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Observer

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE

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LEARN HOW TO WRITE FOR 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, citizens with first-hand knowledge of the topics that they write about.

Have you thought about writing an article for the Observer but didn't know how to get started?

Well, you're not alone. Many would-be citizen journalists simply don't know where to start.

There will be a perfect opportunity for local citizens to learn how to write a newspaper article at a program hosted by the Friends of Bay Village Library at the **Bay Village Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3.**

The "You Too Can Write the News" program is a nuts-and-bolts workshop 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. Materials will also be provided to help you get started.

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. **All are invited and welcome!**

Stop in the library or call 440-871-6392 to register. ●



Students rig a sailboat during a Spirit of America boating class.

Boating volunteers needed

by George Christ

Volunteers are needed to teach boating skills to 7th grade students this summer as part of the Spirit of America Foundation Safe Boating Program. This is an opportunity to teach young boaters in power boats, sailboats, PWC's, and paddle sports.

The classes will be on Mondays, June 14, 21 and 28 at Whiskey Island Marina. The classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. You can teach part of the day if that fits your schedule.

A detailed curriculum from this nationally recognized program is provided to instructors and all the equipment is provided by the program. A BCI and FBI background check is required to volunteer.

For more information or to volunteer contact George Christ, SOA Coordinator at cuyahoga@spiritofamerica95.org or (440) 871-3980. This program is sponsored by the Bay Village School District and funded by the SOA Foundation and the ODNR- Division of Watercraft. See our web page at spiritofamerica95.org. ●

George Christ is the coordinator of the West Cuyahoga Spirit of America Safe Boating Program.

New location considered for Bay skate park

After two public hearings in which residents voiced concerns about a skate park in Bradley Park, Bay Village City Council will hear residents' comments about a new location at a March 8 meeting at City Hall. The new site – referred to as Rose Hill South – is located in Cahoon Park, north of Wolf Road and east of Cahoon Road, close to the sledding hill.

Celebrate spring with 'The Chalk Garden' at Clague Playhouse

by Pam Kilpatrick

Clague Playhouse presents "The Chalk Garden" by Enid Bagnold and directed by Ron Newell on Friday, March 5 through Sunday, March 28, 2010. Show Times are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (No performance on Sunday, March 7 and limited seats remain on Sunday, March 21). Reservations are strongly recommended.

Tickets are \$12 for seniors (60+) and students, and \$13 for adults (with a \$1 discount on Thursdays) and may be purchased by calling the Box Office, 440-331-0403, Wednesday - Saturday 1:00-6:00 p.m. Cash, check, Discover, MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

About the play: This psychological mystery explores the secret world of childhood through the prism of a dyed-in-the-wool British dowager Mrs. St. Maugham and her precocious and equally eccentric granddaughter Laurel. When enigmatic Miss Madrigal is hired as household companion and manager, the two finally meet their match.

The Cast includes Bernice Bolek, Erin Bunting, Claudia Esposito, David Hundermark, Jill Smith, Dennis Sullivan, and Ruth Wilson.

In our lobby gallery, enjoy the photographs by Marcello Mellino.

Clague Playhouse is located south of Detroit Road off the I-90W Clague Road Exit. Free parking as always. ●

Pam Kilpatrick is the Office Administrator of Clague Playhouse.

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Artists of all ages invited to create wild, wearable art for a chance to win \$100

by Shawn Salamone

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is calling on area artists of all ages to create animal-inspired original art for the official, 2010 Center t-shirt design contest. The winner will receive \$100 and a limited edition t-shirt featuring the first-place artwork.

Contest guidelines require designs to include 3 or more of the Center's resident animals and be colorful, fun and kid-friendly. Artwork cannot be larger than 8" x 10" and should be completed on plain, white paper (no t-shirt outlines around your art). The official Lake Erie Nature & Science Center logo and name will be added to the t-shirts during production, so artists should leave these elements (and the "LENSC" acronym) out of their designs.

Last year's winner was a Bay Middle School student but the contest is open to children and adults! Entries

must be submitted by March 7. The shirt with the winning design will debut for sale at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's annual Family Fun Fest on Sunday, June 6.

Entry forms with contest guidelines are available at the Center, 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village or online at www.lensc.org (click on the Featured Events link right on the homepage). Photocopied forms and multiple entries per person are acceptable. Artwork is not returned.

Finalists will be on display by mid-March in the Center lobby, online at www.lensc.org in the Kids Corner Nature Art Gallery, and on Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Facebook fan page (both linked from the homepage). To vote, stop by the Center to fill out a paper ballot, or click "like" under the photo of your favorite(s) in the Art Contest Photo Album on Facebook. The winner will be chosen and notified by March 31. ● *Shawn Salamone is the Community Relations Coordinator at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.*



Emily Jaster's bright crayon drawing won Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's 2009 T-shirt Art Design Contest. The Bay Middle School student won \$100 for her effort. The Center is accepting entries for the 2010 contest through March 7.

Don't let the weather get you down

by Chris Haldi

Don't let the bad weather get to you. Spring is right around the corner. The Westlake Recreation Center has plenty of programs that will help us cope with the gloomy weather. Make your way up to the Rec Center and join us for what we have to offer you.

Here's something new: The Westlake Recreation Center will be hosting our first Overnight PJ Party for kids in grades 5-7 on February 27. There will be swimming, basketball, movies and more. Participants must bring PJ's, pillow, sleeping bag, swimsuit and towel.

The Westlake Recreation Center offers quality activities for individuals who have special needs. We have several programs starting in the next couple of days. Join us at the Rec Center for some fun and learning experiences.

If you're looking for an adult fitness class, we have several to offer you. Depending on what you want to do you can choose from these classes: Body Sculpting, Phenomenal Abdominals and Tai Chi starting March 2. There are a number of other fitness classes starting at the beginning of March. Don't be left out. Sign up now.

Give the kids a chance to get their own workout. DEN Boot Camp is for kids ages 10-14. The class will get the kids' blood pumping. An instructor will have the kids do intervals of cardio and strength training to help with them into shape. Camp will start March 3.

