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WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Local student architects design award-winning model homes



A.J. Suever & Jeff Thaler took first place and the overall grand prize with this winning design.

by Kim Bonvissuto

Westlake High School swept the 13th annual Student Model Home Design Contest held Jan. 22 at Westlake High School. The winning model home designs will be featured at the Great Big Home and Garden Expo, Feb. 6-14 at the I-X Center.

The Westlake High School senior team of A.J. Suever & Jeff Thaler took first place and the overall grand prize, winning the \$1,000 scholarship.

Second place overall and \$250 went to the Westlake High School senior team of Matt Schmitz, Erich Beyer and Conner Dempsey.

Finishing third overall and taking the \$100 cash award was the Westlake High School team of senior Julie Wang and sophomore Robert Schill. They also won the \$400 cash award for "Best Presentation" and \$100 for "Best CAD Drawings."

The \$75 cash award and fourth finish overall went to the Westlake High School junior team of

Dane Rimko & Alex Schultz. They also won the \$150 cash award for "Best Model."

The remaining finalists and winning \$50 cash each were: 5th – the team of Jordan Day & Alex Tegel (Westlake High School); 6th – the team of Scott Bates, Alyssa Schill & Dan Meehan (Westlake High School); 7th – the team of Steve Orange, Tyler Watling & Nathaniel Renkel (Westlake High School); 8th – the team of Maura Goede, Scott Hulver & Ashley Kay (Westlake High School); 9th – the team of Aaron Mancini & Peter Szabo (Westlake High School); 10th – the team of Jennifer Chern & Kalin Ngo (Westlake High School).

All of the top 10 winning entries will be displayed at The Great Big Home & Garden Expo, Feb. 6-14, at the I-X Center.

The Great Big Home and Garden Expo, Schill Architecture, Ohio Concrete NE, American Concrete Institute NE Ohio Chapter, and IMAGINiT Technologies sponsored the contest, nationally

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THE BAY VILLAGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Feb. 21 Antiques Show and Sale provides for long tradition of giving

by Mary Kay McLean

The Bay Village Women's Club and Foundation began 92 years ago when the women of Bay Village first gathered. Their first project was for the children who attended the Little Red Brick School House for whom they provided stools on which the children placed their feet to keep them off the cold floors. The club continues to contribute to the community each year to provide scholarship funds to select graduating seniors of Bay High School and to make civic contributions to non-profit community organization projects.

The first scholarship was given in 1935 in the amount of \$50.00. Unlike today, the money was to be paid back, so that it could be used by another student.

Since then, over \$370,000 has been given to deserving students towards their tuition at the college of their choice. The students are announced each spring at the Scholarship Luncheon given in their honor. The Hasler Family Funds has also designated the Women's Club to distribute an amount of earnings to student scholarships.

Collections of over \$260,000 have been donated to specific projects of other community organizations. One of the key recipients has been the Knickerbocker Westshore Senior Center which has used funds to provide transportation. Other groups awarded funds include Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Huntington Playhouse, BAYarts and Bay Senior Center.

The major fundraiser of the group is The Bay Women's Club Foundation's 41st Annual Antiques Show and Sale. It has a reputation for having quality antiques from dealers in surrounding areas.

The Antiques Show and Sale is being held at Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Road, on Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free appraisal of one antique item, per paid admission either day, will be done on Sunday, February 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Numbered tickets for the appraisals will be distributed beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

And, for the first time, Leonard Strand II, proprietor of Vivid Diamonds, Design & Timepiece Gallery located in Bay Square, will do free appraisals of jewelry at the show. This will take place on Saturday, February 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The entrance donation for the show is \$6.00. The facility is wheelchair accessible, but no strollers are allowed. For more information concerning the antique show or the Bay Women's Club, call 440-808-9834 or 440-871-3075. •

Mary Kay McLean is a member of the Bay Village Women's Club.



Bay Middle School Builders Club honored

The Bay Middle School Builders Club receives an ovation from Mayor Debbie Sutherland and attendees at the February 1 City Council meeting after the presentation of a resolution honoring the students for their successful Canned Food Drive. The group, whose pledge is: "Better my school, my

community, my nation and myself," collected 3,787 cans of food, far surpassing their goal of 2,500 cans. Their efforts helped to feed 50 Bay families during the holidays and they had enough leftover to give a bag of food to each of the 165 residents at the Knickerbocker Apartments. The Builders Club also

collected mittens, hats, scarves and other items, and raised \$781 for UNICEF. Elizabeth Gerhan, a seventh-grade teacher and the club's advisor, is pictured on the far right. The students also worked closely with Carl Aronson of the Bay Village Kiwanis Club (not pictured).

Architects

Continued from front page

recognized by the International Technology Education Association for promoting technological literacy, energy efficiency and being environmentally conscious.

This year's student contest theme was "Thinking Big, Building Smart." Students were to design a "green" home for a family of four who plans to build in the Cleveland area. The family intends to build the home on a minimal footprint lot, incorporating "smart" and "green" technology, yet have most amenities and features seen in a large contemporary home. The students were instructed to design the home featuring an above-grade concrete home (ICF – Insulated Concrete Form) system, while incorporating appropriate and creative use of other building elements, such as energy efficient and environmentally conscious products and systems to reduce energy costs.

Using their knowledge of architectural design, green building design technology, and concrete construction, student entries featured a complete architectural set (including floor plan and elevation drawings) as well as scaled model homes made of matte board or foam core. They were judged in several categories, including design, planning and innovations, energy-conserving features, drawing presentation, model presentation, and exterior design. There were 10 schools from all across Northeast Ohio entered in the contest this year. A panel of building industry professionals from across the area evaluated the designs.

