

Shopping center plans under review

By TARA STUBBS-FIGURSKI
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Bexley City Council members want to compare Capital University's vision for the Bexley Square shopping center to existing development guidelines.

At a May 25 public hearing, Capital representatives showed council possible plans for the shopping center, which is located on Main Street across the street from the university's campus.

Capital, which is evaluating whether to purchase the shopping center from Casto, has requested a variance that would

permit "campus uses" at the property. Another variance request deals with parking requirements.

Several council members and Trinity Lutheran Seminary president Mark Ramseth were concerned about how Capital's plans would fall in line with the Southwest Master Plan that the city developed in partnership with the university and the seminary.

After a discussion, council members decided to review the Southwest Master Plan before the Bexley Square matter returns to council June 8, when the third reading of legislation and a possible vote

are scheduled.

The university announced in April that it had signed an agreement to purchase the shopping center from Casto. Capital was given a 75-day window to take a closer look at the property. The due diligence period ends in mid-June.

Ken Weixel, chair of Capital's resources committee, told council that the university planned to keep retail uses at the center that would benefit both residents and students. Plans could include a bookstore, conference or meeting space, a health center or clinic, and an art gallery.

Capital attorney Don Plank said the

parking variance would allow the university to maintain the current 90 spaces at the shopping center. Under code, the redevelopment would require 165 spaces, Plank said.

In response to council member Richard Sharp's concerns about the Southwest Master Plan, Weixel said Capital's possible purchase of the shopping center would provide an opportunity for the university to work with the city to improve retail options on Main Street.

"It is an incredible opportunity for us to do something we never thought of before," he said.

Council president Jeff McClelland said he was concerned about the potential loss of tax revenue that could come with campus uses. Weixel said Capital had no immediate plans to reduce the number of retail tenants at the shopping center, which was built in 1983.

Current tenants include the Bexley Monk, Bexley Copy Shop, Edward D. Jones and Co., the Pilates Studio of Bexley, Curves and a Cosi restaurant.

Council member Ben Kessler said the Southwest Master Plan was completed

See **CENTER**, page A2

KEEPING PACE



By Ann Tormet/ThisWeek

Cassingham Elementary School third-graders Rachel Gold, left, and Evan Trabitza race against each other as they take part in the Run For Charity on May 28 at the Bexley High School track. The event served as a fundraiser for the pediatric cancer unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Fair median decision due in short order

By TARA STUBBS-FIGURSKI
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Bexley might be moving closer to having one more median on Fair Avenue.

City council's safety committee held a public meeting May 25 to discuss the addition of a median at Fair and Cassingham Road.

The streets are not aligned at the intersection, and some believe the median would improve safety for drivers and children walking to school at the Cassingham Complex.

Council has received mostly favorable comments about adding the median, service director Bill Harvey said. The decision will be made in the next few weeks, said Harvey, who estimated "there is an 80-plus percent chance we are going to go forward."

The median would be part of the city's 2010 street improvement program. Council recently approved spending \$3-million to resurface and repair streets. Streets slated for work this year are Fair, Bryden, Powell, Ruhl, Stanberry, Plymouth and Elm.

Fair is slated for a total rebuild, so some city officials thought it

A closer look

Fair Avenue and Cassingham Road are not aligned at the intersection, and some believe the median would improve safety for drivers and children walking to school at the Cassingham Complex.

would make sense to add the median at Fair and Cassingham. The intersection is the only portion of Fair without a median, Harvey has said.

All roadwork on Fair Avenue should be finished in time for next school year, Harvey said.

The median would be fairly simple in design with limited landscaping so visibility at the intersection wouldn't be reduced, he told council.

If the city installs the median, additional stop signs would be added on eastbound and westbound Fair at Cassingham. Council member Ben Kessler expressed concern about having new stop signs located so close to existing

See **MEDIAN**, page A2

Sidewalk repairs wrapping up ADA project, funded by federal stimulus dollars, now under way

By TARA STUBBS-FIGURSKI
ThisWeek Staff Writer

A program to fix city sidewalks is almost finished, according to service director Bill Harvey.

