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# Observer

Community News & Views Written by the Citizens of Westlake & Bay Village • Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com)

## RED BRICK SCHOOL COMES DOWN



The Red Brick schoolhouse was demolished Nov. 23-26. See more on pages 2-3.

## Singing Keller Brothers to appear at the Bay Village Branch Library

by Barbara Isaacs

Take some time out from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and relax as you listen to the talented Keller Brothers of Elyria, Ohio.



They will be appearing at the Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2:00 p.m. This trio of young brothers, George (Dramatic Tenor), Peter (Bass) and John (Lyric Tenor), will present a variety of holiday favorites sure to delight the entire family.

Having sung with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra this past summer, they recently went to Chicago to audition for the popular TV show, "America's Got Talent." Just think: You can be the one to say, "I heard the Keller Brothers when...!"

Don't miss out! Be sure to register by calling the Bay Village Branch at 440-871-6392 or online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), as seating is limited.   
Barbara Isaacs is a Public Services Librarian at the Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

## Come to the Westlake Rec Center for December family fun

by Chris Haldi

Here is a highlighted program for the first half of December. If you are looking for a certain program or are wondering if we have it available, check our website, the Rec Gazette newspaper or give us a call. There are a handful of programs that are not listed in this article.

Saturday, Dec. 4 (8:30-10:30 p.m.) **Family Ultimate After Hours Bash** – Bring the family up for an evening of being together and having fun after the doors to the Rec close.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 (4:30-5:30 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.) **Elf Workshop (ages 3-8)** – The kids will make handmade Christmas gifts.

Friday, Dec. 10 (7 p.m.) **Evening at the North Pole** – Join us for a story, sing-a-long, snacks and Santa.

Saturday, Dec. 11 (9-10:15 a.m. or 10:30-11:15 a.m.) **Breakfast with Santa** – This fun morning includes a yummy breakfast, time with Santa and pictures with the jolly big man. Kids up to the age of 12 can be signed up. You need to register early, for this event has limited space.

Sunday, Dec. 12 (2 p.m.) **Mother/Daughter Christmas Craft** – Make Christmas decorations and crafts together. Fathers/sons also welcome.



Santa returns to the Westlake Rec Center Dec. 11 and Dec. 18.

Friday, Dec. 17, 21 and 25 (8 p.m.) **Friday Night Family Flicks** – Join us for pizza, drinks and a movie. Bring blankets and pillows.

Saturday, Dec. 18 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) **Swim with Santa** – Santa will stop by the pool to pick up Christmas lists and swim.

More information regarding all of these programs and more can be found at our website at <http://www.cityofwestlake.org/recreation/index.aspx> or by stopping by the Recreation Center at 28955 Hilliard Blvd., calling us at 440-808-5700 or picking up our new Rec Gazette.   
mas lists and swim.

## Birthday bash banishes hunger in Bay

by Shirley Hostetler

Sammy Brenneman from Bay Village celebrated his 9th birthday party with 24 friends. Sammy asked that they bring food items to be donated to Bay Village Community Services Department's Feed-A-Family Program for the holidays. The party guests brought 100 food items for donation!

The Community Services Department is accepting donations of non-perishable food, paper products, cleaning products and toiletries through December 18. Community Services is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 p.m. They are located next to the Bay Pool on Bryson Lane.   
Shirley Hostetler is Assistant to the Director of the Bay Village Community Services Office.



Sammy Brenneman (right) and brother, Owen, donated 100 food items to Bay Village's Feed-A-Family Program.



# The Red Brick school goes down into history

by Dave Pfister and Lysa Stanton, Westlake Historical Society



Heavy equipment began to tear down the building at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23. With a break for Thanksgiving Day, the job was largely completed by Friday, Nov. 26.



The demolition of the 101-year-old Red Brick School was slow at first so thousands of bricks could be preserved; 500 bricks will be used to fill souvenir orders, others will be used in projects throughout the city. Many people have contacted the Westlake Historical Society expressing feelings of loss at the demolition of this historic structure.



With about half of the building gone, a mural from days gone by is exposed for the last time!



A workman cleans bricks for reuse and as historic keepsakes.



Even though the building is now gone, this community icon known as the Red Brick School will live in our hearts and memories forever!

## 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.
- 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 Village (and beyond) so keep the audience in mind when choosing topics.
- Know you'll be edited. All stories pass through

editors who review 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.

To join in, sign-up through the Member Center at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com) and submit your stories & photos. Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes. Contact us at [staff@wbvobserver.com](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com).

## WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

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

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Read in The Green and White NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

# The Red Brick’s memories live on

by Grace Karabinus, Green and White Staff Assistant News Editor

The Red Brick Building, a century-old schoolhouse that was considered a landmark of the old Dover Village, was torn down over a period of four days, from Nov. 23 to Nov. 26. This building had been vacant since 2003, and after plans fizzled to transform the building into something useful for the community, the city decided to raze the school. Many residents have negative opinions regarding the tearing down of a local landmark.

“The building holds many memories for a great deal of community members, as well as historical significance for Westlake and the region,” said Kim Bonvisuto, Communications Coordinator for the Westlake Schools. “At the same time, you have a segment of the community looking toward the future and the opening of our new middle and high schools [that] sees the Red Brick’s demolition as a necessary step to move forward.”

In 2006, Westlake resident Heather Drago developed the perfect use for the Red Brick Building. She planned to reno-

vate the historic building, and convert it into a center for the arts. The building was an ideal size, and Westlake previously had nothing like it. But the three million dollars that the renovation would cost was never raised, and seeing how the economy had turned, it most likely would not be funded anytime in the near future. Because of this, the city had decided to tear it down.

The Red Brick Building was built in 1909 as a high school for the residents of Dover Village, presently Westlake and Bay Village. This building was the first school in the area, and was built on the exact center point of Dover. In 1923, the school became a grade school, and a new high school was built on the site where LBMS currently resides. In 1968, the schoolhouse became Westlake’s Board of Education, and remained so until 2003. Since then, the building has been unoccupied.

The Red Brick Building may be gone, but the memories will remain forever. The new high school is planning to incorporate the “Public School” stone that used to hang over the door of the Red Brick into the construction of the new building.

