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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

Group seeks nominations for Bay citizen, project of year

by Eric Eakin

The Bay Village Community Council is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Bay Village Citizen of the Year and Project of the Year.

Nominations will be accepted until Jan. 11, 2013. Selections will be announced by the Community Council shortly thereafter.

A reception in honor of the recipient and project will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. (Although nominations for Project of the Year are being accepted, this award is not intended to be an annual designation and special projects will be considered based on community impact and the involvement of volunteers and organizations.)

Nomination forms are available at public buildings throughout Bay Village including city hall, the library, the board of education building, or from a member of the Community Council.

They also are available in PDF form by sending an email to: ericjeakin@gmail.com.

The Community Council is comprised of members of local civic organizations and individuals. The organization's focus is the compilation of a community calendar of events, coordination of events by various civic groups and sponsorship of the Citizen of the Year/Project of the Year program.

All groups are welcome to join as well as individuals who are not members of a civic organization. Annual dues are \$20 for an organization and \$2 for an individual.

For more information about the Community Council or the citizen of the year/project of the year awards, call 440-669-9686 or email at ericjeakin@gmail.com. ♦

Congrats to Mr. & Mrs. Westlake 2013



Lysa Stanton and Dave Pfister were recognized as Mr. & Mrs. Westlake 2013 by Mayor Dennis Clough during the Nov. 17 tree lighting ceremony at Crocker Park. The award is presented annually to a Westlake couple who best exemplifies the service-oriented goals of the Westlake Town Criers. Stanton, president of the Westlake Historical Society, and Pfister, a member of the board, were honored for their efforts during the city's 2011 bicentennial year, as well as countless volunteer hours with other civic organizations.

Bassett, Hilliard elementary schools celebrate Blue Ribbon status

by Kim Bonvissuto

Bassett and Hilliard elementary schools will celebrate their achievements as 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools at ceremonies to be held at each school.

Bassett and Hilliard are two of only 17 outstanding schools in Ohio to achieve the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award highlights and gives recognition to schools producing outstanding results for all students regardless of race or socioeconomic status.

» See SCHOOLS, page 7

Fontbonne Home residents enjoy community life

by Maggie Pugliese

Oct. 21 was the 31st annual brunch at Wagner's Country Inn for the benefit of Fontbonne Home, a group home in Bay Village for developmentally disabled adults. We saw a new generation of benefactors in the 155 guests who attended.

What was different this year? The menu

changed, but so did the people. The Women's Committee had organized the brunch for many years and are now retired. The task fell to board members, parents and volunteers. It was an awakening for sure, and the joy of a lifetime.

We raised \$10,000 to purchase a van to transport the residents to their jobs and activities. It was the first year we asked for individual and corporate sponsors. Their kindness helped in more ways than they know. The residents, known fondly as "the gang," lived up to their reputation by talking about their daily lives. Everyone enjoyed hearing how they have improved over the years!

» See FONTBONNE, page 9



Fontbonne Home resident Joan Ricciardi, left, with Sr. Jane Ockuly, who was honored at the Oct. 21 brunch as she retires from the Family Haven board of directors.

Photo by Karen Ott

Bay Village Kiwanis Club holds annual Christmas tree sale

by Karen Uthe

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Bay Village Kiwanis Club has set up its annual Christmas tree sale at the Cahoon Park Gazebo area, and is now selling trees.

Three Christmas tree varieties are available, including Fraser Firs, Douglas Firs and Colorado Blue Spruces. Prices are as follows: Fraser Firs, 6-7 feet tall, \$60; Fraser Firs, 7-8 feet, \$70; Fraser Firs, 9-10 feet, \$115 (limited number of these trees); Douglas Firs, 6-7 feet, \$45; and Colorado Blue Spruces, all sizes, \$45. Delivery is available for a donation.

Christmas tree sale dates are Nov. 24 until all the trees are gone, and hours are:

- Monday through Thursday, 3-6 p.m.
- Friday, 3-8 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

"Everyone buys a Christmas tree, so why not buy your tree locally and help fund the many worthy projects and programs that the Bay Village Kiwanis Club supports," says Rhonda Schneider of the Kiwanis Club of Bay Village. "We even deliver for a donation to our organization!"

If you have questions regarding the Christmas tree sale, please contact Kiwanian John Solomon at 440-725-7211.

Funds generated by the annual Christmas tree sale

and other Bay Village Kiwanis Club events help support projects like: Rachel's Challenge, Reese Park renovations, Play in Bay renovations, Village Food Project, BAY-arts, educational grants through

the Bay Village Education Foundation and many more.

Bay Village Kiwanis meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Bay Methodist Church in the lower level. All are welcome. ♦



Bay Village Kiwanis are ready to sell you a tree now!





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*U.S. News & World Report, 2012-13.

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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.

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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.

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Two local favorites bring new books to Barnes & Noble

by Jane Lassar

Comedian Mike Polk Jr. and former Browns cornerback Hanford Dixon will make separate visits in December to Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 198 Crocker Park Blvd. in Westlake, to meet and greet fans and autograph copies of their new books.

Polk will be at the bookstore on Friday, Dec. 7, from 7-8 p.m. with his book, "Damn Right I'm From Cleveland," and Dixon will visit on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 2-3 p.m. with his football memoir, "Day of the Dawg." Both events are free and open to the public.

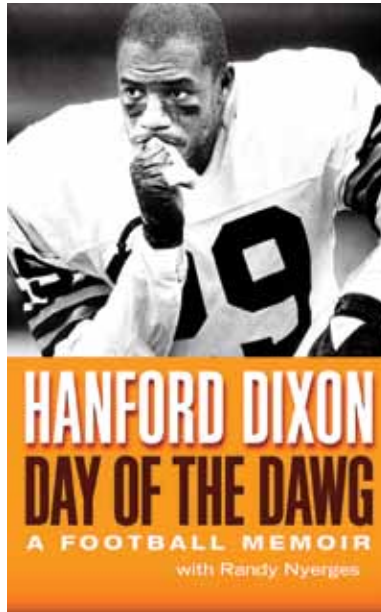
Mike Polk Jr.'s book is a rust-belt satire lampooning Cleveland's quirks, including the city's boundless obsession with disappointing sports teams, Cleveland's nonstop quest to reinvent its civic image, and a grab-bag collection of odd local celebrities. Sections are devoted to such "timely" topics as: "Riding the RTA: A Fascinating Cultural Experience"; "A Cleveland Enemies Hall of Fame"; "A Comparison of Three Area Gentlemen's Clubs"; and "A Remake of Cleveland's Own Flag" to name a few.

Polk is a Cleveland-based writer and comedian whose self-produced videos have more than 50 million combined views on YouTube alone. He is responsible for such viral hits as "The Factory of Sadness" Cleveland Browns rant, "The Hastily Made Cleveland Tourism Video" (which appeared in the Michael Moore documentary "Capitalism: A Love Story"), "The Honest R&B Song" and the award-winning internet series "Man In The Box."

Polk has been performing sketch comedy with the group Last Call for over nine years. The troupe won "Best of the Festival" in Toronto in 2011 and Seattle in 2010 and regularly perform at Cleveland's Playhouse Square Theaters. Polk has been named Cleveland's best comedian by Scene Magazine and Cleveland Magazine on several occasions. His work has also appeared on TNT's "Inside the NBA," and on FunnyorDie.com. For all of his bluster, Polk is a huge advocate of the Northeast Ohio area and is happy to call Cleveland his home.

