

Autism assistance dogs offer companionship, independence, & safety

by Mark Kremser

Parents of children with disabilities from autism to ADHD are turning to specially trained service dogs to enrich the lives of their children. These dogs not only offer therapeutic companionship, but also can keep their partners safe while at the same time enhancing their independence.

Four-year-old Connor Kremser of Westlake likes many of the same things as other children his age. He loves McDonald's french fries, playing in the pool, being tickled by his Mommy and Daddy, climbing the jungle gym, and going down the slide by himself. But Connor is different from most four-year-olds. He suffers from an invisible disability. Connor is autistic.

Autism is a mysterious disorder. It affects every child differently. Connor has limited understanding and little functional speech. He is over-

whelmed by sights, sounds, and the frustration of being trapped in a world of his own. He often acts out, having temper tantrums, and sometimes throwing himself to the ground. Connor lacks social skills and an ability to connect emotionally with others. Most frightening for his parents, Connor has no fear. He has no concept of personal safety or physical boundaries, and no awareness of the dangers of traffic, deep water, or the ill intentions of a stranger.

Despite all of his challenges, Connor's family loves him very much. His father, Mark, says that Connor is his hero. Connor's older sister, Kyra, calls Connor "her special little buddy." And Connor's mother, Laura, is just crazy about him. A day doesn't go by that Connor doesn't make everyone in his

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Light up the night with BAYarts

Annual fundraiser illuminates with "City Lights," many surprises

by Beth Kapes

What started four years ago as a community-supported fundraiser known well by the residents of Bay Village has evolved into the most anticipated event for art enthusiasts across Northeast Ohio. To celebrate its growth and reach into areas beyond the local western communities, BAYarts invites guests to its much anticipated fall benefit "Light Up The Night" this Saturday, September 26 from 6 to 11 p.m.

"There is no doubt – it's the best party of the year," says BAYarts Executive Director, Nancy Heaton. "This year is especially exciting because for the price of admission you get the city's best restaurants all in one place, the big band sound of Blue Lunch, and fantastic art everywhere with our beautiful setting as the centerpiece."

Sponsored by PNC, Light Up



the Night is where "City Lights" will meet suburban starlight by offering samplings from some of Greater Cleveland's finest restaurants. In addition to delicacies from Farhenheit, Blue Point Grille, Tartine Bistro, Vento la Trattoria (on BAYarts Campus), Great Scott's Bakery & Catering,

Sweet Melissa's, 87 West and the Great Lakes Brewing Company's libations, guests will experience the renowned culinary talent of Cleveland's own chef Michael Symon and his new Avon Lake restaurant, Bar Symon.

"This year offers lots of sur-
» See BAYarts, page 2

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League mock elections set for Bay High School

by Joan Hirsh

The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area has selected Bay High School for a 2009 Mock Election project called, "Engaging A New Generation of Voters." Approximately 350 students will participate in a three-day simulated election experience that will highlight the mayoral election in their community.

The mock election will

include student voter registration, a mayoral candidate forum with questions prepared by the students, a two-page LWV Voters Guide to use in classroom discussions, culminating with a local ballot election in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the high school government teaching staff.

The Mayoral Candidate



Forum for students will be held at Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Road, on Wednesday, October 7, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am, and the Mock Election will take place Thursday, October 8, from 10:15 am to 2:30 pm.

"These mock elections have been designed to encourage a lifelong interest in voting," stated LWV Education Fund Executive Director Mary Lou Jones. "Over 20 League volunteers, the government teachers and the candidates themselves," she continued, "are dedicated to giving these students an informative introduction to the election experience."

Funding for "Engaging A New Generation of Voters" has been provided by member contributions to the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. For more information please call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit the League's website at www.LWVCuyahogaArea.or •

HEALTH & WELLNESS

NOT MY CHILD!

Alcohol usage and drug experimentation, abuse or addiction is not at the top of a parent's list of what they dream for their children. A natural response to any of these would be NOT MY CHILD! Unfortunately, experimentation, abuse and/or addiction occur among our children.

- Do you know that marijuana is "the drug of choice" of the majority of teens who seek treatment for drug abuse or dependence?

- Are you aware that national studies indicate that 2 in 5 teens report abusing cough medicine to get high?

- Are you aware that teenagers, whose parents talk on a regular basis about the dangers of drug use, are 42% less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't?

To find out more, please attend an informative and interactive

alcohol and other drug abuse program that will be presented by parents who know... because they lived it.

Join them along with an expert panel: Middle School Principal Sean McAndrews, Bay High School Assistant Principal Jason Martin, St. Raphael School Assistant Principal Roger Andrachik, Juvenile Detective Kevin Krolkowski, and Mike Matoney, the Executive Director at New Directions – a Cleveland area adolescent residential drug treatment center.

Please Join! • All are welcome

NOT MY CHILD
Parent Drug Awareness and Education Programs:

Bay Middle School
Thursday, October 22 at 7pm

St. Raphael School
Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm

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“Crazy, Sexy” Kris Carr to headline Westlake cancer survivors Event

by DL Meckes

On October 3rd and 4th, 2009, The JD Breast Cancer Foundation will host its inaugural Young Survivors’ Symposium and 5K “Run for the Roses,” Northeast Ohio’s first event for young women survivors of breast cancer. The two-day event, to be held at LaCentre Banquet and Conference Facility in Westlake, will provide an opportunity for young survivors and social workers interested in earning continuing education credits to participate in educational seminars focused on nutrition, integrative therapies, physical and mental health exercises, and promoting healthier lifestyles. The event culminates with a community 5K race and 1-mile walk.

