

ABR nixes contemporary design proposed along East Washington St.

By **SUE REID**

While pleased to see efforts to convert the building, the village's Architectural Board of Review tabled plans presented last week for exterior alterations for the former Weber Hardware building on East Washington Street, citing a design considered too contemporary.

"I think it's out of place to have something that contemporary," ABR Chair Dr. Steve King said.

The building, built in sections dating between 1947 and 1956, is directly adjacent to the Chagrin Falls East Side Historic District and the third building from the corner of Senlac Hills Drive near the Chagrin Falls Post Office.

Rick Siegfried of RSA Architects LLC in Chagrin Falls presented plans on behalf of DWBH LLC for the property at 146 E. Washington St.

Plans are for building owner Jeff Halpern to use the building for offices for his family business enterprise Kingdom Home Builders currently in Solon.

"It's a departure from traditional architecture in the village," Mr. Siegfried said in presenting the plans.

"We have the rest of the neighborhood to consider," Dr. King noted.

In supporting the modern design, which includes such elements as a gable roof, spandrel glass and painted steel canopy, Mr. Siegfried said that condominiums near by are modern in format, and noted the look of Cleveland Plumbing Supply.

"I think the village could use something like this," Mr. Siegfried said. "(but) no matter what we put there, people will have their hair on fire."

He said high-quality materials will be used and design will stick to the window patterns in place.

ABR member and architect Bill Childs

questioned the brown color choice for the roof.

Dr. King also pointed out that the village has two main streets, which speak highly to the traditional character of the community.

"I think this [design] has an ultra-modern look, unlike the rest of the street, and we will get tired of it in 20 years," he said. "I think it's out of place to have something that contemporary."

"It's like a nun with diamond earrings," he added.

He said even Cleveland Plumbing fits much better along the street than this proposed design.

"It's a traditional street and an extremely non-traditional building that is out of place, historically significant or not," Dr. King said.

He was referring to Perspectus Historic Architecture's assessment of the property, which the ABR reviewed.

The firm stated that the building does not meet the standards of a "Historically Significant Property."

Although the property borders the Chagrin Falls East Side National Register Historic District, the Period of Significance for this district ends in 1920, according to the report. Therefore, adding this building to the district would not make it a contributor to the district.

ABR member Wendy Hoge Naylor said while she thinks the architect did a good job with the shapes on the east elevation, she finds the design "a bit jarring" in this location.

"I like it as a modern building," she said. "It's the location in an historic neighborhood that I'm struggling with. You're coming out of the historic district."

Advising architect Phil Koepf said he feels the roof is jarring in its design and he is struggling with its slope.

The board moved to table the plans as presented and suggested the architect re-study them based on the comments provided.

Honoring veterans



Photo by Geoff Powers

Taking part in Saturday's Veteran's Day event presented at the Chagrin Valley Fire Department are (from left) essay winners Isabella Franscko, of Chagrin Falls High School, and Alayna Stachiw, of Kenston High School. The students were congratulated by Bill O'Neill, senior vice commander of the VFW Post 12067 and Post Commander Todd Lyle. Mr. Lyle served as guest speaker with the title of his address "Unity is Continuity – Think Purple."

Police briefs

Unauthorized credit card charges

A Solon woman, 67, reported a misuse of credit cards to Solon Police on Nov. 7. The woman stated that she noticed unauthorized charges on her credit card account that occurred in late October. Charges were made in-person at a bar and a car wash in northeast Ohio. Officers are investigating. The victim was refunded the \$660 in question, according

to the police report.

Dead rats

Management from Capstone Logistics, 6531 Cochran Road, reported a criminal trespass incident to Solon Police on Nov. 10. They suspected that a former employee, who had been terminated, returned to the business and trespassed in the unlocked offices. The suspect left dead rats behind in the office. Officers are investigating, according to the police report.



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Chagrin Falls VFW Veterans Day essay contest winners

A week after the 82nd anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, and two days ahead of Wreaths Across America, The Times is printing the winning essays by seniors Alayna Stachiw and Samantha Sunderhaft of Kenston High School and Isabella Fransko of Chagrin Falls High School in the Chagrin Falls VFW's Veterans Day contest about the meaning of patriotism. The winners received scholarships.

The words I never spoke



*First place winner
by Alayna Stachiw
Kenston High School Class of 2024*

Red stained on my hands, I drag the color across the blank slate. I then grab the blue paint and scatter stars across the poster, a beautiful collection of patriotism. At this age, however, I did not have the ability to understand what that word meant, let alone grasp the effect this single word has on my past.