Hanford Dixon's book offers an inside look at the turbulent, exciting and frustrating Cleveland Browns seasons of the 1980s. He shares what it was like to be a first-round draft pick fighting for the starting job in training camp and what it took, mentally and physically, to play the toughest sport at the highest level. He describes the adrenaline "rush" of whipping up a frenzied crowd of 80,000 rabid fans in Municipal Stadium and the thrill of being one game away from the Super Bowl, three times.

Dixon played his entire NFL career (1981-1989) for the Cleveland Browns after being the 22nd pick in the first round of the 1981 NFL Draft. His habit of barking at teammates, fans and opponents inspired the "Dawg Pound," the name still used for the vocal and excitable end-zone section of fans at Browns games. He and teammate



Frank Minnifield were selected as the No. 2 "Best Cornerback Tandem of All Time" by NFL.com.

Dixon was born in Mobile, Ala., attended The University of Southern Mississippi, and was later named to the Southern Mississippi All-Century Team and inducted into the Golden Eagle Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. A regular commentator and analyst for Browns broadcasts on television and radio, he has also served as the head coach of the Lingerie Football League's Cleveland Crush.

For more information about the book signings at Barnes & Noble in Westlake, call 440-250-9233. ●

Group to discuss domestic policy, pathways to progress

by Beverly Thomas

Please join our Case Western Reserve University-sponsored discussion group starting Jan. 14, 2013, as we explore "Which Way America" – issues of American vision, policy and public discourse.

We will enjoy lively interactive discussions led by Joe Konen on such topics as the economy, education, energy, election finance, the social contract and others chosen by the class.

Books to be used: We will start with "The Gardens of Democracy: A New American Story of Citizenship, the Economy, and the Role of Government," by Eric Liu and Nick Hanauer, which offers a framework for citizen engagement in public discourse.

Thereafter with the help of "That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back," by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, we will focus on significant public policy challenges of our day and possible remedies for the divisions that seem to stymie progress in our country.

We look forward to meeting new people and the insights they bring. These classes are sponsored by CWRU's Adult Continuing Education program. The eight-week session will be held Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 14.

Please note our new meeting location is at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church which is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Wolf and Bradley roads in Bay Village.

Advance registration together with payment of the course fee of \$70 is required and must be received no later than Jan. 7.

For more information on this class or to register, call Marianne at 440-808-0076 or Beverly at 440-835-2917.

CWRU courses are offered across the Greater Cleveland area. For more information on other classes, call the Office of Continuing Education at 216-368-2090. ●

A fond farewell from Lawrence Schreibman's Gems

It is with a heavy heart that after 16 years in business, we are closing Lawrence Schreibman's Gems.

As a fourth-generation jeweler, I have had the good fortune to follow in the footsteps of my great-grandfather, grandfather and father and to do what I love. Since opening our Westlake store in 1996, my wife and I have truly enjoyed serving our valued customers and would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing us to be a part of your lives.



Larry and Gerry Schreibman

Due to health issues, we are now forced to close our business. However, we have decided to celebrate our years as your "family jeweler" by offering spectacular discounts on beautiful jewelry before closing our doors forever. Please take advantage of this opportunity to stop by, celebrate and **save up to 70% on this special selection of jewelry**, purchase holiday gifts, replace watch batteries or have your jewelry repaired.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all who have supported us through the years. As we move on, my brother will continue to carry on the family tradition at his Fairview Park location.

Best wishes,
Larry and Gerry Schreibman



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WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

Storm-delayed sculpture discussion rescheduled for Dec. 5

by Louise Seeholzer

The discussion on "Issues in Contemporary Sculpture" which was canceled due to the notorious Sandy, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at Westlake Porter Public Library.

Ann Albano, executive director of The Sculpture Center in Cleveland, will moderate the panel of highly qualified and gifted artists. Following the panel's dialog, there will be time for audience questions and responses.

Albano will begin the program with a PowerPoint presentation on the Cleveland-Boston Sculpture Exchange which was held this past summer. The exchange brought the works of ten Boston sculptors to Cleveland while works of 12 north-eastern Ohio artists were exhibited in Boston.

The panel of four Cleveland-based artists who will share their expertise are Elizabeth A. Emery, Irina Koukha-

nova, Nancy Prudic and Robert Thurmer. Each of their life stories, schooling and experiences are as unique and individual as their art, which was included in the Sculpture Exchange.

After experiencing life in many locations around the world, Emery now resides in Cleveland, where she currently teaches upcoming artists at the Boys and Girls Club after-school program and is intern Residency Coordinator at Zygot Press.

Born and educated in Russia, Koukhanova has been a head of the sculpture program at Cleveland State University, has three completed public art commissions and full scholarship residencies at Sculpture Space in Utica, NY; Santa Fe Art Institute; Vermont Studio Center and others.

Prudic, who is associate professor of visual art at Lake Erie College, serves on the exhibition committee at The Sculpture Center and is a founding member of the

board of trustees at Arts Collinwood and member of the gallery committee.

Thurmer was born and educated in Vienna, Austria, moved to the United States to further his studies of art and is currently the art gallery director at Cleveland State University as well as a teacher of museum studies and studio art and sculpture and drawing.

Albano's master's

degree in art history and more than 35 years of experience in managerial positions in museums in Philadelphia, New York and Washington will serve her well as moderator of this fine panel of artists. This program is presented free and open to the public by the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council at Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd. ●



Irina Koukhanova installation at the Boston Sculptors Gallery

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enjoy holiday story time at Rose Hill Museum

by Cynthia Eakin

Enjoy story time each Sunday at Rose Hill Museum, with area notables telling the tale of how a young Cahoon daughter experienced the holidays with family and friends in the 1860s. The original story is written by Bay Village historian Kay Laughlin, co-author of the book, "Bay Village: A Way of Life."

Story time readers include:

- Dec. 2: Fr. Tim Gareau, pastor of St. Raphael Church, 2:30 p.m.; and Dick Feagler, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Tom Meyrose, director/actor, Huntington Playhouse, 2:30 p.m.; and City Council President Paul Koomar, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16, Bay Village Mayor Deborah Sutherland, 2:30 p.m.; and Rev. Bill Buckeye, Bay United Methodist Church, 3:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served and each child will receive a handmade ornament. Christmas decorations can be seen on all three floors of Rose Hill Museum, with Victorian trees and a special display of vintage dolls. 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 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 at 27715 Lake Rd. in Bay Village's Cahoon Memorial Park. ●

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FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Be inspired, be filled with music, be a part of Christmas at Unity

by Jan Litterst

Christmas means many things to many people. Make Christmas this year personal and meaningful with all Unity Spiritual Center has to offer.

The snow will be flying soon, and when it does, it really means that the holidays are here as well. Unity Spiritual Center begins the Christmas season with an inspirational program based on the book by Jean Houston, “Godseed: The Journey of Christ.” This is a spiritual journey of the Nativity to be held on four Tuesdays from Nov. 27 through Dec. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Reverend Barbara Smith will lead you through the ancient story of the divine birth and help you see its connections with your life. It brings the Nativity to life today. Processes will help you participate in the Christmas story as you have never before experienced.