Saturday’s program includes seminars along three tracks of health and wellness, highlighted by a keynote address from award-winning author, filmmaker, and “Cancer Cowgirl,” Kris Carr, creator of the documentary “Crazy Sexy Cancer” and author of “Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips” and “Crazy Sexy Cancer Survivor.”

On Sunday morning, the entire community is invited to participate in the 5K “Run for the Roses” (or a 1-mile walk) starting in the parking lot at LaCentre. Following the race, awards will be presented to race participants. Conference attendees may attend a brunch headlined by a concluding keynote speaker.

Event registration begins September 1st, 2009. Although the focus is on “young” survivors, survivors of all ages and health care

professionals are welcome to attend. The 5K “Run for the Roses” or 1-mile walk is open to anyone in the community. In keeping with its mission to provide supportive services for women regardless of income, the Foundation will provide scholarships to the symposium, available based on financial need.

For more information about the Symposium, an event schedule, or to register, please visit KrisCarrCleveland.com. For more information about Kris Carr, please visit crazysexy-life.com and crazysexcancer.com.

Named in honor of Jacqueline Dobransky, a vibrant young woman from Bay Village who was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33 and passed away from her disease one short year later, the JD Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization designed to meet the needs of the younger woman diagnosed with breast cancer in Northeast Ohio. Its mission is to provide essential services to women with breast cancer by offering financial assistance, emotional support, and education to enhance survivorship. All proceeds from this event will fund these programs and services. For more information please visit www.jdbcfoundation.org.

The JD Breast Cancer Foundation’s Young Survivors’ Symposium is supported by the Cleveland Clinic, WEWS TV-5, the Observer Newspaper Family, Time Warner, and Cox Communications. Register for the 5K “Run for the Roses” and 1-mile walk through Hermes Sports & Events (hermescleveland.com). ●



Filmmaker and Author Kris Carr

BAYarts

Continued from front page



prises, and with our theme of ‘City Lights’ we will illustrate our growing connection to the arts throughout Greater Cleveland in addition to showcasing some of our fabulous restaurants and chefs,” Heaton says. “Most importantly, we want to let Cleveland know that BAYarts is not just about Bay Village. Many of our instructors, students, patrons and the artists we represent come from the far reaches of northeast Ohio.”

BAYarts’ impact has not gone unnoticed by local communities, as well as members of Cleveland’s business industry.

“National City has a long history of supporting the arts in this community, and, now that we are part of PNC, our commitment is even stronger,” says Paul Clark, regional president, National City, now a part of PNC. “We are fortunate to have such vibrant arts and cultural

resources in this region that enrich the lives of our neighbors in so many ways. Whether it’s exposing children to new forms of expression or bringing the arts into our own backyards, we believe the arts provide inspiration and touch each of us in unique ways.”

With the distinctive big-band sounds of Cleveland’s own Blue Lunch, who has been praised throughout the last decade for their late ‘40s, early ‘50s, rhythm and blues and post-swing music, Light Up The Night is setting the stage to offer artistic treasures throughout the night. Guests at the event will be tempted to take home remembrances of the evening with

unbeatable silent auction items, including paintings by artists Jeff Yost and John W. Carlson, a \$1,000 gift certificate from Vivid Diamonds & Designs, airline tickets and a private tour for 15 of the Gauguin Exhibit at the Cleveland Art Museum.

Tickets to Light Up The Night are just \$75 per person and include all the fabulous food, beer, wine, and soft drinks. For more information or to purchase tickets to help celebrate the brilliance of art at one of the most unique parties under the stars, stop in or call 440-871-6543. BAYarts is right across from the beach in the Huntington Reservation. ●

Want to join in? Sign into the Member Center at wbvobserver.com, click “Submit New Story” and we will take care of the rest!

Here are some story topics to get you going!

- Arts & Theater
- School Events
- Sports Teams
- Senior Living
- City Topics
- Entertainment
- Health & Wellness
- Cooking
- Nature & Environment
- Library Programs
- “Green” Topics
- Fundraising Events
- Local History
- Pets & Care
- Home & Garden
- Politics

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer staff.

The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through citizen participation.

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Connor

Continued from front page

family smile. And everyday, Connor's family works to help Connor to reach his full potential, and to help him live as independently as possible.

Recently, Connor's family discovered 4 Paws for Ability, an Ohio-based non-profit organization that places service dogs with children, like Connor, who struggle with life's daily challenges. As with most of 4 Paws' animals, a dog placed with Connor will probably be rescued from a shelter. Some of the dogs placed by 4 Paws have been saved only days before they were scheduled to be put down, and have gone on to transform the lives of the children with whom they have been placed. This creates a mutually beneficial relationship — 4 Paws will be bringing freedom and independence to a dog in need, and the dog in turn will bring freedom and independence to Connor. The 4 Paws website states: "We have discovered a magic that exists between children and dogs, a magic that can become a life-saving miracle for a child paired with one of our autism assistance dogs." As you might imagine, the cost for raising and training these specialized dogs is high. The cost can be as high as \$26,000. In order to defray some of the costs and in order to expedite placement of the dog with the needy child, 4 Paws forms a partnership with the recipient family to share in raising the necessary funds.

