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Skate park design moves to Planning Commission

by **Lawrence Kuh**

The Bay Skate & Bike Park Foundation continues to work with the city of Bay Village to make the dream of a public skate & bike park in Bay Village a reality. After six years of patience and persistence, the foundation has acquired the official approval of the Bay Village City Council and Cahoon Will Trustees to utilize the location south of Rose Hill sledding area for the project.

The foundation now has to present to various boards within the city, starting with the Planning Commission on March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

» See SKATE , page 2



Preliminary concept of the Bay Village Skate and Bike Park in Cahoon Memorial Park, as viewed from Cahoon Road.

Westlake student recognized for exemplary volunteerism

At the March 18 Westlake City Council meeting, mayor Dennis Clough recognized Elizabeth “Lila” Greco for receiving the prestigious Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and proclaimed March 19, 2010, as “Elizabeth Greco our Prudential Spirit of Community Award Honoree” Day in Westlake.

Of the more than 21,000 students nationwide who applied for the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, Lila was chosen by the state-level judges as “one of the top eight runners-up” for Ohio, earning her a bronze Distinguished Finalist medallion.

As a member of the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio in Macedonia, Lila worked with Building Hope in the City, an outreach ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on Cleveland’s west side. She collected 700 gently used uniform items and started a “school uniform closet,” where disadvantaged Cleveland school children can obtain their required school uniforms free of charge.

Lila, a junior at Westlake High School, also coordinated the sewing of 250 re-usable waterproof nylon drawstring bags for the homeless. She collected winter hats, gloves, warm socks, toiletries and children’s books and toys to put in the bags.

She also purchased items using money she raised by selling crafts at the St. John Westshore Festival of the Arts and with donations from the Cleveland Browns, Vietnam Veterans Fairview Park Post and individuals. Lila and her volunteers distributed the bags at two of Building Hope in the City’s community meals in December 2008.

This is the 15th year of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which are conducted by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. ●



Mayor Dennis Clough presents a proclamation to Elizabeth Greco for receiving the prestigious Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Tickets on sale for annual Victorian Tea

by **Cynthia Eakin**

Tickets are on sale for the Bay Village Historical Society’s annual Victorian Tea, which will take place on April 24, 2 p.m., at Dwyer Center. For the first time, the tea will feature a children’s vintage clothing style

show. Models will wear tiny hats and frilly clothing along with parasols. “Turn of the century” dolls and toys will be featured.

There will be a drawing for an American Girl doll and 18-inch doll clothes will be for sale.

Afternoon party dress is

suggested. Victorian attire, hats and white gloves are optional. Dolls are invited.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children over five years of age. All proceeds benefit Rose Hill Museum and the Reuben Osborn Learning Center. Phone (440) 871-4797. ●

Enjoy jazz and more at Ballroom Blitz

by **Diane Frye**

The 18th annual Ballroom Blitz will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 6:30-10:00 p.m. at Bay Middle School. This year, the middle school will be transformed into a New Orleans supper club – the perfect setting to enjoy vintage jazz and swing performed by

the Bay High School Jazz and Stage Bands and the Bay Middle School Jazz Ensemble.

Besides superb music, Ballroom Blitz guests also will be treated to dinner with appetizers and desserts, a variety of beverages including the famous smoothie bar, balloon raffles and a silent auction.

For reservations, contact

Teresa at 440-835-2164 by April 10. Admission for the evening is \$30 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, or \$200 for a table of eight. All proceeds benefit the instrumental music programs of the Bay Village City Schools. ●

Dianne Frye lives in Bay Village and is the Membership Chair for Bay High School PTSA.



Seniors from the Bay High Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Ballroom Blitz on April 24. It will be the sixth consecutive year of participation for most of these students. Pictured left-to-right: Jerrie Strunk, Jeff Kantor, Peter Kahnert, Harrison Brill, Andy Meyer, Melissa Willis, Joe Colleran and Katelyn Waddle. Not pictured: Ben Schreiberman.

at City Hall, to receive approval of the design, landscaping, and overall construction details.

This is the fun part we've been waiting for! The kids involved in the project not only get to do fundraising, but finally get to make design recommendations that will positively affect future generations.

BSBP is making every effort to recommend a design that is sustainable, requires little maintenance, and serves the needs and desires of the local users.

BSBP Foundation needs everyone's support right now, not only through attendance at public meetings, but financially.

The foundation currently has enough funding to pay for phase one of the project, the plaza section, but needs an additional \$60,000 to fund the bowl, which is planned for phase two.

Ideally, the park will be completed in its entirety this summer. However, that won't occur without more funding.

Please visit BSBP.org to find out



A conceptual design of the Bay Village Skate and Bike Park looking south from the sledding hill.

more about the project and to help fund the bowl section of the park. BSBP Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

All donations are tax deductible (tax id# 20-3010546). Thank you to everyone who has believed in this project! A grassroots community proj-

ect like this only happens when people work together. ●

Lawrence Kuh is a founding member of the Bay Skate and Bike Park Foundation.

Bay Village Schools' Destination Imagination teams perform at regional tournament, three head to state level

by Karen Derby

Three Bay Village Schools teams won first place at the Destination Imagination (DI) Regional Tournament held at Beachwood High School on Saturday, March 13. All the teams performed at highly creative levels.

Westerly Elementary's Ninja Navigators built a weight-bearing table using only newspapers and glue and performed a skit focused on the Kyoto Treaty, with their Ninja mapmakers in keeping with their Japanese theme. The team includes third graders Ben Noren, Amelia Robinson, Max Schell, and Alex Semancik. Parent Elizabeth Noren is the team manager.



