

# Chagrin VALLEY TIMES

Check out our e-edition at [ChagrinValleyToday.com](http://ChagrinValleyToday.com)! Want to go green? Call 440-247-5335.

## Newbury submits proposal for former school campus

By **SAMANTHA COTTRILL**

**NEWBURY** — With trustee approval, the township Task Force Committee submitted a formal proposal on the former Newbury campus to the West Geauga Local School District right up against the June 14 deadline.

Because the township and school board are entering negotiations

upon this submission, details of the proposal are not yet available to the public until the entities can come to an agreement, task force Chairman Bill Skomrock said during the committee's June 15 meeting.

Mr. Skomrock, also trustee chairman, noted that the township will not be purchasing the property.

"Newbury taxpayers paid for the

[property]," he said. "I'm going to stick by that, and I don't feel that we should have to pay twice for it."

The Newbury Local School District closed last summer in a territory transfer with West Geauga. Mr. Skomrock formed the Task Force Committee following the closure last year to explore the feasibility of the township potentially acquiring the school

property. The committee includes himself, along with the latest former Newbury school board members Maggie Zock, Kimya Matthews and Dave Lair, former school board member Dave Gifford and community member Carole Drabek.

Trustees met in executive session on June 10 to discuss the proposal to

**Turn to Newbury on Page 6**



ISSN 0194-3685

## INSIDE

### News

**Orange BOE** Help requested to preserve Beech Brook land. **A2**

**Russell** Trustees approve preliminary budget. **A2**

**Pepper Pike** Dominion pays for restoring circle. **A3**

**Bentleyville** Council studies request for Overlook Road. **A3**

**Chester** Police levy heads to ballot. **A4**

**Chagrin BOE** District to offer virtual learning in fall. **A5**

**Burton** Council studies 2022 spending needs. **A5**

**Gates Mills** New member named to council. **A12**

**Region** Bedford opens courtrooms for jury trials. **A14**

**Solon** Seeing familiar faces at summer activities. **A14**

### Sports

**Tennis** Nwaozuzu brothers make dynamic duo. **B1**

**Baseball** Gilmour grad eyes path to majors. **B1**

**Track** Solon grad makes showing in NCAA event. **B4**

Follow us on Facebook: [@chagrinvalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/chagrinvalleytimes)

CLASSIFIEDS, **B9-15**  
EDITORIAL, **A8**  
EDUCATION, **B5**  
OBITUARIES, **B6-7**  
RELIGION, **B5**  
SPORTS, **B1-4**

## An evening of jazz



Photo by Geoff Powers

The Evelyn Wright Jazz Quartet performed Friday night as part of the Encore Chamber Music Institute Music and Ideas Festival at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills. Evelyn Wright, center, is accompanied by Dave Thomas on piano, Peter Dominquez on bass and Bill Ransom on drums. The theme of the evening was "Sparked by Billie Holiday" so the quartet performed Billie Holiday's songs. The music and ideas festival began June 6 and continues through July 17. Artistic Director of the festival Jinjoo Cho said that the events are meant to spark curiosity and create a community of learning. There are also lectures and yoga classes in addition to the concerts. This weekend, there are several concerts to showcase Encore's distinguished young artists as they perform in string quartets. More information and tickets are available at [encorechambermusic.org](http://encorechambermusic.org) and 216-559-4015.

## Planner details requirements for Medina housing proposal

By **JULIE HULLETT**

**PEPPER PIKE** — City Planner George Smerigan said that a variance for Medina Creative Housing could be granted, but only if it meets six conditions.

Medina Creative Housing entered into a 99-year lease for 3 acres of a 42-acre parcel that is owned by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland on Fairmount Boulevard. They have proposed building 25 residential units in 10 new buildings for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Permanent housing is not a permitted use in the U-2 public buildings zoning district, which is the district where the property sits. Jennifer Wintner, the attorney representing Medina Creative Housing, requested a variance to extend

a nonconforming use.

There was already a lawful nonconforming use on the property owned by the Ursuline sisters for their old motherhouse, which was recently torn down. There is still a lawful nonconforming use for the new motherhouse, Merici Crossings, where the sisters live. The Planning and Zoning Commission has the authority to extend or relocate a nonconforming use, but not enlarge or expand it, Mr. Smerigan said.

"The commission is without authority to expand or enlarge any nonconforming use," he wrote in his report on June 1. "Therefore, nothing that would increase the density, scope, area or nature of

**Turn to Housing on Page 6**

## Chagrin Arts garden to honor the innocent

By **SAMANTHA COTTRILL**

Chagrin Arts is working to honor the innocent with a Garden of Hope in the Chagrin Valley.

The local organization is signifying its ongoing partnership with the Ohio Innocence Project at Cincinnati Law through the Arts with a Purpose program with the installation of the garden.

The garden, which will be located just outside the 88 N. Main St. building in downtown Chagrin Falls, will be supported by the purchase of bricks from residents and/or local businesses and is part of a larger renovation project for the nonprofit that includes a revitalized interior and a new sign.

To raise awareness of the Ohio

Innocence Project, a member of the international Innocence Network, at the center of the garden will be a commissioned work of art by Roger "Dean" Gillispie, Ohio Innocence Project Board of Advisers member and exoneree.

The permanent featured artwork, a three-dimensional structure, is entitled "Imaginal Cell" and was commissioned by the Ohio Innocence Project board.

An imaginal cell is the part of the caterpillar that transforms the insect into the butterfly, which is incorporated into the Ohio Innocence Project's logo. But there's more to the title than its reference to butterflies.

**Turn to Garden on Page 10**