Accordingly, Connor's family is hosting a golf outing on Saturday October 17th at Coppertop at Cherokee Hills, with the proceeds to go to 4 Paws for Ability in honor of Connor. Connor's family is seeking interested golfers and sponsors to help this wonderful organization and the special children and dogs whose lives are transformed. They have already received donations from local law firms, accountants, hair salons, and even the Cleveland Browns. Professional golfer Ernie Els, who also has an autistic son, has donated items for a raffle in Connor's honor.

If you wish to learn more, please contact Mark Kremser at kremsergang@msn.com or visit www.paws4connor.webs.com. You can also help Connor by sending your tax deductible donations to: 4 Paws for Ability, 253 Dayton Ave., Xenia, Ohio 45385. Please be sure to put Connor Kremser's name in the memo line.

No one profits from donations to 4 Paws other than the children who receive one of these life-changing dogs. ●



Connor Kremser

A commitment to higher education creates job opportunities

by Nan Baker

As education level becomes increasingly integral to an individual's job opportunities, access to higher education should not be determined by affordability. Every Ohioan deserves the opportunity to receive a post-secondary education and to obtain a broader skill set for their life endeavors. Today, one of the most serious threats facing those who wish to pursue higher education is skyrocketing tuition costs.

To address the growing financial burden that many students face, the College Savings Plans Network has designated September as "College Savings Month." This initiative serves to assist families as they plan for the cost of a college education and financing the future. If you or someone you know is planning to pursue a college degree, I encourage you to research the many grant and scholarship opportunities available through the state, particularly the Ohio Board of Regents. One such scholarship is the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, which is offered to students who major in science, technology, engineering and mathematical fields. This program strives to increase the number of graduates in these fields to prepare Ohio for a modern, high-tech economy.

Another useful resource for students who seek career options, colleges and financial aid is the Ohio Career Information System (OCIS). This system is currently used by middle schools and high schools in the 16th House District to help students find information about post-secondary training and employment. A workforce development tool, OCIS will

provide our community's young talent with valuable guidance as they plan for their futures. I am happy that the budget line item

that dictates OCIS's funding was upheld, because during these difficult economic times state leaders must work to increase the accessibility of higher education and to prepare students for the increasingly competitive job market.

A strong workforce is supported by a college education that prepares students for an increasingly advanced society. If we hope to create more jobs and get Ohioans back to work, we first need to ensure that our state is a great place to attend college and start a business. Educating the youth of today will create an exceptional workforce tomorrow. As a strong advocate for job creation and business expansion within Ohio, I will continue to push for affordable higher education to create a brighter future for our state.

If you have any thoughts or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (614) 466-0961 or write to me at Representative Nan Baker, 77 S. High Street, 10th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215. You may also email me at District16@ohr.state.oh.us. ●

Nan Baker is the State Representative for Ohio's 16th District.

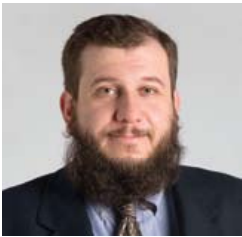


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Specialty: Neurology/
Movement Disorders



Andrey Stojic, M.D., Ph.D.
Specialty: Neurology/
Epilepsy



Diana Tanase, M.D., Ph.D.
Specialty: Neurology

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Lakewood Hospital is part of Ohio's #1 Neurology and Neurosurgery Program*, offering the most advanced care in neurological treatments, prevention and rehabilitation services. With the addition of Cleveland Clinic Neurologists, Drs. Itin, Stojic and Tanase, patients have greater access to a wider range of specialized care in fields such as general neurology, epilepsy and movement disorders like Parkinson's Disease.

* Ranked by U.S. News & World Report, 2009.

To make an appointment, please call 216.529.7110.
lakewoodhospital.org/neuro

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Bay Village Library news

by Sandy Joyce

Fall is a busy and exciting time at the Bay Village branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library with programs and specials for all ages and interests. Storytimes begin the week of September 21 for children ages birth through Kindergarten. Registration is not necessary for any of the storytimes - please join us at the time that's best for you!

In addition to storytimes, the Children's, Teen, and Adult departments offer programs that entertain, inform, and enrich. Please register for these programs and specials online at cuyahogalibrary.org, by calling the library at 871-6392, or by stopping in. We look forward to seeing everyone!!

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

- PRESCHOOL STORYTIME:** This six-week storytime is for children ages 3 - 5 yrs.

 - Mondays, 9/21 through 10/26, 1:30pm - 2:00pm
 - Wednesdays, 9/23 through 10/28, 9:45am - 10:15am
- MORNING MOVERS:** This six-week storytime is for ages 1 - 3 yrs. and a caregiver.

 - Tuesdays, 9/22 through 10/27, 10:00am - 10:30am
 - Thursdays, 9/24 through 10/29, 10:00am - 10:30am
- BABY AND ME STORYTIME:** This six-week storytime is for babies ages birth - 18 months and a caregiver.

