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WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

1.5 • 20 OCT 09

Citizen-based
community news
and views

Written by the Citizens of Westlake & Bay Village • Visit Our Website: wbvobserver.com

Bay Sea Scouts receive Boat Float recycling award

by Richard Gash

Sea Scout Ship 41 received the "Best Use of Recycled Materials" award at the Great Lake Erie Boat Float with their vessel made from 500 Tide bottles. Andrew Gash, an employee of Procter & Gamble, was on hand at the Edgewater Park event, October 3, to help launch the Sea Scout vessel "Hi-Tide." On a WKYC Channel 3 broadcast, Andrew explained to the live audience that the Tide bottles were made from over 25% recycled plastics and that the project had been a great learning opportunity for the Sea Scouts.

The Great Lake Erie Boat Float attracted a dozen entries that included restaurants, colleges and high schools. It was sponsored by Dominion East Ohio and the Bio-

» See BAY SCOUTS, page 2



Sea Scouts ready "Hi-Tide" to launch at Edgewater Beach along with a dozen other boat floats.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

NOT MY CHILD!

No one believes it could happen to their child! Unfortunately, over half of our young, innocent children are experimenting with alcohol and other drugs beginning in middle school.

- Parents, what do you really know about adolescent drug use? Do you know the signs to look for or what to do if you suspect that your child is using? Or how to respond or where to turn for help?

- To find out more, please attend an informative and interactive alcohol and other drug abuse program – 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, John Thomas from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Drug Court and Mike Matoney, 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

INSIDE: Garden Railroad

See page 9



Writers always wanted!

by Tara Wendell, Editor

The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a citizen-written community newspaper that prints every two weeks. All of the stories you read in its pages were written by those who live and work in our two cities. They are people from all walks of life with interesting stories, events or photos to share. Anyone in our community can participate, including you! So what are you waiting for? Join the fun and share your interests with your neighbors!

How it works

Contributing to the Observer is as easy as 1-2-3:

Step 1. Sign in at <http://www.wbvobserver.com/members>.

Step 2. Submit stories, events, opinions, pictures, poems, recipes, etc. in the online Member Center.

Step 3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 as often as you'd like!

What we print

All stories submitted by people who live or work in Westlake or Bay that are of interest to the community will be printed in the newspaper and on the website. Of course, that doesn't mean "anything goes." We ask that writers refrain from using abusive or vulgar language, making false or unsupported accusations and explicitly promoting a product or service. Use common sense, and share news and opinions with your neighbors in a thoughtful manner.

As the editor, I proofread the stories and try to clean up any spelling or grammatical errors, but will not alter the main idea or intent of the story. We try to keep the Observer as "unfiltered" as possible - allowing all members of the community to share information and speak their minds.

Who we are

The Observer is organized by a small group of residents who care about their community and believe in the concept of community news-sharing. We have a growing network of advisors that represent various interests throughout Westlake and Bay and help guide the project to ensure that its focus is strong: a true community news source that gives an equal voice to everyone who wishes to participate.

We are always here to answer questions, address concerns and provide any assistance you may need. You can email me at tara@wbvobserver.com, or give us a call at (440) 409-0114. •



Westlake jeweler crafts necklace for CSU president

by Denny Wendell

When Ronald Berkman was installed as the new Cleveland State University president, he wore a presidential medallion over his ceremonial robe designed by Westlake jeweler Larry Schreibman of Lawrence Schreibman's Gems. The custom-designed piece, presented as a gift to Berkman during the October 16th ceremony, was the idea of CSU's marketing department. Made of sterling silver, the unique necklace took seven weeks to design and craft by Schreibman. •



BAY SCOUTS

Continued from front page

diversity Alliance to highlight concern for our lakefront environment. Dr. Marcus Eriksen, who in 2008 sailed the Pacific Ocean in a boat made from 15,000 pop bottles, presented the award and congratulated the scouts on their boat design and construction. “Hi-Tide” will be on display at Case Western Reserve University the week of October 20 as part of their Campus Sustainability Day, after which they will be recycled.

For more details, go to: <http://waterfrontchallenge.blogspot.com>. ●
Richard Gash is the Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 41.



Sea Scouts (L to R) Alex Felici, Nate Cullinan, Andrew Felici, Bryon Miller, Gabriel Felici and Andrew Gash holding the trophy.



Racing for the finish line! While not the fastest float, “Hi-Tide” had the most paddle power.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Susan Goldberg headlines League's speaker series

by Joan Hirsh

Susan Goldberg, Editor of The Plain Dealer, is the featured speaker at the League of Women Voters' area-wide public meeting series called “First Thursdays.” Goldberg's presentation is titled “How The Plain Dealer Makes a Difference.” It is set for November 5, 2009, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. The event is open to the public free of charge, with free parking for attendees behind the Cathedral off Prospect Avenue.

Susan Goldberg was named editor of The Plain Dealer in May 2007. Prior to that she was executive editor of the San Jose Mercury News, held several editorial titles at USA Today and earlier worked as a reporter and editor at the Detroit Free Press. A Michigan native, she has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University. She is on the board of The City Club of Cleveland and Business Volunteers Unlimited, and is active in a number of professional journalism organizations. She also is co-chair of the Medill School of Journalism's Board of Visitors at Northwestern University.

Women Who Know Their Place is the theme of this season's “First Thursdays,” a series of five events, each featuring a woman who has achieved a high degree of success in her field. It also celebrates the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. For more information call the League office at 216 781-0555 or visit <http://www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org>.

Program funding is provided by contributions to the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc. ●

The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area is comprised of seven local chapters: Bay Village, Cleveland Heights/University Heights, Fairview Park, Hillcrest, Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake/North Olmsted. It is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Annual Christmas Carousel Holiday Festival set for Nov. 7

by Shawn Salamone

The annual Christmas Carousel Holiday Festival returns to Bay Village on November 7, allowing shoppers to give two ways with their holiday dollars! The annual event benefits the non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center and features a terrific array of local artists, craftspeople and quality vendors.

New vendors will be joining old favorites this year to create an exciting variety. Among the items you'll find are antique button bracelets and other jewelry, pottery, Longaberger baskets, unique children's clothing including monogrammed baby items, original art work, stained glass, doll clothes, beaded giftware, woodworks, quality children's books, nature-inspired notecards, pet clothes, ornaments and novelties. There will also be recycled wearables by the Westlake middle school E-club and special Adopt-An-Animal gift packages from the Center. Arbonne International, Pampered Chef, Southern Living and Taste-fully Simple will also be represented.

The Carousel Café will offer lunch, home-baked goods and more. Hungry

shoppers can count on delicious refreshments and the usual mouth-watering array of homemade cakes, cookies, jams and sauces at the popular bake sale. The Women's Board chair of the event, Deb Barnum, says the \$3 per person entry donation also includes one FREE raffle ticket for great prizes!

The long-running Carousel, sponsored by Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's all-volunteer Women's Board runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To comfortably accommodate all the exhibitors and shoppers, and to provide adequate parking, the Carousel will be held at Bay High School, located at 29230 Wolf Road. There is an easy access drop-off entrance to the event as well.

Carousel proceeds support Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's non-profit mission to inspire appreciation for the natural universe. The Center offers a variety of educational programming, opens its live animal exhibit doors free to the public 7 days a week, and operates a wildlife rehabilitation program at no charge to the public.

For more information about Carousel, contact the Center at 440-871-2900 or log on to www.lensc.org. ●

Representative Baker to participate in economic summit panel

by Shannon McNamara

State Representative Nan Baker (R-Westlake) announced that she will be participating in a panel discussion on the economic crisis in Ohio. The Educational Economic Summit will be hosted by Bob Randall, financial advisor for Wells Fargo Advisors.