His purple heart was encased in a glass picture frame, the wooden border displaying the shimmering medal. It stood on top of the piano stand and stared down upon me as I sat on the bench, my small hands hammering the black-and-white keys down forcefully.

Through my chaotic and violent playing, my grandpa sat next to me and played along gracefully. I admired the medal. The deep purple compelled my eyes and distracted my fingers from the cold keys that once demanded their attention.

I implored my grandfather about the medal and what it stood for, curious on how my sticky fingers could get ahold of a precious award such as that one. What my feeble and selfish mind failed to understand was the true sacrifice that my great-grandfather put forth for this country to earn that very medal. He had enlisted in World War II where he was then deployed to the front lines. While fighting in Rhineland, Germany, a German soldier threw a grenade, killing some of my great-grandfather's comrades and injuring his arm with a piece of shrapnel. The army surgeons had the tedious task of grafting skin from his abdomen to patch his arm, and that is where his service came to a close, allowing him to finally come home to his family.

The only way that I can continue to learn about his past and the sacrifices he made is through stories from family members and pictures. This regret has inspired me to foster a deeper connection and comprehension of my family history and past in order to live my life without regrets. I am determined to be aware of my background and appreciate the world around me, for many fought for the freedoms and values that I hold dear today.

From my memories of my great-grandfather, I can barely curate a vivid image of him in my mind – old and feeble, sitting in his rocking chair. His small house was constantly heated by the ancient furnace, a warm haven for my great-grandparents

as they lay on their reclining chairs. These chairs were where they sat in silence, or maybe they spoke, but I did not take a single second to listen to their valuable words. The TV was always turned on and the Hallmark channel was their prime choice – the volume pressed into the high 30s.

So in an attempt to remember them and retract my early memories, I can only imagine the soft-spoken and frail people that sat before me. But my great-grandfather was young once, his gray hairs were once a hazel-nut brown like mine, and his mind was filled with memories of youth. In these memories, he lived for others. He was selfless and brave. He made a difference. I consider it to be a shame that I lost an opportunity to learn more about his strong actions that should have been admired.

With a few more years under my belt, I have developed a sense of comprehension, a full reflection on how my life has been shaped and continues to be shaped by veterans. Sacrifice is commonly associated with veterans, the word signaling that they have given up something for something else. But when analyzing this word, it is clear that there is so much more to the concept.

Veterans did not just sacrifice their lives for others, but they sacrificed their families, their homes, the people they love. Sacrifice requires a human being to be completely and utterly selfless, a quality that – let's face it – not many of us obtain. A veteran's ability to put others and the country before their own happiness is remarkable, a quality that should be celebrated and remembered. Although I spent the early years of my life viewing Veteran's Day as an arts-and-crafts project, I am now able to appreciate and view the true meaning of this special day.

Looking back on my childhood, I wish I had spent more time questioning and learning more about my great-grandfather's past and what his world was like. Despite my failure to learn about his life as a war veteran, he continues to inspire me to do one small thing a day. If he was able to sacrifice his whole life for this country, then I can do something positive for someone each day. I might not be saving my country on the front lines in combat, but I can continue to make a difference in my community by uplifting others and fostering a positive atmosphere. At this point in my life, as I am writing these very words about his story, I wonder if he would be proud of me and recognize that I am finally taking the time to understand my past.

Why is the veteran important?



*Second place
by Samantha Sunderhaft
Kenston High School Class of 2024*

I had my eyes closed and my ears covered as I sat in my freshman social studies class trying to block out "Saving Private Ryan" as it played. Gory movies have never been

my first choice when it comes to picking something to watch. It is relatively easy to tune out the disturbing scenes from a movie when there is a pause button right at your fingertips. However, freedom is not something won in a movie theater on a big screen. It was fought for in real life, by real people who sacrificed so much for ME and many others.

I have a few people in my family who are veterans so I have been fortunate to have heard countless stories, seen multiple uniforms, viewed a handful of pictures. My favorite pictures are from when my great-grandparents, who served in World War II, got married. I could never imagine being married to someone and only being able to see them every few months, but this was one of the many sacrifices that veterans have had to make.

My great-grandfather served in the Army from 1941 to 1945. During that time, he was stationed in Seattle, Washington, where he met my great-grandmother. Soon after they met, he shipped out to spend time in the Aleutian Islands off the west coast of Alaska, on an anti-aircraft close to Japan, and finally, in India, before being discharged as a Master Sergeant. My great-grandmother was working as a nurse in the Seattle Navy Hospital where they met. Together, they came home to Lowville, N.Y., and opened up a general store.

