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# Observer

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

## Friendship and holiday gift giving

by Denise Ayres

The starting line for the holiday shopping season is in view! We are making our lists and scouting the advertised sales starting the Friday after Thanksgiving. We struggle with the challenge of matching the perfect gift to each person on our holiday gift-giving list. Some people with talent and skills are creating gifts for the people you hold in high regard. We are all trying to make sure that we convey to our loved ones how much we value them as part of our lives.

Those shopping lists can also be looked at from a different angle. Reading the list of names brings thoughts of warm memories and a feeling of acceptance. We have also created a list of the people that value our presence and chose to include us in their thoughts, prayers and time.

Gift giving can be challenging. There are the obstacles involved including time to shop, evaluating likes and dislikes, crowds, parking, mailing, and of course, finances. Like Santa told my mom one time, "Somehow you make it all work."

At times throughout the season we either say or hear "It is the thought that counts." At first reaction that may sound like an excuse or sympathy. When you really think about it, it is neither. This saying holds within it what the actual gift is. Being in someone's caring thoughts gives us the meaningful gift of acceptance, love or friendship. We rarely take time to stop and think about how people include us in their thoughts and wish us good things throughout the entire year. In some cases it has been over many years.

That sure does add up to a lot!

» See GIFT, page 16



## Bay churches join to offer Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 18

by Rev. Bill Buckeye

The Bay Ministerial Association is sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7:00 p.m. This service, hoped to be the first of an annual tradition, will be held at the Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd., at the corner of Lake and Bassett roads.

This service will be the opportunity for anyone who is interested in giving thanks for

the many blessings of our lives to gather together and do so. Several of the pastors of Bay Village will help to lead this service and the choirs of all the churches will be joining in one group anthem, estimated to be over 100 voices strong. Fr. Tim Gareau of St. Raphael Catholic Church will bring the message for this ecumenical service.

After the recent storms we have even more to be thankful for than before. For all of our inconvenience and even lost food, no lives were lost in

our community and no homes were burned to the ground or washed away as happened on the East Coast. The entire community is invited to attend this service. Casual attire is welcome as is every grateful heart.

In lieu of an offering at this service those attending are encouraged to donate to the charity of their choice, particularly those agencies helping with the storm recovery following Hurricane Sandy. ●



Kiwanians John Sweany and Ken Frisch help with fall cleanup at the Hospice of the Western Reserve's Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake on Nov. 9.

## Westlake Kiwanis serves the community

by George Christ

The Westlake Kiwanis Club is very active in serving the community. On Nov. 9, ten members of the club spent the morning at the newly opened Ames Family Hospice House off Crocker Road doing a clean up project. On Saturday, Nov. 10, Kiwanis, in cooperation with high school Key Club members, raked yards of seniors and other residents who requested help getting ready for winter.

As the holidays approach

the club will be involved in helping pass out food baskets at the Westlake Community Center. These are just a few of the activities the club is involved in during the year. Recently the club helped the Westlake Fire Department by purchasing equipment for each rescue squad to adapt the stretchers for small children and infants.

These projects and others are only possible because of the dedicated members who belong to the Westlake Kiwanis Club. Membership is open to any

adults who live or work in Westlake. The club meets on Tuesday nights for dinner and a program at SB81 Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

The Westlake club also sponsors the Key Club at Westlake High, Builders Club at Lee Burneson Middle School and an Aktion Club in the western suburbs.

If you are interested in community service projects, informative programs and meeting new friends, consider becoming a member. For questions or information, call 216-832-1640. ●

## Hurricane Sandy stories and photos on pages 9-10



Road closed signs were a common sight in Bay Village and Westlake following the storm. This photo was taken the morning after – Tuesday, Oct. 30 – on Lake Road between Clague and Columbia roads.

## WHS softball fundraiser at Huntington Playhouse Dec. 2

by Doug Foster

Westlake High School Girls Fastpitch Softball will sponsor a benefit performance of "Winter Wonderettes" at Huntington Playhouse in Bay Village on Sunday, Dec. 2, at the 2 p.m. matinee.

This seasonal musical features all your favorite holiday tunes and is fun for all ages.

For more about the "Winter Wonderettes," read Tom Meyrose's article on page 5 of this issue.

There will be a reception for players, coaches, parents and guests starting at 1 p.m. with light snacks and desserts being served. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students 18 and under. Make checks payable to Westlake Board of Education.

For tickets, contact Doug Foster at 440-759-3313. ●



# Experiencing printmaking in the 21st century

by Louise Seeholzer

One dictionary defines “artist” as “somebody who does something skillfully and creatively.” The people who attended a program by Phyllis Fannin on Nov. 8 at Porter Library were well aware that they were experiencing an artist of skill and creativity who is fired by a passion for her work.

While the art of print making, lithography, dates back to the late 1700s, Fannin works in a relatively new (20 years) method called paper lithography or Xerox lithography. While using modern technology might suggest a quick process, nothing could be further from the truth. Fannin said each of her prints takes about two months to complete.

A display of completed prints revealed Fannin’s creativity, her attention to detail and a compelling strength and beauty. Her slide presentation provided insights on her work and her studio.

But Fannin’s demonstration of paper lithography, producing a print, using toner-based black

and white photocopies, rolled with oil-based printers’ ink, in a water resist, drew the complete attention of her audience.

The emotions experienced by families of military personnel, through photos of departures and homecomings, has been the focus of Fannin’s work for the last two years. Beginning with photocopies of photos, she uses a myriad of designs as backgrounds for her layered prints. The prints in her military project are done in three layers, using topographical maps as the design motif. Each layer, printed separately, is carefully cut and put in place.

Fannin, whose studio is in the Screw Factory Open Studios in Lakewood, explained the challenges of the process such as the difficulty of getting the right density of ink on a photocopy to produce the desired print result, the reality that many times the photocopy will make only one print requiring more than one



**This three-layered print from Fannin’s military project was shaped from a photo her husband took of Fannin saying goodbye to one of her sons in the military.**

perfect photocopy. The right ink mixture for rolling on the photocopy and the length of time for these inks to dry are also important components of success.

In an unwavering dedication to bring art, in all forms, to the community, the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council sponsored Fannin’s interesting program. ●



**The audience crowds around as Phyllis Fannin demonstrates how she creates a print from a photocopy.**

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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 450+ community writers.

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

We do not accept payment for the inclusion of articles.

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

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

**PRODUCTION OFFICE**  
451 Queenswood Drive •  
Bay Village, Ohio 44140  
440-409-0114  
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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](http://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](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com).