“With unemployment more than 9 percent in Cuyahoga County, we must examine Ohio's economic crisis and how we can move toward recovery,” Baker said. “I look forward to the opportunity to discuss Ohio's job climate and other aspects of our state economy with the people of the 16th House District.”

The panel will discuss how the recession has affected Ohio's job climate, housing market, education systems, and other core aspects of the state economy.

The event will take place on Friday, October 23 at 9 a.m. at the Rocky River Public Library, located at 1600 Hampton Rd., Rocky River, Ohio, 44116. The forum is free and open to the public to ask questions of the panelists.

Additional panel participants include Keith Ashmus, chairman of National Small Business Association; William Mahnic, professor of finance at Case Western Reserve University; Mark Polatajko, vice president of Finance and Administration at Cuyahoga Community College; and Laura Noble, estate planning attorney. ●

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. We do not accept any form of payment for the inclusion of articles.

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Saturday, October 24 Halloween Safety Day

Bay Middle School Community Gym

Dress up to celebrate Halloween! Children ages 3-10 and their parents are invited to listen to stories, make a fun craft, play games and learn safety tips from police officers and firefighters. Sponsored by Bay Village Recreation Dept.

Ages: 3-10

Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.

Cost: FREE

Sunday, October 25, 2009 Cemetery Walk

Evergreen Cemetery

Join Westlake Porter Library, the Westlake Historical Society and local historian Mel Maurer for a walk through Evergreen Cemetery complete with tales of early Dover and the beginnings of Westlake Porter Public Library. Following this, folks will be invited back to the library for cider and doughnuts as well as further talks with our presenters.

Adult Program

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Evergreen Cemetery, 29535 Center Ridge Rd.

Cost: FREE



Thursday, October 29 Illuminating Twilight

Bay Village Library

Erin O'Brien, pop culture columnist for Cleveland Scene magazine, will reveal exactly how the blood pumps through Stephenie Meyer's popular vampire series. To register, visit the Bay Village Library website at: <http://cuyahogalibrary.org/EventDetail.aspx?EventInstanceID=36007>

Ages: 12 & Up

Thursday, October 29

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Bay Village Library, 502 Cahoon Road

Cost: FREE



Know of a Halloween event not listed? Post it to our calendar at www.wbvobserver.com.

Bay Kiwanis to provide thrills and chills for good cause

by Rich Aronson

Looking for a good scare this Halloween along with some free candy? The Bay Kiwanis Club is once again sponsoring the Garage of Doom fundraiser benefitting UNICEF. This year's haunted house will feature a Mad Scientist's Laboratory, the Carnival of the Damned, Dracula's Dungeon and the Night of the Scarecrows.

The attraction, located at 28002 W. Oakland Rd in Bay, is not recommended for children under 10. The Garage of Doom will open at dusk and run until approximately 9:30pm. Admission is free, with all donations being greatly appreciated. For more info call 871-3835.



Friday, October 30 Monster Mash Halloween Party

Westlake Recreation Center

Test out your costumes before Halloween at our annual Halloween Party. Children get to trick or treat around the Recreation Center and enjoy games and activities in our community rooms. New this year will be a monster mash dance party! Only children need to be registered for this event. Deadline to register is Oct. 23. Visit the Westlake Recreation Dept. website for a registration form at <http://www.cityofwestlake.org/recreation/classes.aspx>.

Location: Westlake Rec Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.

Time: 6 - 7:30 pm (for ages 3 - 6)

and 7 - 8:30 pm (for ages 7 - 10).

Friday, October 30 Fall Family Hayride Night

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Wear your costume to our October 30th Hayride Night, which features an unscary trick or treat trail and animated Halloween laser lights in the planetarium. Sign up now so you can gather up the family and enjoy a pizza dinner, hands-on fall activities for the little ones, planetarium programs, live wildlife encounters and hayrides for all ages! Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call (440) 871-2900 for information.

All ages

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road

Cost: \$10/adult; \$5/child

Saturday, October 31 Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

City of Westlake

Time: 6 - 8 pm

City of Bay Village

Time: 6 - 8 pm



Saturday, October 31 & Sunday, November 1 Laser Halloween Weekends!

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Lasers return for two weekends of dancing lights and music. Halloween-themed, full-dome laser light shows will dazzle and delight all ages during hourly daytime shows.

For Families of ALL ages

Times: 11:30 am & 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 & 4:30 pm

Location: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road

Cost: \$3/person

Saturday, October 31 Bay Kiwanis Club Garage of Doom

28002 W. Oakland Rd.

Bay Kiwanis Club will be raising funds for the UNICEF campaign by once again sponsoring the "Garage of Doom" haunted house on Halloween night.

Not recommended for kids under 10.

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: 28002 W. Oakland Rd.

Cost: FREE; all donations are greatly appreciated

Sunday, November 1 The Great Pumpkin Roll

Westlake Recreation Center



Looking for something to do with your pumpkin? Join us at the top of the sledding hill and roll 'em down the hill! Compete for the longest/shortest roll and test your talent by aiming for the target at the bottom of the hill. Fun for the entire family! This event will take place on Sunday, Nov. 1. Please call the Recreation Center at 440-808-5700 for more information.

Location: Westlake Rec Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.



Pumpkin Festival

by Sameer Shah

One autumn day I went for pumpkin picking.

I was singing a tune near the pumpkin patch –

"I will turn my pumpkin into pie

Put whipped cream and making appealing to the eye.

My pumpkin is like an orange moon.

It is so delicious I feel like tasting the pumpkin pie
with a spoon.

It's a whole lot of fun carving and coloring the
pumpkin soon.

My orange pumpkin is like a colorful balloon."

I am looking forward participating in the
pumpkin contest.

Decorating it with bright lights and make my
pumpkin look the best!

Sameer is a 4th grader at Hilliard Elementary School in Westlake.

Bay Village Library's storytimes emphasize pre-literacy skills

by Joyce Sandy

It's back to school time once again and the Cuyahoga County Public Library is committed to helping children enter school ready to learn. There are six pre-literacy skills parents can help their children develop in the years prior to entering Kindergarten which help get them ready to read. Each of the storytimes at the library incorporates these skills and models ways for parents to implement them at home to encourage emerging literacy in their child.

The first important pre-literacy skill is letter knowledge. This is the understanding that letters are different from each other and have different names and sounds. This skill helps children to understand that words are made up of smaller parts. Parents can reinforce letter knowledge by letting their child feel letter shapes and by reading them alphabet books. A great way to practice is to trace letters in your child's back or hand and then let them try tracing the letter on you. Examples of alphabet books include "Alphabet House" by Nancy Wallace and "Find Your ABCs" by Richard Scarry.

Vocabulary is the second of the pre-literacy skills. This is knowing the names of things. It helps children know what they read and helps them recognize words as they try to sound them out. Parents can help by talking and reading with their child and by explaining words the child doesn't know. Gradually introduce new words to describe feelings, opposites, and spatial position. "Mary Had a Little Lamp" by Jack Lechner and "I Love Tools!" by Philemon Sturges are books that promote vocabulary building.

The next important pre-literacy skill is phonological awareness, the ability to hear the smaller sounds in words. Making different sounds, playing word games, and making up rhymes are excellent ways to develop this skill. Read books with funny sounds and help your child match rhyming words. Books that have rhyming text include

"The Dream Book" by Margaret Wise Brown, and "You Can Do It Too!" by Karen Baicker.