More information regarding programs and events, please call the Westlake Recreation Center at 440-808-5700 or go to our website at www.cityofwestlake.org/recreation.

Chris Haldi works for the City of Westlake Recreation Department.

Huntington Playhouse passes go on sale

by Tom Meyrose

The Huntington Playhouse is currently offering 2010 Flex Passes for sale for their upcoming season which gets underway on May 13th with a production of the adult musical "The Full Monty."

Flex Passes offer patrons the chance to buy seven (7) admissions that may be used in any combination and on any date during the 2010 season. The cost is \$105 per pass. Board Chair Dolores Ballou offers that "this gives our patrons the chance to see the shows they want to see, when they want to see them." She then added, "Of course we hope they see them all!"

The 2010 Season offerings are: "The Full

Monty" (May 13 to June 6), "Leading Ladies" (June 17 to July 3), "The Music Man" (July 15 to Aug. 8), "Smokey Joe's Café" (August 19 to September 12), "Boeing, Boeing" (September 23 to October 10), Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" (October 21 to November 7), and "A Christmas Carol" (November 26 to December 19).

To get more information about the Flex Pass, go to the Huntington Playhouse website at: www.huntingtonplayhouse.com or call the box office at 440-871-8333.

Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Road and is a licensed affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Tom Meyrose is the Managing Director of Huntington Playhouse.

DEMOCRAT ROSEMARY PALMER ENTERS OHIO HOUSE RACE

Bay Village resident and activist Rosemary Palmer formally announced that she will be a candidate in the 2010 Democratic Primary for the Ohio House of Representatives' 16th District.

Palmer, a former Statehouse journalist, entrepreneur and teacher, has made sustainability and the green economy cornerstones of her campaign.

"Times have changed. It's no longer acceptable to have part-time representatives in Columbus working on yesterday's problems. The people of Bay Village, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Fairview Park and Westlake need a full-time representative focused on tomorrow's economy and helping to create a climate where innovative, new industries can take root and grow our region," said Palmer.

"Working in the Ohio Statehouse will not be new for me. I worked there in the late '70s as a reporter for a news syndicate my husband and I founded/operated to cover state government for Northeastern Ohio newspapers. This time, as a state representative, I'll change roles from observing to being one of the conduits for ideas that can help this region regain its vitality. In one way, though, the experience will be similar. I will be actively reporting back to residents to encourage input into our state government."

Among Democratic leaders supporting Palmer are Congressman Dennis Kucinich, North Olmsted Mayor Kevin Kennedy, North Olmsted Councilwoman Nicole Dailey Jones, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, Cuyahoga County Recorder Lillian Greene and Northeast Ohio Democracy for America. She is also backed by the nonpartisan Women's Campaign Forum, Washington, D.C.

OBSERVER POET WINS AWARD

Joe Psarto, whose poetry has appeared many times in the Observer, won the grand prize in this year's WCLV Valentine's Day Love Poem Contest with his poem "Blush." Joe beat out over two hundred entries. His winning poem can be seen on the WCLV website, www.wclv.com.

Knickerbocker residents receive a singing valentine

by Anne Naumann

The residents of the Knickerbocker Apartments in Bay Village were treated to a special valentine, sent to them courtesy of Bob Howell of the Bay Barber Shop. The singing group, "Four Flats, No Spare," delighted the crowd with many old favorites and plenty of new jokes. Residents and their families remarked that their Valentine could not have been more fun! A special thank you to Bay Barber Shop for the Barbershop Quartet! We love you, too!

Anne Naumann is the Director of the West Shore Senior Center.



Shinto

by Joseph Psarto, Westlake

*In our belligerence we reject
the Apache medicine man
and the Shinto monk of old Japan
who assign life to rocks and rills,
and mountains and hills, and clouds,
and the flashing lightning, too, and
speak to their dishes and pots,
thanking them for their services.*

*We say it is nothing
but superstition and myth,
a waste of time, a poetic madness.*

*Yet I find myself - my very self -
talking to the trees. And as for flowers,
I cannot pass by those blushing ladies
without a nod,
and, for the dew-covered ones,
a crimson sigh.*