The city also offered a brick to every



Luke Reilly, left, and Brian Polivka of Westlake High School’s WHBS-TV videotape the demolition of the Red Brick schoolhouse. The video of will be available for viewing to Westlake residents on local cable access channels in a few weeks.

resident who requested one through the schools’ website at [www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org). “I think that people are nostalgic about the past, but also looking toward the future,” said WHS Principal Mr. Freeman. ●

## ‘A Christmas Carol’ to close Huntington Playhouse season

by Tom Meyrose

Huntington Playhouse will close out the 2010 season with a production of “A Christmas Carol,” opening Nov. 26 and playing through Dec. 19. Performances are on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

This fresh approach to the classic tale faithfully conveys the magic of Charles Dickens. On Christmas Eve in 1843, friends and family gathered at Dickens’ home ask him to tell a story; but he refuses to work on Christ-



mas Eve. If there is going to be a story, each must take a part in its telling. And so the story unfolds with the cast of nine playing over 40 parts.

Reservations are strongly recommended by calling the box office at 440-871-8333.

Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Rd. in Bay Village and is a licensed affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks. For more information, check the website: [www.huntingtonplayhouse.com](http://www.huntingtonplayhouse.com). ●

Tom Meyrose is the director of “A Christmas Carol” and Managing Director of Huntington Playhouse.

## Westerly School hosts science fair

by Courtney Dixon, Westerly School 3rd Grade Scientist

Westerly School’s young scientists celebrated their annual Science Fair on Nov. 19, 2010. The participants in this event were third and fourth graders. Almost every class had a science project. Many of the young scientists (students) made their own science projects at home and then brought them to school.

Kids did a variety of experiments – one person made slime! Another tried cooking brownies with more and more eggs. Another project was dancing raisins. Another scientist made a tornado in a bottle and another girl made some Benham disks – disks that spin and make colors. Bailey in my class did an experiment on using water to make battery

power. The entire cafeteria was filled with experiments.

In my class we each did a science project with a partner. All of our projects were on water. We called our projects, “Water Power.” My partner was Juliana. Our water project was called “Float the Boat.” We tried to take a ball of clay and make it float in hot, warm and cold water. We finally got it to float by shaping the ball into a flower shape.

We had to use the scientific process including: question, hypothesis, materials, procedure, data, conclusions, and more questions. It took a long time to get it to work. I liked making the display boards because we used different materials to decorate our boards.

All of the projects got blue ribbons because everyone who took time to make a project and have fun, too, was a winner. ●

## Westlake martial arts student inducted into hall of fame

by Gary Yano

October 10, 2010, was a very special day for Julie Tittl, as she received proclamations from the mayors of Westlake, Lakewood and Cleveland for being inducted into the International Karate & Kickboxing Hall of Fame.

The International Karate & Kickboxing Hall of Fame is the oldest original martial arts hall of fame in America. Legends such as Bruce Lee, Chuck Norris, Ed Parker, Joe Lewis and others are enshrined in the hall of fame that was established in 1975 in Cleveland.

The hall was founded by Daniel Soward as a way to recognize martial artists from around the world for providing children and police officers a way to live a safer and happier life with knowledge gained from training in the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of martial arts. A sign of their earned recognition as the “Best of the Best” in the martial arts is the lifetime achievement plaque that is awarded to each inductee.

Master Tittl has been training



Julie Tittl displays her Championship Belt.

for over 30 years in the martial arts, starting her training with her grandfather, Alan McRae, and continuing through her high school and college years at Kent State University, where she earned an education degree in English. She taught for a number of community city programs in her quest to be the very best.

Her training in Okinawan Isshinryu Karate was under Grand Master Gary Yutaka Yano and earned her a senior level 6th degree Black Belt and the title of Master Instructor. She continues to train at Westlake Martial Arts and also teaches at her school, Gold Coast Martial Arts in Lakewood and is a Senior Board member of Katsudo International focusing on self-defense for women. She has a five-DVD set to be distributed early next year along with some film projects as a feature performer and stunt person.

Mayor Dennis Clough proclaimed October 10, 2010 (10-10-10) as “Julie Tittl Day” in Westlake, and Master Tittl was given a proclamation from Lakewood Mayor Edward Fitzgerald and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. ●



WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Westlake Porter Public Library's December calendar

by Elaine Willis

**Wednesday, Dec. 1 (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.

**Thursday, Dec. 2 (6 -8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP** – John Sawczak of AAI will present a “2010 Market Wrap-Up with 2011 Chart and Outlook.” Please register.

**Saturday, Dec. 4 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) GIVE THE GIFT OF READING** – Looking for a special book for your child this holiday season? Drop by the Youth Services department and browse a select collection of new books and classic favorites and add some titles to your shopping list. Selected books will be available for check-out after 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 4 (11 a.m.-12 p.m.) “PAWS” TO READ** – Kids in grades 1-4: Come read to Oscar the Shih-Tzu at the library! Please call the Youth Services Department starting Nov. 27 to register for a specific time slot.

**Saturday, Dec. 4 (1-4 p.m.) “TWILIGHT” WII AND SHOWING OF THE MOVIE BASED ON THE NOVEL “ECLIPSE”** – Come play Wii’s “Twilight Scene It,” then join us for a screening of the movie based on Stephenie Meyer’s “Eclipse.” As a string of mysterious killings grips Seattle, Bella is forced to choose between

her love for vampire Edward and her friendship with werewolf Jacob. Rated PG-13. For ages 13-18. Registration begins Nov. 27.

**Wednesday, Dec. 8 (11-11:30 a.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.

**Wednesday, Dec. 8 (7-8:30 p.m.) FIND MONEY FOR YOUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION** – Learn how to research foundations and companies that give money to non-profit organizations using Foundation Center’s database Foundation Directory Online. Please register.

**Wednesday, Dec. 8 (7-8 p.m.) PAWSITIVE READERS** – That super canine listener is back and ready to hear you read! Kids in grades 1-4 can sign up for a 10-minute time slot by calling the Youth Services Department starting Dec. 1.

**Thursday, Dec. 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION** – The December selection is “29 Gifts” by Cami Walker.

**Friday, Dec. 10 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME!** – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Please register starting Dec. 3.