Narrative skills, the fourth skill on the path to literacy, is the ability to describe things and events, and to tell stories. This skill also helps children to understand what they read. To help your child develop narrative skills, talk to them and give them time to respond. Books to read to encourage this skill include "Pug in a Truck" by Nancy Coffelt, and "Does a Baboon Sleep on a Bed?" by Fred Ehrlich.

Print awareness is the penultimate pre-literacy skill. It means noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and understanding how to follow the written words on a page. When reading books with your child, let them turn the pages and run your finger under some of the words. Choose a book with repeating phrases and let your child say the phrase each time. "Sleep Tight, Little Mouse" by Mary Morgan and "Join Hands" by Pat Mora encourage print awareness.

The last pre-literacy skill, print motivation, is a child's interest in and enjoyment of books. The best ways to develop this skill are to let your child see you reading and to read aloud with them. While you're reading a paper or magazine, read parts out loud, and point to pictures and talk about them. Books that promote print motivation are "What Shall We do With the Boo-Hoo Baby?" by Cressida Cowell and "Mrs. Wishy Washy's Farm" by Joy Cowley.

These six simple, yet important, skills will give your child the best possible start to reading readiness. Giving children the skills they need builds their confidence and helps send them off to school ready to learn.

Bring your child to storytime; it's a great way to help them develop the six pre-literacy skills. Books have been chosen and bundled together that emphasize each skill. Just stop in and take one or two! Storytimes are held throughout the year. For days and times, visit the Bay Village Branch online at cuyahogalibrary.org, call 440.871.6392, or stop in. ●

FINANCE

Financial Review: Tough decisions...

by Mark Zagrocki

These economic times have made a lot of us face some tough decisions in our lives. Everything from our spending habits, things we do for fun and our saving habits have come under scrutiny as we try to ensure our families' well-being. Whether facing a lay-off, reduced pay, or the concern of cut-backs at work you may have had to take a hard look at your budget, and many have had to decide where the money will come from for the necessities of life.

There are 3 principles you should utilize if you are facing these decisions, and using these principles will help you make those tough decisions. There are consequences when you are forced to find sources of money not intended to be sources of daily living expenses, and the emotions of the situation you are in may lead to a decision you may regret very soon in the future. So making a sound decision today can keep you from regretting your decision later.

Principle I. What's Important. As Americans, many of us are proud of what we have accomplished – the nice house, the nice vehicles, the investment portfolio, the vacations, etc. When you are facing a tough decision of where the money will come from for the mortgage payment or groceries, the accomplishments quickly fade away. The first principle is to remember what is important – your family. Whether you are married and have children or are single, taking care of your loved ones has to come first. At the end of the day your worth is more than dollar signs or nice stuff.

Principle II. Ramifications. With each option you review for accessing the necessary capital to get through the tough times, there are ramifications. It is best to start with the consequences, research them all, and decide which consequence is the least offensive. A few examples:

- Home Equity Loan: With an equity loan on your home, you will pay back the amount borrowed plus interest. The deeper consequences could be additional penalties for late or missed payments, and the inability to sell your home if you have to because of how much you now owe in mortgages.
- Retirement Accounts: Accessing your retirement accounts may come with IRS penalties, and taking a loan out against your 401(k) has interest charges and a mandatory repayment schedule. Additionally, having a loan may prohibit or cause further penalties and interest if you

attempt to rollover your plan to a new employer or an IRA.

- Family Loans: Asking family or friends for a loan may be one of the hardest decisions to weigh. A loan can change the dynamics of your relationship, and sometimes admitting that you need help is the toughest action of all.
- Credit Cards: Living off of credit cards has never been a sound practice, but more and more people are using credit cards for cash advances and general purchases. If you pay your credit cards off each month it may be fine, but carrying credit card debt oftentimes has the highest interest rate of any option you have.

These are only a few examples, and there are many more options, but again it is important to know all of the ramifications to your options before you make your decision. Often, what appears to be the best decision can end up costing you a great deal more than originally thought.

Principle III. Rest Assured. After you have made your decision, take a breath, and know that you made the best decision for the situation you are facing. Second-guessing yourself after the fact or wishing you would have done this or done that serves no purpose. We all learn from mistakes, but take a lesson learned as a lesson learned, period, not as a lesson learned that you will continually regret and beat yourself up about over and over.

Facing tough decisions is something more and more Ohio residents are dealing with on a regular basis. The best approach to a tough decision is not to focus on why it happened, or what the decision was; rather use the 3 principles above as a logical approach to answering the tough questions. There is no one right answer for everyone, each of us have different needs and resources, and researching the ramifications of utilizing a resource can help you clarify which option is best. Just remember that the only constant is change, and this too will come to pass, so don't feel as if your entire financial future is ruined because you had to make a tough choice today. The promise of tomorrow is powerful. ●

Mark Zagrocki is a Financial Advisor in Westlake.

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Bay Village Library Book Sale Oct. 24-27

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Pollution

by Gerard Howell

Honor to a duo.

There was air pollution. And it was vile. About two months ago and three years ago. As for the latter, it was almost every weekend in much of the summer, usually after dark. In the area of Knickerbocker and Dover Center roads and going far to the east. At least.

I, Joe Scribe, spoke to a lady who maybe knew of it. She said “Use the air conditioning.”

OK, did. It helped. Solved the temp evil locally in my pad. But what if many a dweller for acres and blocks around had to go out in it – to a meeting or market? Gad. Had to step outside briefly once or twice myself. Don’t remind me.

After a few weekends, if memory serves, went to a man who might help. Don’t know much about him; maybe he had some realty connection. Anyhow, he is A and Joe is B.

A – (Guardedly, sans eye contact as he computered) What do you think is the source of this pollution?

B – (Something such as) I don’t have metaphysical certainty. Maybe. Wonder if you do, sir.

Well, then the rotten stuff ceased in very few days. Neither he nor his associates ever acknowledged Joe to his face, if at all – much less thanked him.

The trouble seldom occurred since, for more than a few minutes. Until recently.

Again respectfully, Joe spoke, quickly this time. To the successor of the years-ago man. We quite accidentally crossed paths; he was in a hurry. He, somewhat courteously, wanted witnesses. Joe got two, and their warm OK to cite their names, a day or two later. Had crossed paths with them; didn’t canvass, doesn’t plan to.

There are dozens more still alive and they won’t all perjure, if it comes to that. But it needn’t.

Some who sniffed that air years ago have died. Alas. But Joe doesn’t advocate exhumations – or mass testing of the living, the survivors.

When told more witnesses hovered, the man said, “I believe you,” as he strode away quickly. Most acknowledgment Joe ever got in this mess.

The essence: No more gadfly – even a cordial one.

Joe wants out of, um, this particular public service. He has been unduly treated. The gut reaction is to shake the dust from his sandals.

Y’all out there, good readers: Kindly step up. When you breathe that air stuff, pounce.

Pronto. But don’t rat out. Work behind the scenes; others did. One more sniff can be deadly, but:

We all have obligations in charity as well as justice. And credit to two who may have saved lungs and lives.

Moreover, no one is righteous enough to cast the first stone. Joe just told you as he saw it was and is. The surface. He realizes he can’t read hearts & minds of all the apparent negative-doers. Some things may even be accidents. That goes for polluters and those who seemed to very carefully suppress news of somebody’s contribution while they knew he needed a paycheck.

They and whoever-all else may have become saints in God’s eyes, for all we know.

Another little thing. Joe told a civic-of-ficeholder or two the bare bones of the story. It was toward getting a job, and indicating he might have the honor to try to do it well. Enclosed a resume. Was quite content to be a part-time minion.

