



Chagrin VALLEY TIMES

Residential recycling slowly rising

By RYAN DENTSCHEFF

Residential recycling in Cuyahoga County has come a long way, with rates increasing nearly every year for more than a decade. But Jessica Fenos, principal planner with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, said there is still a long way to go.

The Solid Waste District recently released its annual report highlighting recycling rates from all 59 municipalities in Cuyahoga County. Overall, recycling of household products compared to solid waste sent to the landfill increased slightly from 16.5 percent in 2015 to 16.75 percent in 2016.

Leading the county in the percentage of recycled trash for the second consecutive year is Moreland Hills at 32 percent with a 1-percent rise over 2015.

"Overall, residential recycling is showing an increase pretty much every year, so I think we're headed in the right direction," Ms. Fenos said, "but there's always room for improvement with the curbside materials."

"It's a long road ahead to improving the curbside numbers, and we're working on that," she said.

The report separates data into three categories: solid waste, recycled material and recycled organic material, which includes leaves, grass and the like. When organic materials are factored into the equation, the overall recycling rate increased from

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Demand is up for fire services in Bainbridge

By JOAN DEMIRJIAN

BAINBRIDGE — With the former Geauga Lake Park property ripe for development, the Fire Department is expecting the up-swing in calls to continue rising.

That is likely to come with services the department already performs including calls from assisted-living facilities in the township that are "way up from last year," Bainbridge Fire Chief Lou Ann Metz said.

By the end of May this year, she said, calls were up by 153 compared to the same period last year with 959 calls as of July 5.

"We are on pace to hit 2,000 calls this year," she said. In 2015, they had 1,705 calls and in 2016, there were 1,693 calls.

"Bainbridge residents can be confident in the fact they are truly getting their tax dollars back," Trustee Lorrie Benza said after the chief's presentation.

Chief Metz said, "We are indisputably busier than we have ever been." The peak time for calls is in the summer between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., she noted.

As an example, they had 14 calls on one day in June, and the department has had other days when they have responded to seven to eight calls representing a mix of

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Growing social justice



Photo by Geoff Powers

Sara Continenza, who grew up in Woodmere, is founder of Whole Vision, takes some time with a sunflower sprout in the urban garden at Iowa-Maple Elementary in Glenville. The Orange High School grad is promoting health and wellness by encouraging people to start community gardens. See story on Page A2.

Condo plan heads to village council

By RYAN DENTSCHEFF

MORELAND HILLS — With a newly secured recommendation for approval by the Planning Commission to Village Council, a 59-unit residential development on Chagrin Boulevard is one step closer to breaking ground.

Monday night was the third time the planning commission met with the Omni Group Development Co. — representing OGDC Moreland Commons LLC, owners of the 21.3-acres just east of the Orange City Schools administration building.

At the first two meetings, the commission requested plan modifications from OMNI and by the third meeting the two sides found common ground.

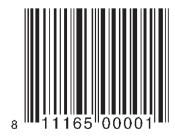
The development was initially made possible

by voters last November who approved a ballot issue allowing up to four residences per acre. Residential zoning in the village calls for a 2-acre minimum for each house.

The ballot issue also included stipulations that 20 percent of the land remain green space and that the minimum setback for buildings from Chagrin Boulevard is 100 feet.

The plan includes 41 individual detached homes and six buildings each containing three townhomes. Due to the preliminary nature of the proposal, developers said they do not have estimated unit sizes or selling prices of the houses and townhomes. Property layout approval is needed before architectural designs can be completed.

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Orange grad promotes wellness through gardens

By SUZANNE ONDRUS

For Sara Continenza, seeing the world as it truly is has been her personal mission since she was a teenager growing up in Woodmere.

A drive to learn from other cultures took the Orange High School 2000 graduate to Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in West Africa, from 2005 to 2007 as a Peace Corps volunteer after earning her B.A. in English and B.S. in human development and family science from the Ohio State University.

After Burkina, she taught English as a second language in a high school in Japan for two years, becoming proficient in Japanese. She succinctly summarizes the four years as "going from the Flintstones to the Jetsons."

