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Observer

Community News & Views Written by the Citizens of Westlake & Bay Village • Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

BAYarts Irene Fuller House renovation nearing completion

by Peter Winzig

The long awaited renovation of the BAYarts Irene Fuller House is nearly complete. Scott Adams, of JQA Construction, the general contractor on the project, is targeting early January to “turn over the keys” to the BAYarts organization, once the inspections are completed, so they can hold classes and a gallery show. The renovation began in spring 2010 and is wrapping up.

“I’m really excited about this renovation of the Fuller House,” said Scott Adams. “It’s been a great project for me and

my team of contractors. Early on, we aggressively rebuilt the entire infrastructure of the building to be sure it was strong and secure. Once that was complete, we were able to save much of the original house and blend new contemporary elements in with the old house, creating an environment unlike any other gallery or arts teaching facility in Northeast Ohio. The combination of the new and the old makes for a great setting, both inside and out, and I think the patrons will be pleased with what we’ve accomplished.”

» See FULLER, page 8



Ball drop & fireworks kick off 200th year

The city of Westlake held a New Year’s celebration at Crocker Park on Dec. 31 to officially start its Bicentennial year. The evening included music, entertainment and a live simulcast with sister city Tralee, Ireland. Many special events are planned for the coming year.

Community comes out in support of Village Food Project

by Tara Wendell

The Village Food Project, an endeavor spearheaded by Executive Director Barb Harrell, held an informational meeting at Bay Presbyterian Church on Jan. 9. The evening included an overview of the project, as well as prayer, videos and performances by the Bay High Choraleers. The many attendees were also treated to a sampling of a few VFP dishes.

The project, which was born on Sept. 24, 2010, and modeled after a similar program in

Sebastopol, Calif., will provide three meals per week to Bay families who are facing a cancer crisis. The meals will be offered for up to 12 weeks – an average cancer treatment duration – after which clients will be asked to provide a donation to continue in the program.

Students in 9th-12th grades who reside in Bay, with guidance from volunteer adult chefs, will prepare the meals on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in the Bay Presbyterian kitchen. Trained adults will deliver a week’s worth of meals on Wednesday evenings. Adult volunteers are also needed for grocery shopping, fundraising, planting and harvesting produce, composting and administrative tasks.

Harrell stated that he meals have been researched, tested and adapted to provide

concentrated nutrients and “taste awesome.” Cancer patients often face loss of appetite, so the meals were designed so that each bite is packed with nutrition. Two donated Vita-Mix machines allow VFP to grind food to make it palatable for those who have difficulty chewing or swallowing.

Debbie Bock, a licensed social worker and director of Bay’s Community Services Department, will meet with each client to determine their needs, nutritionally and otherwise.

The Village Food Project estimates that they currently have enough funds to feed 16 clients for 12 weeks. Donations of goods and services are always needed. A wish list of items needed for the kitchen has been created on Amazon.com (search: “Village Food Project” or access this story on our website, wbvobserver.com, for a direct link.)

Barb Harrell, who traveled to California to gather ideas from Sebastopol’s Ceres Community Project, explained how that program has exploded in its first four years, now serving roughly 150 families per week. The early community support of the Village Food Project has Harrell optimistic that Bay Village can be an “incubator” for this idea in our region.

“This is a project that grows like rapid fire,” Harrell told the crowd. “You’re all in the beginning stages of something

» See PROJECT, page 4



Village Food Project volunteers Hanna Sterle and Samm Sanson tell guests at the Jan. 9 event about the feta and sun-dried tomato spread that they helped prepare. Bay students have spent many hours in the kitchen cooking and tasting as VFP refines the nutritious recipes.

COMPEER PARTY GUESTS HONORED BY MAYOR’S VISIT

by Denise Ayres

The Compeer Program at Far West Center held our 21st Annual Winter Party on Thursday, Dec. 9, at Bay Lodge. Compeer was honored that Mayor Dennis Clough of Westlake and his wife made it a priority to add our Winter Party to their busy schedule.

Mayor Clough said he had many events on his schedule but wanted to make sure he came to thank the Compeer volunteers and members. Upon arriving, Mayor Clough and his wife went to each table and personally thanked volunteers and members. He also made a warm public thank you to all guests. We truly appreciate Mayor Clough’s ongoing support of Compeer.

Westlake has been supportive to mental health services since the deinstitutionalization movement in the 1970s. The Far West Center was started in the 1970s by a group of caring professionals and family members that wanted to make community mental health services locally accessible.

» See COMPEER, page 14

BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Upcoming events for Bay Community Services & Dwyer Center

by Shirley Hostetler

Fri., Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m. – CREATIVE RELAXATION PRESENTATION

Kristina Austin, MS Ed, LSW, of The Gathering Place will present an interactive program that can introduce you to art, journaling and guided imagery as tools to manage stress. RSVP, 835-6565.

Fri., Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 3rd ANNUAL SOUP COOK-OFF

Ten local chefs will be competing for your vote at our 3rd Annual Soup Cook-off. A \$5 donation includes soup, salad, roll, beverages and a chance at a drawing for door prizes.

Seating is limited as this popular event is always a sellout. Advance tickets are \$5 each; make checks payable to The City of Bay Village. RSVP 835-6565.

All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Dwyer Center and are hosted by Home Instead Senior Care and Huntington Woods Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Friday mornings, 8:30-11:30 a.m. FREE AARP TAX ASSISTANCE

The AARP Tax Assistance Program begins the first Friday in February, and will continue every Friday until mid-April, for people who have less than

\$75,000 annual income.

An IRS trained and certified volunteer tax counselor will do your return. The returns are filed electronically and there is no charge!!

Call Community Services at 899-3409 or 899-3442 to make an appointment.

Wed., Jan. 19, 10a.m. – COMMUNITY HOUSE BOOK DISCUSSION

January’s selection is “Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver-Relin.

First four Mondays of the month, 9-11 a.m. – FREE BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING

(No health screenings on the fifth Monday, Jan. 31.)

First Monday of the month, 9-10 a.m. BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING, \$3

FITNESS AND WELLNESS CLASSES

First class is free. Call 835-6565 to register.

SENIOR HIGH EXERCISE – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:45-9:30 a.m.

ZUMBA – Latin music dance class for the working adult. Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

ZUMBA GOLD – Latin music dance

class geared for the older adult. Fridays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

TAI CHI – WuStyle, long form (experienced). Mondays at Bay Lodge, 10-11:30 a.m.

TAI CHI – Qigong, simplified 24 form (beginners). Fridays at Bay Lodge, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

LINE DANCE LESSONS with Ronna Murray – Thursdays, 10 a.m. intermediate; 11 a.m. advanced

YOGA with Tolisa Mize Horning – Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesdays, 12-3 p.m. 15 MINUTE CHAIR MASSAGE

Call 835-6565 to schedule ahhhh massage. Cost is \$12.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

This group is for people who are caring for individuals with dementia, Alzheimer’s and all forms of memory loss. They usually meet at 2:30 at the Dwyer Center on the fourth Friday of each month. They welcome newcomers; discuss caregiver’s challenges and offer support and suggestions.

Wii ON WEDNESDAYS – open play from 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

COMPUTER LESSONS – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sessions with a tutor. Call 835-6565 to schedule appointment.

FREE MOVIES on our big screen TV, 1 p.m. PLEASE CALL 835-6565 to make your reservation.

Fri., 1/14 – “The Kids are All Right”

Tues., 1/25 – “Letters to Juliet”

Tues., 2/1 – “Inception”

Tues., 2/8 – “Temple Grandin”

Fri., 2/11 – “Valentine’s Day”

Tues., 2/22 – “Eat, Pray, Love”

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM –

Available equipment includes wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower benches, etc. at no charge. Call 899-3442 for more information or to donate equipment. This is a very valuable program for our Bay Village residents.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR SENIORS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 a.m. Attorney Robert Frye will help you with living wills, power of attorney for health care and can advise you on other legal matters at no charge. Call 835-6565 to schedule an appointment.

For more information about our programs call Bay Village Community Services at 440-899-3442.

Join in with 270 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.

Catholics can come home to St. Raphael

by Anne Straitiff

St. Raphael Church in Bay Village will conduct a series called “Catholics Coming Home” on seven Wednesday evenings from Feb. 9 to March 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. These sessions are for non-practic-

ing Catholics who might be interested in returning to the Church. There will be informal sharing and an update of the Catholic faith in a support-group format.

The church is located at 525 Dover Center Rd., between Wolf and Detroit. For more details

and to register, call Mrs. Annette DeGidio at 440-250-9028, Mrs. Dean Brennan at 440-892-2877 or Deacon Larry Gregg at 440-871-1100, ext. 134. Additional information is available at www.saintraphaelparish.com under “Parish Events.” ●

Free assistance for Westside job seekers offered

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Cleveland’s Westside region, like so many other communities in the Greater Cleveland area, has been hard hit by job loss and the difficulties that arise during extended unemployment. Some job seekers who are new to the current job market are facing challenges as they try to navigate the high-tech process of job searching.

Whether they are recent college graduates, a mom trying to go back into the workforce, or a senior with many years of experience, tracking down and successfully applying for jobs is more complex than in years past. Sadly, many types of jobs in our area have been lost forever and trying to transition to a new career is adding to the stress of job searching.

The Lakewood Family Collaborative is partnering with the Cuyahoga Community College Career and Transition Services for a series of free workshops and personal career coaching sessions

designed to help job seekers learn job seeking skills or to help them transition into new careers.

Being unemployed for an extended amount of time can be isolating, stressful, and costly for job seekers. The career services being offered through these workshops will offer support, guidance and build job searching skills for job seekers that would normally cost hundreds of dollars using a private coach or taking classes.

The “Job Seekers’ Workshops” will take place every Tuesday in February beginning Feb. 1 in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch, 15425 Detroit Ave., from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Personal Career Coaching will be offered on Fridays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Appointments are required for coaching sessions.

For more information, or to make a coaching appointment, please contact the Lakewood Family Collaborative at lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com, or call 216-529-6868. ●

The Bay Village Historical Society and the Candlelight Mystery Players present

“The Great Cahoon Savings & Loan Robbery”

When : Saturday, February 5; 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Where: Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Road, Bay Village
Menu: Lasagna dinner, including salad, rolls and dessert; cash bar
Cost: \$35 per person; advance reservations required

The Candlelight Mystery Players, a troupe of veteran actors, will present an improvisational event where they mingle with the audience, answer questions and provide clues to “who dun it” and why. Come in 1930s costume and join the fun!