Showed the rez to a buddy, who wrote: “Joe, pal, re the rez you kindly sent: I fear it over-qualifies you for some jobs, and under- for others, of course. (We all are vulnerable on the latter.) I think they didn’t reply because they saw your life-experience as a threat. Many hunker down in this rotten economy.

“Did you know the fear in one of my interviewers’ eyes was palpable? And that younger and richer men than us, who, also, have been unduly laid off, get very few answers to their rezzez?

“You and I don’t want the job of anyone who wants to keep that possession. Why should we violate #s 7 & 10 of the Decalogue!?”

“And I remember you fell on the uneven sidewalk of that civic person or entity, got hurt, but didn’t sue. Good show. And, in return, they did what you told me.

“Saw you straggle in to St. Raphael mass that Sunday of your fall. And saw the two women kindly blot blood and patch you up quickly. (Like to think any church of any denomination for miles around would have so done.) Anyway, I agree that prospective employers and property owners and all should be left to their consciences. We don’t know their hearts.

“Urge your hearers to stay vigilant re the pollution...”

And who might Joe Scribe be? Says he’s G.A. + another initial for the surname. Because some disclosure seems fit for a writ. And as a part-concession to one of the Five W’s of journalism. ●

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Looking back...

Clague Monument reaches milestone this month



By Lysa Stanton and Dave Pfister

How many times did you go to Clague Park this year? Maybe your family enjoyed the swimming pool, played little league baseball, or enjoyed the playground equipment. Maybe you enjoyed the super 4th of July Fireworks presented by the City of Westlake. Why is the park known today as Clague Memorial Park?

Robert Clague and family originally came to Dover Township (now known as Westlake, Bay Village, and part of North Olmsted) around 1835. They purchased a 78 acre parcel of land and built the Clague Home in 1876 which stands today at 1371 Clague Road. The Clagues were farmers that became very successful selling apples, berries, and various fruits far and wide. They were also known for helping others, and able to lend money when necessary.

The Monument across the street from the Clague Home contains the following inscription that helps tell the story: “Forty years ago Walter Clague desired to donate his property for a park when the opportune time came. This desire was realized on Sat. Oct. 9, 1926, when Dover Village accepted the 78 acres on Clague Road for park purposes, which park to be called the Clague Memorial Park, both name and park for all time.”

October 12, 1929 was a very memorable day for the citizens of Dover as well as future generations. On this day, many of the townspeople gathered at the Clague farm for the formal dedication of the farm as a public park. The large granite monument was dedicated opposite the home. Walter’s sister, Miss Sophronia Clague, said, “We hope that the park will be a place where the people of Dover can relax both mentally and physically with sufficient space to play and a place that will eventually become a natural beauty spot in Dover.”

Although the Clague family consisted of nine children, the monument only lists eight. Victoria Clague was still living at the time of the monument dedication, yet her name was left off because she did not support the donation. In October 2009, The Westlake Historical Society placed a wreath to mark the 80th anniversary of the Clague Memorial Park Monument.

To learn more about the Clague family and Westlake history, visit www.westlakeohiohistory.org or call 440-471-4090. ●

POETRY

Death in the Trees

by Joseph Psarto

*The oak leafs are dying
and they don't seem to know it.
Golds and reds and oranges,
with sweet, sweet voices
like sea nymphs,
are drawing them into a
final moment of glory
after a lazy season of green.*

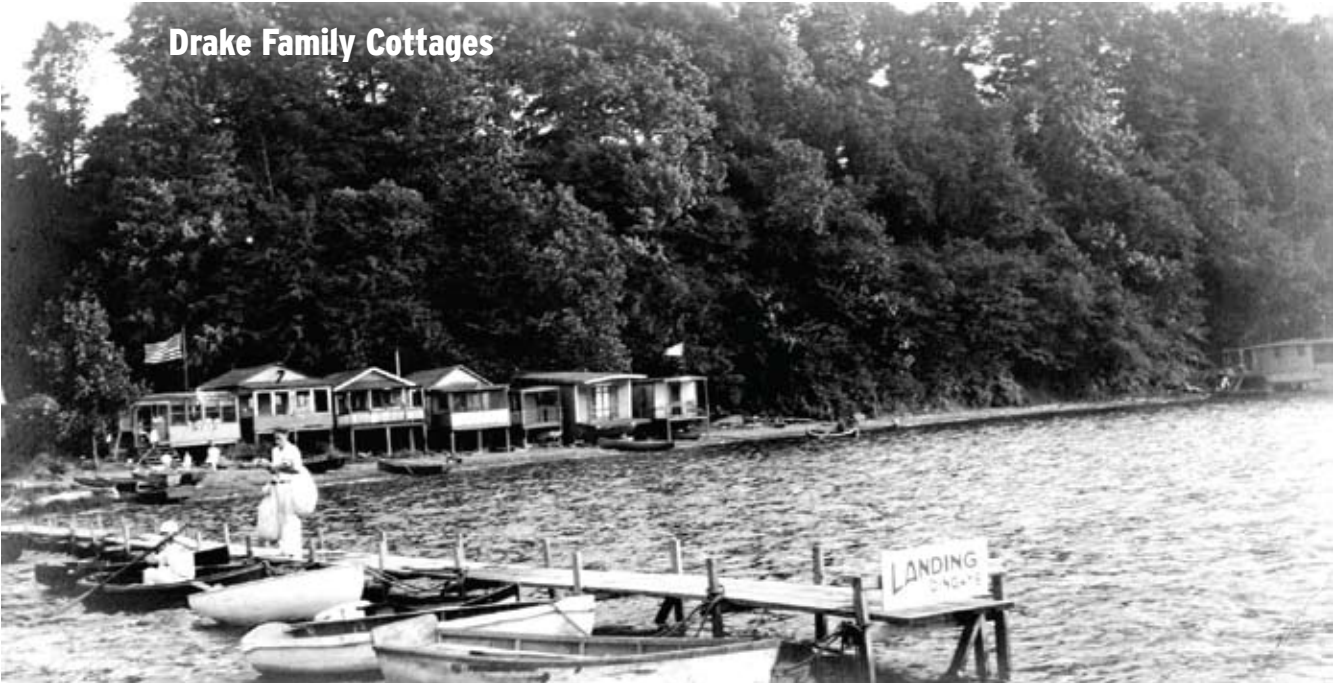
*The leafs sparkle and sing
in the cool breeze,
twisting and tinkling
and dancing a jig.*

*But it's a daemon painting
the wonders across their skins.
The leafs back away,
too late, too late,
and begin to fall.*

*And all the while
the Watchers shout,
– how beautiful it is –*

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A bit of Bay history



The Drake Family Cottages were for rent along the sandy beach just east of Bradley Road on Lake Road well into the 1950s. Stair steps and a dirt path led to a parking garage on the top of the cliff next to an open grassy area. George Drake, who operated the cottages, lived in a house west of the grassy area. George’s grandmother Mary Ann Stevens and grandfather Henry Aldrich lived in the Homestead House across the street on the south side of Lake Road. George later purchased all the Aldrich property. Both these houses and one cottage are still standing. ●

Photo courtesy of the Bay Village Historical Society.

Bay High School hosts mayoral debate

by Allie Puntel

Bay High School's senior class and various debate classes gathered October 7th in the Bay High auditorium. They were there with questions to be answered by the candidates from the 2009 Bay Village mayoral election.