"The students were very innovative this year designing their homes to incorporate big thinking yet still being able to maintain costs within the given budget. Including many green building features in the home was a great way to bring new construction technology into a contemporary style home," said Scott Kutz, architect, engineering, and design instructor at Westlake High School.

"It'll be a highly visual display at the I-X Center for this year's Expo. We are very fortunate to have The Great Big Home and Garden Expo management provide a first-class venue to showcase the students' work."

A.J. Suever and Jeff Thaler, winners of the overall grand prize, stated that they "worked countless hours develop-

ing their design strategies and putting on finishing touches to their presentation in order to complete the entire project on time."

A sub-grade garage entry and an impressive front elevation façade embellished with flat gray stone was a main feature of their design, along with numerous "green" building technologies and systems throughout the home.

"One very exciting and prestigious

element of this contest, in addition to the cash awards, is the fact that the winning entries will be on display for the full nine days to the many thousands of visitors who will attend The Great Big Home and Garden Expo," said Sue Huff, show manager. "It's truly a great way to recognize and honor the outstanding efforts made by these high school students."

Kim Bonvissuto is the Communications Coordinator for Westlake City Schools.



This design by Matt Schmitz, Erich Beyer and Conner Dempsey took second place overall.



Fourth finish overall went to the Westlake High School junior team of Dane Rimko & Alex Schultz. They also won the \$150 cash award for "Best Model."



WHS seniors Conner Dempsey, Matt Schmitz and Erich Beyer.



WHS seniors A.J. Suever and Jeff Thaler took first place and the overall grand prize.



WHS senior Julie Wang and sophomore Robert Schill won third place, Best Presentation and Best CAD Drawings.

Bay Middle School student dances her way to L.A.

by Erin Kana

Emmy Korte, an eighth-grade student at Bay Middle School, was awarded a scholarship last weekend to the EDGE Performing Arts Center in Hollywood, California. Emmy auditioned for the scholarship at the L.A. Danceforce National Dance Convention in Detroit, Michigan.

There, she also competed with her dance team – emjaez Dance Studio of Bay Village. Emmy has taken classes and performed with the emjaez's competition team for the past five years. In addition to assistant teaching, Emmy takes a wide variety of classes including ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz. Best of luck to Emmy on her first trip to Hollywood!

Erin Kana lives in Bay Village.

Westlake resident honored for theater service

by Joanne Bobey

The Great Lakes Theater Festival's Women's Committee has honored Bernice Bolek as the 2009 Dorothy Teare Award winner. This award is for extraordinary service to the theater. Bernice, a Westlake resident, has served as co-chair, on many boards including the Board of Managers and does any job necessary to help GLTF.

She is always available to feed the cast, help with mailings, help with fundraising and donates regularly.

In addition, you may recognize Bernice from her involvement in Clague Playhouse. She has acted, directed, produced and consulted in their productions since 1997.

Whether in front of the curtain or behind the scenes, you can truly say that Bernice loves live theater and is willing to do all she can to promote it. Bernice feels "the show must go on" and does all she can to make it so. Congratulations, Bernice! Joanne Bobey is the Publicity Chairperson for the Women's Committee of the GLTF.

POETRY

The Palanquin

by Joseph Psarto, Westlake

*They buried her beneath the earth
and left me weeping there.
And from my post I could not see
dark eyes, sweet face, soft hair.*

*The air fell dead and nature paused
as silence entered in.
Then moon and stars and angels
came with a Palanquin.*

*They carried her up from the land,
dark eyes, sweet face, soft hair,
and quitting me for fleecy clouds
she left me weeping there.*

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Observer

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An evening with President Lincoln

The story behind the play

by Mel Maurer

As a long time student of Abraham Lincoln I've often wondered what it would have been like to have heard him speak – in the debates with Stephen Douglas, at his inaugurations, and at Gettysburg. To hear the golden words of that great writer/speaker/politician would have been a wonderful experience, especially for a history junkie like me.

Even better would have been to be in the various inns and taverns where Lincoln stayed as he rode the circuit as a lawyer. There he would be, after everyone there had a hard day – maybe in courts arguing against each other – telling his stories and yarns. It would be the informal Lincoln, relaxing among his old and new friends. No one enjoyed hearing or telling tales as much as he did.

My wonderings led me to imagine a scenario that would combine formal

and informal talks – to bring some of my dreams to life in a way that would entertain, inform and honor the president in a presentation to an audience. What if, I thought, Mary Lincoln, in February 1865, through her work with organizations helping service men and their families, committed the president to a talk at Ford's Theatre to raise money? (Mary often visited the wounded and helped The Sanitary Commission, which provided aid to soldiers, sailors, their wives and children).

In this scenario, Lincoln reluctantly agrees to speak and further agrees not to make a political speech as per Mary's request. He even agrees to take questions from the audience. (As president Lincoln was always very careful to avoid speaking extemporaneously for fear of saying something he shouldn't). He does like the fact that it will be at Ford's where he has seen many plays and where he feels comfortable – he may also want to



Mel Maurer portrays Abraham Lincoln at Porter Library Feb. 22.

experience standing on its stage. (A modern audience will appreciate the irony of this site).

The arrangements are made, the

event – entitled: “An Evening with President Lincoln” – will play to a packed house. It will be held on February 12, the president's 56th birthday. This late in the Civil War, which is almost over, Lincoln plans to talk to the audience as he does to those who call on him at The White House – casually, although maybe too much so for Mary's tastes – on his life, his view, the war he couldn't avoid, and the future as he sees it. And Lincoln, of course, cannot speak in an environment like this without humor and many of his stories.