The evening includes a raffle for a Thomas Jones bicentennial print of the Community House, games and prizes.

Reservations: Carole Roske, (440) 871-479, caroleroske@att.net

Bay Village Education Foundation announces grant winners

by Bev Walborn

After receiving a record number of grant requests, the Bay Village Education Foundation (BVEF) announced the winners of over \$13,000 in grant money. The winners represented educators from Glenview, Normandy, Westerly, Bay Middle School and Bay High School. The BVEF mission is to support, promote and fund programs created by students, faculty and staff in the Bay Village Public Schools.

The programs encompass all areas of the public school curriculum and provide an opportunity to enhance enthusiasm for learning. The Bay Village Education Foundation awarded ten grants as well as three grants that partnered with the Bay Kiwanis at the Nov. 15 Bay Village Board of Education meeting. BVEF president, Scott Best, and trustee and Bay High science instructor, Ann Mowery, presented the following grants:

Waldron Award – Bay High Literary Magazine, Publication software QuarkXpress 8: \$398 (awarded to teacher Phillip Slanina at BHS)

Golden Award – iPads for Preschoolers: \$1,734 (Carla Farrington, Sue Satow, Nicholl Karmansky at Glenview, SEED)

Flip Cameras: \$175 (Eileen Meehan at Normandy)

AccuCut Project: \$219.35 (Carla Farrington, Sue Simpson at Glenview)

Harvesting Rainwater: \$420 (Martha Fisher at Westerly)

Using iPod Touch for Teaching and Learning, including GeoCaching: \$3,605 (Tim O'Brien, Gary Fitchpatrick at Bay Middle School)

Making Compost from Snack Waste: \$300 (Lindsay Rinehart at Normandy)

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics): \$1,421 (Ann Mowery at BHS)

Embroidery Machine and Software: \$500 (Joy May at BHS)

Norman Bees on the Net: \$3,500 (Cathy Bogart, Anne Hurtuk at Normandy)



Scott Best, BVEF President (back row, far left), and Ann Mowery, BVEF trustee and BHS science instructor (back row, far right), announced the 2010-2011 grant winners at the Bay Village Board of Education meeting on Nov. 15. Also pictured are several of this year's recipients: Back row (l-to-r), Carla Farrington, Joy May, Phillip Slanina, Martha Fisher and Cathy Bogart; Front row, Sue Simpson, Sue Satow and Anne Hurtuk.

KIWANIS PARTNER AWARDS

Thank you to Bay Village Kiwanis for their support!

WINGS: \$1,000 (Jason Martin at BHS)

P.A.L. – Pupil Assistance in Learning: \$1,000 (Rick Manderine at BHS)

KEY Club – Ronald McDonald House Dinner Project: \$400 (Michelle Safarz, Megan Grdina at BHS)

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 grant award winners! These grants could not have been funded without the financial donations of the many BVEF supporters. If you are interested in making a donation to support the wonderful projects created by the staff and students of the Bay Village Schools, please visit the BVEF website at www.bayedfoundation.org. ●

CATCH THE 'LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC' AT CLAGUE PLAYHOUSE

by Pam Kilpatrick

A sweet, romantic drama, "Last Train to Nibroc" by Arlene Hutton is set in the 1940s and tells the story of a young couple, May (Kristen Levy) and Raleigh (Jeff Bartholomew), who first meet on a train going to a small town in Kentucky. The play then follows the couple for two years, painting a touching portrait of two people searching for happiness.

The play is directed by Robert Gibb and will run Friday, Jan. 14, through Sunday, Feb. 6. Show times are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (No performance on Sunday, Jan. 16; and Thursday, Jan. 27, is sold out.)

Tickets are \$12 and \$13 (with a \$1 discount on Thursdays) and may be purchased by calling the Box Office, 440-331-0403, Wednesday through Saturday from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Cash, check, Discover, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Clague Playhouse is located south of Detroit Road off the I-90W Clague Road Exit. Parking is free and the building is handicapped accessible. ●



Specialized Care for Aging Adults Is Our Vision for Tomorrow

Lakewood Hospital SeniorCare Services

Lakewood Hospital's Vision for Tomorrow is working to improve and enhance the quality of life for aging adults while providing guidance to caregivers. Our SeniorCare Services program offers older patients a personalized plan of care from board-certified geriatric specialists to help meet their individual needs, including:

- Assessment of memory loss, health changes, medications, balance, movement disorders and driving skills
- Urinary incontinence therapy
- Senior Behavioral Health
- Geriatric Neurological Health Program, which offers expanded services focused on brain health

It's important to track daily medications. Let us send you a free tracking kit that you can take with you when you visit your doctor or emergency room. Visit lakewoodhospital.org/seniorcare

To learn how our SeniorCare Program can help you, or those you may care for, please call 216.227.CARE.



Lakewood Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

PROJECT

continued from front page
really awesome.”

If you or someone you know is facing cancer and would like to sign up for the Village Food Project, or if you would like to volunteer your time or donate goods or services,

contact 440-348-9401, info@villagefoodproject.com, or The Village Food Project, P.O. Box 40023, Bay Village, OH, 44140.

Two initial volunteer orientations have been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 7-8 p.m. or Saturday, Jan. 22, from 10-11 a.m. in the Bay Presbyterian kitchen, 25415 Lake Rd. A fundraising evening of bowling and live music

is planned for Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at Bay Lanes. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. RSVP to Scott Pohlkamp at aspohlkamp@yahoo.com.

For more information about the Village Food Project, including volunteer opportunities and donation forms, visit villagefoodproject.com. ●



RIGHT: A large crowd packed Bay Presbyterian Church on Jan. 9 to learn more about the Village Food Project.



LEFT: Barb Harrell accepts a \$5,000 check from Bay Kiwanis President Tom Johnson on behalf of the Village Food Project and volunteers (l-to-r) Chani Fordyce, Emily White, Samm Sanson, Hanna Sterle, Maggie Goldsberry and Campbell Slatton. Kiwanis raised the money from the sale of 270 trees at their annual Christmas tree sale.

Moving forward at The Gathering Place West

by Kristina Austin

The recommendation to “exercise 30 minutes or more each day” can seem quite daunting to someone just finishing cancer treatment. Side effects of cancer and cancer treatment can leave individuals feeling physically tired and emotionally drained. The Gathering Place West in Westlake offers a 12-week program called Moving Forward. This program consists of twice weekly resistance exercise training and once a week psychosocial support.

For over five years, The Gathering Place has offered the Moving Forward program to our participants, and many of them continue to meet on a regular basis offering support to their fellow participants while working on achieving that recommended goal of 30 minutes of exercise each day! In addition to Moving Forward, The Gathering Place offers a variety of movement programs including Tai Chi, Yoga, Qigong, Zumba and Healthy Steps.

Moving Forward

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., beginning Jan.26

This twelve-week program provides emotional and physical rehabilitation

for individuals currently in treatment or have completed treatment in the past year. Interested participants must have written medical authorization from their physician before starting program. Contact Susan Marinac at 216-595-9546 to register.

Exercise Classes

Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Participants must have written medical authorization from a physician and must meet with Beth Roth before beginning classes. This program is open for individuals in treatment or coping with the side effects of cancer treatment.

Yoga Classes

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m., and Thursdays, 12:00-1:15 p.m.

Tai Chi Classes

Thursdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

For more information or to register for Moving Forward or the exercise classes please contact The Gathering Place at 216-595-9546. Yoga and Tai Chi are drop in classes and do not require advance registration but you must be touched by cancer to participate. The Gathering Place West is located at 800 Sharon Dr. in Westlake. ●

The Village Foundation announces annual fundraising drive

by Eileen Vernon

A letter has been sent to every family in Bay Village asking each household to make a donation this year, no matter how small, to demonstrate support for the many projects being planned for the village. Due to a slight mix-up, some early letters were returned to the sender. We are asking donors that may have experienced this to re-send a contribution to: The Village Foundation, Box 14022, Bay Village, Ohio 44140. Contributions can also be made online at: www.thevillagefdn.org.

Interest earned on the money contributed is spent wholly in Bay Village for private, not-for-profit projects. All contributions help to build the endowment fund started by T. Richard Martin in late 1995. Originally known as the Play in Bay Fund, The Village Foundation was officially designated as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation in 1997 and, in 2010, finished its thirteenth successful year in operation. Its mission remains to promote the cultural, educational and social activities of the not-for-profit groups and to maintain and enhance the beauty of Bay Village.

On Memorial Day last year, we gathered as one village to honor former coach and principal, Mr. Robert Kitzerow, by installing a bronze plaque of honor on the T. Richard Martin footbridge. Each year on Memorial Day, the names of all the citizens permanently engraved on bronze plaques are read aloud. An over-flowing crowd enjoyed a performance by the Bay High School String Quartet, directed by Carrie Singular, and heard

tenor Troy Ayers II sing “Time to Say Goodbye” and “Nessun Dorma.”

Last fall, the foundation assisted the Bicentennial Committee with its fundraising effort to help support a highly-acclaimed celebration. The community also enjoyed the foundation’s first annual walk/run to benefit the Bicentennial celebration. This coming fall another run will benefit The Village Foundation.

Other projects that have been supported by The Village Foundation Endowment include:

- The Bay Middle School PTA completed an outdoor walkway and all enjoyed the lighting for the mobile in the new entryway.
 - Startup funds were contributed for defibrillators installed in the gym that are ready to be used by old and young for school and community physical fitness activities.
 - The Bay Village Historical Society completed the new fence around the old cemetery.
 - The residents of the Knickerbocker Apartments now have outdoor benches and a new garden area.
 - Huntington Playhouse audiences are enjoying new lighting;
 - BAYarts visitors enjoy a professionally planned historical garden enhancing the grounds of the Fuller House and the studios. Children now use safer steps that were provided by The Village Foundation for the caboose in the park.
 - Family Haven received funds for new office equipment for their coffee business sales effort.
 - Twelve students have received scholarships and twenty students have served over the years as trustees of the Board of Directors. ●
- Eileen Vernon is President of The Village Foundation.

Puppies looking for wonderful homes!

These two-month-old pups include: Lab mixes, wire-haired terrier mixes, spaniel mix and beagle mix. Call Karen or Cheryl at 216-905-6108 or 216-518-7368 or email to letsentertain@sbcglobal.net for more information.



WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Westlake Porter Public Library adds new photos to local history collection

by Elaine Willis

Westlake Porter Public Library has added a collection of photos from the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve to its Local History photo collection. The photos are of the Lutheran Home's facilities, staff and residents, and go back as far as the 1940s. Many were used in Lutheran Home publications.

The addition came about when Lutheran Home staff discovered the photos when preparing to raze their 1939 building. Thinking

of the library's Local History Collection, Vice President of Campus and Community Relations Cindy Rudolph approached Library Director Andrew Mangels and Local History Specialist Zac Springer. The duo jumped at the chance to digitize the collection, which can be found at <http://history.westlakelibrary.org/>.

Because of the age of the photos, identification of individuals in them is ongoing. If you recognize someone in the photos, please contact Zac Springer at 440-250-5460 or Zac.Springer@westlakelibrary.org. ●



The front of the 1939 Lutheran Home building.



An unidentified man and woman check out the trees from a bridge on the Lutheran Home property.

Westlake Porter Public Library passes audit with flying colors

Westlake Porter Public Library has continued its long-standing record of successful audits. A recent audit of the library by the State of Ohio has found no weaknesses or deficiencies in the library's financial management and record-keeping. In addition, the library was found to be in compliance with the laws, regulations, contracts and other agreements it is required to meet.

"I am very pleased, but not surprised, at the audit result," said Library Director Andrew Mangels. "Our Finance Department does an outstanding job of ensuring that the library is a good steward of the public funds entrusted to us."

The library is required by the state to have its books audited every other year. This year's audit took place in late summer, and covered the years 2008 and 2009. ●

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SpiritFest at Unity Hall to feature singing group Prayer Warriors

by Terri Zajac

Unity Hall Presents, a new venue at Unity Spiritual Center, will host the renowned musical group Prayer Warriors, a blend of gospel, pop, rock and R&B, at its first annual SpiritFest, Saturday, Feb. 5, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Unity Hall is on the campus of Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd. in Westlake. Tickets are \$15 and cover the entire event. They can be purchased online at www.unityhallpresents.com, in the USC business office, or at the door.

SpiritFest will begin with a drumming circle hosted by The Cleveland Drum Circle. Bring your own drums, or rent one at the event. While the drumming circle is underway, a variety of holistic healing professionals will

offer their services including reiki, massage, reflexology and other modalities at no additional charge. At 8:00 p.m., the Prayer Warriors will rock Unity Hall with their "inspirational groove," crossing musi-

cal boundaries to deliver the message of peace, understanding and brotherhood.

The Prayer Warriors are well known in greater Cleveland for their appearances at fairs and festivals including Ingenuity Fest, in clubs such as The House of Blues and Hard Rock Café, and for their backup performances with Diana Ross, Josh Groban and other celebrities.

Normally a ticket to an event such as

SpiritFest is \$40 or more, however, Unity Hall Presents is offering this entire event for only \$15. It is Unity's invitation to showcase our beautiful new venue and to warm people's hearts, minds and bodies in the midst of a long Cleveland winter. Food and beverage will be available at SpiritFest.

For more information, call 440-835-0400 or email unityhallpresents@gmail.com. ●



The 22-person singing group Prayer Warriors will headline Unity Spiritual Center's SpiritFest event on Feb. 5.

High school volunteers secure nearly \$1,000 for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

by Shawn Salamone

Two teen volunteers at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center single-handedly secured a nearly \$1,000 corporate donation to support the Bay Village nonprofit. Vince DiGennaro and Sean Waitkus went into the board room to compete for funds under the Farmers Insurance Future Leaders Development Program.

"It was a wonderful program and experience," said DiGennaro. "Although nerves got to us in the beginning, we were relaxed by the end of the presentation, thanks to hours of preparation."

DiGennaro and Waitkus developed a 20-minute PowerPoint and video presentation to explain why the nonprofit charity of their choice should receive a donation. A panel of company leaders judged competing student pitches. The Farmers Insurance Future Leaders Program is aimed at fostering the development of student leadership, communication and negotiation skills;

exposing students to a corporate environment and helping students raise money for charities they feel passionate about.

"Not only do we both love animals, but we both are extremely interested in science and conservation," said DiGennaro. "We both chose to volunteer at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center because its mission and vision line right up with what we want to do for the rest of our lives. I'm sure our passion was apparent to the judges and it really benefited us."

DiGennaro and Waitkus are both involved in North Olmsted High School's SITES (Social Involvement Through Education and Service) Program. Waitkus has logged more than 1,500 volunteer hours at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center and won the Volunteer Service Award at his high school for three years running. He is an aspiring naturalist with plans to study wildlife at Hocking College.

"During my time as a Center volunteer, I've had the

most incredible and unique experiences," said Waitkus. "How many people get to hold a red-tailed hawk, help care for a bald eagle or drape a huge boa constrictor around their shoulders?"

DiGennaro has accumulated more than 100 volunteer hours at the Center since September 2010. He plans to attend the University of Miami (Florida) to study meteorology and marine science.

Farmers Insurance is the third largest insurer in the United States, founded in 1928 and headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center features a planetarium, wildlife rehabilitation, more than 100 live animals on exhibit and a wide variety of educational offerings. The nonprofit organization offers free admission and annually serves more than 180,000 children and adults. For more information, visit www.lensc.org or call 440-871-2900. ●

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

WESTLAKE RECREATION JUMPS INTO THE NEW YEAR!

by Jim Dispirito

Friday, Feb. 4 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance** – Dance the night away with your little princess. Great father/daughter together time. Snacks and punch provided and each couple receives a free photo from the evening. Open to Westlake residents only. Fee per "couple": \$15/members; \$20/residents, non-members; \$5/add'l child.

Jan. 17, 24 and Feb. 21 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) **No School Day Camp (Grades K-6)** – Camp is designed to keep the kids entertained with games, swimming, art projects and other fun stuff in a supervised setting. Bring a brown bag lunch, towel and swimsuit. An afternoon snack will be provided. Fee: \$120/member; \$180/resident, non-member; \$200/non-resident.

Friday, Jan. 28 for Grade 5, Friday, Feb. 11 for Grade 6 (8:30-10:30 p.m.) **Ultimate After Hours Bash** – The kids run the center! Come out and enjoy some pizza and use the basketball courts, do some swimming while listening as a DJ plays your favorite tunes or just hang out with your friends. Kids only participate in this adult-supervised

program. Open to members or children who live or attend school in Westlake. Fee: \$10/member; \$15/resident, non-member.

Starting Jan. 19 (3:45-4:30 p.m. for Grades 3-4; 4:30-5:15 p.m. for Grades 5-6) **Youth Coed Game Time** – New class will feature a different gym class game each week.

Starting Friday, Jan. 7, (6-8:30 p.m.) **Fun Float Friday** – Bring your favorite fun pool float. Regular admission prices apply. No class Jan. 21 or Feb. 4.

Jan. 26 (6:30-9 p.m.) **Decorative Painting Made Easy** – Have you ever wanted to have professional-looking faux-painted walls but just couldn't afford to have it done? It's not as hard as you think. This class will help you out.

North Coast Tutoring Services – Basic reading and math classes for all ages. Classes include several levels of basic reading and math. Classes are limited to 7 students and meet on Thursday evenings.

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

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

WPPL's January calendar of events

Thursday, Jan. 13 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The December selection is “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot.

Saturday, Jan. 15 (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, Jan. 15 (10:45 a.m.) WEST SIDE WRITERS

Monday, Jan. 17 (11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.) MORNING MOVIE SPECIAL – Join us for a morning movie about a despicable villain trying to hold on to his title of “#1 Supervillain.” Rated PG. All ages welcome, but some material may not be appropriate for young children. Registration begins Jan. 10.

Monday, Jan. 17 (2-5 p.m.) OPEN PLAY WII – Don't know what to do on your day off? Play Wii at the library! Choose from a variety of games including Rock Band, Guitar Hero 5, Band Hero, and more! Ages 10-18. Registration begins Jan. 10.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 (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.

Wednesday, Jan. 19 (6:30 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Monday, Jan. 24 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, Jan. 24 (2-3:30 p.m.) MONDAY MOVIE

SPECIAL – Join us for a film about the adventures of the avatar known as the Last Airbender. All ages welcome, but some material may not be appropriate for younger children. Rated PG. Registration begins Jan. 17.

Wednesday, Jan. 26 (2 p.m.) AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – January's selection is “Innocent” by Scott Turow.

Wednesday, Jan. 26 (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 Jan. 19.

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

Family history research help available monthly at WPPL

by Jayne Broestl

Have you always wanted to explore and record your family history, but just don't know where or how to begin? Or, have you reached a brick wall in your search for an elusive ancestor? Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. Members of the Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) are ready to assist you with your family history quest.

This Chapter meets regularly from 7:00-8:45 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month (except August and December), in the Porter Room at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd. The next meeting will be a roundtable discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 19. Cuyahoga West members will recount their most interesting research trip.

If you have only done your research on the internet, you are no doubt missing some rewarding experiences. Nothing can compete with seeing and holding the actual document of an ancestor's guardianship papers, will or deed. And, there is still a mountain of data that has not been digitized for the internet. Come early for social time

and refreshments from 6:30-7:00 p.m. There will also be time for members to help guests with general research questions.

If you cannot attend the monthly evening meetings, you may visit one of the Chapter's monthly help sessions offered on the first Wednesday of each month (except July, August, December and January), from 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Conference Room at Westlake Porter Public Library. Just bring what information you have collected thus far, on a particular ancestral line, to one of these help sessions. Members will help you plan your next step. The next help session is Wednesday, Feb. 2, from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

There is no charge for attending a meeting or a help session and you do not have to be a member. However, members do receive the added benefit of a quarterly newsletter, The Tracer, which includes notices of upcoming genealogical meetings and events, both local and national.

Membership runs from January through December and dues are just \$15 per person, \$18 for two people at one address. For additional information, call 440-899-9201 or visit the website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs>. ●

Tips for the more 'experienced' job seeker

by Michael Perry

Perception is everything, as the saying goes, and that applies to many things – including job seeking. Let's talk about how to use your age, if you are 45+ years old, to your advantage when seeking employment.

Many of the people with whom I've done transition coaching have fallen into the trap of feeling that being “older” was something of a curse when it came to seeking employment.

Not so! And here are some tips/strategies for you to consider using to get past the fact that you are older:

Don't apologize for your age, just present specific accomplishments rather than how long you have been working. The adage of “you're not older, you are just wiser” is the key. You are not “old,” you are experienced!