The service department must finish inspecting the work as well as return calls from residents concerned the city might have missed a few squares, Harvey told Bexley City Council on May 25.

"As we identify issues in the future, those sidewalks will be the responsibility of residents," he said. Council decided in July 2008 to fix city sidewalks but assess residents for repairs.

Once the current work is finished, the city will return to a three-year sidewalk program, Harvey said. The service department will inspect sidewalks in one section of the city — north, central and south Bexley — every three years.

Homeowners will be notified when sidewalks need to be repaired. If the sidewalks are not fixed, the city will do the work and bill the resident, Harvey said.

Harvey told council that the city's sidewalks cover 1.5-million square feet, and about 200,000 square feet (about 13 percent) were replaced in the last two years. Sidewalks in north and central Bexley were done in 2009, and work on south Bexley sidewalks was done this year.

The sidewalks that didn't need to be repaired were inspected, Harvey said. "We should be in good shape over the next several years."

Council made the right decision to fix the sidewalks and start the assessment program, council member Rick Weber said.

"It was a lot of money to start off with, but it evened the playing field and they are all in good condition," he said.

The city awarded the sidewalk work to a contractor for \$629,700. The city had committed \$1-million to the project, although the city engineer later estimated the improvements would cost \$862,060.

Another project related to sidewalks, the city's handicap accessibility project, started the week of May 24 and should take several months to complete, Harvey said.

Bexley was awarded federal stimulus funds for the work through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. The city received \$1.145-million for the urban core ADA accessibility project that will add curb ramps and improve sidewalks and traffic signals, primarily on Main and Broad streets and Cassidy, College and Drexel avenues.

tstubs@thisweeknews.com

Library updates rules for patrons borrowing movies

By TARA STUBBS-FIGURSKI
ThisWeek Staff Writer

The Bexley Public Library's youngest patrons now have more access to the library's collection.

A policy change that went into effect June 1 enables children with a library card to check out a DVD or VHS tape, library director Rachel Rubin said.

Before the policy change, only patrons over 17 could check out movies.

Parents who don't want their children checking out movies should contact the library at 231-8741 or visit the circulation desk.

"We believe that people should have open access to the materials in the collection," Rubin said. "Before, (children) didn't have that ability."

Rubin said most public libraries allow children to check out movies, but Bexley decided

to take it a step further and let parents have the final say. She said it was important to give parents the ability to opt out because of the previous policy.

The board of trustees wanted to allow children to check out movies because it is consistent with other community policies, board of trustees director Alan Radnor said.

"We are in the process of reviewing our policies, as we do periodically," he said.

Also beginning June 1, all children now are permitted to have a library card, Rubin said. Before the change, cards only were given to children who could sign their library

card. "I think kids should be sent home ... with their own library card," she said.

In another policy change that began June 1, library patrons will be allowed to reserve a copy of a movie. Members had been allowed

See **LIBRARY**, page A3

A closer look

Parents who don't want their children checking out movies should contact the library at 231-8741 or visit the circulation desk.

DIRECTORY

News: (740) 888-6100
editorial@thisweeknews.com

Sports: (740) 888-6054
sports@thisweeknews.com

Retail ads: (740) 888-6009
jwillis@thisweeknews.com

Classified: (740) 888-5003
classified@thisweeknews.com

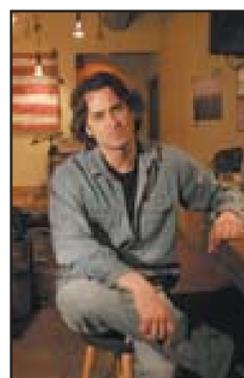
Customer Service:
1-888-837-4342



For the latest news and information for

ThisWeek Bexley
follow us on twitter

<http://twitter.com/TWBexley>



Read about singer-songwriter **Peter Cooper** in this week's Arts & Entertainment news online at www.thisweeknews.com. Go under the "Lifestyle" tab and click on Arts & Entertainment.