What would it be like to attend a talk like this? I'm hoping to give you some sense of what it would be like on February 22 in my presentation called, strangely enough: “An Evening with President Lincoln.” The Dover Room at Porter Library will serve at Ford's Theater. The president takes the stage at 7:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there. ●
Mel Maurer lives in Westlake.

WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

February fun at the Westlake Rec

by Chris Haldi

January has come and gone and February is here with many opportunities for learning, fun and friends. With the cold weather still surrounding us and no other option but to stay inside, join us for some indoor programs and activities we have to offer you. We have programs for people of all ages, here are some of the events we have coming up:

The Westlake Recreation Center is proud to present Dr. Michael Roizen. Dr. Roizen is a frequent guest on both The Oprah Show and The Dr. Oz Show and will speak at the WHS Performing Arts Center on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. There are still a few tickets remaining for this event. Cost is a non-perishable food item per ticket (max 4) which benefits the City of Westlake's Assistance Program.

Cure your cabin fever and head on up to the Rec Center for the 6th Grade Ultimate After Hours Bash. The bash will take place Feb. 12 and start at 8:30 p.m. This evening of fun will include games, trivia questions, swimming, basketball and Wii.

This one's for the girls: Girl Power will encourage, promote and motivate girls to make the most out of their lives. We will talk about health, beauty and fitness. Event will be held Saturday Feb.

13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for girls ages 10-14.

Dust off those mitts, find the old ball caps and make your way up to the Rec Center for the annual President's Day Baseball Clinic for kids in grades 3-8. The clinic will be put on by Phil Bova, who is known for his long-standing and successful summer baseball camps. This clinic will focus on hitting, fielding, pitching, and the rules of the game. Players will get hands-on drill work from coach Bova and his staff.

Since school is out on Presidents Day, the Westlake Recreation Center will have a number of programs for the kids: No School Day Camp is for kids in grades K-6. Send your child up to the Rec Center with their brown-bagged lunch, swimsuit, and towel. We will also be offering a Babysitting class for kids ages 11-15. Our famous Presidents Day Beach Party will take place from 12:30-3pm in our Aquatics Center. Listen to music, splash and participate in the Big Kahuna Cannonball Classic. Don't miss out on the fun.

For more information regarding programs and events, please call the Westlake Recreation Center at 440-808-5700 or go to our website at www.cityof-westlake.org/recreation. ●

Chris Haldi works for the City of Westlake Recreation Department.

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library's calendar of events

by Elaine Willis

Wednesdays, February 10, 17 and 24 (4-6 p.m.) OPEN PLAY WII – Teens: Come play Wii! We'll feature different games every week!

Wednesday, February 10 (7-7:45 p.m.) THE PURR-FECT PET! – Does it have fur or feathers? Does it swim or fly? We love all pets and you're invited to join us for a fun program of stories, songs and a craft. Bring your favorite stuffed "pet"! For ages 4 to 7. Please register starting February 3.

Thursday, February 11 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The February selection is "Wonder Crew: The Untold Story of a Coach, Navy Rowing, and Olympic Immortality" by Susan Saint Sing. March's selection is "Blue Zone: Lessons for Living Longest from the People Who've Lived the Longest" by Dan Buettner.

Saturday, February 13 (10 a.m.) USING FOOTNOTES GENEALOGY DATABASE – Learn how to use and access the Footnotes genealogy database for free from home! Discover naturalization documents, birth records, military records, and much more. Please register.

Saturday, February 13 (10-11:30 a.m.) WE LOVE DOGS! – Join us for a meet and greet session with Fairview Hospital's PAWS For Care therapy dogs. We'll even have some great dog stories to share! Ages 5-16. Registration begins February 6.

Saturday, February 13 (1-3 p.m.) WEATHER YOU SHOULD KNOW – Why is the weather fabulous one day and frightful the next? Find out at the library! We'll talk to a local meteorologist and cloud expert, and make some cool weather crafts. For grades 3-5. This topic is on the Ohio Proficiency Exams. Please register starting February 6.

Saturday, February 13 (2-4 p.m.) VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT FOR TEENS – Make a Valentine's Day gift for someone you love - or for yourself! We'll create custom-made, beaded heart necklaces. For teens age 12-18. Please register starting February 6.

Saturday, February 13 (2-3 p.m.), Saturday, February 20 (2-3 p.m.), Saturday, March 13 (2-3 p.m.) and Saturday, March 20 (2-3 p.m.) LEGO CLUB – Bring your ideas and imagination to our club! Ages 6-13. Please register one week prior to each session.

Monday, February 15 (10 a.m.) HI-LOS – The Westlake Westshore Arts Council and the Blue-water Chamber Orchestra present a concert featuring the high and the low ends of the chamber music spectrum. Featuring Nancy Patterson on violin and Ann Gilbert on bass; directed by Carlton Woods.

Monday, February 15 (2-2:45 p.m.) CHOC-OLYMPICS – Join us for games, stunts and more to test your skills. Sweet! Ages 7-10. Please register starting February 8.

Monday, February 15 (7 p.m.) TIME MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEW YEAR! – Nidhi Shah, Ph.D., MBA, will teach you how to manage your time to increase professional and personal productivity. Please register.

Tuesday, February 16 & Tuesday, March 16 (7-8:30 p.m.) MAD4MANGA – Are you mad for manga? Then take heart because the M4M Club meets the third Tuesday of every month! M4M is everything manga! We talk about manga, create manga art, discuss & watch anime films, and more! For teens in grades 6-12.

Saturday, February 20 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) and Saturday, March 6 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) CRAFTS-A-GO-GO – Join us for a fun and easy craft! All supplies provided — just drop in. Try a cool new craft each month.

