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Mayor suggests city charging stations for electric cars

By **SUE REID**

Electric vehicles are only going to grow in popularity in the future, and Solon Mayor Edward H. Kraus wants the city to be on the cutting edge.

Mayor Kraus said he envisions the city being the site of various charging stations for vehicles moving forward. A possibility is having a charging station at the Solon Community Center, he said.

His comments followed a discussion at the last City Council Finance Committee meeting on the city's receipt of a \$61,189 grant from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council.

A charter member of NOPEC since 2000, the city of Solon saves over \$40,000 annually for its residents in electric and natural gas pricing.

The cash grants are intended to be used by member communities primarily for energy-related projects. A NOPEC grant the city received in 2011 of slightly more than \$219,000 was used for emergency efficiency improvements at the Water Reclamation plant.

Mayor Kraus said of the charging stations that there are various projections by national economists and automobile experts that there will be a large percentage of electric vehicles in the next decade or more.

"The reality is that electric vehicles are here

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Developer eyes Solon for new warehouse

By **SUE REID**

Solon city planners last week lauded a plan for a new warehouse proposed by a national developer in the city's industrial district on Solon Road.

Scannell Properties of Indianapolis, Indiana has agreed to acquire about 22.87 acres of land at 34350 Solon Road, on the south side of Erico Drive, subject to zoning approvals, stormwater management issues and financing.

They plan to use the site for one industrial warehouse, Solon Logistics Center, measuring over 293,000 square feet. The planned construction would consist of one building with truck docks, trailer storage and employee parking.

The land, owned by Jay Reality LLC and once eyed for luxury apartments, was rezoned in 2019 from the C-3 commercial zoning district to the I-2 industrial manufacturing zoning district.

The I-2 zoning allows for manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and office uses.

The commission tabled the site plan in anticipation of a landscape plan which is being developed in conjunction with the city's landscape architect this month. The landscape plan, required by code, will pay attention to noise and lighting and provide adequate buffering to surrounding residential subdivisions, Planning Director Robert S.

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Photo by Geoff Powers

St. Rita third-grader Luca DiFranco of Twinsburg puts the finishing touches on a handmade cross that will be donated along with about 25 others to residents at the Anna Maria Nursing Home in Aurora. The wooden cross creation was part of a Lenten giving project for the students at St. Rita Catholic School in Solon.

Exploring three pillars of Lent

Students create crosses for giving while learning meaning of holiday

By **SUE REID**

Hard at work last week painting and decorating wooden crosses, St. Rita School third-graders are learning the spirit of giving that is the Lenten season.

"We talk about the three pillars of Lent," third-grade teacher Heather Bianco said, which are pray, fast and give.

"This is our giving," she said.

The crosses, which number about 25 and hang from a rawhide string, will be donated next week to residents of the Anna Maria Nursing Home in Aurora, which St. Rita has partnered with the past two years to send various items each month.

"I hope that the people there feel special and that they are needed," Solon third-grader Reagan Toth, 9, said of her cross donation.

Reagan said that Lent for her, means family time and helping others. She painted her cross purple, which is the color of Advent.

Since the start of Lent last month, which lasts 40 days and culminates on Easter Sunday on April 4, students are taught the lessons of the season and how they relate to life.

"We talk about the Stations of the Cross and how we are relating them to our lives," third-grade teacher Mary Jankowski explained. "Through this activity they learn about helping others."

"I want them to feel happy that I gave them the cross," 8-year-old Timmy Schramm, a third-grader from Solon, said. He included a quote about Jesus on his cross and painted it shades of blue and green.

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"I guess the only hope to look at it is maybe you do get a final decision from the Supreme Court, then all this arguing back and forth between the auditor and the probate and juvenile court will end and we can move forward," Mr. Morgan said, "but I can't guarantee that that will happen either."

Washington Street work to begin

Commissioner Timothy Lennon said he, Mr. Hajjar and County Engineer Joe Cattell had worked to source funding for the project over the past three to four years, but the project will ultimately be 100-percent locally funded.

“Washington Street’s going to see a lot of activity over the next few years,” Mr. Hajjar said, “and then those folks probably won’t see us for quite a long time other than other routine maintenance.”



St. Rita Catholic School third-graders in Marsha Jankowski's class in Solon are hard at work to put the Lenten pillar of giving into practice. Under the guidance of art teacher Julie Purich, the students use bright and colorful paints to decorate wooden crosses that they plan to donate to residents of the Anna Maria Nursing Home in Aurora.

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Some crosses included inspirational or biblical quotes and sayings like, “We are

“Some of the designs are showing God, and I want them to really see that,” Noah added.

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