It is necessary to register and begin to read the book by Nov. 27, and the books can be purchased at the Unity Book Store. For more information, you can call 440-835-0400. Maximum attendance is 20 people, and registration is simple at www.unityspiritualcenter.com to reserve your space. A suggested love offering of \$15 for each week allows you to join in the journey.

As December moves toward Christmas, the fifth annual Holiday Concert beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, will help you begin the holiday season with your family on a very high note! More than 15 artists and groups will perform in this evening of merriment, fun and wonderful music to set your heart ablaze with the joy of the season. Plus, there will be a bake sale where you can get all of the bakery you will need

as you shop, wrap gifts and just enjoy that leisure moment by the crackling fire as you celebrate the season! Children under 12 are free, and all others can enjoy all this evening has to offer, including refreshments and snacks during intermission, for \$15 a person. You can reserve your tickets online at www.unityspiritualcenter.com.

Friday, Dec. 14, brings Family Holiday Movie Night at 7:30 p.m.! Come see a classic Christmas film for the whole family for a love offering donation. Enjoy a break from the hustle of all that happens at this time of the year with your children, grandchildren and friends. Munch on popcorn, enjoy the break and watch the faces of all light up in the holiday spirit! Once again, you can register at www.unityspiritualcenter.com or call 440-835-0400 for more information.

And, finally, to capture the blessings and beauty of Christmas, join the beautiful candlelight service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and hear the inspiring message Rev. Barbara Smith delivers amidst the joyous music and musicians who will share their talents and love with you – it will have you and your entire family in the spirit of Christmas on this wondrous night! While the service starts promptly at 8 p.m., please come early so that you will have a seat; doors open at 7 p.m..

Unity Spiritual Center, located at 23855 Detroit Rd. in Westlake, is a beautiful place to visit anytime of the year, but as the snow falls, come and visit for any of these activities or to walk the labyrinth and enjoy nature. Please feel free to call 440-835-0400 for any questions on any activity at Unity. In the meantime, enjoy the Spirit of the Season each in your own special way! ●

A burst of holiday cheer

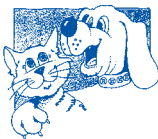


Fireworks explode overhead at the conclusion of the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Crocker Park on Nov.17. Thousands of spectators packed the shopping area for the annual event as Santa Claus presided over the holiday lighting festivities.

They Say...

Compiled by Dave Scullin

- They say...** Chop your own wood, and it will warm you twice.
- They say...** He is a pain in the neck, and some people have even a lower opinion of him.
- They say..** He who sings scares away his woes.
- They say..** The recipe for a good speech includes some shortening.



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SPORTING VIEWS

Don't quote me on this

by Jeff Bing

I held out as long as I could. Really.

As is my way with all my beloved Cleveland sports franchises, I try to maintain a degree of optimism heading into the season. And, as is also my way, I usually find, before long, said optimism to be a complete waste of time. This year, I even convinced myself that maybe – just maybe – Pat Shurmur would figure out this coaching thing and look like he actually knew what he was doing on the sideline during a Browns game.

Now, just to be clear, I wasn't the biggest fan in the world of Eric Mangini, either. But with hindsight being what it is and all, I gotta come clean here: Pat Shurmur makes Eric Mangini look like one of the founding members of Mensa.

He punts the ball on fourth-and-1 in enemy territory; he goes for it fourth-and-1 in his own territory; he burns time-outs as if that is what's providing the heat to keep the team warm on the sidelines in December. He tears off his headset at times with such fervor that I must assume he's terrified because he "hears voices."

Anyway, I was going to compile a list of Pat's most ludicrous post-game comments since the beginning of the season, which alone by themselves are proof positive that the Pat Shurmur Super Bowl Ship will not set sail in 2013. However, I soon became overwhelmed in paperwork – realizing space limitations would not allow me to fully list his pearls of wisdom in the Observer – unless the paper decides to publish future issues in telephone book format. The last thing I wanted to do was short-change the guy – after all, he's chock full of priceless quotes – but I found myself running out of disk space on

my hard drive, so I had to abort that quest.

Instead I came up with another approach (I'm sneaky like that), which was to take a couple of famous quotes I'd run across and see if I could attribute any of them to the Browns, which would be a far more positive angle, no? You know, like offering a little bit of hope for the future?

My favorite quote of all time is attributed to Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Theismann, who once said, "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein." Seriously now, doesn't a statement like that immediately have you thinking "Browns braintrust"?

In fact, I'd hazard a guess that Norman Einstein might still be on the Browns staff, and was the deep-thinker who came up with the white flag promotion for the Steelers game. What's even scarier, to me anyway, is the fact that this little nugget of marketing genius had to go through how many levels of management to be approved, and NOT ONE person questioned the wisdom in a promotion like that?

While the above quote is a favorite, the next one is probably the most appropriate when applied to Cleveland sports. "If it weren't for Philo T. Farnsworth, inventor of television, we'd still be eating frozen radio dinners." That twisted bit of logic can be attributed to none other than Johnny Carson, and while I find it very funny, I also find it sad if translated into the context of our Cleveland sports franchises.

You see, the joke's on us, because thanks to the likes of Mike Holmgren, Chris Antonetti and Chris Grant, we're still eating the sports equivalent of frozen radio dinners.

Pass the bicarbonate of soda. ●

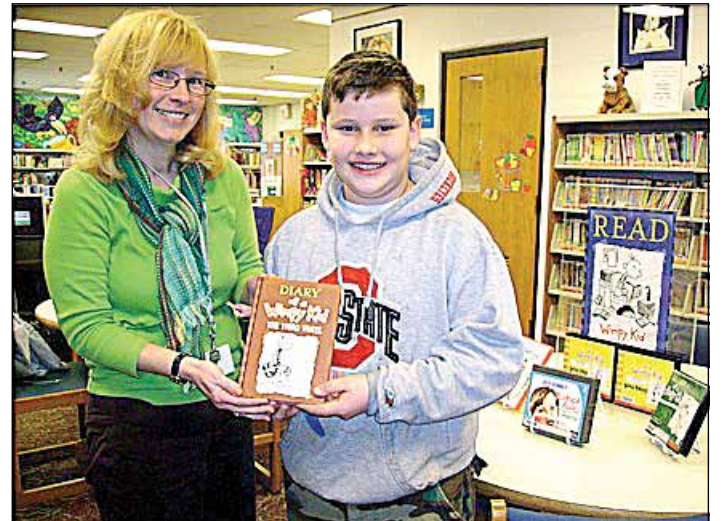
Kids at the Bay Village Library are inspired to create!

by Sue Grame

Nov. 13 was a very important day... at least if you are a kid. Jeff Kinney's new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book, "The Third Wheel," was released. The Bay Village branch of Cuyahoga County Library celebrated the occasion with a cartooning workshop where students ages 8-14 learned about inspiration, line technique and showing action from artist Melinda Placko. Rome wasn't built in a day and masterpieces aren't masterpieces the first time they are sketched, Melinda explained; there's a process involved.

