

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

Edward Beyer wins Best of Show at BAYarts

by Eileen Stockdale

For the second year in a row, Bay Village resident Edward Beyer has won Best of Show in the BAYarts Juried Show. Although he's won numerous prizes over the years, this year, the award was for his body of work. When asked to describe his work, Beyer says: "My paintings develop from 'impressions' of the locations and places that I've seen. The paintings become composite impressions in which the subject becomes subordinate to the stronger elements of design, shape, and color."

Respected and admired by his fellow artists, he is the catalyst who gets everyone together to paint, go to museums and galleries and enter shows. At BAYarts he formed a weekly portrait studio and plein air studio. John Carlson, a fellow painter,



Edward Beyer's "Appalachian Barn #4"



Edward Beyer

says of Edward's work: "He's a classic. A romantic. He has a superb sense of color and composition."

Beyer does most of his work in his home where he lives with his wife, Kathy. In his attic studio he is surrounded by his collection of hundreds of art books. Retired from American Greetings, Beyer has been in many juried shows and won many awards (the extensive list is on his website: www.edward-beyer.com). What will he use

his BAYarts prize money for? To buy more art supplies of course.

Mark your calendar because you can see more of his work in July when BAYarts presents: "Edward Beyer: In the Country," a collection of drawings and paintings. Other winners in the BAYarts juried show were George Kocar, first place; Darrell Anne Centuori, second place; Diana Curran, third place; Erin Schechtman, jury award; Ken Smith, jury award; and Judith Brandon, Director's award. • Eileen Stockdale is the BAYarts Gallery Coordinator.

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Students win awards in regional science and technology competition

by Kim Bonvissuto

A team of sixth graders from Parkside Intermediate School claimed one of 24 regional awards in the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision National Science Competition. Sixth graders John Willi and Jack Bogart took the regional award for their invention, the Downspout Generator, that generates electricity by harnessing the energy of descending water in a downspout.

The gutters accumulate water, which plummets through special Y connectors down the downspout, attaining speed on the way down. The water strikes several micro-turbines, spinning the minute generator and creating electricity that passes through a diminutive transformer, amassing in a battery.

The invention conserves energy costs by using this electricity to power appliances for use during blackouts and storms. Sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the ExploraVision program is the world's largest K-12 science and technology competition.

This year, the program received 4,550 team entries representing the participation of 13,947 students

from across the US and Canada. Twenty Parkside teams guided by teachers Patrick McMorrow, Pam English and Cynthia Hronek submitted entries.

Nine Westlake teams took Honorable Mentions in the competition:

1. Steve Columbro, Tommy Bowles and Lucas yeoman for Computer Vision Syndrome Glasses
2. Katerina Packis and Rachel Stanco for Electronic Horse Racing boot
3. Emily Healy and Taylor Hood for H&H Safe
4. George Lawrence and Ryan Hooper for Laser Brush
5. Emily Simon, Nicole Davies and Samantha Horwitz for N.E.S. vision-Improving Eye Drops
6. Michelle Appel and Brittany Gulla for The Obesity Patch
7. Sierra Swisher, Crystal Gump and Elise Kennedy for the Re-Growing Ear Hair Cells Pill
8. Becca Prexta, Alexis Mance and Jessica Hook for Verbal Communications Earpiece
9. Michale Beaver, Alex Latham (5th grade) and Harsha Jonnavithula for Virunex

The program selects winners
» See AWARDS, page 4

Hazel Hollenbach celebrates 102 years

by Dianne Borowski

Imagine living in Cleveland when the first Model T rolled off the assembly line. Hazel Hollenbach, who turned 102 years old on April 3, was born in 1908, the year the Model T was introduced. An elegant, charming woman whose eyes sparkle when she is engaged in conversation, Hazel embraces a positive attitude toward life.

With her stylish short haircut and soft pastel blouse, I found it difficult to believe Hazel was anywhere near 102 years old. A passionate spirit and zest for life radiate from her tiny frame. Hazel is truly a remarkable woman.

Widowed for the first time in 1929, Hazel was left to raise her two young children alone. During World War II she worked the night shift at a Cleveland bomber plant. She also worked for Jubilee Catering, the Oak Ridge Senior Center and Gerber's Nursery school.

Always resourceful, Hazel enrolled in beauty school and eventually opened Hazel's Beauty Shop in North Olmsted. A true entrepreneur, creativity and versatility have played an important part in Hazel's life. On August 31,



Mayor Debbie Sutherland reads a proclamation honoring Hazel Hollenbach.

1946, Hazel married Al Hollenbach, an engineer for the railroad.

With railroad passes earned through Al's job, the couple traveled extensively by train, enjoying the scenic wonders of our country and

» See HAZEL, page 2

Operation Medicine Cabinet scheduled for May 8

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Westshore Enforcement Bureau, and Drug Awareness and Prevention Inc., would like to help you safely dispose of any outdated or unwanted prescription medications.

This is a completely confidential program. No personal information will be asked! Please remove all prescription labels before arriving. All medications will be collected on Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and held only by law enforcement officers until they can be disposed of safely.

Nationally, teenage prescription drug abuse is rapidly increasing, and your household medicine chest could become a teenager's best supplier.

In fact, according to the 2009

Cuyahoga County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report, 21.4% of Cuyahoga County high school students have used prescription drugs that had not been prescribed for them, in order to relieve pain, relieve anxiety, stay awake or alter mood.

You can also help to protect the environment from overdosing on improperly disposed medications. Collection programs greatly lessen the chance of prescription medications entering our water supply or the food we eat.

Drop off locations:

- Westlake – Clague Cabin, 1500 Clague Rd., at the corner of Clague & Hillard
- Bay Village – Bay Village Police Department, 28000 Wolf Rd.