Being in both countries, she said, taught her about the healing power of foods. In Burkina, she oversaw the planting of Moringa trees to aid malnourished people. The entire Moringa tree is edible including the roots, leaves and flowers. In addition to helping people with diabetes, hypertension and low breast milk production, she said, the tree can be used as a food staple.

At the heart of Ms. Continenza's mission is a drive to change society through healthy living.

The goal, she said is "creating a cohesive movement toward health and wellness for all, a culture of health, where gardens are everywhere."

From 2012 to 2016 while working on the Stay Well Project and Gardens of Giving Program at the Hunger Network, she began to put into practice her vision of changing food deserts in Cleveland and teaching people to see and use food as medicine. A year ago she founded her company Whole Vision LLC, a consulting firm for social initiatives that fundraises and does community engagement, program coordination, and organizational development. The mission is to promote community development and wellness through agriculture, active living and the arts.

"I support programs that promote healthy eating and living, the arts and youth empowerment," Ms. Continenza said. Her goal is to have an open source model. Presently, she is building a model of community work with community gardening and a care van. Just last week she worked with a



Photo by Geoff Powers

Sara Continenza works with community leaders in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland helping them to manage a community garden. They are meeting at Iowa-Maple Elementary School in Cleveland.

group in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland at Iowa-Maple Elementary to develop an urban garden and other environmentally friendly projects such as making rain barrels. The rain collected provides a pure source of water for the gardens.

Her vision has its roots in the Chagrin Valley. Growing up in Woodmere and attending Orange schools Sara felt out of place around her more affluent peers. She remembers focusing on what she perceived to be lacking for her – the newest car models, highly landscaped lawns and vacations. A crucial shift occurred at age 8 when she started accompanying her mother, a social worker, on her rounds in economically deprived areas of Cleveland. Visiting people living in apartments with no furniture, no food and cockroaches turned her mind to what she did have – reliable meals, housing, the space of land and loving parents. Her mother's clients made

her see her own life and Cleveland differently.

Aiding the Greater Cleveland area with her international healthy living perspectives has long since been her mission. Presently, she is a board member of the nine community gardens of South Euclid where she resides, and she spearheaded the Breckley Garden. She is also running for a council seat. In South Euclid and in Cleveland her vision is to create a new generation of leaders so the youth have a sense of responsibility and ownership. Instead of relegating the young to the sidelines, Ms. Continenza said she believes in empowering young people through engagement in assessing and actively solving local problems so that "they are ambassadors of our health."

Her passion for work and politics is to bring people together and unite them around improving the community's well being, she said. When community ties are strong, people thrive, she added.

News briefs

Road work delays on Taylor May

Motorists can expect some detours and delays on Taylor May Road in Auburn and Bainbridge. Bainbridge Road Superintendent John Brett said an asphalt resurfacing project is being done on the section of road from Snyder Road east to the Auburn Township line as well drainage improvement project.

It is closed to through traffic, although open to those who live in that stretch of roadway. The project should be done in five to six weeks.

The project is being done by Ronyak Paving Co. at a cost of \$417,364. And as of this week, crews from CIR Incorporated were working on the ditches.

The roadway has one significant curve in the area where the work is being done. Bainbridge Service Director Jim Stanek said the road will be improved by sloping it appropriately to better handle the traffic on the turn. In addition, the line of sight has been improved by removing trees along the right of way.

The ditches are being moved back and the drainage will also be improved both sides of the road. The work is expected to be completed sometime in mid-August.

The section of Taylor May in Auburn Township between the Auburn line and Munn Road is also undergoing repaving. The project also includes the ditches and drainage improvements. Auburn Trustee John Elberly said the road could be closed for short periods as well.

Paving should be done by mid-August, before the Kenston School District buses are out on the roads again for the opening of the school year.

Composting seminar offered

A seminar on how to compost and recycle is set for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 15 at the Solon Community Center.

The session will be led by Kathleen Rocco of the Cuyahoga County.

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