The first thing you need to do is get an idea from looking at your surroundings and also other people's work. Find something that inspires you. It could be something as little as a spring, but use it as you draw your character. Take a look at your sketch and see what you like about it and what you can change to make it better; then draw it again. Making some lines thicker, darker, wiggly or sketchy can add a lot. It might take several times to get your cartoon just right, but don't give up. Keep working till you get it just right!

If you would like to learn about creating some other forms of art, keep an eye open for more programs offered at the Bay Village Library.



Librarian Sue Grame with amateur cartoonist Eric Helzer, the lucky winner of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel," hot off the press and autographed by author Jeff Kinney.



Melinda Placko inspires young cartoonists.

"Art on Wheels," "Animation Station: Animated Greeting Card Creation" and "DIY Digital Movies" are just a few programs coming up. We'd love to see you there! ●

"The Winter Wonderettes" close the Huntington Playhouse season

by Tom Meyrose

The Huntington Playhouse season comes to a conclusion with a production of the musical "The Winter Wonderettes" opening on Nov. 23 and playing through Dec. 16. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees on Nov. 23, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.

The 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 theatre is also selling gift certificates for the 2013 season for those "hard to buy for" people on your Christmas list.

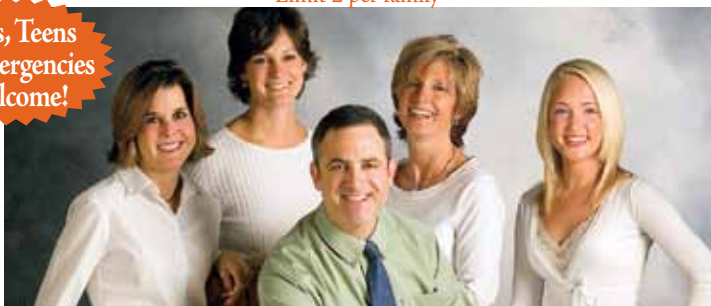
Reservations are strongly recommended by calling the box office at 440-871-8333.

Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Rd. in Bay Village. ●

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SCHOOLS *continued from front page*

Schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools have demonstrated consistent excellence, and in some cases, those that have made progress and closed gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

Both Bassett and Hilliard were nominated based on Exemplary

High Performing criteria, highlighting the fact that both schools are among the state's highest performing schools as measured by performance on state assessments.

Bassett earned the top score of Excellent on the most recent state report card and a Performance Index Score of 110.4, which reflects the achievement of every student. Hilliard also earned an Excellent on the state report card and posted a Performance Index Score of 108.2. ●

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Two Westlake Schools staffers honored by peers

by Kim Bonvissuto

Two Westlake Schools' staff members were honored by their peers with staff excellence awards.

The Excellence in Teaching award went to Deb Schrembeck, seventh-grade language arts teacher at Lee Burneson Middle School. The Excellence in Classified Service award was given to Ed Karohl, head mechanic in the transportation department. The two were honored at the Nov. 19 Board of Education meeting.

Schrembeck, who has been with the district since 1987, is described as "one of the greatest examples of excellence at LBMS," and a strong leader and positive influence on her team and school.

"Deb is always looking for ways to unify the staff and students at LBMS," one of her colleagues wrote in a nomination letter. "She truly cares deeply for her students and takes great care to deliver a productive, enjoyable and lasting learning experience for her students."

Karohl, who joined the district in 1977, was lauded for his out-

standing mechanical knowledge and for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure all of the district's buses, vans and maintenance vehicles are ready to roll out each morning.

"He makes sure, as he does a walkthrough of our parking lot, that the buses are not leaking fluids, raccoons have scattered away, and mischief has not occurred on our premises," one colleague wrote in a nomination letter. "A truly dedicated employee, he can even read minds and takes care of issues before even being asked."

The award winners will have their names inscribed on a plaque to be permanently displayed at the Administration Building. ●



Ed Karohl and Deb Schrembeck were honored with staff excellence awards.

Century-home research uncovers family ties

Final article in a series on the history of homes in Dover – now Westlake and Bay Village – and the Westlake Historical Society's century-home plaquing program.

by William Krause

The story of the Sheldon Johnson and John W. Hawkins families has come to light during the research for the plaquing of a century home at 2650 Clague Rd. in Westlake. A goal of the program is discovering the previous owners of a home and linking their stories with that of the house. The book "Maple Ridge Cemetery, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio: A History of Its People and Families" by Jeanne B. Workman and Jayne A. Broestl has information about these two related families.

Sheldon Johnson in 1866 died at age 81. He and his wife, Martha, are buried in Lot 7 of Maple Ridge Cemetery, owned by John Hawkins, Sheldon's grandson-in-law. The same cemetery plot also holds the remains of John, his first wife Vannie, his second wife Katherine and three infant children.

The Maple Ridge book states that John Hawkins was born between 1838 and 1840 in Vermont, the youngest of 13 children. His father was born in England, his mother in Ireland. A biographical sketch of his son, Sheldon Johnson Hawkins, says that John's father died in the Mexican War when John was about six years old. Exactly when John came to Ohio is not clear, but he married Vannie about 1860 in Ohio and served during the Civil War in 1864.

Vannie Hawkins was the granddaughter of Sheldon Johnson. She was the mother of four children, including two who died in infancy and are buried with her, one of whom was born only days before Vannie's death in 1871.

What emerges through all of this dry factual information is the story of family love. After their marriage, Vannie and John had a close personal relationship with her grandfather, Sheldon Johnson, they even named their first son Sheldon Johnson Hawkins. Only five years after her grandfather's death, Vannie died after giving birth to a daughter, and then the daughter died as well. John was then left as a widower with a ten-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter, and control of at least 130 acres of land.

Records show a marriage in 1873 of a John Hawkins to a "Katie Donnstetter." Katherine D. Hawkins was of German descent and born in Germany in 1850. It appears that she was married previously to a Mr. Darmstatter, as Henry Darmstatter, age 9, stepson, is living with John



The Sheldon Johnson and John Hawkins families share Lot 7 in Maple Ridge Cemetery.

and Katherine in 1880.

The most plausible explanation of a construction date for 2650 Clague is that the house was constructed in anticipation of John Hawkins' marriage to the 23-year-old widow Katherine in 1873. During John and Katherine's 30 years of marriage, Katherine gave birth to nine children, eight of which were still living in 1900. Even after John's death in 1903, Katherine may have continued to live in the house, possibly until she sold it in 1920.

Katherine died in 1925 at her daughter's home in North Olmsted. She may have occupied the subject home for as long as 47 years, much longer than any other occupants. Part of Hawkins Road is now located on what was once the Hawkins farm.

Because the Westlake Historical Society has determined through its research that the house at 2650 Clague Rd. was likely built in 1873, it qualifies for a century home plaque. 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. ●

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READERS' OPINIONS

Confessions of a Porter Library addict

by Joseph Psarto

I have kept a book log since the early 1970s and I've always wished I'd begun it when I was a child. I've read as many as 100 books a year, but these days I'm down to 35 or 40. My eyes get tired. I prefer literary fiction, but I read everything. I love a good memoir, history, and I especially love poetry.

If I were on a desert island and could only have one master of each major art form as companions they would be Emily Dickinson, Mozart and Monet.

