

Officials on hot seat at Bright 74 open house

By DENISE FREITAG BURDETTE
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The third and final open house for the Bright 74 Study Wednesday, Sept. 14, at East Central High School, St. Leon, started off with more of a calm vibe near its 4 p.m. beginning.

The focus of the study, being managed by OKI Regional Council of Governments, at the request of Dearborn County commissioners, is “a year-long, transportation

Study down to one concept

tion planning study to investigate options for improvements to existing roadways, potential new roadways, and/or a combination of both to improve safety, access and other travel needs between the unincorporated Bright Area of northeastern Dearborn County and Interstate 74,” according to OKI.

But by the time it wrapped up at 7 p.m., small crowds of people had gathered placing county com-

missioner and OKI Board of Directors president Kevin Lynch, OKI strategic planning manager Robyn Bancroft, and county engineer Todd Listerman on the hot seat, asking questions about the study, the latest concept and how the surveys have been conducted.

Bright business owner and resident Brian DeBruler said he was disappointed that the open house

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DENISE FREITAG BURDETTE/THE JOURNAL-PRESS

Bright resident and business owner Brian DeBruler, left, speaks with OKI strategic planning manager Robyn Bancroft, center, and Dearborn County commissioner and OKI Board of Directors president Kevin Lynch during the Bright 74 open house Wednesday, Sept. 14, at East Central High School. Bancroft holds a copy of a petition against the study that has reached at least 1,084 signatures.

Woodland Hills therapy gives man new start

By JOE AWAD
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Brett Duenhoft doesn’t talk much, but behind his bright brown eyes and broad smile it is easy to tell his mind is active, and he knows he will not be in a power chair for the remainder of his life.

The former Hidden Valley Lake resident was involved in a horrific traffic accident in St. Leon that killed his grandfather, and, according to University of Cincinnati Hospital, left Brett, then 24, without hope of recovering from a comatose, lethargic existence.

But dedicated employees at Woodland Hills Care Center, Lawrenceburg, changed that grim prognosis into a story of success and hope, said Sue Duenhoft, Brett’s grandmother.

“They were going to Minnesota to take a dog up there. It was their first trip together and they were very excited. My husband was a Teamster truck driver for 48 years, and he never had one accident over a million miles. That night, though, he was up in St. Leon, and, for some reason, went down the exit, and a semi was coming at the same time

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JOE AWAD/THE JOURNAL-PRESS

The Duenhoft family agrees the road to full recovery will be a long one, but are certain Brett Duenhoft will regain use of his legs. Behind Brett, from left: Grandma Sue Duenhoft, girlfriend Cheyenne Winters, and mom Carissa Harrell.

Gabbard building is coming down

By CHANDRA L. MATTINGLY
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An 1875 building in Aurora’s Downtown Historic District is slated for demolition, city manager Guinevere Emery told the city park board and city council at their Monday, Sept. 12,

meetings.

Known as the Gabbard building, the structure at 106 Judiciary St. and adjacent empty lots will be replaced with a riverfront park in a cooperative effort between various city and county enti-

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CHANDRA L. MATTINGLY/THE JOURNAL-PRESS

Efforts to stabilize the Gabbard building were unsuccessful.



PHOTOS BY JENNY AWAD, DENISE FREITAG BURDETTE, JOE AWAD

Hundreds of people lined the streets of Dillsboro, Aurora and Lawrenceburg Saturday evening, Sept. 17, as the torch honoring Indiana’s 200th birthday made its way through the county. More than 30 Dearborn County residents carried the torch. The torch started in Dillsboro where James Deaton, in memory of his father Dellas Ross, took over duties from William Fredrick Steuver Family Huckster (middle photo), as two of the town’s torchbearers. Next the torch went to Aurora where (top left) Pam Bentley, in honor of ancestor Adam Flake, carries the torch. In Lawrenceburg (bottom left), war hero Brett Bondurant hands off the torch to Dearborn County Treasurer Phil Weaver.

Fallen firefighters will be honored



Jeffrey William Reick

The U.S. Fire Service in honoring the lives of 79 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2015 and 33 firefighters who died in previous years during the 35th National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Sunday, Oct. 9.

Dearborn County fallen firefighters being honored are Jeffrey William Reick of the Aurora Fire Department and Tom D. Stevens Sr. of Bright Volunteer Fire

Company.

Reick was 35 years old when he died in 1998 of a gastric hemorrhage while setting up for a live fire training exercise. Stevens died in 2014 of a heart attack within hours after responding to a carbon monoxide alarm activation.

The service begins at 10 a.m. at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg,

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Tom D. Stevens Sr.

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Just prior to Memorial Weekend, leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus will help launch the annual tribute. They will present 112 American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. This ceremony will occur on

The annual tribute is sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration and is possible through the generous support from Motorola Solutions, Department of Justice, State Farm Insurance Companies, Tyco, VFIS, Provident and the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists.

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During the previous open house in June, four possible concepts were presented to better connect Bright to I-74 including improving existing roads, a Whites Hill Road connector, a Carr Road connector and a State Line Road connector. During the Wednesday open house, only one concept was presented with three components.

During the Bright 74 advisory committee meeting last month, residents expressed



When asked how survey takers felt about the possibility of roundabouts being installed anywhere in the county, most were not in favor of it,

After the 30-day comment period, study advisory committee members are scheduled to meet again in October before the final recommendation of the study is presented later this year.

FROM PAGE 1

Her magic wand was, and continues to be, music. She

Brett's recovery began with prayer, then he took a decisive step through the Woodland Hills treatment. If every journey begins with the first step, then the odds are on his side.

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