Talk results, not years of service by discussing how you successfully handled the multitude of challenges thrown your way and how that ultimately benefited current or former employers (i.e., what impact did you have on their bottom line – more sales? Reduced expenses? Improved operational efficiencies?). Remember, hiring managers are judged by the results related to the people they bring into the organization; thus, they are seeking someone with a solid history of strong accomplishments.

Keep your eye on the ball by focusing on the opportunity at hand. Don't feel compelled to ramble on about ALL of the different experiences you've had. (What you did for an employer in 1988 is of little interest. Hiring managers are only concerned with what you have actually accomplished in the last five to ten years, and only about those skills that directly relate to the open position). Unless you are applying for a position that requires you to wear a dozen different hats, stick to what you are best at doing – that which differentiates

you from the competition.

Act like you have “been there before” by talking with the hiring manager in terms of your being able to make an immediate impact upon their group/division/company's bottom line. The key is to demonstrate that you have a solid history of consistently exceeding expectations as a result of your thorough knowledge of the job/industry and the ability to successfully apply that knowledge.

Show that you have a global view of the industry and an understanding of how the position being sought interacts with others within the company. Prove to the hiring manager that a candidate with only a few years of actual work experience would not have as deep an understanding of the industry as do you. Such global thinking is critical to making good judgments/decisions. Again, remember that the hiring manager wishes to bring someone on board that will ultimately make them look good to their boss!

As they say, “it's all in the presentation.” Tell your story with a resume focused on accomplishments that reflect a solid history of strong performance. Then seal the deal by using the interview to provide, with passion and confidence, specific examples of your ability to make a significant impact with the company.

If you don't concentrate on your age, neither will the hiring manager.

Here are a couple questions for you: If you knew/could tell that the hiring manager/company DID discriminate based upon age, would you really want to work there? Don't you really want to be working for an employer that values your talents, abilities and skills, regardless of your age?

A couple of weeks ago I turned 56 years young. “Fifty-six and fabulous,” I keep telling my children. I don't apologize for my age, I'm proud of it. ●

POETRY

Nature

Joe Psarto, Westlake

Consider the fly with his wondrous green and blue eye, faceted like a gemstone of Heaven, and the spider with her slender legs akimbo to our glance, and ask, is she walking like a clown on stilts or is she a wiry ballerina gliding across my kitchen floor, to pirouette at the wall and disappear forevermore? And see the autumn leaves putting on their spangled beauty to greet death, unlike ourselves with our pale mottled skin and smell of medicine.

POETRY

Haiku

David Scullin, Westlake

The smoke from the fire pit chases my chair

The pushers of shopping carts search for the shortest line

Soft bed our hands touch much like our souls

Do you have a poem you'd like to share with our readers? Join in and submit it through our website at: <http://www.wbvobserver.com/members>.

BAYARTS

Gallery exhibit showcases the art of area doctors

by Eileen Stockdale

BAYarts kicks off the new year of Gallery Shows with “Doctors Within Borders.” Doctors from northeast Ohio will come together to show off their artistic talents at BAYarts beginning with an opening reception Jan. 14.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of any of the work will benefit North Coast Health Ministry, a free clinic that provides healthcare services to low-income individuals in western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties (www.nchealthministry.org).

Just a few of the doctors

showing their work are Richard Freeman, Gary Marmolya, Marcello Mellino, William Wilder, Mary Kraft, Ajit Shah, Lawrence Billfield, Jon Abrahamson, Ladislav Fodorko, Luis Llerena and Bhupinder Sawhny. Works in paint, photography and sculpture will be featured.

The show will run through January and can be viewed during regular BAYarts hours: Mon.-Sat., 9-5 p.m. BAYarts is located at 28795 Lake Rd., Bay Village. For more information, call 440-871-6543 or visit www.bayarts.net.

Eileen Stockdale is the BAYarts Gallery Director.



“GeoGyri,” oil on canvas by Richard Freeman.



Blown glass flower vase by Laurence Bilfield.

FULLER *continued from front page*

The newly designed Irene Fuller House features new flooring, windows, roof, gutters, bathrooms, HVAC, floor-to-ceiling window walls, a new wrap-around deck, a small kitchen nook, a second gazebo, an indoor and outdoor drawing and painting studio and a third floor office, along with a beautiful gallery space featuring moving art panels around decorative columns.

Working closely with the Cleveland Metroparks, Adams and architect Mark Yager of YDesignGroup were able to integrate the new building into the BAYarts landscape, creating a whole new “arts campus.” This past fall, the Metroparks also rebuilt the walkways between Huntington Playhouse, Vento and BAYarts and moved the electric service underground. Maple

Leaf Landscaping has also begun planting new gardens.

“I am so delighted the project is almost complete,” said Nancy Heaton, Executive Director for BAYarts. “We are so lucky to have the financial support of the state, Cleveland Metroparks and our donors. Each day we’ve been watching Scott and his team carefully and artfully rebuild the old house, piece by piece. We just can’t wait to get in and welcome the community to our new space.”

BAYarts will hold a formal grand opening ceremony in the spring once the entire renovation project is complete. For more information, visit bayarts.net or, better yet, take a walk over to the site and see the renovation first hand.

Peter Winzig is vice president of the BAYarts board.



BAYarts executive director Nancy Heaton in the Fuller House classroom space.

Meet an astronaut at LENS

Spacewalking Northeast Ohio astronaut to share shuttle stories at free programs

by Shawn Salamone

How does a hometown boy from Northeast Ohio wind up spacewalking outside the International Space Station? Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will kick off 2011 programming by giving both adults and families a chance to find out during two free “Meet An Astronaut” programs.

Michael J. Foreman, from Wadsworth, Ohio, performed five spacewalks and traveled 11 million miles in 412 orbits around Earth during two trips aboard the shuttles Atlantis and Endeavour.

Foreman’s presentation will include highlights from his last mission, NASA’s 31st space shuttle flight in 2009.

The first of the two Meet an Astronaut programs takes place Friday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. and is for adults only. Families with children of all ages are welcome to hear and see Foreman’s presentation on Sunday, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m.

Foreman graduated from Wadsworth High School in 1975; received a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1979 and a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgrad-

uate School in 1986. He logged some 6,000 hours in more than 50 different aircraft over the course of his Naval career.

It took many years for Foreman to fulfill his dream of flying into space, though. He had to wait until June of 1996 for NASA to select him for astronaut training and made the first of his two space flights in 2008 as he marked his 51st birthday.

No RSVP is required for these free programs. Just drop in for some first-hand inspiration on space exploration. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Rd. in Bay Village.



For more information, you can visit www.lensc.org or call 440-871-2900.

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Westlake Bicentennial, 1811-2011

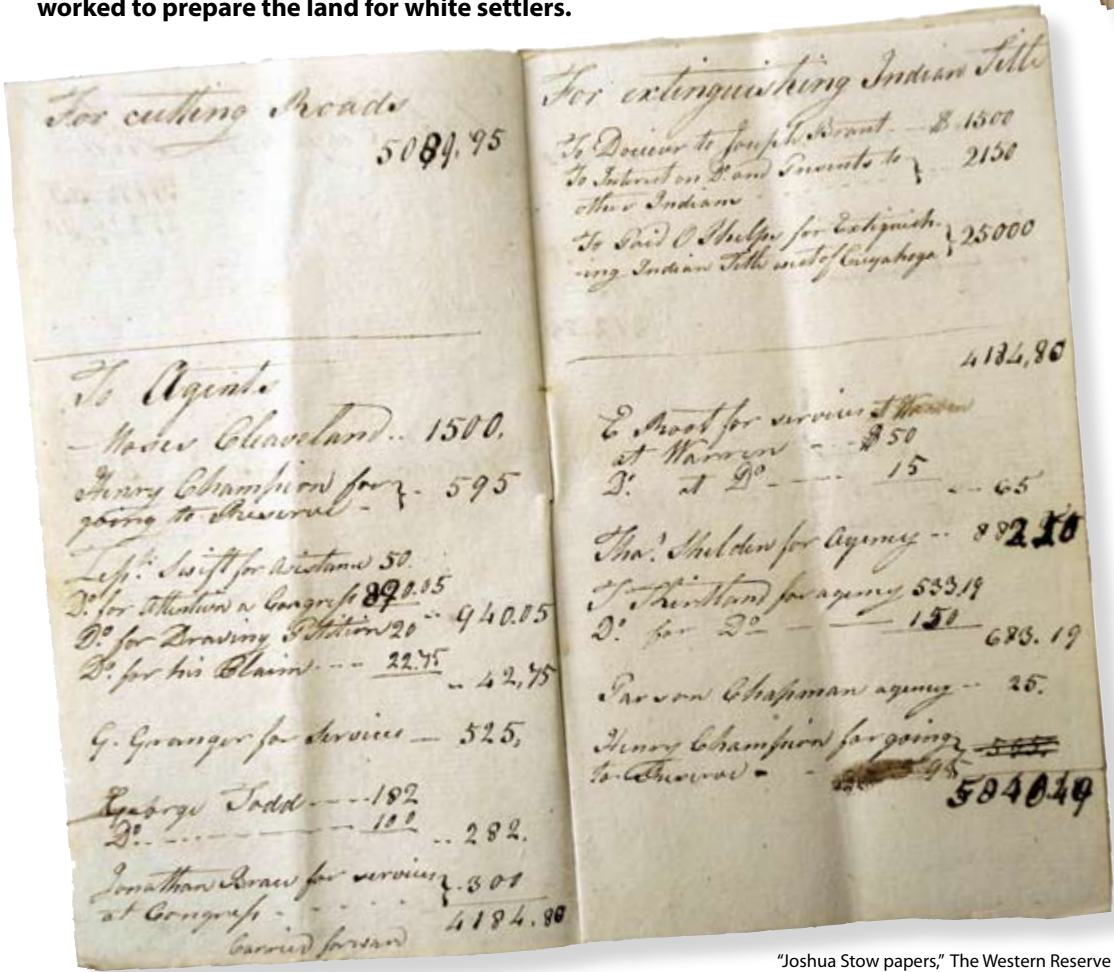
A yearlong celebration of Westlake's history

In the beginning: Surveying Dover

At the end of the 18th century, a group of investors known as the Connecticut Land Company purchased a large chunk of land in the Western Reserve. The men sent surveying groups into the untamed wilderness to divide the land into townships of 25 square miles. Moses Cleaveland was responsible for much of the surveying east of the Cuyahoga River, while Abraham Tappan is credited with drawing the first township map west of the river.

