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Police Blotter

- Beer can thrown through window:

Business, Community, Health News, News, North Royalton Schools »

New YMCA facility seeks funds

By Sara Macho
September 24, 2009, 3:10PM

NORTH ROYALTON -- According to Glenn Haley, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, all that's needed in bringing a recreational facility here are "a lot of conversations" and the "willingness to make it happen."

There is also another large component -- finding \$6 million to \$8 million in pledges.

"We don't want a false start," Haley told city officials and residents gathered Sept. 21 for a Ward 1 and 2 meeting.

Although many details are under wraps, Haley divulged that a panel of corporate leaders are currently seeking out pledge-based donations for the potential construction of a facility. Bigger gifts starting at \$500,000 are needed now, while "community phase" donations of \$5,000 and below will be called upon later, Haley said.

By November, residents will know if the construction is a reality.

Representatives are keeping mum about a location, but Ward 1 and 2 residents in attendance did suggest the long vacant Avalon Event Center located on State Road. No public announcements have been made because of a probable hike in price, Haley said.

"We are exploring a bunch of different sites, including use of land, vacancies and acquisition," Haley said.

Specific recreation amenities are also dependent on the amount of money raised, but residents can expect aquatics, after-school programming, child care and a large gymnasium.

A "concept building" is being shown only to those looking to assist with fund-raising.

The facility would employ between 85 and 115 people.

Residents had the opportunity to pose questions, and one man raised his hand to address the viability of the endeavor.

"I've lived in North Royalton a long time, and I've seen this been talked about again and again," he said. "I guess I can just be a little skeptical."

Haley answered the resident by saying a green light on the project depends on the full cooperation and determination of residents. YMCA construction is done through a pledge-based campaign, and funds can be paid over time.

"The time to do this is now," Haley said. "The cost of construction and materials is down. There is no better time. While other organizations are scaling back, the YMCA is forging ahead."

Haley also made a funding plea to State Rep. Matt Patten, who was in attendance to meet with residents.

"We are shovel-ready, by the way," Haley said.

Mayor Robert Stefanik also urged resident involvement.

"It doesn't have to be financially," Stefanik said. "The city is excited for the opportunity. Residents can help by knocking on doors and just getting the

INTERMISSION

- These are offbeat 'Men Who Stare at Goats,' no buts about it
- Carey Mulligan is 'An Education' unto herself
- 'This Is It?' the sensational Michael Jackson
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- The Lil' Bears Preschool of North Royalton City Schools is enrolling for 2010

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- Learn how to bake like a true king.

Go Seek: Weekly Photo Contest

- Go seek for Sun Star-Courier

Mary Jane Skala's Reflections

- Cleveland is just a blip on travelers' radar screen

Person of the Week

- Mike Gorman, president of Brecksville bank and chamber: Sun Star-Courier Person of the Week

Picture Perfect Pets

- Baxter Andrasik of Strongsville helps keep yard free of squirrels: Sun Star-Courier Picture Perfect Pet

Royalton Revue

- Former North Royalton resident Mark Klaus opens museum at Great Northern Mall: Royalton Revue

Scene at the Crossroads

- Casual conversation turns to talk of food show: Scene at the Crossroads

Scoop du Jour: Dining Reviews

- There is fine

Brecksville Police Blotter

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momentum going.”

A Web site backing the potential construction is expected to launch this month.

Mexican fare for your next fiesta at Cozumel

Student of the Week

- Alexandria Sadasivan explores pharmacy and other health care careers: Sun Star-Courier Student of the Week

Yenke Peddler: Antiques & Collectibles

- Preserving antiques can have big benefits

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LOCAL FORUMS

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Council President Vince Gentile served as Monday’s meeting moderator and also introduced other visitors including Catherine Breck, field representative to U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton, D-13, Ward 1 councilman John Nickell, Ward 2 councilman Gary Petrusky, Fire Chief Michael Fabish and Public Safety Director Bruce Campbell.

Brecksville

- Ag-lode, I am hereby... by slyoldguy 11/10/2009 7:32 a.m. ET

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Strongsville

- The cashman girls by bgsu1977 11/09/2009 10:19 p.m. ET

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