The Blossoming Narnian Rainbow Fairies (first place winners in regional Destination Imagination): left-to-right - Bay Middle School seventh graders Monica Corker, Haylee Maude, Andrea Bliscik, Bethany Comienski, Maria Lally.



The Ninja Navigators (first place winners in regional Destination Imagination): left to right, front - Bay Village Westerly Elementary third graders Alex Semancik, Max Schell, Amelia Robinson and Ben Noren. Parent team manager (back) is Elizabeth Noren.

Bay Middle School's The Garden Gnomes Farming Evil Inc. used the story of the Turks' destruction of the Greek Parthenon in a skit and built a newspaper and glue Parthenon of their own. The team members are sixth-graders Sam Fiorella, Evan Harms and Jack Rohde. Parent Michelle Fiorella is the team manager.

Bay Middle School's Blossoming Narnian Rainbow Fairies performed improvisational skits where ten potential characters were researched ahead of time. Students were then given a randomly-selected character to use during the competition. The team incorporated the giant panda in danger of extinction, a suspicious person and a champion burper-as-superpower during their impromptu performances. This team included

seventh-graders Andrea Bliscik, Bethany Comienski, Monica Corker, Maria Lally and Haylee Maude. Parent Elizabeth Lally is the team manager. The Fairies also won a special award for creativity.

Other Bay Middle School teams winning medals were Purple Platypi (second place) and Thirsty Hippies (third place). Purple Platypi team members are sixth-graders Andy Creech, Connor Herbruck, Owen Humphrey, Amanda Miller, Annie Petes and Jake Waffin, with parent Traci Herbruck as team manager and John Creech as co-

manager. Thirsty Hippies team members are fifth-graders Phil Lally, Kyle McPhillips, Olivia Risch and Maxton Edgerly, with parent Holly Risch as team manager.

The Westerly team Reese's Pieces made a wonderful presentation focusing on friendship, with fourth-graders Ben Beam, Madison Boduch, Rachel Chudzinski, Connor Flynn and Julia Kuh managed by parent Heather Boduch.

Special credit goes to the Westerly Elementary team of Barney's Mystical Cheese Puffs, with fourth-graders Olivia Barber, Deborah Garner, Delaney McDonald, Sara Sirignano, Tera Vangelos, Emma Ward and parent managers Valerie Kay-Sirignano and Barry Ward, who had to redesign their entire performance when a team member became ill the morning of the tournament.

Also winning medals in the Weighty News challenge at the tournament were two Normandy Elementary School teams. The Yankees of DI included second-graders Eliza Aleksandrovic, Courtney Dixon, Stephen Douglas and Noah Lowery, with parent team managers Jacquelyn Dixon and Susan Douglas. The Five Superstars included first-graders Samantha Gulley, Anya Krumbine, Ella Boyer, Grace Chambers, Nolan Sooy and Kendall

Thomas, with parent team manager Kristen Thomas.

The three first-place teams advance to the state competition on Saturday, April 17, in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Marian Harmount, Enrichment Resource Teacher at the Bay Village Schools, is the advisor for Destination Imagination.

Students work with their Destination Imagination team members and volunteers after school to solve mind-bending challenges and present their solutions at DI tournaments. Each team competes twice throughout the day, completing a Central Challenge worth 225 points (where teams demonstrate their special skills and talents in music, art, technology, creativity and humor) and then an Instant Challenge (which tests the team's ability to think on their feet with an impromptu challenge given to them and less than 10 minutes to solve).

The challenges make students think on their feet, work together, and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the challenges, steering them toward unleashing their imaginations and finding unique approaches to problem solving. ●

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

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

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A bit of Bay history



Photo courtesy of the Bay village Historical Society.

To supplement their farm income, the Cahoons built a fish house at the mouth of Cahoon Creek in the early 1800's. The building was later leased to the Buckeye Fish company.

Fun Facts for the Bay Bicentennial

- Did you know the Cahoons and Tuttles raised sheep? The Tuttles sold theirs to the Silverthorn Hotel in Rockport.
- Did you know there are Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and Spanish-American War soldiers buried in our Lakeside Cemetery?
- Did you know the Cahoon brothers constructed and ran a general store on Dover Center Road in the 1860s?

FINANCE

Back to the basics - to help you stay on track

by Mark Zagrocki

If watch the myriad investment programs on TV today you will notice a wide array of strategies and game plans to help you make the most of your investments. It is easy to become overwhelmed with all of the information and advice available today; however, it's often best to stick to the basics when seeking consistent results.

As with a lot of things, once we feel we finally have a handle on the basics it's easy to forget those simple things that got us started and instead chase after newer, more complicated ideas. To help you stay on track, let's look at five investing basics to help you stay on track.

1. Start Early. Time is certainly an ally you want on your side when it comes to investing. The longer you have to receive the benefits of compounded returns the better. The beauty of compounding is that by reinvesting your returns, you actually earn money on both your original investment and any growth you experience.

2. Don't Put It Off. Everyday there are new toys and "need-to-have's" that make it too easy to put off saving for the larger, important things in life, like retirement or education. You may need to forgo some of the pleasures today in order to set money aside for the future.

3. Prioritize Your Needs. It is important to line up your goals in order of importance and decide how you're going to finance them. Many goals will be financed through savings, but others may require some debt. For

example, you carefully plan out your budget and realize you can't save for both retirement and college expenses. Borrowing to pay for college is most likely a better option than borrowing to pay for post-retirement expenses. Otherwise, you may have to work during retirement to help support yourself.