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE
Observer

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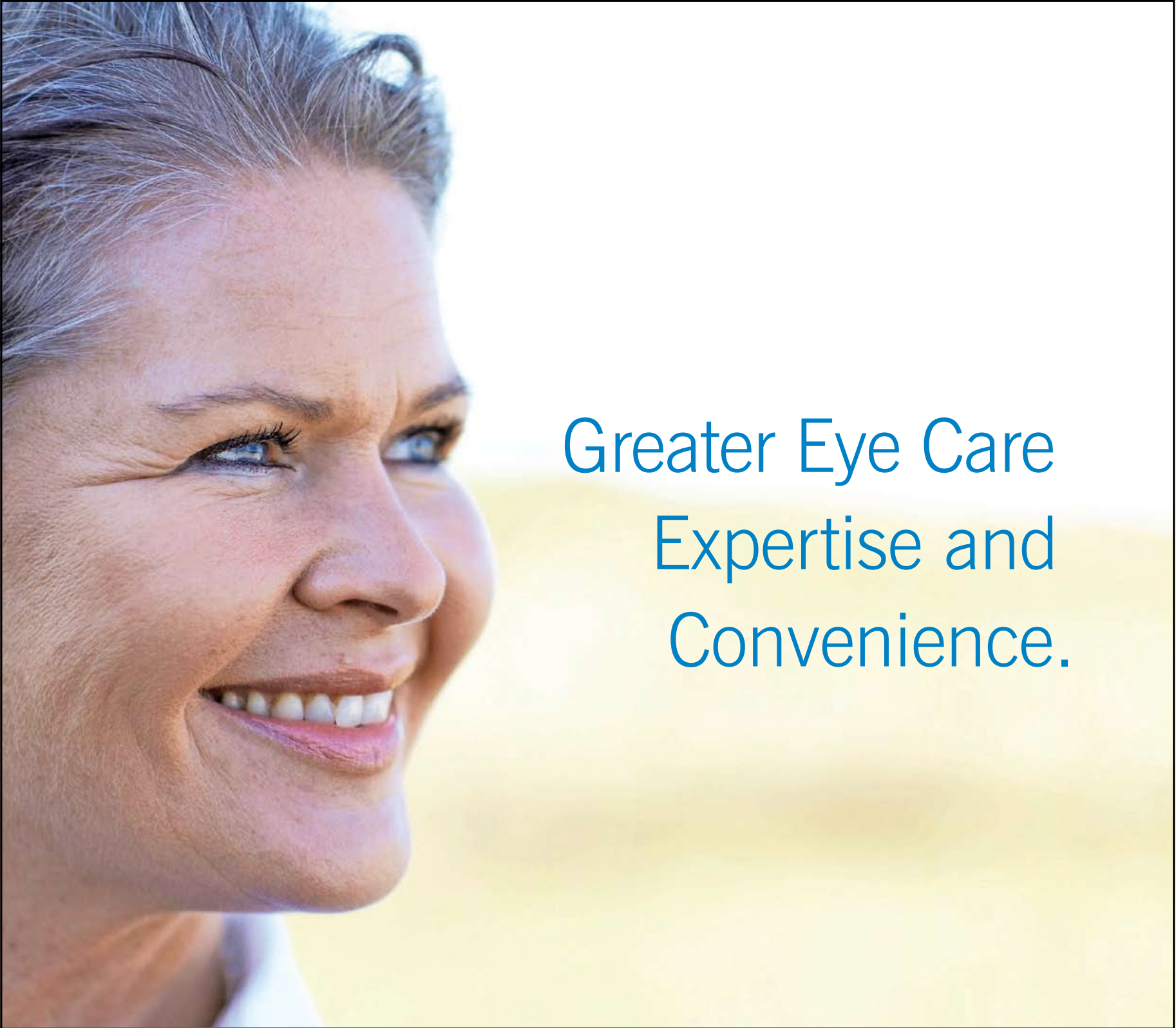
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(l to r) Richard Wyszynski, M.D., John Costin, M.D.,
Ryan Deasy, M.D., Wynne Morley, M.D.,
Matthew Ohr, M.D.

Library's calendar of events

by Elaine Willis

Tuesday, March 2 (7:30 p.m.) and Tuesday, March 30 (7:30 p.m.) FYI:OPERA – Join the Westlake Westshore Arts council and Alan Montgomery for a presentation of “Candide” on March 2. The March 30 program features a discussion of “Opera Scenes” by David Bamberger from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Wednesday, March 3 (10:30-11 a.m.), Wednesday, March 10 (7-7:30 p.m.), Friday, March 19 (10:30-11 a.m.) and Thursday, March 25 (3:30-4 p.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing. For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. No registration required.

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 (4-6 p.m.) OPEN PLAY WII – Teens: Come play Wii! We’ll feature different games every week!

Wednesday, March 3 (7 p.m.) WESTLAKE WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL 2010 SYMPOSIUM – Carla Blackmon, owner of Design Interface, will discuss industrial design.

Wednesday, March 3 (7-7:30 p.m.) DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY READ-ALoud PARTY – Come share some of the coolest, wackiest children’s books around as we celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday. We’ll read your favorites!

Thursday, March 4 (7-8:45 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP – John Sawczak of AAI will discuss “Options in this Interesting Market.” Please register.

Friday, March 5 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) and Saturday, March 27 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME! – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, March 6 (9:30-11:30 a.m.) SAT RESULTS/TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES – If you took the practice test on February 27, this is the time to get your results and discuss test taking strategies with mentors from Westlake’s Sylvan Learning Center. Register at the same time you register for the test.

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, March 6 (11-11:45 a.m.) IN STITCHES CLUB – Share your projects, learn new stitching techniques, and more. For ages 10-13. Registration begins one week prior to each session.

Saturday, March 6 (2-2:45 p.m.) FANCY WITH NANCY! – Would you like to learn how to be as glamorous as possible AND make a posh craft? Then join Miss Nancy for special stories, refreshments and that craft! Ages 4 to 7. Registration begins February 27.

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

Tuesday, March 9 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION – The March selection is “March” by Geraldine Brooks.

Thursday, March 11 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The March selection is “Blue Zone: Lessons for Living Longest from the People Who’ve Lived the Longest” by Dan Buettner.

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

Elaine Willis is the Public Relations Associate for Westlake Porter Public Library.

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Looking back: Hometown heroes

by Dave Pfister and Lysa Stanton

Like U.S. Presidents, the state of Ohio has given birth to more than its share of astronauts – reportedly 24. While Neil Armstrong and John Glenn are the most notable, Westlake’s own Col. Robert Overmyer is a distinguished member of this proud group.

Although born in Lorain in 1936, Overmyer always considered Westlake his home. Young Robert’s family moved to Canterbury Road, and he entered Westlake schools in the first grade. Overmyer graduated from Westlake High School with the class of 1954.

During the summertime of his high school years, Robert worked at Dean’s Greenhouse on Porter Road. The income from this summer employment made it possible for him to attend college after graduation.

Overmyer entered Baldwin Wallace College in the fall of 1954 and studied a scientific-oriented curriculum.

While at BW, he met a pretty young cheerleader, Katherine E. Jones, and they were married shortly after. The Overmyer family later welcomed two daughters and a son.

He entered flight school and became a U.S. military pilot. In 1969, Overmyer qualified to join the NASA program team. He soon gained entry into the Astronaut Program and helped with the engineering development of the Skylab project.

His next assignment was as a support crew member for the Apollo 17 mission to the moon. In 1982, he became the pilot of a four man crew that was to fly the Space Shuttle Columbia later that year. In November, he commanded a five-day mission to launch the first commercial satellite.