For more information call 1-800-473-6467. •

Teens and adults can make a difference in the life of a child this summer

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Seeking Wild Summer Reading Camp Volunteers

by Shawn Salamone

Unlock the joy of reading for a child this summer! Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is seeking volunteers as young as 13 to share their love of the written word with children attending the 2010 Wild Summer Reading Camp. Teen and adult volunteers are needed to read with and to campers, and to help with fun activities.

The camp takes place in the “wild” setting of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center with animal exhibits and plenty of natural beauty for inspiration and encouragement. Children enrolled in the camp participate in a variety of science activities including wildlife presentations, planetarium programs and nature hikes and also spend time with a reading specialist. Campers will be children entering grades 1–4 from Bay Village and Westlake City Schools and are identified and placed by the school systems. (Lake

Erie Nature & Science Center does not register camp participants.)

The Center is recruiting volunteers NOW for the camp that runs Monday through Friday, July 19 - August 13 from 8:30–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–3:30 p.m. Volunteers can sign up for a morning or afternoon shift, one day a week or more! Training takes just 1-2 hours to complete. An end of camp appreciation party and volunteer certificates documenting service hours are also part of this rewarding volunteer experience.

The one-on-one volunteer support makes a huge difference to each child’s reading progress! Please call or email Julie Mistur at 440-871-2900 ext. 215; juliem@lensc.org or Carole Lynn Stradtman at ext. 211; carolelynns@lensc.org if you are interested in volunteering. ●

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

Eggstravaganza At Lake Erie Nature & Science Center



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Education Specialist Maggie Watson shows off “Gizmo” to wide-eyed Lucy Clawson from Cleveland. The bunny encounter was part of the annual Eggstravaganza held at the Bay Village Center on April 1.



Brett LaCour finds an egg hiding behind a patch of daffodils ready to burst into bloom at the annual Eggstravaganza.

Former PD Editorial Chief Larkin to recall half century of news for Bay Kiwanians

by Tom Johnson

Retired Plain Dealer Editorial Director Brent Larkin says he knows who killed Marilyn Sheppard, in the famous Bay Village murder. On July 4, 1954, Marilyn Sheppard was beaten to death in her bedroom while her husband, Osteopath Sam Sheppard, allegedly slept nearby.

Larkin, who has amassed the police files on

the case, will recount his theory on who killed Marilyn, and recall a half century of Cleveland and Ohio news when he speaks on Tuesday, April 13 to Bay Village Kiwanians. The dinner meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Rd. Tickets are \$10. Call Tom Johnson at 440-871-0445 for reservations. ●

Tom Johnson lives in Bay Village and is president-elect of the Bay Village Kiwanis Club.

Westlake Garden Club looking forward to spring

by Jean Smith

The Westlake Garden Club is excited about spring and the warm, sunny days ahead. Our members have been checking their gardens, now that the snow is gone, to see what is pushing up through the earth. If you are an avid gardener, or would like to learn more about gardening, we invite you to attend a meeting to experience an interesting program, and enjoy a wonderful lunch.

The Westlake Garden Club was founded in 1963 by a group of women dedicated to promoting beauty in the garden and in the home, to further horticulture education, and to promote civic beauty and community conservation. We continue these pur-

suits today in a friendly, nourishing atmosphere.

The club meets March through December with meetings held the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Westlake Community Center. The meetings consist of a business meeting, lunch, followed by the program. Our programs cover a wide spectrum of interests, from flower arranging to garden design to bee-keeping, to name a few, and our speakers are all professionals in their fields.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 21 to learn more about the club, enjoy lunch and a program on “Outdoor Dreamscapes,” presented by Marlene Boucher. For more information, please call club President, Sally Knurek, at 440-331-8722. ●

HAZEL continued from front page

Mexico. Later they spent winters on Florida’s Gulf Coast, relaxing and enjoying their retirement. After Al’s death in 1969, Hazel moved to the Knickerbocker Apartments.

“I was one of the first to move in to the Knickerbocker,” she says proudly. “I love the community, and parties and friends - I have had a good life here!”

It is clear Haze enjoys life...her large family, her friends and neighbors keep her busy and content. No regrets for Hazel. She lives life to the fullest.

Cokie Roberts, author of “Founding Mothers,” dedicated her book to “the women in my family,

particularly my mother, who told the stories we call history.” Hazel, many thanks for sharing your stories and for being such a vibrant part of our community. Having lived and been a part of American history for over a century, you truly inspire us all! ●

Dianne Borowski lives in Bay Village.



Five generations of Hazel’s (front row, left) family helped her celebrate her 102nd birthday at the Knickerbocker Apartments on April 1.

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a locally-owned and operated citizen-based news source published biweekly.

451 Queenswood Road • Bay Village, Ohio 44140
440-409-0114

Copyright ©2010 The Westlake | Bay Village Observer. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

ART DIRECTOR, COORDINATOR - Denny Wendell

EDITOR - Tara Wendell

ADVERTISING 440-409-0114 • staff@wbvobserver.com

The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through citizen participation. We do not accept any form of payment for the inclusion of articles.

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

ADVERTISE WITH THE WBV OBSERVER • ADS AS LOW AS \$20 • CALL 440-409-0114

WRITERS

Kim Bonvissuto
Dianne Borowski
Jane Broestl
George Christ
Alex Dade
Pam DeFino
Walter Ely
Rick Grane
Chris Haldi
Nancy Heaton
Tom Johnson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Kim Bonvissuto
George Christ
Chris Haldi

Shannon McNamara
Anne Naumann
Joseph Psarto
Victor Rutkoski
Joyce Sandy
Shawn Salamone
Julia Shutt
Jean Smith
Eileen Stockdale
Wendy Wagner
Elaine Willis

Joseph Psarto
Shawn Salamone
Denny Wendell

“We take the worry out of being away”



HOT DIGGITY DOG, INC.

PROFESSIONAL PET CARE SERVICES

Personal In-Home Pet Care
For All Domesticated Animals

Busy Work Schedule?

