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WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE

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Observer

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

Second annual Rock-N-Bowl fundraiser set for Jan. 28



Mark Nazario of Bay Lanes, Bay councilman Scott Pohlkamp, and Dave MacAskill of the Feedbacks rock band strike a pose to promote the Jan. 28 Rock-N-Bowl fundraiser at Bay Lanes.

by Scott Pohlkamp

Please join us in supporting a very worthy cause, the Village Food Project, Saturday, Jan. 28, at Bay Lanes for a great evening of live music, dancing and bowling – the second annual Rock-N-Bowl! Last year's Rock-N-Bowl was a huge success and the talk of the town.

Beginning at 8 p.m., local classic rock and pop bands The Feedbacks (including Bay residents Dave MacAskill and Chris Gillespie) and DDK (featuring Keven Blake and Dave Lowery) with special guests Elvis Pohlkamp and comedian Delmar Everheart (Randy Geise) will perform live at Bay Lanes. Find a lane, grab a ball and have a ball while enjoying great music and fun.

To ensure a fun-filled evening of live music and bowling, please RSVP to aspohlkamp@yahoo.com to reserve your spot. Admission is \$15 per person, or \$20 per person at the door if you do not RSVP. Ticket price does not include beverages. Reservations are strongly recommended as we expect a sold-out event.

The Village Food Project provides highly nutritional, balanced meals to Bay Village and Avon Lake residents and their loved ones experiencing a cancer crisis. VFP is a multi-generational project where adults mentor teens from our community, training them

in the kitchen to cook meals. Through this experience our local teens learn about nutrition, meal planning, cooking and serving those in need during a very difficult time.

For more information about VFP, please visit villagefoodproject.com. ♦

BAY VILLAGE GREEN TEAM

'Green Your Life' educational series kicks off with Jan. 24 presentation

by Patrick McGannon

The Bay Village Green Team is sponsoring a new program called "Green Your Life" Educational Series. These upcoming classes are FREE and open to the public. Click Events on www.bayvillagegreenteam.com for more information.

Want to Lower Your Gas Bills and Increase Your Home's Comfort?

Then come to the Green Team's first "Green Your Life" presentation featuring Ray Frank of Columbia Gas. He will be speaking about Columbia Gas' three subsidized programs that can help lower your home's energy usage. You must be a Columbia Gas customer to take advantage of the programs but anyone who is interested in learning about ways to reduce energy usage should attend.

This free presentation should last about 45 minutes followed by questions from the audience. Free low flow shower heads will be offered (while supplies last). One programmable thermostat will be raffled as a door prize. A programmable thermostat may be purchased after the presentation for \$4.95. The presentation will take place at the Bay Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd., at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 24.

The presentation will discuss three programs:

- The Home Performance Solutions Energy Audit: This professional home energy audit costs \$50, but Columbia
- » See GREEN, page 6



Reduce your gas bills this winter. Come see how!

Three local boys honored as new Eagle Scouts

by Lysa Stanton

On a beautiful December afternoon, local Boy Scout Troop 77 from St. Ladislav Catholic Church honored the following young men as they earned the elite rank of Eagle: Brian Anstead, Chris Stone and James Wagner.

The Boy Scout Court of Honor included recognition from local political leaders such as State Senator Tom Patton, State Representative Nan Baker and Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough. Communications from national leaders included Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman, Congressman Dennis Kucinich and a special letter from President Obama.

The rank of Eagle Scout takes several years to earn and includes the completion of a major local service project.

Only about 2% of the boys who become Boy Scouts finally earn the highest rank of Eagle.

The Westlake Historical Society was proud to work with Brian Anstead on his service project, and congratulates all three boys on their achievement! ♦



Newly appointed Eagle Scouts Chris Stone, James Wagner, and Brian Anstead at the Scout Court of Honor in December.



Bay lymphoma survivor aims to help others facing medical challenges

by Tom Jelep

It is with great excitement that I introduce to the community the Friends From The Start Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing information, services and resources to individuals and their loved ones facing extreme medical challenges. Our initial focus will be Bay Village, Westlake and surrounding suburbs, with an eye to expanding throughout the region as time progresses.

I'd like to explain why my wife, Bev, my family, some dear friends and I are establishing this foundation.

On Aug. 2, 2010, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In mid-2011, I was in the hospital for approximately a month for a bone marrow transplant. It has now been seven months since my transplant, and I am thankfully cancer free.

During our journey, I had a support system that was incredible. My spirits were up and my attitude was great. There are so many to thank, starting with God, Bev, my daughters Liz and Caty, and of course, my family and friends. The list seems endless.

The toughest part of this whole experience, however, was seeing the emotional toll my illness was having on my loved ones, which was unmistakable. There is no doubt in my mind that the loved ones of the patient suffer far more than the patient in most cases.

This is exactly why we are establishing this foundation. We want to help alleviate the enormous stress which exists when facing extreme medical challenges. Whether this is by providing information as to whom to turn to from the outset, providing a support system of individuals that have faced similar challenges, or offering financial assistance and resources whenever possible,



Seeing the toll on his family caused by his lymphoma diagnosis, Tom Jelep has formed a cancer support foundation – Friends From the Start.

this will be a continuing work in progress.

So where, as a foundation, do we go from here?

We want to be fully operational and providing services by May 1, 2012. That's less than four short months away. There is much to do, and if you would like to get involved during this period and beyond, we would love to have you on the team. Please email me at tjelep@gmail.com and I will keep you posted as events progress. We'll plan on having a meeting the first week of February to get everyone together, exchange ideas, and discuss goals and objectives.

If we can help just a few people along the way, this will all be worthwhile. The reality, however, is the sky is the limit when good people work together towards a common goal. ●

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Write stories, announce events or take photos.

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

It's fun and easy to be part of this community project! Sign up today in the online newsroom at

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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 in size. If you have questions, contact us at staff@wbvobserver.com.



The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community.

The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through citizen participation of 390+ community writers.

We encourage residents of Westlake and Bay to join in and share stories, photos, and information about our great communities.

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

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WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE Observer

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**U.S. News & World Report, 2011.*

Volunteering offers real health benefits

by Denise Ayres

Happy New Year! Many of us have made a resolution to improve our health in 2012. We know how important a healthy diet and regular exercise are to our physical and mental well-being. Something that may come as new health information to you is how “volunteering” offers benefits to health!

Our Compeer volunteers are always telling us how much they enjoy the time they spend offering friendship to people that need it in order to recover from mental illness. Since these reports are so common I went and did a little online research to find the health benefits of being a volunteer. I found an article written by a chapter of the American Red Cross entitled, “Be Happy, Be Healthy: The Health Benefits of Volunteering.”

The article quotes Robert Grimm, Director of the Corporation Office of Research and Policy Development for the Corporation for National and Community Service: “Those who gave social support to others had lower

rates of mortality than those who did not – even when controlling for socioeconomic status, education, marital status, age, gender and ethnicity.” It appears that volunteering is a strong factor in promoting a longer life for any individual!

Other research cited in the article demonstrated that “people who volunteer 100 hours of service per year can achieve healthier, happier lives than those who do not.” Listed are the natural health benefits received including:

- Reduced risk for depression
- Greater functional ability later in life
- Increased sense of accomplishment and purpose
- Less incidence of heart disease

Our Compeer Program wants to offer the adults in our community an opportunity to improve their health! Compeer needs adult volunteers to provide friendship in various ways. We need men and women that can make weekly phone calls and be a friend. We need volunteers to become matched, one to one, with a same-gender adult for getting together to enjoy a walk, a

meal and a chat. Volunteers are needed to attend our social activities to provide additional caring ears and encouragement.

Our office provides ongoing support to all of our volunteers via phone, in person and by email. Compeer volunteers are asked to offer only friendship. Volunteers are never asked to be a counselor, never asked to manage a crisis and not expected to solve problems. We are looking for caring adults that enjoy socializing and conversation.

Compeer also takes the stress out of volunteering! All volunteers make their own volunteering schedule.

In 2012 consider increasing your social circle, making friends and improving your health by volunteering for Compeer!