The two candidates are Debbie

Sutherland and Jim Scott. Eight students had prepared various questions to ask the candidates. The topics ranged from a new recreation center, to the candidates' opinions on issues five and six, to their views on regionalism. Both candidates were given two minutes to deliver an opening statement, then one minute to answer each question. At the end of the debate they were again given two min-

utes to give their closing statements.

School administrators consider the experience a positive one for students. "It was a great opportunity for the students and voters," said Mr. Martin, Assistant Principal.

Teachers agreed with administrators on the effectiveness of the debate. "The League of Women Voters ran the show very well, and the students

who submitted questions were very knowledgeable. The candidates were very professional, and it was a great interaction for the students. I am very interested to see how the students vote," said Mr. Grossman.

The mayoral debate was set up by the League of Women Voters, who also administered the mock election at BHS. ●

BHS holds mock election

by Alex Slaymaker, photos by Tia DeFini

The Cuyahoga Area League of Women Voters held a mock election at Bay High October 8th, in order to show students how to vote, get students interested in voting, and motivate the younger generation to participate in politics. BHS seniors and junior government students were encouraged to cast their votes after seeing the mayoral candidates, Debbie Sutherland and Jim Scott, debate.

According to Mary Lou Jones, Executive Director of the League, mock election results are "usually pretty close to the city's results" and "can be an accurate indicator" of the city's eventual results.

Students were required to sign in and show ID. Informational flyers, prepared by the League, were given to students. Students hung signs throughout the building to promote their favorite candidates.

"I feel like I am involved in my community's well-being," said senior Theresa Touma after casting her vote.



BHS senior cast their votes in the mock election.



Students cast their votes in the mock election.

The mock election comes the day after the Bay Village mayoral debate was held in the high school's auditorium. "The point of the debate was to make students more educated voters," said Jones.

After the debate, students were able to educate their parents on the issues. "I advised my mother to vote for Mayor Sutherland, and we now have a vote for Sutherland sign in our front yard," said senior Peter Kahnert. ●

Results of the BHS Mock election:
Mayor Debbie Sutherland: 62 votes,
Councilman Jim Scott: 92 votes.

Bay High receives 18th straight Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award

by Karen Derby

Bay High School has been selected as a 2008-2009 winner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Harold A. Meyer Award for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity. Bay High is the only Ohio school to win the award for all 18 years since the award's inception in 1992.

The awards are presented to schools that demonstrate they have completed an eight-part program that promotes sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in their schools and communities. Winners are required to demonstrate that they have in place: 1) written Board of Education policy on sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in extracurricular activities; 2) a broad-based sportsmanship, ethics and integrity committee to coordinate the planning and implementation of a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program; 3) presentations throughout the school year to coaches, athletes, parents, fans and support groups emphasizing the school's philosophy on sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; 4) an ongoing campaign that promotes sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; 5) an annual evaluation of all coaches in the areas of instruction and demonstration of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; 6) a procedure for receiving, investigating and acting upon complaints regarding sportsmanship,



Bay High's Sportsmanship Committee members (left-to-right): Libby Butler, Bridget Doughty, Kyle Banal, Michael Brajdic, Bay High Athletic/Activities Director Mark Smithberger, Kaitlyn McFeeley, Hannabelle Sterle and Katelyn Waddle. Not pictured is Peter Kahnert.

ethics and integrity; 7) a plan for dealing with critical situations such as heated rivalries, overflow crowds and unruly spectators; and, 8) a program for acknowledging/rewarding examples of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.

At Bay High, students are an important component of the schools' planning and implementation of a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program. Bay High students currently on the school's Sportsmanship Committee are Kyle Banal, Michael Brajdic, Libby Butler, Bridget Doughty, Peter Kahnert, Kaitlyn McFeeley, Hannabelle Sterle and Katelyn Waddle. The group's advisor is Mark Smithberger, Bay High's Athletic and Activities Director.

"I commend Bay High principal Jim Cahoon and activities director Mark Smithberger for their diligence in pursuing this annual recognition and its significant requirements, making Bay High the only school in the state to receive the Harold A. Meyer award for all of its 18 years," said Bay Village schools superintendent Clint Keener. "The award certainly reflects the sportsmanship, ethics and integrity we all expect from our coaches, our students and our fans."

The award is named in honor of the late Harold A. Meyer, commissioner of the OHSAA from 1969 to 1977. ●

Diabetes Day

Finding the Pathway
to Better Health!

Artwork by Dr. Luis Llerena, Endocrinologist, Fairview Hospital

Wednesday,
November 4
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rocky River Civic Center
21016 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River

Free admission, lunch
and parking

Please call for reservations
by Monday, October 26

1.877.234.FITT(3488)
Toll Free

For more information,
please call the Fairview
Diabetes Education Center
216.476.4077



Join us for a complimentary
lunch, health screenings,
displays and raffle prizes.

This event will help you make peace with
your diabetes and find the pathway to a
healthier, happier life!

11 a.m.–12 noon


**Registration, Free Foot, Eye and
Blood Pressure Screenings and Exhibits**

12 noon–2:30 p.m.

Main Program: Lunch and Speakers

William Polonsky, PhD, CDE, is an international speaker and expert on Diabetes Care. He is the author of *Diabetes Burnout: What To Do When You Can't Take It Anymore*. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Polonsky serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Diego.

Carole Calladine, LSW, author of *Second Story Woman* will share a fresh and uplifting message about her own personal experience of living with diabetes. She will share how she has “come to grips with her diabetes” and has made positive changes for better health!

Provided in part by a generous grant from 

HUNTINGTON PLAYHOUSE

“An Inspector Calls” arrives at Huntington Playhouse

by Tom Meyrose

The Huntington Playhouse 2009 season continues with the suspense mystery “An Inspector Calls” opening on October 15 and playing through Nov. 1, 2009. Performances are on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM with one matinee on Sunday, Nov. 1st at 2:00 PM. Ron Newell directs this production. In 1912, the Birling family is celebrating their daughter's engagement when Inspector Goole arrives with news about a girl's suicide. As the interrogation of each family member unfolds, secrets are revealed, plots thicken and unexpected twists occur. Reservations are strongly recommended by calling the box office at 440-871-8333.

Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Road in Bay Village and is a licensed affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks. For more information, check the web site: www.huntingtonplayhouse.com. ●



The Cast of “An Inspector Calls.”

WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

Fall time fun

by Chris Haldi

The end of October brings the fun and creative side out in people. Halloween is just around the corner and the Westlake Recreation Center has plenty of programs to suit the occasion.

The Friday night before Halloween, October 30, dress the kids up and test out their costumes before the big night of trick-or-treating and come to the Monster Mash Halloween Party at the Rec Center. The children will get to trick-or-treat around the building and enjoy games and activities in our community rooms including a monster mash dance party. Hurry and sign the kids up before the October 23 deadline.

After Halloween those pumpkins that you spent time carving and making them look the scariest they could possibly be, they just sit around, get old and you end up throwing them away. Well instead of just throwing them away this year, head on up to the Rec Center with your pumpkin and take part in The Great Pumpkin Roll. The day after Halloween, Sunday November 1st the sledding hill will be set up with contests for you to participate in and to test your pumpkin rolling skills.

It's not too late to sign up for Pony

Lessons Jr. Get the chance to take your child to learn about ponies, play games and have horse and pony story lines. This is a great opportunity to let the kids have fun and learn all at the same time. Classes start November 7th.

Looking for something the whole family can do? Come to the Rec Center and sign up for the Family Dance. On November 6th the Rec Center will host a family dance that will have a live DJ. Each family will be provided a photo memento of the fun evening.

