



# Circleville Herald

MONDAY  
August 25, 2008

50 cents



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DOUBLE FIRE GUTS MILL STREET ICON

## City seeking grant to fix road

### If approved, Spring Hollow would be rebuilt

By WAYLON STRICKLAND  
STAFF WRITER

One of Circleville's worst streets may be in line to be repaired next year.

The city service department is applying for state money to reconstruct Spring Hollow Road, north of Linden Lane.

"The street is in terrible condition, and this is the only avenue to improve it," service director Terry Elliott said.

The total cost of the project is estimated at just more than \$1 million. The city is seeking a grant for \$350,000 and a long-term, no interest loan for \$435,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission.

The city would cover the remaining 24 percent of the project cost, about \$247,000, if the grant and loan are awarded. Work would include replacing water and sewer lines as well rebuilding the street.

Residents filed a petition several years ago asking City Council to repair the street, according to Councilman Barry Keller.

The city turned down funding from OPWC in 2006 to do the work because it would have required a local match of 49 percent, about \$435,000.

Council service committee rejected a similar request by former service director Louis McFarland last July to apply for state funds for the project. McFarland's plan had an estimated project cost of \$890,000 and would have required the city to provide a 50 percent match of about \$445,000.

The city is also in the process of purchasing property at 722 S. Washington Street for about \$40,000 from the Savings Bank. The land is adjacent to the city transportation garage and is the last piece of property on the block the city didn't own.

Council has been buying little pieces of property on the block to buy up the whole area for several years, Keller said.

Elliott said the 4,900 square foot lot would give the facility more building space and better access.

Council is expected to vote on both measures at its September 2 meeting.

— Staff Writer Waylon Strickland can be reached at 474-3133 or wstrickland@circlevilleherald.com

# Old mill meets fiery end



JACK MADER/For the Herald

The Manno Pro mill on East Mill Street, shut down in 2002, is engulfed in fire early Sunday morning. How early? That's the sun coming up on the far right.

## Landmark taken down after blaze

By DAVID AMEY  
EDITOR

A devastating double fire of yet unknown origin destroyed a Mill Street icon on Sunday and forced the evacuation of 35 families living across the street from the property.

While damage estimates of the Eshelman mill remain only guesses, the fire destroyed the abandoned building, damaged the building of Support Office Solutions and a warehouse rented by Micro Systems — all on the block owned by Scott Clifton.

The fire also jumped across the railroad tracks and caused extensive damage at Circleville Agri Products, creating a hazardous material exposure that is being investigated by the Ohio and federal EPA.

The only injuries were to firefighters, several of whom were treated for heat exhaustion in the 90 degree weather. None of them were hospitalized.

"I knew this was going to happen before I retired," said Capt. Jeff Wise of the Circleville Fire Department. "This fire was really cooking."

When a portion of the mill collapsed, it lit up Mill Street with burning debris, according to Tim Tener, Circleville Fire Chief, and damaged the facing residences.

The hot debris, propelled by a northwest breeze, also scattered across the city, causing spot damage. A resident on Mingo Street said the burning debris caused holes in lawn furniture and the fabric top of a

See Fire A2

### More photos

More photos from Sunday's fire are available on Page A2 and at circlevilleherald.com.



NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

Firefighters from Laurelvile and Colerain fire departments battle the fire Sunday.



JACK MADER/For the Herald

The water tower on the building collapsed while the fire was still blazing away.

Right: Ange Fulk, right, and friend, Sue Porter, talk with Bea Dorman of the local American Red Cross. On the left is Debbie McCoy, who owns the house.



DAVID AMEY/Circleville Herald

Far right: Family photos from the home of Roger and Ange Fulk sit outside to be safe from fire and smoke.



NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

# Dispute at benefit game leads to charges

By TRISH BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

## Baseball league president arrested after brawl

A dispute over a call by an umpire sparked a brawl Saturday at Viking Fields in Ashville and ended in the arrest of the Teays Valley Youth Baseball League president.