A few weeks later, he returned to Northern Ohio and visited each of the Westlake schools. “What a tremendous thrill it is for me to come back to my hometown,” he told the students.

He was also given a key to the city by the mayor, and stopped in for a brief visit to his previous employer – Dean’s Greenhouse.

In 1985, Overmyer commanded a seven man crew aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. Later he was part of the team that investigated the ill-fated disaster of that same Challenger in early 1986.

In March of 1996, Robert Overmyer lost his life during an aircraft testing mission.

The Westlake Historical Society is pleased to honor Col. Robert Overmyer as one of our hometown heroes! ●



Col. Robert Overmyer

Bay schools to hold Kindergarten Information Night and Registration

Bay Village parents of children who will be five years of age on or before September 30, 2010 are invited to attend a Bay Village Kindergarten Information Meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m., at Normandy Elementary School, 26920 Normandy Road in Bay Village. A kindergarten registration packet will be distributed at this meeting. In addition to an overview of kindergarten and kindergarten readiness, there will be information tables for those with questions regarding daycare, speech therapy, early entrance and volunteer opportunities.

Kindergarten registration for students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2010 will take place March 16, 17 and 18 at Normandy Elementary School. Parents should bring the completed registration forms at the time of registration (available at Normandy Elementary School if parents were not able to attend the March 10 information meeting). Parents will need to provide their child’s birth certificate (baptismal certificates cannot be accepted), an updated record of

their child’s immunizations, their child’s social security card, two forms of proof of residency in Bay Village (lease agreement, purchase agreement, telephone or utility bill), and a copy of custody papers if the child is not living with both natural parents.

To evenly distribute the numbers registering and to avoid long lines, the district requests that parents register according to the following schedule: last names beginning A-H on Tuesday, March 16; last names beginning I-P on Wednesday, March 17; and last names beginning Q-Z on Thursday, March 18. Registration on each day will be taken from 8:45-10:45 a.m. and from 12:20-2:20 p.m. Those who are unable to come during the assigned day may come on another of the three days. In addition, families who cannot register their children during the daytime hours may register on Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30-8 p.m.

For additional information about the Kindergarten Information Meeting or the registration process, please contact Mary Szekely at Normandy Elementary School, 440-617-7350. ●

Facebook and Twitter users: Hackers are now using your friends’ accounts to transmit viruses

by Walter Ely

“Hey, I have this hilarious video of you dancing. Your face is so red. You should check it out!” If you’ve received a message like that through a Facebook or MySpace friend, you may have been exposed to the “Koobface” virus. Here’s what’s going on...

Hackers have now made a cozy new home for themselves on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Disguised as one of your friends, they’ll send you a direct message with a video link attached. If you click on the link, you’re prompted to update your Flash player to see the video, and therein lies the virus – cloaked in a “flash_player.exe” file. Once installed, this worm transforms your computer into a Zombie machine as part of a botnet (a network of computers that are controlled and used by the originator of the worm for unscrupulous purposes).

Are You Really At Risk?

Unless you are aware of these scams, it is very easy to become infected. Some of the direct messages and tweets have titles that are very deceptive. Some of the more common messages will say, “Here’s the video I mentioned...”, or “LOL,” or “My friend caught you on hidden cam,” or “My home video :)”. These messages are followed by a link directing you to a page to watch the video. These seemingly harmless messages can quickly infect your entire office network, allowing hackers a free pass in.

In addition, they can block you from accessing important security updates, making your network even more susceptible to hacker attacks. In some cases, they use their free access to your computer to steal bank account information, credit card numbers, social security numbers and other confidential data.

How To Protect Yourself

Awareness is the first step to protecting yourself. Make a copy of this article and hand it out to all your coworkers, friends and family so they don’t get infected or infect you. Next, follow these three simple steps:

1. Frequently Change Your Password And Don’t Use Easy-To-Guess Combinations. I know, it’s a pain in the neck to change your password frequently, especially when you have dozens to keep track of. But this really is one of the best ways to avoid compromising your account on social media sites. Additionally, don’t use simple passwords like “password” or “123abc.” Include lower case and capital letters, as well as numbers. If a hacker is trying to crack your password and you never change it (or if it’s super easy to guess), you make your account a prime target.

2. Avoid Downloads. Avoid downloading anything from messages on Twitter or Facebook, even if the message is from someone you know. As a general rule, never download any file if you are not 100% certain it is secure and virus free.

3. Get A Beefy Firewall. If you or your employees are using any social media sites for personal or business connections, a strong firewall will protect you from getting infected. That way, even if you or your staff inadvertently opens a dangerous message from one of these sites, your firewall can prevent it from bringing your whole network to a grinding halt. ● *Walter Ely is President/COO of System Care Inc. in Westlake.*

LOCAL STUDENTS TAKE TOP SPOTS IN WRITING CONTEST

Three Westlake and Bay Village students enrolled in The Birchwood School in Cleveland swept the top awards in a national writing contest for CRICKET magazine. CRICKET, a literary magazine for children ages 9-14, asked young writers to develop a story of 350 words or fewer in which the main character had a special talent or power.

The students placed first, second and third, with two others earning Honorable Mention, in the ten-and-under age group.

The first-place winner, Bianca Hughes of Bay Village, won with her story “A Very Special Mary,” which deals with drawing inspiration from challenges in life. Her sister, Alexis Hughes, took second-place honors with a humorous tale about a terrible chef, entitled “Terrible Chef Makes the Best Brownies.” Vinayak Kurup of Westlake won third place with “The Fire Walker,” a story about a boy using his talents to help others.

Marco Balic and Amir Issa of Westlake earned Honorable Mention for their stories.

The young authors’ stories were published in the February 2010 issue of CRICKET magazine and can be read online at <http://www.cricketmagkids.com/contests> (click on “Story Contest: A Magical Talent”). ●

BAY VILLAGE LIBRARY

Bay Library programs

by Joyce Sandy

CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT:

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:

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.