4. Pay Yourself First. Save before you spend rather than saving what's left after you spend. There are too many things to spend money on today, and saving after you have purchased all the new toys may be detrimental. Instead you can set-up systematic deposits into your investment accounts on a regular basis, including your IRAs.

5. Participate In Your Company's Savings and Retirement Plan. Using pre-tax contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan — such as a 401(k) — can really pay dividends, and if your employer offers a matching contribution, you're essentially getting paid to save.

These are just a few ideas to help you remember the basics when it comes to investing. No matter how much you accumulate, or how well-versed you think you've become, it's important to always remember the fundamentals so you can stay on the right course. ●

Mark Zagrocki is a Financial Advisor and Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor in Westlake.

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Are you making these security mistakes when surfing the web?

by Walter Ely

Does your computer ever run slow, act funny, or crash unexpectedly? Do you get a ton of pop-up ads, even when you are not actively surfing the web? Has your browser been "hijacked" and replaced with another unknown browser?

If so, your computer is infected with malicious spyware and viruses that can alter your computer, steal your confidential information, and disable the use of your PC, leaving you without a computer for hours or days while you get it fixed. And what's worse —most times once your computer has been hit by these threats, it has to be completely wiped in order to fix it.

Unless you have a backup image (a snapshot of everything on the PC, exactly as it is), it will never quite be the same again. You may lose software programs that you downloaded, but don't have the disk for, your icons won't be where you remember them, and "little" things like your default printer could be all screwed up. It can be a nightmare.

One big misconception many computer users have about spyware and viruses is that these programs somehow invaded their computer through no action or fault of their own — in most cases, this is simply not true. Malware, spyware, and viruses are usually a result of some action taken by the user (you or someone that uses your computer).

Remember, cyber criminals are incredibly clever and gain access to your computer via some of the most innocent and common activities you are performing; that is why it seems as though it is your computer's fault when in reality, you are unknowingly giving these hackers and auto-loading devastating programs free access to your computer.

Deadly programs to avoid are free "enhanced" web browsers, screen savers, and just about any "cute" programs you come across that are free to download. Always read the terms and conditions before downloading any program to look for clauses that allow them (the software vendor) to install spyware programs on your computer.

Unfortunately, installing programs is not the only way a hacker or malware program can access your computer. If you do not have the most up-to-date security patches and virus definitions installed on your computer, hackers can access your PC through a banner ad on the web that you accidentally clicked on or through an e-mail attachment that you opened.

Hackers have also figured out ways to install malicious programs on your computer via your Internet Explorer web browser, even if you didn't click on anything or download a program. Microsoft is constantly providing "patches" to their operating system software, and all it takes is one missed update to leave you completely vulnerable.

It's important to check for computer updates often. An innocent web search can bring on a host of viruses, hacker invasions, or other evil attacks that may end up costing you hundreds of dollars in repair costs. ●

Walter Ely is President/COO of System Care Inc. in Westlake.

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LBMS E-Club participates in Maasai Music Project

by Kim Bonvissuto

The Maasai Music Project (MMP) is a cutting-edge collaboration between the Cincinnati Zoo, Miami University, the African Conservation Center, and The Lee Burneson Middle School (LBMS) Environmental Club (a national-award-winning youth organization).

Middle and high school students from the United States will travel to Kenya, Africa, this summer to write and record collaborative original music with Maasai of the same age. The participants will also collaborate on additional science, education and artistic objectives.

The Maasai Music Project

MMP is unique in its goals and innovative in its approach. The LBMS Environmental Club (E-Club) believes that science, art and education are not separate, isolated disciplines, but instead deeply interconnected. We believe that the most powerful force for change is the uniting of many voices into a collective voice, and the uniting of many disciplines under one cause. And, we believe that kids have a voice and they should be heard.

We have been recognized by major educational and environmental organizations for our groundbreaking combination of science, art, music, environmental education, outreach and activism. Last year we received the 2009 Sea World Environmental Excellence Award, and this year we were approached by a coalition of the Cincinnati Zoo, Miami University and the African Conservation Center to create an amazing new project with the Maasai of Kenya's South Rift Valley: The Maasai Music Project, an environmental and science education and outreach collaboration between members of The Environmental Club and Maasai children from Kenya's South Rift Valley.

The main goals of MMP are:

* To develop and implement a cutting edge model for youth organizations and educators around the world that joins conservation, science, music, art and education.

* To provide kids with a voice to speak about what is important to them, no matter whom they are or where they are from, to empower kids and cut through class, age and social status.

* To continue the mission of The Environmental Club: "To reach as many people as possible with a positive mes-

sage about caring for the environment, to show that kids have a voice, and they can make a difference"

*To write and record a CD of music written collaboratively by Maasai and E-Club kids.

*To gather GPS and site data that will be used by E-Club members and other science students in a Geospatial Technology research and mapping project.

What makes the MMP special? First, we are not simply doing the "kid version" of something real, but we are kids doing something real, something special, something that has never been done before. This project is serious, valid and groundbreaking, and it is backed by major science and education institutions.

Unlike many service projects in Africa, MMP is not about charity, social work, or sightseeing. There will be no donor/recipient relationship. For the first time ever, kids from the United States will be working with kids in Africa to unite their voices, to create original art and music together.

The music we create will be authentic, and it will be used in important ways. The Maasai communities will use the music to draw attention to their research and conservation efforts, which are the best examples in the world of "community-based conservation" that works.