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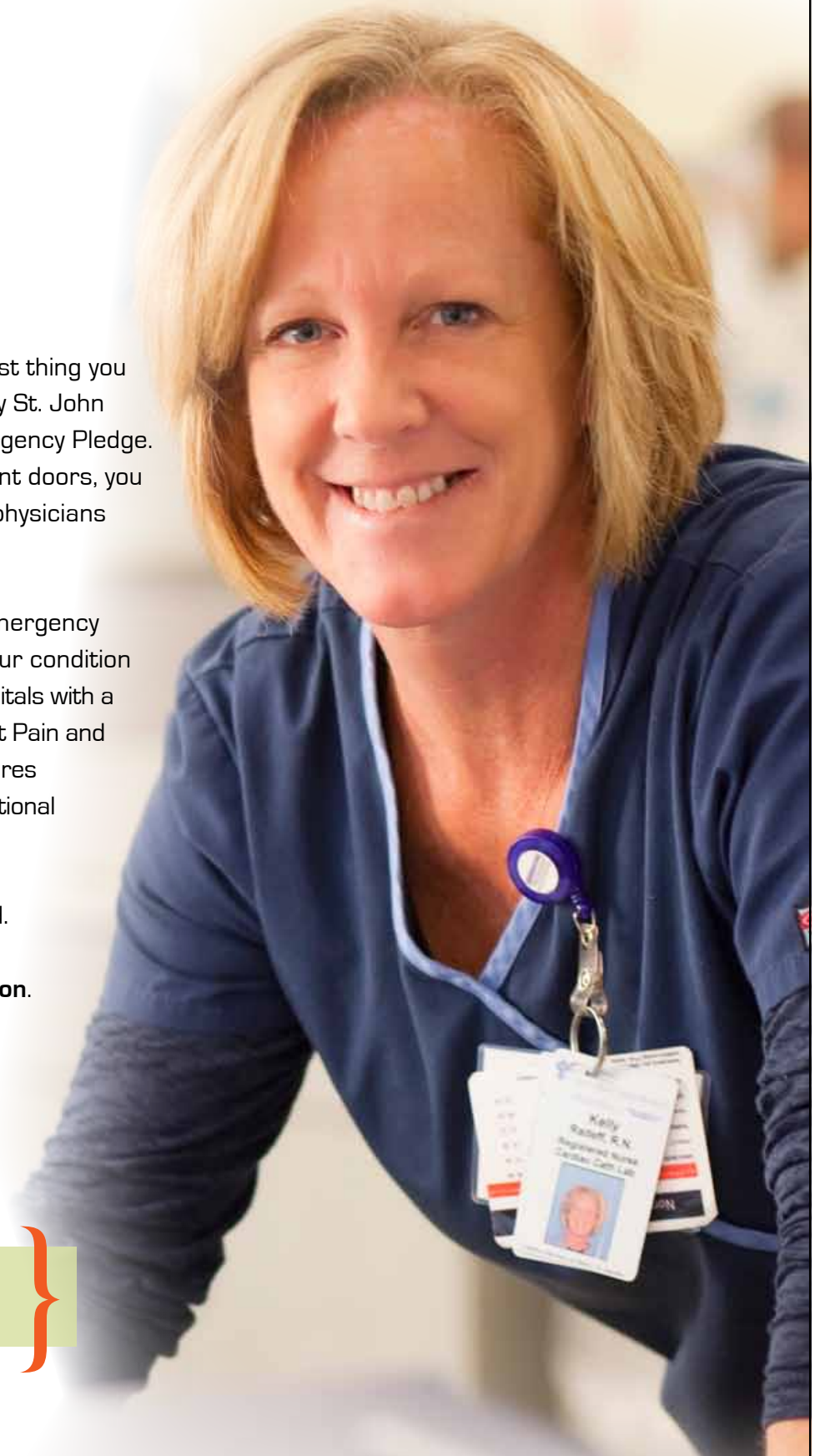
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# Food drive for Bay Food Ministry at Huntington Playhouse Nov. 25

by Tom Meyrose

The Metro-West Kiwanis Club with the help of Huntington Playhouse will hold a food drive to benefit the Bay Food Ministry on Sunday, Nov. 25, at the 2 p.m. matinee performance of “The Winter Wonderettes.”

Huntington Playhouse will discount their full-priced tickets for every five non-perishable food items brought in that day. The theatre will deduct increments of \$5 off the price of an adult ticket, up to \$20. So if five items are brought in, \$5 is deducted from the full priced adult ticket. If 10 items are brought in, \$10 is deducted and the discount continues at the 15 and 20 item levels as well. No other discounts apply.

“The Winter Wonderettes” are back and they are entertaining at the annual Harper’s Hardware Holiday Party. When Santa turns up missing, the girls must use their talent and creative ingenuity, plus some great holiday tunes such as “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Winter Wonderland” and many other seasonal favorites, to save the day. The result is, of course, marvelous! This entertaining show will delight audiences of all ages.

The production opens on Nov. 23 and plays through Dec. 16.

Bay Food Ministry was formed in 1989 and is now operating in its 23rd year as food pantry to residents of Bay Village and surrounding communities who meet income guidelines for State of Ohio food programs.

It relies on donations of non-perishable food and also purchases over 2,000 pounds of non-perishable, dairy and frozen foods along with non-food items from Cleveland Food Bank. Currently Bay Food Ministry serves over 200 people each month, representing 83 households, providing a generous three-day supply of food on the last Friday of each month.

To make a reservation to support the Bay Food Ministry Food Drive, contact the box office at 440-871-8333. Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Rd. in Bay Village. ●



# BAY Matters forum stresses importance of early drug intervention

by Denny Wendell

Here’s a scenario – you’re in your teenage daughter’s room gathering clothes for your weekly laundry loads and come across a container of bath salts buried underneath a pile of dirty clothes. You think, “I didn’t know she was into taking baths,” but with teenagers, who can tell what they’re into at any given time.

As you think about it though, it gives you pause, because you don’t remember her taking any baths recently and yet the container is half empty. You look again at the bottle of salts and it is labeled Vanilla Sky. How calming, you think. The fact is that these bath salts may not be for a soothing, relaxing bath but may be a tell-tale sign that your teen is experimenting with an illicit and dangerous drug.

This type of synthetic drug, made in underground labs and marketed as a household item, was among the topics discussed at the “Because All Youth Matters” public forum held on Nov. 7 in the Bay High School auditorium. Hosted by the Bay Village Kiwanis, the discussion featured community leaders including school and city officials, members of the clergy, police department and substance abuse counselors providing information on how to identify youth chemical substance experimentation, how this issue affects us all, plus what each of us can do as concerned citizens to help our kids stay drug free.

Besides the use of drugs, the forum also provided an insight to the abuse of alcohol by teens. Bay Village schools superintendent Clint Keener related a story of a Bay couple who came home early from a trip to find all their furniture

covered in plastic. The reason? Their 16-year-old son was preparing for a beer party and covered the furniture to protect it from the effects of the party. This scenario may not be common, but as Keener stated, “No one is immune to it.”

The superintendent described the school system’s policy in dealing with students that have substance abuse problems. “We want to work with the parents and we want our students to make the right choices. We have procedures in place to help both the parents and student in these situations,” he said.

Bay Village Detective Kevin Krolkowski described how bath salts can be swallowed, snorted or smoked to get high and are growing in popularity among teenagers throughout the country. The new designer drug is making inroads into the teen population and are sold at convenience stores, gas stations and head shops. Krolkowski explained how the police, schools and Bay Family Services work together to help Bay Village teens that have been drawn into the use of drugs, and what programs are available to parents and teens in dealing with drug experimentation.

The evening’s most poignant moments came from a local mother who shared the story of her youngest daughter’s “descent into addition and her ascent into



*“We want to work with the parents and we want our students to make the right choices.”*

– Bay Superintendent Clint Keener

sobriety” and a young woman’s perspective as a recovering heroin addict.

Drugs, she said, “did a scary amount of damage to my life, to my family, to my education, to my future. They all ruined a part of what I had as a child.”

“I can’t even explain my gratitude to the people that are doing what they’re doing today,” she continued. “This is incredible, and I know that it’s going to save lives.”

Bay Middle School Principal Sean McAndrews discussed the importance of parents educating themselves about teen drug use and encouraged all in attendance to spread the word about teen drug experimentation and the “Let’s Talk About It” forum, to be held next May at Bay Middle School. ●

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WEST SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Robert Kess recognized as Chamber's 2012 Bright Star

by Mark Boepple

The West Shore Chamber of Commerce's Bright Star for 2012 was recognized on Oct. 25 at the semi-annual Chamber Leadership meeting and annual Bright Star Awards presentation of the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland.

Over 50 chambers of commerce across northern Ohio nominated a person from their chamber as their "Bright Star," to recognize the chamber member who has "made a significant impact on the chamber and their community through membership, sponsorship, economic development, operations and education." Each Bright Star is an active chamber member for no less than two years and is likely to be an unsung hero or a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer.

Robert Kess of Pizza by Robert was named the West Shore Chamber of Commerce Bright Star 2012, accepting his certificate and trophy from Tony Gallo, NOACC chairman. Robert opened Pizza by Robert on Detroit Road in Westlake in 1993 and joined the West Shore Chamber in 1994. Among his many awards and accomplishments, Robert is a three-time winner of the Best Pizza on the westside as awarded by the Best of the West



West Shore Chamber President Robert Kess and Chamber First Lady Kathy Kess of Pizza by Robert at the 2012 NOACC Bright Star Awards Ceremony.

competition. This is the fifth year for the Bright Star Awards, and again has given an opportunity to recognize these volunteers for their many contributions. Among their peer groups, as chamber representatives, board members and spouses were also in attendance. "This annual event gives local chambers a chance to shine a spotlight on the people who help make our chambers successful ... a chance to single out an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty to make their chamber shine," Gallo said. ●

MUSINGS FROM THE MIDDLE

Time to be thankful

by Audrey Ray, fifth-grader at Bay Middle School

It's hard to believe it's November already! Have you been thinking about what you are thankful for? I have. Ever since we had that awful storm from Hurricane Sandy and I learned about Malala, I've decided that I definitely have a lot to be thankful for this November. Really it's probably never too early to get started. I have come up with the top ten things I am thankful for. I have many more than ten, but these are the things I am most thankful for:

1. Having electricity. I appreciate the convenience of electricity after having lived without it for days. I don't know how the pioneers did it!
2. Being able to go to school. Since I've learned how much girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan want to go to school, I don't take it for granted at all anymore. I understand it's a privilege to be able to go.
3. Having other freedoms and rights too. I would not want to live in America if it didn't have freedoms and rights for their citizens.
4. My family and friends. They cheer me up and support my decisions. Plus, they're fun to be around.
5. My teachers: Mrs. Hack, Mrs.