 - Wednesdays, 9/23 through 10/28, 10:45am - 11:05am
- TWILIGHT TALES:** This six-week storytime is for families with children ages birth - 5 years.

 - Wednesdays, 9/23 through 10/28, 6:45pm - 7:15pm
- FAMILY BOOK DISCUSSION:** Families with readers ages 8 - 12 are invited to read and discuss *The Westing Game*.

 - Wednesday 9/23, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
- SNUGGLE BUGS:** This six-week storytime is for ages birth - 30 months old and a caregiver.

 - Thursdays, 9/24 through 10/29, 6:45pm - 7:10pm
- STORYTELLING LOLLAPALOOZA:** Children in grades K - 5 will listen to stories, participate in them, and tell their own.

 - Tuesday 9/29, 4:15pm - 5:15pm

UPCOMING TEEN PROGRAMS:

- G2P: AFTER SCHOOL FREE PLAY:** Teens in grades 6 - 12 can play Rock Band, Guitar Hero and more.

 - Wednesday 9/23, 3:30pm - 5:00pm
- JUNIOR ENGINEERING: ROADWAY CAR CHALLENGE:** Learn how to build a car using LEGOs and program a car for a drag race. Ages 10-14.

 - Saturday 9/26, 10:00am - 11:30am

UPCOMING ADULT PROGRAMS:

- JOB NETWORKING WORKSHOP:** Participants will learn how to make contacts and uncover leads to find a job. A Career Counselor will also talk about local networking groups and online resources.

 - Tuesday 9/22, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- CONNECTING WITH YOUR CANINE:** Lisa Slama will explain the canine mind to help you communicate with your dog and improve training techniques for good behavior.

 - Tuesday 9/29, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

FINANCE

A conversation with your heirs

by Mark Zagrocki

One of the challenges that many parents face as they grow older is talking to their adult children about inheritance, wealth, and the financial implications of their mortality. Unfortunately many parents feel they have time so they delay having the conversation. That can be a mistake. Openly communicating with your children may not solve all of the problems, but it can reduce family conflict and empower your children to act on your behalf, should it become necessary. Communicating openly can also help prepare your loved ones to become responsible inheritors.

Family meetings are not only for the very wealthy, experts say that regardless of your net worth, an annual family meeting can help you create a comfortable forum for discussing your goals related to managing money, and important details about your wishes for the disposition of your estate.

Having a family meeting on an annual basis can also help you clarify your intentions regarding any possible misunderstandings that may arise from disproportionate splits of an estate. This is especially important when remarriages and second families are involved, or when parents want to name charities or unknown parties as beneficiaries.

Start your family meeting with a discussion of the basics. You should outline where you keep your will and other important documents, as well as identify the executor. Although it is not necessary for everyone to know all the details of your financial situation, it is imperative that at least one family member know the location of your important records. Some of the issues you may want to discuss are:

- Have you granted someone a durable power of attorney and a power of attorney for health care?
- Do you have a safe deposit box? Where is it located, and what are the contents?
- Does your retirement program have a death benefit for survivors?

- Have you established any trusts, and for what purpose?
- How have you arranged to handle any applicable estate taxes?
- Have you shared the names and contact information of your financial, tax, and legal professionals with your children?

It is important to provide your children with a financial education on the management of your assets. One approach is to introduce your children to a trusted advisor who can help them understand their financial options and encourage them to make choices that support their long-term interests.

Parents may also seek to utilize trusts to transfer assets to their children and grandchildren. Some trusts for life can protect their children's assets from creditors, divorce settlements, and estate taxes. It is important to talk about the trust with your beneficiary and explain its purpose. An option for parents seeking influence is an incentive trust, which enables parents to establish terms governing the distribution of funds. An incentive trust can provide financial motivation for adult children to excel and to meet certain goals.

Regardless of how you plan to transfer your wealth, raising children who can identify their own passions and interests in life is the best way to ensure responsible money habits. Inheritance decisions should provide money to encourage your children to be successful and productive, but not so much money that your beneficiaries do nothing.

Working together with your financial, tax, and legal professionals you can discuss how to create an estate plan that achieves your wealth-transfer objectives as well as establish a trust for the distribution of your assets. ●

Mark Zagrocki is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors in Westlake. Wells Fargo Advisors does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your own tax and legal advisors before taking any action that may have tax consequences. Investments in securities and insurance products are: NOT FDIC-INSURED/NOT BANK-GUARANTEED/MAY LOSE VALUE. Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A bit of Bay history



The Bott family purchased the corner of the Scholl family farm located at Wolf and Dover Roads and built a gas station in the 1920s. After WWII, Ernie Olchen purchased the station and operated it as a Pure Gas Station into the 1950s. Today, it is owned by the Burns family and used for auto servicing and repairs. The Scholl farm house is visible in the background of this picture. It was torn down when the Bay Shopping Center was built. ●

JOIN-IN AS AN OBSERVER!

“Hyperlocal” knowledge about the happenings in local communities has led to the explosive growth of citizen reporters in the last few years. Today, there are nearly 800 citizen media news sources in the United States.

If you have questions about the Observer, stop in at the Java Cafe, 29580 Center Ridge Rd., on Wed., Sept., 30 at 7pm to meet us and learn more.