Working Early
Working Late
Working Out-Of Town

Busy Personal Schedule?

Special Evening/Event
Out-Of Town Weekend
Vacation/Holidays

In-home visits tailored to your pets special needs:

- Reasonable Prices For All Services
- Meals, Walks, Medication
- Plus personal play time and any other special requests
- All in the familiar surroundings of your home

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NANCY BROWN AT 440.871.9245

A bit of Bay history



Photo courtesy of the Bay Village Historical Society.

Reuben and Sarah Osborn constructed a frame house in 1815. Described as a grand new house in its day, it stands today as the oldest frame house between Cleveland and Lorain and is on the Cahoon Memorial Park property. Now the Reuben Osborn Learning Center, the house is open to the public on Sundays between 2 and 4 p.m.

Fun Facts for the Bay Bicentennial

- Did you know Reuben Osborn, Leverett Johnson, Asahel Porter and his family came into Dover Township on the afternoon of October 10, 1818 after righting a spilled wagon in the Rocky River?
- Did you know Ida Cahoon was a member of the Village of Bay's Board of Education?

Registration begins for free safe boating classes for 7th grade students

by George Christ

This is the 11th year for a free Spirit of America Safe Boating Program sponsored by the Bay Village School District and funded by a grant from Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Watercraft. The program is open to any student who will complete the 7th grade this June.

The program provides attendees the Ohio Boating Education Course (OBEC) which is required by Ohio Law for any person born on or after January 1, 1982 to take a NASBLA approved boating education class in order to operate a powerboat with an engine over 10 horsepower. The students also spend three days on the water with instruction in power boats, sail boats, paddle craft, personal water craft, and a Coast Guard vessel.



Spirit of America students get a safety message from the Rocky River Marine Patrol.

Students must pre-register for this program and must attend all of the sessions of the program. Deadline for registration is May 7, 2010. The dates of the OBEC class are Saturday, May 15, and Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A drown-proofing class will be held on June 5 from 9-10 a.m. All the classes will be held in Bay Village.

The on-the-water sessions will be held at Whiskey Island Marina near Edgewater Park on June 14, 21 and 28, from 9 a.m. to

3:30 p.m. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from all classes.

Registration forms are available in local libraries, the Bay Village Recreation Department and online at <http://www.spiritofamerica95.org/cuyahoga.htm>. For more information or questions, email cuyahoga@spiritofamerica95.org.

The Spirit of America Safe Boating Education Program has won national and state awards as an outstanding youth boating education program. The Cuyahoga County/Bay Village program is coordinated by George Christ, who was awarded the National Water Safety Council Regional Letter of Commendation in 2009 for his contribution to boating education.

The program also relies on volunteers to teach safe boating to students on the water. The Bay Village School District sponsors the program and funding comes from a Safe Boating Education Grant from the ODNR Division of Watercraft.

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

'Captured by the Indians' talk at WPPL April 21

by Jane Broestl

Jim Smith, Lorain County Historical Society Educator, will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society from 7-8:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road.

Mr. Smith will recount the story of "Scoouwa, An Indian Captive from 1755-1759." In 1755, at the age of eighteen, James Smith of Franklin County, Pennsylvania was working with a group of colonists, who were cutting a road in the wilderness for Major General Edward Braddock.

While riding along that road, Smith was taken captive by Indian marauders and subsequently adopted into the Caughnawaga tribe, a branch of the Mohawks friendly to the French. Given the name Scoouwa, James was treated like a brother and he accompanied his new "family," for five years, in their meanderings in the Ohio River Valley.

Eventually, James was able to escape the tribe and return to his native Pennsylvania, to farm and marry. In the years that followed, James Smith's reputation as an Indian expert was widely known among the colonists. They turned to him when the Indians began to attack their settlements.

James organized a group of Rangers and took part in

campaigns against the Indians and in the Revolutionary War, for which he earned the rank of Colonel. While in captivity, James Smith acquired a profound understanding of Indian customs and psychology and a deep respect for the Indians themselves.

The journal, which the Indians allowed James to keep, became the core of his memoirs that he did not print until 1799. It is titled: "An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Colonel James Smith, (Now a Citizen of Bourbon County, Kentucky,) during his Captivity with the Indians, in the Years 1755, '56, '57, '58, '59."

A religious man, James spent much of his later years as a missionary to the Indians. In the War of 1812, at the advanced age of 75, he again offered his assistance to this young nation, by publishing a treatise on Indian culture and mode of warfare. He died about two years later.

Come and learn more about this remarkable man and his captors. Refreshments and social time is from 6:30 -7 p.m. The public is invited, at no charge. For additional information, call 440-899-9201 or visit Cuyahoga West's website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs>. Jayne Broestl is the Publicity Chair for the Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Are you or someone you know
FACING FORECLOSURE?



NHS
GREATER CLEVELAND

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
Call today to see if you qualify
216.458.HOME (4663)
Se Habla Español

**Neighborhood Housing Services
of Greater Cleveland**
5700 Broadway Avenue . Cleveland, Ohio 44127 . www.nhscleveland.org

Knickerbocker Apartments
is pleased to announce the age limit
for residency has been lowered to 55.

**Immediate occupancy is available for those looking
for an affordable, worry-free place to call home!**

Call 440-871-3234
Weekdays 8 a.m to 4 p.m. for more information.



Knickerbocker Apartments
27100 Knickerbocker Road
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

12th annual Summer Band Program in Westlake begins June 16

The Westlake Music Boosters' 12th annual Summer Band Program will be held June 16-July 3.

The Elementary Summer Band program for grades 5 and 6 involves 10 sessions, held Monday through Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the Lee Burneson Middle School band room.

The Summer Jazz Ensemble & Blues Improvisation Workshop for 6th through 8th grades will be held from 10:30 to 11:20 a.m. each day.