- Berkowitz, Mrs. Fisher, Miss McMaugh, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Harmount, Mrs. Hurtuk, Ms. Mullarkey, Mrs. Lion, Mrs. Battershell, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. Sherwood, Mrs. Minium, Mr. Jensen and all my specials teachers. They have and are helping me learn to take risks and laugh at myself when I make mistakes.
6. My dog. Hagrid makes me laugh. He wakes me up every day even when we don't want him to.
  7. Running. I love, love, love to run! It always makes me feel good when I do it.
  8. Writing. I definitely enjoy writing. I like writing about anything I want to and that's my favorite thing about it.
  9. Nature. I love going outside to play. Hiking is one of my favorite things to do outside.
  10. Books. Reading a good book is like falling into it. It's like you are literally in the book.

I hope my list reminds you of some of the things that you may be thankful for too. Maybe you can make your own list and as Thanksgiving gets closer you can add to it. I think after Hurricane Sandy's destruction and as Malala continues to recover in the hospital, it is important for all of us to take the time to be thankful. ●

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BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Bay Village Schools Superintendent  
Clint Keener discusses school closings

by Karen Derby

Bay Village Schools were all closed for four days due to the ferocious windstorm linked with Hurricane Sandy that swept through our area Monday, Oct. 30. Power outages, downed power lines and felled trees blocked roadways throughout the city and prevented schools from opening, according to Clint Keener, the district's Superintendent of Schools.

"A very large percentage of Bay Village homes were without power for the rest of the week," he said. "Our school buildings were all without power Tuesday through Thursday. On Friday, both Westerly and Normandy elementary schools came back on line, but conditions throughout the city were still dangerous. Many of our families and staff were staying a good distance away because their own homes had not had power restored as of Friday."

It is always a difficult decision to call off school, Keener said, partly because the law limits school calamity days to five per year. "The legislature gives us the flexibility of five calamity days, but if we're closed for more than that, we need to make them up," he said. The recent event used four of the district's five days. "We can eliminate part of planned holiday breaks, or we can go a bit longer into the summer if we need to make up days." Keener supports limiting the number of calamity days because they also interrupt important time for learning.

Parents who need to get to jobs when school is cancelled are always on Keener's mind as he balances all the competing interests. "I'll try to make that decision as early in the morn-

ing as I can or, if possible, the evening before. I know parents need time to make alternative arrangements for their children." Keener stresses that in the end, it is the safety of the students that will be paramount in his decision.

There are many ways that schools have to notify families and staff about closings, but the Bay Village City Schools still rely on news media to be the number one source for that information.

"News media have a system in place to efficiently report school closings, and they have a security system in place to eliminate the potential for false notifications," said Keener. "They also have back up power supplies. After I notify the news media, I will follow up with automated telephone calls, if appropriate, and now social media. But we warn families and staff to always confirm any information they are hearing with a check on news websites."

Keener noted that confirmation also appears on the district's website at [www.bayvillageschools.com/schoolclosings](http://www.bayvillageschools.com/schoolclosings), which lists recommended local news sites offering texting and email alerts. The site hosts a video of Keener discussing how and why he makes his decisions about closing schools, as well.

Keener will usually confer with neighboring school district superintendents regarding weather-related school closings. However, road conditions can differ from one community to another for a variety of reasons, and Keener will often drive around Bay Village very early in the morning to assess how city services are keeping up during a

snowstorm or icy conditions. "Bay Village road crews do a great job," he said. "So long as a storm is not in progress during school travel times, we can usually open."

Power outages, though, are a problem over which the schools have little room for flexibility. If the power outage occurs before the school day begins, Keener may look at a delayed start time or closing the affected buildings for the day. If the power outage occurs during the school day, students can remain in school as long as the indoor temperatures are acceptable. Otherwise, they may have to bus students to a warmer facility. "I don't dismiss school in the middle of the day," Keener said. "With so many working families, we could be sending them home to an empty house."

Keener said he is pleased to report that no damage occurred to any school buildings as a result of the storm. The power outage caused a limited loss of some food items in the cafeterias, but most of the frozen food was moved to freezers in the Clearview school system until power was restored in the Bay Village buildings.

He is hoping for a mild winter so that he will not have to use any more calamity days. But if schools must close, Keener assures parents he will make his decision and get information out as early as possible. "Word spreads very quickly now, with social media," he said. "We want parents and staff to always confirm information they hear from other sources with the official announcements on news media sites and on our website at [bayvillageschools.com](http://bayvillageschools.com)." ●

Bond issue passes for  
Bay Village Schools

by Karen Derby

Bay Village voters approved a bond issue to raise \$16.8 million for upgrades to the school district's buildings. The preliminary results from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections showed the issue passing, with 60.4 percent of voters approving the tax increase. The bond issue is estimated to cost homeowners about \$5 per month, or \$60 per year, on each \$100,000 of home valuation.

"We are grateful that our Bay Village voters understand and support the need to invest in our facilities," said Keener. "Their support now will control costs in building maintenance for the next couple decades, and just as important, will allow us to optimize our learning environment."

Superintendent Clint Keener expects that the

public notices requesting bids for upcoming work will be posted early in the spring of 2013. Construction projects will begin the following summer. "Scheduling such a huge amount of work will require that some of it takes place while school is in session," he said. "But we certainly want to take full advantage of those summer and holiday vacation times."

Keener said that the district will be issuing informational updates to the community on a regular basis during the construction period. "We know that Bay Village residents have an expectation to be kept informed," he said. "We will be using all our communication channels – our website, newsletters, social media, public meetings and working with the news media – to keep people apprised of our progress as we move along." ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to voters

Thank you District 16 voters, Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake, for your overwhelming vote of support to return me to the Ohio House of Representatives. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you over the past four years and I look forward to continuing my work to create an environment to retain, create and bring jobs to Ohio.

A special thank you to my devoted team that

worked hard over the past several months planning events, participating in parades, hosting coffees and walking door-to-door with me. It's been an active campaign meeting many wonderful District 16 neighbors along the way.

I sincerely appreciate your support in returning me to the Ohio House as your State Representative in the next 130th General Assembly.

– Nan Baker, District 16 State Representative



**Thank you Bay Village!**

Bay Village voters approved a bond issue for \$16.8 million in improvements to facilities. Find details at [bayvillageschools.com/bondissue](http://bayvillageschools.com/bondissue)



Scan this QR code, or visit [bayvillageschools.com/bondissue](http://bayvillageschools.com/bondissue) for details on what is included in architects' recommendations for improvements.

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## Greening of Bay holiday workshop returns Dec. 3, 4 to Bay United Methodist

by Karla Mussulin

The 30th annual Greening of Bay will be held on Monday evening, Dec. 3, and Tuesday, Dec. 4. This holiday arrangement workshop is sponsored by the Bay Village Garden Club.

Please join us at Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd., to create a perfect holiday decoration to adorn your home and please your family. You'll receive a kit brimming with fresh greens and pretty decorations. There are four new designs to choose from and each kit costs \$30. Garden club members will be there for one-on-one help.