The region was populated by various Native American tribes, many of whom agreed to relinquish their claims to the land in exchange for money and the right to continue to hunt and fish.

BELOW: Joshua Stow, a Connecticut Land Company investor as well as commissary manager, was part of the survey party that traveled to the region in 1796. Stow was in charge of distributing supplies to the group, including food, clothing, equipment and lodging. In his notes, Stow recorded the monies owed for expenses and services performed. In the pages pictured below, Stow marks the amount due to several agents, including Moses Cleaveland, for things such as “going to Reserve,” “drawing petition” and “services at Congress.” Also noted are the expenses incurred “for cutting roads” and “for extinguishing Indian title.” While Stow likely did not accompany Abraham Tappan as he surveyed west of the Cuyahoga, his notes provide a glimpse at what these men encountered as they worked to prepare the land for white settlers.



“Joshua Stow papers,” The Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio



“Abraham Tappan papers,” The Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio

ABOVE: Surveyor Abraham Tappan walked the land that would become Dover Township in 1806. He filled pages upon pages of his notebooks with measurements and observations. He often used natural landmarks, once a black oak tree with an eight-inch diameter, to mark boundaries. His field notes also include his impressions of the livability of the land, noting the types of timber, availability of water and condition of the soil. In an excerpt from the notes above, Tappan writes: “Remarks – good, moist land. Handsome grove plumb trees. Timber, oak, hickory, beach. No water.”

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Society launches centennial barn project

by Lysa Stanton

“See Rock City” and “Mail Pouch” are just a few of the signs that come to my mind when I remember seeing barns as a child. Barns conjure up strong images for people – hard work, pride, a sense of home.

But the big barns that identify small farms in the United States are quickly diminishing. Those barns that represent a part of our past and our heritage are also disappearing. The Westlake Historical Society would like your help in locating

the remaining 100-year-old or Centennial barns located in Westlake.

If you or someone you know is the owner of one of these historical barns or a historical outbuilding, please let us know. The Historical Society has begun an identification and cataloging of the barns here in Westlake. As many already know, the Clague Playhouse was originally the Clague family barn.

To inform us about a barn you know of, please contact the Historical Society at 440-721-1201, or send us an e-mail at westlakehistory@yahoo.com.

Clagues pay a visit to City Council



Walter and Sophronia Clague attended the Westlake City Council meeting on Jan. 6. The pair, played by Dave Pfister and Lysa Stanton, wished the city a happy 200th birthday.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

Do you remember the White Motor Company?

by Joyce Sandy

Did you or a member of your family work for the White Motor company or own a White sewing machine? Originally started in Templeton, Mass., Thomas White moved his company to Cleveland, chosen because of its strategic location to consumers and materials. To learn more about the history of this family and the influence they had on Northeast Ohio for over a century, join us as local historian Dan



Ruminski presents “The White Family: Entrepreneurs and Founders of the White Motor Company” at the Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7:00 p.m. Registration is required as seating is limited. To register, visit cuyahogalibrary.org or call 871-6392. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch. ● Joyce Sandy works in the Children's Department of the Bay Village Branch Library.

Friends hold winter book sale Jan. 29–Feb. 1

by Linda Lamb

The annual winter book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Library will be Saturday, Jan. 29, through Tuesday, Feb. 1. The book sale is held during regular library hours on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, but closes at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening. There is a wide range of adult and children s hardback and paperback books, as well as DVDs, CDs, books on tape and magazines. Items are priced to sell and have been categorized for easy selection. Tuesday, the last day of the sale,

is “bag day” when patrons can buy a bagful of books for only \$1.00. Bags are provided by the library. Our annual membership drive is currently in progress. You can pick up a membership form at the library. Throughout the year, library-related projects, programs, and activities are supported and funded by the Friends of the Bay Village Library. Join today! For more information on the book sale or on becoming a member of the Friends of the Bay Village Library, visit the library at 502 Cahoon Rd. or call 440-871-6392. ●

Cuyahoga County Public Library reaches new circulation record

by Robert Rua

Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) is busier than ever before. In 2010, CCPL cardholders borrowed more than 20 million items, or roughly 38 items per every active registered CCPL cardholder. In recent years, use of CCPL has increased dramatically. CCPL has now reached new circulation records for seven consecutive years. Since 2003, CCPL's circulation has increased a remarkable 67 percent. For the first time in CCPL's almost 90 year history, three of its branches – Mayfield, Parma-South and Strongsville – each circulated more than 1 million items.

I want to thank the residents of Bay Village, Westlake and our other patrons who helped contribute to that amazing circulation figure! More important than the numbers though, is knowing we have helped you throughout the year with your requests for everything from books to music to films to toys. We hope to see you often in the new year! – Pam DeFino, Manager of the Bay Village Branch

POETRY

Snowmen

by Sameer Shah, fifth grader at Parkside Intermediate School

Snowmen, snowmen
Some are big.
Some are small.
But all snowmen have a smile on their face.
This is why they are so difficult to trace.
They have great vast arms that extend to the sky.
Sometimes I just wonder why?
Snowmen have a modest, orange carrot nose on their face.
Gaze at its nice, comfortable place.
So don't eat it, no matter how much you are tempted to waste.
But most of all snowmen have a distinct personality.
Despite the great winter storms and the pure, white snow that eventually melts in them.
All snowmen live a blissful life.
For they appreciate their calm, vague winter life.
Snowmen, snowmen
Some are big.
Some are small.
So let us all be our true selves and emulate the snowmen's way of thinking.
So we can be truly happy and always have a smile on our face and always keep winking!

Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by Joyce Sandy

The New Year brings programs for everyone at the Bay Village Branch Library. Book discussion, author visits, and word games are only a few examples of the programs that are available. Sign up for one or several, and ask us for book recommendations to begin the year right. Upcoming highlighted programs are Book Sweep for grades 3-5 on Jan. 12, and Robotix 3.0 on Jan. 15 for ages 11-13. Both are sure to fill up fast, so register early.

A very special visit from Dan Coughlin will occur on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. His first book, “Crazy, With the Papers to Prove It,” is just out and he'll reflect on the unusual, eccentric and outlandish people and events he covered as a Plain Dealer and WJW-TV reporter. Any Cleveland sports fan will enjoy meeting the memorable characters he writes about. Mark your calendars now – you won't want to miss this special treat!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Jan. 12 (7 p.m.) THE WHITE FAMILY: ENTREPRENEURS AND FOUNDERS OF THE WHITE MOTOR COMPANY – Local historian Dan Ruminski will highlight historic information surrounding the White Family of White Motors. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Library.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 (7p.m.) NEEDLEPOINT WORKSHOP – Come join us as Stitches Etc. of Bay Village teaches how to do a beginning needlepoint project. No experience necessary. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Library.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Tuesday, Jan. 11 (3:30 p.m.) ANIME CLUB – For ages 11 and up. If you love anime and manga, this club is for you! Watch anime, discuss your favorite manga books, and make a creative project or two.

Saturday, Jan. 15 (2-4 p.m.) ROBOTIX 3.0 – For ages 11-13. Explore the world of LEGO Mindstorms, and find out how to teach our robots new tricks. Program a robot to master new challenges, test it out, then watch it go!

Tuesday, Jan. 25 (7-9 p.m.) PUTTING THE FAFSA PLAN INTO ACTION – For ages 14 and up. Parents and students are invited to join the Cleveland Scholarship Programs to explore FAFSA, learn how to compare financial aid awards, and how to use that information to help with the college selection process.

CHILDRENS DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Jan. 12 (4:15-5 p.m.) BOOK/SWEEP – For grades 3-5. We'll share a book together and then play the fast-paced WordSweep game. Come and help your team win!

Thursday, Jan. 13 (7-8 p.m.) GIRL TIME – Girls in grades 2-3 and an adult female friend are invited to discuss a good book, share a snack and try a related craft.

Wednesday, Jan. 19 (7-8 p.m.) HEARTBEAT AFRIKA – For all ages. Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King by enjoying a lively performance by this ensemble percussion group. This ensemble performs traditional percussion, song, storytelling, dance and theatre to preserve traditional African music in America.

Thursday, Jan. 20 (7-8 p.m.) IT'S A GIRL'S WORLD – Girls in grades 4-5 and an adult female friend are invited to discuss a good book, share a snack and try a related craft.

Friday, Jan. 21 (11 a.m.) OCEAN ADVENTURE SHOW – For ages 2-10. The Divellas are back with a treasure chest of ocean surprises. Enjoy a non-stop magic and puppet show with balloons, two performers and plenty of fun and laughter!

Please register online at cuyahogalibrary.org, by calling 871-6392, or by stopping in. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Bay Village Schools art students excel at Scholastic Art Awards

by Karen Derby

Bay Village City School District students garnered seven first-place Gold Key awards, four second-place Silver Key awards, and 21 honorable mention awards in the 2011 Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Arts competition.

Winning a Gold Key were Bay High seniors Jordyn Durk (art portfolio) and Alexandra Lacure (mixed media for “Where I Live”); Bay High freshman Emma Mahall (painting for “Mini-vacation” completed while at Bay Middle School); Bay Middle School eighth-graders Hannah Daugherty (mixed media for “Seeing Myself”), Mannon Dorantes (drawing for “Mr. R”), Mallory Fahey (photography for “Chutes and Ladders”); and seventh-grader Thomas Leamon (mixed media for “Interpretation”). Students who receive Portfolio Awards and Gold Key Awards continue to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

Winning a Silver Key were Bay High senior Albert Fisler (design for “Alligator Letter”), Bay High sophomore Alissa Kolke (digital art for

“Sprinkles Promotional Package”), and Bay Middle School eighth-graders Katie Kunze (drawing for “Picnic for One Under the Sun”) and Nina Vizdos (ceramic and glass for “Sea Treasure”).

Eight honorable mentions at Bay High were seniors Lauren Barbour (painting for “Thumb”), Bernadette Marconi (painting for “Columbia Beach”), and Marissa Radick (paintings for “Self Portrait 2” and “Out of the Darkness”); juniors Justine Dezember (mixed media for “Fall”) and Marek Mutch (digital art for “Saving this World”); and sophomores Eliz Fulop (digital art for “Keep Running”) and Cameron Meakin (painting for “Morning Light”).