The Cincinnati Zoo and Miami University will use the music to draw attention to their programs and to continue their mission to educate and inspire. In E-Club we will use our collaboration with the Maasai to continue our award-winning program and to further our ultimate goals: to grow our environmental programs and to let our voices be heard around the world. This is not the "kid version" of a real thing. . . This is kids doing the real thing.

MMP Concert Fundraiser

The event will take place at McCarthy's Downtown. Special for this event: McCarthy's secret recipe pizza for \$1 a slice, \$1 baked goods, and \$1 drafts along with the normal full menu. The event will include a music concert, art show, jewelry and craft sales, a raffle, video screenings and plenty of information on the Maasai Music Project.

Call Daniel at 440-840-3907 for information or check out the MMP website at www.maasaimusicproject.org/. ●

Kim Bonvissuto is the Communications Coordinator for Westlake City Schools.

Springtime garden planning

by Raymond Biltz

With spring upon us, it is time to begin thinking about your flower and vegetable gardens for this year. Many nurseries, garden centers and mail-order catalogs have a wide selection of seeds, starter plants, spring and summer bulbs, annuals and perennials to look at and get ideas from.

In our area (Zones 5 and 6) keep in mind those plants which are hardy to this climate. Determine if you have full sun or partial sun or shady areas in your yard. Then you can figure out which plants will grow best in those places.

For example, ferns do best in the shade where it is moist. Marigolds like heat and full sun. Next, assess your soil. Is it sandy, clay or rocky? If so, you will need to amend it. This can be

done with topsoil, leaf-humus, peat moss or compost.

If you are growing vegetables, find out if you want cool or warm crops. Beets, carrots, peas and lettuce are cool plants. Beans, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and peppers are warm plants. Always read the labels and seed packets to determine which plants you have. Follow the directions exactly for the best results.

For flower gardens you can mix different tall varieties for background or privacy screening and short plants for borders or intermix for contrast.

So sit back, look out at your yard, pick up the seed catalog or call your local nursery and start planning that beautiful garden that you can enjoy all season and every one hereafter. Have fun.●

Ray Biltz lives in Bay Village.



MATHCOUNTS champs

by Kim Bonvissuto

The LBMS MATHCOUNTS team took home first place and the top three individual awards in the national middle school competitive mathematics program. The team of Kartik Dhinakaran, Krish Shah, Aswin Bikkani, Chris Tsuei took the first-place team award.

They will go on to compete in the state competition in Columbus this weekend. Ameesh Shah also will participate in the state competition in an

individual level.

Individual awards went to Kartik Dhinakaran, first place; Krish Shah, second place; and Aswin Bikkani, third place.

MATHCOUNTS promotes mathematics achievement through a series of "bee" style contests. The program is supported by the National Society of Professional Engineers at the state and local levels.

Other participants in the competition were Cal Craven, Austin Moran and Calvin Pozderac. ●

Superior performances

by Kim Bonvissuto

The Westlake High School String Orchestra achieved the top rating of "Superior" from every adjudicator at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) State Orchestra Contest held at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium.

Orchestras from throughout Northeast Ohio attended the event. Three adjudicators judged the orchestra on three prepared selections in the auditorium, and a fourth judge rated them in sight-reading.

The WHS Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Chorale and Women's Choir also achieved "Superior" ratings at the OMEA District Adjudicated Event. All four groups will go on to compete at the OMEA State Event in April.

Congratulations to all of these WHS musical groups. ●



The Westlake High School String Orchestra

Bay Library programs

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Thursday April 1 (7 p.m.) AUTHOR VISIT WITH THRITY UMRIGAR – Join nationally-known local author of “The Weight of Heaven,” “If Today Be Sweet,” and “The Space Between Us.” A book signing will follow the presentation.

Thursday, April 15 (7 p.m.) POWER OF PLANT NUTRITION IN DISEASE PREVENTION – Learn why fruits and vegetables are so essential in obtaining optimal health, building a strong immune system and preventing disease.

Monday, April 19 (7 p.m.) AUTHOR VISIT WITH JOHN STARK BELLAMY II – John Stark Bellamy II will return to the Cleveland area to talk about his new book “Cleveland’s Greatest Disasters: 16 Tragic True Tales of Death and Destruction: an Anthology.” A book signing will follow the presentation.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, March 24 (4 p.m.) ‘THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE’ – Can a crocodile and a monkey really be friends? Enjoy swimming in the Ganges River, chomping crocodile jaws and greeting each other in Hindi in this tale that explores themes of friendship, honesty and cleverness. Presented by World of Difference.

Thursdays, March 25 (7 p.m.) IT’S A GIRL’S WORLD – Girls are invited to bring an adult female friend for some fun. We will discuss a good book, share a snack and try a related project.

Thursday April 15 (3:30 p.m.) TEEN CRAFT CLUB – Make something fun and useful after school. Crafts include bottle cap necklaces, button making, and more. For grades 6-12.

Tuesday April 20 (6:30 p.m.) TEEN SUMMER AND PART-TIME JOB SEARCH – Our career Counselor will teach you how to complete job applications and impress potential employers with your communication and interviewing skills. For ages 14-19.

CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

Wednesday March 25 (4 p.m.) THE MONKEY AND THE CROCODILE – World of Difference will present this Hindi tale that explores the themes of friendship, honesty, and cleverness. For ages preK-grade 2 and adults.

Tuesday April 6 (11 a.m.) STORIGAMI WITH CHRISTINE KALLEVIG – It’s spring vacation and ages 4-11 are invited to enjoy origami stories told by author Christine Kallevig. Sponsored by the Bay Village Early Childhood PTA.