Wednesday, March 3 (7 p.m.) YOU TOO CAN WRITE THE NEWS – Bob Rosenbaum will present a simple step-by-step approach to find, report, and write news stories of the goings on in our community. This program is sponsored by the Bay Village Friends of the Library.

Thursday, March 4 (7 p.m.) AUTHOR VISIT WITH RICK PORRELLO – Author Rick Porrello talks about his book “To Kill the Irishman: The War That Crippled the Mafia.” A book signing will follow.

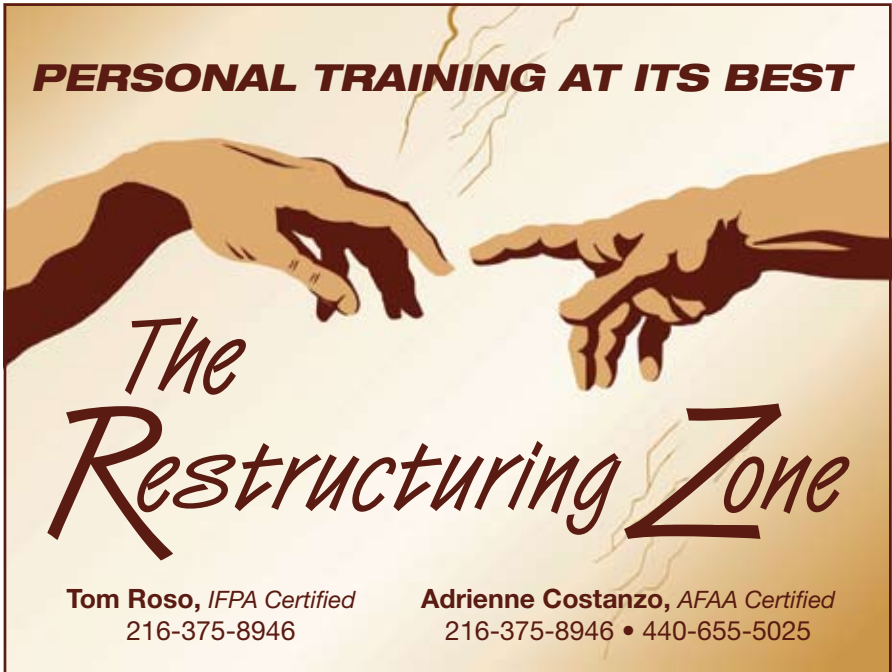
Tuesday, March 9 (7 p.m.) STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS – Speak with experts about financing your business and learn how to apply for financing.

Saturday, March 13 (2 p.m.) BIT O’ THE IRISH – Join us as the Irish band “Turn the Corner” celebrates St. Patrick’s Day with Celtic music.

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

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

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Save our seniors from financial abuse

by Patti Novak

Financial abuse is a diverse genre of mis-treatment that encompasses the embezzle-ment, theft or misappropriation of funds or possessions, oftentimes targeted at our most precious loved ones...our senior citizens. Who could be financially abusing you or you loved ones? They could be anyone, from close family members to scammers a half a world away. I would like to share my experience with readers in the hopes that they can become their own advocates.

An elderly acquaintance of mine recently wanted to check her credit report. This person is very savvy in regards to her finances and investments and wouldn't typically need my assistance. However, I did recommend a reputable company for her to obtain her credit report. Yes, even some of these "free credit report" companies might also be scammers!

This particular company provides an online application and interactive dispute filing. Together we completed the online questionnaire. Within minutes we had printed her credit report and began going through the list to compare with credit cards and loans in her possession. After going through everything, we discovered four credit cards that she did not recognize, each with balances ranging between \$9,000-\$12,000.

Included with the report were the toll-free numbers for each credit card company. After calling the first credit card company and explaining that this credit card was not recognized, the bank representative said that the card in question was NOT hers (apparently a clerical error), and advised her to dispute it with the credit bureaus. That was very easy. We filed the dispute online and moved to the next three credit cards.

Each of the next three cards was issued

from the same company. We called the toll-free number associated with these cards. After the representative asked my friend numerous questions, the rep said that the credit cards were opened in her name but with a different mailing address. The bills were being sent to one of her family members' addresses! This family member had "hijacked" one of the credit cards by changing the address to his own. Then, when offers would come in the mail, he would simply open more credit cards in her name. By making the minimum payments on the cards, his crime went virtually unnoticed.

At this point, my friend closed the accounts associated with these credit cards. Although advised that if she pressed charges against this family member, the credit card balances could be disputed, my friend decided to handle this matter unofficially. To ensure that this wouldn't happen again, I advised her to enroll in a reputable ID theft management company. This company would call, email and mail you if someone tried to open credit in your name.

In closing, I think it's safe to say that no one is immune to this type of deception. The best advice I can give is to remain vigilant in checking on and maintaining your own credit history. Another concern is that if you or a loved one co-signs a loan or line of credit, the address associated with it could end up on your credit report as one of your addresses. A credit card company will not see any red flags associated with opening new lines of credit with that "new" address.

Stop unsolicited telemarketing calls by registering your telephone number online at www.donotcall.gov or over the phone at 1-888-382-1222. To opt-out of all pre-approved credit offers, call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

Stay vigilant and stay safe! ●
Patti Novak lives in Westlake.

SAVE THE DATE

WANT TO WRITE FOR THE OBSERVER?

"You Too Can Write the News" Workshop

Sponsored by The Friends of Bay Village Library

**Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 P.M.
at the Bay Village Library**

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.

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.

Workshop will include:

What is news

- ♦ Types of stories
- ♦ How to discover them

Reporting

- ♦ How to report a story fully, accurately and efficiently
- ♦ Who, what, when, where, why, how
- ♦ Fairness and balance
- ♦ Sourcing
- ♦ Writing
- ♦ The magic formula that makes newswriting easy
- ♦ Writing the lead
- ♦ Prioritizing facts
- ♦ The all-important 'nut-graph'
- ♦ Quotes and attribution
- ♦ The rest of the story

To register, stop-in or call the Bay Village Library at 440-871-6392 or go online to cuyahogalibrary.org.