The greatest novel I've ever read is James Joyce's "Ulysses." But there are so many others very close to it. Such as William Faulkner's "The Reivers" and "The Sound and the Fury" and Yasunari Kawabata's "Snow Country." Sometimes I am reading more than one book at a time. For instance, presently I am reading a collection of poetry by Jack Gilbert, Salman Rushdie's memoir "Joseph Anton" and "The Aeneid" by Virgil. My

secret is to read only one of them on any given day so not to lose context.

In my opinion, the greatest single excerpt out of a literary novel is the ending of "Ulysses" where Molly – a very naughty girl – tells us that she loves her husband in spite of everything. She is in bed alone, waiting for Bloom to get home. This is sheer prose-poetry! An image of Penelope waiting for Odysseus. I remember reading it for the first time and realizing that a writer does not "tell" everything in his story but leaves some things up to the reader to figure out. For instance, was Homer's Queen Penelope true to King Odysseus for those ten long years? Or was she an ancient Greek "Molly," whom I was beginning to like?

A common error some readers make is not paying attention word by word, page by page, and therefore missing a point, perhaps even the main point of a story. Another error, as I say above, is assuming the story is being told with nothing left out. In a good novel there is much more

than might be apparent. Things are left out!

Even when I don't like a novel I keep on to the end for the love of words!

And I absolutely disdain speed-reading and those audio CD books. But I fully accept and understand that a lot of people disagree with me. For me, the sounds of words are so very wonderful, but not enough; I must touch them with my eyes.

I love that old literary critic and curmudgeon, Harold Bloom, but he speed-reads. And if I ever meet him I'll give him hell.

In my old age I've become friendly with John Cage, a delightful fellow indeed who loved sounds of all sorts as I love words of all sorts. Often I think of my first trip to New York when I was a young man. I opened up my window on the eighteenth floor of the Sloane House YMCA on 36th Street and 8th Avenue and listened to the magic music of the city.

Reading can be like that. Words are like that! Reading is about searching for wisdom and pleasure. Reading is sadness and delight. ●

The meaning of Thanksgiving

by Nicholas Smolak

When most people hear Thanksgiving, they immediately think big feast, turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes and whipped cream on pumpkin pie; but what is it really about?

Well for starters, it's about giving thanks, I mean after all it is called Thanksgiving. And well... I guess there's a bit of food in it, oh alright a lot of food. And for all you smarties out there, of course you can say Pilgrims and Indians (Native Americans). But all you have to think about is giving thanks for everything you have. That's all you have to do to have a "real" Thanksgiving, just give thanks.

It's sad now all you

see in stores is Christmas items. I'm not saying that Christmas is bad, don't get me wrong, it's a wonderful holiday when Christ was born, but for heaven's sake, please, one holiday at a time. After all, it's not like everything there is going to sell out. By the time you read this you'll probably be finished eating your leftovers. But that doesn't mean Thanksgiving is over, in fact the first Thanksgiving lasted three whole days!

I wrote this article to teach people (or refresh people's memory) about what Thanksgiving is about. Sort of like the true meaning of Christmas. Its not about the toys, it's about Christ, and Thanksgiving is about giving thanks not about stuffing yourself up. ●

Abraham Lincoln: Man and movie

by Mel Maurer

As a student, writer, and sometimes performer of Abraham Lincoln, I'm occasionally asked what I think of books, movies or portrayals of our 16th president. I love these questions – any excuse to talk about my hero president is good for me.

Now with the Steven Spielberg movie "Lincoln," I'm asked about it and the accuracy of its plot and performances. I saw the movie with my son, Jeff, his son, Alex, and several good friends from The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable on Nov. 20 at the Regal Cinema in Westlake. While this movie couldn't compete for attendance with the latest "Twilight," there was a good number in our audience.

I enjoyed and appreciated "Lincoln" and while there were things I wished had been included (opening the movie with Lincoln delivering his Gettysburg Address) and minor things I would have changed (some awkward dialog), I highly recommend it to all audiences. I was especially pleased to see my 12-year-old grandson's rapt attention to every scene. He even said afterwards that it didn't seem like a two-and-a-half-hour movie.

Daniel Day-Lewis' Lincoln is not Lincoln as "Father Abraham" but rather as Lincoln – political Godfather. His performance at times reminded me as much of Marlon Brando in "The Godfather" as it did Abraham Lincoln. Even the scene with the first appearance of the wartime president is reminiscent of the opening scene in the great Brando movie.

This is not to criticize the depiction since I think it comes close to the real Lincoln, a kind man who had to brutally take on all opponents – military and political – to achieve his ultimate goal. The movie takes us through the process needed to make his achievement permanent in our country by an amendment to our constitution forever outlawing slavery.

Sally Field, who has had to outlive her early frivolous but entertaining roles, with

many serious parts proving her very real acting ability, brings Mary Lincoln to life as a demanding wife and political partner with her husband in changing the country for the better.

Sally gets Mary right – with all her complexities and emotions during a very trying time for her. Catherine Clinton, a recent biographer of Lincoln's first lady agrees, telling an audience I was in that Sally embodies all that was Mary Lincoln – one of the most controversial people in American history.

While the story of how the 13th Amendment is finally passed by Congress is shown with much dramatic license – events and persons involved – the historical truth of the process and its outcome remains intact. Spielberg told our gathering at the National Cemetery in Gettysburg on Nov. 19 that he is not a historian but rather a maker of historical fiction noting the great differences therein.

The messy democratic procedures – official and backroom – are played out well in performances by Tommy Lee Jones as the rigid, irascible Thaddeus Stevens, David Strathairn as William Seward and James Spader as political arm twister W.N. Bilbo. Supporting their brilliant acting are many others with each taking their roles as individual gems no matter how briefly they are on the screen.

"Lincoln," thanks to Spielberg, Day-Lewis and writer Tony Kushner, comes closer to giving us a Lincoln as he really was, a man embodying a great mind and kind heart with a passion to do what is right. One who will go to any lengths to accomplish what he set out to do, one driven to save democracy at all costs, one who hated slavery all of his life and would see that it was eliminated from our land. Lincoln did all of that, giving his life in the process.

This is a very entertaining movie and an important movie too – telling the story of several weeks in the life of a great man, defining and saving democracy for us and the world. ●

Bay Men's Club members assist the needy



Members of the Bay Men's Club volunteered to help their fellow citizens recently by raking and cleaning the yards of a number of deserving residents. In cooperation with the city's Community Services Department, the organization dispatched two teams to assist needy Bay Villagers with their fall clean-up chores. "We are glad to help out any way we can," BMC President Dominic Giovannazzo said. "It's a great opportunity to assist those who can use our help."

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Dwyer Memorial Center honors U.S. veterans

Veterans were praised for their service to our country during a Peaceful and Proud Luncheon at Bay Village's Dwyer Center on Nov. 14. The catered lunch, courtesy of Towne Center Community Campus, included pinning the vets with miniature American flags by staff members from the Hospice of the Western Reserve.



Veteran Al Mullee is thanked for his military service by Cara Turner of the Hospice of Western Reserve.



Tisha Holloway of the Hospice of the Western Reserve pins an American flag on U.S. Marine veteran Bill Switaj.



Shirley Hostetler of Bay Community Services frames the perfect picture during the veterans luncheon on Nov. 14.