Dates of the program are June 16 and 17, June 21-24 June 28-30 and July 1. Cost is \$79 per student.

A final concert – LIBERTYFEST – will be held July 3 at 11 a.m. at the Crocker Park main stage.

Summer band students will receive a T-shirt, 15-song music book, folder and a great experience with two band directors. More details will follow in April. In the meantime, questions can be directed to Scott Rovniak at 440-899-3075, ext. 2313. ●

Constitutional essay winner

Westlake High School senior Brenna Goodwin won third place and \$100 at the state level of the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest sponsored by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Brenna's essay, "Separation of Church and State," previously won first place at the local level. She wrote the essay as part of a WHS government class taught by Elizabeth Noren, who challenged the students to write about an aspect of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. ●



Brenna Goodwin

AWARDS *continued from front page*

based on how they combine imagination with the tools of real scientific research to envision future technologies that could realistically exist in 20 years. Students learn by presenting their project ideas in ways that reflect modern scientific methods, examining problems and deriving solutions the same way scientists do and considering the positive and negative consequences to their proposed ideas.

At the Regional judging level, a panel of 58 judges—including science educators, scientists and engineers—evaluates the written entries and chooses the 24 Regional Winners. This year's 24 regional winners will now move on to the national phase of the ExploraVision competition, where they will compete to be named among the eight national winner teams, including four first-place and four second-place winners.

Students on the four first-place ExploraVision national winner teams

will each receive a \$10,000 US Series EE Savings Bond. Students on second-place teams will each receive a \$5,000 Savings Bond. (Canadian winners receive Canada Bonds purchased for the equivalent issue price in Canadian dollars.)

The eight teams will also receive an expenses-paid trip with their families, mentor, and coach to Washington, D.C., for a gala awards weekend in June 2010. Activities will include a visit to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress, a Science Showcase during which the students will display and demonstrate their winning ideas, and sightseeing around the nation's capital.

The highlight of ExploraVision weekend will be a gala awards banquet and ceremony at the Grant Hyatt where students will be formally recognized for their creativity and accomplishments. ●

Kim Bonvissuto is the Communications Coordinator for Westlake City Schools.



(Left-to-right) Parkside Enrichment Resources teacher Cindy Hronek, John Willi, sixth-grade teacher Pam English, Jack Bogart, Sonny Kumar of Toshiba and sixth-grade teacher Patrick McMorro

Westlake has a MonSTAR Teacher

Hilliard Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Kim Toncar was selected as the MonSTAR Teacher of the Month for April after being nominated by her student, Sameer Shah.

The MonSTAR Teacher of the Month, presented by National City Bank, recognizes those teachers who are making a difference in the lives of their students. Sully, the Lake Erie Monsters mascot, surprised Toncar in her classroom last week, along with a National City Bank representative. Toncar received game tickets to a Lake Erie Monsters home game and will receive a special in-game recognition at a future date.

In his nomination letter, Sameer said his teacher makes learning fun for the whole class by doing hands-on science demonstrations, showing educational videos and making learning more visual.

"My classmates like my teacher because she encourages us to use our right brain and left brain together," Sameer wrote. "We use our right brain when we practice writing in our journal. An example of left brain is when we use logical thinking in understanding the skills in mathematics."

Sameer said his teacher's motto is to make each student outstanding and performing "better than the best." ●



Hilliard Elementary fourth-grade teacher Kim Toncar surrounded by her class and Lake Erie Monsters mascot Sully.

Westlake Education Foundation awards teacher grants

The following is the summary of the 2009-2010 school year grants awarded by the Westlake Education Foundation, a non-profit group that awards grants to help teachers fund creative projects in the classroom.

The WEF is participating in funding for the district-wide Home Language Literacy Program initiated by Jennifer Petticord at Lee Burneson Middle School. The program objectives are four-fold:

- to facilitate social inclusion of the many students for which English is their second language;
- to increase parent-child reading at home and, therefore, increase family literacy;
- to boost reading comprehension for the ELS Students with approved bilingual Accelerated Reading test books; and
- to affirm the importance of a multi-lingual environment.

Once ordered and received, the books will be available to any school within the district via inter-library loan. The WEF has committed to funding \$650 for the program (half of the requested amount).

The WEF also will provide funding for the Economics: Dollars for Dog Tags program initiated by Tracy Sicafuse from Dover Elementary. This program is intended to allow all third grade students at Dover a hands-on learning of economics by developing a product, marketing

and selling the product and managing money.

The product will be a painted (sanded and primed) and decorated dog tag that can be attached to a backpack or used as a key chain. Proceeds from the project will be donated to Dog Tags for Kids, a non-profit organization that provides dog tags to children whose parents are serving our country in the military in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. The WEF funded \$604.50, the entire amount requested for the program.

The WEF regrets that it has suspended the 2010 mini-grant program, which provided \$2,450 in scholarships last year to students to attend summer programs. The WEF hopes to reinstate the program in 2011, pending sufficient fundraising. For information on how to you can support the Foundation or make a cash donation, please visit the new website at www.WestlakeEducation-Foundation.org.

The WEF was founded to provide initiative, strong leadership, and financial support for creative projects not otherwise available to the students of Westlake City Schools. The WEF is sanctioned by the Westlake Board of Education, as well as an independent non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status, allowing all contributions to be tax deductible. The WEF is run by an elected executive Board of Trustees, all of whom are Westlake residents, business owners, community leaders and/or parents. ●

Westlake senior appointed to U.S. Naval Academy

WHS senior Conner Dempsey received a phone call from U.S. Senator George Voinovich confirming his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. There are

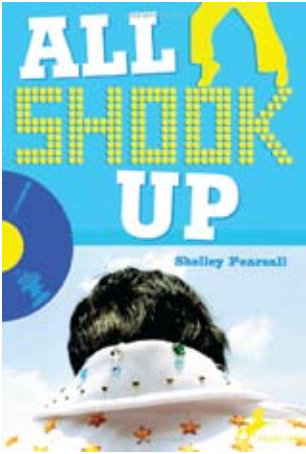
only 1,500 appointments given out annually. Conner recently placed 7th at the State Wrestling Tournament and participates in Scott Kutz's high school engineering program. ●

Elvis comes to Bay Library

Get ready to rock ‘n’ roll! Bay Middle School and Bay Village Branch Library are celebrating National Library Week with an author visit from Shelley Pearsall on April 12 at 7 p.m. Pearsall will share the entertaining stories behind her Elvis-themed book “All Shook Up.” Not only that, “Elvis” will accompany Ms. Pearsall and when he serenades the audience you’re sure to shimmy and shake in your blue suede shoes!