To view designs and times for each project, please visit our website at [www.bayvillagegardenclub.com](http://www.bayvillagegardenclub.com) or call Carol at 440-871-9260 for more information. ●



## 'A little song, a little dance, a little egg nog down your pants': Christmas musical opens at Clague Playhouse

by Pam Kilpatrick

Clague Playhouse presents the area premiere of "A Broadway Christmas Carol," a delightful and unexpected mix of show-tune song parodies and Charles Dickens' classic tale. It's laugh-out-loud, roll-in-the-aisles funny, but it also hews close to the Dickens narrative. Featured in our cast are Elicia J. Bryant as The Woman (Who Also Isn't Scrooge), Justin Edenhofer as The Man (Who Isn't Scrooge),

and Mark Seven as Scrooge.

The play opened Nov. 9 and runs through Dec. 9 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. No performance on Thanksgiving, and sold-out on Friday, Dec. 7.

To purchase tickets, please contact the Box Office at 440-331-0403, Wednesday through Friday between 1 and 6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$16 for adults and \$15 for seniors (60+) and students. Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Rd. in Westlake. ●



Elicia J. Bryant as The Woman (Who Also Isn't Scrooge), Mark Seven as Scrooge and Justin Edenhofer as The Man (Who Isn't Scrooge).

Photo by James Ely

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# Hurricane Sandy downed trees throughout our community, leaving many without power



**“October was the wettest month on record, with 10 inches of rain, seven inches occurring during the hurricane,” stated Westlake service director Paul Quinn. Pine trees were most susceptible to the softened soil and strong winds, like this one on Wolf Road in Bay Village on Oct. 30.**

## The answer, my friends, is blowin’ in the wind...

by Jeff Bing

**O**kay, so let’s have a show of hands of everyone who honestly (and “honestly” IS the keyword here) felt Superstorm Sandy, prior to her dropping in for tea and crumpets a couple of weeks back, was going to disrupt your lives for up to an entire week? And I mean really, really honest – not the window-dressing version of honest many of us, er, you, employ when you’re, let’s say, doing taxes.

Sir, I see you have your fingers crossed, and so I’m going to have to disqualify your vote. Sorry. Oh, and just for the record, sir, it was not necessary to show me that your fingers were no longer crossed - particularly THAT finger. Yes, you can put that finger down now, sir. Thank you.

Now that you’ve been shamed into honesty – I hate it when I have to do that, but you really left me no choice – let me make an itsy-bitsy confession of my own: Up until the moment when I was out in the backyard, wrestling with my lawn furniture, and waiting for the half-dead ash tree to come down on my garage and obliterate everything inside which I held dear (especially me), I paid little attention to the warnings. Sandy who? “Sandy, Shmandy” were my exact words, as I recall.

After all, we were, what...a bazillion miles inland, right? I mean, we’ve experienced the after-effects of tropical storms and hurricanes before. You know the drill: maybe a little rain, and sure, perhaps a little wind - maybe enough to get the neighbor’s kid’s kite off the ground for fifteen minutes. Yawn. I mean, is there ever anything really worth getting excited about on the old Doppler around here?

Besides, we’re Clevelanders. If we can survive the likes of our professional sports teams, then what’s a little weather, for Pete’s sake?

But Tuesday morning (a.k.a. “the morning after”), when I awoke to survey the damage Sandy had levied upon my happy home, I was quickly made aware of a different level of carnage – a true horror which bespoke the sheer destructive power of Sandy, of such magnitude that is often incomprehensible to mere mortals – that the Superstorm wielded the night before. My Plain Dealer box had blown away! With my paper! (That’s like, what, double jeopardy?)

Don’t know what kept me from calling 9-1-1; have never been under that kind of pressure or stress before. I mean, what does one do? Go door-to-door at 5:30 in the morning, asking neighbors to stop bailing out their basements for a few minutes to help me find my PD box (and paper)? But I knew I couldn’t put my needs first like that. I had to be strong.

So reached back for that “something extra” and I looked, and looked, but to no avail. For three solid days, my PD was delivered - make that plopped - on my sidewalk. My extremely wet sidewalk. I was depressed, to depths of which I’d never been subjected. Life, itself, had been rendered bogus.

And then, just like that, on Thursday, I came home from work to see my PD box in the center of my front lawn. My wife thinks a neighbor found it, realized it was mine, and returned it. I think it was much, much more. Perhaps it’s a little early in the season, but I’m pretty darn certain I know what it was.

A Christmas Miracle. ●



**Wind gusts reaching 65 mph downed trees and electric wires, closing Lake Road at the Huntington Metroparks.**

## Storm a wake-up call for BayComm, CB group ready if severe emergency hits

by Jim Kettren

**T**he aftermath of Superstorm Sandy was a harsh taste of reality. All but one member of BayComm, an all-volunteer Westshore CB radio group, were without power for up to six days. Working with the BVPD, I assisted with sitting on downed power lines until the power company got there, while another of our members had to deal with an oak tree splitting his garage in half. My mother is in the Knickerbocker and it was quite an ordeal for all of the residents there. The town was “lifeless,” as if it had been severely injured, and it

seemed like an alien world just to drive around town in the darkness.

Interestingly enough, we had a few privileges that we wouldn’t have if it had been some form of EMP attack. We still had our cell phones, and we could still get gas in neighboring communities that were unaffected. Hard to believe that things could have been worse, but it was a wake-up call to me that we need to prepare for a time when wireless 2-way communications is all there is, to stay connected.

We may not have the luxury of going to a hotel, or to a relative’s house to ride it out. That will be the time when BayComm will hopefully have enough members to throw a lifeline across the community, to help people to stay in contact with one another, to provide critical information.

I do hope that residents will remember the confusion, anxiety and frustration in the days after the storm and consider volunteering their efforts to assist during future emergencies. For more information about BayComm, please contact me at jim.kettren@hyland.com. ●



Photo by Paul Quinn

**A broken street light pole pulls down utility wires on Porter Road.**

## When the power goes out

by Siana Bennett, seventh-grader at Bay Middle School

**I**guess you don’t realize how important the power is until it’s gone. I kept finding myself trying to turn the lights on or watch TV. When the power is off, you find yourself doing things you wouldn’t do if the power was on, like washing the dishes or doing something active instead of playing a video game or watching YouTube.

I think it is kind of a blessing, because once the thing you rely on every day is gone, you need to find other things to do, things you never tried before – a new adventure.

Some things I did: I went to Huntington Beach. The waves were big and it was so windy! I have never seen the lake like that and I will never see it the same way again. Of course I couldn’t stay long because it was very cold, and the

wind was so strong I could hardly stand up straight.

I also took a walk around BayVillage at night. There were no lights, not even streetlights or traffic lights. Seeing everything so dark is incredible. The wind slowed down and there was only a sprinkle of rain. It made me think, what we would do without power? We would live like this, and it wasn’t that bad, actually. Everyone seemed to get closer, almost happier.

But I couldn’t help but feel sorry for the people that got hit by Hurricane Sandy and thought, “If you think this is bad, just think about who got hit by Sandy. They probably don’t have a house, let alone power.” So in a way we were very lucky, especially because we got to miss school for a couple days. I liked having the power out for a little bit, but sometimes I wished I could turn the heat on or at least the lights. I did try to enjoy it while it lasted. ●



**Scores of residents visited Huntington Beach to experience firsthand the fury of the hurricane blowing across Lake Erie.**





Photo by Paul Quinn

**A snapped electric pole (above) on Hilliard Boulevard at Westhill kept Hilliard closed until Thursday, Nov. 1, when electric crews repaired the damage (right).**



**A large diameter tree was toppled on Wolf Road.**



**A fallen tree blocked the street on West Oakland in Bay Village.**

## When Hurricane Sandy struck Bay Village

**by Schyler Bennett,**  
sophomore at Bay  
High School

During the wind and rain caused by Hurricane Sandy, over 225,000 Cleveland area residents lost power, including my family and I in Bay Village. When the power went out on Monday night, my little brother and sister scurried around the house trying to find candles and flashlights. After the house had a warm glow, our mom read us poems and we all told funny stories like we would at a campfire.

The next day we slept in because there was no school. We all bundled up and went outside to look around. There were branches and trees down everywhere. Down at the beach there was a huge pine that was lying in the middle of the parking lot, pulled up by its roots. It was so windy that I thought I might blow away.

We hopped in the car and went to IHOP where, after a two-and-a-half-hour wait, we enjoyed a warm lunch. Target was

across the street so we wandered around looking for bits and pieces for our Halloween costumes. We had a supper of mac-n-cheese and potato soup from Panera then went out for a walk. Even though it was cold, it was cool seeing all the houses dark with little flicker of candle light in the windows.

