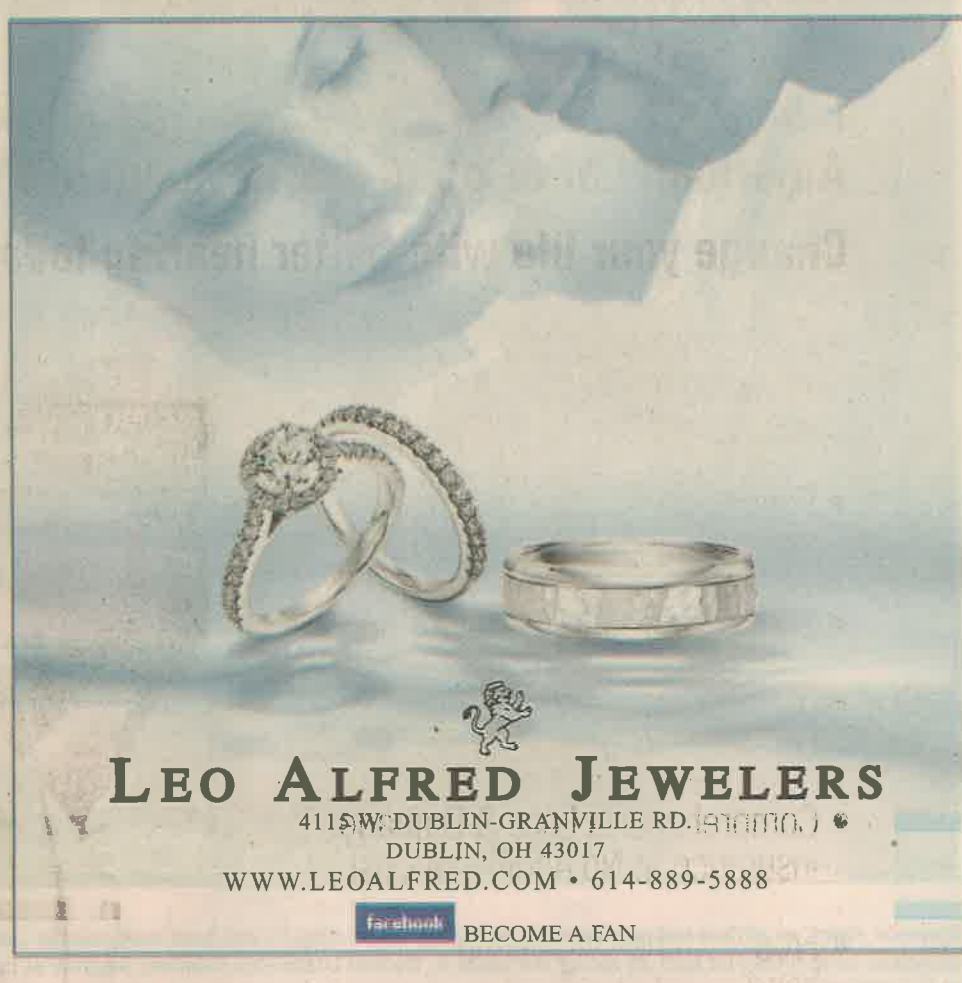

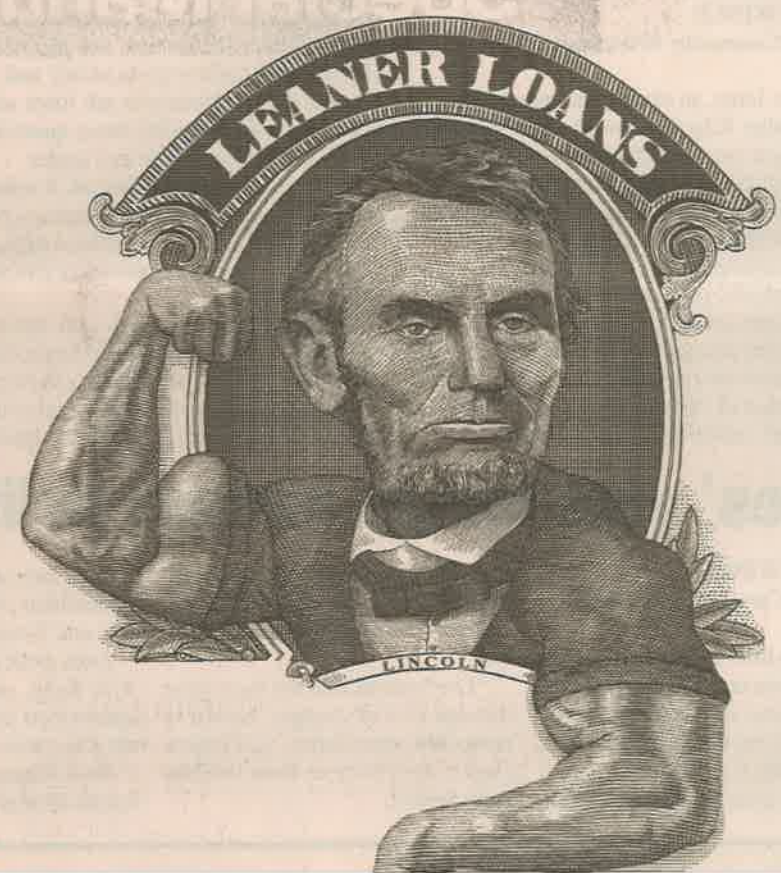

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COLUMBUS zip2save Inside

Special Coupon Booklet

Founders Day lesson in city's long history

■ *The New Albany Historical Society has planned activities and displays for this Saturday's event.*

By BRETT NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

The 2011 Founders Day Celebration will be a blast from the past, courtesy of the New Albany Historical Society.

The group has a variety of plans for Saturday, May 21 to give residents a glimpse of the city's history.

The society's trademark Heritage Quilt will be on display at the Founders Day Festival, to be held on the grounds of the New Albany 2-5 Elementary building, 87 North High Street.

Volunteers will show off the 9-by-9 foot quilt inside the school, which depicts the roads, creeks, streets and buildings of historical New Albany.

A bake sale to benefit the Historical Society also will be found at the festival. Proceeds will go to the ongoing renovations at the historic Ealy House.

The Ealy House itself, a 150-year-old structure at 6359 Dublin-Granville Road, will be open for tours from 2 to 4 p.m. on Founders Day.

The basement of the house was recently renovated and will feature a collection of old tools and artifacts, including farming, carpentry and shoemaking tools and the actual ox yoke used by the Swickard Family, who came to Plain Township in the early 1800s and farmed 640 acres of land in the southwestern part of the township.

"That's something to see," said Historical Society member Marilyn Saveson. "You can't believe how many tools there are, and it's all so interesting."

The house also has a newly installed antique dinner bell in the backyard that guests can ring themselves.

The Liddlers, a group of young strings musicians, ages 3 to 14, from the Suzuki Violin School of Columbus, will put on a special performance at 2:15 p.m. at the house.