Pearsall is an award winning author, most notably for the Scott O’Dell award winning book “Trouble Don’t Last.” Other books include “Crooked River” and “All of the Above.” This is an entertaining program for all ages! Books will be available for purchase and signing after the event.

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



WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

Spring is in the air

by Chris Haldi

Finally the warm weather has made an appearance. The grass is growing, the birds are chirping and the smell of spring has arrived. The Westlake Recreation Center is getting into the swing of spring and offering great programming for people of all ages. Here are some programs that are happening very soon.

Parents, here’s an opportunity for some quality adult time! We’ll take care of the kids while you take care of yourselves. Under adult supervision, children will participate in structured activities, receive pizza and will be entertained while you go out. Don’t miss out on this opportunity of free time for yourself.

Bring your dancing shoes and get ready to learn new moves. We are offering Line Dancing starting April 12; Advanced Ballroom and Advanced Swing both starting April 14. If you’re in the mood to learn

some new steps and want to dance like the stars these classes are for you.

If your child has an interest or if you would like your child to learn more about volleyball check out our Junior Spikers program. In this fun and relaxed setting, kids in grades K-2 will learn the sport of volleyball and the techniques to bump,

set, and spike. Classes will start April 14. Here’s a class for you soon-to-be moms. We are offering a Prenatal/ Post Natal Fitness class. Exercising regularly helps with reducing pregnancy discomfort. This class will focus on techniques to help you through and after your pregnancy.

Are you too young to use the DEN? Well we have something for you. DEN Jr. is for kids ages 7-9 who want to learn about the benefits of exercising. This class uses step-by-



The Easter Bunny was a splash at the Easter Water Carnival

step approach to exercising and will allow for the kids to learn new/ improved ways to exercise. We have plenty of room in the two sessions that are being offered on April 12 and another session starting on April 14.

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.

Advertise your community support

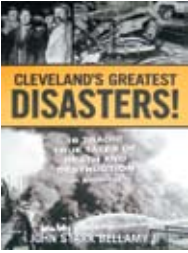
The Observer is a hyperlocal newspaper written by, for and about the communities of Westlake and Bay Village. Show your support by advertising your business, organization or event in the newspaper that embodies the spirit of community. Give us a call at 440-409-0114 to be a part of the Observer.

Bay Library programs

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Monday, April 17 (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 – 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.



Wednesday April 21 (7 p.m.) HERBAL THERAPIES FOR STRESS AND ANXIETY RELIEF – Find out how to relieve stress and anxiety through the use of herbal therapy with the Willow Arts Center, a holistically based health center.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

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. 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. Light refreshments provided. Ages 14-19 years.

CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

April 13 (4:15 p.m.) ‘MAGIC TREE HOUSE’ CLUB – Read two of your favorite “Magic Tree House” books and then try some related projects. For grades 2-5.

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

Monday, April 12 (7 p.m.) AUTHOR VISIT – SHELLEY PEARSALL – Meet author Shelley Pearsall and learn about the driving forces behind her books. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

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

Spring Lawn Aeration

835-0146

Firefighter owned/operated

The Bay Village Historical Society

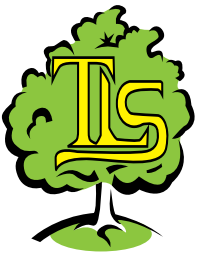


Rose Hill Museum

Open 2-4:30 pm on Sundays

Free Admission • Gift Shoppe

Located in Cahoon Memorial Park



Tree & Landscape Services LLC

- Spring Clean-ups
- Lawn Maintenance
- Sod & Seed Installation
- Decks & Fences
- Large Tree Pruning
- Tree Removal

216-526-3954

FREELY FREELY

Freely You Have Received, ... Freely Give. Matthew 10:8

We are a non-profit, all volunteer, community outreach that recycles your donated items to lower income people who are employed full time, or RECENTLY laid off from full time work. We also give to retired seniors struggling on their pensions, and spouses of active military.

WE NEVER SELL, but give for FREE to help those in our communities who are trying to help themselves.

DONATIONS ↓



We gladly accept:

- * FURNITURE & MATTRESSES
- * APPLIANCES (Under 8 Yrs.)
- * KITCHEN, HOUSEHOLD & DECOR
- * CLOTHING & SHOES
- * BEDDING & TOWELS
- * BABY ITEMS & NEW TOYS
- * TOILETRIES
- * CLEANING SUPPLIES

NOTE: all items must be clean, in good repair. Tax receipts provided.



FREE pick up every Saturday in Avon, Avon Lake, Westlake & Bay Village

For help or to donate items call:

440-937-3999

Office: Avon, Ohio 44011

www.freelyfreely.com

Library's calendar of events

Spring Break Movies

Catch some cool movies during the school break!

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.

Wednesday, April 7 (12-4 p.m.) OPEN PLAYWII – Get your game on during spring break! Try out our Wii system. We have “Rock Band,” “Guitar Hero,” “Dance Dance Revolution,” “Mario Kart” and more! Bring a friend for more fun. For ages 12-18. Registration begins one week before each session.