On Wednesday it was still cold and the power was still out. We had no school again, so to pass the time my brother and I went outside and picked up most of the fallen sticks from our yards, also my sister and brother had a crazy dance party then we watched a movie on my laptop till it ran out of power. Then we got in to our costumes and drove to Chipotle where they were having a special deal. There were so many people in costumes some were clever and really funny. Afterwards we went to Caribou to charge our gadgets for the next day.

Even though it's hard living without power, I actually like it because I don't have to worry about school stuff and I get to spend more time with my family! ●



**A Bay Village service truck on Nov. 9 adds to the mound of debris cleared from the streets of Bay and Westlake after the storm. The brush pile, located behind the Westlake Service Garage, will be chipped into mulch.**

Photo by Dave Rencelhausen

### ONE SENIOR'S OPINION

## Storm reminds us to care for each other even during good times

**by Dianne Borowski**

I can make no sense of the death and destruction following Hurricane Sandy which devastated the East Coast and found its way into Northern Ohio. I think I am spoiled. Being without lights, heat or telephone for two and a half days felt like the end of the world to me.

When television and the internet were up and working, I saw what real hardship looks like. Real hardship looks like dirty flood water everywhere, homes demolished, cars floating away, hunger, homelessness, fear, anger and despair. Compared to the losses suffered by those in the path of the storm, my problems seemed insignificant.

I'm thankful that I didn't lose anything but some food during the storm. I had two small battery-operated lanterns and warm clothing. I am grateful for those who ventured out to provide those isolated by the storm with food and other help. I am especially grateful to the staff at the Knickerbocker Apartments who came in every day to make sure that everyone had access to oxygen if needed, lunch for those who had no food and for their smiles and encouragement under such stressful conditions.

I heard statements such as tragedy brings people together. It's great that this happens, but wouldn't it be nice if we could help one another even in good times?

I am humbled by that which I have no control over. I am led to search for answers from a spiritual source. I want to know why good people sometimes suffer so much hardship? I try to reach out to others in some small way as I believe together we can do that which can't be done alone. I know one thing for certain, you can't defeat natural disasters. Preparation and prayer are our strongest allies. ●



**Strong winds off the lake uprooted a tree in the Huntington Beach parking lot.**

**See more photos online at  
[wbvobserver.com/photoblogs](http://wbvobserver.com/photoblogs)**



WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Community cookbooks offer glimpse into history

by Lysa Stanton

Today if I want an easy Crock Pot recipe, I simply check the social media site Pinterest or do

a Google search. A few clicks and I can find just the perfect beef stew recipe. The internet puts any recipe virtually at my fingertips. This time of year prompts many of us to reach into our

collection of family favorite recipes to prepare for a special holiday meal.

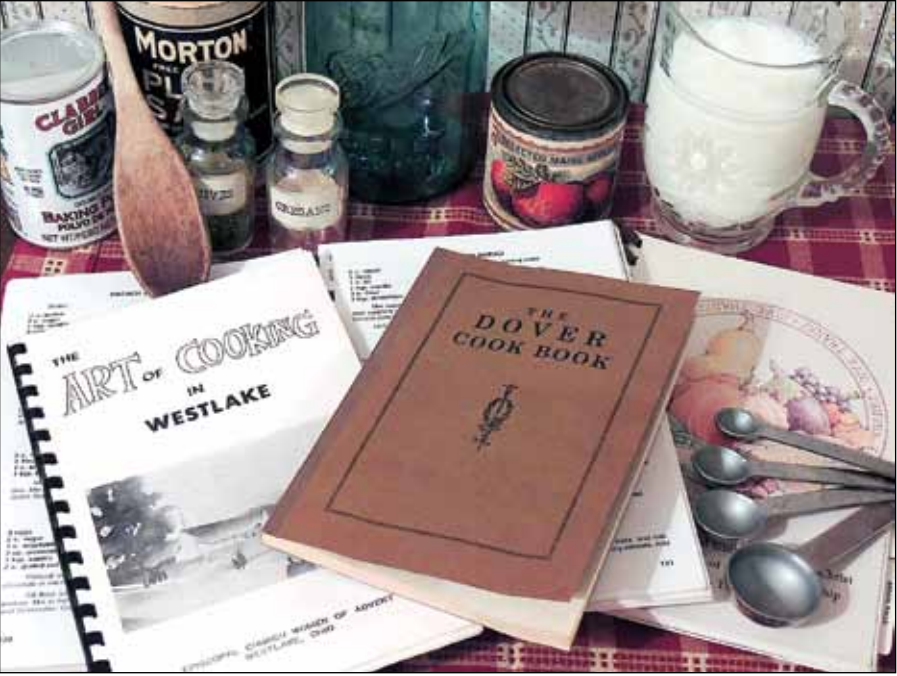
Walk back in time with me as we discover the “community cookbook.” Most community cookbooks were and continue to be sold to raise funds for various projects. Maria J. Moss is credited with creating the first charity cookbook. It was sold to help cover medical expenses for the care of Civil War soldiers.

That first book was quickly copied by other groups and organizations. During the time period of 1864-1922, approximately 300 different types were sold. Incidentally, Maria’s cookbook can be downloaded from the internet today, as well as many others that are in the public domain.

The idea of collecting recipes from a particular civic group, organization and especially a church was not only extremely popular but also in many instances profitable for them. How many of us own at least a few of these types of cookbooks? I can boast of at least three of these such cookbooks in

my collection, including one assembled by a Dover Congregational Church Sunday School class in 1916. It is said to have been printed in Cleveland and then brought via the Interurban Railroad back to Dover. The cookbooks were then loaded onto a sled and brought back to the church. It was republished by the Westlake Historical Society in the 1970s.

This 1916 cookbook even includes a Thanksgiving menu provided by Mrs. G.C. Lathrop. These cookbooks give you an insight into the meals that were prepared by all those who shared their recipes. You can look at each recipe contributor and oftentimes it will read as a who’s who of the community. The Westlake Historical Society is always in search of these special cookbooks. Maybe your church or group put one of these books together, or maybe you have extra books that you might consider donating to our collection. If you would, please contact the society at westlakehistory@yahoo.com or 440-808-1961. ●



A collection of community cookbooks from years past on display at the Clague House Museum.

A look at the research used to determine century-home status

by William Krause

One of the homes recently researched by the Westlake Historical Society at the request of the owner is at 2650 Clague Rd., on a portion of Original Lot 49. This home is a simple farmhouse in a gable-wing configuration with the gable facing the street.

Notes and a sketch from Melanie Olm, a former historian with the Society, state that when a previous owner, Mrs. Crane, was doing a remodeling project she found an 1865 newspaper in the wall. However, Ms. Olm found that the 1860 and 1870 appraised values remained the same on the piece of land that the house is located on.

In 1813 Abijah Crosby purchased all 160 acres of O.L. 49 from Nehemiah Hubbard. The land passed through three other owners until Sheldon Johnson purchased all of it in 1835. In 1837 Sheldon Johnson sold 75 acres of the part of O.L. 49 currently under 2650 Clague, by 1857 he had re-purchased it.

For the year 1859, assessed values were given for buildings on land separate from the land itself – and no building values are given for any portion of O.L. 49, which by that time was now divided into three parcels.

The 1865 will of Sheldon Johnson states: “I give and bequeath to John W. Hawkins fifty acres of land of the farm on which I now reside in Dover Township. ... I give and bequeath to Luvina Hawkins wife of John W. Hawkins fifty acres of land of the farm on which I now reside. ... I hereby nominate, constitute and

The third in a series of four articles on historical homes in Dover – now Westlake and Bay Village – and the Westlake Historical Society’s century-home plaquing program.

appoint John W. Hawkins the Executor of this my last will and testament.” It is not clear where the house that Sheldon Johnson resided in was located, there is a slim possibility but no direct evidence that it was moved or incorporated into the subject home.

Years ago, researcher Melanie Olm found that the 1872 tax records show Sheldon Johnson as the owner of the property on which the subject house is located, the 24 ¾-acre parcel is valued at approximately \$30 per acre, the same as the abutting acreage. However, in 1873 the same acreage is valued at \$995 total, an increase of \$258, while abutting acreage remained at the same value.