**Saturday, Dec. 11 (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, Dec. 11 (3-4 p.m.) GINGERBREAD FUN!** – Join us for an afternoon of gloppy, sloppy fun as you create and decorate your very own gingerbread house. Be sure to bring your imagination! For ages 7-10. Please, no younger siblings. Registration begins Dec. 4.

**Monday, Dec. 13 (7-8:30 p.m.) DOS AND DON'TS OF POST-BANKRUPTCY** – Sylvia Goldsmith, Esq., will discuss the credit implications of post-bankruptcy, how to read a credit report, what accounts should look like after bankruptcy (and for how long) and common problems in reporting and how to correct them. Please register.

**Tuesday, Dec. 14 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION** – The December selection is “The Christmas List” by Richard Paul Evans.

**Wednesday, Dec. 15 (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.

**Friday, Dec. 17 (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.

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

Step back to Christmas Past at Rose Hill Museum

by Cynthia Eakin

Step into Christmas past at Rose Hill Museum in Bay Village. Beautifully decorated for the holidays, the seasonal exhibit features antique dolls from the museum’s collection. The Gift Shoppe at Rose Hill is a great place to purchase stocking stuffers and hostess gifts.

The shop features the full line of commemora-

tive ornaments, including the 2010 Bicentennial medallion, Bicentennial contest posters and playing cards, recipe books and the limited-edition Thomas Jones print of the Bay Village Community House.

Rose Hill Museum, located in Cahoon Memorial Park at Lake and Cahoon Roads, is open on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Christmas. Admission is free. Phone 440-871-7338 for more information. ●



POETRY

The Moon and the Dog

Joe Psarto, Westlake

One cold night the moon rose full  
in perfect periodic roundness  
– of course, she is a lady –  
and bragged that peoples and nations  
have worshipped her, and she liked it,  
and that was her sin,  
and why she was an exile.

Oh yes, the way it is,  
it's in the Book.

I wondered,  
does my dog worship me,  
I'd like that,  
and is that my sin?

He looked up and said to me  
– in hushed barks –  
that he knows nothing of theology,  
that he loves me,  
nothing more, nothing less,  
and I knew my dog was holy.

Celebrate the season at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

by Shawn Salamone

A classic wildlife holiday story, ice cream, starry skies and the shortest day of the year all inspire natural holiday celebrations this year at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in Bay Village.

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, the Center brings to life the heartwarming story of the “Night Tree” for families with children of all ages. Taking a cue from the wildlife holiday tale, the Night Tree program includes hands-on appearances by some of the wild animals featured in the story and, just like the book, families will prepare delicious treats for the wildlife to eat and enjoy their own evening snack of holiday cookies and hot cocoa. The 6:30-8:30 p.m. program is \$7 per person; \$35/family of five or more and pre-registration is required.

On Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.,

Animals A La Mode returns with an upbeat, interactive and educational live animal show for families with children of all ages. The 30-minute program ends with ice cream for everyone (except the critters!) The fee is \$5 per person, with children one and under free and pre-registration is required.

During Winter Solstice, families will celebrate both night and day on the shortest day of the year: Tuesday, Dec. 21! Hike a candlelit trail, warm up by the fire, visit with nighttime animals and experience the night sky in the planetarium. A fun Winter Solstice craft is also included in this 6:30-8:30 p.m. program for all ages. The fee is \$7 per person; \$35/family of five or more and pre-registration is required.

Whether the skies are cloud-covered or clear outside, you can always view the sparkling Northeast Ohio night sky inside the Center's

Walter R. Schuele Planetarium. Find the complete schedule of Public Planetarium Programs from Twinkle Tots to Monthly SkyQuest at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org).

The holidays are also a theme in the Center's recurring Winter Session classes that are just now getting underway. It's not too late to join a Nature Nuts preschool class, Log Cabin Explorers Club or parent and tot programs. Call 440-871-2900 for day and time options.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center provides wildlife exhibits, education and rehabilitation, planetarium programming and nature-based classes to more than 180,000 visitors and program participants every year. The nonprofit Center relies on donations, grants and program fees to maintain free admission, rehabilitation services and a full slate of exceptional educational offerings. ●



LAKE ERIE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

Holiday shopping for creatures and a cause

by Shawn Salamone

Who puts pine shavings, latex gloves or mealworms on a holiday shopping list? You – if you shop for the animals at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Throughout the month of December, the Center will collect holiday gifts for creature care.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator Amy LeMonds said the Center’s “wish list” includes an unusual mix of items that meet specific animal care needs. “For example, every winter, we care for bats that are disturbed from hibernation,” LeMonds said. “In order to nourish and keep the animals alive until their natural food sources return, we have a special need for insects like mealworms and crickets. We also go through hundreds of gallons of Dawn dish detergent- not only cleaning oiled animals- but also cleaning up after the animals.”

An updated in-kind donations “wish list” is posted on Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s website at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or available at the Center, 28728 Wolf Rd. in Bay Village. It includes gift cards that may earn you a bonus of “rewards points.”

You can also help care for the animals and give a memorable gift to a loved one by “adopting” his or her favorite Center exhibit animal. Whether it’s the magnificent bald eagle or a cuddly bunny, you’ll receive a custom adoption certificate and, with an adoption of six months or more, your gift recipient’s name will appear on the animal’s exhibit.

A Center Membership (which includes planetarium passes), a Center gift certificate (redeemable for fun classes and programs) or a tribute donation in your loved one’s name also make great holiday gifts that support the nonprofit mission of a treasured community resource.

“The support we receive during this season of



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women’s Board member Jo Theis works at last month’s Christmas Carousel fundraiser. The Women’s Board will offer another chance to view and buy their holiday crafts on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the lobby of the Center at 28728 Wolf Rd. in Bay Village. Admission to the Center is free; proceeds benefit the nonprofit Center.

giving is vital to our continued success and humbling, as well, because it demonstrates that so many people hold a strong belief in our educational mission,” said Center Executive Director Catherine Timko. “We are grateful for each gift.”

Animal adoptions, memberships and tribute donations can all be made using online forms available on the Center’s website at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or by phone at 440-871-2900. Gift certificates require a



Holiday shoppers who attended the Christmas Carousel Holiday Festival at Bay High School last month helped support the nonprofit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center through the annual Women’s Board fundraiser. Pictured here: Julie Russell and Sandy Wood at the “A Spirited Holiday” booth.

stop at the Center. ●  
Shawn Salamone is Community Relations Manager at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.