My great-grandparents were an integral part of their community. They knew everyone by name and treated their customers as members of their own family. Families would often buy goods on credit and pay when they could. My great-grandfather insisted that no interest be charged. He knew customers would pay when they could. He wanted to serve his community in a way that allowed people to get through tough times together. He had learned this from his days in the Army.

Although my great-grandfather passed away almost 15 years ago, my great-grandmother is still a very vibrant part of our family at 102 years old. My great-grandparents have taught me the importance of giving back to your community, honoring your country, valuing your freedom and thanking our veterans.

As a Girl Scout, I was in charge of being the master of ceremonies to celebrate this past Memorial Day. Listening to the stories shared by veterans, my gratitude and appreciation grew immensely. At the ceremony, names of our fallen veterans were solemnly read, followed by a bell. As the readings continued, I thought to myself, "Each one of these veterans has loved

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Patriotism lessons from my dad



*Third place
by Isabella Fransko
Chagrin Falls High School Class of 2024*

I stared out the window to see the giant ship ahead of us. I had never seen anything like it in real life before, steel gray, and the bottom getting so small I questioned how it

stayed upright. The Midway, my dad's home for two years. "Well, this is it, kids!" my dad said after we parked. The ship was even larger than it looked before. We made our way up flights of stairs and ramps before we could even get on the ship. Winded, we then stepped into a room stretching the whole length and width of the ship, full of airplanes of all shapes, sizes and colors. I remember we were offered a map with things to see on it. We took it just to be polite.

After exploring what the main floor had to offer, we made our way up to the flight deck and I saw more excitement from my dad than ever before. He saw an F-18, the plane he specifically prepared for take-off many years ago. As we approached, his face lit up again as he realized it was one of the few he physically worked on while on the ship. Before we knew it, he was opening hatches, pulling out ladders, and standing with his head in the electrical compartment of the aircraft.

In just a few minutes, we had employees questioning what he was doing and telling him he had to stop. However, once they found out he used to work on the Midway when it was in service, they offered to take us practically anywhere on the

ship he would like to go. We made our way to his workshop, just beneath us, which had been wiped clean due to the fact it was not shown on tour paths. Next we went all the way downstairs to the bunks, practically getting lost in a maze of floor-to-ceiling beds that all looked identical. Somehow, after 25 years, he still found his way back to his small, uncomfortable-looking middle bed. Lifting the hinged mattress, after a glance he quickly shut it again due to some things written inside that he most definitely didn't want nine-year-old me and my seven-year-old brother to see.

After a long day of walking all over the ship, into the rooms everyone saw and to others that possibly employees of the ship had never seen, I was worn out. I thought it was really cool, like my brother and I said after seeing it the first time. "It looks just like a giant ship from Battleship!" which I have come to realize that is the other way around. The game is based on the ships, but what did I know?

My dad joined the military right after he was out of high school. He was not even 18 when he went to boot camp. It was not super unheard of in the eyes of himself and his family, considering my grandpa also was in the military when he was younger. Nevertheless, it was still crazy to me how he was so young doing so many amazing things. He traveled all over the world, visiting Saudi Arabia and Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, as well as being stationed in Japan while he was on the Midway. Even though those are not places I necessarily have always wanted to visit, it is inspiring to me to see that he was going places like that being barely older than my age now.

Though my dad enjoyed the military for the most part, some things he has told me have truly proven his bravery and dedication to our country. For example, he told me about the crazy hours they would work on deck, basically from sunrise to sunset every day, with only short breaks for meals. Along with long work days, he would typically go months without seeing his family or possibly even speaking to them. This came as no surprise to him, with no mobile phones during this time, but is unimaginable today.

One story he told that truly impacted me on how dangerous being on the ship really was is that during the war, he said

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been racist, unfair, and ineffective.

And re-including the home-grow provision is pure legislative gaslighting. The Ohio GOP opposed Issue 2 at every turn, and now that it passed, they want to threaten to take away one of its most popular provisions and receive praise by turning around and giving it back. That won't fly with advocates and it won't fly with voters.

But the most tone-deaf, cynical part of the Senate bill on legal cannabis is that it raids state funds from legal cannabis to pay for more jails and more cops, and I take no pleasure in saying that we predicted Ohio Republicans would do exactly that.

Under the Senate bill, the cannabis excise tax would be set at 15%, up from 10% under the initiated statute. This on its own is not alarming. According to exclusive polling we conducted of Ohio's cannabis consumers, we found that just 10% of them would revert to the black market if the new taxes on legal cannabis product made it more expensive. In other words, consumers themselves are overwhelmingly saying that they are eager to shop in a legal, regulated market, even though it will cost a little bit more. While there certainly is a limit to the costs consumers will bear, whether the excise tax is 10% or 15% seems immaterial.