Wednesday, April 7 (7-7:30 p.m.) FRACTURED FAIRY TALES – Join us for a wacky family storytime as your favorite fairy tales are turned upside down and inside out! All ages.

Thursday, April 8 (2-5 p.m.) SPRING BREAK WII CHALLENGE! – Test your skills on our fun Wii games, including “MLB Superstars,” “Carnival Games” and more! For grades 3 to 5. Please register starting April 1.

Thursday, April 8 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The April selection is “A Voyage Long and Strange” by Tony Horowitz.

Friday, April 9 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) SPRING BREAK BOOK SWAP – Bring your gently used children's books to swap for some new-to-you titles. Books must be in good condition. Please, no copyright dates prior to 1990.

Westlake Porter Public Library celebrates National Library Week

Westlake Porter Public Library invites Westshore residents to celebrate National Library Week by attending one of several special programs between April 11 and April 17. National Library Week is an annual celebration of the contributions of libraries, librarians and library workers which takes place each April.

Programs being offered include a Star Wars Family Fun Fair, a “Twilight”-themed program, a comic book drawing class for teens and the annual Investor’s Breakfast:

Sunday, April 11 (1:15-4:45 p.m.) ‘THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON’ EXTRAVAGANZA – Join us for a screening of the latest “Twilight” movie. Afterwards we’ll play Wii’s “Scene It? Twilight,” the game that tests your “Twilight” knowledge. Refreshments and prizes, too! For teens ages 13-18. Please register.

Monday, April 12 (7-8:45 p.m.) MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE: ‘MY SISTER’S KEEPER’ – Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin star in a drama which explores issues stemming from a couple’s decision to have a baby intended to be a bone marrow donor for her sister, who has leukemia. Please register.

Tuesday, April 13 (11 a.m. & 2, 4 and 7 p.m.) THE FIFTY-CENT TOUR – Lost in the stacks? Confused by the catalog? Stop by the Youth Services Department for a tour! For kids and grown-ups alike!

Tuesday, April 13 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION – The April selection is “My Sister’s Keeper” by Jodi Picoult.

Tuesday, April 13 (7-8 p.m.) CREATING COMICS AND MANGA WITH MIKE LEUSZLER – Teens ages 12-18: Join us for an exciting comic book drawing class! Mike Leuszler is a self-taught artist who has been honing his craft for over 30 years. In his spare time he’s done over 20 years of theater, comics and other design-related activities. Please register starting April 6.

Wednesdays, April 14 (4-6 p.m.) WII WEDNESDAYS – Come play Wii with us on Wednesdays! We’ll feature different games every week. For ages 13-18.

Thursday, April 15 (8 a.m.) INVESTOR’S BREAKFAST – Business Librarian Cynthia Hall will showcase the various tools available at the library for the individual investor. A continental breakfast will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Please register.

Thursday, April 15 (11 a.m. & 2, 4 and 7 p.m.) THE FIFTY-CENT TOUR – Lost in the stacks? Confused by the catalog? Stop by the Youth Services Department for a tour! For kids and grown-ups alike!

Saturday, April 17 (10 a.m.- 2 p.m.) CRAFTS-A-GO-GO – Join us for a fun and easy craft! All supplies provided – just drop in.

Saturday, April 17 (10:45 a.m.) WEST SIDE WRITERS

Saturday, April 17 (2-4 p.m.) STAR WARS FAMILY FUN DAY – A Star Wars Family Fun Fair with games, crafts and other fun activities. Dress up in your favorite character gear and bring a camera for special photo ops with the good guys and bad guys from the Rebel Legion and the 501st Brigade!

Sunday, April 18 (2 p.m.) SUNDAY SOUNDS – Join the Friends of the Library for a program featuring Westlake High School’s “Company D” under the direction of Jennifer Butler.

Monday, April 19 (7 p.m.) FYI:CAREERS – RESUME WRITING AND INTERVIEWING SKILLS – Mike Perry of Szarka Financial Management will share tips and techniques for job seekers. Please register.

Tuesday, April 20 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) ‘NO IMPACT MAN’ – Join Debbie Dean Espie for a free screening of this movie. Please register at www.deansgreenhouse.com.

Tuesday, April 20 (7-8:30 p.m.) MAD4MANGA – M4M is everything manga! We talk about manga, create manga art, discuss & watch anime films, and more! For teens in grades 6-12.

Wednesdays, April 21 (4-6 p.m.) WII WEDNESDAYS – Come play Wii with us on Wednesdays! We’ll feature different games every week. For ages 13-18.

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

WPPL account notifications available by text message

Westlake Porter Public Library users can get library account status updates in a convenient new way – by text message. The types of information provided via text message include notification that items on hold are now available, material is due soon, and material is overdue.

To sign up, library customers should visit the library’s Circulation Desk. There is no charge from WPPL for the service, however users should be aware that they may incur charges from their cell phone service provider.

“Since so many people now use their cell phones to get important information and stay connected with their various accounts, it was only natural for us to provide that same convenience for managing their library accounts,” said Library Director Andrew Mangels. ●

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

April 7, 1-2:30 p.m.
Ohio Genealogical Society, Cuyahoga West Chapter offers a free Family History Research Help Session
Members will be available to assist members and the general public with their genealogical research.
Conference Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

April 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & April 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Trash and Treasure Rummage Sale
Antiques, furniture, tools, garden and yard items, toys, collectibles, jewelry, kitchenware, sports equipment and much more (no clothing). Bake sale on premises.
Dover UCC Church, 2239 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

April 10, 9 a.m.-12 noon
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center 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. 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 LENS. Wolf Road Picnic Area parking lot (across from LENS)

April 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
North Union Farmers Market at Crocker Park Opening Day
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, grass-fed beef and much more. Join the crowd!
Corner of Crocker Rd. and Market St. in Crocker Park, Westlake

April 10, 10 a.m.-12 noon
Ohio Voters Against Puppy Mills and Dog Auctions Meeting
See story on page 8 of this issue.
Avon Lake Public Library, 32649 Electric Blvd.