Charles Crum, 37, was charged with assault following the melee and is expected to be arraigned today in Circleville Municipal Court. Crum is accused of punching another man in the face and knocking him to the

ground during the altercation. According to Deputy Tracy Andrews of Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, at least 15 adults were involved in the first fight that broke out during the last game of a day-long benefit tournament for a

local resident who recently underwent open heart surgery. Crum was the only person arrested in the incident that occurred about 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Andrews said, but it wasn't the first trouble the PCSO has seen at the ball

fields. "We've had three or four incidents up there at different times," Andrews said. "It's starting to get out of hand. Most of the time, it's parents getting into fights over Little League stuff. This is the first one I'm aware of from an adult game."

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**Deaths**  
Patricia G. Haddox, 64  
David C. Hilyard, 85

**Home Delivery**  
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**News tips**  
474-3133

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**Good Day, Ralph Strawser**  
Thank you for subscribing to the Circleville Herald

# Circleville Herald | Community

## Fire

Continued from A1

parked convertible on Union St. The abandoned Manna Pro feed mill, which had been undergoing salvage work last week, initially ignited about 11 p.m. Saturday, according to Tener, who requested mutual aid assistance from about eight departments.

The fire was contained according to thermal imaging cameras, which showed no hot spots, and the units returned about 2:30 a.m. Sunday.

However, about three hours later, the fire apparently rekindled into a massive blaze that did most of the damage.

Upon arrival, the returning fire companies found the structure fully engulfed in flames. Witnesses said they saw flames from 10 miles away as the Sunday sun was beginning to rise.

The Mill Street residents were evacuated Sunday for three safety reasons, according to Tammy Ayers, director of operations for the Pickaway County General Health District.

Of immediate concern was the potential for airborne exposure to the assortment of chemicals stored at the Agri Products facility which sustained extreme heat damage. There was also concern about the building materials — especially asbestos — which may have been used in construction of the mill.

And, because of the large cracks in the exterior of the three story mill, officials were concerned about it falling onto Mill Street and scattering bricks into the homes.

While these concerns have not been answered, workers were on the scene Sunday to try to resolve them.

Technicians from the Ohio and Federal Environmental Protection Agencies could find no evidence of airborne

exposure from asbestos, VOC or hydrogen sulfide after initial testing, but reported additional investigations are required.

And, the crew of Wolfe & West used heavy equipment to take down the mill so it would not be a hazard. Prior to the arrival of heavy rain and a thunderstorm Sunday night, Art Wolfe operated a track hoe to knock down the back portion of the mill, and Alex Wolfe operated a heavy crane with large wrecking ball to knock down the taller structure.

While most of the fire crews were dismissed during the rain storm, the Wolfe & West crew stayed in place and returned to work after the rain ended. The mill structure was eventually taken down about 9:30 p.m.

Fire units assisting the Circleville Fire Department included Harrison Township, Pickaway Township, Scioto Township, Clearcreek Township, Saltcreek, Bloom Township, Colerain Township, Williamsport, and tower trucks from Chillicothe and Hamilton Township.

Church services were canceled Sunday morning at Calvary United Methodist Church, which is located on the corner of Washington and Mill Streets. Church members actually opened up their kitchen area and prepared lunches for the firefighters, who also received food and cold drinks by Goodwin's Restaurant, WalMart, McDonalds, Berger Hospital and concerned citizens including Marsha and Gary Dumm.

The American Red Cross disaster team organized by Bea Dorman, executive director of the Pickaway County chapter, also was on the scene to assist with the relocation of evacuated residents.

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NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald



NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

The acrid smoke was the nemesis of more than 100 firefighters and an entire city Sunday.

Firefighters took every chance to conserve their energy. Food and refreshments were supplied by area businesses.



NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

This view of the fire scene is west on Mill Street from Mingo Street.



DAVID AMEY/Circleville Herald



Courtesy of Susan Gifford

The fire destroyed so much of the Esheleman mill that officials ordered it demolished Sunday night because they thought it was a safety hazard. The demolition work was completed late Sunday by Wolfe & West. At left is the building about three years ago.

MONDAY		6 PM		6:30		7 PM		7:30		8 PM		8:30		9 PM		9:30		AUGUST 25	
BROADCAST STATIONS	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30							
ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Extra	Access Hollywood	Over on the Oval (Steno)	Frontline	Frontline	Frontline	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)	Democrat National Convention (N)
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NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

Bill and Patty Rice live in this sorcher with their two daughters, Alyssa Hogue, a student at OU-Chillicothe, and Alex Hogue, who is starting her junior year at Circleville High School today.

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