

# Chagrin VALLEY TIMES

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## Axiom backs away from Beech Brook purchase

By **JULIE HULLETT**

**PEPPER PIKE** — After two years of discussions, Axiom Development Group last week pulled the plug on a pending land purchase agreement with Beech Brook and the ballot issue to rezone that property for a mixed-use district.

Principal Bryan Stone of Axiom Development Group announced that

he will not buy the 68-acre parcel or move forward with the plan. Axiom by-passed City Council and used an initiative petition to place Issue 34 on the Nov. 3 ballot to rezone the Beech Brook property and two neighboring parcels.

Mr. Stone announced in a press release last Friday that there was significant misinformation targeted

at his project and he was not able to have fact-based discussions about his proposal, which included a mix of residential, office, retail and green space. The collaborative process “has been completely undermined and ground to a halt,” according to Mr. Stone.

“As a result, we believe the project is no longer feasible. Therefore, in

the interest of all those involved, it is with great disappointment that we have decided to not move forward with the purchase and rezoning of the Beech Brook property,” he stated in the release.

The land is owned by Beech Brook, a nonprofit behavior health agency serving young people that

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## That blue ribbon moment



Photo by Michael Steinberg

Tessa Merrill clutches her blue ribbon and trophy with joy while riding her horse, Fax, at Fieldstone Farm’s annual riding show last Saturday. Fieldstone Farm, a therapeutic riding center in Bainbridge, hosted the show under sunny skies. Nearly 60 students had the opportunity to showcase their talent on horseback and in carriages, the most students to ever participate in the show. Students span all ages and have a variety of disabilities and challenges, but they proudly showed off their skills to family, friends and community members. Fieldstone Farm has 45 acres on Snyder Road. Communications Manager Elizabeth Krouse said that the show usually takes two or three hours but this year, it went on for five hours due to extra COVID-19 precautions. Everyone wore a mask and socially distanced, she said.

## Bainbridge and Aurora OK joint Geauga Lake economic district

By **SAMANTHA COTTRILL**

It was unanimous as Bainbridge Township and the City of Aurora settled on the Geauga Lake Joint Economic Development District that has been months – or years – in the making, paving the way for potential development of the site.

Both communities met separately Monday night for their respective regular trustees and council meetings where each held a public hearing for the JEDD agreement, followed by votes for its approval. The property in question includes about 250 acres of land in the

township once part of the former Geauga Lake amusement park and SeaWorld Ohio.

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“On behalf of the board of trustees, it was a long process,” Trustee Jeff Markley said during the meeting. “It’s been a long road, and we have worked very hard, obviously, to get something done.” He added the agreement is a project “worthy of the attention we put into it.”

“I think it’s a very exciting moment for both Aurora and Bainbridge and certainly for Northeast Ohio. This agreement provides a real

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## Talk begins about housing for adults with disabilities near Ursuline Sisters

By **JULIE HULLETT**

**PEPPER PIKE** — After the Ursuline Sisters sold part of their property in June, a local organization is interested in building a 25-unit housing complex for people with disabilities on the site.

The Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland owns 42 acres in Pepper Pike, including the old and new motherhouses on Fairmount Boulevard and some forested land, according to Sister Ritamary Welsh, president of the Ursuline Sisters. She expects the old motherhouse to be demolished by November. She said that the Ursuline Sisters have been educators who are committed to

contemplation, justice and compassion. The sisters found that Medina Creative Housing shared a similar mission to their own.

The Ursuline Sisters property is adjacent to but separate from the Ursuline College campus. In June, the sisters sold 3 acres of land for \$450,000 to Medina Creative Housing, an organization to develop quality housing, services and support to allow people with disabilities to live their lives with dignity and opportunity. Currently there is a moratorium on any development or redevelopment on properties zoned U-2 for public buildings,

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