Free 'Cane-Fu' self-defense seminar for seniors

by Gary Yano

Self-defense is not just for the young or perfectly fit anymore. Most street predators will take the path of least resistance and target someone who appears to be vulnerable.

So where does that leave granny, granddad or the person who has some type of permanent or partial disability? That's right! They are the most likely to be victimized, because they are least likely to be able to defend themselves.

In this day and age, no community, not even Westlake or Bay Village is immune from this kind of crime. However, with the latest craze in martial arts training, sometimes referred to as "Cane-Fu", Combat Cane Fighting or Cane Self-Defense, senior citizens and those who find a need to use a cane now have a option.

Westlake Martial Arts, located at 27321 Detroit Road, Westlake, will be offering classes for those interested in learning how to use the cane for self-defense purposes. A free, hour-long seminar will be offered on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. with light refreshments provided.

Introducing this program will be Guro (pronounced "guru") Jerry Allen Veneskey, who has over thirty-five years of martial arts experience. He holds a 4th degree black belt in Isshinryu Karate and a 5th level black sash in Kali, a weapons-based Filipino martial art.

For more information on more upcoming seminars and classes, contact Master Gary Yano at 440-250-2787. ●
Gary Yano is a Westlake resident and co-owner of Westlake Martial Arts.

One senior's opinion: Senior centers have much to offer

by Dianne Borowski

I had a chance to visit three local senior centers during the past month. On January 28, I attended the Dwyer Center in Bay Village for its second annual soup cook-off. A large crowd was on hand to taste and compare ten samples of wonderfully hot soup. The aroma drifting from each serving station filled the room with the scent of old-fashioned home cooking. Chefs represented various area senior living residences. From Lobster Bisque to Loaded Baked Potato soup (the winner) and eight delicious flavors in between, it was a food-lovers' dream. Salads, soups, rolls, beverages and dessert were also provided. At \$5.00 a person, the soup cook-off was a real bargain. I definitely plan to return next year.

On February 3, I visited the Rocky River Senior Center for a presentation on the life of artist Leonardo da Vinci. The talk was given by art historian, Felicia Zazarella Stadelman. Ten little-known facts about Leonardo's life highlighted the lecture/slide presentation. What a great way to learn about the lives of famous artists at no cost.

The senior center was a beehive of activity that afternoon. Classes were in progress, people relaxed in comfortable chairs while others prepared to enjoy lunch, which is reasonably priced at \$4.95 for the special of the day. A la carte items, such as soups and salads, are also available. No reservations are necessary.

On Sunday, February 6, the West Shore Senior Center hosted a Super Bowl party for Knickerbocker residents, families and friends. A lively crowd was on hand to enjoy all the chili dogs and snacks you could eat. After eating it was time to settle in to watch the game on the large screen TV. Animated conversation and laughter filled the social hall as the crowd cheered for their favorite team. Everyone seemed to have a great time. The center is planning Breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, March 27, from 9 to 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend. For information call Anne Nauman at 440-835-1111.

I would encourage all seniors who are looking for something to do to check area senior centers. They have so much to offer at reasonable prices. ●
Dianne Borowski lives in Bay Village.

Society sponsors Bay Village photo contest

Attention all photographers: The Bay Village Historical Society is sponsoring a photo contest, with the winning photos featured on a poster.

The contest begins immediately and ends Sept. 1. A maximum of 25 photos can be entered per photographer. Photos must be submitted on a CD, and should be of high resolution (2400 x 3000 pixels suggested).

"Photos should capture the beauty and character of Bay Village," said organizer Eric Eakin.

Photos will be turned in to Thomas and Thomas Photographers, 27360 West Oviatt Road. All photos submitted become the property of the society.

Three prize winners will be selected. The 10 best photos will be printed and displayed around town.

The best photo will be the centerpiece of a poster, titled "Beautiful Bay Village." The other nine photos will be arranged around the centerpiece. A limited number of posters will be printed and sold by the society.

For more information contact Eric Eakin at (440) 835-271. ●

Want to be a writer? 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. Submit high quality photos if you wish.
- Be respectful of others. 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.
- Know you'll be edited. Disclose any affiliation with the subject of your article.
- Don't write stories solely to promote your business—that's what ads are for.

THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE IS OVER!

by Robin Benzle

When you travel in Ireland today, it is truly difficult to imagine the horrific potato famine that occurred in the 1800's. The Irish people were poor and looked to the potato for their main source of vitamins, minerals, proteins and carbohydrates. They ate them for breakfast, lunch and dinner; sometimes with a little cabbage or fish on the side.

In 1845, a fungus started killing off the plants, and the wind spread the blight countrywide. Everyone thought it would go away soon and things would return to normal. But the blight lasted six years, killing more than a million people, and forcing another million to flee to the United States to begin a new life.

Fast forward to my Ireland trip with family; roaming the countryside, scouring ancient castle ruins and staying in remote bed and breakfasts. The breakfast part always consisted of the traditional fried eggs, fried sausage, fried bacon and fried potatoes.

Pub lunches included french fries,

no matter what you ordered. You could order the diet plate and get a scoop of cottage cheese, a few tomato wedges and a mountain of fries. (And I'd eat every salty one.)

Dinner was the same: Often fish, battered and deep-fried with a generous side of greasy potatoes – and a minuscule sprig of parsley (which began to look more and more appealing to me).

After four or five days of this, I was feeling downright lousy. My body was screaming for something light, something healthy, something green. The next day, we stopped in a small village restaurant for lunch. I asked the waitress, "please, Lord have mercy, can I just have a small piece of broiled fish and a big salad?"

She returned with a platter of beer-battered fish and enough fries for six people. Then she went back for my salad. Potato salad. I kid you not.

Here's my recipe for a potato casserole featuring Irish Cheddar cheese. ● Robin Benzle lives in Bay Village and hosts the food and travel website, www.robinbenzle.com.



