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# Oberlin museum gets 2-for-1 deal from feds

## Underground Railroad Center needs \$58K more for deal replacing bricks and roof

Cindy Lelae  
The Chronicle-Telegram

OBERLIN — Those behind the effort to renovate Oberlin's historic Gasholder Building into a museum about the Underground Railroad face a wonderful dilemma.

If they are able to raise about \$58,000 more in matching funds in the next six to eight weeks, the federal government is willing to help them rehabilitate the brick facade of the building as well as replace the slate roof.

Assistant City Manager



CHRONICLE FILE

Children present a musical presentation, "Flowers of Love, Freedom for All," at a community update on the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center at the Gasholder Building in Oberlin in September.

Darlene Colaso said shifting philosophies in how the federal government views transportation enhancement dollars led to more money being allocated to the Gasholder

Building, which will be the future home of the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center and a Park-N-Ride facil-

See RAILROAD, B2

# to hold n mercury r plant

permit regulating the discharge of mercury into Lake Erie from the city's wastewater treatment plant on Lake Road.

The meeting is one of dozens being held across the state for cities whose wastewater treatment plants discharge mercury into Lake Erie.

"The fact is, most older plants are not able at this time to get the parts per trillion down that low (the 1.3 ppt discharge limit) yet," said Mike Settles, of the Ohio EPA. "They're getting close, but they're not quite there yet. The technology does not exist yet at an affordable level to get below those limits."

A part per trillion of mercury is equivalent to one drop of

See MERCURY, B2

# COMING SOON!

Country 20am

KoolKat GOLDI 1380AM

# M U S T A N

passed away Monday, August 15, 2011 at University Hospital in Cleveland, following a short illness. Arrangements will be announced by the Liston Funeral Home, North Ridgeville.

### Lois M. Bailey



BAILEY

Lois M. Bailey (nee Hamel), 83, of Elyria, passed away Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at The Hearthstone in Lorain, following a long illness. She was born September 13, 1927 in Amherst.

Lois was a member of Amherst Congregational United Church of Christ. She was an Amherst High School graduate, where she was active in school plays and the school newspaper. Lois enjoyed cooking, baking, sewing, walking, bicycling and playing the organ.

Survivors include her sister, Shirley Hoover of Amherst; brother, Gerald Hamel of Alamogordo, New Mexico and many nieces, nephews, great and great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George in

2005; brother, James S. Hamel and her parents, Floyd A. and Bessie K. (nee Schellhouse) Hamel.

Friends may call 4 to 7 P.M., Friday, August 19, 2011 at The Laubenthal-Mercado Funeral Home, 38475 Chestnut Ridge Rd. (at State Rt. 57), Elyria, (440) 322-4628, where funeral services will be at 11 A.M., Saturday, August 20, 2011. Rev. Attila Szemesi, Pastor of Amherst Congregational United Church of Christ will officiate. Burial will be at Ridge Hill Memorial Park in Amherst Twp.

Memorial contributions in Lois' memory can be sent to Community Cancer Center, 41201 Schaden Rd., Elyria, OH 44035.

Online condolences to the family can be left at [www.laubenthalmercado.com](http://www.laubenthalmercado.com)

### Fredrick D. Fitzpatrick



FITZPATRICK

Fredrick D. Fitzpatrick, Sr., departed this life Tuesday, August 16, 2011 in his home, following a short illness. Mr. Fitzpatrick was a lifelong resident of Elyria and a graduate of Elyria High School.

Fredrick retired from American Standard after 20 faithful years of service, where he served in 1998 as Union Representative for the United Molder AFL-CIO Local #268 in Cleveland, for many years.

He was a member of Original Glorious Apostolic Church of Elyria. Fredrick enjoyed gardening, was an

grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine Fitzpatrick; sister, Hollie Warren; son, Frederick Fitzpatrick, Jr. and parents, Junior and Mattie Fitzpatrick.

Friends may call Sunday, August 21, 2011 from 6 until 8 P.M. in the Original Glorious Apostolic Church, 995 Foster Ave., Elyria. Services will be Monday, August 22, 2011 at 11 A.M. in the church, where Evangelist Doris E. Williams, Pastor will officiate services.

passed away Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at her residence. Arrangements will be announced by the Liston Funeral Home, North Ridgeville.

## Union law foes demand repeal before negotiations

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — A group seeking to roll back an Ohio law limiting the negotiating powers of 350,000 unionized public workers reiterated Thursday that it will only consider negotiating a compromise with the governor if the bill is repealed.

We Are Ohio campaign

director A.J. Stokes asked for a fresh start in a letter to Republican Gov. John Kasich and GOP legislative leaders, which followed the governor's call Wednesday for union leaders to join him today to discuss striking a deal that would remove a repeal question from the Nov. 8 ballot. The deadline for doing so is Aug. 30.

## RAILROAD

From B1

ity.

The original intent for the federal grant money was to complete the 1889 Gasholder Building rehabilitation project in phases contingent upon the availability of a 20 percent local share.

The first phase was to replace the building's deteriorated conical slate roof, while a second phase was to restore the brick work on the exterior.

However, the Federal Highway Administration unexpectedly directed that the two phases be combined, she said.

Colaso said the fundraising subteam of the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center's Implementation Team has raised about \$70,000.

The estimated cost for the stabilization and structural rehabilitation is \$641,233, so the required match is \$128,247.

The group needs \$58,247 more to proceed with the project. Bidding will get under way soon, and it is anticipated that City Council

will be able to award the construction contract in late September if the funds are raised.

The group is making a plea for support, said Colaso, project coordinator for the center.

"We're hoping to pull some rabbits out of our hats," she said.

The group has contacted Oberlin College and other local benefactors, she said.

If the needed funds are not raised, Colaso said the museum supporters risk losing the \$917,600 in federal transportation enhancement funding and a \$200,000 congressional earmark for architectural design and planning because both are contingent upon completion of this project.

Colaso called the positive economic development impacts of the project "limitless" and said the greater community really needs to see some of the wonderful items that tell the story of how Oberlin assisted slaves.

For more information, contact Sharon Pearson in the Public Works Office at (440) 775-7218.

Contact Cindy Laise at 329-7245 or [claise@chronicle.com](mailto:claise@chronicle.com).