This rise in valuation was the first that Melanie Olm was able to find for this property in the tax records which was not accompanied by a general rise in value for all properties and also not occurring on surrounding parcels.

An 1870 tax map does not show any structures on the Sheldon Johnson parcels. An 1874 atlas map does show a structure on the easterly frontage of a 24 ¾-acre parcel shown as owned by J.W. Hawkins.

Therefore the year of construction has been narrowed between 1870



The Westlake Historical Society has recently determined that this house at 2650 Clague Rd., once owned by John W. and Katherine Hawkins, dates to 1873.

and 1874 with a probable date of 1873. Katherine Hawkins, widow of John W. Hawkins was the next owner of the property. We believe that the structure shown on the Hawkins parcel on the 1874 atlas map is the house at 2650 Clague and it should be here-after designated the John W. and Katherine Hawkins house.

For more information about the Westlake Historical Society’s plaquing

program for century homes in the city, call 440-808-1961 or westlakehistory@yahoo.com. A \$50 application fee defrays some of the cost of doing the research to determine if the home is one hundred years old. If it is found to be a century home, the applicant is notified and is eligible to purchase a personalized plaque with the approximate construction year from the Society for \$75. ●

History of words and phrases

Compiled by Dave Scullin

**Big-Stick Diplomacy:** A political catchphrase that describes diplomatic negotiations backed up by the threat of military force.

**Heebee Jeebies:** To make a person uncomfortably nervous. First used in a cartoon in 1923.

**Safari:** In Swahili a “safari” is any journey. The term was made popular by nineteenth century English explorer Sir Richard Burton.

**Under the table:** During World War II, dishonest businessmen would keep articles and foodstuff “under the table,” for sale to favored customers, usually at inflated prices. The term is still used today to describe any illicit trading.



# Remembering our heroes through Operation Gratitude

by Julie Holland

Veterans Day reminded me of my son Justin's Eagle Scout project, and I thought it would be nice to make others aware of Operation Gratitude and their mission. At this time last year, we were trying to beat the holiday deadline as Justin wanted to collect items for care packages for soldiers.

He did some research and found that Operation Gratitude had a very organized and extensive program with a number of ways to show soldiers, their families, wounded warriors and veterans our gratitude for their service. They collect the items and are able to distribute them appropriately and to those in most need. Many times an officer will identify a particular person who is not receiving communication from home or is in an especially difficult situation, and those requests can be filled by Operation Gratitude and their wonderful staff and volunteers through donations collected from across the country.

We were thankful for the many people involved in Justin's project: those near and far, and those young and "young-at-heart"! Over 150 cards and letters were made, some by Normandy Elementary School classes, some with the help of senior citizens at the Knickerbocker, and others by a Cub Scout pack during a meeting.

Handmade items are the favorites on the wish list and we were lucky to include some skillfully knit scarves with letters of appreciation made by local ladies and also Justin's grandma in Jamestown, NY (who made four). Another lady made some beautiful blank holiday cards for our heroes to send to THEIR loved ones!

Donations of socks, personal hygiene items, snacks, money, and more were collected. Over 300 dental care items were donated by area dentists. Beanie Babies are also sometimes included in the care packages and one grandma generously donated a whole bag full, bringing the total up to 75. Why Beanie Babies? To quote a Marine on the Operation Gratitude website: "The Beanie Babies help us out a lot with the local kids. We give them candy and toys and they give us the location for IED's." What a sad reality.

Used cell phones and inkjet cartridges were collected at Normandy and Bay Community Services. These items were recycled with a company which sends the proceeds to Operation Gratitude. If more come in, we will be sure they are forwarded to benefit this organization.

Justin thanks all those who contributed to his project last year, which helped our heroes and also helped him to achieve his Eagle Scout Rank in June with BSA Troop 235 (Bay Presbyterian Church). It's exciting to report that a couple recipients of care packages responded to two of our Normandy students who made cards or letters for Veterans Day last year. We received a letter and photos from a 1st Lieutenant from Los Angeles who is stationed in Afghanistan, and a letter from a US Navy Ensign from Lexington, KY, who is stationed on the USS Germantown in Japan. Both were very appreciative, told a little bit about their service, and expressed how much it means for them to be remembered.



**Eagle Scouts Justin Holland and Sam Chamberlain with handmade items included with donations to Operation Gratitude for care packages during Justin's Eagle Scout Project collection last year.**

Please consider exploring [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com) to see if there is a way you would like to help put a smile on a soldier's face, or that of a veteran, wounded warrior, or child with a parent in the military. They are currently nearing the end of their annual Holiday Drive; items sent in by Dec. 5 will be included in holiday care packages. Participate as a group or as an individual.

There should be something for everyone on the website "wish list"! Please note, if you are interested in making scarves, there are specific guidelines on the website. If you have any questions, contact [opgrat@gmail.com](mailto:opgrat@gmail.com). Just a simple letter is very meaningful and one of their favorite items in the package! Please remember their sacrifice and let them know we are thankful!

# Lincoln at Gettysburg

by Mel Maurer

Nov. 19 will mark the 149th anniversary of Abraham's Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863. As I have for the last 13 years, I'll be in the National Cemetery in that historic town to hear the address given again by a good friend and noted Lincoln performer, Jim Getty.

The main speaker this year will be Steven Spielberg, director of the new movie, "Lincoln," which promises to present Lincoln on screen for the first time as he really was – man and politician.

As a lifelong student of Lincoln and occasional Lincoln performer, I've come to know and love Lincoln's words. His 272-word Gettysburg Address represents the best of his ability to express himself well, while defining his principles and his vision for our country.

In a two-minute talk, Lincoln reset the American dream, as stated "four score and seven years" earlier in our Declaration of Independence in 1776, that "all men are created equal" and

extended that dream to the world: "this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated," and defined what democracy really is once and for all, a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

He also called on us to dedicate ourselves to the "great task remaining before us" to ensure democracy does not "perish from the earth."

Over the years, the Gettysburg Address has become more of a mantra than simple words to live by – memorizing it and reciting it by rote somehow removes the recognition of its words and what they mean. And despite his words that "The world will little note or long remember what we say here..." Lincoln wrote it to be read, making sure it would be printed accurately by making sure a reporter transcribed it from his written copy. And printed it was, making its way around the world in newspapers and then books.

The movie "Lincoln" takes place in 1865 but I hope that Spielberg found a way to somehow include the best 272 words in our country's history. ●




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# Caregiver's dedication recognized with award

Linda Burgess has always had a passion to care for others, and she has spent her life doing just that. She served as an Army medic in Saudi Arabia for two years, cared for her elderly parents and has worked as a home health aide, long-term caregiver and assisted-living nurse.

Since joining the staff at the Gardens at Westlake, Linda has become the most highly-respected caregiver at the senior living facility and has worked her way

up from a night-shift caregiver to the adult enrichment coordinator in the new Memory Care Program. Launched in April, the program serves Gardens residents with mild cognitive impairment, and the supervisory position required Linda to complete five months of extensive training. In early November, Linda received her well-earned dementia practitioner certification. The residents under her care have shown improvement

in socialization, verbalization, cognition and appetite.

Linda's most recent honor was an award from the Ohio Assisted Living Association for outstanding caregiver.

"Linda is deserving of this prestigious award for proving what one can achieve with humble beginnings and the remarkable passion to give of oneself to better the lives of others," said Barb Bartolome, community relations director at the Gardens at Westlake. ●




Linda Burgess displays the outstanding caregiver award she received from the Ohio Assisted Living Association this year.

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# November events at Porter Public Library

by Elaine Willis

**Wednesday, Nov. 14 (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. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk

**Thursday, Nov. 15 (4-5 p.m.) FAMILY FUN!** – Miss Nicole hosts an afternoon of stories, rhymes, silly songs and crafts! For children ages 3 and up with their families.

**Thursday, Nov. 15 (4-6 p.m.) "TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART ONE"** – The final installment of the Twilight Saga, "Breaking Dawn Part Two," is almost out in theaters. Join us on the eve of the new movie's release as we watch "Breaking Dawn Part One" while munching on pizza and popcorn! Rated PG-13. Grades 7-12. Registration begins Nov. 1.