Thirteen honorable mentions for work completed at Bay Middle School were current Bay High freshman Erin Carter (printmaking for “Nightmare”); eighth-graders Abby Banks (mixed media for “Family Tree”), Mannon Dorantes (ceramics and glass for “Gentle Flower”), Trevor Lake (mixed media for “Precarious Pose”), Meagan McCoy (ceramics and glass for “Growing Into a New Day”), Claire Mercer (mixed media for “Owl” and drawing for “My Colored Side”), Mackenzie Pippin (digital art for “Altered Landscape”), Clair Schrantz (drawing for “Red Glasses”), MaddieVoiers (photography for “Walking Into the Light”); and seventh-graders Josh Chaney (photography for “Elemental Playground”), Magdalene Haffey (mixed media for “Childhood Journey”), and Megan Williams (mixed media for “Organic Flow”).

The students’ work will be displayed Jan. 10 through Feb. 4 in the Reinberger Galleries at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Bay High art instructors are Cherie Bauer, Denise Ross and Thomas Schemrich. Bay Middle School art instructors are Greg Leininger, Ruth Purdy-Leslie (retired) and Gloria Wilder.

Since its start in 1927, the Scholastic Art Awards have acted as a venue for the community to view the exceptional artwork of public, private, parochial and home-schooled students between the 7th and 12th grades. ●

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

See as I see

By Audrey Ray, third grader at Westerly Elementary School

Predict what will happen in 2011. Will there be a great new invention that is similar to computers but better? Will a new singer be discovered? What will happen? Do you want to know what I think will happen? Then, read on!

I think that more and more people will start buying Earth-friendly stuff and try to recycle as much as they can. There will be several groups of people who will try to save endangered species by raising money for them. Will you be one of those people? I might. We will start planting more trees and plants and stop building so many buildings. Everyone will start caring more for Mother Earth.

Inventions that help take care of the Earth will be made. Some businesses will put together groups of other businesses to go to other continents and help them become more Earth-friendly, too. Soon everywhere, the Earth will become a better place to live.

Oh! I almost forgot! Pollution will be stopped and people will want to stop littering. Families will start buying battery-powered cars and some gas stations will start having battery chargers along with gas.

What other kinds of things will happen that will help the Earth? What do you think will happen to you or your friends and family? I hope it is lots of good things!

Well, as you can see, 2011 is going to be pretty busy. But before I leave I want to ask you one more question: Could you predict more for 2011? If you do, then the year will be completely filled up!

I have one last prediction to make before I leave...I predict 2011 will be a wonderful year! ●

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Senior travel tips: Medical emergencies


by Dianne Borowski

Traveling is an activity many seniors enjoy. Taking precautions is important at any age, but a real necessity for seniors. Even the most healthy seniors are susceptible to medical problems, especially when away from home and daily routines. I would like to share some hints which will help seniors to cope with medical issues and emergencies while on the road.


1. Always carry identification, medical cards and emergency contact information. Wear medical alert necklaces or bracelets and carry information cards for implanted medical devices.
2. Doctor's phone numbers are vital. These should include your primary care physician and all specialists routinely seen.
3. If you do not have a living will in place, you might consider having this done before you travel.
4. All medication, including over-the-counter products, should be kept with you in a carry-on bag. In addition, carry a written list of daily medications, including the dosage, time of day taken, and the number of times taken per day.
5. Stay hydrated. Dehydration is one reason seniors are admitted to the hospital. Drink plenty of water and other fluids while traveling.
6. Schedule enough time for sleep and rest. Don't overdo the sightseeing, wining and dining.
7. Always inform your traveling companion or tour guide if you are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms of illness. Don't suffer in silence.

8. If you seek help from an emergency room or are admitted into the hospital while away from home, ask questions. Make sure you and your companion are kept informed on test and lab results.
9. If possible, secure your medical records before you are discharged. Call your doctor before you leave for home to schedule a follow-up appointment as soon as possible.
10. Have a safe, healthy and fun trip.

I would like to acknowledge the staff at Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley, W.Va., for their diligent pursuit of the cause of my husband's symptoms and for the excellent medical care he received. If you must be admitted to the hospital two days before Christmas many miles from home, Raleigh General Hospital is a good place to be. ●



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Recycled jewels as gifts

by Julia Shutt

Have you ever been searching through a dresser drawer and noticed some old jewelry that you'll never wear again? This was the case with my husband and I and we decided to recycle and reuse these pieces. We gathered our gold pieces and a few gems that were from my grandmother's wedding ring and came up with the idea of transforming the items into three rings for my husband's daughters. The idea for connecting these three young ladies through sisters' rings became our mission.

We presented the idea to Leonard J. Strnad II, owner of Vivid Jewelers in Bay Village. Lenny had designed and built our wedding rings – not for us, but with us – so we trusted that he was up to this new project.

He utilized our sketches and produced the rings we had imagined. We loved working with this fellow artist and

knew Lenny's talent, style and personality were the key to working out our new vision. This unique collaboration involved hours spent on the concept and design. Lenny worked closely with us, listening to ideas presented by the sisters and offered brilliant suggestions.

Vivid presented us with visual updates. CGI, or computer generated imaging, of the virtual rings gave us a clear picture of the pieces. This made it easy to email our family the latest design updates, too. Three gorgeous original rings were presented as our gifts this Christmas. Giving a recycled heirloom is grand!

There is a surprise ending to this giving of recycled gold and diamonds tale. I stopped into Vivid to attend their traditional holiday open house. I casually filled out a card for a random gift drawing along with many other party guests

that evening. I kind of imagined what it would be like to pick out a few glittery new jewels for myself – but there were so many hopeful guests dropping little cards in that box.

The next morning the phone rang

and it was Lenny. AHHH! I'd won a shopping spree gift! Could this be the law of circulation and flow working for me? The idea is that if you clear away something old, you create a space for something new. I think this is true! ●



Three sisters share original rings made with recycled heirloom jewelry.

Bay wrestlers come within three points of winning tournament

The Bay High School wrestling team took second place in the Vermilion Holiday Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 29-30. The much improved and motivated team finished behind Archbold High School by only three points (583 to 580) in the closest score in the tournament's history.

The Bay Village team, led by second-year head coach Ryan Cover and seniors Nick Dorsey, Tim Hughes and Dan Rehor, battled match for match with Archbold and Brookside High School over the two-day, ten-round tournament.

Bay had four first-place wrestlers in the tournament.

Sophomores Ben and Adam Tepper won the 112- and 119-pound class. Seniors Nick Dorsey and Dan Rehor took first place in the 125- and 135-pound class to lead the Rockets.

The upstart Rockets also had sophomores Max Langer (140 lb.), Joe Kubinski (152 lb.), Matt Spies (171 lb.) and senior Tim Hughes (189 lb.) place third to keep the Rockets in the hunt for the top spot until the very end of the tournament.

The next home match for the Bay wrestling team is Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m. against Rocky River. ●

Heidi Langer contributed to this story.



The Bay High School varsity wrestling team won second place at the Vermilion Holiday Classic Tournament Dec. 29-30. Pictured: (standing, l-to-r) Tim Hughes, Joe Kubinski, Sean Meaney, coach Luke Kieffer, Tyler Seabold, Adam Tepper, David Klein, Dan Rehor, Habbakah Woodruff, Nick Dorsey, Dominic Ruma, Ben Tepper, Cody Wright, Henri Adams and coach Ryan Cover; (floor, l-to-r) Max Langer, Matt Spies.

Local girls' stories published in national magazine



Emma Poole, age 8, of Bay Village (pictured, left) and Olivia Savona, age 10, of Westlake (pictured, right) had their horse-themed short stories published in the January edition of Cricket Magazine. The Birchwood School students were awarded second place and honorable mention, respectively, in the competition. Also pictured is Abigail McNaughton of Cleveland (center).

Westlake Martial Arts launches stalking awareness campaign

by Gary Yano

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects 3.4 million victims a year. This year's theme, "Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.", challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Communities that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. If more people learn to recognize stalking, we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Westlake Martial Arts will offer "Stalking is a Crime," a free one-hour class on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 1-2 p.m., to promote awareness and public education about stalking during the annual observance. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Master Julie Tittl at Westlake Martial Arts, 440-250-2787.

For additional resources to help promote National Stalking Awareness Month, please visit <http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org>.

BAY VILLAGE GREEN TEAM

Use RTA bus service to green your commute

by Brenda O'Reilly

Make a New Year's resolution to save money and green your commute! Save wear and tear on your car, save on parking and rising gasoline costs, and do your part to reduce emissions in Northeast Ohio.

The RTA has several bus routes that go in to Downtown Cleveland on weekdays. The cost is \$2.25 or \$2.50 per ride – much cheaper than most downtown parking. And, you can get bus passes that reduce the cost even further. Following are the public transit routes in Bay and Westlake.

West Shore Flyer – Route 55F

The bus route goes through Bay Village – on either Lake, Wolf, or Osborn roads – within a few blocks of just about anyone that lives in the city. The route continues on Lake Rd. to Clifton Blvd., and on into Downtown Cleveland. Morning eastbound routes run between 6 and 8 a.m. Evening westbound routes run between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

If you live in Westlake, there are several routes that go between Crocker Park and downtown Cleveland. Or, you can catch the 55F on Detroit Rd. or at the Clague Road Park-N-Ride (at the intersection of Clague and Wolf roads).

Westlake Park-N-Ride – Route 246

This is a great option if you prefer a route with no stops into Downtown Cleveland. The Park-N-Ride leaves from the RTA lot that is between Columbia and Clague, off of Sperry Dr. There is also an entrance off of Columbia Rd. in Westlake just past the railroad tracks. Morning eastbound routes run between 6 and 8:30 a.m. Evening

westbound routes run between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

You can also connect at the Westgate Transit Center to travel into Downtown Cleveland. From the Westgate Transit Center, you can make a connection with several bus routes, including Route 26 or Route 55 into Downtown Cleveland.

Detroit-Wagar – Route 46

This bus route is on Detroit Ave. between Crocker Park and the Westgate Transit Center. The westbound route has a stop at the Westlake Park-N-Ride. The bus schedule is hourly throughout the day, ending around 6 p.m.