Contact Denise Ayres at 440-835-6212, ext. 242, or email compeer@far-westcenter.com. You can also drop by Far West Center for information. Far West Center is located at 29133 Health Campus Drive in Westlake. It is building 4 on the St. John Medical Center Health Campus. ●

Westlake resident shares history of her hobby

by Barb Bartlome

Ruth Kostur, an 81-years-young resident at the Gardens at Westlake, is known around the building for her handmade quilts and stitched items. A part-time hobby that she took up after retiring from Women's Federal Bank at age 63, Ruth's passion has grown into a daily routine.

Looking for a hobby to occupy her time, Ruth turned to her sister – an expert knitter – who got her interested in working with a “knitting machine.” The machine used a computer to program different items such as socks, robes and even booties – what normally took her two evenings to do could now be completed in one.

Ruth also attended seminars with her sister to increase her skills on the knitting machine until her sister decided to teach seminars so they would not have to travel. Ruth purchased a knitting machine of her own, which at that time cost \$600. The manufacturer soon went out of business and replacement parts became hard to find.

Looking for something new, Ruth and her sister took interest in an embroidery machine, which Ruth purchased for \$3,600, and soon she was doing sweat-shirts and everything else imaginable. Ruth recalled that her sister seemed to easily talk her into everything, but they always had a good time together.

Unfortunately Ruth's sister passed away in 2011 and Ruth started a new hobby of making quilts. This required yet another investment, this time a \$200 machine that prepares the quilts for her to hand stitch. She now has 2 machines, depending on the project she is working on and which machine works best for the project.

Ruth recently hand made hats, scarves and mittens for the Gardens at Westlake Mitten Tree with all items going to the Westlake Community Department for Christmas baskets.

Ruth also enjoys her children, four grandchildren and five great-grand children. ●

WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER

Westlake rolls into the new year!

by Jim Dispirito

Little Sneakers (up to age 5)

Run, jump, crawl or just play at the Westlake Recreation Center. Equipment and props are provided. Parents must remain with their child, grandparents welcomed. Excellent play date activity. Jan. 3-March 1, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m. Fee: \$5 pop-in rate OR \$15 members/\$25 residents.

Babysitting Classes (ages 11-14)

This training course gives babysitters the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. This training

will help participants develop skills in leadership and professionalism, basic care, safety and first aid. Students must bring a lunch, a pen and a doll to class. Deadline to register is one week prior to the class. Maximum of 12 in each session. Jan. 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

No School Day Camp (Grades K-6)

This camp is designed to keep the kids entertained with games, swimming, art projects and other fun activities in a supervised setting. Children will need to bring a brown bag lunch, a towel and a swimsuit. An afternoon snack will be provided. This program is only for children in grades K-6 and we reserve the right to confirm a child's school grade. Any questions, please contact Rachel O'Malley at 440-617-4418. Dates are Jan. 16, Jan. 17 and Feb. 20.

5th Grade After Hours Bash

The return of the popular after

hours fun time. We close the doors and stay open late for these special events. Gym, pool, DJ Eazy spinning tunes. Snack and water provided. Please register early to avoid being closed out. Friday, Jan. 20, 8:30-10:30 p.m. Open to members and any child who goes to school in Westlake. Fee: \$10 members/\$15 residents.

Fun With Food (ages 7-10)

Bring your appetite! Kids will learn how to make creative snacks and great desserts. Must notify instructor of any allergies one week prior to the class. Wednesday, Jan. 25, 4-5p.m. Fee: \$10 members/\$15 residents/\$25 non-residents.

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

History of words and phrases

by Dave Scullin

New Year's resolutions: This custom can be traced to pre-Christian Rome. The original resolutions were mostly to be good to others. As Rome became Christian, the themes changed to prayer and fasting.

All over but the shouting: The meaning of the phrase is that at a sporting event that is surely won, the only thing left is the crowd cheering the victory. A sportswriter, as early as 1842, used the phrase.

Klutz: The word seems to be from the German word “clod” or block head and Yiddish for a dull-witted or clumsy person.

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Bay Jobseekers changes meeting schedule

by William Buckeye

The Bay Jobseekers Group is changing its schedule in 2012. Beginning in January, the group will meet on the first and third Mondays of the month only. This group is a faith-based group open to all persons who are looking for help in their job search.

The group will meet for the first time in 2012 on Monday, Jan. 16, from 8:30-10 a.m. The topic of the day will be “A Taste of Toastmasters” which helps participants improve their impromptu speaking skills, the kind of skills which are essential to a successful job interview. The group will then begin its first and third Monday schedule in February. ●

ARTS & THEATER

‘See Rock City’ at Clague Playhouse

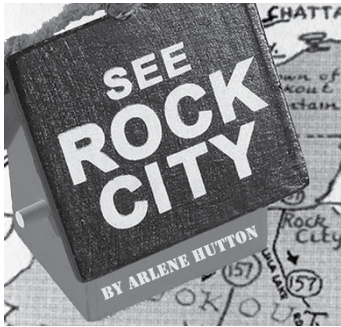
by Pam Kilpatrick

Clague Playhouse continues their 84th season with “See Rock City” by Arlene Hutton and directed by Rob Gibb.

Raleigh (played by Jeff Bartholomew) and May (played by Kristen Levy) are back. You loved them in “Last Train to Nibroc” and now they are planning a honeymoon in Rock City. Join them and their mothers (Erin Bunting and Paige Reich) as they face unexpected circumstances at home and the challenges of a new post-World War II America.

“See Rock City” runs Friday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Feb. 5, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$15 for seniors (60+) and students, and may be purchased by calling the box office, 440-331-0403, Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. Cash, check, Discover, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Clague Playhouse is located on Clague Road, south of Detroit Road. Free parking and handicapped accessible. ●



BAY VILLAGE RECREATION DEPT.

Get fit in the new year at Bay Rec!

by Sarah Gilbert

If you’re looking for ways to stay fit and active in the new year, Bay Rec is here for you! Check out some of our upcoming and ongoing programs for all ages...

Fitness Room @ Community Gym

School Year Hours: Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

Attention members! Be sure to check when your membership expires so you can renew! We are also always welcoming new members. Bay Village residents or those employed in the city are eligible to join. Proof of residency or employment is required. Must be 13 years old to use equipment, ages 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registrations must be done at the Recreation Department, 400 Bryson Lane, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Cardio Kickboxing/Pilates

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Bay Lodge

Join Cathy for 30 minutes of high and low impact kickboxing and 30 minutes of pilates. Drop in to try it out for \$7 (non-resident: \$8) or register for a pass and attend up to 15 classes, good for any day and time.

Zumba Fitness

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Community Gym

Mondays & Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at Bayway Cabin

Get in on the hottest new dance/aerobic workout! Purchase a pass and attend up to 15 classes, good for any time or day. 10-day passes are \$55, 15-day passes are \$82.50. Drop in rate is \$7 (non-resident:\$8).

Feeling Fit

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9-10 a.m.

Bayway Cabin

Stay in shape with this year round class that will increase your energy level, help lower your body fat, tone your muscles and relieve stress. Drop in to try it out or register for a pass to attend up to 15 classes, good for any time or day. Make sure to bring a mat or towel and water!

Adult Co-Ed Yoga

Thursdays, 7-8:15 p.m.

Session IV: Feb. 16 – Mar. 22

Community House

Now is the time to register for the next session of Yoga! Get into the best workout for stress release and improving flexibility while working on every part of your body.

After School Youth Tennis, Grades K-8

Mondays & Thursdays

Session IV: Feb. 27 – March 29

Session V: April 2 – April 30

The winter and spring sessions of after school tennis are quickly approaching! Learn the game or improve your skills inside the Westerly School Gym.

Youth Yoga

Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Session II: Jan. 18 – Feb. 22

Bayway Cabin

Sign up for this great introduction to Yoga for kids that helps them stay active and flexible.

Preschool Playtime, Ages 5 & Under

Oct. 3, 2011-May 2012

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday, 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fee: \$2/child, 10-day pass: \$15

Release some energy at the Community Gym! Parent supervision required. Bouncing balls, tumble mats and more! No registration needed for this program. Sign in and pay at the Community Gym.

Men’s Hoops

Ages 18 & Up

Mondays, 8-9:30 p.m.