Since school is out on November 3rd, the kids might need somewhere to go. Look no further. The Rec Center has a No School Day Camp for kids grades K-6. The kids will play games, go swimming, have art projects and other fun activities in a supervised setting. The children will need to bring a lunch, towel and swimsuit for the day camp. Children always need to be watched. Who's to watch after them? Babysitters, right? Well the Westlake Recreation Center has a class just for those Babysitters. On November 3rd, the Rec Center has an American Red Cross Babysitter's Course to offer to individuals ages 11 to 15. This course will provide information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. ●

Why math word problems are worrisome to children

by Jt Tomaskovich

Why are mathematical word problems worrisome for children?

Word problems take math concepts, such as arithmetic, geometry and algebra, and relate them back to the real world. But somehow, in the conversion from numbers and symbols to the written word, even students adept at math can become confused and discouraged. In fact, children often find it easier to solve a problem that explicitly asks them to multiply two numbers rather than tackle a word problem that requires the same mathematical skills.

In addition to knowledge of core math concepts, word problems also require strong reading comprehension skills. Before a child can solve a word problem, he needs to be able to translate the problem into a math equation.

Once a child deciphers a word problem and is able to convert it into a simple equation, most students can easily calculate the answer. Unfortunately, determining the right equation

is often the most challenging part of problem-solving. By applying reading comprehension skills to their math homework, students are better able to solve word problems correctly.

What Parents Need to Know

A child's ability to understand the language in word problems influences his ability to solve them. One of the best ways to help children learn math and make it more enjoyable is to demonstrate how everyday activities incorporate core math skills.

Parents can make it easier for their children to understand word problems by making math a part of their child's daily life. By showing how math skills and concepts are involved in real-life situations, you can help children learn to use math in practical ways.

Students must first have a good understanding of the basic math principles that each word problem utilizes. For example, if a child struggles with basic division, then a word problem that involves division will also be difficult to solve. Get to the root of the problem first,

and then work on a solution.

What Parents Can Do

Parents can help their children approach word problems with more confidence by offering tips and suggestions for tackling them. Encourage children to draw pictures and look for key words that indicate certain mathematical operations. For example, “and” indicates addition, while “less than” is a sign of subtraction.

Parents should urge their children to do more than the assigned problems, particularly those that are more challenging to them. The extra practice will help children learn the mathematical formulas and techniques they need to know while helping to improve their problem-solving skills. In turn, this will lead to greater confidence in their abilities to tackle the more difficult problems.

To help children boost their critical thinking and word problem-solving skills, parents can use the following tips to help their children decode word problems, gather key information, solve equations

and check their answers:

1. Read the question carefully.

Have him read and reread the question to make sure that he understands what he is being asked to solve. Encourage him to read the question aloud and pay close attention to the final question of the word problem.

2. Understand the problem.

Encourage her to simplify the word problem by highlighting the main words and important ideas. Have your child ask herself the following questions: What am I being asked to do? What are the important facts? Do I have enough information to solve the problem? What operation will I use?

3. Convert the verbal statement into a mathematical equation.

Help him break the word problem into manageable, ordered steps. It's a good idea to do the work one step at a time, particularly if it's a complicated problem with several parts. It's easier to keep the pieces of the problem in order if he works this way and easier to avoid mistakes. Have him begin by identifying key words such as “add,” “less,” and “product of” that indicate certain mathematical operations.

4. Generate the result.

Encourage her to solve the mathematical problem using a technique such as drawing or mentally acting out the problem. After she finishes, make sure the results make sense and that she writes the answer in the appropriate units (e.g., hours, feet, miles, etc.). As a final step, have her translate the answer back into English. For example, “The son is 13 years old.” ●

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

Candidates forum held at Bradley Bay

by Nancy Girardot

A candidates forum was held at Bradley Bay Health Center on October 13th. Bay Village mayoral candidates Jim Scott and Mayor Deborah Sutherland presented their platforms and also answered questions from the audience. Many Bay Village residents turned out for this informative event. ●



Mayor Deborah Sutherland converses with a Bay Village resident at Bradley Bay's Candidates Forum.

Passion runs on rails for hobbyist

by Denny Wendell

At the end of 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s, electric trains ran through the Westshore area serving the residents of Bay Village, Westlake and the surrounding communities. The Lake Shore Electric interurban railway provided innovative, high-speed transportation between Cleveland and Toledo, allowing families to visit popular lake shore resorts. Residents rode their wagons down the dirt roads to stations along the railway to buy a ticket and spend a day at Avon Beach Park in Avon Lake or on to Sandusky to catch a ferry to Cedar Point beach park and picnic grounds. As private automobiles and paved roads increased, the passenger business on the electric interurban waned and after 40 years the Lake Shore Electric Railway was no more.

But there is a new electric railroad in the area and it has been in operation for over a year, albeit in 1/24 scale. The garden railroad, a creation of George Sterle, runs throughout his property in Bay Village.

George has been interested in model trains since he was a teenager. He started out with HO-scale trains and eventually moved on to the larger G-scale, which now makes up a large part of his outdoor space. The trains are the European-made LGB brand. LGB is the standard acronym for Lehmann Gross Bahn, or “Lehmann Big Railway.”

The construction of his railroad started on July 4, 2008 and he ran his first train on the layout in September of 2008. “It’s never-ending,” said George, who has clocked well over 1000 hours crafting this remarkable garden railroad. He has enlisted the help of his children, Abby, a student at Bay High, and Luke, an engineering student at Cornell University, in creating his railroad. Abby, also headed for Cornell, helped lay the foundation for the tracks. Over 4 tons of fine limestone were used to set the foundation base, an “absolute essential to a strong, stable railroad - just like the real thing,” stated George. Abby also learned how to solder during a summer job and did a good amount of the electric soldering for the connections that make it all run smoothly. Luke constructed a 20-foot long trestle using the construction toy K’NEX. The trestle was then painted and “weathered” to make it look authentic.

Seven trains can run on the garden railroad at one time, and because the trains are weatherproof, winter doesn’t stop George from enjoying his masterpiece. “It looks like winter in the Alps when it snows,” George said. “All I have to do is brush off the snow and they run fine.” All locomotives, track, and accessories function in rain and snow allowing nearly anyone to have an outdoor garden railroad. “I would be glad to consult on building this type of outdoor railroad; I have valuable lessons learned,” he said.

A running waterfall and river were added this summer to the layout, but George is not done yet. What’s next? “My dream would be to purchase remote-controlled, live steam G-scale engines, and to construct a wooden trestle.”

You can hop aboard and take a virtual ride on George’s trains by viewing a video on the Westlake | Bay Village Observer discussion board. Go to <http://www.westlakebayvillageobserver.com/deck/> and click on Bay Village Videos. ●



George Sterle and his garden railroad.

Some facts & figures about the railroad

- The railroad is composed of 600 feet of track incorporating 25 controlled electric switches
- 1000 feet of wiring is used to control the trains
- The layout is approximately 30 x 40 feet
- The tunnel is approximately four feet long and one foot tall
- The waterfall and river were created to look like the Merced River in the Yosemite Valley
- The track roadbed consists of over 4 tons of “limestone fines” gravel with 1 ton of pea gravel for accents
- 7 control boxes are used for switching
- The trains run into a barn where they are stored
- Over 1000 hours of work went into the construction of the garden railroad (so far!)