Center Ridge – Route 49

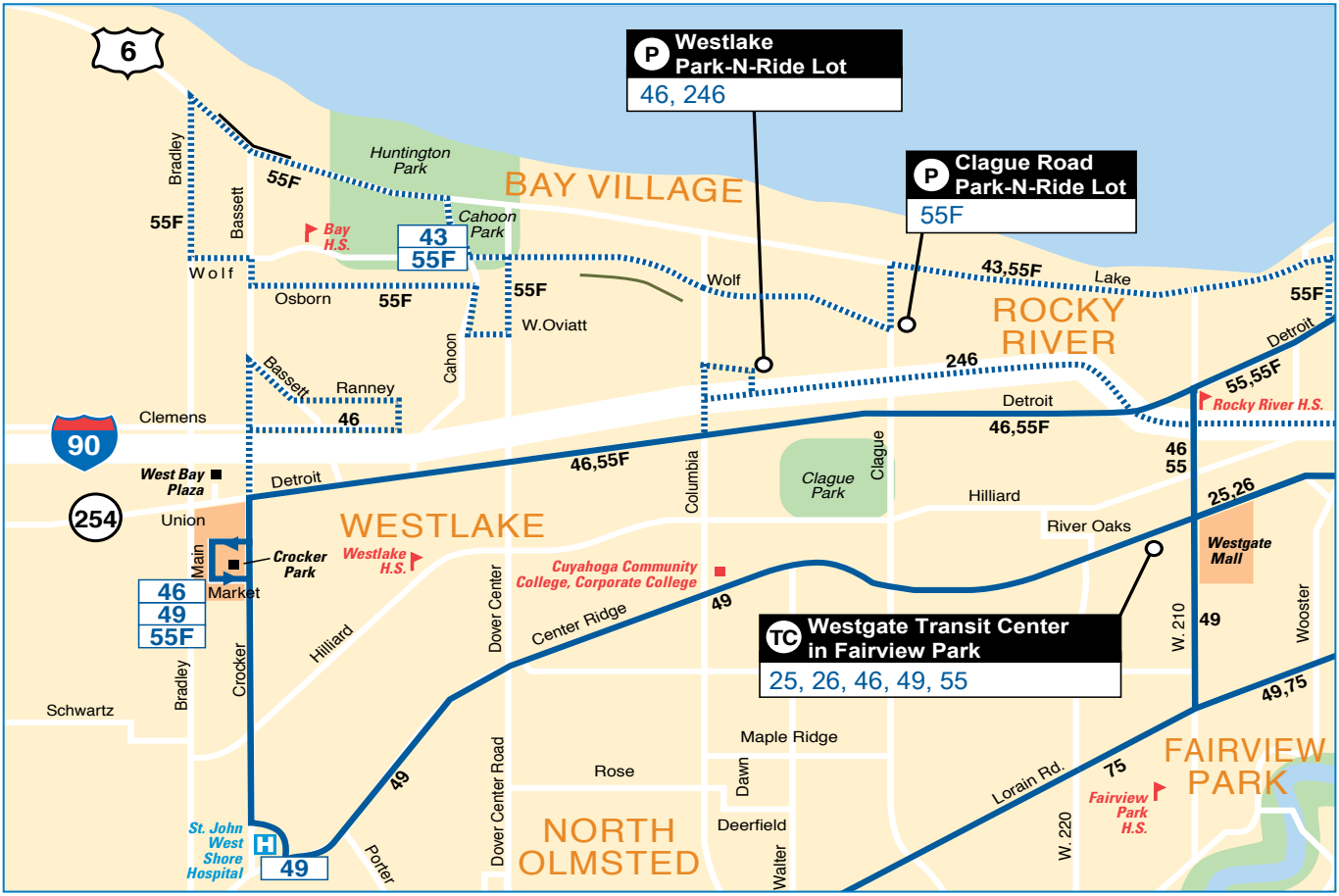
This bus route connects Crocker Park (corner of

Market and Main streets) and St. John Medical Center with the Westgate Shopping Center and Fairview Hospital via Center Ridge Rd. You can also get a connection at the Westgate Transit Center or the West Park Rapid Station. The bus schedule is hourly throughout the day, ending around 10 p.m.

To view specific bus routes, schedules and fares, visit www.riderta.com.

Brenda O'Reilly is a member of the Bay Village Green Team.

The Bay Village Green Team meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Bay Village City Hall in the second floor conference room. Please join us at an upcoming meeting on Jan. 11 or Feb. 8.



Map courtesy of RTA

Going Green

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COMPEER

continued from front page

When St. John West Shore Hospital was built in 1981, it was agreed that Far West Center would be built on the hospital's campus. In 1988, Far West Center decided to begin a branch of Compeer Inc.

I was fortunate to be employed at Far West Center as a case manager in 1988 when our Compeer Program began and was honored to be accepted as Compeer

Program Coordinator in 2008. Each year I find the cities of Westlake and Bay Village increasingly more supportive of mental health issues. Many organizations have offered community support to Compeer Members without out question.

There are other generous local businesses we would like to thank for their help in making our Annual Winter Party special. Those donors are Bay Lanes, Bob Evans, BAYarts, Clague Playhouse, Pat Catan's, and Lysa Stanton of both the Westlake Historical Society and Sky-ShorePrints.com. Thank you! Your gen-

erosity is very much appreciated. The dinner and free raffle prizes brightened the winter holidays for many adults that struggle with depression.

As this new year begin , the Compeer Program hopes Westlake and Bay Village organizations "Catch the Spirit of Friendship, Past, Present, and Future."

Now as we enter 2011 the Compeer Program is asking Westlake and Bay Village organizations, such as city, police, fire and senior services departments, civic clubs, faith organizations and educational organizations, to please

consider volunteering for Compeer for one year.

For individuals to volunteer for Compeer all that is required is four hours per month, being a friend, engaging in conversation, listening and empathy. Being a friend to someone will change his or her life. Compeer has weekly fun and interesting social activities to offer both volunteers and members. Please contact us at 440-835-6212, ext. 242, or compeer@farwestcenter.com.

Happy New Year to Westlake and Bay Village! ●

Bay Schools awarded \$10,000 grant for boating education

by George Christ

The Bay Village City School District was awarded a grant of \$10,063.57 for the Spirit of America boating education program. The grant is from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft to help provide boating safety education programs.

Since 1999, the Bay Village Schools have been the sponsor of record for the 7th grade summer boating program in western Cuyahoga County. The award-winning Spirit of America program provides students with classroom education using the Ohio Boating Education Course which



Students in the 2010 Spirit of America Safe Boating Class enjoy a day of training last summer.

is required by Ohio law for persons born on or after January 1, 1982.

In addition, students will participate in hands-on training at Whiskey Island Marina in the summer. Students will

learn to safely operate power boats, personal watercraft, sailboats, canoes and kayaks on Lake Erie.

The OBEC classes will be held on May 14 and 21 at the Bay Community

Registration information will be available in the spring and additional information and dates are online at <http://spiritofamerica95.org/cuyahoga.htm>. ●

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 and submit your stories & photos. Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes. Contact us at staff@wbvobserver.com.

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

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PUBLISHER, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE - Denny Wendell

EDITOR - Tara Wendell, tara@wbvobserver.com

AD SALES - Laura Seedhouse Gonzalez
440-477-3556 • adsales@wbvobserver.com

PRODUCTION - staff@wbvobserver.com 440-409-0114

WRITERS

Kristina Austin	Linda Lamb	Julia Shutt
Denise Ayres	Brenda O'Reilly	Lysa Stanton
Dianne Borowski	Kristine Pagsuyo	Anne Straitiff
Jayne Broestl	Michael Perry	Eileen Stockdale
Rev. Bill Buckeye	Joe Psarto	Eileen Vernon
George Christ	Audrey Ray	Bev Walborn
Karen Derby	Robert Rua	Tara Wendell
Brenda Dillane	Shawn Salamone	Elaine Willis
Jim Dispirito	Joyce Sandy	Peter Winzig
Shirley Hostetler	David Scullin	Gary Yano
Pam Kilpatrick	Sameer Shah	Terri Zajac

PHOTOGRAPHY

George Christ	Julia Shutt	Denny Wendell
Cindy McNaughton	Bev Walborn	

ALSO HELPING

Nancy Brown	Martha Fisher	Dave Pfister
Dave Clawson	Jerry Masek	Ann Sindelar
Vicki Catazza	Mel Maurer	Kathy Winzig

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SUSTAINABLE LIVING

A Westsider’s guide to recycling almost anything!

by Brenda Dillane

Happy New Year, Westlake and Bay residents! If your New Year's resolutions include clearing out clutter, making some extra bucks or becoming a more devoted recycler, then this reference guide is worth keeping!

We are very fortunate that we live in an area with so many convenient ways to recycle.

IF YOU WANT MONEY FOR YOUR EFFORTS:

1. Recycle Zone, 28820 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Rather than ending up in a landfill, this drive-through recycling service puts items back in the production stream AND pays you in the process. Accepted items: Car and marine batteries, aluminum, brass, copper, steel, computers and e-scrap, and junk cars. Visit www.recyclezoneusa.com or call 440-471-4652 for more information.

2. Consignment stores will take your clothing, shoes, accessories and sometimes household items and books, depending on the store. They then set a price and you get a portion of the profits, usually 40% of the selling price. Again, it varies by store. But we are spoiled for choice! Call for consignment hours and information about the type of clothes they currently are accepting. Here are some of the closest:

- Classic Closet Consignment, 25046 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake. 440-871-1601
- Consign Home Couture (furniture and accessories), 27115 E. Oviatt Rd., Bay Village. 440-835-1403
- Chelsea’s Consignments (home

furnishings), 26445 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake. 440-892-1850

- Closets Consignments, 1100 Linda St., Rocky River. 440-333-5379
- The Apple Core, 19347 Detroit Rd., Rocky River. 440-356-4747
- The Cove, 19632 Center Ridge Rd., Rocky River. 440-333-5155
- The Designer Consignor, 17118 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. 216-228-1309
- Haute Stuff, 18103 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. 216-221-5545
- Curvy Consignments (plus-size), 13902 Puritas Ave., Cleveland. 216-251-9591

3. Used clothing stores will pay cash right away for your clothes:

- Bone Shaker, 13733 Madison Ave., Lakewood. 216-221-5490
- Once Upon A Child, 25028 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake. 440-899-1100
- Plato’s Closet, 4636 Great Northern Blvd., North Olmsted. 440-801-9088
- Clothes Mentor, 25383 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted. 440-617-6013

4. Used book stores offer immediate cash for books, magazines, music, movies and games.

- Half-Price Books, Westwood Town Center, 21623 Center Ridge Rd., Rocky River. 440-331-1661
- Half-Price Books, Columbia Plaza, 4687 Great Northern Blvd., North Olmsted. 440-777-6807
- If you are more patient, you can sell your books at www.amazon.com. You go to their website and create a seller account, set your price, and they send you notification when your books have sold.