Our poll has a confidence level of 85% with a 5% margin of error.

Beyond the finding on price elasticity, our poll also found approximately 1 in 4 current medical cannabis users in Ohio say they plan to purchase their cannabis in the recreational market. That would amount to almost 50,000 customers eventually moving from the regulated medical market to the regulated adult-use recreational market, activity that will drive more cannabis tax revenue because only recreational cannabis has the excise tax attached to it.

So, the tax scheme will work to produce

revenue — up to \$403M per year once the legal recreational market is fully developed, according to an estimate from Ohio State University.

What's alarming is that Ohio Republicans are trying to gut the social equity provision of Issue 2 by changing what the tax revenue funds. Under the Senate bill, just \$15 million of the applicable tax revenue would fund expungements, whereas 28% would be allocated for jail construction and renovation. The math on that works out to an additional \$112 million annually being used to renovate or improve the cages used to incarcerate Ohioans. Something tells me that the funds won't be used for health care or quality-of-life improvements for those who are doing their time.

Thirty-five percent of the cannabis excise taxes would go to law enforcement under the Senate bill, with substance misuse treatment and suicide hotline services each receiving 9%. Social equity, which is set to receive one-quarter of all excise tax revenue under Issue 2, would receive zero.

It is hard to overstate just how nonsensical this is. Issue 2 made legal the previously illegal activity of consuming cannabis for one's own enjoyment. On net, there will be less crime in the statutory, by-the-book sense of it. And Ohio Republicans aren't even bothering to argue that law enforcement is inadequately funded. The most charitable interpretation of the bill is that it's a giveaway to cops and to county jail administrators.

Ohio Republicans want nothing to do with the social equity measures included in Issue 2. And, even worse, they're using a deceptive sleight-of-hand to get rid of it. If they must proceed with this destructive, unhinged policy, they should do it out in the open.

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ones, sacrificed their life and put their heart and soul into this country."

Nothing was ever easy Veterans are true heroes. Freedom is not a given. It is earned and this is something that I need to recognize, cherish and thank a veteran for.

In school, many re-enactments, documentaries and movies, like the one shown in my social studies class, are shared to teach my generation why veterans are important. They

portray what veterans went through so we can try to understand, remember their sacrifices and live in freedom today, but nothing will ever demonstrate what veterans went through until you experience it yourself. As I sit in class, I often reflect on this fact and I really try to put myself in the shoes of my great-grandparents, back when they were fighting in a war, unsure of what would happen next for themselves and the country they loved. I may never really know what they went through, but I do know that veterans are a vitally important part of why I am able to live my life in freedom today.

Third continued from Page 6

it was not unusual to have to turn off all the lights to stay undetected by others. If they were detected from sea or by sky, they could get attacked or bombed. The thought of that was incomprehensible to me. I thankfully had never felt danger like that in my life, and he lived for years and had to accept that fact and not dwell on it. He sacrificed everything for our country, and one effect lasting to this day is his loss of hearing. Though difficult at times, he never complains about it, showing his selflessness even years down the road.

To this day, my dad shows his patriotism in all aspects of his life. First of all, he takes charge of displaying American flags on all the flagpoles in our neighborhood all summer long from Memorial Day in May to Labor Day in September. Along with this, he shares

his experience from serving in the Navy with almost everyone he meets. He gained an appreciation for our country and our freedom from traveling, and witnessing other places that do not have the same luxuries and freedom that we have.

His courage and bravery have taught me to never forget how lucky I am to live in such an amazing place, as well as how underappreciated our armed forces are. I will forever be inspired by the new stories I hear weekly on his adventures during his time serving, whether thrilling and nerve-wracking or a stupid story about him and his best friends he met while serving. My family, along with all of their families we know, to this day love hearing their crazy stories. I hope some day my dad gets to share his stories with my children, and inspire them the same way he inspires me.

Police briefs

Damage to a valet-parked vehicle

At 12:50 p.m. Dec. 7, a 58-year-old female of Rome, Ohio, wanted to document with Chagrin Falls police damage to her vehicle after receiving it from a 29-year-old valet, of Northfield, at M Italian in Chagrin Falls. The woman advised she had not observed the

damage prior to the valet's parking it.

Man cited after a dog bite incident

At 1:30 p.m. Dec. 8, Chagrin Falls police responded to a dog bite report on North Street, where a 2-year-old male dog bit another male dog, 11, owned by a Chagrin Falls man. Sands A. Pallay, 70, of Chagrin Falls, was cited for Animals Under Control. He is to appear in Bedford Municipal Court at 9 a.m. Jan. 8.



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