April 12, 6-9 p.m.
Festivus Celebration to benefit Northeast Ohio SPCA
Join VANITYLAB in celebrating their second anniversary in style at the upcoming Festivus celebration. It’s part art festival, part fundraiser, part pet adoption, part beer/wine tasting at JW Dover. A grand prize winner will walk away with a year of beauty valued at over \$1000. Profits from the art show will benefit the Northeast Ohio SPCA. For more information, visit www.vanitylab.com or call 440-835-4490.
VANITYLAB Salon, 24945 Detroit Rd., Westlake

April 13, 11 a.m.-12 noon
Westlake Community Services Dept. Diabetes Support Group Meeting
Today’s speaker will talk about “Positive Health and Well Being.”
Westlake Community Center, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.

April 14, 2-3 p.m.
Westlake Community Services Dept. Caregiver Support Group
Westlake Community Center, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.

April 15, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Westlake Community Services Dept: Hearing Screenings, Cleanings and Repairs
Call 899-3544 to make a reservation.
Westlake Community Center, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.

April 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Open House and Wellness Fair
Open House for the Center for Advanced Rehabilitation at the Lutheran Home. FREE health screenings: posture, balance, blood pressure, glucose and bone density. Homemade soup and salad only \$2.00. Community Vendors will showcase their products and services. If you would like to be a vendor, please contact Cindy Rudolph, 440-871-0090, ext. 2152.
Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve, 2116 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

April 18, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bay Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
Bay Village Kiwanians will flip pancakes for the community for the 55th year. Meals include Aunt Jemima pancakes syrup, link sausages, milk, juice and coffee. They offer plentiful parking, good food, comfortable seating and fast service. The meal is a community tradition and popular with church-going families and the proceeds go to help furnish scholarships for Bay high school students. Advance tickets are available for \$5 from Tom Johnson, 871-0445 or tomjocomm@sbcglobal.net. Tickets at the door are \$6, children under 6 eat free.
Bay Middle School cafetorium, 27725 Wolf Road

April 19, 7 p.m.
“Can We Talk?” Parent & Child Drug Prevention Program
This drug prevention program is designed by Bay Village parents for parents and their 8th grade children. The purpose is to encourage more dialogue between them and to bring more awareness to the dangers of drug use among our youth.
Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.

April 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Westlake Garden Club Meeting
See the story on page 2 of this issue.
Westlake Community Center, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.

April 21, 6:30-8:45 p.m.
Scoouwa, an Indian Captive’s Narrative
See the story on page 3 of this issue.
Dover Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Help is needed to ban puppy mills in Ohio

by Anne Naumann

Puppy mill operators buy and sell “breeder” dogs at auctions. These animals are not treated as pets – they are valued strictly for their capacity to make money. They are kept in cages for their entire breeding lives, usually living in outbuildings in wire cages instead of homes.

They never run in grass, sleep in a bed, or play with a toy. Instead, they are “fed and bred,” eating and relieving themselves in the same 2-foot-by-2-foot cage until their breeding days are done, at which time they are often destroyed.

The Ohio Dog Auction Act is a state ballot initiative whose mission is to help improve the lives of dogs in commercial breeding operations. The proposed law would make it illegal for anyone to auction or raffle a dog in Ohio.

The Coalition to Ban Ohio Dog Auctions plans to gather

the more than 120,700 valid signatures of registered Ohio voters needed by December 1 to place the measure on the November 2011 statewide ballot, giving Ohio citizens the opportunity to end dog auctions and raffles.

Your help is needed to help save the tens of thousands of dogs living in these conditions. Please attend the meeting scheduled for 10 a.m., Saturday, April 10, at the Avon Lake Public Library and learn what you can do to put this on Ohio's ballot and help bring an end to these miserable living conditions.

For more information go to www.BanOhioDogAuctions.com or Facebook at “Ohio Voters Against Puppy Mills and Dog Auctions.”

Please contact Anne Naumann at anne.wssc@yahoo.com to RSVP.

Anne Naumann works in Bay Village.

Skating on the wrong site

by Wendy Wagner

In the last issue of the Observer, Kevin DeFrank takes issue with the Bay Village Historical Society's opposition to the current siting of the skate park in city's Historical Area. His seemingly limitless faith in his city government to do the right thing is admirable. I wish I shared his confidence, but I see the issues quite differently.

Our city officials have approved the siting of a skate park in a Historic Area, an area designated in 1975 to “preserve and restore” the historic character of the city. A historian from the Ohio Historical Society opines that a skate park at this site is inappropriate and will degrade the character of the area, which boasts two National Register Historic buildings in the first donated lakeside park in the city.

Given these unique qualities of the area, shouldn't the City at least provide an explanation of how this site is appropriate for a skate park, and ideally do so before it razes an original Cahoon home and puts a 50,000+ pound concrete park there? Adding insult to injury, our city officials refuse to consider an alternative location for the skate park – the backyard of the police station – that many citizens consider to be vastly preferable.

This location not only avoids many of the problems arising under the Will and city laws, but would be much safer given its close proximity to a whole host of 24-hour response personnel stationed only a few hundred feet away. The site also benefits from much greater buffering by trees and buildings so that nearby residents are less affected by noise arising from the park.

The Historical Society has pleaded with the skate park group and the city to consider the police station site and has offered to help make the site work. The reasons that have been given for refusing this site are both illustrative and perplexing.

First, the city indicates that using the police station site will involve a \$14,000 investigation/permit from the Ohio EPA. This cost, however, is considerably less than the cost of razing the Cahoon home and the Historical Society and other concerned citizens have volunteered to help defray these costs.

Suggestions have also been made that the site is unstable, yet

no documentation of this has been provided and some knowledgeable observers question whether the site is in fact unstable given the size of the proposed park and its likely location.