Read this week's restaurant news and reviews at www.thisweeknews.com/foodandwine.

Engagement

DeGoricia, Yanovsky nuptials planned

Lauren DeGoricia, daughter of Cindy and Dan DeGoricia of Dublin, and Boris Yanovsky, son of Lana and Igor Yanovsky of Bexley, have announced their engagement.

The couple has set an Aug. 7 wedding date, with the ceremony to be held at Franklin Park Conservatory.

The bride-to-be is a third-year law student at the University of Cincinnati.

The future groom received a master's degree in industrial organization psychology from Xavier University in 2009. He is employed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Cincinnati.



Boris Yanovsky and Lauren DeGoricia

In brief

Trinity kicks off summer concerts

Trinity Lutheran Seminary's 26th annual summer music series will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, in the Gloria Dei Worship Center, 2199 E. Main St.

Jeni Fleming will perform an array of music, from the standards of Gershwin and Porter to rearranged pop hits by The Beatles and Cyndi Lauper.

The June 15 concert will feature the Brass

Band of Columbus, performing selections such as "Mack the Knife" and "Te Deum."

The Columbus Symphony Brass Quintet will perform the final concert on June 22, playing music from Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Gloria Dei Worship Center. A freewill offering will be collected. Free parking is available.

For more information about the event, call 235-4136 or visit www.TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu.

Before summer really kicks in attend these FREE COMMUNITY PARENT SEMINARS



"UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS OF ADHD CHILDREN"

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 • 7:00 – 9:00 PM

"IMPROVING SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR ADHD STUDENTS"

Monday, June 21, 2010 • 7:00 – 9:00 PM

RSVP to Barbara Davidson at 614-433-0822 or bdavidson@marburnacademy.org

WWW.MARBURNACADEMY.ORG



CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FOR BRIGHT STUDENTS WITH ADHD AND DYSLLEXIA.



PELOTONIA 10

PELOTONIA IS A GRASSROOTS BIKE TOUR WITH ONE GOAL → TO END CANCER

08.20.10 → 08.22.10

RIDE. DONATE. VOLUNTEER. → PELOTONIA.ORG

100% OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO CANCER RESEARCH AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER—JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



FOOD & WINE

- Restaurant reviews and industry news
- Wine column by local wine experts
- Recipes from local chefs
- Local chef bios
- Staff Q & A
- Guest columns

Visit ThisWeekNews.com/foodandwine

Florence: A Tuscan Masterpiece

By Aaron Leventhal



View of the Duomo from the rooftop patio of the Hotel Villani.

Any trip to Italy should include a few days in the storied Tuscan city of Florence (Firenze), pop. 400,000. Founded along the Arno River in 59 B.C. by Julius Caesar, Florence has a beauty and creative energy that has captivated both visitors and conquerors alike for centuries.

Revered as Italy's cultural capital and the cradle of the Renaissance, Florence has been home to such artistic geniuses as Michelangelo, Dante, Giotto, Botticelli and Donatello and the powerful Medici papal banking family. My wife Beth and I were captivated by the city's wealth of world-class art, architecture and cuisine. Its center is compact and all of the major points of interest are within easy walking distance of one another. Here's a short list of some of our favorites.

• **David** – He is absolutely magnificent.

Michelangelo carved this 15-ft. pearly white sculpture of marble from the quarries near Carrara. Located in the Galleria dell'Accademia, David is regarded as the greatest sculpture ever created, and worth a trip to Florence just to experience the young shepherd boy stoically poised to take down Goliath.

• **The Duomo** – Designed by architect Emilio de Fabris, the Cathedral di Santa Maria del Fiore was begun in 1296 and almost two centuries later was topped with a red tiled dome that has become an iconic landmark of Florence. You can climb the Cathedral's 463 stone steps for an incredible panoramic view of the city.

