

Solon

T I M E S

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Mayor leads dignitaries on vision tour of proposed trail

By MICHELE COLLINS

Solon Mayor Edward Kraus recently led a bus full of politicians, park planners, and county planning commissioners on a tour of the planned Solon-Chagrin Falls Trail, highlighting the planned path that will eventually connect the two cities via a trail along a former rail line.

His goal to add trails and connectivity in the city has become an even more personal one since he

was hit by a car while riding his bike in Woodmere Village earlier this summer.

"I was lucky," he said of the accident. "I only suffered some bruises. But I was taken to Ahuja Medical Center and the doctor there told me most people who are hit on their bike usually suffer fractures, major trauma or worse."

Since the accident, Mayor Kraus has focused on showing his constituents

the benefits of creating bike and walking trails, so bicyclists and walkers can use a trail rather than ride or walk on a street filled with cars.

Mayor Kraus along with members of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, Cleveland Metroparks, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, State Senator Matt Dolan, State Senator Jerry Cerino, Cuyahoga County Councilman Jack Shron and mayors from 6 different communities, all rode in a luxury

minibus around Solon to Chagrin Falls.

Stops along the way showed where the proposed Solon-Chagrin Falls trail would start, cross and eventually lead to Chagrin Falls. Plans for a South Chagrin Connector Trail, a 1.9-mile trail that would connect the Solon-Chagrin Falls trail to the main portion of Cleveland Metroparks'

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Fire, police personnel join forces for active shooter training

By MICHELE COLLINS

Solon Fire and Solon Police Departments held a joint training exercise recently which focused on how to rescue victims during an active shooter situation, when the shooter was still on site.

The Rescue Task Force training comes after years of learning what rescue processes save the most lives during mass shooting situations, compiled unfortunately through lessons they have learned through various mass shootings that occurred in the United States.

Thanks to the training, firefighter/paramedics no longer wait to enter the building of an active shooter situation until it is completely cleared by police, they use those precious early minutes to get to victims and save lives.

Working in tandem with armed police officers, firefighter/paramedics wearing bullet proof vests and ballistic helmets enter what is called a "rescue corridor," an area cleared and defended by police, which enables the rescue personnel to get to the injured.

It is dangerous work, but work that has been proven to save lives, according to Solon Fire Chief Mark Vedder.

The Rescue Task Force training which took place the week of August 22 in Solon, included approximately 80 Solon fire and police personnel.

It simulated a real active shooter situation, complete with simulated live shooters firing blanks, police

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Photo by Anton Albert

Students from Dorothy E. Lewis Elementary met Solon Comets football players, Jamari Holmes, left and Matt Charney, right, during a district-wide pep rally. Posing with their idols are from left to right, Lewis students Jacob Heller, Dylan Holden-Ratliff and Sam Becker-Howell.

High school heroes

Elementary students get chance to see football players, cheerleaders, and members of marching band up close and personal

By MICHELE COLLINS

Matteo Howell, age 9, had the chance to see his role models up close, when the Solon Comets high school football players visited his school, Dorothy E. Lewis Elementary as part of a district wide pep assembly for elementary students on Friday.

His thoughts on seeing the big senior players, "someday that will be me."

Matteo is a quarterback on his Solon Saturns youth football team, who "someday" wants to play on the Comets. Until that time, he enjoyed the

pep rally, and will enjoy the opportunity to attend the high school games with his family, practicing and learning for the day when he will get to be part of the Friday night football tradition.

In addition to the football players, members of the high school cheerleading squad, and Solon High School Marching Band headed to all three Solon elementaries, Lewis, Roxbury and Parkside, to host 2p.m. pep rallies concurrently.

"The pep rallies are a chance for the

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City hires outside counsel to lead negotiations with new union

By MICHELE COLLINS

The Solon City Council passed an ordinance to hire Zashin and Rich law firm of Cleveland, to represent the city in its contract negotiations with the city's newest union, which represents the city's service department employees.

The hiring came on the recommendation of Mayor Edward Kraus

and Law Director Thomas Lobe.

Mayor Kraus, who is an attorney himself, said it was common for municipalities to hire "expert" counsel, especially in the beginning of labor contract negotiation, or with new labor groups.

The resolution was passed unanimously, and the contract with Zashin and Rich law firm will be retroactive to July 20, because the firm provided

initial guidance to the city when the union was formed, according to the council agenda.

The city of Solon will receive discounted hourly rates for the law firm's services at the rate of \$290 for partner level attorneys, \$250 for associate level attorneys and \$125 for paralegals, clerks and other legal assistants.

Normal rates can be as much as

\$540, \$370 and \$160 respectively.

Zashin and Rich, specializes in labor and employment law.

In addition to representing the city of Solon, Zashin and Rich also has represented the cities of Beachwood, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Macedonia, Orange Village, Pepper Pike, Shaker Heights and

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