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Thanks to the community, Discover Annual Benefit a success!

by Shawn Salamone

More than 300 guests enjoyed barbecue, music, live and silent auctions, bonfire and much more at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's 2009 Annual Benefit on Saturday, September 12. The "Discover the Universe in Your Backyard" party raised almost \$50,000 for the Bay Village non-profit organization. ●



Center Education Director Darci Sanders, Green architect Bill Doty, Bay Village Mayor Debbie Sutherland and Bob Sutherland (L-R) enjoy the backyard barbecue-style party.



The event was organized by a committee of community-minded volunteers including pictured (L-R) Amanda DiBenedetto, Marianna Orro (Co-Chair), Corryn Firis, Alison Muth (Co-Chair) and Chris Herbruck.

SENIOR LIVING

Knickerbocker delivers a “BIG” thank you to Bay Fire & Rescue!

by Anne Naumann

If anyone were to ask the residents of the Knickerbocker Apartments what their definition of a hero is, the answer would undoubtedly be the Bay Village Fire & Rescue Department. This professional group of individuals are always there to help with compassion and understanding. Quick with a joke to lighten the mood or a squeeze of the hand for understanding, the Bay firefighters bring a sense of security the minute they come through the door.

The residents felt that September 11th was an appropriate day to let their “heroes” know just how much their kindness is appreciated. To say “thank you” in a big way, they made an over-sized sub sandwich, homemade potato salad, chips, and baked treats for everyone in the department. “I love those guys,” said June Anderson. “And they’re handsome, too!” she added with a wink.

In an ironic twist, Hazel Hollenbach has not had to use the services of the rescue team. At 101 years young, Mrs. Hollenbach is the matriarch of a family of firefighters currently working in surrounding communities. She is so healthy and active, the running joke is, “the only time the paramedics are at her place is when they stop by for dinner.” Hazel smiles and says, “It is still good to know they are there if I need them!” Everyone at the Knickerbocker couldn’t agree more. ●



Residents of the Knickerbocker Apartments deliver a big sandwich for their everyday heros!

WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

Running smooth

by Chris Haldi

The Westlake Recreation Center is in full swing of fall programming. We offer classes for seniors, adults, teens, and kids.

I On Saturday, September 12th, the Rec Center conducted the 8th annual NFL/ PEPSI Punt, Pass and Kick competition. A total of 15 kids between the ages of 8-13 tested their skills. As a result, four kids will represent Westlake at the sectional competition at Middleburg Heights on Saturday October 3rd.

Jim Dispirito, the Athletic Coordinator for the Westlake Recreation Center said he was happy about how things turned out. "I was pleased with all the contestants. Everyone showed up on time, went over the rules and instructions with the kids and even for the parents so they knew how things work for the Punt, Pass and Kick, and everything ran smooth. We had a wonderful day for the participants and over the past few years we've had representation at the Cleveland Browns Stadium. After seeing this year's contestants, I feel we'll have people down there again." Dispirito concluded.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Punt, Pass and Kick competition:

- Girls ages 8/9: Alex Rujawitz
- Boys ages 8/9: Brendan Farrell
- Boys ages 10/11: Logan Whinery
- Boys ages 12/13: Danny O'Malley

Congratulations to these contestants and good luck in the rest of the competition.

Hope to see you at the Cleveland Browns Stadium.

We are pleased to announce that the following programs will be starting soon:

- Destination Mars will be held on Sat. Sept. 26th
- Fall Photo contest begins Oct. 1st
- English Rose and Black Tie Etiquette class for kids 8-12 begins Oct. 5th
- Pony Lessons Jr. for ages 2-6 begins Oct. 6th
- Health and Wellness Fair held Sat. Oct. 24th
- Pre-Post Natal Fitness. Sign up before Oct. 7th
- Zumba. Classes will start Oct. 7th

Details regarding these programs may be found in the Fall Recreation Center brochure along with the entire fall programming schedule.

For more information regarding our programs, you can log onto the Westlake Recreation Center website at <http://www.cityofwestlake.org/recreation>, stop by the Recreation Center located at 28955 Hilliard Blvd. or give us a call at 440-808-5700. You can also check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westlake-OH/Westlake-Recreation-Department/113894093029>. Our Facebook page will provide fans with frequent updates regarding schedule changes and upcoming events. ●

The Westlake Recreation Center is pleased to announce a new partnership with North Coast Education Services. They offer reading and math skills for children in grades K-12. Classes begin October 15th. For more information, log onto their website at www.northcoasted.com.

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FLATSCREENS!
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View from the Cheap Seats: How to avoid mowing the lawn

by Alex Dade

Just as we think we have the future planned, something comes along to change everything. Saturday was a small example. I'd planned to mow the lawn, wash the car and get a couple of "honey-do's" completed. My wife says... well never mind.

Anyway, before I could face the lawn, I went to a friend's house for a minute. It was a beautiful day, perfect for playing with old cars. You can't waste these opportunities this time of year. As we stood in his driveway talking, he handed me a campaign flyer from Debbie Sutherland. "Do you think anybody believes this garbage?" he asked, obviously not expecting an answer. He let me keep the flyer. This column was going to be focused on making you familiar with Jim Scott, but not anymore. Sorry – I can't help myself. I'd like to keep these columns light, but if I don't get this said, my brain may explode.