IF YOU JUST WANT TO KEEP YOUR OLD STUFF OUT OF THE LANDFILL:

Paper: Many Bay and Westlake parking lots have brightly-colored yellow and green bins. Ever wonder what those are for? PaperRetriever (www.paperretriever.com) takes your used papers and turns them into new paper AND provides money for whatever organization has a bin in their parking lot, usually a school, non-profit or place of worship. Accepted materials: Newspapers and inserts, magazines/catalogues, school and office paper, mail, phone- and paperback-books. No paperboard (food cartons) or hardback books. Some take cardboard, call 216-961-3900 for information. Convenient area bins are located in: (Westlake) Lee Burneson Middle School, Dover Elementary, City Hall and WHS parking lots; and (Bay Village) Reese Park, Huntington Beach overflow parking lot (south of Lake Rd.), Wolf Road Picnic Area, City Hall, Service Garage, BHS and BMS parking lots.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Habitat for Humanity recycles and resells salvaged and reclaimed building materials, fixtures, and tools in good condition so the community can improve affordable home improvement items. Their ReStore is located at 2110 W. 110th St., Cleveland. Drop-off times: Tue.-Fri., 9a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Sat., 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Visit www.clevelandhabitat.org or call 216-429-1299 for details.

CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS: You can always ask area schools, community services departments, nursing homes or places of worship if they are looking for any type of donations, but here are our good old stand-bys:

- Salvation Army, 12645 Lorain Ave., Cleveland. 216-252-3593
- Goodwill store and donation center, 23100 Lorain Rd., Suite 1, North Olmsted, 440-777-4422, and 825 Center Rd.,
- Avon, 440-937-3305. Goodwill provided employment and training to 1.9 million people in 2009. Visit www.goodwillcleveland.org for more information.
- Special Olympics (helps people with intellectual disabilities; programs in 170 countries). Nearest drop-off bin is at the Circle K on Dover Center Rd. in Westlake.
- Purple Heart will pick up your small appliances, bedding, drapes, books, toys, clothing, electronics and household goods. Visit veteranpickup.org or call 216-731-1924 for pickup information. This organization funds services, welfare, rehabilitation and education for veterans.

IF YOU EITHER WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING OR ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING: Check out www.freecycle.org. This website allows you to post either offering/wanted posts of items you are willing to give someone for free.

Many local non-profit and service organizations are always looking for donations of various goods, services and volunteer hours, including Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, The Gathering Place and the Achievement Center for Children in Westlake.

(I’d like to know if this guide has been useful, so please shoot me an email at ashtabrenda@yahoo.com to let me know if you’ve done any of these things. Thanks!) ●

Readers’ Opinions

Storm chasers cause more damage than hail storm

Several days after the hail storm, Bay Village was invaded by clean-cut, all-American young men walking up our driveways with clip boards in hand, ready to show us all the damage that had been done to our homes.

They represented themselves as allies that were going to help us negotiate with our insurance companies in exchange for using their contractors. They played the fear card and said that if we didn’t correct the damages, we could experience leaks and further damage in the future.

John, a representative from a multi-state company with an office in Bay Village, was our wolf in sheep’s clothing. He pointed out the golf ball dimples in our siding and roof, slapped down his samples and the presentation was in full force. I am sure this story is very similar to many. We were naive and afraid that if we didn’t do something, we were going to see serious trouble in the future.

We were clear with John that we were skeptical about using a storm chaser operation. He assured us that they had a local office and that they

were all from the area and would be here if we needed them. He was very convincing, as most of them are. What followed was nothing short of a nightmare.

John rarely showed up for scheduled appointments to discuss problems. No one ever supervised the work being done. Our yard was trashed for seven months. Water poured down our fireplace on the day the “30 year” roof was completed. They killed all the flowers.

They left nails and scraps everywhere, including garbage and materials all over the yard and driveway, for months. Workers rarely showed up to work. When they did, it was for a couple of hours and they were gone. The process was a nightmare, but each group of workers would promise to restore our faith, only to disappoint us again and again and again.

John, the clean-cut individual that promised to take care of everything, was no where to be found. The only time the company showed up on time was to be paid. When we asked for money off our bill for the unex-

pected “out of pocket” expenses that we incurred due to their negligence and a series of errors that dominated our summer, we were told they did everything to industry standard.

If we didn’t pay in full, our warranties would not be valid. What a scam! Who determines these industry standards? If I had known what was coming up my driveway looking so harmless and helpful, I would never have agreed to use this company. Beware of the modern-day wolf in sheep’s clothing. If we ever experience a hail storm like that again, I think we should close the borders of Bay Village!

My advice to homeowners who are overwhelmed when selecting a contractor is to contact the Better Business Bureau first! When I called to report my dissatisfaction with this particular company, I was told that over 30 complaints had been lodged against them in our area in the past six months. That would have been helpful to know ahead of time.

Colleen Harding, Bay Village

‘Doors of Bay Village’ fundraiser a success

We wanted to say thank you to the Observer and its readers for the response to our “Doors of Bay Village” print! We were overwhelmed by the success of the poster and what your support allowed us to do for the children at Enat Alem in Ethiopia.

We traveled to Ethiopia in December for our court date and we were able to spend a lot of time with the children at both Enat Alem orphanages. We also were able to visit a few other orphanages in southern Ethiopia and fell in love with the children and the country!

With the proceeds from the sale of the prints we took soccer balls, hacky sack balls, nail polish, bracelets, silly bands, toys and medicine with us to the orphanages. Anything that we could fit in a fifty-pound bag! Thank you so much!

We will be returning in late January or early February to bring our sons home! We will be taking a suitcase filled with formula and cloth diapers on this trip. Thank you again for helping us make this possible!

If you are still interested in purchasing a print, we have a few left and BAYarts also has them for sale. God Bless!

The Evans Family, Bay Village

Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Jan. 12, 6:30-8 p.m.
General Meeting of Northeast Ohio PC Club (NEOPC)
The featured speaker will be Ian Abbott, owner of Abacus Financial Services, Avon. He will speak on "2010 Income Tax Updates." He'll guide you in preparing your taxes and inform you of tax law changes that affect you. The presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m., but come early (6:30 p.m.) to socialize and enjoy free refreshments. The meeting is free and open to the public. You don't have to be an NEOPC member. For more info, visit www.neopc.org. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Jan. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.
The New American Plate 4-Week Cooking Series
The New American Plate from The American Institute for Cancer Research isn't a diet; it's a fresh way of looking at what you eat every day. Foods such as fruits,

vegetables, whole grains and beans are healthy and easy to prepare. Advanced registration is required, 216-595-9546. Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions. Cost: Free. The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

Jan. 14, 7-9 p.m.
BAYarts Gallery Opening: Doctors Within Borders
See the story on page 8 of this issue.
BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd., Bay Village

Jan. 14, 8 p.m.
'Last Train to Nibroc' Opening Night
See the story on page 3 of this issue.
Clague Playhouse, 1371 Clague Rd., Westlake

Jan. 19, 7-8:45 p.m.
Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting
Roundtable Discussion: Members will be sharing highlights of their "Most Interest-

ing Research Trip." The public is invited to attend. Come early for refreshments and social time from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Porter Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Jan. 22, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
American Red Cross Babysitting Course (ages 11-15)
This babysitting program teaches children important child care skills, first aid, safety issues and injury prevention. Babysitter training gives participants the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants through school-aged children. Bring a lunch; snack is provided. Fee: \$80/resident; \$95/non-resident. Visit bayrec.org for details. Bayway Cabin, 27400 Wolf Rd.

Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-noon
Saturday Sampler
Cancer survivors are invited to experience different healing modalities including Polarity, Healing with the Earth and Thai

Massage at The Gathering Place West. Advanced registration is required, 216-595-9546. Cost: Free. The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Moving Forward: Emotional & Physical Rehabilitation after Cancer
Cancer survivors will learn strategies to manage long-term treatment side effects, such as cancer-related fatigue and weight gain. Moving Forward is for men and women who are currently in treatment or have finished treatment within the last year. The 12-week program will include twice-weekly circuit fitness training at the wellness center and a weekly support group. Advanced registration and written authorization from a physician is required. Participants must contact facilitator before participating. Cost: Free. To register, call 216-595-9546. The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

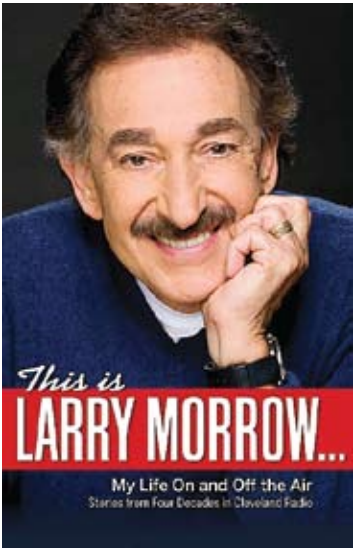
Broadcaster Larry Morrow to discuss faith, radio at Bay UMC

by Rev. Bill Buckeye

Larry Morrow, multiple award-winning broadcaster and author, will speak Jan. 27 at Bay United Methodist Church. Morrow, who won numerous awards during his broadcast career of nearly 40 years, will appear in the church's "Living the Faith" series. A member of the Radio and Television Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Broadcasters Hall of Fame, he is the only Ohio broadcaster nominated to the National Radio Hall of Fame.

A late 1950s U. S. Marine Corps veteran, Morrow went to Vietnam to interview troops on their war experiences and brought home their recorded messages for their families. Some were aired by Cleveland and Pennsylvania stations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Morrow moved to Cleveland to work at WIXY 1260 in 1966, arriving in the midst of the Hough riots. He and his wife, Rosary, live in Chagrin Falls.



He has been active with over 150 local charities, making some 100 appearances a year, and currently announces a program called "Truth for Life" which originates from Parkside Church in Bainbridge Township, which Morrow and his family attend.

Also an author, he will remain after the speech to meet audience members and sign copies of his recently released book, "This Is Larry Morrow," which will be available for purchase.

The "Living the Faith" series, presented by BUMC's Adult Studies ministry, is planned to feature two or three programs each year in which individuals of achievement discuss how their faith is a fundamental element of their daily lives. Previous speakers include columnist Terry Pluto and newscaster Ted Henry.

The Jan. 27 program will be at 7 p.m. at the church, 29931 Lake Rd., Bay Village. There is no admission fee. For further information, call the church at 440-871-2082 or email bayumc@sbcglobal.net.

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