Lakewood Hospital  
Orthopaedic Services

Orthopaedic surgeons Michael Kolczun, II, M.D. and Joseph George, M.D. welcome Frank Sabo, M.D. to their practice.

Lakewood Hospital is home to a renovated orthopaedic unit, and to the area’s leading orthopaedic care experts. With the addition of Dr. Sabo to the practice of renowned Cleveland Clinic Lorain Institute physicians, Dr. Kolczun and Dr. George, patients can take comfort in knowing they’ll receive the most advanced treatment options and individualized care in a private and healing setting.



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## CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

## Local 'celebrities' visit the Bay Library

by Joyce Sandy

Bay Village community "celebrities" visited the Bay Village Branch Library three Tuesday nights in November as part of the Reading With the Stars program series for families with children ages 2-7 years old.

The three local celebrities that the library hosted were Jay Reynolds, director of the Walter J. Schuele Planetarium at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Captain Martin Garvey of the Bay Village Fire Department, and Mayor Deborah Sutherland.

Each celebrity read a picture book that had something to do with their job, shared what they did on their job, and – in the case of the firefighter – even brought their vehicle. The program ended with the children trying a related craft.

These fun events brought together Bay Village community helpers and families in an informal setting to enjoy books and each other. The staff of the Bay Village Branch Library would like to extend their thanks to Mr. Reynolds, Captain Garvey and his colleagues, and Mayor Sutherland for helping to make this series a huge success. ●

*Joyce Sandy works in the Children's Department of the Bay Village Branch Library.*



Mayor Sutherland reads the book "Hugville" by Court Crandall to some enchanted listeners.



Captain Martin Garvey of the Bay Village Fire Department reads the book "This is the Firefighter" by Laura Godwin to children and parents.

## Bay Village Branch Library December programs

by Joyce Sandy

The staff at the Bay Library hopes everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Now spend some down-time with a good book and attend these programs this month:

### ADULT DEPARTMENT

**Wednesday, Dec. 1 (7 p.m.) MAKE A BRACELET FOR THE HOLIDAYS** – Learn how easy it is to create jewelry gifts in this quick workshop. Bring your own beads, or select from the instructor's stash. We'll show you how to design them and finish off your bracelet with a simple crimping technique. Each participant will make one bracelet. All tools and supplies will be available for use in class, but participants are welcome to bring their own supplies as well. Session will be led by Laura Jacobs, owner of Embellish in Rocky River.

**Sunday, Dec. 5 (2-3 p.m.) KELLER BROTHERS HOLIDAY CONCERT** – Holiday music lovers of all ages are invited to come and hear George, John and Peter Keller sing a program of holiday songs, show tunes and opera.

**Wednesday, Dec. 15 (7 p.m.) WHAT BUSINESS SHOULD I START?** – This workshop leads you through the process of determining the type of entrepreneur you are and how to analyze your strengths and goals. The class will introduce business opportunities and trends that best suit your type of entrepreneurship.

### TEEN DEPARTMENT

**Thursday, Dec. 9 (3:30 p.m.) TEEN CRAFT CLUB** – Make a cool craft after school! Snacks and supplies will be provided.

Please register for the above programs by calling 871-6392 or going online to [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org). We hope to see you soon!

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Officer May was injured on June 1, 2008, while effecting the arrest of a suspect. Officer May sustained permanent injuries and was forced to retire on a medical disability in 2010.  
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# Rockets hockey team honors Bay Bicentennial

by **Julia Shutt**  
Bay Village celebrated its Bicentennial year this fall and the Bay High School hockey team decided to honor their home town, too. The Bay Rockets hockey team chose “Old-Time Hockey” as a fitting theme for their team poster.

The team effort here really captures that turn-of-the-century look and feel. The sepia tone finish makes the image appear authentic, as do the band of skaters with attitude, dapper coaches, and a rough little pooch mascot.

The Bay Village City Hall was the perfect location for this fun photo-shoot. Look for the team poster around town and support Rockets Hockey by coming to see them play – Old-Time! ●  
*Julia Shutt lives in Bay Village.*



The Bay Rockets hockey team poses for a Bicentennial-themed team photo on the steps of City Hall.

## Going Green

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# Festive winter weekend at BAYarts Dec. 11-12

by Nancy Heaton

BAYarts presents the first annual “Festive by Nature” Winter Weekend on Dec. 11 and 12. The weekend will consist of holiday-themed workshops for kids and families to create gifts and holiday decorations, trunk shows from shop artists such as Freckle Face jewelry as well as fine artists shown in the gallery.

Although the event was originally scheduled to be held in the renovated Fuller House, it will now be held entirely in the Gallery House to be part of the ongoing Holiday Shop. Besides the workshops and featured artists, there will be refreshments, bonfires and a special visit from Father Christmas on the Gallery Porch Saturday, Dec. 11.

Father Christmas, unlike Santa, is the spirit of Christmas “all year ‘round.” He’ll be making his annual appearance from noon to 4 p.m. All weekend, entrants from the Gingerbread Houses of Huntington Reservation Contest (see ad below), will be on display and you can vote.

Winners will be announced Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. To register for the holiday



Father Christmas returns to BAYarts Dec. 11.

workshops, enter the Gingerbread House contest or get more information, visit [www.bayarts.net](http://www.bayarts.net) or stop by during extended holiday hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. and Thursday until 8 p.m. ●

Nancy Heaton is Executive Director of BAYarts.

# Troop 1245 interviews a very special Bay resident

by Katarina Chesterfield, third grader at Westerly Elementary School

Wednesday, Nov. 17, was an exciting day for Girl Scout Troop 1245! We met at St. Barnabas Church to interview Mina Hughes. She is 101 years old! Mrs. Hughes was born in Indiana in 1909. She moved to Bay Village 60 years ago.

Mrs. Hughes has led a very interesting life. My question to her was if she went to her prom. She did! She also attended an all-girls college. One year after college, all the banks closed down. It was called The Great

Depression. She felt very lucky that her father did not lose his job. She still remembers her grandmother’s telephone. She had to call the operator first to call the person that she wanted to talk to.