I showed the Sutherland flyer to my wife. "Well first, she hasn't been in office 8 years like it says," she commented. "Remember, she was on city council and was the only council member without a full-time job when Tom Jelepis moved to

the Elections Commission? It's more like 9 years... maybe even more." I'd forgotten that.

This made me take a closer look at the flyer. The first platform point was "Responsible fiscal stewardship in tough economic times." Oh – now I know why the city's debt increased by 121% during the 8 – no, 9 – years of Debbie's reign. It was Debbie's version of "responsible stewardship." Probably the same "responsible stewardship" that leads her to spend half a million dollars more than the city takes in this year over the mild objections of city council (Jim Scott was the only council member who voted against her deficit budget). Was it "responsible fiscal stewardship" when she presented council with TWO budgets and, when they asked which she was requesting, she responded that they should choose? Had council chosen, she'd have blamed them for the deficit because she hadn't endorsed EITHER of the budgets SHE'D submitted. Sneaky, but "responsible"?

Let's see... "Investment in sewer, infrastructure and park improvements." Yea, that's right – like the annual flooding in Bay's basements the past few years. With the election coming up, she's

suddenly concerned. She hasn't fixed it for eight – no, nine – years, but now it's important. These things take time I guess.

OK – Next is the "Focus on sustainability through the Mayor's Green Team." I talked to a friend who was at the first Green Team meeting who told me Debbie's first "green" initiative was to buy the mayor a new hybrid SUV! Now THAT's thinking outside the box! Somebody just wanted a new car. I did a calculation that showed it would have taken eight (or was it nine?) years to pay for the extra hybrid expense through the fuel savings. The new SUV was shouted down, but she's driving an SUV anyway – the non hybrid one left parked when Jim Sears retired as Service Director. She says she can drive her city car "anyplace she wants – even to the mall." I personally heard her say it – I'm not making this stuff up!

Hmmmm... next... "New, more interactive web site." Well I'm all for that, as the one the city has now is awful, and some of it isn't even accurate. Debbie has even tried to do something about it – to the tune of \$30,000, which was nixed by the finance committee. There is, after all SOME adult supervision at City Hall. Yet she insists on spending \$15,000 (or so) a year mailing

out the recreation newsletter, even though city council has repeatedly urged her to go electronic with the newsletter and spend the money on the web site. Guess we have to have both – just cuz.

Finally – "Creative partnerships that save tax dollars." Like the creative partnership between the fire department and the mayor when she unilaterally changed the rules for replacing firefighters who call in sick? That was certainly a partnership. The mayor postured and threatened and the firefighters picketed. Not only creative, but very productive too – at least she must have thought so.

As I was about to throw out the flyer, I noticed the banner headline. "Experience. Commitment. Service." Is it "experience" to live the same year 9 times without learning anything? Is it "commitment" when she spent most of a year campaigning for a job at the county and neglected her job at the city? Is it "service" to the community to spend half a million more than we take in – in a single year?

My wife wants me to stop screaming at the computer screen, so I'm going to go lie down in a dark room to get my blood pressure back under control. So much for the lawn. ●

POETRY

Cello Concerto (a love letter)

by Joseph Psarto

*A volcano has erupted
on an island paradise,
a hurricane is ripping
through a Mississippi town,
an Asian war is breaking out,
a famine threatens Africa,
and a meteor of iron and fire
is crashing towards the earth.*

*But all I want to say to you
is that last night the moon
made my white roses even whiter,
a summer breeze is shaking
and quaking the aspen trees,
butterflies are really small angels,
rain drops little diamonds,
and that I love you.*

*The owl down by the barn
is playing a cello,
and the ripened apples
are falling for it.*

Be Not Alarmed

by Carl Christman

*This world in which we live and work
Is daunting to get hold of—
For in each step in life doth lurk
A hazard we're not told of.*

*There are books on all the -ologies,
Tricks in all the -isms;
Your heart may pulse with steady beats,
Then switch to paroxysms.*

*No matter what you start, it seems,
You must tiptoe twixt the orifices;
And the firmest bases for our dreams
Are eternal metamorphoses.*

*Franz Kafka turned into a bug,
Ground wheat becomes a blintz,
There was a frog, from kiss and hug,
Emerged as charming prince.*

*Radiation is expressed in rems;
A whale has coughed up Jonah.
London Bridge no longer spans the Thames,
But stands in Arizona.*

*The Moon has now been walked upon,
Niagara Falls repaired.
So if all icebergs soon are gone,
Be not alarmed or scared.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Westlake hunger project a huge success

I appreciate your paper's efforts to keep voters informed on all community issues. I am happy to report that the St. Paul Thrivent Hearts Helping Hunger Campaign for the Westlake Assistance Program reached its goal of raising \$1500 with a \$500 supplement by the Northwest Cuyahoga County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Community efforts like Hearts Helping Hunger are important and vital. That theme of Helping Westlake Residents is the reason I am running for the Westlake Ward IV Council position. I want to help voters receive the communication they deserve from their councilperson on projects and issues relevant to Ward IV.