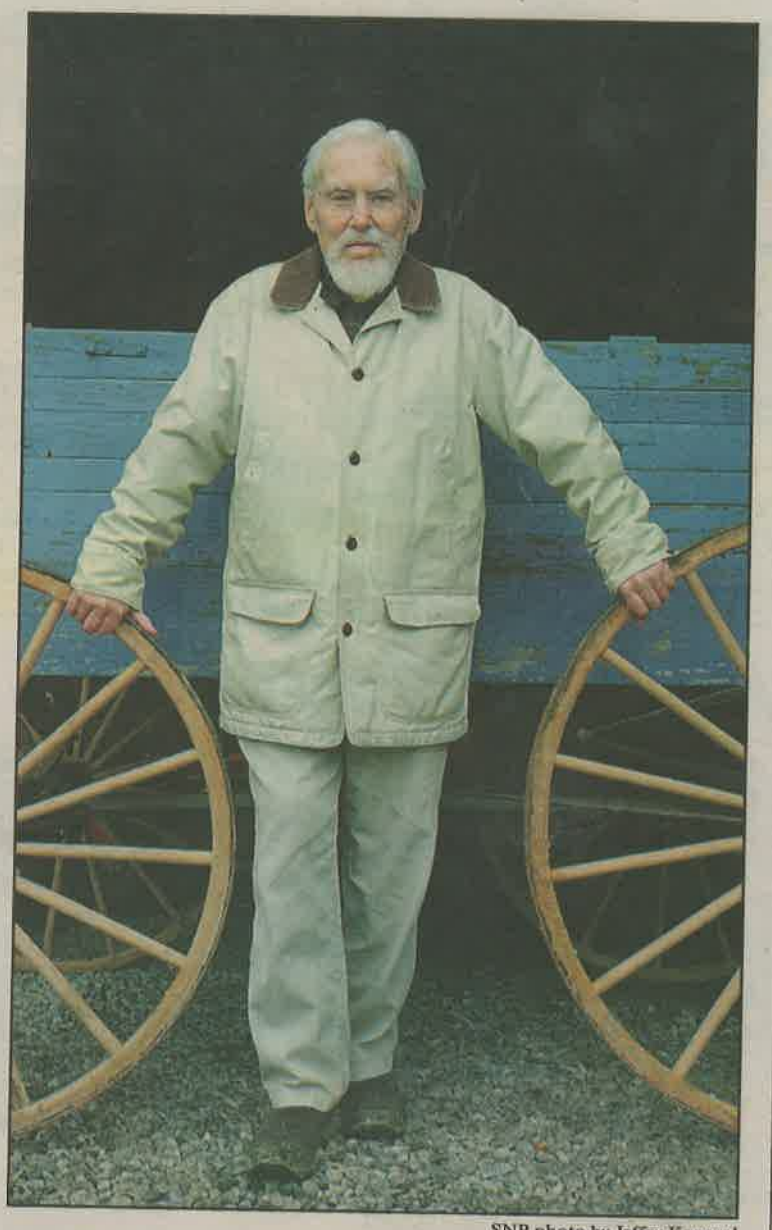
Guests also can check out an authentic 19th century horse-drawn wagon, obtained from a local farm and restored by an amish carpenter, complete with lace curtains.

The wagon will be on display in front of the Ealy House and might make an appearance in the Founders Day Parade, which kicks off at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road.

The Founders Day Festival will follow at the New Albany Elementary 2-5 building, 87 N. High St.

"It's very charming to look at," Saveson said.

A group yard sale to benefit the historical society also is planned for this month, to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at at the historic Dryer House, 7569 E. Walnut St.



SNP photo by Jeffry Konczal

New Albany Historical Society member John Saveson stands by a historic wagon that is believed to be from the New Albany area. The wagon will be featured in the Founders Day Parade on Saturday, May 21, and on display in front of the Ealy House, 6359 Dublin-Granville Road.

Brickman will move HQ to city

■ *The Maryland-based landscape company will fill a space vacant for more than a year.*

By BRET NUCKLES

Suburban News Publications

The largest landscaping and snow services contractor in the United States is set to move its corporate headquarters to New Albany this year.

New Albany City Council at its Tuesday, May 17 meeting approved an incentives package to finalize plans for Maryland-based Brickman Group to make the move to the city's business park.

In business for more than 70 years, the company provides a wide variety of services, including landscaping design and maintenance, irrigation and snow and ice management.

It operates 170 company-owned branches that serve 30 states across the country, with annual revenues topping $800 million.

Now, the company plans to move into a 20,000-square-foot space at 6530 W. Campus Oval in New Albany.

It will bring the 82 employees currently working at its Maryland headquarters with it and hire 40 new employees for a total payroll topping $6.7 million.

At its May 17 meeting, council approved a thirty percent income tax

See **BRICKMAN,** *Page 2*

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Founded on fun

Parade, ideal weather highlight New Albany's Founders Day celebration, Saturday May 21

Photos by Jeffry Konczal

CLOCKWISE FROM CENTER: Olivia Pollack, 8, gets wet in the parade's wet zone; New Albany marching band member David Garrett responds to the crowd; Anna, 7, and Huston Ritter, 4, hold their ears as sirens go by; Harrison Williams, 5, aims his squirt gun at parade spectators.

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