Wednesday April 7 (7 p.m.) FAMILIES READING TOGETHER – Celebrate National Poetry Month! Bring your favorite poem to share and we’ll provide the treats! For families with readers ages 8 - 12.

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

Thrity Umrigar to speak at Bay Library

Bay Village Branch Library is pleased to host a visit with nationally known author Thrity Umrigar, whose books include “The Weight of Heaven,” “The Space Between Us” and “If Today be Sweet.” The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. on April 1, and registration is requested.

While Ms. Umrigar’s books are often set in locales far from Cleveland, she examines the hopes, sorrows and fears that are the shared experiences of everyone regardless of culture, family ties or economic circumstances. Her themes are universal and resonate with a varied audience of readers.

An associate professor of English at Case Western Reserve University, Ms. Umrigar recently received the Mid-career Award, a Cleveland Arts Prize awarded to artists who have made significant contributions to the arts and are linked to Northeast Ohio. A book selling and signing will follow Ms. Umrigar’s presentation.

To register, visit cuyahogalibrary.org or call 440-871-6392.

Award-winning author - and friend - Shelley Pearsall coming to Bay Village

by Joyce Sandy

Ohio native and multi-award-winning author Shelley Pearsall will visit Bay Village on April 12. After spending the afternoon speaking to Bay Middle School 6th graders, she will present a program that is open to the public at the Bay Village Library.

Beginning at 7 p.m. she will discuss writing in general and her style and ideas specifically. Books will be available for signing at the program.

Her first historical fiction novel, “Trouble Don’t Last,” won the Scott

O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction in 2003, and the novel “All of the Above” was a 2007 ALA Notable book.

Shelley graduated from the College of Wooster and holds a master’s degree in Education from John Carroll University. Although no longer a classroom teacher, she enjoys visiting schools as a guest author. Shelley is at work on her next book – an historical fiction novel set in 1945.

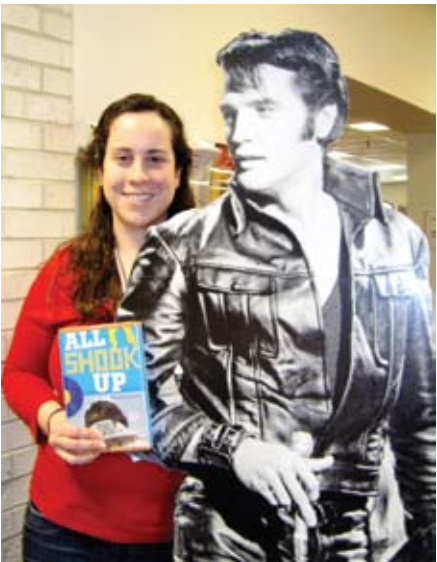
Her most recent book, “All Shook Up,” is about a boy whose father becomes an Elvis impersonator. Thirteen-year-old Josh is not thrilled about this, and when his dad is invited to perform at his school

Josh is forced to take drastic action.

As a treat for all who attend the library program that evening, Elvis will be in the building! Elvis will be serenading the audience with some of his favorite songs and it will be OK to be caught singing along with him!

No one will want to miss this special evening, which is provided by the Bay Middle School and the Friends of the Bay Village Library. Please register to attend and we’ll see you April 12 at 7 p.m. for a rockin’ good book time!

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



Teen librarian Liza Kahoe-Arthur can’t wait to get “All Shook Up” with “Elvis” and local author Shelley Pearsall on April 12.



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Sea Scout flag travels the world



Sea Scout Gabriel Felici holds the Sea Scout flag, accompanied by the Color Guard.

by Richard Gash

A navy blue Sea Scout flag traveling around the world made its only stop in the U.S. to participate in Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of scouting in America. The flag arrived from New Zealand via Hong Kong just in time for the parade. It originated its journey from the grave site in Scotland of Warington Baden-Powell, the founder of Sea Scouts. At each of the stops a country's celebratory patch will be sewn onto the flag.

With over 1,000 Boy Scouts marching in the parade the flag helped to emphasize that scouting is a worldwide movement. "It's great to be part of history in the making... from here the flag is to be sent by express to Barcelona, Spain," said Gabriel Felici, a Sea Scout with Ship 41 of Bay Village. Later this year the flag will be put on display at the Boy Scout museum at Gilwell Park, England.

Sea Scouting is a division of the Boy Scouts for coeducational youth from 13-21 years old. For more information, Sea Scout Ship 41 can be reached at 871-6106 or by email at skipper@seascoutship41.org. Richard Gash is the skipper of Sea Scout Ship 41.

Hit the trails, hold a live animal, launch a rocket at a 2010 summer camp

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Teaming Up With BAYarts To Offer Brand New Dual Camp

by Shawn Salamone

Want your children to thank you for getting them off the couch this summer? Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is betting the kids won't mind putting down the game controllers if they can hit the trails to the creek and Lake Erie, interact with live animals, launch rockets and enjoy starry planetarium shows, magical science experiments, games, crafts and tons of time exploring the Great Outdoors!

Summer Registration for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Members began Saturday, March 20 and opens to everyone on March 30. The newly released 2010 camp schedule includes the return of tried and true favorites like "The Science of Wizardry" and brand new offerings like "Let the Wild Rumpus Begin," which includes creative time at the neighboring BAYarts.

