

Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center to open March 1

By **NANCY WHITAKER**
Progress Staff Writer

PAULDING – The Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services Inc. has partnered with Youth for Christ and will be opening their newest pregnancy center on March 1. The clinic is located in the Samaritan building, located at 1030 West Wayne

St., across from the Paulding County Hospital.

On Friday, Feb. 15, approximately 17 volunteers were taking the necessary training to prepare for the opening of the center. The initial training was a four hour in-house course where volunteers studied various topics to prepare them to

help with the new services.

The Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services is a Christian outreach ministry with approximately 400 offices throughout the United States.

Their mission is to protect the life of the unborn, offer alternatives to abortion, encourage sexual abstinence outside of marriage, educate the community, bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and offer compassion and love by providing spiritual, emotional and physical support to those affected by an unplanned pregnancy.

The president of the board of directors, Shirley Briggeman, a long-time volunteer with the pregnancy centers was on-site to help with volunteer training. Briggeman said, "This is very exciting and nice to be able to offer these services here in Paulding."

Malinda Ricker of Van Wert is the director of client services for the center.

Initially the center will be open on Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., beginning March 1

Services are open and free to everyone regardless of age, marital status, income or residence. All information will be held in strict confidence and their needs are the pri-

ority of the center; therefore, they may be referred to services that meet their needs when the services of the center cannot.

Pregnant women and their partners will receive information and classes on how to care for a baby and the opportunity to earn items from the material assistance store by taking educational classes. There is no charge to attend the classes or to receive the services.

Items in the assistance store include donated items such as diapers, blankets, lotions and items for newborn babies.

Eventually, it is hoped there will be mental health support at the center. Dr. Todd Wiley will be the physician in charge of the center.

The center will offer free pregnancy tests and it is hoped that with some donations, moneys will be raised to purchase ultra-sound equipment.

Doug Roop, director of Youth for Christ, will be visiting guidance counselors in the schools to make them aware of the services.

The Samaritan Center building is over 10,000 square feet in size and was donated by Dr. Donald and Myrna Snyder of Payne. Dr. Snyder, who retired from his medical practice in 2004, said that he

and his family had always supported the Youth for Christ program in Paulding County and that it was their desire that the building be used by Youth for Christ for the ministry.

The former medical building, houses at least 30 rooms, offices, a full basement and has an ample sized parking lot.

To make an appointment with the Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services, call 419-399-2447.

Anyone using the services should enter the east door (at the rear) and parking will be available as well.

A wish list has been compiled for the new ministry at the Samaritan Center which includes prayer support and volunteers willing to be trained, donations for operating expenses, pictures, plants and wall decor and a good used copy machine and paper.

The material assistance store could use baby clothing, baby wipes, size 2 diapers, baby bottles, formula and lotions.

Anyone wanting to donate can call the building manager, Doug Roop, at 419-399-7218 or the center at 419-399-2447.

Monetary donations may be sent to Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services Inc, 1030 West Wayne St., Paulding, Ohio, 45879.



Malinda Ricker (left) is the director of client services for the new pregnancy center and Shirley Briggeman is the president of the board of directors.

Big dig: Paulding's sewer separation project begins

By **BILL SHERRY**
Correspondent

PAULDING – Some streets will be closed, traffic rerouted, home utility services lost for a short time and may force some of you to get out your boots. The notice to proceed with the first phase of the sewer separation project, which was mandated by the Ohio EPA, was issued to Underground Utilities on Feb. 13. This sewer separation project (Phase 1) is scheduled for completion April 9, 2014 at a cost of \$4,157,502.52.

Paulding village officials, Jones & Henry Engineers Ltd. management, project manager Michael Karafa, Ohio EPA officials, Ohio Gas Company representatives, AEP representatives, ODOT, and the press attended a Paulding sewer separation project pre-construction meeting on Feb. 13.

Combined sewers are found in many communities and carry both sanitary sewage and stormwater in the same pipe. In wet weather, the excess combined flows are transported to overflow conduits that discharge into a local body of water. Implementation of the project will result in environmental

benefits, mainly water quality improvement in Flat Rock Creek.

Phase I will separate sewers on portions of the following streets: Jackson, Perry, Harrison, Wayne, Sugar, German, Walnut, Cherry, Main, Caroline, Emerald and Flatrock.

Work will include replacing approximately 8,600 feet of sanitary sewer, the installation of about 12,000 feet of storm sewer and rehabilitating 11,000 feet of cured-in-place sewer.

Numerous issues concerning the engineers, village officials, various utilities and the Ohio EPA included communications and correspondence, utility comments, shop drawings, insurance, estimate, construction site observation, construction schedule, shut-downs, construction procedures, emergency contacts, labor standards, safety and document retention.

Underground utilities project manager Michael Karafa indicated that construction was to begin on Tuesday, Feb. 19 with two crews; one will start on Emerald Road, near the Paulding School, and the other on Perry Street. Emerald Road will be closed until the

crew completes the work on Emerald Road and turns the corner on Caroline Street.

The closing of Emerald Road will impact traffic around the school so staff parking lots will need to be temporarily closed and buses will be circled around the parking lot. This will cause some inconveniences for a short while, but it is just a part of this construction project.

It was stated that homeowners would be affected as various lines are tapped. Homeowners will be notified in advance and the day of actual construction. This will help make the project as painless as possible.

It was stated that there were already complaints which will all be handled by Jones & Henry, who has developed a standard complaint form. These forms can be obtained from the village office. Jones & Henry representative Joe Hotz commented that they want to track and answer every complaint.