Saturday, February 20 (10:45 a.m.) and Saturday, March 20 (10:45 a.m.) WEST SIDE WRITERS

Monday, February 22 (1 - 7 p.m.), Monday, March 8 (1 - 7 p.m.) (Type O drive) and Monday, March 29 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Tuesday, February 23 (10-10:30 a.m.) "WILD THINGS" RETURN TO WPPL! – Join us for a "wild" storytime featuring Lake Ridge Academy's special performance of "Where the Wild Things Are." All ages welcome!

Tuesday, February 23 (6:45 p.m.) "FRESH" – Join Debbie Dean Espie in the viewing of a movie which celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are reinventing our food system.

To register for any of the programs, please call (440) 871-2600 or visit <http://signup.westlake-library.org:8080>.

Upcoming Bay Library programs

CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT:

Wednesday, February 10 (4:15-5:00 p.m.) VALENTINE SCAVENGER HUNT for grades K-5 – Have fun working in teams to find Valentine-related items around the library.

Monday, February 15 (10-10:30 a.m.) SNUGGLE BUGS storytime for ages birth-30 months.

Monday, February 15 (1:30-2 p.m.) PRESCHOOL STORYTIME for ages 3-5 years.

Tuesday, February 16 (10-10:30 a.m.) MORNING MOVERS for ages 1-3.

Tuesday, February 16 (4:15-5 p.m.) MAGIC TREE HOUSE CLUB – Read two of the Magic Tree House books and then try some fun related activities.

Tuesday, February 16 (7:00 p.m.) SNUGGLE BUGS storytime for ages birth-30 months.

Wednesdays, February 17 (10-10:30 a.m.) WEDNESDAY WONDERS for ages 30 months-5 years.

Wednesdays, February 17 (6:45-7:10 p.m.) TWILIGHT TALES for ages birth-5 years.

Thursday, February 18 (10-10:30 a.m.) MORNING MOVERS for ages 1-3.

Friday, February 19 (10-10:30 a.m.) FRIDAY FUN for ages birth-5 years.

Monday, February 22 (10-10:30 a.m.) SNUGGLE BUGS storytime for ages birth-30 months.

Monday, February 22 (1:30-2 p.m.) PRESCHOOL STORYTIME for ages 3-5 years.

Monday, February 22 (6-8 p.m.) FUN WITH FOOD for grades K-4 with an adult – Tired of junk food? Join us as we learn about healthy, fun and tasty foods and how to prepare them.

Tuesday, February 23 (10-10:30 a.m.) MORNING MOVERS for ages 1-3.

Tuesday, February 23 (7:00 p.m.) SNUGGLE BUGS storytime for ages birth-30 months.

Wednesday, February 24 (10-10:30 a.m.) WEDNESDAY WONDERS for ages 30 months-5 years.

Wednesday, February 24 (6:45-7:10 p.m.) TWILIGHT TALES for ages birth-5 years.

Thursday, February 25 (10-10:30 a.m.) MORNING MOVERS for ages 1-3.

Friday, February 26 (10-10:30 a.m.) FRIDAY FUN for ages birth-5 years.

TEEN DEPARTMENT:

Tuesday, February 9 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) CHOCOLATE VALENTINE for grades 6-12 – Join us for a chocolate lover’s dream with hands-on chocolate and candy making, an Unwrap the Hershey’s Kiss Relay, and a Can You Name the Candy Bar contest.

Tuesday, February 16 (6:30-8 p.m.) SAT REVIEW SESSION – A presenter from the Princeton Review will return the results of the SATs that were taken on Jan. 30. They will also provide tips and tools to improve test scores. This program is open to anyone interested in boosting their SAT score.

Thursday, February 25 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) SPEAK UP ABOUT BOOKS for ages 11-18 – Do you have something to say about a book you read and liked? Come and record podcasts of your favorite books that will be posted on our website for others to look at and read. We’ll help you create and record your review.

ADULT DEPARTMENT:

Tuesday, February 23 (7:00 p.m.) SMART BUSINESS SERIES - STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS – The business plan is critical to establishing a business. This program will go over the basics of writing a business plan.

Thursday, February 25 (7:00 p.m.) MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE GARDENING - Does the idea of growing your own vegetables appeal to you? Come join the Master Gardeners to learn what you need to know to get started: what’s the best site, how to prepare the soil, and when to plant different vegetables.

Please register for these programs by calling 871-6392, stopping in, or going online to cuyahogalibrary.org.

Art at the Bay Library

by Joyce Sandy

Several different art displays at the Bay Village Library will brighten the day of all who visit.

The Aquarelle Water Color Society is displaying water colors throughout the month of February in the Large Meeting Room. When the Aquarelle Society was formed in 1996, it consisted of six men and women. During the ensuing years the membership has grown to 16. The main focus of the society is to improve skills through instruction, learn from each other, exchange ideas of mutual interest, and paint for personal pleasure and artistic fulfillment. Stop in and take some time to enjoy the talents of this group.

Students in 7th or 8th grade who live in Bay Village are invited to submit one piece of original art-work to the Show Your Colors Art Show at the library. Entries must be received by Feb. 24 and should be ready for hanging. All entries will be judged and prizes will be awarded at a public reception on Sat., March 6. Entries will be exhibited in the library meeting room during the month of March.

Three new paintings were purchased for the Children’s room by Nancy Weidner and the Friends of the Bay Village Library. The bright colors and whimsical animals of artist Kris Williams of Lakewood are a welcome addition to the room. Many thanks to Nancy and the Friends for their generosity! ●

Joyce Sandy works in the Children’s Department at the Bay Village Library.



