

Circleville Herald | Community

City receives 2 grants

\$400,000 to be used for testing of business sites

STAFF REPORTS

The City of Circleville has received two \$200,000 grants from the U.S. EPA to do testing of possible environmental hazards on abandoned or idle business sites across the city.

The city plans to use the money to conduct an inventory of brownfield sites, doing initial overviews of each site and then doing an in-depth environmental review, including soil and ground water testing.

According to EPA, a brownfield is an abandoned, idled or under-used industrial or commercial property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by known or potential releases of hazardous substances or petroleum.

Brownfields may include abandoned factories, warehouses, power plants, dry cleaners, hotels and gas stations.

One of the grants is to be used on sites that may have petroleum contamination. The other is a hazardous substance grant can be used on various sites.

Evaluations of the sites are expected to clarify environmental concerns and are expected to generate interest in site reuse.

There are about 10 brownfield sites in Circleville.

—Waylon Strickland



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

Nelson Embrey (left), former financial officer for Ashville, was sworn in as a member of village council at its meeting on Monday night.

Ashville

Continued from A1

plished here, but we can work on those in time."

At the safety committee meeting following the council's regular session, Wise dis-

ussed his vision for the village's future police chief and expressed a desire to find someone whose philosophy of law enforcement coincided with his own.

"I'd like to see someone who is charismatic and who is willing to get involved in the communi-

ty," Wise said. "Originally, I'd like to hire maybe a retired person for about a year who can assess and see what's going on in the department."

The safety committee agreed to begin an active search for a new police chief later this month.

Mortgage lenders will help Ohio's struggling homeowners

By STEPHEN MAJORS ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLUMBUS — Nine mortgage lenders who hold about 55 percent of Ohio's subprime home loans agreed Monday to abide by policies designed to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure.

The agreement is a result of months of negotiations between the administration of Gov. Ted Strickland and subprime lenders, who had balked at an initial proposal Strickland offered last fall.

The agreement calls on lenders to make modifications to existing loan agreements when borrowers are unable to

make payments. The lenders also agreed to make "good faith attempts" to contact defaulting borrowers as soon as possible.

Each company came to a separate agreement with the state based on its own business models and practices. Some made specific promises to contact borrowers a certain time before an adjustable rate mortgage was scheduled to reset to a higher rate, while others did not.

The agreements are not legally binding. They expire June 30, 2009, a point at which leaders said they expect Ohio to have seen the worst of the foreclosure crisis.

"While there may not be

legally enforceable sanctions if these agreements are not lived up to, we believe it is quite significant that they would be willing to put their honor and prestige on the line like that," Strickland said.

Citing a study by the Ohio Supreme Court, Strickland said there were 83,230 new foreclosure filings in 2007 — a 5 percent increase from the previous year. He praised the Monday agreements as the first of their kind in the country. But the nonbinding nature of the agreements and the differences from company to company made it difficult for state officials to predict how the agreement would change the rate of foreclosures.

Ohio news in brief

Quick-thinking boy saves kids on bus

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rolling downhill in a bus with his screaming classmates and no driver, a fast-acting boy jumped behind the wheel Monday morning and steered the bus into a pillar, stopping it from careening out of control.

Some children jumped out the side door and rolled into the street. The driver, Michael Weir, had stopped for fuel and was in the station's restroom when the bus started to lurch.

The 11-year-old who stopped the bus likely saved the children from worse injuries, authorities said. Fifteen children suffered minor injuries.

Doctor challenges lethal injection

ELYRIA, Ohio (AP) — An anesthesiologist testified Monday that Ohio's lethal injection procedure isn't appropriate for dogs or cats, let alone humans.

Dr. Mark Heath's testimony on behalf of two murder defendants came in a Lorain County hearing on the constitutionality of state's method for putting prisoners to death. Heath, an assistant professor of anesthesiology at Columbia University, says it's possible to perform lethal injection of prisoners in a humane manner, but that Ohio's method falls below the standard for euthanizing household pets.