There was discussion and decisions made regarding the material used to contact gas lines, tamping around cast iron water lines, taps into main lines, movement of street lights and power pole

relocation.

There were specific requirements concerning where to dispose of excess dirt from the project. The Ohio EPA required the contractor to get all dump sites approved by the Ohio EPA prior to hauling any dirt to these sites. The

Auglaize Quarry and land across from the Paulding County Fairground has already been approved.

Several semi loads of pipe and other materials were unloaded on Feb. 13 across from the Cooper Plant on West Caroline Street. Now the ef-

fort of digging and hiding as much of this material as possible, underground down the center of the street, in front of homes and businesses, begins.

The next construction meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Feb. 28 at the construction field office on Jackson Street.



Payne EMS recently welcomed Kyle Wobler (left) as a new EMT.

WOBLER

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said Kyle.

After arriving at Parkview, it was determined that he had a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula requiring emergency surgery. A series of rods, plates and screws were inserted on his ankle along with repair to the leg fractures. Kyle remained hospitalized for five days and walked out of the hospital with no crutches and hopes of a full recovery.

Unfortunately, his time away from the hospital was short-lived. After being home for a day or so, he started having complications with fever and a foul odor coming from the injured leg.

"I went back to the ER and they did some minor surgery and then cleaned out the wounded area three times during the next five days."

Kyle recalled, "It was determined the dirty drainage water had infected the open wounds of the leg. At that point a decision needed to be made. The leg could be fused back together or amputate the leg just below the knee."

"The doctors said if they fused it together it would be a two-year process and still would not be the same. There would be ongoing physical issues as well as a change in my entire personality," said Kyle.

To amputate would obviously require a prosthetic limb, but as the doctors explained to Kyle how in a short period of time he would be back to normal.

With no hesitation the good looking young man with a determined heart chose amputation. The leg was amputated on Aug. 30 and he spent three or four days in the hospital.

From the day of the accident to the day he walked out of the hospital, unassisted with a prosthetic leg, was six

weeks. He has not stopped living a dream that was always in his mind all along, but may have taken an accident to fully live it out.

Now, two years later, the 21-year-old is reaching his goals in life. He was cleared to go back to work full-time in March 2011.

Although there was some apprehension in getting his old job back, he now has the same boss and is in the same department as he was prior to the accident.

His boss, Scott Clay said, "It's amazing to see what he

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I want to inspire others who are going through difficulty how they, too, can work hard and do something about it.
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KYLE WOBLER
Firefighter & EMT

can do now that he's back at work." Part of Kyle's job is lifting racks weighing as much as 70 pounds and placing them on a monorail.

Kyle always had dreams of being a fireman. That shouldn't be a big surprise to those who know him because it is a family thing. His grandpa, Jim Miller, is a former Payne fire chief, Kyle's dad was a member of the fire department and today his cousin, Jamie Mansfield, is the current chief.

"It's something I have dreamed about and always wanted to be a firefighter. The accident has taught me a lot

of lessons. One being how life can change in an instant," said Kyle.

In order for his dream to come true, Kyle didn't blink an eye and went through the necessary training. The 120 training hours consisted of class work and physical training including the working of a live burn.

"It's exciting to be a firefighter and I am thankful to have the opportunity to serve my community, but it's more than that," he said.

"I want to inspire others who are going through difficulty how they, too, can work hard and do something about it."

According to Kyle, the accident back on that innocent summer morning, made him grow up and be a gentleman, a person with purpose and a dream to fulfill.

"It made me appreciate life. Knowing that something can happen and in a few seconds change your entire life," he said.

But, the dream and purpose doesn't stop there. Today, Kyle is not only a Payne firefighter, but added to his credentials is the title of EMT.

Just recently, in January, Kyle successfully completed an additional 120 hours of training to become an EMT.

"It's a dream job. That's what I've always wanted to become and now I can live out the dream by helping others," concluded Kyle.

Now, with the Aug. 16, 2010 accident behind him, he will continue to help those in need and do what he can to make a positive difference, whether it is playing the role of a fireman or sharing with a young person about how they can succeed if they live out their dreams.

For Kyle that's really his dream job.



Bill Sherry/Paulding County Progress

Paulding's sewer separation project is about to begin in full swing as materials were being unloaded last week at a vacant lot location on West Caroline Street. Friday, there was a semi flatbed loaded with pipe and a semi load of manholes, catch basins and other hardware. This location will be the storage area for various parts needed to complete the project. Construction is due to begin this week in two locations with one crew on Perry Street and the other crew on Emerald Road.

AWARD

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downtown Paulding.

The other win was in the category of best news photo for an image of the hotel fire.

The judges, from Kent State University, commented, "Great layout. Strong, clean images that have impact. Captions are well written and descriptive."

The *Progress* also received a third-place award in the same category, for a photo from a school bus/van crash last spring. Both photos were taken by editor Melinda Krick.

The fourth award was a second place for special edition or section for the historical publication, *Visions of Paulding County Volume 13*. "Paulding County Then and Now" was the theme for the edition, which featured vintage and current photos from around the county.

The judge, from Ohio State

University, commented, "Love this idea. Great mix of mixing old and new."

The awards were presented as part of the Osman C. Hooper Newspaper Show at the ONA annual conference in Columbus. The contest is sponsored by the Ohio Newspaper Association. A total of 59 participating member newspapers submitted entries for judging.

All entries were taken from editions that were published between Aug. 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012.

Since 1999, the *Progress* staff has been recognized for excellence with numerous awards from ONA and also the national Inland Press Association's Local News Writing Contest.

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