\$5 gets you an hour and a half of friendly, competitive pick-up basketball. No need to register, just sign in and pay at the Community Gym.

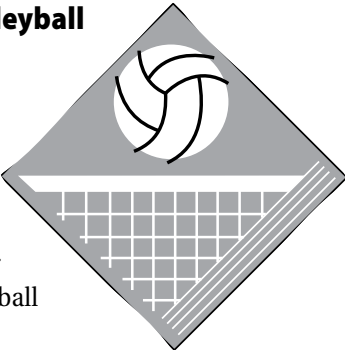
Indoor Adult Volleyball

Ages 18 & Up

Tuesdays,

7:30-9 p.m.

Sign in and pay when you come to the Community Gym for open, spirited volleyball matches!



Bay Village Education Foundation’s annual fundraiser set for Jan. 29

by Jacquie Mayer

The Bay Village Education Foundation will host its annual fundraiser, “Creating Opportunities,” on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 5-8 p.m. at Arrabiata’s Italian Restaurant in Bay Village. This popular event, which typically sells out, will once again feature a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, “Wheelbarrow for Education” raffle, and various door prizes, all benefiting the BVEF.

BVEF is a non-profit organization that strives to enhance the learning opportunities already available to Bay Village public school students. Each year, BVEF provides funding for grants and awards to support innovative projects and programs in Bay Village schools. Over \$12,000 was awarded in Nov. 2011 to exemplary educators and their enrichment projects.

Tickets for the event are \$50 (\$25 of which is tax-deductible) and are available at www.BayEdFoundation.org or by calling 440-892-3925. This price includes buffet dining and an open bar, as well as the opportunity to assist BVEF in its mission to support excellence in Bay Village Schools. ●

TALES OF A FOURTH-GRADE SOMETHING

It’s a new year!

by Audrey Ray, fourth-grader at Westerly Elementary School

Doesn’t it feel good to start over again? The new year feels like the beginning of a new school year. My family spends some of our New Year’s Day thinking about our favorite things from last year and then things we hope to do in the New Year. We write our New Year’s resolutions in a book and compare them to last year’s.

This year my mom couldn’t find our family book so I think one of her resolutions should be to find the book! I have thought about 2012 and what might happen. I know it is my last year at Westerly Elementary and at the end of the year I will be in the middle school. That seems like a big change. My dad is trying to win a Fulbright scholarship that would take my family to South Africa at the end 2012 for eight months. We won’t know until the spring and I know that will be a huge change for us.

I have written some New Year’s resolutions and I am going to share with you my top ten. Do you have a list of your own?

1. Be nicer to people who get on my nerves.
2. Become a better runner – I hope to run for fun with my mom or dad.
3. Study more for tests – although my mom and dad don’t agree.
4. Be able to do five pull-ups. Mr. Topolski, what do you think?
5. Become stronger physically
6. Be kinder to my siblings.
7. Be able to spell “definitely” (I always spell it “definetely”).
8. Be successful with my Destination Imagination team’s community outreach challenge.
9. Become a better hip-hop dancer.
10. Fall asleep earlier – I like to read my books too much. ●

GREEN *continued from front page*

Gas will pay up to 70% for improvements recommended by the audit. Improvements may include sealing cracks, gaps and holes where air may be escaping; adding attic and wall insulation; and upgrading the gas heating system. The results of the energy audit determine your eligibility for rebates. Estimates of upgrade costs and payback periods are provided after your home energy audit.

- The Simple Energy Solutions Program: This program offers discounted programmable thermostats and low flow shower heads. Programmable thermostats, when replacing a non-programmable thermostat, can lower your energy bills by up to \$180 annually. Reducing your water usage with a low flow shower head helps reduce your energy and water bills.
- The WarmChoice program: This program offers home weatherization for income eligible customers.

Not only is lowering your home's energy bills good for your wallet and home resale value, but it is also great for preserving our natural resources and our residents' health. Energy consumption in the typical home con-

tributes twice the greenhouse gas emissions as a typical vehicle in a year's time. By reducing your home's energy usage, you can reduce these greenhouse gas emissions.

Hold these dates for additional upcoming classes to be offered in the "Green Your Life" Educational Series:

Tuesday, February 28 – Green home renovations with Chuck Miller of Doty and Miller Architects

Wednesday, April 25 – Rain Barrel Workshop with Amy Roskilly, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Wednesday, May 9 – Rain Garden Seminar with Amy Roskilly, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District

Wednesday, May 16 – Composting in Your Back Yard with Kathleen Rocco, Cuyahoga Solid Waste District

More information about these classes will be provided as event dates approach. Check out the Events page of www.bayvillagegreenteam.com for the most up-to-date listings on these and other events. Note that some events require registration. ●

NEW BUSINESS

Husband-wife duo launch home care business

As the population ages, and the number of Americans requiring health care grows – estimated at 12 million people today – the number of people looking for alternative care options is also increasing. For many, the desire to remain in the home is strong, yet full-time care can lead to burn out for family caregivers.



Hedi and Frank Huebler have launched a home care business for those with medical issues that wish to remain in their homes.

decided to start their own business: Four Seasons Home Care.

They are presently serving the westside of Cleveland and the surrounding communities. They provide non-medical services, including companionship, home care and personal care. They understand how situations change and the services are designed to reflect those changes and allow flexibility

with those needs.

All caregivers are carefully selected, thoroughly screened and receive extensive training to provide exceptional service. They also complete a multi-phase training program with ongoing educational seminars that keep the caregivers up to date on all facets of home care.

Specializing in those wishing to remain in their home, Four Seasons Home Care co-owners Frank and Hedi can be contacted at 440-716-9100. ●

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

LBMS students learn to harness wind energy

by Kim Bonvissuto

Lee Burneson Middle School technology teacher Kurt Thonnings is trying to teach his students where wind comes from, the concept of an energy transfer and the difference between a volt and an amp in a wind turbine design contest.

The KidWind Challenge is a student-oriented test that challenges students to design and construct their own wind turbines. The goal of the project is to create something that is both efficient and elegant.

The KidWind Challenge started in a New York middle school classroom and has spread to Virginia, Washington, D.C., California, Iowa, South Dakota, Alaska, Minnesota and Colorado, among other states. Thonnings is trying to bring a KidWind event to Ohio.

The project teaches valuable scientific concepts in a fun, creative, hands-on learning environment.

Using generators, resistors, digital multimeters, hubs and dowels, students create turbines that are powered solely by wind. Students design and create their own blades. Turbines must produce power. Power output data is collected for 60 seconds and an energy output score is calculated using a Vernier data-logging system that collects voltage and amperage readings simultaneously. The turbine with the highest energy output (milliwatt-seconds) earns 60 points.

Turbines are judged on the choices/mechanisms used to maximize power output, craftsmanship and environmental decisions. Students produce documentation reflecting their design process and demonstrating their knowledge of wind energy science. ●



LBMS eighth graders Sebastian Deak and Jack Lipscomb confer over the design of their wind turbine.

Gifted referrals for Westlake students due by Feb. 24

The Westlake City School District provides two opportunities each year for teachers and parents of students in grades K-12 to make referrals for possible gifted identification according to criteria set forth in House Bill 282. The referral periods take place during the months of October and February.

Packets of information and referral forms can be obtained from the main office of each school building. They may also be found on the Westlake City School District website at wlake.org (click on Administration at the top of the homepage, then follow these links in the left margin: Pupil Services, Special Education, Gifted Education). Or access this story the Observer website at wbvobserver.com for a direct link to the Westlake Schools Gifted Education page.

This semester's testing period, referral forms need to be completed and returned to the building's main office by Feb. 24. Questions can be directed to the building principal or Coordinator of Gifted Services Carol Froehlich at 440.250.1269. ●

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WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Planning has begun for annual Antique, Vintage & Craft Show

by Lysa Stanton

The Westlake Historical Society has begun planning for its annual Antique, Vintage and Craft Show, to be held July 15. Even though snow is blanketing the ground and the new year is only days old, now is the perfect time to start planning for the Society's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds from the show are used to fund museum utility costs, as well as other projects throughout the year. Antique, vintage and craft vendors who would like to be a part of the July show are asked to call 440-808-1961 for an application. Vendor space is limited. ●



Visitors browse the treasures at last year's Antique, Vintage & Craft Show.