• **Uffizi Gallery** – Designed by Giorgio Vasari in 1554 as a palace serving the governmental functions of the Medici, the Uffizi evolved over time into a home for

the family's extraordinary private art collection, which ultimately was bequeathed to the city. Put aside at least a half day to stroll through its more than 50 galleries with more than 1,000 classical masterpieces. Imagine experiencing four galleries filled with the works of Botticelli, including *Birth of Venus*, possibly the world's most beloved painting; Leonardo da Vinci's *Annunciation*; and three galleries of works by Rembrandt, Goya, Rubens and Caravaggio.

• **L'Osteria dell' Agnolo** – Owned and managed by Luca Bracali, a noted international photographer and documentary filmmaker, the Osteria (informal ristorante) was established in 1580 as an inn, making it one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants in the world. The country-style, two-story tavern offers traditional Tuscan dishes, including ribollita (bread soup with vegetables), salad Nizzarda (eggs and anchovies) and spaghetti Portofino loaded with shrimp, crab and fish. It is located near the Duomo at Borgo s. Lorenzo 24. www.osteria-agnolo.it

• **San Gimignano** – For a perfect change of pace, take a 1 1/2 -hour bus ride through Tuscany's vineyards, orchards and olive groves to one of the most beautiful villages in the region. San Gimignano has retained its medieval aura, with winding, narrow, cobblestone streets, small shops and cafes and breathtaking views of the hilly countryside. It is noted for its fortress towers and Vernaccia wine.



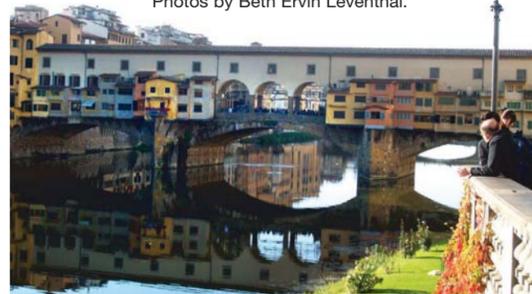
Travel writer Aaron Leventhal relaxing over lunch in San Gimignano.

If time permits, check out some of these other impressive sights: Palazzo Vecchio, the Medici's 14th century home; Ponte Vecchio, Florence's oldest bridge; the Bargello, once a prison and now Museo Nazionale; the 13th century Franciscan church, Chiesa di Santa Croce; and the sprawling San Lorenzo outdoor market.

• **Where to stay:** We found the modest Hotel Villani (www.hotelvillani.it), a 13-room inn on the fourth floor of a historic building, to be economical and ideally located across from the Duomo. It is surrounded by more than a dozen outstanding restaurants and is within walking distance of all major attractions.

• **For more information:** Contact the Italian Government Tourist Board, www.italiantourism.com, 212-245-5618.

Columbus based travel writer Aaron Leventhal is the travel columnist for *High Street Neighborhoods*, www.highstreetmoneysavers.net. Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal.



The Ponte Vecchio, Florence's oldest bridge

WANT TO TRAVEL TO ITALY?

GET YOUR TRIP ORGANIZED & PLANNED AT ASKMARSHATRAVEL.COM

PROVIDING EVERY DETAIL NECESSARY TO MAKE YOUR TRIP COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT AND FUN.

- TOURS • HOTELS
- DINING • PHONES
- ENTERTAINMENT

MARSHA DE SALVATORE IS A FORMER COLUMBUS RESIDENT LIVING IN ROME FOR THE PAST 9 YEARS. EXPERTISE & GREAT SAVINGS

MARSHA@ASKMARSHATRAVEL.COM



Gianduja An Italian sweet chocolate with fresh hazelnuts.

Yosick's artisan chocolates

Save \$5 on purchase of \$20 or more.

pastries, desserts, scones, pizzas, quiche, salads, espressos

539 S. Fifth St. in German Village
614-223-9575 • www.yosicks.com

open daily 6am-8:30pm
Expires June 30, 2010