Though she didn’t know any of the Cahoon sisters, Mrs. Hughes loves Bay Village! She loves living close to the lake and thinks that Bay Village is a very nice community. She even rode in a convertible in the Bay Bicentennial parade! Mina Hughes knew that when she moved to Bay Village, she would never move again.

I think it was very interesting! Thank you, Mina Hughes! ●



Girl Scout Troop 1245 with Mina Hughes

## GINGERBREAD HOUSES OF HUNTINGTON RESERVATION

A (semi)YUMMY Contest – no gingerbread required!

Use your imagination and construct a model house of any of the buildings in the Huntington Reservation. Choose from the BAYarts Gallery, The Fuller House, The Train Station (Vento), Huntington Playhouse, The Red Caboose, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center or any combination.



Houses need not be edible or made from gingerbread. USE YOUR IMAGINATION! Houses will be on display in the Fuller House during BAYarts “Festive by Nature” Winter Weekend on Dec. 11 & 12. Winners will be announced Dec 12.

Pickup an entry form with guidelines at the above organizations or download at [www.bayarts.net](http://www.bayarts.net).

Houses will be published in the Dec. 14 issue of the Westlake/Bay Village Observer.

BAY arts

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## Peace of Mind for Uncertain Times

“I am absolutely thrilled with the amenities and personal attention that Mom and Dad receive at Westlake Village. They are happy and comfortable and the staff monitors them closely so that they may promptly tend to their evolving needs.”

~ Deanna Gartman, daughter of Westlake Village residents Dean & Joyce Haberkost

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# Rep. Baker presents essay scholarship to Westlake student

State Representative Nan Baker recently presented the National Foundation for Women Legislators' (NFWL) National Rifle Association (NRA) Annual Bill of Rights Essay Scholarship to Courtney Kishbaugh, a Westlake resident and senior at Magnificat High School. The presentation took place on November 20 in Orlando, Fla.

Courtney was among eight students from across the nation who were chosen to receive this scholarship valued at \$3,000. The theme of her essay highlighted how ideas concerning freedom and civic virtues have impacted the "millennial" generation.

"It was an honor to join the NFWL's 72nd Annual Conference and be a part of recognizing such an outstanding student, Courtney Kishbaugh," said Rep. Baker. "I am so proud to have sponsored Courtney and learn many of her accomplishments as a senior at Magnificat High School. She is certainly a fine example of a future leader. Her essay was excellent."

Joining Rep. Baker were many women legislators from across the country. The NFWL's mission is to provide strategic resources to women leaders for leadership development and effective governance through conferences, seminars, educational materials, professional and personal relationships, and networking at both the state and federal levels. ●

# Donate to Westlake food drive Dec. 11-17

The Westlake Assistance Program, through Westlake Community Services, will offer food baskets to Westlake families in need this holiday season and would appreciate donations of non-perishable food items, household goods and toiletries. Please check expiration dates on food products. Volunteers are needed to sort donated food from the food drive. Call 440-899-3544 if you'd like to help.

**Drop-off locations:**

- Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard.
- Westlake Police Department, 27300 Hilliard
- Westlake Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge
- Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge

**Items needed:**

- Canned meats, fruits, vegetables
  - Rice
  - Pasta
  - Spaghetti sauce
  - Gravy
  - Boxed stuffing mix
  - Cranberry sauce
  - Macaroni & cheese
  - Hot/cold drinks
  - Peanut Butter
  - Jelly
  - Soup
- Cereal
  - Cake mixes
  - Jell-O
  - Cookies, popcorn, snacks
  - Toothpaste
  - Paper towels, napkins
  - Laundry detergent
  - Toilet paper
  - Soap
  - Lotion
  - Shampoo/conditioner
  - Deodorant

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Special pricing for our December 14 Holiday issue

Please contact Laura at 440-477-3556 or [adsales@wbvobserver.com](mailto:adsales@wbvobserver.com) for details

# Compeer member celebrates a year of success

by Denise Ayres

The Compeer Program at Far West Center holds a "Monthly Game Night" where members and volunteers get together to play board games, card games, Bingo, or group games like Charades. It is free and usually scheduled in the last week of the month so those managing fixed incomes can participate. The Compeer Game Night on Nov. 23 was extra special. On that date, the game night was also a shared celebration for Shari, a member who achieved a successful year of mental health.

In 2009 Shari experienced a difficult year of increasing symptoms and depression. In 2009 she spent more than 250 days hospitalized. It was difficult for her to see through her depression and see her skills and future goals. Fortunately for Shari, in October 2009 she started to feel better and regain her optimism. Shari followed her mental health treatment goals which included the Partial Hospitalization Program, Case Management, Counseling and Family Group. Shari reconnected with the Compeer Program and attended our events.

In January 2010 Shari and other Compeer members and volunteers met for Monthly Coffee Night. That evening it was evident that Shari's great sense of humor was returning. Shari, in a

friendly manner, was teasing me about my obvious lack of height (I am 5-feet tall).

Shari jokingly asked if I would make a silly pose for a photograph. Everyone laughed, including me. I told her a photo like that would be worth something, but I would do it if she stayed out of the hospital for a year. Shari immediately agreed to the deal. It became a "running joke" throughout the next several months. It provided a sense of group humor for Compeer.

Shari then made a personal decision to get to work on making her goal of remaining out of the hospital for the year come true. Not only did Shari stick with her mental health service plan, but she amazed us all! Shari also gave up smoking, she worked on her dog grooming skills and she took her friend that was managing MS and in need of a wheelchair to fun social activities in the community.

Unfortunately, Shari had some very sad events occur in 2010. Shari lost two good friends to physical illnesses. One of those was Karen, the friend managing MS. Karen was also a valuable member of Compeer.

Shari stayed on her recovery path through 2010. On Nov. 23, Shari succeeded in managing her mental health for the entire year! Not once was she hospitalized. Also, she is still a non-smoker!

Compeer members and volunteers offer her much-deserved congratulations.

What about the deal Shari and I made? I promised her I will make good on letting her take a comical photo of myself. As I tell Shari, the photo is well-deserved because she had the harder end of the bargain!