Vintage flair and eco-friendly vendors featured at Westlake art show

The Avant-Garde Art & Craft Shows are not your typical mom and pop pot-holder craft shows. This eclectic group of artists has become known as a niche group in the local art and craft show community. Unique vendors range from precious jewelry made of reused American coins, to quirky and eco-friendly flower vases made out of recycled light bulbs. The show has taken the typical art and craft show stereotype and flipped it on its head!

This year's Winter Avant-Garde Art & Craft Show will be held at Wagner's Country Inn, 30855 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29. A portion of proceeds will be donated to Stewart's Caring Place, a non-profit organization that provides support for families touched by cancer.

A notable trend in the art show industry has been that of using "upcycled" elements and taking what was once vintage and making it new. These vendors visit everywhere including antique shops and local Goodwill shops to find lost treasures and make them into something fabulous.

Visitors at the upcoming 2012 Winter Avant-Garde Art & Craft Show will have a chance to shop over 100 handmade vendors at Wagner's Country Inn. Some of the great showcased upcycled products that will be for sale include accessories made out of old skeleton keys, maps, and 1940s brooches and various upcycled home décor, to name a few.

"There is a definite nod to the past when viewing some of these vendors and their work. It's really exciting to see what vendors come up with and how they take something from the past and make it applicable to the trends that are popular now," said Becki Cooper, founder of the Avant-Garde Art & Craft shows.

In addition to offering upcycled vintage finds, the show also features several eco-friendly vendors including: cosmetics made out of beeswax from local beekeepers, local Lake Erie beach glass and recycled wine bottle jewelry, hair accessories and clothing made from recycled fabrics, hand bound journals from recycled paper, purses from recycled t-shirts, and even crayons remolded from previously used ones!

For more information about the winter show or to see some of the vendors' work, visit www.avantgardeshows.com. ●

Local Daughters of 1812 chapter holds first meeting

by Deb Marisch

In December, the Peter Navarre Chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812 (U.S.D. 1812) held its first meeting in Westlake since relocating to the Bay Village/Westlake-Toledo area. Current efforts are underway to recognize the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Pictured are: (front row, from left) prospective Chapter members Vicky Heineck of Parma Heights, Dorothy Laurianti of Bay Village and Jane Baran

of Lorain; (back row) Chapter members Martha Truchon of Westlake, Deb Marisch of Bay Village and Chapter President Marlene Wilkinson of Westlake. Members of the U.S.D. 1812 have proven lineal descent from an ancestor who served the United States in a military or civil capacity during the War of 1812 period (1784-1815). Membership information may be obtained from Chapter President Marlene Wilkinson by emailing her at marwilk32@hotmail.com.





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POLITICS

Congressman Jim Renacci to visit Westlake Jan. 14

by Mark Boepple

Congressional boundaries have changed significantly on the westside of Cleveland. Depending on where you live, you may have a new congressman. Due to declining population reported in the 2010 census, Ohio lost two Congressional seats requiring Ohio's U.S. Congressional districts to be redrawn.

The new districts have now been set and most of the Westshore is primarily in the 16th U.S. Congressional District. The new 16th District added Fairview Park, Middleburg Heights, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, Parma Heights, Strongsville and Westlake, and parts of Berea, Parma, Rocky River.



16th U.S. District
Congressman Jim Renacci

The 16th District is represented by Congressman Jim Renacci. Congressman Renacci will visit the Westlake Recreation Center at 28955 Hilliard Blvd. on Saturday, Jan. 14, as the WestshoreRepublicanClubs.com host another joint event.

Registration is at 8:30 am and the program will run from 9-11 am. There is no charge for this event and Republican Club membership is not required. Congressman

Renacci was first elected to Congress in 2010 and serves on many committees and caucuses. The WestShoreRepublicanClubs.com is made up of Republican Clubs throughout the Westshore community. For further information please contact Mark Boepple at 440-336-1734. ●

Ohio House candidate holds holiday campaign kick-off

by Jane Reilly

The House District 16 campaign for Democratic candidate Todd LeVeck kicked off over the holidays with a stirring event in Rocky River on Dec. 29.

A Westlake resident, born and raised in Cleveland, Todd is a Cleveland Public Schools teacher and a member of the Naval Reserve, as well as a husband and father. Surrounded by family, friends, co-workers and supporters, Todd shared his reasons for running and his passion for change.

He spoke about those in the community that he has met going door to door to introduce himself. He shared the tragic and moving story of a homeowner about

to lose her home. Todd told a packed house at the Beachcliff Tavern that he intends to bring the voice of the working families of our communities to Columbus. He wants to make sure that we solve our fiscal challenges through shared sacrifice, not heavy hits on those who can least afford the burden.

Todd's passionate opposition to S.B. 5 and Issue 2 brought cheers from the crowd. Todd stated that this initial fundraiser was very successful and he is most grateful to all of those who attended and so generously donated. Phone banks and other volunteer activities are underway. If any readers are interested in joining Todd's campaign, go to www.ToddforOhio.com. ●

Bay council members take oath of office

Following the long-standing tradition of installing council members on the first day of their terms, Bay Village held an inauguration ceremony at Dwyer Memorial Center to administer the oath of office for reelected and newly elected members of City Council on Jan. 1. Bay Village is unique in that the elected officials are sworn in on the day that their terms begin, rather than waiting for a business day or a scheduled council meeting.

Taking the oath for the first time were Ward 2 Councilman Clete Miller and Ward 3 Councilwoman Karen Lieske. Former Ward 2 Councilman Paul Koomar was installed as the new council president, while Dave Tadych, Scott Pohlkamp and Michael Young renewed their oaths of office after running unopposed in last November's election. Pohlkamp switched to an at-large seat this term after previously representing Ward 3.

Brian Cruse, who served on council for ten years and is the retiring council president, mingling wit and praise as he addressed the

council members. "I get to be a resident again, I get to call them and complain about garbage pickup and street repair, and boy, am I looking forward to that."

Turning to the audience, he continued, "But, these are the people in our community that have stood up and said 'I am willing to stick my neck out, I am willing to do the dirty work, the grunt work, to make Bay Village work.' And, I will tell you as a resident, I am going to sleep very comfortably at night knowing that these people are taking responsibility and making decisions on my behalf, and making Bay Village the great place that we all know that it is."

"Rest assured that your city council is going to be much better off than it was 24 hours ago, and it really is true. These are tremendous people that work very, very, very hard and take the job very seriously."

In closing, Cruse offered a final comment for the council members: "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for what you do and best of luck in the years to come... and I have all your phone numbers." ●



Rocky River Municipal Court Judge Brian Hagan administers the oath of office to Council President Paul Koomar as his wife, Therese, and daughters, Jennie and Katie, look on.

Looking back at the accomplishments of 2011

by State Rep. Nan Baker

As 2012 begins, I thought this would be a good opportunity to re-cap what has been accomplished in the first half of the 129th General Assembly. Our focus from the beginning has been creating jobs and improving the state's economy. Here is a taste of what we've accomplished thus far:

- **State Operating Budget:** Through the passage of the biennial budget, we filled the state's \$8-billion budget deficit without raising taxes, while retaining many vital public services that citizens depend on.
- **Personal Income Tax Reduction:** Annually since 2006 – excluding 2010 – four percent each year of the collection of income taxes has been reduced. In that time, Ohio went from being the seventh-most-taxed state to the 16th.
- **Creation of InvestOhio:** Part of the budget was implementing InvestOhio, which permits investors to collect an income tax credit for investment of up to \$10 million in eligible small businesses. This is a major step forward in linking small businesses with the money they need to grow and create jobs.