I also believe that Council members should proactively investigate the securing of grants to handle ditches, senior citizens' needs, flooding and green initiative agendas. The safety of residents must continue to be a priority for all Council representatives, i.e. tornado/terrorism warning sirens, fencing retention basins, etc.

Communication with residents about Ward IV issues should be addressed with Town Hall meetings – a vital link to keep transparency in government. I humbly ask for your vote on November 3; please allow me to serve you as Westlake Ward IV Councilwoman.

Respectfully,
Mary Helen Levtzow, Westlake Resident

Business graduates on the rise at CSU West Center

by Terri Hradek

Six Cleveland State University West Center students will proudly walk across the stage to receive their degrees as part of the Accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration Program as they completed their studies at the close of the Summer, 2009 Semester. The students, Mohammed Quardi, Chris Ebenger, Michael Volpe, Dawn Patrick, James Leuzzi and Katherine Moody, began the program's first cohort in August, 2008. Each student was able to take classes in six- or ten-week increments at CSU's West Center, allowing them to complete their required curriculum at an accelerated pace.

The Cleveland State University Nance College of Business offers the ABBA degree exclusively through the CSU West Center. The West Center, located in Westlake, Ohio, is an extended campus of the Cleveland State University. Since its opening in August, 2003, more than 5800 students have enrolled in classes and continue to serve over 15 communities in the Northwest Ohio area. For more information on CSU West Center and the Accelerated Bachelor in Business Administration program, visit www.csuohio.edu/westcenter. ●

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BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Bay Middle School gets visit from Dolley Madison

by Karen Derby

Dolley Madison loved to host parties, but our fourth first lady, who reigned during James Madison's 1809-1817, two-term presidency, also met some frightening challenges. She left a legacy that remains a standard for first ladies to this day.

Bay Middle School fifth-graders heard about the life and times of Dolley Madison through the first-person interpretation of local actress Carol Starre-Kmiecik during a special presentation just for them, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area, Bay Village chapter on Friday, September 11.

Students heard how the first lady remained in the Presidential Palace during the British attack and subsequent burning of Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812, and how she famously demanded that the large portrait of George Washington be removed to a safe hideaway before insuring her own safety. She was instrumental in the rebirth of Washington, D.C. as our nation's capital.

The former first lady served beginning around the time that the Cahoon Family of Bay Village settled in our town (October 10, 1810). The presentation is one of the first events arranged by the Bay Village League of Women Voters kicking off Bay Village's Bicentennial celebration, planned for October 10, 2010.



Barbara Ebright (Bay Village League of Women Voters), Bonnie Altieri (Bay Middle School grade 5 teacher), Dolley Madison (actress Carol Starre-Kmiecik), Joan Hirsh and Donna Mengert (both with Bay Village League of Women Voters).

BAY VILLAGE WOMEN'S CLUB FOUNDATION

Bay Village bicentennial year "Kick Off" luncheon and fashion show

by Lou Popp

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, "Kick Off" the Bay Village Bicentennial Year at the Bay Village Women's Club Foundation Bicentennial Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Dwyer Memorial Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane in Bay Village.

The social hour will begin at 12:00 noon followed by the luncheon at 12:30. There will be fashions from 1810 to the present which will include the history of Bay Village and feature some local models. The luncheon will include some recipes from the new Bay Village Women's

Club Foundation "Bay Traditions II Cookbook."

The "Star of Hope" Bicentennial Quilt will be unveiled and 2010 memorabilia will be available for purchase from various Bay Organizations. Vintage clothing is optional. You will not want to miss this event. The cost is \$20 per person. Tables of 8 can be reserved.

For more information, contact Lou at 440-871-3075. Make check payable to "Bay Village Women's Club Foundation" and mail to: Bay Village Women's Club Foundation, 343 Walmar Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140. The reservation deadline is Monday, October 5, 2009.



Bonnie Alterie's fifth grade class with actress Carol Starre-Kmiecik as Dolley Madison.

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How to handle a poor report card

by Jt Tomaskovich

66 percent of North American teachers say they have been contacted by parents who were “unpleasantly surprised” by their child’s report card, according to a survey by Sylvan Learning Center. Interestingly, 41 percent of teachers also report that their students have sometimes been surprised by their own report cards.

When asked why parents are often surprised by their child’s report cards, 50 percent of teachers said that parents admitted they are not involved enough in their child’s school experience. Additionally, 14 percent say the surprise comes from lack of effective communication by parents with their child’s teacher. The teachers agree that parents aren’t happy with report card surprises. In fact, 47 percent said that the most common comment heard from parents after receiving a report card surprise was “What can we do to improve my child’s grades?” Furthermore, 21 percent remember hearing parents complain they didn’t know their child wasn’t performing well in class.

The first report card of the year can create feelings of pride, happiness and excitement for many parents. It can also produce feelings of anxiety and frustration for those who are surprised by their child’s grades. However, effective and continuous communication among teachers, parents and students can help minimize the “report card surprise.”

Report cards are part of every child’s academic experience, and don’t need to be a surprise to parents. If a parent is

surprised by a poor report card, it often means that they haven’t been effectively communicating with their child or their child’s teacher throughout the year. Maintaining open and continuous lines of communication with children and teachers throughout the school year, and not just when report cards are issued, will help parents stay informed about their child’s progress and help them avoid the report card surprise.

