**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**The new Council for Older Adults facility shows the group’s progress**

By JEFF ROBINSON

Gazette Editor

Things have come full circle for Bob Horrocks. Nearly 15 years ago, the executive director of the Delaware County Council for Older Adults was jogging on the corner of Sadoekley and William streets in an effort to draw attention to the fledgling organization and its desire to provide services to local seniors.

Today, he’s jogging again, keeping a busy schedule while getting accustomed to his new, newly-constructed surroundings at the Council’s Senior Services on Cheshire Road.

“I hope this is my last move,” Horrocks said, referring to the state-of-the-art facility, which features an upper level row of windows that contains the CDL staff offices and conference rooms, and a 40,000-square-foot lower level that was completed in October, will contain a full-service kitchen and dining area and open an array of health and wellness services.

Council staff members started moving to their new digs from their old headquarters on Bowtown Road last Friday, and the office opened for business on Monday.

From there, a task force was organized to do some further research, discussion and planning.

That led to the organization of a board and an employee search that brought Horrocks to the job.

“I was hired in May of 1992, and at that time I had been doing some consulting,” said Horrocks, who previously had spent six years as the associate director of Aging. “The first couple years we were still getting the board organized, learning what was needed here and what kind of system we would put together.”

In those days, the Council for Older Adults was life, more of a collection of county agencies and churches who formed a body to help,” Horrocks said.

“By the time we got here, there were 20 employees still working, and we were not prepared to serve them. The county was ready to pay some money into senior services, but didn’t know what to do with the organization.”

And, if elected in November, Ward said he will seek re-election.

Donley Ford-Lincoln-Mercury dealership purchased by Byers

By MARK A. CLAFFEY

Staff Writer

The Donley Ford-Lincoln-Mercury dealership, located at 1599 Columbus Pike, is now owned by Byers Automotive Group, 401 N. Hamilton Road, Columbus.

The deal to sell the dealership was approved by both Byers and the Donley family last week and was expected to be approved by Ford Motor Corporation.

The former Donley dealership has changed hands five times in the past 15 years and has been owned by the Byers family since 1996 before being owned by Donley. It is now known as Byers Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, according to the dealership’s new general manager, John P. Curry.

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Donley Ford dealership purchased by Byers

By MARK A. CLAFFEY

Staff Writer

Delaware City Council’s Fourth Ward representative, Brad Ebersole, announced Monday he will not be seeking re-election this fall.

“I would like to formally announce that I have decided not to seek election for a second term,” Ebersole said in a news release to the media.

“My family is building a house outside of the city limits and, if elected in November 2011, I could not complete a full four-year term.”

Ebersole also announced Council member Dave Hawes, Second Ward representative, who also announced he will not seek re-election.

Ebersole was one of four candidates interviewed in October last year to replace former Fourth Ward council member Mary Lane Santos, who resigned last September.

The other candidates were Harvey Guikema, member of the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals; Andrew Brush, an employee with Digital Marketing Solutions; and Peter Newton, president and owner of Delaware Plant Services. Santos resigned from council on Sept. 11 after being named director of the Delaware County District Library.

“Ebersole was the highest vote-getting person of the four interviewees, with six votes; Guikema came in second with five votes and Brush received two votes.”

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**COMPRESSIONS**

**County engineer says road bridges are safe**

But Ward expresses concern regarding Orange Road bridge

By MARK A. CLAFFEY

Staff Writer

Delaware County Engineer Steve Bauserman told Delaware County commissioners Monday that Orange Road residents don’t have to worry about a bridge collapse similar to what happened in Minneapolis, Minn. last week happening in Delaware County.

“Our bridges we have are safe,” Bauserman said. “As long as the people pay attention to the load limits, then they have nothing to worry about.”

Bauserman said Delaware County residents shouldn’t compare any bridges here locally to the one that came down between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

“None of our bridges here is as complex as what that bridge was, nor do we have any bridges of that design or height,” Bauserman said.

There is no opportunity for a catastrophe here like there was in Minneapolis.”

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**COMMISSIONERS**

**By Mark A. Claffey**

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** Commissioner for Older Adults Executive Director Bob Horrocks unpacks in his new office Monday after a weekend move to the organization’s facility on Cheshire Road.

Hawes was two votes behind Newton, so he will serve one term and then resign.

Byers Automotive Group has purchased Donley Ford-Lincoln-Mercury and will be retaining the more than 20 employees currently working at the dealership.

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Thank you, kind Chamber, for subscribing to The Delaware Gazette.

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Bush, Karzai search for elusive stability in Afghanistan

By Gregorio A. Rodriguez

Seeking stability amid uncertainty, a peace conference is set to take shape in the Afghan capital of Kabul. The two-week gathering is an important milestone in the country’s efforts to achieve peace and stability.

A comprehensive plan is needed to address the many challenges facing Afghanistan. The government, led by President Karzai, has already taken important steps to build a more stable and prosperous nation.

Some of the highlights include:

- An increase in voter registration
- A reduction in corruption
- Improved access to education and health care

These efforts have helped to improve the lives of many Afghans, but more work needs to be done.

On Monday, three female journalists were killed in an attack in the city of Herat. The attack was carried out by Taliban militants, who are thought to be operating in the region.

The Taliban is an extremist group that has been fighting in Afghanistan for many years and has also served as a member of the city’s planning committee.

The Taliban has been making significant gains in recent years and has also served as a member of the county board of elections.

Karzai has announced that the new Public Works and Transportation Department will be able to identify many accomplishments that are crucial to the country’s development.

The department will be responsible for investing in infrastructure projects that will improve transportation and help to connect the country.

Karzai has also announced that an agreement has been reached with the Afghan government to build a new bridge over the Shahrak River.

The bridge will be the longest in the country and will help to improve transportation for Afghan citizens.

The Taliban are expected to respond to this development in the coming days.