- **Enhancing the Ohio Business Gateway:** The legislature is working with the Department of Administrative Services to enhance the online Small Business Resource Center on the Ohio Business Gateway. Numerous legislators have met with business advocates to keep businesses, and thus jobs, in the state.
- **Continuing Ohio Third Frontier Program:** Passed by the voters in 2010, Ohio Third Frontier is an ongoing commitment to create technology-based products, companies, industries and jobs in Ohio.
- **JobsOhio:** The creation of JobsOhio, a non-profit panel of economic experts will work to encourage out-of-state businesses to come to Ohio and existing businesses to stay here.
- **Performance Audits for State Agencies:** House Bill 2 grants the Auditor of State the authority to conduct performance audits on state agencies to ensure that no public funds or resources are being wasted during tough economic times.
- **Repeal of the Estate Tax:** Ohio is one of only 13 states that levies an estate tax. Repealing this tax will encourage retirees to remain in the state, as well as their businesses and investments, without

fear that their heirs will not receive their assets. It is scheduled to take effect January 2013.

- **Small Business Regulatory Reform:** House Bill 94 assists small businesses that often struggle to comply with the ever-changing regulatory environment, which is a noble effort to keep businesses afloat and citizens employed.
- **Oil and Gas Leasing on State Lands:** House Bill 133 created the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission, which will oversee the leasing and development of Ohio's natural resources on publicly owned land. Some estimates have concluded that drilling for oil and natural gas in the state could create more than 200,000 jobs.
- **Incentives for Using Vacant Property:** The mass exodus of businesses large and small from Ohio has left behind many abandoned buildings. New and expanding companies could revitalize these buildings. That is why House Bill 18 is designed to offer a tax incentive to businesses moving into vacant facilities, which are often located in places with high unemployment and people ready to work.

As you can see, last year was busy, and I look forward to working hard again this year to improve Ohio's economy. ●



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Westlake Garden Club installs new officers for 2012

by Jean Smith

At their holiday luncheon on Dec. 22, 2011, the Westlake Garden Club installed new officers for 2012. Longtime member Alberta Ricciardi presided over the installation ceremony at Viva Fernando. Marie McCarthy, treasurer, and Jean Smith, 2nd vice president, will be serving their second year.

Incoming officers are: Regina McCarthy, president; Nancy Chopp and Bill Hock, co-1st vice president; Sally Knurek, recording secretary; and Ruth Bertrand and Claire Evangelista, co-corresponding secretary. Incoming president Regina McCarthy stated,

“Increased recognition of our club in the Westlake community is one of my goals. Residents should want to be a part of our club because they know who we are and what we do.”

The club is in the process of creating an exciting and informative website, which will be up and running by summer. The Westlake Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of each month, March through December, at Porter Library at 11 a.m., with lunch at noon and a program at 1 p.m. The club’s popular annual fundraiser luncheon, Fête des Fleurs, will be held on Thursday, April 26, at Wagner’s Country Inn. For ticket information, or information on membership, call 440-892-1861 or 440-665-5463.



The Westlake Garden Club’s officers for 2012 are, from left, Regina McCarthy, Bill Hock, Jean Smith, Claire Evangelista, Sally Knurek, Ruth Bertrand and Marie McCarthy.

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

Laugh your stress away!

by Barb Isaacs

The “Laugh Doc” returns to the Bay Village Branch by popular demand to show how to relieve the stress of everyday life and the start of the new year by laughing.

Professor Azaad Khaira of Lorain County Community College has been conducting classes on using non-humor dependent laughter to provide physical, emotional and psychological benefits of laughter to overstretched and overstressed souls. A certified Laughter and Relaxation therapist in this newly recognized field, Professor Khaira is sure to lift your spirits and you will leave the class ready for a new beginning! Be prepared to participate in this active program!

Registration is required by calling the library at 440-871-6392 or online at cuyahogalibrary.org. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch. ●

Amelia Bedelia to visit the Bay Village Library

by Joyce Sandy

Are you a child between the ages of 4-8, or do you know one? If so, do we have a program for you on Monday, Jan. 23 – a day there is no school. Come to the Bay Village Branch Library to meet Amelia Bedelia!

You read that right – you can MEET her at the library and help her to tell one of the stories of her funny exploits. Amelia has held many positions: housekeeper, teacher, politician, baseball player, babysitter, doctor, camper and more. She also does exactly what you tell her to do, so be careful what you say!

If you ask her to “pitch a tent in the woods” she will throw the tent into the woods! Another time she turned down an invitation to go to a garage sale stating that she didn’t need a garage, thank you very much! Anyone familiar with the books will know that Amelia means well, but she often get mixed up!

Peggy Parish, Amelia Bedelia’s creator, was a third-grade teacher before she was an author. She knew what children liked to read so she wrote stories for her classes. Peggy wanted to foster an early love of reading in children that would last a lifetime.

Please join us on your day off! There are two times to attend: 11 a.m.-noon OR 2-3 p.m. After Amelia shares a story with us, we’ll do a related craft. Remember to bring your own camera to take your picture with Amelia Bedelia! Call the library at 871-6392 or go online to cuyahogalibrary.org to say you’ll be joining us! ●



Bernice Cernoch as Amelia Bedelia will visit the Bay Village Branch Library on Jan. 23. She will bring lots of silliness along with fun literacy and art activities.

Celebrate MLK Day with HeartBEAT Afrika at Bay Library

by Joyce Sandy

HeartBEAT Afrika, a performing arts ensemble, is a fusion of traditional African percussion with a modern live band rhythm. Featuring street percussion, horns and dance, this interactive performance is a musical celebration of the African American experience in America.

Olugbala Manns, the co-founder and musical director of HeartBEAT Afrika, will be joining us on Monday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m. to help the library celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Olu is a second generation percussionist who grew up in New York City. He started learning drumming from his father Baba David Coleman at a very young age. New York is one of the melting pots of the world and young Olu was exposed

to many different styles of music. He studied drumming throughout his adolescence, and decided to pursue a degree in cultural studies which he got from Kent State University.

Throughout the years, Olu has traveled to many countries to both study and perform, visiting Brazil, Guinea West Africa, Europe and Canada. He is currently an adjunct professor at Hiram College where he teaches the African Ensemble course. He is also musical director and arts educator for Dance Afrika Dance.

Families with children ages 4 and up are invited to come to the library on Martin Luther King Jr. Day from 2-3 p.m. and enjoy this special program of storytelling, percussion and song. There will be a drum craft following the performance. ●

RIGHT: Olugbala Manns and his HeartBEAT Afrika musical ensemble will visit Bay Library on Jan. 16.



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Friends of Bay Village Library January book sale

The annual winter book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Library will be Saturday, Jan. 28, through Tuesday, Jan. 31. The book sale is held during regular library hours on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The sale ends 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.” We sell a bag of books for \$1.00. We provide the bags and you select the books!

Volunteers to help with the book sale and other library-related projects sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Bay Village Library are needed. For information on volunteering, the book sale or becoming a member of the Friends of the Bay Village Library, visit the library at 502 Cahoon Rd. or call 440-871-6392. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Nature Center 2012 board of directors named

by Frank Colosimo

The Board of Directors at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has elected officers to provide leadership and support for the Bay Village nonprofit organization in 2012. Colleen Lowmiller, a senior actuarial consultant at Findley Davies Inc., has been appointed as president of the Board after serving two terms as vice president since joining the Board in 2009.

Lowmiller will guide the Board of Directors in fulfilling their duties to govern and support the Center. "It is great that I can spend my volunteer time with an organization that also fits with what my family loves," says Lowmiller, who regularly takes part in the Center's educational programs with her daughter. "I believe technology, which broadens many horizons, can begin to separate us and our children from others and from nature. The Center provides those natural connections that are missing for many people, and by pausing and connecting with nature, they can also learn to keep the personal connections with others

that will continue to be important in their future."

Taking on the mantle of vice president is Steve Fink, Ph.D., a research instructor at Case Western Reserve University's Department of Medicine. Fink's long-standing connection with the nonprofit Center reaches back to his youth, when he spent time as a volunteer junior curator. Jerry Rudowsky, a senior manager of assurance services at Ernst & Young LLP, returns for a second term as treasurer while Corryn Firis, a staff attorney at the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, returns as secretary.