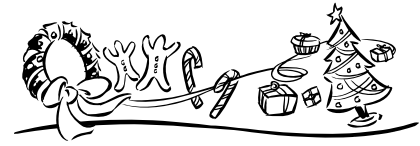
As Shari continues on her personal path of recovery, better things are coming her way. Shari was on the Compeer waiting list for a volunteer match. This fall a social work student named Krystal signed up to be a Compeer volunteer. Shari and Krystal became a "Compeer Match" this fall. Shari continues to set goals, maintain optimism, and make us all laugh with her jokes.

Compeer has a waiting list for members in recovery to be matched with volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or have questions, please call 440-835-6212, ext. 242.

The 21st Annual Compeer Winter Celebration of Friendship will be held Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Bay Lodge. From Shari's success story and her Compeer match you see that Compeer has a lot to celebrate. The event and dinner are created by donations. If you would like to donate please call us or email [compeer@farwestcenter.com](mailto:compeer@farwestcenter.com). ● *Denise Ayres is the Compeer Program Coordinator.*

## FOOD AND ENTERTAINING

# It's party time!



Have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com/members](http://www.wbvobserver.com/members).

by Laurel Wendell

If you are planning any get-togethers for the upcoming holidays, you might want to try a new appetizer recipe. I have some that I have used for years, gathered from neighbors. Here are two I have used often, because they are always enjoyed:

## ZUCCHINI APPETIZERS

- 3 C zucchini, thinly sliced horizontally (4 small)
  - 1 C Bisquick
  - 1/2 C chopped onion
  - 1/2 C Parmesan cheese
  - 2 Tbl parsley
  - 1/2 tsp seasoned salt
  - 1/2 tsp marjoram or oregano
  - dash pepper
  - 1 clove garlic
  - 1/2 C vegetable oil
  - 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- Heat oven to 350. Grease 13"x9" pan. Mix all ingredients. Spread in pan. Bake until golden brown, about 30-40 minutes. Cut into square, serving-size pieces.

## SPINACH BALLS

- 2 10 oz. packages frozen, chopped spinach, cooked
  - 2 C stuffing mix
  - 1 C grated Parmesan cheese
  - 6 eggs, beaten
  - 3/4 C butter
  - 1/2 tsp salt
  - 1/4 tsp pepper
- Combine all ingredients well, roll into walnut-size balls and freeze. Place on baking sheets while frozen and bake at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

# Join in with 250 citizen writers!

We're calling for news and information from our neighborhoods, schools, churches, civic groups, rec leagues and more in Westlake and Bay Village. Write stories, announce events or take community photographs.

You don't need experience – if you see something of interest, write about it or take a picture and put it up!

There are no commitments. Writers may submit as often as they please – a single story, a story about a different topic in every issue, or a series of stories on a subject that you're passionate about. Sign up in the Member Center today at [www.wbvobserver.com/members](http://www.wbvobserver.com/members).



# Knickerbocker music lovers in need of CD player

by **Dianne Borowski**

A group of residents from the Knickerbocker Apartments asked me to reach out through the Observer to help them obtain a gently-used CD player with speakers for a music appreciation class which takes place every Thursday evening. The instructor currently brings a portable CD player and a borrowed speaker to the class each week. Having a unit which would remain on the premises would be helpful to the class as well as enabling the senior music lovers to come down anytime to listen to music.

The group consists of twelve or so residents ranging in age from sixty-something to eighty-plus, including at least three gentlemen. Upon entering the group any given

Thursday, you will find these lively and young-at-heart seniors smiling while listening intently to the music.

Fingers and feet tapping gingerly to the beat speaks volumes. Several conductors can be found keeping time to the music, batons waving enthusiastically. For a short time problems, worries, aches and pains can be set aside, floating away with the sound of the music. Heated discussions sometimes occur as members express their diverse opinions on the merits of certain selections.

The small room is filled with beautiful music and beautiful people who would, if they could, attend concerts and shows but are unable to do so. A chance to be with friends, listening and learning about music is certainly one of the highlights of

their week.

The month of December will find the class enjoying Christmas music. Beginning with liturgical Christmas classics, each week will showcase different holiday selections. The instructor generously supplies snacks and door prizes which add to the fun.

Music lovers, if you or someone you know has a gently-used CD player to donate, please contact the Observer staff at 440-409-0114 or [staff@wbvobserver.com](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com). They'll put you in contact with the Knickerbocker residents. I hope the music appreciation class will grow and evolve over time, allowing Knickerbocker music lovers to continue to participate in this activity which brings them so much enjoyment. ●

*Dianne Borowski lives in Bay Village.*

# RTA expands Sunday morning service

by **Jerry Masek**

After an infusion of state funds for transit to help the job market, RTA has expanded the Sunday service of the No. 49 Route on the West Side.

Expanded service starts at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, to better help workers in the health-care industry reach their employment. Previously, Sunday service began at 9 a.m.

The route – on Crocker Rd., Center Ridge Rd., W. 210th St. and Lorain Ave. – connects Crocker Park and St. John Medical Center with the Westgate Transit Center, Fairview General Hospital, Kamm's Corners shopping area, the West Park Red Line Rapid Station, and 11 other bus routes.

For more information, go to [www.rideRTA.com](http://www.rideRTA.com), or call 216-621-9500. ●

*Jerry Masek is RTA Publications Manager.*

## Readers' Opinions

### Spirit of the holidays is in acts of kindness

Every year I watch people put their lives in high gear around the holidays. Everyone is in a big hurry. We have to pack as much into the month of December as possible.

We meet friends for dinner, shop like crazy, bake cookies till midnight in search of the spirit of the holidays. We pack so much in that at the end we are exhausted, in debt and sad because something was missing. What was missing is the true spirit of the holidays. This year slow down, breathe and use your good manners.

Give the gift of kindness, compassion and patience. Hold a door, offer seniors your seat, let the person driving next to you merge over, wait patiently for the clerk to finish with the person ahead of you, help someone who is less fortunate without an explanation, call someone that you should have checked on a long

time ago but have been too busy, plow your neighbor's driveway, take up their paper or garbage cans, make up with someone who really made you mad, let go of a grudge, send a thank you note, say yes please and no thank you, hug someone you haven't hugged in a while, treat someone to lunch that isn't expecting it, leave a waiter a really good tip, pay for the person behind you at the drive-thru window, pop a quarter in an expired meter, donate your time to someone or something, offer to clean the kitchen, surprise your sister and babysit her kids so she can go Christmas shopping, go visit your grandmother or grandfather, buy a gift for your bank teller or dry cleaner or someone who isn't expecting it, put gas in your wife's car, leave a nice note for someone, bring your assistant a cup of coffee, compliment someone, use a nice

tone to speak to someone, offer to carry something for someone, do something for free, hold someone's hand – it doesn't matter what it is, just do it.