"We're excited to collaborate with BAYarts on this dual camp that offers the best of both worlds – a morning of hikes, live animals and natural fun in and around Lake Erie Nature & Science Center and an afternoon of pottery, painting, drawing and printing at BAYarts," said Center Education Director Darci Sanders. Wild Rumpus is open to kids between the ages of 5 and 14 but campers will be grouped by age and enjoy age-appropriate activities. Registration for this camp takes place ONLY at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

School-aged kids who've completed Kindergarten through 8th Grade can also enroll in the Center's one

week "wizardry school." The Harry Potter-inspired "Science of Wizardry" groups students by age into "houses" and sends them to classes mixing "Potions," learning the "Care of Magical Creatures," exploring forest and field in "Herbology" and practicing the ancient art of "Divination" in the Center's Schuele Planetarium.

The always-popular Nature Nuts preschool camp will include a new four-day, single week option this summer, or children can attend one day a week in a traditional four-week session. Children ages 3 - 5 sing, paint, hike, explore and meet cool animals up close.

For 5 and 6-year-olds, there are nine different Log Cabin Kinder camps to choose from. Every Kinder camper (pre-K welcome too!) enjoys quality time stomping in the creek, combing the beach and enjoying the Center's animals, but because each camp takes on a different theme, kids can sign up for more than one week.

Children in Grades 1 and 2 can eat space ice cream, try on an astronaut sleeping bag and send up a water rocket at "Space Explorers" camps, while kids who've completed Grades 2 - 6 are eligible for beginner or advanced "Rocket Camp," where they'll build and launch a real model rocket.

A field trip to Common Ground in Oberlin, where there are cool activities like a ropes course, is part of the "Survival of the Fittest" Junior Naturalist Day Camp for Grades 5 - 8 in June. Campers will also learn survival skills and "survive" an evening of night hiking, star-gazing, playing games and munching on pizza at the Center.

An overnight camp for Middle Schoolers will make stops across Northeast Ohio as part of an exciting hands-on field biology experience. This is the second year for the Wanderers Camp that includes a night in Punderson State Park's hillside cabins, two nights sleeping in boxcars



Campers explore the trails of Huntington Reservation as part of a Lake Erie Nature & Science Center summer camp. Registration for the 2010 camp season is now underway.

at Coupling Reserve of Erie Metroparks and a jam-packed overnight back at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

The Center will also host a second week of the highly praised Back-to-Nature Girl Scout Day Camp this year, with options for girls in both June and July. A separate registration for the Girl Scout Camp ONLY is conducted over the phone or in person and does not begin until April 14.

A family camp-out night, summer star shows and telescope nights, plus the annual Family Fun Fest are also on Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's 2010 summer calendar. For details, call 440-871-2900, visit www.lensc.org or stop in at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village.

Shawn Salamone is the Community Relations Coordinator at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

Correction for LENS C Shredding Day

The date of the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Shredding Day was incorrectly printed in the last issue of the Observer. The correct date is Saturday, April 10, 2010.

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Library's calendar of events

by Elaine Willis

Tuesday, March 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) TEEN CRAFT - BUTT PILLOWS – Transform your old jeans into a stylish, yet comfy, pillow! You supply the old pair of jeans, we'll supply the rest. For ages 12-18. Registration begins March 16.

Wednesday, March 24 (2 p.m.) AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – The March selection is “Rainwater” by Sandra Brown.

Wednesday, March 24 (7-8 p.m.) PAWSITIVE READERS – That super canine listener, Baby, returns to listen to your stories! For kids in grades 1-4. Please call Youth Services for one of five time slots.

Friday, March 26 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) PORTER'S FIBER FANATICS – Socialize, share, and solve problems with fellow needle artists while you work on your current project.

Saturday, March 27 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAYWITH 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.

Monday, March 29 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Tuesday, March 30 (7:30 p.m.) FYI:OPERA – Program features a discussion of “Opera Scenes” by David Bamberger from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Wednesday, March 31 (4-6 p.m.) OPEN PLAYWII – Teens: Come play Wii! We'll feature different games every week!

Thursday, April 1 (7 - 8:45 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP – Mark M. Tepper, CSA, of Strategic Wealth Partners will discuss Roth IRA 2.0: To Convert or Not Convert in 2010. Please register.

Friday, April 2 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) COME PLAYWITH ME! – Open playtime with age appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Please register one week before each session.

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

Sunday, April 4 Easter - Library Closed

Tuesday, April 6 (7-7:30 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.

Spring Break Movies

Catch some cool movies during the school break!

April 5 - “The Princess and the Frog”

April 6 - “Ponyo”

April 8 - “Cloudy: With A Chance of Meatballs”

April 9 - “Where the Wild Things Are”

Showtimes are 2 p.m. Please register one week prior to each show date.

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.

Summer programming is almost here

by Chris Haldi

The Westlake Recreation Center is getting ready for the warmer weather. The new program book for all the summer programs will be coming out within the next 2 weeks. Keep your eyes open for that and in the meantime here are some programs to keep you busy.

Here's some fun the whole family can enjoy. On Friday, March 26, make your way up to the Rec Center for the Easter Winter Carnival. The kids (ages 3-8) will be able to play their favorite carnival games and enjoy a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

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: Aqua Kickboxing, Body Sculpting and Phenomenal Abdominals starting March 29 and March 30. Don't be left out. Sign up now.

If your child likes the water or you want them to become comfortable being in the water, we have the classes to help out. Beginning March 29 and 30, for children of all skill levels, the Learn to Swim classes will help improve your child's swimming skills and will have them ready for when summer comes around.

It's that time again and the Westlake Recreation department is accepting registrations for teams in their Adult Sports Leagues including Softball, Basketball and Volleyball. Deadline to register teams is the first week in April. For more information please contact Jim Dispirito at 440-617-4420.