"Lake Erie Nature & Science Center gives people opportunities to discover and appreciate our natural world with hands-on programs, live animal exhibits, a planetarium and direct access to Lake Erie," said Executive Director Catherine Timko. "The talented professionals elected to the



Center's Board of Directors provide vital leadership and support for our nonprofit organization and this important mission. The officers and all of the Board Members serve as key advisors and ambassadors to the community." ●

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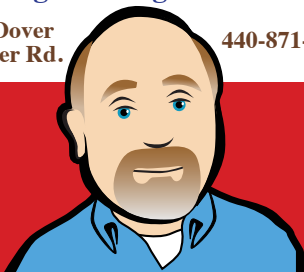
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WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE
Observer

WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

January events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by Elaine Willis

Tuesday, Jan. 3 (2-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE – Type O Drive

Tuesday, Jan. 3 (7-8:15 p.m.) INTRODUCTION TO OVERDRIVE AND E-BOOKS – Join a staff member from the Popular Materials Department for an instructional class on downloading eBooks on the most popular eReaders. Please register.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 4 (1-2:30 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HELP SESSION – Wondering how to get started researching your ancestors? Hit a roadblock on your search? Stop in for suggestions and help!

Thursday, Jan. 5 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP – Economist Jack Kleinhenz will discuss what to expect in 2012 and how the presidential election could affect the financial markets. Please register.

Friday, Jan. 6 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME! – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Registration begins one week before each session.

Friday, Jan. 6 (1-4 p.m.) E-READER HELP – Did you get an eReader for Christmas? Interested in learning how to access and download eBooks from the library? Make an appointment at the Popular Materials Desk to find out!

Saturday, Jan. 7 (9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) SAT PRACTICE TEST – Get ready for test time with an SAT practice exam, then get your results and discuss testing strategies and techniques the next week. Grades 10-12. Please register. Sponsored by Sylvan Learning Centers of Westlake.

Saturday, Jan. 7 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) CRAFTS A GO-GO! – Join us for a fun and easy craft experience! All supplies provided; just drop in. A new, cool craft idea every time!

Saturday, Jan. 7 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB – Love those LEGO bricks? Then bring your ideas and imagination to the club! All bricks provided. Ages 6-13. Registration begins one week before each session.

Monday, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 (4-6:30 p.m.) TEEN TECHNO-LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Techno-Lounge located in our computer lab! You can access the Internet, do homework, or just hang out.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION – In January we’ll discuss “Wild-water Walking Club” by Claire Cook.

Wednesday, Jan. 11 (10:30-11 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing. For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. No registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 12 (7-8:45 p.m.) DEAN’S GREENHOUSE MOVIE SERIES – Join Debbie Dean Espie for a viewing of “Queen of the Sun,” which takes viewers on a journey through the world of bees, the hive collapse crisis, and what some creative beekeepers are doing.

Thursday, Jan. 12 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The January selection is “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” by William Kamkwamba.

Saturday, Jan. 14 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) CRAFTS A GO-GO! – Join us for a fun and easy craft experience! All supplies provided; just drop in. A new, cool craft idea every time!

Saturday, Jan. 14 (12:30-2:30 p.m.) SAT TEST RESULTS – Get your results from the previous week’s exam and discuss strategies and tips for effective test-taking.

Saturday, Jan. 14 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB – Love those LEGO bricks? Then bring your ideas and imagination to the club! All bricks provided. Ages 6-13. Registration begins one week before each session.

Sunday, Jan. 15 (2-4 p.m.) SUNDAY SOUNDS – The Friends of the Library present the Elm Street Blues Band.

Monday, Jan. 16 (2-3:30 p.m.) MOVIES @ YOUR LIBRARY: “MR. POPPER’S PENGUINS” – All ages welcome. In accordance with library policy, all children under age nine must be accompanied by an adult. Please register starting one week before each movie.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (2-3:30 p.m.) MOVIES @ YOUR LIBRARY: “SPY KIDS: ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD” – All ages welcome. In accordance with library policy, all children under age nine must be accompanied by an adult. Please register starting one week before each movie.

Monday, Jan. 16 (4-6:30 p.m.) TEEN TECHNO-LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Techno-Lounge located in our computer lab! You can access the Internet, do homework, or just hang out.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (2-4 p.m.) OPEN PLAYWII – Come play Wii with us! We have two consoles for twice the fun. Choose from Super Smash Bros. Brawl, MarioKart, Guitar Hero, and more! Grades 5 & up.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (7-8:15 p.m.) INTRODUCTION TO OVERDRIVE AND E-BOOKS – Join a staff member from the Popular Materials Department for an instructional class on downloading eBooks on the most popular eReaders. Please register.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, Jan. 18 (7-8 p.m.) SUPERHERO STORYTIME – Kapow! Dress up as your favorite Superhero and listen to stories of bravery. We’ll play super-power games and make a cool craft. For ages 3-6. Please register starting Jan. 11.

Friday, Jan. 20 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME! – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Jan. 21 (10:45 a.m.) WEST SIDE WRITERS

Saturday, Jan. 21 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) KIDS IN MOTION SENSORY STORYTIME – Join us for stories, activities, music and more! Program is designed to engage children with special needs/sensory challenges, and consists of a 30-minute storytime followed by a 30-minute social-sharing time. Each child must have adult caregiver. Please register starting Jan. 14.

Saturday, Jan. 14 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB – Love those LEGO bricks? Then bring your ideas and imagination to the club! All bricks provided. Ages 6-13. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Jan. 21 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB – Love those LEGO bricks? Then bring your ideas and imagination to the club! All bricks provided. Ages 6-13. Registration begins one week before each session.

Monday, Jan. 23 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, Jan. 23 (4-6:30 p.m.) TEEN TECHNO-LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Techno-Lounge located in our computer lab! You can access the Internet, do homework, or just hang out.

Monday, Jan. 23 (7-8:45 p.m.) WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, Jan. 24 (7-8:15 p.m.) INTRODUCTION TO OVERDRIVE AND E-BOOKS – Join a staff member from the Popular Materials Department for an instructional class on downloading eBooks on the most popular eReaders. Please register.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 (2 p.m.) AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – The January selection is “Wicked Appetite” by Janet Evanovich.

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

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

Book study sessions get to heart of Christian faith

Join Westlake United Methodist Church’s Rev. John Butchko as we discuss the book, “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?” by Martin Thielen. A provocative look at the core elements of the Christian faith, the book covers 10 things Christians don’t need to believe and 10 things Christians do need to believe.

If you have ever felt that you can’t be a Christian because you cannot accept everything in the Bible as literally true or struggle with religion when faced with judgmental Christians, this book study is for you. Free copies of the book are available; if you prefer to purchase your own copy, bring your receipt to the first meeting for reimbursement.

All are welcome at anytime for as many sessions as they can make. Each meeting will tackle a stand-alone portion of the book.

Group 1: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for four weeks beginning Jan. 10 at Westlake Porter Public Library, Dover Room, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Group 2: Thursdays at 2 p.m. for five weeks beginning Jan. 19 at Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.

For more information, call 440-871-3088 or visit westlakeumc.org.

Serendipitous research the topic of Jan. 18 genealogical meeting

by Jayne Broestl

Ohio Genealogical Society trustee Margaret Cheney will be the featured guest speaker at an event on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Westlake Porter Public Library. Cheney’s official duty will be to install the newly elected slate of officers of the local Cuyahoga West Chapter: Jim Denham, president; Deborah Basiewicz, vice president and program chair; Jane Carlson, recording secretary; Nancy Shaw, corresponding secretary; and John Noble, treasurer.

Following the installation, Mrs. Cheney will present “Serendipity in Genealogy Research” that should be informative and entertaining. Program begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments and social time is from 6:30-7 p.m. The public is invited, at no charge. For additional information, visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs> or send an email to cuyahogawest@gmail.com.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by Joyce Sandy

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! As another year begins, we'd like to thank our patrons for the past year's record-breaking materials circulation totals for all of our branches. Serving the communities and meeting your needs is our goal, and we're proud and ready to keep bringing customers the latest in technology and materials. Stop in for a visit and we'll be glad to help you find what you're looking for, and browse our shelves to explore and discover. We're excited about these upcoming programs – call us to let us know you'll be there!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Jan. 11 (7 p.m.) 40 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH – Looking for a job or a change in careers? Join us as a Cuyahoga County Public Library Career Counselor gives tips on how to be more successful at finding the job you want.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (7 p.m.) LAUGH YOUR STRESS AWAY – The “Laugh Doc” returns to the library by popular demand to show how to relieve the stress of everyday life and start the new year by laughing. Be prepared to participate in this active program!