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual wreath-laying honors Westlake's pioneers

by Lysa Stanton

For the third year in a row, members of the Westlake Historical Society will remember some of the city's historic families by placing holiday wreaths on their graves.

We believe placing a wreath on a grave is not only a symbol of remembrance, it is a sign of respect for that person and who they were and the contributions they made to our city. We would like to extend the opportunity for you, your family, organization or business to place a Christmas wreath this year in memory of one of our pioneer families.

Volunteers from the Westlake Historical Society will continue to place the wreaths on graves in both Evergreen Cemetery and Maple Ridge Cemetery until Dec. 15 for those individuals, families or businesses who would like to sponsor a wreath.

You or your organization can purchase a wreath from the historical society for a one-time donation of only \$15 and the wreath will be placed at the grave site annually during the holidays.

The Westlake Historical society would like to give special thanks to Patt Long for her help as we prepare to place more than 25 wreaths this year.

Please call the society at 440-808-1961, email westlakehistory@yahoo.com or see our website at westlakeohiohistory.org to make arrangements to have your wreath placed.

"Show me first the graveyards of a country and I will tell you the true character of the people." – Benjamin Franklin



A wreath laid by the historical society at the monument of one of Westlake's founding families in Evergreen Cemetery.

FONTBONNE

continued from front page

We honored Sister Jane Ockuly, CSJ, retiring from her service on the board of directors for more than 20 years. She was a spiritual role model, as well as a guardian ad litem attorney for families in trouble.

The Fontbonne Home name is well known. Founded by Sister Genevieve Lane, CSJ, in 1981, it operates under the name of Family Haven Inc. Sister Genevieve embraced responsibility, companionship and reinforced her own focus on providing direct care to developmentally disabled adults.

Her philosophy was that residents should "blend into the neighborhood." It was a challenge as most neighborhoods did not want a group home. She exposed them to others in a natural and loving way and provided care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And what a neighborhood it is now... accepting the "special home"

and making them part of the Bay Village community.

Today, Fontbonne Home serves five residents who are active members of St. Raphael's Church, the Aktion Club, Knights of Columbus and Fun Alum. It is supported through community fundraising, Medicaid and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Sister Genevieve is retired but has retained her legacy. Fontbonne Home exemplifies a "family" – ever so special.

She made an effort to sensitize the public to the many attributes of persons with developmental disabilities and embraced their cause as an example for others to emulate.

Writing this article is like writing from the heart. As the director of Family Haven, I see a lifetime of friends and room to grow. What is a better way to make a difference than to satisfy and promote the lives of others? Life is short, and lifetimes are forever. ♦



From left, Maggie Pugliese, director of Family Haven, introduces the five residents of Fontbonne Home – Joanie, Kelly, Marcia, Ted and Pat – and house supervisor Melaine Eckroate.

Photo by Karen Ott

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MUSINGS FROM THE MIDDLE

Group uses running to teach girls perseverance, healthy habits

by **Audrey Ray**,
fifth-grader
at Bay Middle
School

Are you a girl between eight and 13 years old who likes to run? If you are, you should join a group called Girls on the Run or GOTR. I participated in GOTR this year for the first time and had a wonderful time. You might think by the title of our group that we are a group of girls that met to just run, but it is so much more than that.

This fall, we met twice a week for a couple of months. At each meeting, we learned about a topic such as how to stop a bully, how to respond if someone tries to get us to drink and what advertisements are good or bad for us. Then we would play a game that involved what we had learned. Next, we would run for the rest of the meeting.

We didn't have to run the entire time. We could walk or skip too. We



Audrey Ray and Ava Ransom are all smiles after finishing a 5K run on Nov. 11.

were encouraged to keep going and not to give up. I found that I could run a little bit farther each time we met. At the end of our meetings, we would eat a healthy snack. The snacks were always different and always really yummy.

There are many GOTR groups in Northeast Ohio. On Nov. 11, all the groups met for a 5K run to support and celebrate GOTR. It was such an exciting day. My whole family had registered to run, and I couldn't wait for the run to start. The run was at Blossom Music Center and that meant we would have to run up and down hills. Running uphill isn't easy and our group didn't have much practice at hills since we mostly ran at Avon Lake High School.

When we arrived at Blossom, I found my team and pinned on my run number. All the GOTR participants

wear the number 1. Then I got my hair dyed orange and purple, and everyone got to wear a tiara too. I saw some dads even wearing tiaras! When we lined up to start the run, we did a group stretch and cheer. Our cheer was "3.1 so much fun." The number 3.1 stood for how many miles we were going to run.

Finally, the run began. I started the run with my whole GOTR team, but there were so many people, we couldn't stick together. My friend, Ava Ransom, her mom, my mom and I got ahead of the crowd. We ran the whole time and only walked through our quick water breaks.

There was such a great crowd cheering all the runners on. My grandma and grandpa were holding up signs that had my name and a couple of my good friends' names on them.

At the very end of our run, Ava and I sprinted the last tenth of a mile. When we crossed the finish line, we got our GOTR medals.

After the run, I felt exhilarated and excited. I was so happy that the run went so well for Ava and me. We met up with our moms and joined the crowd to cheer on the rest of our teammates as they finished the run. We also cheered on our brothers, sisters and dads as they were finishing the run.

I am so proud to have been a part of GOTR. I knew that I liked to run but now I absolutely love it. I have learned that it is important to always be myself and I can't wait to do GOTR again.

I want to thank all of my coaches for leading our team. I had so much fun! Our coaches are the best! ●

SENIOR LIVING

Seniors pitch in to help those in need at Thanksgiving

by **Barb Bartlome**

The Gardens at Westlake senior living community continues to make the community service event they took on three years ago bigger and better each year. They donate canned goods and other non-perishable food items to Westlake families in need.

A large box was decorated and placed in the front lobby at the Gardens

and the employees and residents filled the box numerous times with a wide variety of needed items.

The box was then transferred into cartons for the Westlake Community Services Department where the social services staff added the food items to Thanksgiving baskets they were assembling. The baskets were then delivered to families in the community for Thanksgiving. ●

Lessons from a five-year-old

by **Kristi Vaughn**

Lilianna is my five year old. I was working on the computer during the summer when she asked me what I was doing. I explained that I was writing an article for the Observer newspaper about helping older people who are having trouble remembering things.

Light bulbs went off in her head and she decided she wanted to write articles to help older people too! I have enjoyed hearing her "articles" so much that I decided to have her "write" a weekly blog for me.

So that began Lessons from a Five Year Old! Here are samplings from her collection of wisdom:

"Being young is the best thing in the world...People care about you, people do things for you...it's always in your life. But when you grow up, it's not too fun, you miss your childhood. So that's why I am reminding you."

"Love, Red, Love, Blue...but the most thing I love is You. Sun shines down on

my heart, and when my heart goes by you, I get so nervous. I get so nervous, that I have to go and You know I love you so! And the only thing that I could do to stop my love is love you even more Forever!"

"The tail on the top of my tippy toe, when I look at you I love you so! I burn up inside me and it hurts my glow! Even if you are older than me I still love you; I'll always love you forever and ever until my heart goes to leave."

"My heart is shining and your heart is shining. Wherever I walk is you. Everything inside you is glimmering in me. So can't you see...the ocean is calling for you and me!"