POETRY

Time

by Jaclyn Borowski

*Time slips through your fingers
When you see it, it usually lingers.
As you watch it slip away
Just beginning to ruin your day
You close your eyes and take a
breath
Waiting to see what may come next.
You can feel the wind come up
behind you
Hoping that it just won't find you.
You cannot take it anymore
Your feet just have to leave the floor.
Before you know it, you are
running,
you may not see it
but whatever it is
it is coming.
You don't know what's so deep
inside,
Your mind is like a butterfly
Trying to figure out
Where to go and what to do.
Will it stop? I don't think so.
The wind slows down,
and you begin to realize what you
must do.
You must simply go back to where
it all started.
How does it make you feel?
You keep wondering if it's all real!
After time will it go?
No one will ever know.*

The Bros. Charismatic

by Carl Christman

*Dustin Shefsky wrote a book:
THE BROTHERS CHARISMATIC*

*Who longed for a nook
With a brighter look
Than their dusty castle's attic.*

*The Bolsheviks had done them in,
As recorded in Zhivago
And they'd gladly flee to West Berlin
Or even South Chicago.*

*Though Bored to tears with musty
shelves
They considered it quite risky
To take this task upon themselves
Of making life more frisky.*

*So they planned a plan with Vital elan
And lots of cerebration,
Perhaps to scam to Uncle Sam
Or another friendly nation.*

*Yet the four would score or pull an oar
With help from mother Olga-
They'd swim the moat, buy a boat
And vanish down the Volga.*

*Their boat was just a Chinese junk
From a Laundry owner's daughter,
They were certain they would have the
spunk
To get it in the water.*

*They troikad through the Moscow
streets
And portaged down an alley
Confident they'd surely meet
That famed Red river valley.*

*But they could not slide it down the
ramp,
For money or for love,
They could not even get it damp,
Till Push-kin came to shove.*

*Darkness fell as did the storm
And slickened up the boat
Thunder crashed-they saw no form
But at least they were afloat.*

*They swung along and sang their song
Like any vulgar Boatmen
But lyrics matching melodies
Were to our ears verboten.*

*Yes it was a wicked night
With phantoms out to scare us.
We don't know how, but step by step
They found themselves in Paris.*

*They sped through Paris at a frantic
pace
Their day seemed like an hour.
They scrambled up the down staircase
To the top of the awful tower.*

*One brother viewed it from the street
And critically eye-balled it
Said he, That thing won't look complete
Until someone's dry walled it.*

*They saw the artists in Montmarte
The can-can in Pig alley
Where the dancers thumped and
rumped
And bumped
From the start to the finale.*

*They climbed aboard a taxi, then
To find a likely movie.
For folks like these with Spartan tastes
It would have to be quite groovy..*

*One theatre filled them with alarms,
Its marquis like a silo.
The film was Hemingway's
A FAREWELL TO ARMS
Starring the statuesque Venus d'Milo.*

*They left the cab to walk a while
And came up to a bridge
The water blue, the sky was too,
Beyond a mountain ridge.*

*One brother doffed his pants and vest
And gave a little shiver.
I believe that I'll see Paris best
By swimming in this river.*

*Olga's smile became a frown,
Her expression one of pain
To accomplish that, you foolish clown
You'd have to be in Seine.*

*Brother two then made a sudden move
When he heard a woman groaning
Sang he I'm in the mood for Louvre
I believe that's Lisa moaning*

*The adventure of this lively five
Could probably fill an ocean
I'm sure they'll thrive and stay alive
Now they've been set in motion.*

Yellow labrador at Bay Village Police Dept. needs rescue

A possible Labrador x Hound Mix (Un-neutered Male) was found running the streets of Bay Village on Thursday, October 9, 2009. This is a tail-wagging, happy guy that weighs about 60 pounds. This beautiful young lab is need of a home or rescue ASAP.

The Bay Village Police Department kennel is only a two dog kennel and is full. Please contact Bay Village Animal Control Officer Diana Fife at 440-899-3414. ●



Bay High School helps local senior citizens

by Anne Naumann

The Bay Village High School Key Club will be on hand to help the members of the West Shore Senior Center with a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at the Knickerbocker Apartments on Wednesday, November 11th. Tickets are \$5 each for a dinner that includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert and coffee. Pop is available for 50 cents. The event is scheduled from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Bay Village High School Choraleers will perform at 5:30 p.m. This event will benefit the many programs held at the senior center throughout the year and are in need of additional funding to continue. Live entertainment, community meals, themed dinner parties, and educational programming are all scheduled to enhance the lives of those living at the Knickerbocker and the surrounding community. The West Shore Senior Center relies solely on donations for its daily operations. Anyone interested in tickets or sponsoring a guest, is asked to call (440) 835 - 1111 for more information. ●

OPINION

View from the Cheap Seats: *Leave It to Beaver* isn't on the radio

by Alex Dade

My wife's a Bay High graduate. She was born and raised here and we live in the house she lived in when she was in high school.

She brought me here for the first time in 1975, just after our wedding (sounds like she brought home a puppy, doesn't it?). After 20 years of moving all over the world with the Air Force, we were both delighted to move back to Bay in 2001. We felt like we were coming home.

Bay is the sort of place that makes me drive around town with the *Leave It to Beaver* music playing in my head – I can just imagine Wally and the Beav walking home on Wolf Road after school.

I was naive enough to assume June Cleaver was the mayor and Ward ran the insurance office on the corner. That's what Ward did, right? Insurance?

But soon we developed a concern, and

it was a big enough deal that I felt compelled to call Mayor Cleaver's office (sorry – Debbie's office) and ask to speak to her honor about the issue. She told me to skip right on over, so I did.

Before I'd warmed the chair and turned down coffee (it was never offered), this guy named Gary Ebert "happened in." From that moment, Debbie never said another word. She just sat there with a stony, unpleasant look on her face, rolling her eyes. The discussion was all Gary and me and it was clear my view was getting me no place.

June (errr, Debbie) didn't even say goodbye as I left. So much for June Cleaver. I was terribly disappointed. My visions of a wise and helpful mayor were on another TV channel and it hadn't made it to cable.

That atmosphere has continued for the past 8 years. In fact, I don't believe Debbie has said a single word to me since.

Several days later, I got a call from a guy

named Jim Scott. He'd just been elected as a city councilman-at-large and heard I had a problem. Listen to what I said: I didn't call him – he called me.

He came over to my house and sat in the living room and listened. He did a lot more listening than talking, and didn't even mind when our beagle Maggie kept asking to be hugged. He even hugged her.

He was at the house for a long time and when he left he fully understood our point of view and pledged to take it into account. How refreshing.

Jim and I have been friends ever since. We haven't always agreed on things, but I've found he holds his opinions genuinely, but manages to keep an open mind. He's always willing to discuss any issue. When I learned he was running for mayor, I was excited. He's the kind of mayor we need.

Some people claim I have a one-sided view of the Scott/Sutherland race for mayor.

They're right, and I'm not ashamed of it, either. There are good reasons for my outlook and I've tried to highlight a few of them in this column. Jim has no future political ambitions. He just wants to help Bay be a great place to live.

It's no secret who I'm going to vote for. The wife says I should write about something else to "keep my column fresh." Maybe she has a point, but right now we're less than two weeks away from an important election.

And lately I've been driving around town pressing the "search" button on my radio and I can't find that *Leave It to Beaver* theme music anywhere. Maybe I can find it if I get satellite radio. Or better yet, maybe it will be there when Jim Scott gets elected mayor. ●

[Agree or disagree? Share your thoughts in the Bay Village General Discussion forum at wbvobserver.com/deck.]

OPINION

Not just a slogan: A different perspective on the Bay mayor’s race

by Kevin DeFrank

I am a political science major at Cleveland State and volunteer on the Jim Scott campaign. When I tell people this I am usually asked two questions: (1) “Why are you helping Jim Scott?” and (2) “Why is Jim Scott a better choice than Deborah Sutherland?”