Everyday we are surrounded by opportunities to do nice things for people but we are in such a hurry that we miss them. Slow down and look around. Be aware of your surroundings and who might need you, even for just a moment. What may seem like nothing to you could mean the world to that person.

The true spirit of the holiday is not at the mall or at your favorite restaurant. It is in everyday opportunities to be kind and thoughtful and they are around every corner. Slow down for a random act of kindness. It is there that you will experience the true joy of the season.

Colleen Harding, Bay Village

### All children deserve Christmas toys

Christmas means many things to many people – from devout religious services to shopping mania, but to most children it means toys. It was always religious for our family as I was growing up but more than anything I looked forward to opening presents and finding toys on Christmas morning.

Children need shelter, food and clothing, and they also need toys. However, due to circumstances beyond their control, many children may not be getting any toys this year and may not have received any toys last year, either. For them Santa Claus is just a well-intentioned guy who can't seem to find their homes.

The need is great. My involvement with The Marine Corps Toys for Tots (T4T) some years ago not only opened my eyes to the great need in my community but also the great generosity of the community when the need is brought to its attention. As volunteer chairman of the

annual campaign in my county, my time was spent gathering toys which I then distributed through several established charitable agencies.

One year, several months after Christmas, a lady in charge of helping newly-arrived legal immigrants called me. Our program had been able to help her with toys in the waning days of the previous holiday season – which she called a “miracle” since until then she had run out of all other options. Now, she wanted me to go with her as she visited some of her new people to distribute some of the leftover toys.

I tried to beg off, saying that I appreciated the need and didn't have to see it that “up close and personal” but she persisted and one night I went with her to three homes in a very poor, project neighborhood. Those we saw did not speak English but my friend had ways to communicate.

The small children were brought in to see us but when I handed them some of the toys we brought they just stared at us – at least until I realized that they probably had never seen a real toy before and didn't know what they were. I then got down on the floor and began to play with one toy – a play school bus with its little people – and they soon joined in as we tried out all the toys. Seeing and feeling the joy of the children there was my friend's way of thanking T4T through me for its help.

The miracle of such help comes in the efforts of those who take the time during very busy days to think of those who need our help (and toys) – the children. Please keep these kids in mind this year and find a way to help. It doesn't have to be through T4T, any giving organization will do. Work a miracle – make a kid happy on Christmas morning. Happy holidays.

Mel Maurer, Westlake

### Rewarding bad behavior

There is something truly wrong in this country when a disgraced former governor of New York, Elliot Spitzer, is awarded with a news show on CNN. Switch over to “Jersey Shore” where most of the Generation Duh on the show have the morals and behavior of animals.

And lets not even talk about the Real House-?&%\$# of whatever city they're from, airing their “ladylike” behavior for all to watch. I know it's all about ratings, but as a society does this mean that we should watch these shows because we have the technology to do so, or can we just say no?

I am not an overly-conservative person who is easily appalled by anything off-color or racy, in fact I am a very open-minded person. Have we gone a bit too far in what we pay people to present to us over the airways?

I'm sure many people would say “Just don't watch it” and “Why are you getting so upset about it?” I'll tell you why, because there is no filter over the previews aired at all times of the day for our children to see, that's why.

Where do you think children are getting bad ideas, it's from what they see everyday on TV. Through the annuls of time we've seen the morality pendulum go from wild eras in mankind history along with times that would even make a lime get puckered.

I'm here to tell you that when the morality pendulum comes swinging back, everybody better duck. So enough is enough in rewarding bad behavior.

Steve Novak, Westlake



# West Shore Chorale presents Carols & Choruses of Christmas

by Kelly Kutler

On Sunday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., the West Shore Chorale & Orchestra will present their annual Carols & Choruses of Christmas concert at the Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts. John Drotleff will conduct the 85-member ensemble, which has been performing choral music in Cleveland's western suburbs since 1968.

Marking the 20th anniversary of Carols & Choruses, the program will include the premiere of a new holiday piece by Cleveland native Timothy Brent and works by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Willan, Palus, Holst, Hogan and others. The Chorale will also perform a recent work by nationally-known composer and Lakewood native David Conte.

"We are extremely happy to intro-

duce two choral works to the public this year," says Conductor John Drotleff. "David Conte wrote 'Christmas Intrada' in 1991 for the San Francisco Orchestra Chorus but it was just published and available this year. Dr. Timothy Brent wrote 'From Heaven High To Earth I Come' especially for the Chorale. He is also originally a West Sider and sang in the Chorale when he was in high school."

Audience members are welcome to join the Chorale for a reception of holiday treats following the concert. Tickets are \$15; free for students of all ages. Tickets are available at the door or may be purchased online at westshorechorale.org or by phone at 216-373-7773. Parking is free and handicap accessible. Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts is located at 20770 Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River. ●



The West Shore Chorale in performance.

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Enjoy two hours of great fun,  
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**\$30/couple, or \$90 per lane,  
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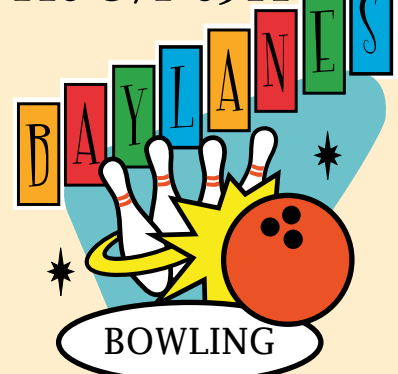
3 different time slots to choose:

6-8 pm, 8:30-10:30 pm  
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Make it a special night by adding a  
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Call Mark for more information  
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**440-871-0911**



27229 Wolf Rd., Bay Village  
440-871-0911 to speak with Mark  
www.BayLanesBowl.com

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26569 Center Ridge Road, Westlake (East of Dover Center)  
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Sun-Thurs, 10:30am-9:30pm • Fri & Sat, 10:30am-Midnight!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

View more events and post your own on the Observer homepage at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com).