"Think about my heart, think about yours. There is more things in my heart, but there is more heart in yours. The music is better than anything else because it is singing about you!"

"Winter is far, Fall is so close. Fall is a happy season, winter isn't noticed. But as long as you dream and pretend, you can find your own heart in a dead end!"

"Life is better than dreaming your course. Hold my hand and you will feel better. Coming to dreams is better than living, but living is the heart. Because your dreams give my heart a flash, you give me a dash!"

"When you look at the stars, you look so far. The stars will make you feel happy. Take this view so you will be happy and your heart will warn you if something happens; listen to the voice of your heart when you need somebody to care!"

"You dream of a big heart that went so far and now forever you will find a flower in your voice. So make your heart as big as the Sun and for the rest of your life you will have fun!"

"I love you so and you might know. If you haven't found it, the thing that hap-

pens when you are loved in a better way. If you haven't found it, I hope someday you will. You might feel pain if nobody loves you, you won't when I'm around, I love you so."

"You got your own thoughts, you got your own dreams, you got your own heart, you got your own everything!"

"Our life is great because the Fall makes us think of God and how the seasons change."

"Nights are black and some are blue. Dreams are white and you are you! I think that some days I am the best and I know that you think some days you are the best. But why can't we be the same thing?"

"Love is in my heart even when you went so far away. Sometimes it hurts me, but it is great to know that you are OK."

"I remember when you talked to me so long ago. I know that you don't like me anymore, but you started liking me before. It is always best to find someone else. So if you don't like who is yours, don't be sad they are the worst."

"I'm going to a Halloween party; all the kids are in their costumes. What should I be? I don't want to be anything; I just want to be ME!" ●



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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by Elaine Willis

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.

Saturday, Dec. 1 (10:30-11 a.m.) MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE! – Join Mother Goose for this interactive storytime featuring simple books,

rhymes, songs and movement. For ages birth-3 years old with adult caregiver.

Saturday, Dec. 1 (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.

Saturday, Dec. 1 (3-4:45 p.m.) MAD4MANGA – M4M is everything manga! We talk about manga, create manga art, discuss & watch anime films, and more! Grades 6-12 only. Registration not necessary.

Monday, Dec. 3 (4-6 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! Meets only when Westlake Schools are in session. Registration not necessary.

Wednesday, Dec. 3 (7-8:30 p.m.) GUIDETO ONLINE GRANTSEEKER RESOURCES AND FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE – Learn how to navigate and use Foundation resources, including Foundation Directory Online and Philanthropy In/Sight and the Foundation's new website, Grantspace.org. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 (4:30-5:30 p.m.) DUCTTAPE ORNAMENTS – There are so many fun things to make with duct tape!

We're going to show you how to take bright and colorful duct tape and transform it into an ornament fit for your Christmas tree. Grades 6-12. Please register.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET'S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

Thursday, Dec. 6 (4-5 p.m.) FAMILY FUN! – We're hosting an afternoon of stories, rhymes, silly songs and crafts! For children ages 3 and up with their families.

Thursday, Dec. 6 (7-8:45 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP: INVESTING 2012 YEAR IN WRAP-UP – John Sawczak will review FY 2012 and discuss what he thinks investors should watch out for in 2013. Please register.

Friday, Dec. 7 (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.

Friday, Dec. 7 (Toddler session: 10:30-11 a.m.; Preschool session: 11:30 a.m.-noon) MUSIC THERAPY & MORE – Connecting for Kids and the Music Therapy Enrichment Corps invite you to a music therapy group.

Learn how parents and caregivers have a direct role in bringing music to life. The toddler session is geared for children under 3. The preschool session is geared for children ages 3-6 (siblings are welcome). Caregiver must stay in the room. No registration required.

Saturday, Dec. 8 (2-3 p.m.) GINGERBREAD FUN! – Create your own gingerbread house with us. Just bring your sweet imagination, we'll supply all the parts & pieces! Registration begins Dec. 1.

Monday, Dec. 10 (4-6 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! Meets only when Westlake Schools are in session. Registration not necessary.

Tuesday, Dec. 11 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION – In December we'll discuss "Call Me Mrs. Miracle" by Debbie Macomber.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET'S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

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

Holiday fun arrives at the Westlake Rec Center

by Jim Dispirito

Westlake Recreation welcomes online registration! For those wishing to register for a program or class at the Westlake Recreation Center, you must first be in our database. If you have registered for a class/program before and your information is on hand, you are good to go. If not, no problem, just stop by the Recreation Center and fill out a form and you will be ready to go. The website address is: webtrac.cityofwestlake.org/vsiwebtrac103.html or you can go to our website at www.wlrec.org.

HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, Dec. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Members Only)

Celebrate the holiday season with us. Families will be able to watch holiday videos, play games, do crafts, swim and listen to Santa read the famous "The Night Before Christmas." Snacks will be provided. This free event is only open to current members of the Westlake Recreation Center. All children must be accompanied by their parent(s) and all family members must be preregistered by Dec. 12. Maximum of 350 people.

LETTERS TO SANTA (AGES 3-8)

Deadline is Dec. 15.

We have been "officially" made a mailing post for Santa. Come and drop off your letters at the Recreation Center in a special "North Pole" mailbox. If you would like, you may register your child's letter and they will receive an electronic letter from Santa. Free to members and only \$2 for non-members.

NO SCHOOL DAY CAMP (GRADES K-6)

Various days available starting Friday, Dec. 21

This camp is designed to keep kids entertained with games, swimming, art projects and other fun activities. Children will need to bring a brown bag lunch, swimsuit and towel. An afternoon snack will be provided. We reserve the right to verify grade level on each and every child. Cost per day is \$30/members, \$60/non-members. Contact Rachel O'Malley for more details at 440-808-5700.

HOLIDAY BASEBALL CLINIC WITH WHS VARSITY COACH BRENDAN ZEPP

December 26-28: Grades 1-4, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Grades 5-8, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Prepare for your baseball or softball season and refine your skills in a fun and fast-paced environment. Join WHS head coach Brendan Zepp and members of his coaching staff as they present a variety of skills and drills. Campers will take home a new technique or strategy each day. Cost is \$60 per camper.

More information regarding all of these programs and more can be found at our website at www.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. ●



Bay Village Legion retires hundreds of flags on Veterans Day



Bay Village American Legion Post #385 retired over 300 flags as part of the Veterans Day celebration on Friday, Nov. 9. The Post conducts flag retirements on Flag Day in June and Veterans Day in November. They do this using appropriate military protocol according to Post Commander Stan Zeager.



HOLIDAY DINING, GIFTS & PARTIES

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Bay Village resident turns to community to kickstart Berea vegan bakery

by Jo-Ann Wytzka

Derek Wytzka, a Bay Village resident and recent graduate of Baldwin Wallace University, has been given the opportunity to do what he does best: bake. During his final year at BW, Derek was searching for a topic for an entrepreneurship class project and recognized a desire among his vegan friends for desserts that are free of animal products, including dairy and eggs.

Derek began to concoct cupcake and cookie recipes and realized that a vegan bakery would satisfy a number of students on the BW campus in Berea. He contacted fellow Bay resident Mike Nock, founding director of Blackstone LaunchPad, a program at BW that helps entrepreneurs, who pointed him toward a Berea church looking to rent out space to enhance their presence in the community.