Tuesday, Jan. 31 (7 p.m.) NOTABLE BOOKS FOR ADULTS 2012 – Returning by popular demand, Bill Kelly from the ALA Notable Books Council and Manager of Cuyahoga County Public Library Beachwood Branch presents the list of books chosen for 2012 in addition to the process involved and how new books are chosen.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Jan. 11 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) CLUB OTAKU – For ages 11

and up. Do you love manga, anime, and video games? Then this club is for you! Watch anime, discuss your favorite manga books, and make a creative project or two.

Monday, Jan. 30 (7 p.m.) GIRLS IN BAY BOOK DISCUSSION – For girls in grades 5-7. Girls, bring an adult female friend for some fun. We'll discuss a great book, share a snack and do a related project. Copies of the books are available for check out at the Information Desk.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Monday, Jan. 16 (2 p.m.) HEARTBEAT AFRIKA CELEBRATES MLK! – For ages 4 and up. Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. through the arts. Join Heartbeat Afrika for a musical adventure that includes storytelling, percussion and song. Afterward, make your own drum!

Thursday, Jan. 19 (7 p.m.) IT'S A GIRL'S WORLD – For girls in grades 3 and 4. Bring an adult friend for some fun! We'll discuss a book, share a snack and try a related project.

Monday, Jan. 23 (11 a.m.-noon OR 2-3 p.m.) AMELIA BEDELIA DAY – For ages 4-8. Looking for something to do on your day off? Meet Amelia Bedelia and help her tell a story. Afterward, have fun with related games and a craft. Dress in your favorite Amelia Bedelia costume.

Thursday, Jan. 26 (3:30 p.m.) JUNIOR ENGINEERING CLUB – For ages 8-12. Bring your ideas and imagination! Get together with other students and have fun creating all kinds of structures.

Please call 871-6392 to register for these programs, or go online to cuyahogalibrary.org. We hope to see you soon!

Spring training Wiffle balls and other Cleveland sports predictions

by Jeff Bing

The WBV Observer is excited to kick off the new year with a new columnist: Jeff Bing, a lifelong Westlake resident and long-suffering Cleveland sports fan. Jeff will offer readers a lighthearted take on the teams that break our hearts but always have us coming back for more. A frequent contributor to Bud Shaw's Spin column in The Plain Dealer, Jeff will provide much-needed comic relief to carry us through the ups and downs of Cleveland sports.

Doesn't it bother you when, every December, some self-proclaimed expert in his field of choice goes back and recounts, month by month, the highlights of the year? You know the drill: He acts as if we were all living under a rock or something the past year, and we had no idea what had transpired over the preceding twelve months.

Isn't that just about the easiest column to write? And to simply reiterate and rehash all the negative stuff that happened with our professional sports teams over the past year? As Cleveland sports fans, don't you think we've suffered enough?

I considered writing an article just like that described above, as I am inherently lazy and tend to shoot for the shortest path to my goal whenever the opportunity presents itself. However, this being Greater Cleveland, a.k.a. the pits of professional sports, I decided to take the high road for a change: I will clue you in on the highlights in Cleveland sports for the coming year, ahead of them actually occurring. How so, you ask? It's a gift, my friends, it's a gift.

So sit back, kick your feet up on the sofa, take them down when your wife yells at you, and be amazed at what I'm about to reveal, on a month-to-month basis. In the interest of space, I'll dispense my predictions in quarterly installments, beginning here with the first three months of 2012:

JANUARY: Browns head coach Pat Shurmur, after announcing he would hire an offensive coordinator who “spoke the same language,” hires the beer guy from section 541 of Browns Stadium. I can't argue with Shurmur's logic, as I personally have witnessed the vendor speak English many times when he shrugs and tells a customer, “I can't break a twenty.”

The secret, Shurmur explains, lies in who can yell the loudest at practice and command the players' attention. The fact that the new hire cannot count out correct change will not be an issue, Shurmur adds. “It's not about the money.”

FEBRUARY: Early in the month, the Tribe's equipment truck leaves for spring training. Apparently, there is an old Mapquest printout of directions to the former spring training site in Florida, and the confused operator proceeds to Winter Haven rather than Goodyear, Ariz.

President Mark Shapiro and GM Chris Antonetti vow to take punitive action against the daffy driver, until it is revealed that the driver was Tribe owner Larry Dolan, who supposedly decided to take the wheel in a “cost-cutting” measure.

MARCH: Since the equipment truck was late in arriving due to the aforementioned snafu, the equipment manager places an emergency order for balls and bats for the players to use until the regular stuff arrived. Unfortunately, he orders plastic Wiffle balls and bats by mistake.

Manager Manny Acta, unaware of the “foul”-up (no pun intended), comments on how much he was “impressed with Matt LaPorta's bat speed” and the “break in Ubaldo Jimenez's curve.”

So there you have it, the first quarter of 2012. Keep your eyes peeled in the weeks ahead as I continue to gaze into the future and provide the insight that you, the fan, deserve. ●
Jeff welcomes all feedback and suggestions, pro or con, which may be sent to editor@wbvobserver.com.

Readers' Opinions

A thank you to those who make Bay special

I love living in Bay Village. I love it for so many reasons. If you have lived other places and now live in Bay Village, you probably love it, too.

Bay Village is a great place for many reasons. I feel very safe living here. I know my neighbors and cherish them. I think it's truly beautiful during all the seasons. I think a drive down Lake Road can be relaxing with occasional views of the lake in between the houses. I love our charming coffee shops and the patrons that say hello when you walk in. I think the beach is a fun place to ride your bike for ice cream or clear your head if you have things on your mind.

I love Bay Village for many obvious reasons. I would like to thank anyone who sits in a position or on a board, panel, counsel, organization, committee – paid and unpaid – that is committed to keeping our town special. I know that our community is special because good people are committed to keeping it that way.

I know that many times we focus on problems and changes that we would like to see made but thank you for caring enough about this community to sit and listen. I am sure there are times when you would like to be other places and I don't know if we appreciate you enough for what you do. Thank you for your well-exercised patience, your commitment to the community and your kindness.

– Colleen Harding, Bay Village

Former Dwyer Center manager says goodbye

I'd like to wish the patrons of the Bay Village Dwyer Center a prosperous and happy New Year.

I worked at the center for the past 15 years, including the past two years as the Senior Center Manager. But in mid-December, I received a letter from Mayor Deborah Sutherland informing me that my position was being eliminated and that I would be placed on administrative leave, effective immediately. I was instructed to collect my personal belongings and leave that afternoon.

I loved my job and did not retire. My position was eliminated.

My only regret regarding my abrupt departure from the center was my inability to say goodbye to anyone. So close to the holidays, it sure would have been nice to spend a few moments with some of the frequent visitors to the center, to whom I've become quite close. It would have been nice to be allowed to take a few minutes to wish them a Merry Christmas, and exchange contact information so I could stay in touch.

It was an absolute pleasure and a privilege to serve the residents who frequented the center. I learned so much and met so many wonderful people. I have great respect for your energy level – keeping your minds and bodies active. I hope I'm able to continue to advocate for older adults in some capacity.

At this point, my only option is to send this letter and hope it reaches enough people.

– Susan H. Zisko, Avon Lake

EATS
BEAT

Aladdin's rolls out the magic carpet of food

by Steve Novak

There are few places that can satisfy the vegetarian as well as meat-lover tastes than Aladdin's Eatery. Fady and Sally Chamoun's first Lebanese-American restaurant opened in Lakewood in 1994 has blossomed into more than two dozen locations in five states and, fortunately for us on the west shore, there's one right at Crocker Park.

The lightly stained wood tables and chairs gives an inviting feeling along with ceiling-hung oval light sheers that nicely mute the track lighting. The mirrored wall above the cushioned bench seating gives a larger feel to this quaint establishment.

Now let's roll into the menu.

The V-Nine Soup (\$3.45) is something not to miss. This delicious tomato and veggie-based soup has vegetables so huge, they give a new name to CHUNKY.