**Nov. 30, 7 p.m.**  
**DARE Presentation for Parents**  
Westlake DARE Officer Ken Delfing will present proposed student curriculum for parent evaluation and feedback. The program, "Love is not Abuse," focuses on teen dating abuse and digital dating abuse. The Westlake Parent Connection is sponsoring this event and it is open to all parents. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

**Dec. 1, 7 p.m.**  
**Night At The Museum**  
Join the Westlake Historical Society as we host a "Night At The Museum." Our guest docent, Mayor Dennis Clough, will lead a tour of the Clague House Museum and will read a favorite holiday story. Come and enjoy the tour and the beautiful Victorian holiday tree. Refreshments will be served. For more info, please call 440-721-1201. Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Rd., Westlake

**Dec. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Gift of Touch at The Gathering Place West**  
For a great strategy for handling holiday stress, learn hand and foot massage techniques and Reiki to nurture yourself and loved ones touch by cancer. Pre-registration is required, call 216-595-9546. The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

**Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Holiday Boutique**  
The boutique will feature a Chinese raffle, clothing, jewelry, home decor, holiday food and much more from over 45 vendors. Back by popular demand, FREE BABYSITTING for children 3 years old and up. Come for the shopping and stay for the holiday cheer! Admission is \$3 and includes a raffle ticket. The event benefits Bay Rocket Athletics. Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Rd.

**Dec. 4, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**Christmas Ornament Workshop (ages 7 & up)**  
Have you always wanted to create or paint your own Christmas ornaments? Add your own artistic touch to your Christmas tree and create a special memory by bringing a family member along. Materials provided or bring your own ornaments to paint. Fee: One student, \$25; Two students in the same family, \$35. Non-residents: Add \$10 to all prices. For more info or to register, visit [bayrec.org](http://bayrec.org) or call 440-871-6755. Bay Way Cabin, 27400 Wolf Rd.

**Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Annual Santa Shop**  
Children are invited to pick out affordable gifts (50¢-\$5.00) for all of the special people on their list. A jolly elf will help them shop, ensuring Mom and Dad will be surprised on Christmas Day! There will be gifts for women, men, boys, girls, babies, teachers and pets. Complimentary gift wrap is provided. Mom and Dad can also do some shopping of their own in our Sweet Shop! Sponsored by the Bay Village Early Childhood PTA. Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.

**Dec. 4, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Holiday Craft Fundraiser**  
Following the success of their Christmas Carousel, the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women's Board will offer another chance to view and buy their holiday crafts. Admission to the Center is free; proceeds benefit the nonprofit Center. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center lobby, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

**Dec. 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**The West Shore Chorale Presents 'Carols & Choruses of Christmas'**

See the story on page 11 of this issue.  
Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

**Dec. 7, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Group for Young Women with Breast Cancer**  
A drop-in support group for young women with breast cancer. The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

**Dec. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Night Tree**  
Hear the heartwarming story of the "Night Tree" – one family's tradition of sharing the true spirit of the holidays with nature. Have a close encounter with some of the animals featured in the story. Prepare and take home treats for your backyard wildlife to eat, and enjoy your own snack of holiday cookies and hot cocoa. For families with children of all ages. Fee: \$7/person; \$35/family of 5 or more. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd.

**Dec. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Taking, Digitizing and Archiving Photos**  
This meeting of the Northeast Ohio PC Club is free and open to the public. You don't have to be an NEOPC member. The featured speaker will be Todd Johnson, Digital Manager of Design Photography, Cleveland. He'll give you tips for taking better pictures, show you how to convert your old photos to digital files, and explain best practices for archiving your precious photos to prevent loss. Bring your photos – and lots of questions! The presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m. Come early (6:30 p.m.) to enjoy socializing and free refreshments. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

**Dec. 11, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**Holiday Fun Day With Santa**  
Share some holiday cheer! Visit with Santa, make a fun craft and write a letter to send to the North Pole! This event is free. Bay Way Cabin, 27400 Wolf Rd.

**Dec. 11-12**  
**BAYarts "Festive by Nature" Winter Weekend**  
See the story on page 8 of this issue. BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd.

**Dec. 11-17**  
**Westlake Food Drive**  
See the story on page 9 of this issue. Rec Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.; Police Dept., 27300 Hilliard Blvd.; Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.; Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

**Dec. 12, 2 p.m.**  
**Winter Animals a la Mode**  
Live animals (and maybe YOU) take center stage in this upbeat, interactive and educational show. A different collection of live creatures captivates the whole family each time. Cap it off with a serving of delicious ice cream! The animal presentation runs about 30 minutes. For families of ALL ages. Fee: \$5/person (1 and under free). Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd.

**Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m.**  
**Christmas Open House**  
Please join us for the annual Dwyer Center Christmas Open House. Westerly School's fourth grade choir will perform at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments provided. RSVP, 835-6565. Dwyer Memorial Senior Center, 300 Bryson Ln., Bay Village

Thai restaurant opens in former Dining With Panos spot

by Laura Gonzalez

Three years after opening their first Thai restaurant in Sandusky, the owners of Siam Orchid are very excited about the recent opening of their second location at Kensington Square in Westlake.

Oh Markthuam and Ek Nitedthunyakij emigrated from Bangkok, Thailand, in 2002. They worked in a Thai restaurant in Boston for four years before moving to Ohio and opening their own restaurant in Sandusky. Encouraged by the success of that eatery, the couple moved to Westlake earlier this year to open their second location.

"We chose Westlake because it is a thriving

area with a growing population and ample opportunity to present our unique style of Thai cuisine," said owner Ek Nitedthunyakij. "Westlake is overflowing with new ideas and ambition and there is an environment here that we want to be a part of because we believe that we can flourish as well as contribute to the community's success."

The newest Siam Orchid is located at 28751 Center Ridge Rd., where owners Oh and Ek invite customers to come visit their newly-renovated restaurant and try their fine Thai cuisine.

Siam Orchid is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. For hours and menu, visit their website at [www.siamorchidwestlake.com](http://www.siamorchidwestlake.com) or call 440-835-3321. ●



The renovated interior of Siam Orchid in Westlake's Kensington Square plaza.

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8:00 am - traditional  
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The Bay Village Historical Society



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