Untitled floral by Howard Hoehn



“Coming up Roses” by Helen Trutko

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The end of newspapers

by William Chill

It seems to be a common theme these days – newspapers are dying. You hear it everywhere: newspapers are going away. I view this sentiment with an unfortunate sadness as I happen to like newspapers. The common wisdom seems to hold that newspapers are irrelevant because you can get all your news online these days faster, and for free.

You have got to be kidding me.

When I was growing up, it was called it The Paper. The morning ritual of putting on your slippers, sometime braving the elements, to retrieve The Paper was comforting in its predictability. Sometimes you'd see your neighbors out doing the same. I loved it when The Paper was brought inside during the winter months, when the pages were cold and the print was fresh. You could even detect the faint smell of ink.

I remember, while on leave in the Army, riding the Tube in London and the morning passengers had their heads buried in their Papers. I learned how The Paper could be a great way to protect one's personal space in a crowd and remain anonymous. It served as a perfect barrier between you and the stranger sitting across from you.

When I was taking a life painting class, our model came dressed in a business suit so we could paint him in a scene of our choosing. Unable to decide what to have him do, I said, "Find a newspaper."

The Paper is more than news, it is a prop. Running late in the morning – tuck it under your arm and head out the door. Whip it out when you get a break and start reading. The Paper is an object, it has physicality. The bigger the city, the thicker the paper. It is a measure of status. Our paper while growing up, The Youngstown Vindicator, was only a baby. I loved it when we travelled to large city (like Cleveland) and marveled at the size of their Paper.

There's nothing like having the pages spread out in front of you while have your morning coffee. The intoxicating confluence of a newspaper's texture, intriguing font of the gothic headlines, and the grittiness of its photos, makes the news it delivers hyper-real. Internet news? Come on.

As I walk into the office in the morning and observe my co-workers covertly and not-so-covertly zipping through

the internet news on their computers, I think that if there were only newspapers people wouldn't be so unproductive. I mean, who would be brash enough to read a paper at their desk? Talk about obvious.

On the special occasions when I went along with my old man on Saturday mornings to meet his buddies for breakfast at the local Perkins, he made especially sure he had enough change for a Paper from the vending machine outside. Around the table sat a group of men who all had the same Paper in various forms of folded configuration. Possession of a Paper seemed to be a unique display of both manliness and worldliness.

On my high school field trip to Washington, D.C., we piled off the bus one morning for breakfast and, out of instinct, I headed to the vending machine to get a Paper and tucked it under my arm. I don't think I even read it. I did it to try and impress the girls, but they didn't get it. I wrote them off as clueless.

Okay, so perhaps I am living in the past, maybe this infatuation with newspapers is a personal longing for a sentimental past and the paper IS in fact dead. I made a pact with myself that I will get with the times and stop reading The Paper.

Pondering this, I headed to the local Starbucks for a consolation premium coffee. Over in the corner was a young bohemian reading The New York Times. No problem, just an out-of-touch intellectual. Clueless. (I've been guilty myself of splurging on the Times, especially the Sunday edition, where a decade ago I discovered Philip Roth through an article in the cerebral New York Times Review of Books insert).

Next, I headed over to the barber shop and as I approached I could see a couple of the barbers sitting in their chairs reading The Paper. That's OK, I guess. Newspapers are perfectly acceptable in this bastion of old school. Almost to be expected here.

The Plain Dealer called and asked if I wanted to take advantage of a limited time offer. You better believe it. Sign me up, seven days a week.

Newspapers going away? Might as well call it the end of the civilized world. ●

William Chill is an artist and lives in Bay Village.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is suggested that you edit the lines above and below the front-page title of the Observer, eliminating "YOUR" and "Written by the Citizens." Your Opinion page has printed a "vested interest" writer who is not a member of the community.

As a long-time resident of Bay, I resent that person's interference in our political concerns. He uses the admonishment to "let go." He should have taken that advice several years ago when he was given that suggestion.

My cat Harry, a resident of nine years would not presume to inform you that he is a property owner. However, he does have a true vested interest in the lifestyle in this city. Harry, a most wise, credible and respectful cat, disapproves of some existing ordinances regarding his freedom and future ordinances that would upset him. And, he particularly dislikes outsiders.

Harry has on occasion crossed property lines, but when told to do so he leaves immediately. Because he is terrified of vehicles, Harry has never crossed the street. Imagine what he thought when he learned that Bay is planning (quite determinedly) to revise Ordinance 1158 to permit lower standards in land size requirements and to build high density dwelling structures in the city. Just think how frightened he would be to have an increase in traffic and many four-wheeled conveyances just beyond backyards. And to compound the issue – to learn that the mayor would like to see such residence types in cul-de-sacs where they would not be too noticeable! As it now exists, Harry appreciates the ambience of the city and his lifestyle. He and I hope that whatever way 1158 is resolved, it will be by those who have a legitimate voice and without intrusion.

Sincerely,

Anne Galligan, Bay Village

Observer Guidelines

Want to be a writer? We'd love to hear from you! Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when writing for the Observer:

- Anyone who lives, works or has a vested interest in Westlake or Bay Village is encouraged to contribute.
- Aim for 300-500 words. More or less is fine, depending on the story.
- Check your facts. Take the extra time to ensure accuracy.
- Submit original stories and photos. Don't copy others' work and remember to credit your sources.
- Be respectful of others.
- Write for the community. Your stories will be read by people throughout Westlake and Bay (and beyond) so keep the audience in mind when choosing topics.
- Know you'll be edited. All stories pass through an editor who reviews stories for spelling and grammar. We try to keep the news as "unfiltered" as possible, but may edit length and content if necessary.
- Disclose your affiliation. If you have a personal or business relationship with the subject of your story, let your readers know.
- Don't write stories solely to promote your business—that's what ads are for.

Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process.

Contact us at staff@wbvobserver.com. ●

OBSERVER NEWS

'You Too Can Write the News' Workshop

by Denny Wendell

In the five months that the Westlake | Bay Village Observer has been around, I often get emails or phone calls from local residents telling me of some community news or event that they feel would be of interest to our readers. The conversation usually leads the caller to say something like, "I thought you'd like to know about it and you should do a story about it in the paper." To which I'll reply, "That sounds great; YOU should write the story because it's something you're knowledgeable about." Many times the conversation ends with the caller stating, "Oh, I can't write about it, I wouldn't know where to start."

This is a pretty typical scenario for many of the first-time community reporters who contribute to the Observer. What makes the Observer unique is that it's written and produced by citizens – citizens with a special perspective on the news of their community because they have first-hand knowledge of the topics that they write about.

The main barrier to covering community news is that many would-be citizen journalists simply don't know how to start.

There will be a perfect opportunity for community writers to learn how to write a newspaper article at a program at the Bay Village Library next month.

The program, "You Too Can Write the News," is a free workshop for citizen journalists hosted by the Friends of Bay Village Library, and will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, at the Bay Village Library.

Community reporting doesn't need to be difficult. It's a discipline that, like any other, gets easier as you do it. All it takes is knowledge of a specific set of skills and activities that can easily be mastered by just about anyone.

This nuts-and-bolts workshop is designed for anyone who wants a clear and simple process for writing as a citizen correspondent. Attendees should expect to leave with a step-by-step structure that will allow them to find, report and write a news story, providing useful coverage of the goings on in their community.

Topics covered in this workshop are vital reporting skills and techniques to make the writing process fast and easy. They are comparable to those taught in college-level journalism courses.

The workshop will be conducted by Bob Rosenbaum, an award-winning reporter, editor and publisher at local, regional and national newspapers and magazines for nearly 30 years.

"People who attend this seminar will walk away with all the basics for reporting a news story accurately and fairly; and they'll have a set of tools to help them write that story quickly and easily – without any of the anxiety that many people have when faced with a blank computer screen," Rosenbaum said.

"News writing doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, there's a lot of formula involved," Rosenbaum said. "Our goal in this workshop is to provide that formula so everyone can feel qualified to make their contribution."

This workshop is an excellent way for local residents to learn about writing for citizen journalism blogs and newspapers (like the Observer!).

All are welcome to attend. Call the Bay Village Library at 871-6392 or go online to cuyahogalibrary.org to register.



Bob Rosenbaum

BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Bay Middle School students draw senior citizen portraits while listening

by Karen Derby

Senior citizens modeled for Bay Middle School art students on Tuesday, January 26, as the student artists created contour line drawings while listening to some interesting stories from the lives of their visitors.

Mrs. Virginia Foley, a watercolor artist and arts advocate herself, talked about the importance of the arts as students drew. Mr. John Rowland talked about his early days as a seventh-grade math teacher before spending most of his career in hospital administration. Mr. Jack Fuller, a former engineer, discussed how he joined the Navy during World War II because he loved the water but never got to serve on a ship. Ms. Jean DeRoma talked of her career working for the law firm Baker and Hostetler. And Mr. George Purdy, a former metallurgical engineer, discussed his volunteer service for the International Executive Service Corps that allowed him to travel the world.

After posing for their portraits, the visitors enjoyed donuts, coffee and juice and a student-guided tour of Bay Middle School.

"It was such fun to be with the students," said Mrs. Foley. "[It] really afforded a great opportunity to get out and try something different.

All the visitors reside at the Normandy Apartments in Rocky River. The students even talked the resident center's bus driver into posing for a portrait.

The session was arranged by Bay Middle School art instructor Ruth Purdy. "Everyone enjoyed it," she said. "The students had been doing contour line drawing portraits of each other, so it was fun for them to work with our visitors, and it was especially enriching to hear the conversations taking place between the two generations."

Karen Derby is the Public Information Officer for the Bay Village City School District.



Mr. George Purdy poses for Bay Middle School student artists while discussing interesting memories about his life.



A contour line drawing of George Purdy done by Bay Middle School student Hunter Williams.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cornerstone presented to schools



The Bay Village Historical Society presented the 1888 cornerstone from the Bay Village Grade School to the Bay Village City Schools during a ceremony at Bay Middle School on February 8. The stone is to be displayed wherever Mr. Clinton Keener, Superintendent of Schools deems appropriate.

The "little red schoolhouse" was built in 1869 and stood for 72 years on the south side of Lake Road, east of Bassett Road and west of the cemetery.

The school system was later revised to establish districts. This school made up the "first" district in 1888 as reflected on the cornerstone. After new schools were built, the building became a home for community events, a meeting hall, and even a community theater.

This cornerstone came into the possession of the Wirt Dodd family of Bay Village in the 1940s when the grade school was torn down. The family took it to Henrietta, Ohio. The cornerstone was given to The Bay Village Historical Society by the Dodd family in 2007.



The "little red schoolhouse" cornerstone.

Fun Facts for the Bay Bicentennial

- Did you know "going up the elbow" referred to traveling south up Bassett Road toward Detroit Road?
- Did you know one Meilander Farm on Bassett Road could produce two hundred baskets of tomatoes, melons, peppers, berries and fruits for market in one day?
- Did you know an 1827 Fourth of July celebration supper consisted of venison, wild turkey, wild grape pudding, iron bark coffee and Ohio whiskey?