**Friday, Nov. 16 (10 a.m.-noon) PORTER'S FIBER FANATICS** – Socialize, share, and solve problems while you work on your current project.

**Friday, Nov. 16 (1-2 p.m.) KIDS IN MOTION SENSORY TIME** – Join us for stories, activities, music and more! Program consists of a 30-minute storytime followed by a 30-minute social-sharing time for the group. No registration required. Program is designed to engage children with autism or other special

needs/sensory challenges. Each child must have adult caregiver for assistance.

**Sunday, Nov. 18 (1-2:30 p.m.) AMERICAN GIRL BOOK CLUB** – Join us as we meet the American Girls! We'll discuss the books, have a snack and make a craft. This month we'll meet Samantha. Ages 6-12. Registration begins Nov. 11.

**Saturday, Nov. 18 (2:30-3:30 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, Nov. 19 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We've got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Registration not necessary.

**Monday, Nov. 19 (7-8:35 p.m.) MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE: "MOONRISE KINGDOM"** – A New England island community leaps into action to find two young runaways as a violent storm approaches. Rated PG-13. Registration requested.

**Tuesday, Nov. 20 (2-2:45 p.m.) BOOKBYTES FOR HOMESCHOOLERS** – Join WordWeaver for lively discussions about good books and more. Just bring your curiosity and sense of adventure! Snacks provided. Ages 9-12. Please register.

**Wednesday, Nov. 21 (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. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

**Wednesday, Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Eve – LIBRARY CLOSES AT 5 P.M.**

**Thursday, Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day – LIBRARY CLOSED**

**Friday, Nov. 23 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME!** – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes for ages 2-5 and their caring adults. Siblings welcome! Registration begins one week before each program.

**Saturday, Nov. 24 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) KIDS IN MOTION SENSORY TIME** – Join us for stories, activities, music and more! Program consists of a 30-minute storytime followed by a 30-minute social-sharing time for the group. No registration required. Program is designed to engage children with autism or other special needs/sensory challenges. Each child must have adult caregiver for assistance.

**Saturday, Nov. 24 (1-2:15 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS PARENT DISCUSSION & FACILITATED PLAYGROUP** – Participate in a discussion group led by a pediatric expert while your children play in a separate room with a CCBDD facilitator. You must RSVP for the playgroup starting one month before each session. Children do not need a formal diagnosis to attend. Topics listed at [connectingforkids.org](http://connectingforkids.org).

**Saturday, Nov. 24 (2:30-3:30 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, Nov. 26 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Monday, Nov. 26 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We've got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Registration not necessary.

**Wednesday, Nov. 28 (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. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

**Wednesday, Nov. 28 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – November's selection is "Defending Jacob" by William Landay.

**Thursday, Nov. 29 (4-5 p.m.) FAMILY FUN!** – Miss Nicole hosts an afternoon of stories, rhymes, silly songs and crafts! For children ages 3 and up with their families.

**Friday, Nov. 30 (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS "TEACH ME TO PLAY"** – Experts from the Cuyahoga Board of Developmental Disabilities will lead this playgroup for children 6 years and younger (siblings welcome). Parents will learn how to help their children play and interact with peers through modeling techniques. Children do not need a formal diagnosis to attend. Caregiver must stay in the room. No registration required. ●

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

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SAVE THE DATE:

## Santa Claus Bingo Dec. 2

Join the fun at Santa Bingo on Dec. 2, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Westlake Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge Rd., and be a part of Westlake Families Helping Westlake Families in Need. Cost is just \$5 for ten games of Bingo, a hot dog lunch with chips, juice box and a Christmas cookie. Bingo

prizes are Toys R Us gift cards. For each donation of a canned food item, you will receive a raffle ticket for a Christmas Goodies Basket drawing. FREE pictures with Santa. Children MUST be accompanied by an adult. Presale tickets only (NO walk-ins). Call 440-899-3544 to order your tickets now! ●

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

# Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by Joyce Sandy

We hope everyone is back to normal after the storm and the time change. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is fast approaching and the holiday busy-ness is about to begin. And that's where the Bay Village Library comes in! Attend one of our storytimes or specials, or choose a book to relax with. Ask us about music and book CDs for any upcoming trips – we have them for all ages! If you'll be travelling with little ones, we'll help you find a lullaby CD for everyone to enjoy at the end of a long day.

If the guests are coming to your house, check out a recipe book or a few toys from the Toy Library. We'll close at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 21, and will be closed on Thanksgiving, but the library will be open on Friday as usual. Make it a stop on your Friday shopping outing – everything is free at the library!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

**Thursday, Nov. 15 (7 p.m.) WEST SIDE MARKET: 100 YEARS AND STILL COOKING** – Local food writers Laura Taxel and Marilou Suszko have joined forces on the new book of the same name which documents the rich history of the landmark that is celebrating its centennial this year. Join us

as we share stories and nostalgia of the renowned Market. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**Wednesday, Nov. 28 (7 p.m.) MAYAN CALENDAR IN THE SKY** – Could the ancient Mayans predict the end of the world? Why is Dec. 21, 2012, important? We'll illuminate the science behind the Mayan calendar, ancient astronomy and popular doomsday predictions.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

**Tuesday, Nov. 13 (3:30 p.m.) GREG HEFFLEY, MOVE OVER! FUN WITH CARTOONING** – For ages 8-14. Join us as we celebrate the release of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel." Artist Melinda Placko from Young Audiences will share tips of the trade so you can learn how to draw cool cartoon characters yourself. Artists in training will also have a chance to win an autographed copy of the book.

**Thursday, Nov. 29 (3:30 p.m.) JUNIOR ENGINEERING** – For ages 8-12. Bring your ideas and imagination! Get together with other students and have fun creating all kinds of structures.

Please register for the programs by going online to [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), calling 440-871-6392, or coming in to the library. We'll see YOU soon! ●

# Make a holiday gift with Art on Wheels



You can learn how to make ornaments from recycled plastic bottles Nov. 27 at Bay Library.

by Susan Ballard

The Bay Village Branch Library is getting ready for the December holidays and you can too. Join Carolina Martin on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 4 p.m. when she will show how to use recycled plastic bottles to make holiday ornaments or a gift for your teacher.

Carolina is the director of Art on Wheels Inc., an organization that her mother created in 1989, which provides high-quality traveling hands-on art activities in the visual arts.

This program is for children ages 4-12 years. Children under 6 years must be accompanied by a caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library. Register now online at [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call 440-871-6392. ●



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## BAY VILLAGE GREEN TEAM

# Firefighters collect aluminum cans to benefit burned children

by Brenda O'Reilly and Chris Lyons

All area residents and merchants: Please save and drop off your used aluminum beverage cans at the Bay Village Fire Department to benefit burned children. These aluminum cans really do a lot of good for fire safety education, and for children who are victims of severe burns. The drop-off bin is available for use 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and is in a brick-and-wood enclosure on the east side of the fire station driveway with a large red sign that reads ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING.



Bay Village Fire Chief Chris Lyons

Cans are collected by Aluminum Cans for Burned Children of Northeast Ohio (ACBC), whose mission is to prevent burn injuries through fire education and to impact the physical and emotional rehabilitation of pediatric burn survivors.

In 1986 the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters, the Northeast Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, along with MetroHealth Medical Center, started the ACBC foundation to help children who suffer severe burn injuries. The ACBC program pays for special medical equipment not normally covered by insurance to aid in the healing process. ACBC strives to meet the individual needs of the patients and provides rehabilitation, clothing, toys, games, computer and video equipment and other miscellaneous items not covered by insurance.

Since 1988, burn survivors from age 5 to 16 have been able to enjoy a free, four-day retreat at a special camp. The camp experience brings together some 50-60 burned children to enjoy a fun, therapeutic camping experience with others who have suffered similar injuries.

The ACBC program also offers a scholarship program open to any pediatric patient who has been an inpatient at MetroHealth's Burn Center. The program annually awards scholarships to qualified recipients at an accredited school or university.

You can read more about ACBC at their website, [acbcOhio.org](http://acbcOhio.org). Feel free to stop in at the fire station with any questions or just to say hello when you are there to drop off your aluminum cans – we would love to see you! ●



Brothers Matthew and Luke Fragomeli point out the aluminum can recycling drop-off, located between Bay's fire and police stations on Wolf Road.