There's nothing like a little Hummos (\$5.95) to get a meal started. A pureed blend of chickpeas, tahini and lemon and garnished with sliced tomatoes, cucumbers, olive oil, parsley and served with pita.

Loving a good salad I had to try the Lamb Salad (\$11.95). It's a crispy bed of mixed greens with tomatoes, cucumbers, Kalamata olives, feta cheese, scallions, and then topped with cubes of marinated grilled lamb and served with your choice of dressing. It's a really superb meal.

Speaking of dressing, Aladdin's dedicates a whole page of their menu just to describe their homemade dressings in detail, a nice touch for the curious diner.

The Chicken Dijon Rolled Pita (\$5.75) is a favorite of my wife. Tender marinated char-grilled chicken with tomatoes, onions and honey Dijon dressing all rolled up in a lightly toasted pita. The thought of it makes me want to run out and get one.

Aladdin's Eatery

151 Crocker Park Blvd., Westlake
440-617-9005
aladdinseatery.com

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Prices: Soups & Appetizers, \$3.45-\$10.95; Salads, \$3.25-\$11.95; Pita Pitza, \$6.45-\$6.75; Specialty Plates, \$7.95-\$12.95; Rolled Pitaa, \$4.95-\$6.95

Reservations: No

Credit cards: All Major

Cuisine: Lebanese-American

Kids Menu: Yes

Bar: Beer and Wine Service

Accessibility: Excellent entrance and restroom

Grade: ***

Ratings: 1 star: Fair; 2 stars: Good; 3 stars: Very Good; 4 stars: Excellent

We always order the Mujadara Plate (\$9.75), a bed of steamed lentils and brown rice topped with Lebanese Salata and finished with thinly sliced fried onions. It's a wonderful blend of flavors. We usually order it so everyone can have a share. Aladdin's Lebanese Salata (salad) is a delicious blend of chopped tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, scallions, onions and parsley mixed with olive oil, lemon and herbs. You'll find it on many dishes.

Shish Kabob Plate (\$12.95) is char-grilled lean beef tenderloin served with seasoned white rice and vermicelli and topped with pine nuts, almonds and just a hint of cinnamon. Served with either garlic sauce or tahini yogurt.



Aladdin's Eatery features a colorful and inviting interior.



The tempting dessert case displays gourmet cakes and cheesecakes.

drink choice a little bit difficult. Oh, and did I mention that they're fresh?

I don't think anything can tempt you more than Aladdin's desserts. From gourmet cakes, cheesecakes, baklava, cookies and dessert bars there is something for every sweet tooth. The worst thing is that you have to pass by the dessert case as you walk in to be seated, not fair!

Don't be afraid to ask questions about the menu, the service staff is very friendly and knowledgeable, but most items are very well defined.

In closing, it's wonderful to see the success of a local family-owned business grow throughout the state of Ohio and into neighboring states.

Steve Novak is a Westlake resident and 30-year veteran in the restaurant industry, working at all levels from dishwasher to manager to cheffowner. The Observer makes two anonymous visits per restaurant and does not accept complimentary meals. ●



Aladdin's Eatery at Crocker Park in Westlake.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Jan. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
General Meeting, Northeast Ohio PC Club

The meeting is free and open to the public. You don't have to be a member. We're pleased to welcome back Ian Abbott, who'll speak on "2011 Income Tax Updates." Guaranteed to help you prepare your 2011 income tax returns! Ian owns Abacus Financial Services in Avon. His presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m., but come early (6:30 p.m.) to socialize and enjoy free refreshments – and to meet Ian. *Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

Jan. 14, 9-11 a.m.
Meet US Congressman Jim Renacci

See the story on page 8 of this issue.

Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.

Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.
Prostate Partners: Dialogue with a Doctor

This drop-in support group for those touched by cancer offers a question and answer session as well as updated information and treatment advances specific to prostate cancer. William Larchian, MD, and James Ulchaker, MD, will be onsite to answer all your questions. *The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

Jan. 18, 6:30-8:45 p.m.
Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society - Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

See the story on page 12 of this issue.

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Public Meeting on Columbia Gas Pipeline Replacement Project

Columbia Gas is continuing with their Gas Pipeline System Improvement program in Ward 2. This gas line replacement program will replace the main line, the service line that runs from the main line to the home or business and relocate any indoor gas meters to the outside of the home or business. Work will begin in January 2012 on the following streets: Lake, Bruce, Russell, Wolf, Normandy, Midland, Osborn, East Oviatt, Dover Center,

Douglas, Glen Park, Canterbury, Henry. *Normandy Elementary School Cafeteria, 26920 Normandy Rd.*

Jan. 19, 7 p.m.
Westlake Kindergarten Information Session

Learn more about registering your child for kindergarten in the Westlake city School District for the 2012-13 school year. The session will include: information regarding entrance dates, enrollment and registration; options for full and half-day kindergarten; and speakers from several departments within the school system to share information and address questions. For more information call Lindy at 440.250.1270. This is an adults-only event. *Parkside Intermediate School, 24525 Hilliard Blvd.*

Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m.
Defense Tactics for Wildlife of Mass Destruction

Attend the Bay Village Garden Club's January luncheon and learn how to protect your yard from bad critters and how to enlist good creatures in your attack. Live animals will be present. Dave Wolf, Director of Wildlife at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, will be the featured speaker. Call 440-871-7879 or visit bayvillegardenclub.com. *Bay Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd.*

Jan. 24, 6:30-8 p.m.
Lower Your Gas Bills and Increase Your Home's Comfort

See the story on page 1 of this issue.

Bay Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd.

Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.
Owl Prowl: Family Night at the Center

Families of all ages can join Naturalist Ken Gober for an owl prow! We will first gather in the Center's Planetarium for a heartwarming story, and then you will meet some of our resident live owls. Next, venture out into the cold winter woods to track down some wild owls. Warm up afterward with refreshments. All are welcome to participate in the adventure of searching for owls in their woodland territory. Cost: \$5/person; pre-register by calling 440-871-2900. *Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd.*

Westlake children's author teaches resiliency

by Kasey Kellem

High school counselor and former special education teacher Kasey Crawford Kellem knows a lot about facing life challenges. Her new book series, *Mind Over Matter*, teaches young children how to be resilient to them.

"Everyone faces difficult or challenging times in their lives," Kellem said. The Cleveland-area counselor said she hopes her books will teach children they can get through their stressful troubles using a mind over matter technique that is within everyone. Her first book, "Believe," is on the market now. The remaining books in the series – "Love," "Laugh," "Relax" and "Dream" – will be out within the next year.

Kellem lives in Westlake and is devoted to her husband, Craig, and two step children who graduated from Westlake High School in 2009, Jessica and Joe. The *Mind Over Matter* (M.O.M.) series is dedicated to Kellem's late mother, who taught the author how to be resilient. Kim Weber, a Westlake resident, is one of the graphic designers, along with a student from her visual communications class, Emily Ross.

Kellem's goal is to get the book into the hands of as many children as possible to introduce them to five concepts of resiliency. In order to overcome challenges, the author said, one must "believe, dream, love, relax and laugh." If they learn these things early on, they will be able to use them the rest of their lives to overcome the many challenges that will come their way, she explained.

Kellem grew up in a "traditional nuclear family" that included her mom and dad and three sisters in Fairview Park. She attended Magnificat High School and earned her bachelor's degree at Baldwin Wallace College and master's degree in special education at Kent State University. She also has an Educational Specialist Degree in counseling.

The Normandy High School counselor has devoted her life to helping thousands of children facing adversity how to be resilient. She has spent 22 years in education, 10 as a special education teacher and the past 12 as a high school counselor.

"Believe" may be purchased at mindovermatterbooks.com or amazon.com. ●



Bay Village launches new city website

A new, more comprehensive website for the city of Bay Village has recently launched, incorporating online access to city forms, more information on departments, programs and services, and even a Bay photo gallery.

Check it out at www.cityofbayvillage.com. ●

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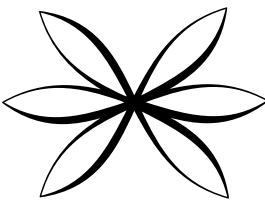


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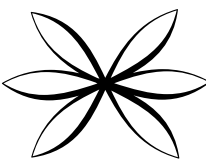
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