

ROCKY RIVER

Meals on Wheels celebrates 50 years of serving communities

By **BRIAN GEORGE**

After decades of volunteer work, West Shore Meals on Wheels will be celebrating its 50 anniversary from 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Don Umerley Civic Center. The event will be for donors, volunteers and anyone who has helped the organization.

"This celebration is very exciting for us," Lynda Kovach, director of West Shore Meals on Wheels, says. "It is truly an honor to have an organization that has been successful and has survived for so many years. Especially in today's world. And it's an accomplishment achieved by our volunteers and donors."

West Shore Meals on Wheels is a

community-based nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to delivering meals in the areas of Fairview Park, Lakewood and Rocky River. The meals are prepared with fresh ingredients or are made-from-scratch goods. They operate two kitchens, the Fairview Park Kitchen and the Rocky River-Lakewood Kitchen, which serve residents of their respective communities.

According to Kovach, the organization was founded in 1973 after several west side churches saw there was a need for prepared meals in different communities.

"I find it interesting that, during its founding, the main people on the board were all women," Kovach says. "Especially during a time when

women didn't have jobs, they were looking for volunteer work."

Initially found as a program to provide meals for seniors, it expanded to include people who have been released from the hospital along with people with injuries that prevent them from making their meals.

Even though the organization has several employees, the main operation is based on volunteer work. Along with that, the success of it has been through donations and grants from members of the communities.

Currently, there are 115 active volunteers who are regularly scheduled with West Shore Meals on Wheels.

For Kovach, she feels that it is important

because there are recipients who can't go shopping or make food. She continues by saying that a vital aspect of the organization is the social aspect. For people who are dealing with loneliness or don't have contact with others, it can be a big thing to have someone come to the door to deliver food.

"We are always looking for recipients," Kovach says. "People think that you have to be a certain age. We have a diverse clientele, such as a mother who recently gave birth and couldn't manage to make meals. We are here to help."

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NORTH OLMSTED

Pinball Shoppe to be demolished after city hit with heavy storms

By **EVAN GALLAGHER**

One of the top-reported casualties of the area's heavy August storms was the catastrophic roof collapse of one of the city's longest-running businesses, The Pinball Shoppe.

On the evening of Aug. 23, torrential rain, thunder and lightning rolled through Northeast Ohio. Around midnight, the roof of The Pinball Shoppe at 27693 Butternut Ridge Road, collapsed due to the weight of the rainwater.

The city and building experts say now the building has to be demolished.

The Pinball Shoppe owner Garry Foreman, however, already has plans for a new location on Lorain Road, near Industrial Parkway. The business, he said, had been at the old location since 1995, and the building itself was constructed in 1920.

"The way I understand it is the back portion collapsed first, then the front portion," Foreman said.

Foreman owns the shop with his wife, Judi. Their children, a son and daughter, also help run the shop.

The business had been selling new and used pinball machines, video arcade games, ball bowlers and other arcade machines to individuals from all over the country. The owners had two previous locations, one on Rocky River Drive in Cleveland and the other off of Clemens Road in Westlake.

Foreman said there is no estimate for



Photo courtesy of the City of North Olmsted

The Pinball Shoppe roof collapsed.

damage costs yet.

"It's going to be a little bit of a tough period," Foreman said, adding that he is worried about keeping his employees' pay continuing, as well as moving to the new location.

According to Kevin Kearney, service director for the City of North Olmsted, the parts of town that received the most flooding were the north side of Clague Road and the north side of Canterbury Road.

To help residents impacted by the storm, the city sent out garbage trucks on Friday, Aug. 25 and Monday, Aug. 28 to pick up extra debris.

Another issue city residents ran into during the storm was downed trees. Mastick Road

was closed from Clague Road to Shepherd Hill due to a downed tree. On Aug. 25, the road reopened.

"We had no power for the pumps to the wastewater station," Kearney said. He added that workers at the city's wastewater treatment plant had to fill up the generators with diesel continuously to keep the facility running.

In preparation for the demolition of The Pinball Shoppe, Porter Road is closed from Midvale to Butternut Ridge Road. Additionally, Butternut Ridge Road will be closed from Lorain to Burns roads. This closure will remain until the demolition has been completed

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offered for a fee. You will have your choice of color skunk, "lavender, gray, browns, white not just black and white. We print it right there and put it in a nice photo folder," Cipriani said.

She added owning a skunk is like having a 2-year-old child. "Like people, some are nice, some are not, some go in litter boxes, some don't, some sleep in bed with their humans and some don't."

"Skunk Haven, which is one of the few legally licensed pet skunk rescues in the world, has continued to maintain federal and state permits for more than eighteen years," according to its website.

It is legal to own a pet skunk in 15 states including Ohio if they are purchased from a dealer, breeder or pet store. Those skunks have their sacs removed. Owners also need a permit. Skunks captured in the wild are illegal to own.

"If people want to see something different come to the SkunkFest," Cipriani said.

Contact this reporter at smonahan@westlifefews.com or 440-871-5797.

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