IRISH POTATO CASSEROLE

- 4 large Idaho potatoes, peeled and chunked
- 2 medium-large onions, chopped
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 8 ounces Irish Cheddar cheese, cut into 8-10 slices

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large saucepan, boil potatoes until tender. Meanwhile, in a medium skillet, sauté onions in a little olive oil until soft. Add tomatoes and cook over medium heat, until almost all the liquid is gone, but it is still very moist. Drain potatoes (do not rinse), return to saucepan and coarsely mash with a fork. Season with salt and pepper. Butter a 9" casserole dish. Spread half the potatoes in the bottom. Top with half the onion-tomato mixture. Arrange 4 – 5 slices of cheese on top. Repeat. Bake for about 40 minutes, uncovered, until golden (I like to turn the oven to broil for the last couple of minutes so the cheese is extra brown). Serves 4. Goes well with corned beef and a great big SALAD.

Construction on the Fuller House to begin this spring

by Ray Young

Twenty-six years after it was moved to the BAYarts Campus, the Irene Lawrence Fuller House will finally be restored. Thanks to the recent announcement by the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission approving a \$250,000 grant, a commitment by Cleveland Metroparks for an additional \$100,000 as well as other donations, the dream will become a reality just in time to coincide with Bay Village's Bicentennial Celebration in October. Peter Winzig, a Bay Village resident and BAYarts board member, coordinated the project for BAYarts.

The Fuller House was saved from demolition in 1984 when the organization's former director, Sally Price, saw its potential as an art gallery and education facility. Sparky DiBenedetto, whose company was building a new project on the site, agreed and, along with generous community support, helped make the move possible. Unlike the traditional means of moving a house down main roads, the Fuller House was transported on a barge on Lake Erie – a more affordable solution which drew international media attention.

Once completed, the building will

be used as an art gallery and classrooms and will be available for public use and rentals.

"We are very excited to finally begin our renovation project after all these years," said Winzig. "With the help of the OCFC, Cleveland Metroparks, area businesses and an outpouring of community interest, we can expand our campus and provide even more first-rate programming and events for generations to come."

Local landscapers Byron and Julia Shutt of Maple Leaf Landscaping will design and construct the surrounding garden beds with the Metroparks. Like the existing Welcome Garden on the BAYarts Campus which is sponsored by the Village Foundation of Bay Village, the new gardens will be themed and available for naming rights to individuals or groups. Bay Village Kiwanis will restore the Fuller's original doors. There have already been commitments for the naming rights to rooms. According to Winzig, "this is really a community project and the support has been nothing less than inspiring."

BAYarts will be updating their website regularly as they progress. A scrap-



The Fuller House heads to its new home in 1984.

book in the Gallery House welcomes you to share your Fuller House memories. For information on donating or naming rights, please contact Executive Director

Nancy Heaton or Peter Winzig at info@bayarts.net or 440-871-6543. ● Ray Young is a former BAYarts President and currently a trustee.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Fuller House was originally located on the grounds of the Bay View hospital on Lake Road. Dr. Sam Sheppard and his brothers moved their parents into the house in June 1954. The family moved out of the house in 1955. According to the timeline of Rich Sheppard's testimony at his brother's trial, Dr. Sam was arrested on the front porch and charged with the murder of his wife, Marilyn. The Fuller site is now occupied by the luxurious Cashelmara condominiums.

Fun Facts for the Bay Bicentennial

• Did you know in 1870 "Lil Bill" Aldrich was raising Hereford cattle in Dover Township on Bassett Road?

• Did you know butter and eggs went to market on the interurban railroad?

• Did you know Henry Aldrich had 21 varieties of apple trees and 17 varieties of peach trees in his orchard on Bradley Road?



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Bay animals should not be forgotten

by Nancy Brown

The 2010 Bay Village budget process will be coming to closure at the end of March. There is not much time left for residents to make a difference in the direction the city could be headed.

There are Bay Village city councilmen that do not understand nor have attempted to grasp the importance of an animal care and control officer. Their lack of understanding potentially raises significant safety issues for our animals and Bay residents.

Of the approximate 14,000-plus residents in Bay, it is estimated that at least half of those probably have two or more domesticated pets.

Some of us have been stopped by a police officer for questionable judgment or not abiding by the law. An animal control officer performs the same function – enforcing the laws that have been put in place to protect people and animals. It's not pleasant getting a warning or a violation from either.

If you have been reading the Bay Village Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, The Vehicle Replacement, the bond debt and projected end of the year fund balances – public record documents available to all residents – it is obvious that the city is facing financial chal-

lenges. I feel that an animal control officer and an upgraded kennel are essential services.

Let's keep the safety and success of our animals and families in Bay a priority.

Bay Village has an animal control officer that does NOT euthanize to just make room or because an animal hisses, sneezes or eliminates in their cage. If one must be euthanized, it is humanely and respectfully. This is not necessarily the case in our neighboring communities.

Residents have consistently proven that we can support most of the kennel activities with donations and networking. Local builders have stepped forward to offer materials and time to upgrade the kennel (no plans have been approved yet). Grant information has been suggested and forwarded to the administration to act on, too.

Please help the animals in Bay Village NOW – ask your elected officials to keep a place in the city budget for our animals. Attend a city council meeting and get on the record. If you can't do that, please email your opinion and/or suggestions to Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council, at JKemper@cityofbayvillage.com and ask her to read your letter into the council minutes.

I thank you in advance for your efforts to insure that due diligence and good stewardship of our tax dollars are in place. ●

Nancy Brown lives in Bay Village.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Local personal trainer goes against the grain

by Bart Rippl

Beware, citizens of Westlake! There's a mad scientist lurking amongst you, one whose goal of reanimating human tissue is not entirely dissimilar to that of Victor Frankenstein, Mary Shelley's fictional 19th-century gothic character.

But fear not, good people. Extinguish those torches and drop your pitchforks. For while posterity regards Dr. Frankenstein as a cautionary tale of well-intended science run amok, Tom Roso today is respected locally as an exemplary tale in creative, goal-oriented exercise physiology with tangible results to boot!