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.*

Save the Date National Library Week 2010: April 11-17

Westlake Porter Public Library will celebrate National Library Week from April 11-17. Stop in for special programs for all ages! For more information check out the library's web calendar at <http://signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080>; check your issue of the library's April-May newsletter, *Notes*; or stop by the library!

Job resources for today's economy

by Nan Baker

With 10.8 percent of our neighbors in Cuyahoga County unemployed, it has been my continuing priority to attract, create, and retain jobs for our community. Despite the efforts of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio is still suffering double-digit unemployment and a loss of businesses from our borders.

Luckily, the legislature has ample opportunities to turn the economy around by enacting common-sense reforms to the way Ohio does business. With all 10 bills of the “Future of Ohio” jobs package now introduced, an effort that I led as ranking member of the Economic Development Committee together with my other hardworking colleagues, we now have a chance to have a pragmatic discussion about how to fix the economy.

Although the process of improving Ohio's business climate and creating jobs will not be easy, I believe that our “Future of Ohio” bills have the potential to serve as the catalyst the state needs. From small business regulatory reforms to targeted tax credits, these bills will keep small business growth and expansion within our state.

I also know that you may need assistance immediately if you or someone you know has lost a job. As the Ohio House works to boost the economy, I'd

like to remind you of some of the local resources that are available to you as you seek your next career.

There are several One-Stop Career Centers in our area that offer free workshops and information regarding resume writing, interview tips, access to higher education and local job opportunities. For example, the Employment Connection has 10 branch offices in the Cleveland area that aim to help job seekers improve their skills by offering job search and job readiness assistance, information about high-demand careers and education services. To learn more about all the services the Employment Connection has to offer, you may call the Westshore office at 216-939-2599 or visit www.employmentconnection.us to find other locations.

To help qualified individuals gain hands-on job training and education, the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council offers

training programs in nearly 200 occupations, including information technology, construction and health care. The skills you obtain during your apprenticeship will help make you more marketable for future employment, while receiving decent wages and quality instruction. For more information about the apprenticeship program in our area, please call Barb Hobart at 440-541-4280. You may also visit the ODJFS web site at www.jfs.ohio.gov/ apprenticeship.

Another useful resource is your local

library. Many of our district libraries offer information on enhancing job skills and offer workshops and computer training. If you have any questions about our local libraries or any of these other resources, I encourage you to contact my office. I am committed to doing all I can to help create jobs for our community, as well as help you find your next rewarding career. As I continue to say, “It's all about jobs!” ● *Nan Baker is the State Representative for Ohio's 16th District and lives in Westlake.*

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Pet's death impacts many

by Nancy Brown

Over the past couple weeks, the media covered a regrettable incident that took place in Westlake. It involved an on-duty police officer and resulted in the death of a family dog. On March 6, a Westlake officer responded to a home security system alarm, and fatally shot Callaway, an eight-year-old yellow Labrador retriever. The patrolman maintains that he was threatened by the charging dog and fired his weapon in defense.

I am deeply saddened by this family's loss and suffering. I have provided this family's professional pet services for many years, and enjoyed a special bond with Callaway. If I could speak to Callaway, I would say:

"If I could bring you back, I would in a heartbeat, but I can't. I am so sorry that you are no longer with us, but I can say for sure that you are with some other angels that are loved and missed each day. Your life and story have touched so many people.

"You brought out the best and, sadly, at the end, the worst from people. Hundreds of area pet-lovers and citizens joined together at Westlake City Hall, in your honor and memory.

However, misinformation, half-truths, spins, and speculation have attempted to diminish you, your family and animal advocates.

"I will gladly defend you as you may have defended your home, and will hold you close to my heart as your own family continues to do.

"Allow me the honor to speak for you, Callaway. I feel it is time to move ahead, to learn from this heart-rending and confusing experience. We need time to heal, to speak truthfully, to ensure that no other family has to experience this type of painful loss.

"As we move forward in our lives and discuss changes to our communities, let's make sure we are all on the same page: integrity, transparency, continuing education along with truthful and effective communication. Let's raise a paw of awareness for all.

"Thank you, Callaway, for touching so many lives. Just as your family trained you well to sit, come, shake and stay, you certainly have touched my life and I have learned from you that everyday is a gift, and every gift is a blessing."

Nancy Brown lives in Bay Village.

Historical Society is making mountains out of Rose Hills

by Kevin DeFrank

[Editor's note: This is a condensed version of the original article. The full text is available on the Observer website at wbvobserver.com.]

In my opinion, the Bay Village Historical Society (BVHS) is more at odds with the interests of our community, as well as the Cahoon Will itself, than the Bay Skate and Bike Park (BSBP). Let me explain. They suggest the BSBP will lead to a violation of the Will even though extensive evidence to the contrary was presented in a legal opinion at the March 15, 2010, City Council meeting.

The BVHS website tells us that in 1901, "because of squabbles over the spending of tax revenues, the City of Bay Village was established." In 1917, Ida Maria Cahoon trusted the young city so much that she gave the Cahoon property to it in her Will. She trusted the Mayor and Council to decide how it was used.

The Will states that "income from the cultivated land and from the houses and buildings on said real estate shall be expended yearly in keeping in order and improving the Park and buildings." It is important to recognize that the Will itself allows for improvement.

The proposed Bay Skate and Bike Park (BSBP) should be looked at simply as a park; an improvement. A conservationist argument does not apply to an empty corner of the Cahoon Property and has no substance when considered with the Will.

The area in question has virtually no historical value. If it does, it is not the responsibility of BVHS. That job falls to the Mayor and Council – the Cahoon Park Trustees.

