

Chagrin VALLEY TIMES

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DeBernardo selected as president by Village Council

By SUE REID

Chagrin Falls Councilwoman Angie DeBernardo will serve as council president, presiding over her first regular meeting Monday.

Ms. DeBernardo, who is serving her second term on council and is an 18-year village resident, was nominated to the position during council's 2023 organizational meeting last week.



"I'm excited," Ms. DeBernardo, 54, said of this new role. "I very much enjoy working with all of council."

As president, she said she will continue to promote an atmosphere of respectful debate in solving problems as a group, adding that Village Council is comprised of people with diverse skills, backgrounds and ages. "I want to allow council to work in a way that all of our members can achieve their goals," she said.

Ms. DeBernardo said there are many large-scale projects on the horizon that will impact the community, including the North Main Street bridge project. During that time of transition, she said it's important to provide

Turn to Council on Page 4

Three vendors make Riverside playground cut

By SUE REID

Chagrin Falls Village officials have taken one more step toward a new playground for Riverside Park, approving a motion Monday for the village's chief administrative officer to notify the top three scoring playground companies.

A 17-member citizen committee individually scored all seven proposals from the companies that responded to a request for proposals, with the village tabulating the scores and identifying the three highest-scoring vendors.

The three companies are Playground Equipment Services Co., of Cincinnati, American Athletix/Kompan, based in Michigan, which built the South Russell Park playground, and DWA Recreation, of Harrison, Ohio.

The general costs presented by the three companies were all within the dollar limit specified in the request for proposals, village Chief Administrative Officer Rob Jamieson said, which was to not exceed \$350,000. All three were also within the parameters spelled out in the request for proposals with relation to size, which was not to exceed a newly defined 5,100-square-foot area.

Mr. Jamieson was directed by council to contact the companies to present in-person proposals sometime in February or early March

Turn to Vendors on Page 4



Photo by Michael Steinberg

Chagrin Falls author, playwright and lecturer Scott Lax will bring "1970," the final adaptation of his award-winning novel "The Year That Trembled," to the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre this fall as the kick off to the theatre's 94th season. He is pictured here on the main stage at the River Street theatre with his 1998 novel, a coming-of-age story set in the Vietnam Era which went on to be the subject of a feature film in 2002.

Walk downtown to be memorable for author

By SUE REID

It was in late September 1998 that Chagrin Falls' own Scott Lax walked from his village home to Fireside Book Shop for the first reading of his novel, "The Year that Trembled."

Virtually in the same time of year this fall, he will be doing the same walk, but this time his steps will take him to the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre on River Street.

There, what has been a 30-year odyssey of sorts, chronicling his story of love, peace, war and friendship, makes its final – and fitting – stop.

The theater, which Mr. Lax grew to cherish from his youth, will stage the world premiere of "1970," a full-length stage adaptation of "The

Year that Trembled" – and the original title of his 1993 manuscript – as the kickoff to its 94th season in September.

His critically acclaimed novel, a coming-of-age story set in the year 1970 in the fictional village called Chestnut Falls, Ohio, has been published in two editions, first in 1998 and second in 2013. The story of a group of friends who are waiting to learn their fate in the selective-service lottery that will determine whether they will be called on to fight in the Vietnam War, was also the subject of a feature film in 2002 starring Jonathan Brandis, Fred Willard, Martin Mull and Marin Hinkle. Following some rewrites so it can be taught in

Turn to Lax on Page 4



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INSIDE

News

Bainbridge It's been an adventure for longtime Bainbridge inspector, Endres **A2**

Chagrin Falls Pedestrian safety is issue for River Street left turns **A3**

Chagrin Falls Robust year planned, mayor says **A3**

Bainbridge Kenston treasurer resigns, praised by school board **A6**

Solon Rep. Robinson takes oath for newest term **A6**

Solon Jackson takes his focus on education to next level **A6**

Features

CDFF Encore series begins for documentary films **B1**

Chagrin Falls Mother and son team up for caramel enterprise **B1**

Sports

Basketball Kenston girls put the pressure on Chardon **A12**

Hockey Kenston stays composed to throttle Chagrin Falls **A13**

Basketball University School recovers in fourth period to beat Padua **A14**

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CLASSIFIEDS, **B8-12**
EDITORIAL, **A8**
EDUCATION, **B6-7**
OBITUARIES, **B5**
RELIGION, **B5**
SPORTS, **A12-14**