Students who are surprised by their own report cards also need to improve their communication and organization patterns. A student who surprisingly receives a D or a failing grade on his report card learns the hard way that he needs to regularly talk with his teachers and stay on top of school work, homework and test results. Students should never be surprised by their report card grades.

Organization is an essential part of a student’s education. By tracking test scores and all other assignments throughout the year and speaking regularly with teachers and parents, students are prepared for their grades come report card time, and can work to improve their performance prior to report cards.

It shouldn’t take a surprise report card for parents and teachers to communicate effectively. Sylvan Learning Center offers the following advice to help parents maintain clear communications with their children and teachers:

Tips for Talking To Children

- Talk about school every day. Make it a regular part of the family’s routine.

- Don’t wait until report cards are issued to talk about school and grades. Frequently discuss with her how she is doing in each subject and what grade she anticipates receiving.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his day. Find out what he learned and what are his favorite activities.
- Teach your child that education is important to your family.
- Discuss goals and objectives for the school year. This may be a great way to learn about difficulties your child is having in specific subject areas.
- If your child is having trouble in school, talk about a method to help organize her schedule, subjects and activities. A calendar can be a great way to track tests, homework, activities and study plans.
- Talk with your child about his extracurricular activities, such as team sports or after-school jobs. Being overscheduled may affect his grades.
- Set improvement goals for your child. This will help her work towards an attainable grade for each class.
- Talk with your child about his study habits and develop a study plan. Set aside specific time for studying, projects and activities each evening and make sure that he has a properly equipped and well-lit area to work.
- Communicate with your child about her school experiences.

Know what she is thinking and feeling. Also, openly talk with her about her worries and concerns as well as her joys and achievements.

Tips for Talking to Teachers

- Develop a parent/teacher relationship with your child’s teacher and talk with this teacher at least once a month throughout the year. Remember that your child’s teacher has direct contact with your child every school day and can offer invaluable insight into your child’s day.
- Your child’s teacher can benefit from background information about him – talk about activities he likes, special needs, close friends, motivation and things going on at home.
- Find out what the teacher’s expectations are for the year and what type of curriculum she has set for the students. Have this insight at the start of school and keep track of it throughout the year.
- Talk to the teacher about any major programs or activities that are set for the year. Is there an annual science fair? A field trip schedule? Major papers? Tests?
- Remember – teachers are busy people, too. Find out the easiest way to communicate – by email, phone or in person. Finding the right communication method will make it easier to speak on a regular basis. ●

Jt Tomaskovich is the Center Director for Sylvan Learning Center in Westlake.

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A look back... school days

By Lysa Stanton and Dave Pfister

As the last days of summer wind down, I’m sure many of you have noted some of our local trees have already begun to change to the beautiful hues of fall. The sun is setting a little earlier each day and a new school year is already underway.

Before the City of Westlake was established, our area was part of a larger area known as Dover Township. This area included nearly all of what is today Westlake and Bay Village, and a few square miles of North Olmsted.

Education in Dover Township began around 1816, when Betsy Crocker began teaching in a one-room school house located near Lake Erie. In 1845, Mr. John Wilson began the private Dover Academy for those students who wished to study beyond the normal first through eighth grade public education.

In 1898, Dover High School opened in the old Academy building located about 50 feet north of the old Red Brick School – close to the Burneson Middle School parking lot.

In 1920, the students of Dover High School began to publish a school newspaper, known as the “Green and White.” Each year, the Junior Class published an annual, which at first was called “The Green and White Annual” or just “Annual.” In 1935, the name was changed by the staff to Panorama, which is defined by Webster as “a complete or entire view in every direction.”*

If you are interested in reviewing a display of Dover and Westlake High School Annuals (Yearbooks), they will be featured from 2-4 PM on October 11th at the Clague House Museum

(1371 Clague Road). The display will begin with the 1924 edition of the Green and White Annual forward through the 1970’s.

Those wishing to donate any year-books please contact the Westlake His-

torical Society at 440-471-4090 or visit them on the web at www.westlakeohio-history.org.

*Taken from the book “You’ve Come A Long Way, Westlake...” by William M. Robishaw. ●



Dover and Westlake High School Annuals

Local Republican club elects new president

by Mark Boepple

Mark Boepple has been elected the new President of WestlakeRepublicanClub.com. Mark, an active member of the community for over 27 years, resides with his wife Therese and their 3 children in Westlake. WestlakeRepublicanClub.com is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community by advancing and supporting the principals, purposes and ideals of our Nation's founders.

WestlakeRepublicanClub.com accomplishes this by sharing information about government and its operations through the civic, political and social activities of its grass roots members. Just going to the polls to vote is not enough anymore, our members feel it is important to get out and actively campaign for the right candidates. WestlakeRepublicanClub.com membership is growing because people feel “our founding principles are at risk and we must communicate a message of fiscal conservatism to voters before we spend ourselves into a third world nation.” Membership in WestlakeRepublicanClub.com is open to all Republicans living in Westlake. Associate Memberships are also available. ●



WestlakeRepublicanClub.com Past-President Mark Getsay passes the gavel to incoming President Mark Boepple.

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