While stiff opposition is legitimate in the decision-making process, a decision has been made to send this project to the Planning Commission. The BVHS has tried to diminish the integrity of the agreement struck in the Will itself by threatening legal action in order to coerce a decision and/or deter the project. They have essentially claimed that they know how to use this land better than anyone else.

It doesn't matter if you were for, against, or indifferent to a skate park; if they meant what they said, the BVHS intends to begin baseless litigation for the purpose of adding expense to the City. In this scenario a victory for them means a loss to every taxpayer.

Add to the mix (insert: broken national economy comment here) and this issue gets more ridiculous. The BVHS boasts that it is the largest civic organization our city has; I doubt its members considered when they signed up that they might be hijacking the judicial system via frivolous lawsuit.

Professor Wendy Wagner's thorough assessment of this location and presentation of legal challenges to the site has intimidated and inspired me while writing this. Everyone reading this should also read her letter to BVHS President Carole Roske (which is available in the March 8, 2010, committee minutes on the City's website) for an illustration of challenges to this location.

I cannot help but disapprove, however, of her suggestions that ultimately encourage "full-throttle" opposition outside even her own interpretation of the BVHS's interests. Her suggestion that the BSBP will "induce" a violation of the Will is almost certainly precluded by litigation established over time, as was explained in the March 15 council meeting.

To suggest the BSBP is adverse to the "spirit of the Will" is flimsy. We are talking about a public park; not a nightclub. There is no threat to peace and quiet.

I agree with Professor Wagner that "it is the court, not the City, who has the final word" on the Will. But if Ida Cahoon wanted issues like this to be decided by the courts, she would not have created a document that expressly outlines that the City (specifically the Mayor and Council) does indeed have a say.

If you are as unhappy as I am, speak up! If the idea of your tax dollars going to legal fees instead of an infinite number of other worthy applications does not sit well with you, spread the word. Or better yet...let the Bay Historical Society know how you feel.

Kevin DeFrank lives in Bay Village.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 24, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Cancer and End-of-Life Care Teleconference

Hospice Foundation of America's 2010 Teleconference will address care options related to cancer diagnoses as well as loss and grief reactions for patients, families and professional caregivers. The teleconference will also examine psychosocial aspects of cancer, pain management, and ethical issues related to the disease.

CEs are available for nurses, social workers, clergy, funeral directors, health educators and more.

The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake
To register for this program contact, Susan Marinac at 216-595-9546 or email with name and phone number to marinac@touchedbycancer.org.

March 27, 1 p.m.

Free 'Cane-Fu' Self-Defense Seminar for Seniors

Due to the response Westlake Martial Arts will again be offering a free "Cane-Fu" self-defense seminar for seniors. Guro Jerry Allen Veneskey will demonstrate. This hour-long class will be for those seniors that are interested in learning how to use the cane for self-defense purposes.

Westlake Martial Arts, 27321 Detroit Rd., Westlake

March 29, 7-8:30 p.m.

Early Canal Building in Ohio

Dr. James Anderson will discuss the construction and workings of the Ohio-Erie and Miami canals, as well as the routes they took and political problems the builders encountered.

Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Westlake Historical Society and WPPL.

Dover Meeting Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

April 6, 7 p.m.

Bay Village Democratic Club – April Meeting

The Bay Village Democratic Club's April Meeting will be held at the Bay Village Library. Refreshments will be provided.

Bay Village Library, 502 Cahoon Rd.

For more details contact Valerie at 216-849-2391.

April 7, 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. Members will be available to assist other members and the general public with their genealogical research.

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

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

April 10, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Shredding Day

Dispose of old financial statements, tax forms, bills, medical records and other clean paper without worrying about identity theft or the effect of dumping paper into the environment. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is teaming up with the Shredding Network again to bring a powerful mobile shredding truck back to Bay Village. The high-tech equipment will provide quick, confidential destruction and recycling of up to five boxes or bags of old paper per household. A donation of \$5 per household is suggested and 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Wolf Road Picnic Area parking lot (across from LENS), Bay Village

April 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

North Union Farmers Market at Crocker Park Opening Day

Join North Union Farmers Market as we open the season at our Crocker Park location! This fun-filled day will feature an annual blessing, sheep shearing, live alpacas, a free raffle for a \$100 Market Basket, live music and breakfast sampling by Chef Brian Doyle of Danny's Organic Marketplace.

The market also features the finest farmers from Northeast Ohio providing you with local fruits and vegetables, flowers, bedding plants, poultry, maple syrup, eggs, honey, pork, baked goods, dairy products, grassfed beef and much more. Join the crowd! Corner of Crocker Rd. and Market St., Crocker Park, Westlake

For more information, visit <http://www.northunionfarmersmarket.org/markets/crocker.html>.

INTERESTED IN SAILING?

If you are in 8-12th grade, enjoy boating and water sports, or would like to learn to sail, consider joining co-ed Sea Scout Ship 41. For a brochure contact, Richard Gash, 440-871-6106 or skipper@seascoutship41.org



POETRY

A Widower Goes to The Mall

by Joseph Psarto, Westlake

On her birthday I go alone
down to the Great Northern Mall
and sit on a bench in front of JC Penney,
drinking hot coffee and reading Yeats.

The Mall buzzes with electric noise,
the inside air bright and warm,
yet seeming a winter's darkness.
Busy silent people swarm about me.

I feel invisible, an alien.
I pretend to wait for her
as she shops,
and I become disconcerted.

She is taking too long.

Observer Guidelines

Want to submit an article to the Observer? 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. ●