The final and most perplexing reason provided for opposing the police station location is that the site is over an old city landfill, and locating the skate park there might require the city to address potential environmental issues. Although runoff from the three-acre landfill drains into Porter Creek and the surface of the landfill, now covered with grass, is used extensively for soccer and other recreational activities, the landfill apparently has never been tested for hazardous substances to ensure that it is safe.

One would think that city leaders would be anxious to do this testing. Instead, city leaders oppose the police station site apparently because this location would require them to become knowledgeable about these issues, a reluctance made even more puzzling given the fact that state and federal monies are available to substantially defray testing and clean up costs.

Rather than seizing the opportunity to create a situation in which all interested parties win – skaters get their park, the historical area is not compromised, and the environmental safety of all citizens is protected – city leaders have rejected the police station site out of hand. It is hard to see how this decision is the best interest of our community.

In his letter, Mr. DeFrank also paints the picture of a litigious Historical Society that is determined to bring baseless litigation against the city of Bay Village. (This litigation is baseless, according to Mr. DeFrank, because he takes at face value the city's own analysis that it has done nothing wrong).

In any event, if the Historical Society's legal case was frivolous, it would be foolish for them to pursue it given the city's willingness to defend itself in court. In 2007 and 2008, for example, the city of Bay Village spent over \$600,000 in legal expenses.

I thus cannot agree with Mr. DeFrank's ultimate conclusion that the city should remain immune from challenge simply because it takes an intractable position and is prepared to pull out the stops in defending itself.

Wendy Wagner lives in Bay Village.

Soccer at the city dump

by Alex Dade

I've been closely following the controversy about the skate park location, which has seemed to me more like duck hunting with blanks – lots of noise and little meat – than a reasoned discussion. We've investigated a number of sites: Behind the police station (it was a dump), Reese Park (neighbors objected), Bradley Park (those pesky neighbors again), overflow pool parking (another dump) and now the historic area (during our bicentennial?).

The only location that hasn't raised a public outcry of one sort or another has been the police station location. The main reason the city council doesn't want to try to put the skate park there is that it used to be a dump. They're afraid that, if they go through the EPA process to get approval, they might find out that the prior dump contains toxins that would require that we clean up the whole area.

Isn't that sort of like a teenager trying to keep his mom out of his room because she might make him clean it up if she knew what a mess it was? Or like not going to the dentist because the doctor might make you floss because your gums are receding? Like I said – short on logic.

Where's the city's Green Team? Where are the environmentalists? Where are the people concerned about runoff into the creek? Where are the soccer parents whose kids are playing on the dump site? The skate park aside, why isn't anybody concerned about the potential effects of our kids playing in a dump area?

If the city is worried the EPA might make a big deal out of the dump, maybe we should resolve the problem. Maybe a better approach would be to find out what's buried there and what the issues really are. The city seems to be saying they don't want to ask the question because they may not like the answer. That's an irresponsible attitude – if we think we may have a problem, let's find out, and if we do, let's take care of it.

I'll bet there are even grants available to help us clean it up. Why aren't we going after federal and state money to make it right? I've suggested the warring factions get together and raise the money. That would serve dual purposes – a home for the skate park and resolution of the environmental problems at the old dump, aka police station.

I asked a friend who knows about EPA processes what would be involved in cleaning up the Cahoon Park dump site. We'd have to go through something called a “Rule 13” process requiring about \$13,000 which the Bay Village Historical Society could help raise. Then guess what? Cover it with asphalt or concrete. Something like a skate park would be perfect. Wow.

Alex Dade lives in Bay Village.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

League supports Westlake schools bond issue

To The Editor:

The Westlake/North Olmsted Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area urges Westlake citizens to support the 3.4 mill, \$84 million bond issue which will be on the May 4, 2010 ballot. Issue #14 will cost \$104.16 a year per \$100,000 of property value.

The LWV commends the extensive citizen involvement that preceded the decision of the Westlake Board of Education to propose this bond issue.

Today Westlake schools are rated “excellent” despite overcrowding in some buildings and deteriorating mechanical systems. The phased facilities improved plan is expected to result in reduced annual maintenance costs as well as enhanced instructional space. Dedicated bond issue funds for capital expenses can eliminate the need to drain the operating budget for emergency repairs.

The League of Women Voters recommends a “Yes” vote on Issue #14 on May 4, 2010.

Sincerely,
Janet Kershaw, Westlake/North
Olmsted Chapter Chair and
Co-President, League of Women
Voters Cuyahoga Area

Skate park public hearing April 13

To Bay Village citizens:

It's been six years, and Bay Village has rejected ten sites for a skate and bike park. Short of a lawsuit or a lack of funds, nothing will now stop construction at the northeast corner of Wolf and Cahoon. Whether we are for or against skateboarding, every one of us should care how that very visible corner will look for the next decade. We should all be concerned about supervision of the park's users. It matters to each of us whether the facility becomes an eyesore or an asset.

Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the skate and bike park proposal. It's up to you to make sure that the site is attractive and maintainable, that neighbors are buffered from noise, and that the design protects the City from liability. Your opinion matters. Your ideas are a vital part of the process.

– Conda Boyd, Bay Village

Area should stay historical

This letter is in reply to Kevin DeFrank's letter in the March 23 issue of this paper. I understand the skateboard park location at Bradley Road Park had already been determined, but progress was stopped due to complaints from neighbors. Village Square merchants also complained about the skateboard park being located across the street near the Bay Way Youth Center. Why are the complaints of the neighbors and merchants okay while the historical society's complaint to placing the new skate park in a historical area becomes at odds with the interests of the community?

The same mayor and council entrusted by the Cahoon (family) Will to decide how the area should be used, passed an ordinance in the 1970s designating the area around the west side of the ravine from Wolf Road to Lake Road as a historical area. Why can't the area stay historical?

– V.L. McLeod, Bay Village