By now you probably know a little bit about Jim Scott. If you live in Bay you may have met him during his door-to-door canvassing. But if you’re still not sure why Jim is a better choice for mayor than Mrs. Sutherland, I believe my perspective as a college-aged volunteer on the Scott campaign can help clarify the extremely different leadership styles of the candidates. I’m sure you’re busy, so I’ll keep it brief and try to spare you any campaign rhetoric.

During the spring semester of 2009, I visited City Hall in search of a volunteer position to gain experience in local government. The Mayor was not in at the time, I was told she already had an intern but left a message for her to get back to me. To follow up, I sent e-mails directly to the Mayor and the Law Director, asking for any volunteer position in local government. About three weeks later I got a response from the Law Director: “Unfortunately, we are not in a position to hire under the current economic conditions.”

Not hiring? I was not aware the volunteer force was putting a strain on city budget. I still have not heard back from Mayor Sutherland. I would like to give the benefit of doubt here; I’m sure these two were busy. However, receiving a response that indicated that no one actually read my inquiry left me a little bitter.

What really grinds my gears? Over the past several months I’ve come to realize I am probably not the only one who feels left out by this administration.

I did not consider campaign work until a Jim Scott flyer showed up at my door. I met with Tom Davis, a fellow PoliSci major and Bay Alum, and we decided it was worth a shot to see if Jim needed any help. We heard back from Jim... quickly.

Since then, Jim has thoroughly considered every suggestion that has been brought to him. More importantly, Jim has been exemplary when it comes to putting forth a collaborative effort. But any “collaboration” we do helps his chances of winning, so why wouldn’t a candidate challenging an incumbent want our help? A little self-serving, right?

Not really. Jim contacted Tom and I shortly after our first meeting to let us know he had gotten in touch with a law director in a neighboring community and arranged a shadowing opportunity for us (we are both considering law school).

Mayor Sutherland has been in office for a while and Bay is doing pretty well, so she must

be a good mayor, right? I agree. So why is Mr. Scott the best candidate?

Seeing Jim’s interaction with residents on the campaign trail and getting a chance to work with him personally makes me comfortable in saying that out of the two candidates, he is more likely to advocate community involvement, new ideas, and that transparency he keeps talking about.

These are three traits the current administration ignores. We live in a great city, yes, but what good is living here if you’re just along for the ride? If you’re like me, you might be asking: Why is our Fire Department at odds with the executive branch of our city? Why are there complaints of residents being stone-walled by City Hall? Why is Alex Dade so angry? Why is he writing about illegal closed door meetings (see View from the Cheap Seats) and not light-hearted poetry like Carl Christman? And yes... where is our money going?

Jim does not plan on answering these questions; as mayor he will work to make sure they don’t need to be asked. Annual reports filed by each department and viewable by residents, an independent audit committee (like that of many surrounding communities), and avoiding wasteful spending seem like a good starting point to me.

More importantly, Jim’s agenda and actions demonstrate he encourages involvement and communication. His agenda involves a better city website and newsletter; during the campaign he has employed social media like Facebook, and he has gone door to door relentlessly just to hear from residents.

His message has obviously reached one group of residents. Jim won the mock election at Bay High, receiving 60% of the vote.

Lastly, I think it is important to remember Mayor Sutherland was able to run for another office last fall due to adjusting the city charter. Jim has stated he will not seek a higher office while he is mayor. With this in mind, I think it is safe to say any charter re-writes by Jim would be to help the community, not elevate his position personally.

In my opinion, this election is not about what each candidate will do as mayor, but rather, who is more likely to listen to and collaborate with residents on what concerns them.

If you think some time in the next four years you might have questions on how things are being done, new ideas for public or private benefit, or suggestions on how things could be done better; I would put my money on Jim Scott as the best candidate for mayor. A familiar campaign slogan from last fall was “Change We Can Believe In.” I know I promised no rhetoric, but I think “Change We Can Participate In” sums up Jim’s campaign. ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote NO on Issue 3

by George V. Voinovich

Janet and I love Northeast Ohio. We are proud to call Collinwood our home and have lived in the same neighborhood for over 45 years. We care about our neighborhood, our city and our county. That is why I have fought for decades to keep casino gambling out of Ohio, and Ohioans have seen through the casino gambling sham time-and-time again – voting it down four times statewide.

Today, we are once again being forced to defend against an attack against Ohio’s families and the people who live in our neighborhood. I am especially concerned this time around because I know our state is struggling and many leaders are desperate for what they view as a quick economic fix, which the promoters of Issue 3 are exploiting with their multi-million dollar advertising campaigns.

Even if you think casinos are a good idea for Ohio, as Brent Larkin – former Editorial Page Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer – does, Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment that bilks Ohioans and lines the pockets of Casino owners.

Larkin recently wrote “Downtown Cleveland has so many problems that building a luxury casino somewhere near the center of town is a risk worth taking -- but only if the price is right. But the price Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert wants to pay in fees and taxes to build a casino behind the Terminal Tower doesn’t meet that standard.”

Here are the facts: Issue 3 will alter Ohio’s Constitution and create a monopoly for two entities – Cleveland Cavaliers’ Owner Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming – for four casinos in the state that would have both table games and slot machines. When other states like Pennsylvania made the choice to bring casinos into their borders, they used a competitive bidding process, and got a far better deal from its casino operators than Gilbert is offering Ohio.

Additionally, the one-time licensing fee to be paid to Ohio for the right to operate casinos by this proposal is \$50 million per casino – significantly less than the licenses are worth on the open market. Jeffrey Hooke, a Maryland-based casino expert, said a fair price for each casino license should be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. Ohio would miss out on at least \$800 million in additional revenue if

Issue 3 passes.

Finally, the casinos proposed by Issue 3 would pay only a 33 percent tax on gross revenue, with the other 67 percent going to casino owners! That is far below the average paid by casinos in our neighboring state of Pennsylvania which has a gross revenue tax rate of more than 55 percent. Ohioans would be getting denied \$434 million in tax revenue under Issue 3 annually due to the low 33 percent tax rate.

But the most important reason to vote “No” is really quite simple: Casinos bring devastation to families. Statistics show that: violent crime, embezzlement, bankruptcy and fraud rates spike dramatically in casino counties; divorce rates are nearly three times higher among addicted gamblers than non-gamblers; and suicide rates are highest among addicted gamblers.

Casinos also do not draw large numbers of out-of-state gamblers typically promised. 80 to 90 percent of a casino’s patrons come from surrounding counties – and a casino located within a 10-mile radius of a home yields a 90 percent increased risk of a citizen becoming a pathological gambler.

Can you imagine the number of people who would go downtown to just “experience the casino” and, once hooked, become addicted to gambling?

And there is no question that our neighborhood businesses and restaurants will be impacted. Don’t kid yourself – casinos won’t help out. They are specifically designed not to partner with other businesses in the immediate vicinity – they provide food, lodging and entertainment under one roof so patrons never have to leave the casino. When casinos move in, other businesses are often forced out.

By any statistical measure, Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment – but casino gambling in general is a lousy deal for the local communities and states that embrace it. The larger question, though, is this: What human price are we in Ohio willing to pay if we open our doors to casinos? Are we prepared to accept responsibility for the painful realities of ruined lives and broken families that casinos leave in their wake?

Please vote “No” on Issue 3 so Ohio will not be forced to answer that question. ●

George Voinovich is a United States Senator from Ohio.

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