## 'Celebrations' exhibit continues at Rose Hill for the holidays

by Cynthia Eakin

The "Celebrations" exhibit continues, focusing on Thanksgiving harvest time through a glorious Christmas at the Cahoon Family homestead. Christmas decorations can be seen on all three floors of Rose Hill Museum, with Victorian trees and a special display of vintage dolls.

Story time each Sunday, beginning Nov. 25 at 3 p.m., will feature notable Bay Village residents telling the tale of how a young Cahoon daughter experienced the holidays with family and friends. Light refreshments will be served and children will have an opportunity to create a decoration to be placed on the 1818 tree.

The Rose Hill Museum gift shop offers English tea cups, Amish toy buggies and the much-sought-after ornaments depicting Bay Village landmarks. Everyone is invited to visit this great historic home and to feel the holiday spirit it conveys. Hours are from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and admission is free.

Special holiday group tours can be arranged by appointment. Phone 440-871-7338. Rose Hill Museum is in Cahoon Memorial Park at 27715 Lake Rd. in Bay Village. ●



Vintage dolls are part of the "Celebrations" display at Rose Hill Museum.

### Westlake Early Childhood PTA Breakfast with Santa Santa's Secret Shop/Holiday Gift Shop

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Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15/person for Breakfast with Santa & Santa's Secret Shop/Holiday Gift Shop

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### "Tis the Season"

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

**Nov. 14, 9 a.m.**  
**The Herb Guild General Meeting**  
Come early to participate in some hands-on crafts. Business meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch. Starting at approximately 12:45 p.m., Marilou Suszko, author of three books, the latest a celebration of the West Side Market's centennial, will present "It's Fall with Pumpkins, Gourds and More!" All are welcome.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Nov. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**eBooks Updates**  
Northeast Ohio Personal Computers' November program features Frances Brawner covering the background on eBooks and audiobooks, what eBooks and audiobooks Porter Library offers, and eReaders the library commonly deals with. Feel free to bring your eReaders and ask questions after the program. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; main program begins at 7:15 p.m. This presentation is free and open to the public.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Bay Village Community Band Concert - A Salute to our Veterans**  
In honor of Veterans Day, BVCB will be saluting our vets through music! Come see the Color Guard and thank our veterans for their loyal service to this country.  
*Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.*

**Nov. 15, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Free Recycling Seminar**  
Do you want to learn more about recycling? Presenters include Kathleen Rocco, education specialist from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, and Brenda O'Reilly, the Bay Village Green Team co-chair. The seminar will cover what happens when your recyclable materials leave your curbside and tips for how to become a "near zero waste" household. Please register by calling Warren Remein at 440-724-1578 or emailing [greenremein@yahoo.com](mailto:greenremein@yahoo.com)  
*Community Room, Bay Village Police Department, 28000 Wolf Rd.*

**Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Free Health Lecture**  
"Energy Medicine: Tap Into the Energy Flow of Your Body for Health & Healing" presented by Helen Kwon, M.D. Energy therapies for maintaining health & treating disease! Call 440-835-0104 for reservations. Seating is limited.  
*Preventive Medicine Group, 24700 Center Ridge Rd., #370, Westlake*

**Nov. 16 & 17, 7 p.m., and Nov. 18, 2 p.m.**  
**Westlake Center Stage Players presents "The Wizard of Oz"**  
The classic showed will performed by WHS students and over 100 elementary students. Friday and Saturday shows at 7 p.m., Sunday show at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$7/adults, \$5/students. General seating only. Doors open 1/2-hour before performance.  
*Westlake Performing Arts Center, 27830 Hilliard Blvd.*

**Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Flu and Shingles Vaccines**  
Learn how to avoid the flu and shingles. Medical lecturer Tom Strong will also discuss the safety of these vaccines. Free lunch. Space is limited, RSVP required. Call 440-779-6900.  
*HCR ManorCare, 23225 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted*

**Nov. 24, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
**Free Community Meal**  
A time and a place to come together for food, friendship, and good conversation! Serving 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Free to all, the church is accessible to the physically challenged. No carry outs.  
*Clague Road UCC, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted*

**Nov. 28, 11 a.m.**  
**Westlake Garden Club November Meeting**  
General meeting followed by lunch and a program, "Dried Flower Arrangements." Bring one or more containers suitable for a dried arrangement, scissors or pruners, and any dried flowers or plant material from your garden. A huge selection of dried material will be available for your use. Easy, fun, and you will go home with a lovely dried arrangement. Call 440-892-0189 for information.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

GIFT *continued from front page*

There is also the old saying, "Friendship is the gift you give to yourself." I do not recall who said it first but it is a great saying for the holiday season. We know that it means that if we offer our friendship we will then find friends to add to our lives. The support and power of friendship changes lives. Those of us involved in the Compeer Club West Program see this occur all the time.

If you are looking for a way to give the gift of acceptance and friendship to others please consider joining Compeer at Far West Center this season or in the coming year. Compeer's motto is "Making Friends. Changing Lives." It is the summary of what Compeer does. If you become a volunteer for Compeer we can guarantee that you will receive many gifts in return including new friends, meaningful activity, laughter, community involvement, wellness opportunities and rewarding accomplishments. Compeer volunteers are asked to provide friendly support and encouragement in social settings.

Why not put yourself on your "gift giving" list? Consider joining Compeer at Far West Center and you will receive more than you give. If you are interested we can arrange for you to talk to a current Compeer volunteer! You can reach me at 440-835-6212, ext. 242. ●

# Painting the future and shifts in consciousness at Unity

by Jan Litterst

Many West Shore residents have come to know and love Unity Spiritual Center through many different avenues. It might be through yoga, meditation, reiki, and fantastic speakers on many different topics. It might be through the Spiritual Cinema which will have its last movie for 2012 on Friday, Nov. 16, from 7-9 p.m. This month it is "Painting the Future" which reveals how the thoughts we choose create the life we live. The film is based on the teachings of Louise Hay and explores the power of positive thinking in healing past struggles and learning to live

joyfully and heart-centered. This movie is truly inter-generational with a nine-year-old young lady stealing your heart away.

Join us for the Nov. 16 film by registering at [www.unityspiritualcenter.com](http://www.unityspiritualcenter.com), or calling 440-835-0400 or showing up at 7 p.m. that evening for popcorn, the movie, and a discussion group with healthy snacks from Nature's Bin. And it is still only \$10 per person.

Others may know about Unity Spiritual Center through its affiliate program Centered Wellness, an affiliation of transformative practitioners in the areas of physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social, occupational and environmental concerns. The collective goal of all of the practitioners is to help individuals in their personal transformational journeys. There are opportunities to attend many different programs through Centered Wellness throughout the year whether it

be yoga, nutrition, financial wellness, mental health, naturopathy or life transformation.

There are opportunities for practitioners in the wellness arena to learn about the benefits of becoming a Centered Wellness affiliate by visiting [www.centeredwellness.org](http://www.centeredwellness.org). It is a unique program that holds promise for both affiliates and program attendees.

One of the Centered Wellness programs of great interest in December is a celebration of consciousness, spiritual evolution, food, drink, dancing and family fun – A-Shift'n & A-Swing'n Meet Ball! In open house style, beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22, with appetizers and a cash bar paired with socializing and kids activities as well as spiritual and metaphysical conversation, followed by a spaghetti (vegan or meatball style) dinner. The evening will continue until 10 p.m. with activities for the whole family including

swing dance lessons. Admission is free but it is a cash bar and there is a \$10 charge per person for dinner, but kids under 11 eat free! It is a great way to celebrate family-style! Please register at [www.centeredwellness.org](http://www.centeredwellness.org) so that there is plenty of food for all. If you have questions, please call 216-228-0537.

Unity Spiritual Center will also have a Christmas concert and traditional Christmas Eve service among other programs throughout the month of December. The details will be coming in the Nov. 27 issue of the Observer. As always, Unity Spiritual Center, located at 23855 Detroit Rd. in Westlake, is a resource for the whole West Shore community. Visit our spacious campus which includes a beautiful labyrinth and meditation garden.

Oh, and by the way, we now have a paper recycling container on site west of the parking lot and east of the labyrinth where you are welcome to recycle your paper and flattened cardboard. ●

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