Share your memories of Bay Village & Westlake

Do you have fond memories of Bay Village or Westlake? Send us your stories or photos and we'll print the best ones in each issue. Simply log in to the Member Center at www.wbvobserver.com/members to submit your memories and we'll do the rest. It's easy and fun!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

You are not alone

by Ali Kennedy

Hearing loss can be minor, severe or profound. It can strike a young person or wait until old age. It can usher in trouble understanding high-pitched sounds, low-pitched sounds or both.

There's no cookie-cutter profile of someone with hearing loss. But on this most people who have it agree: Hearing loss can make you feel alone.

Flubbed interpretations of what someone said. Missed punchlines in jokes. Inability to understand a whispered word from someone you love.

The likelihood that hearing loss makes someone feel isolated, perhaps more so than normal for a human being, is pretty high.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

A young, local chapter of the national Hearing Loss Association of America meets the second Saturday of every month in a conference room at the Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road in Westlake. Meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon and open to anyone with hearing loss of any degree.

Meetings usually consist of an outside speaker making a presentation on a hearing-related

topic, along with plenty of fellowship and friendship.

Previous meetings have informed attendees about assistive listening devices such as FM systems and "pocket talkers," and about advances in hearing aids. A cochlear implant recipient along with a physician from Cleveland Clinic visited in January to talk about the fast-changing field of cochlear implants. An outreach worker with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation explained the rights of disabled workers and duties of employers to accommodate them.

Two people from the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center are scheduled to visit Feb. 13 to tell us about the services of this important agency founded in 1921 by the daughter-in-law of President James Garfield.

Even more helpful than the practical knowledge, coping strategies, community resources and communication tips that meetings offer is what they bring in the way of support and understanding.

You are not alone. We urge you to visit and find out for yourself.

For further information on the Hearing Loss Association of America, visit www.hearingloss.org or contact Colleen at colleenirish@wowway.com.

Ali Kennedy lives in Bay Village.

ART

BAYarts warms up your winter nights with the Art of Life series

by Nancy Heaton

Each winter BAYarts offers a series of relaxed, casual evenings that incorporate all the elements that go hand-in-hand with the fine art and art education they offer. In the past there have been spa nights, wine and chocolate tastings, gardening seminars and a Cinco de Mayo party. According to Mary Conway Sullivan, a BAYarts board member and creator of the series, "We limit these to 40-50 people to keep them intimate, and they have all sold out. Word-of-mouth has been our greatest advertisement, we have a blast."

This year, BAYarts takes the series "off campus" thanks to invitations from two local restaurants that have partnered with BAYarts in the past. The events take place on Monday evenings when restaurants are typically slow so it's a win-win for both groups. The first in this monthly series is on February 22 at 87 West at Crocker Park in Westlake showcasing their selection of fine wines and eclectic cuisine. On March 22, the party heads to Henry's at the Barn in Avon for an evening that includes an oyster bar and selections from their extensive wine list. The cost is \$40 per evening or \$75 for both when purchased in advance. Reservations should be made through BAYarts by calling 440-871-6543. A great evening, and besides, what else have you got to do on a wintry Monday night?

Nancy Heaton is the Executive Director of BAYarts.



It's not so gr8 when email slang slips into students' schoolwork

by Jt Tomaskovich

Plz practice your writing B4 U head bak 2 school. C U in a few wkz.

Millions of children (and adults!) use language like this to chat with friends, make weekend plans and stay in touch with out-of-town relatives via email and Instant Messaging (IM). It is important that this informal writing style of shortened words, improper grammar, lack of punctuation and use of "emoicons," such as smiley faces and other keyboard-created graphics, does not follow students to the classroom.

According to a survey conducted by Sylvan Learning Center, 91% of teachers nationwide say they do not accept the use of this informal writing style in their students' assignments and tests.

Parents should talk to their children about using different styles of language to communicate with different audiences, as adults do in work and home environments. Formal writing for the classroom must be grammatically correct, with full words and proper sentence structure.

Email and IM style of writing isn't completely bad, since it does encourage students to write more often. In fact, more than three quarters (76%) of teachers surveyed agree that children can benefit from email and IM as learning opportunities. When crafting emails, children are challenged to carefully choose their words,

keep it simple and use relatively few words to convey tone and meaning appropriately. The popularity of Internet writing is also helping children see writing as a fun activity that encourages creative writing.

What Parents Can Do

Parents can make the most of their child's interest in email and other computer writing by helping them to avoid using an informal style of writing too often. Show children that writing can be more than a means of communicating with another person by introducing them to online journaling or media that publish children's poems, letters, editorials, essays or stories.

To help children boost their effective writing skills, parents should consider the following tips to avoid IM and email-style language making its way into schoolwork:

- Talk to children about using different writing styles to communicate with different audiences. While it's okay to close a letter with "C ya" to a friend in an IM, it is not okay to include this slang in homework assignments. Remind them that formality is required in school.
- Provide children with enjoyable ways to practice their writing. Involve your child with writing grocery lists and thank you notes. Or, play games that help build language and vocabulary skills.
- Review schoolwork for IM and email style language. Encourage your children to

write properly and take the time to carefully review assignments before submitting them to the teacher.

- Talk with children to establish ground rules for using IM and email. Work with your child to develop a plan for using IM and email to make sure other responsibilities, such as completing homework and chores, are met before going online to chat with friends. Discuss time limits with your children and ensure they are kept. Consider putting your family rules in writing and posting them near the computer.