Ohio requires its executions to be carried out "in a professional, humane, sensitive and dignified manner." The two men facing murder charges say the state's lethal injection procedure doesn't give the quick and painless deaths required by state law.

State employee accused of harassment

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A male worker accused of sexually harassing two female workers in Attorney General Marc Dann's office has been placed on paid leave while an investigation of the allegations continues, Dann said Monday.

Anthony Gutierrez, Dann's director of general services, was placed on leave effective immediately, Dann said in a statement released by his office. The Columbus Dispatch reported on the allegations by the two women on Sunday.

Complaints filed last week allege that Gutierrez sexually harassed the women at work or in the Dublin condo once shared by Gutierrez, Dann and Leo Jennings, Dann's communication chief.

Fire that killed 5 ruled an accident

ADA, Ohio (AP) — Investigators say electrical problems are to blame for a fire that killed a family of five last week in northwest Ohio.

The state fire marshal's office says the accidental fire started in the laundry room of the house trailer that caught fire last Friday in Ada, a village of about 5,000 residents that's about 70 miles northwest of Columbus.

A baby boy, two girls and their mother and father died in the fire.

Matchbox

Continued from A1

Matchbox is allowed to serve alcohol until 2:30 a.m.

Debra Oros, who said she and Dan have owned the bar for about 11 years, said the establishment has no real set hours of operations, but that the bar did stay open until 4 a.m. on occasion to sell food and let bar patrons "sober up a little before they go out on the road."

Dan Oros also testified, and both were critical of police handling of their establishment.

Both reiterated that no city officials had offered help in resolving the ongoing issues the bar, and Dan said it seemed police circled the bar consistently.

Dan admitted he was behind the bar and sold a patron beer in May 2006,

(City officials) said the Matchbox takes up a lot of the police department's time and the city is concerned about the effect the bar has on the community.

when the citation for after-hours sales was issued, and he called it "a mistake and a very bad judgment call."

Testimony also centered around April Oros and her activity at the bar. April, Dan and Debra's daughter, was convicted and sentenced on drug trafficking charges in May after undercover agents

purchased crack cocaine from her inside the Matchbox.

Dan stated that April didn't work at the bar but did the establishment's banking and paperwork. She was let go after her arrest in May 2006.

Sgt. Charles Burks also testified about an assault at the establishment in June 2006. Two former employees of the Matchbox testified as well.

In closing, Leversing-White said the Matchbox takes up a lot of the police department's time and the city is concerned about the effect the bar has on the community.

Gearhiser pointed out that April's drug activity had no effect on the bar operations and said he didn't believe the three liquor violations and other activities "rise to the level of substantial interference" on the community.

Grandma

Continued from A1

receives \$25 for each plate sold, which is used to provide emergency financial assist-

ance and support, as well as advance research by improving access to clinical trials.

"All the money stays in Ohio to help breast cancer patients pay for mammograms, proper treatment and all that," Palmer said. "That's one reason I chose them."

Palmer alone raised \$384 for the organization through family donations and a public bake sale at Carnival Foods in

Circleville Feb. 24.

Though students were given the option to partner with each other for combined projects, Palmer chose to do hers alone.

"I didn't know if anyone else would agree on the same thing I wanted to do," she said. "I just wanted to do this in honor of my grandma."

Donations to Palmer's project can still be made by contacting Colangelo at Circleville High School, or through the organization's Web site at www.breastcancerfundbox.org.

Donations can be made directly in the name of Evolen Collins.

Editor's note: For information on contributing to a student project, contact Pat Colangelo at Circleville High School, 474-4846.

Table with columns for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Premium Stations, listing various news and entertainment programs.

Internet advertisement for LocalNet, featuring a large '\$9.95' price tag and contact information for 740-477-8813.

Advertisement for Cook Insurance & Tax Services, located at 328 E. Main St., Circleville, Ohio, with contact information for tax and insurance services.