

North Royalton takes on Old Man Winter

By **GLORIA PLEVA KACIK**

Contributing Writer

North Royalton was hit with yet another arctic blast at the writing of this with another seven plus inches of snow. Blowing and drifting snow has made road travel difficult, despite the best efforts of the city's snow plows.

The winter of 2014, so far, has been long, snowy and frigid, with no let up. Temperature dropped below zero for a tenth time this year, marking 2014 as having the most sub-zero temperature days since the winter of 1983-84, which has twelve, according to the National Weather Service. The following is this year's rundown: January 6 (-11); January 7 (-11); January 24, (-1); January 27 (-1); January 28 (-9); January 29 (-2); February 7 (-3); February 11 (-1); February 12 (-6); and February 17 (-5). And this winter is not over yet.

The city has had to contend with not only the record lows and continual snowfall that has plagued the area this year, but the consequences the weather has caused in the form of overtime, high salt usage and water main breaks. Mayor Bob Stefanik said that "it's been a rough winter when it comes of salt and overtime. It's been tough on equip-

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and side streets," said Gurka.

Gurka said that he cannot remember when the district had to take all available calamity days. Since, at this time, all of the five calamity days that the State of Ohio currently allows have been used, the district is now preparing for possible future weather

ment and plows." Luckily, the city had not had to deal with the problem other local communities are dealing with regarding the availability of salt. They are part of a consortium, along with the cities of Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Independence, Valley View, Beachwood and Seven Hills. The contract with Cargill not only guarantees the availability of salt, it includes the quick delivery of salt. "Like North Royalton, the communities in the consortium are very hilly," said

Stefanik. The salting of the roads is very important. He noted that the city has used 5,700 tons of salt so far, with 1,000 tons currently on tap, which is above normal. He said that although the costs so far are within the snow removal budget, the city wants to make sure they are prepared for winter weather that could take place at the end of the year. The number of water-main breaks in North Royalton is unusually high this winter, with nine water-main breaks taking place so far. Stefanik estimates that it has

been more than double the usual amount. He attributes this situation to a combination of cold weather and aging pipes. The latest water mains breaks have been on Akins and Edgerton Roads. The most disruptive have been on Sprague and State Roads, as well as Rt. 82, between Abbey and York Roads. "Cleveland has been very responsive to these breaks," said Stefanik. Those breaks on the main roads are usually handled within a day and a half. He said that they come out, assess and prioritize.

Krill Company to manage City Hall project

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City Council took a big step in the new City Hall project by approving a contract with The Krill Company, Incorporated to be the Design Build firm at its February 18 meeting. The Krill Company is a Cleveland based company that has been in the building and renovating business since 1932. The new City Hall project includes the renovation of the 14,000+ square foot building that previously served as the old library. It was vacated last year, when the new library on Wallings Road was completed.

The Krill Company was recommended to Council by an Evaluation Committee, which consists of Community Development Director, Tom Jordan; Building Commissioner, Dan Kulchytsky and Council President, Larry Antoskiewicz after the applicants were narrowed down to three. Albert M. Higley Company, Panzica Construction and

The Krill Company submitted proposals addressing the Committee's Request for Qualifications, on January 29 and then were interviewed in early February.

Kulchytsky noted that "all three were excellent choices and qualified to do the work, but Krill was the best fit for our project." He said that he chose Krill because of their aggressive schedule, cost control mechanism and high tech tracking. Jordan agreed, saying that price and design capability won him over, including their electronic modeling (3D) system and their monthly accounting. "They had a number of projects that were similar in scope," he said, noting that he recently viewed a similar project that was completed at Magnificat High School, which came in on time and under budget.

Under the design-build process, The Krill Company will now be working with their

architect to provide the city with more detailed designs of the project and a guaranteed maximum price of the entire project. Once that price is set and agreed upon, Krill can then proceed with bidding out the project. With the design-build concept, Krill will be responsible for the design, construction and budgeting of the entire project. The process promotes savings, as any cost savings that come in under the guaranteed maximum price that can be realized will be shared by Krill and the city.

The scope of the project includes the building, the parking lot areas and lighting at Memorial Park, the bathrooms and playground at Memorial Park and the city-owned parcels to the north and south of the building. Construction is expected to take place this summer, with the building and the move into that building, completed by year's end.