Certified as a personalized trainer and nutrition specialist by the IFPA (International Fitness Professionals Association) and proprietor of The Restructuring Zone, Bay Village resident Tom Roso, 60, boasts a clientele as diverse as his various exercise regimens.

An active competitor in the unforgiving sport of bodybuilding during the mid-1980s, Tom learned first-hand what it takes to bring a body to its peak potentials and what pitfalls to avoid. It was through these trials and errors, coupled with early ownership in a health and fitness store, that Tom honed his personal training skills.

"It stemmed from owning a health and fitness store whereby I was able to help people select programs and supplements and simply knowing that I can make a difference in their lives," he said.

Over the course of 22 years of working with individuals and groups of all ages, Tom developed his specialty: tailoring individualized programs to meet the needs and goals of his clients.

But the tools Tom employs are anything but run-of-the-mill cardio and weight lifting, and this is where his "mad science" enters the picture.

Affectionately labeled "training outside the box," Tom's repertoire includes a variety of unconventional methods such as Asymmetrical Weight Training, Scooter-Assisted Core Training, Rope-Assisted Core/Cardio Training, Boxing and Bands and Kettle Bell Training. Of course, the creativity doesn't stop here because Tom is constantly seeking out new and better means to

physical fitness.

Asked what separates him from other personal trainers, Tom hesitates for a moment and then opines, with reluctant candor, "Keeping the 'personal' in personal training. There's no 'one size fits all' because every client is different. And my training sessions do not include a lot of social-



Personalized trainer Tom Roso

izing and chit-chat – my clients are here to work out and get results. Period."

Results are the touchstone for any personal trainer worth his salt, and just one glance at Tom's chiseled features informs the observer that he practices what he preaches. And the results realized by Tom's clients have yielded an ever growing clientele necessitating expansion of The Restructuring Zone.

"Due to the increased demand in my business, I hired Ms. Adrienne Costanzo who has been active in the health and fitness field for over 12 years and who shares my beliefs and principles with respect to helping people."

Asked what his plans are for the future, Tom is sanguine. "My plans are to work on my Master Personal Training certification and expand The Restructuring Zone to reach more people and help them achieve more productive lives by being healthy." ●

Bart Rippl lives in Westlake.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 26, 6-7:30 p.m.

Animals a la Mode

If you like live animals, lots of audience participation and ice cream for the whole family, check out "Animals a la Mode." This upbeat, interactive show is topped off with a serving of delicious ice cream! Each "Animals a la Mode" program includes a different mix of animals. Pre-registration is required at a \$5/person fee (children under 1 free) and you can make reservations by calling 440-871-2900.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village

February 26, 7-10 p.m.

A Taste of Westlake

Citizens for Westlake Schools is holding its "A Taste of Westlake" fundraiser to benefit its campaign efforts. The event will feature food from local restaurants, including: Champpps, Saucy Bistro, Stonehouse Grille, Panini's, Brio, Picc-A-Deli Cafe, Ironwood Cafe, Whistle Stop, Si Senor, Rusty Barrel, Savannah Bar & Grille, Loco Leprechaun, Mitchell's Tavern, First Watch, and more. Cost is \$30 per person.

LaCentre Banquet Facility, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake

For more information and to order tickets: <http://www.westlakelevy.com/>

February 27, 1-2 p.m.

Free 'Cane-Fu' Self-Defense Seminar

See story on page six of this issue.

Westlake Martial Arts, 27321 Detroit Road, Westlake

For more information, contact Master Gary Yano at 440-250-2787.

March 1

Order Deadline – Bay High PTSA Annual Citrus Sale

The Bay High PTSA is holding its annual Citrus Sale through March 1. Ruby red grapefruit, navel oranges, juice oranges and Gala apples are available for purchase. Proceeds help to cover the costs of student assignment books, assemblies, teacher projects and more. The order deadline is March 1, and the curbside pickup date is March 6, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon.

For more information and to print an order form: <http://www.bayvillage-eschools.com/index.aspx?NID=158>

March 3, 1-2:30 p.m.

Free Family History Research Help Session

The Ohio Genealogical Society, Cuyahoga West Chapter is offering a free family history research help session at the Westlake library. Members will be available to assist other members and the general public with their genealogical research.

Westlake Porter Public Library, Conference Room, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

For more information: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs/>

March 3, 5:30 p.m.

Walk With The Mayor

Join Mayor Clough for a walk on the indoor track at the Westlake Recreation Center. All are welcome – you do not need to be a member to attend. Walks last from 45-60 minutes.

Westlake Recreation Center Lobby, 28955 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake

March 5, 8 p.m.

'The Chalk Garden' opens at Clague Playhouse

See story on the front page of this issue.

Clague Playhouse, 1371 Clague Road, Westlake

For more information: <http://www.clagueplayhouse.org>

March 6, 6:30 p.m.

Rotary Club Reverse Raffle

The Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Club is holding its annual Reverse Raffle at Lakewood Country Club. The evening includes a \$2000 grand prize drawing, side boards, a 50/50 raffle, a table raffle and a silent auction. A donation of \$175 per couple includes dinner for two, open bar and one entry in the main drawing. Music and dancing will follow the raffle.

Lakewood Country Club, 2613 Bradley Road, Westlake

For tickets, contact Pat Graham at (216) 952-5556 or John England at (216) 346-8371.

March 7, 2-5 p.m.

'Cead Mile Failte'

An Afternoon of Irish Music, Dance and Tea

Enjoy an authentic Irish Tea with scones, soda bread and many more tasty treats including a Silent/Chinese Auction to support the civic and community involvement of the Bay Village Democratic Club. This event supports our annual scholarship award for two Bay High School seniors. Entertainment provided by Mike and Nan O'Malley & Dancers from the Burke School of Irish Dance. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 students; children under 5 are complimentary.

Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140

For more information: <http://www.bayvillagedems.com>

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