- Create a writing zone. Whether writing on a computer or with a notebook and pencil, it's important that your child has a well-organized place to write. Set up an area in your home for writing - a desk or table with a flat surface and good lighting. Make sure the area is free from potential distractions and that writing tools, including a dictionary, paper and pens, are at your child's fingertips.

- Encourage your child to read. Read with your child at least 15 minutes per day - or one hour per week - since reading will help teach children about sentence structure, grammar and vocabulary. Reading and writing support each other and good readers become good writers. The more your child does of each, the better she will be at both. •

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

POLITICS

Rep. Baker honored with business award by COSE

by Shannon McNamara

State Representative Nan Baker (R-Westlake) was honored on January 19 for her commitment and determination in serving the interests of small businesses in Ohio by the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE). She was awarded the 2009 Chuck McDonald COSE Advocacy Award at the organization's annual meeting at Cleveland's House of Blues.

"I am truly humbled by this award," Rep. Baker said. "As a freshman legislator, my colleagues and I got off the ground running, understanding that the solution to Ohio's prosperity is creating the environment to retain, create and bring jobs to Ohio. We need to continually work towards being a competitive and business-friendly state. The "Future of Ohio" jobs package containing 10 job-focused bills emerged from that effort."

The Chuck McDonald COSE Advocacy Award was named for Charles McDonald, who was a former COSE chairman and a strong small business advocate.

The award recognizes a key legislator or policymaker every year who works tirelessly to enhance the interests of the small business community.

COSE acknowledged that through Rep. Baker's efforts with the "Future of Ohio" economic development jobs package, the representative has shown her willingness and dedication in helping small businesses succeed in Ohio. They also recognized that as a small business owner, Rep. Baker understands the challenges small business owners face.

"As a 30-year small business owner, I understand the struggles small businesses face," Rep. Baker said. "I will continue to work toward strong fiscal policies that lower taxes, mandates and regulations on small business. Given that over 80 percent of our businesses in Ohio are small business, they are the backbone of our state. We must allow the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship to grow." • Shannon McNamara is the Deputy Director of Communications for the Ohio House Republican Caucus.

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SAVE THE DATE

"You Too Can Write the News" Workshop

Sponsored by The Friends of Bay Village Library
Wednesday, March 3 at the Bay Village Library
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This free workshop is designed to help people who want to foster discussion of community issues by writing in blogs, newspapers or any other citizen journalism project.

Workshop will include:
What is news
• How to discover stories
Reporting
• How to report a story fully, accurately, fairly & efficiently

For information or to register, call the Bay Village Library at 440-871-6392, or visit cuyahogalibrary.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

View more events and post your own on the Observer homepage at www.wbvobserver.com.

AQUARELLE SOCIETY WATERCOLOR PAINTING SHOW

February 1 to February 27
The Aquarelle Society formed in 1996 is made up of 16 watercolor artists from Northeast Ohio that meet and paint weekly with numerous watercolor teachers. The display of 30 original paintings shows a wide variety of subjects and techniques that can be achieved with watercolor paints.
Bay Village Library, 502 Cahoon Rd., Bay Village

NUTRITION BOOT CAMP

February 10, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
The Gathering Place invites you to join our nutritionist, Beth Roth, for a 3-session class to learn the right foods to eat during and after cancer treatment and strategies to manage appetite related side effects. Includes a participatory cooking class. Advance registration required by calling 216/595-9546.
The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake
More info: http://www.touchedbycancer.org

BAYarts GALLERY OPENING: EMERGING ARTISTS FROM THE CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART

February 12 - March 5, 7 - 9 p.m.
BAYarts showcases four promising CIA students. BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd., Bay Village
More info: http://www.bayarts.net

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) MEETING

February 13, 10 a.m. - Noon
The local Cleveland West Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America will hold its monthly meeting at Westlake Porter Public Library. Two speakers from the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center will discuss the services of this important agency. The meeting is open to anyone with hearing loss of any degree.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake
More info: contact Colleen at colleenirish@wowway.com or visit www.hearingloss.org.

CUYAHOGA WEST CHAPTER OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

February 17, 7 - 8:45 p.m.
Program: Sharing favorite genealogical websites demo with Jim Denham and John Noble. Refreshments and social time from 6:30-7:00 p.m. The public is invited.
Porter Room, Westlake Porter Public Library
27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake
More info: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwgws

DRUMMING CIRCLE

February 17, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Come experience how drumming can raise your energy level, improve your mood, and help you have fun. For individuals or families touched by cancer. No drumming experience necessary. Instruments provided.
The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake
More info: http://www.touchedbycancer.org

BAY VILLAGE WOMEN'S CLUB FOUNDATION 41ST ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE

February 20 & 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dealers from surrounding area show and sell quality antiques including furniture, art, glass, primitives, jewelry and more. Free appraisal of jewelry by Leonard Strand II of Vivid Gallery from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with ticket purchase. Entrance donation \$6.00 which supports scholarships. Wheelchair accessible, but no strollers.
Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

BAYarts ART OF LIFE AT 87 WEST

February 22, 7 - 9 p.m.
Fine wine and eclectic cuisine benefits BAYarts art education programs. \$40 per person. Reservations: 440-871-6543.
87 West, 287 Crocker Park Blvd., Westlake
More info: http://www.bayarts.net

AN EVENING WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN

February 22, 7 - 8 p.m.
President Lincoln (portrayed by Westlake resident and Lincoln scholar Mel Maurer) will speak about his life, beliefs, policies, and the war as it nears its end. His words will provide insights into that era, seasoned with his characteristic sense of humor. The President will take questions from the audience after his remarks and all are encouraged to participate.
Sponsored by The Westlake Historical Society and Westlake Porter Public Library.
Westlake Porter Public Library
27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

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