After meeting on Nov. 18, the vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church agreed to give Derek a chance to start his all-vegan bakery and cafe, called Veg'n Out Cafe. Derek's next task is to gather the funding needed to purchase equipment and supplies in anticipation of a January 2013 opening, and he is turning to the



Derek Wytzka's vegan Mario-inspired cake

relatively new phenomenon of crowd funding to reach his goal. With a page on Kickstarter.com, Derek hopes the Bay Village and Berea communities will donate in exchange for rewards including gift baskets and Veg'n Out Cafe merchandise.

"I am so happy to be given this opportunity, a chance to do what I love and hopefully a chance to make a big difference in people's lives and show just because something is 'vegan' does not mean that it doesn't taste good," Derek said.

To donate to Veg'n Out Cafe, visit kickstarter.com (search: Wytzka) or access this story on the Observer website at wbvobserver.com for a direct link. ●

BAYarts

BAYarts invites you to meet the artists

by Karen Petkovic

To highlight the work of featured artists in BAYarts' annual Holiday Shop, three events will allow you enjoy extended holiday shopping, refreshments and socializing. On Sunday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m., best selling author J. Powell Ogden will be on hand to sign copies of "The Guardian's Playlist," her latest book. Virginia (Ginny) Cascarilla will personalize Nora's Collectible Cards, which feature her paintings and benefit Project ALS.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, Julie Holmes will present Holiday Sabika jewelry.



Ginny Cascarilla

Proceeds from this event will benefit BAYarts' education enrichment programs. Meet Julie from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Sullivan Family Gallery in the Fuller House and enjoy extended hours in the Holiday Shop.



J. Powell Ogden will be at BAYarts to sign "The Guardian's Playlist"



"Beach Scene with Girlfriends" by Virginia (Ginny) Cascarilla

On Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 to 9 p.m., a group show featuring Freckle Face Jewelry, Lori Paximadis Jewelry, Susan Scaparotti Red i Jewelry, Jennifer Lee ceramic ornaments and Kimberly Johnson's Vintage Novella is a great way to find a last-minute gift you won't find in a mall! BAYarts' Holiday Shop hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thursday until 7 p.m.); Sunday noon to 5 p.m. ●

BAYarts receives grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

by Mary Conway Sullivan

On Nov. 19, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) announced grants to 175 arts and culture organizations in Cuyahoga County. The grant awards were approved by CAC's board of trustees after an in-depth application process, a review by a panel of independent arts and culture experts from outside Northeast Ohio and finally the allocation of funds by CAC trustees.

BAYarts will receive \$41,000 each year for two years. It is BAYarts' third CAC grant and will be used for general operating expenses including payroll,

facility upkeep and operations.

"This award is justification that BAYarts has become a Westside destination, catering to a diverse audience by providing quality art enrichment programs, gallery exhibitions and free community events," said Peter Winzig, BAYarts' board president. "This is encouragement to continue doing what we do, getting better and better each year."

The CAC is a dedicated source of public funds that supports creative activity in communities of Cuyahoga County. This year's grant focused on public benefit and financial stability. ●

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BAY VILLAGE BRANCH

Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by Joyce Sandy

The annual favorite and much acclaimed booklist "Great Books for Kids" has just arrived in our library. Filled with book selections divided by age, it contains summaries of titles for ages birth to 18 years, with additional selections for families and some examples of toys from the Toy Library.

Just in time for holiday shopping, the titles can serve as a guide when choosing books for certain ages. Visit the library to pick up the brochure, and check out the display of books that are included in the list. We'll be happy to request any titles that are checked out. Visit the website www.ccplgreatbooksforkids.org for more book suggestions. Please join us for the following programs:

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? The library's Science and Technology Specialist will illuminate the science behind the Mayan calendar, ancient astronomy, and doomsday predictions.

Saturday, Dec. 1 (11 a.m.) READING WITH THE STARS – Families with children ages 2–7 are

invited to get up close and personal with our local mail carrier. He will share a story, craft, and details about his job. You can even check out the mail truck up close!

Tuesday, Dec. 4 (10 a.m.) EXPLORATION STATION: SHARING AND CARING – For ages 3–5 and a caregiver. Join us for stories and activities about sharing with others. Children will be able to explore and practice social skills through play and hands-on learning stations.

Tuesday, Dec. 11 (4 p.m.) DECEMBER GAMES – For grades K–3. Enjoy a craft, games and activities that will get you in the mood for the holidays! Parents must sign a permission slip before the start of the program.

Thursday, Dec. 13 (7 p.m.) CLEVELAND CHRISTMAS MEMORIES – Join us as local foodie and poet Gail Bellamy reminisces and share holiday stories from her latest book, "Cleveland Christmas Memories." Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Please register for the programs by going online to cuyahogalibrary.org, calling 440-871-6392, or stopping in to visit. We look forward to seeing you! ◆

Reading with Bay's 'stars' series continues at the library



Carrie Singler, left, Bay Village schools music teacher, listens as one of her high school chamber orchestra musicians reads "Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin" with musical accompaniment during the Nov. 13 "Reading with the Stars" at the Bay Village Branch Library. The final program of the Fall 2012 series will be Saturday, Dec. 1, at 11 a.m. when a Bay Village mail carrier will visit the library with his mail truck. The mail carrier will read a story, talk about his job and give a tour of the truck. To register for the program, call the library at 440-871-6392 or online at www.cuyahogalibrary.org.

December games at Bay Village Library

by Sue Grame

Kids in kindergarten to grade 3: Are you ready to get in the holiday mood? Come join us on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. for an afternoon of great games, party prizes, a cute craft and tasty treats! The teen Round TABLE

group will host the program and the Friends of the Library are the sponsors. Parents/guardians, you'll need to sign permission forms when you bring your children. Registration is required. Please stop by in person, call 440-871-6392 or register online at www.cuyahogalibrary.org. Be ready for some fun! ◆

WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WUMC WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Bay United Methodist Church

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 A children's Christmas pageant.
7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
 Hymns, Special Music, Christmas Meditation and Candlelighting

29931 Lake Road
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www.bayumc.org

CHRISTMAS EVE
 Children's Service 4:30 pm
 Lessons and Carols Promise 6:00 pm
 Lessons and Carols Worship Team 8:00 pm
 Lessons and Carols Traditional 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
 Tuesday, December 25
 4:00 pm
 Intergenerational Service

NEW YEAR'S DAY
 Tuesday, January 1
 10:00 am
 Intergenerational Service

Bay Presbyterian Church
 25415 Lake Road, Bay Village
 440.871.3822 www.baypres.org

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 DECEMBER 9, 3:00 PM

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM: A LIVE NATIVITY
 DECEMBER 14 & 15, 6:30-8:30 PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS
 DECEMBER 21, 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
 CHRISTMAS EVE, 5:30 & 8:00 PM
 CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:30 AM

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Nov. 28, 3-6:30 p.m.

Gold Gals Fundraiser

Gold Gals is a locally owned business and a licensed precious metal dealer. Consider selling your unwanted (or broken) jewelry/flatware for the highest price guaranteed while helping the Dwyer Center raise funds (10% of the total) for senior programs. Call 440-899-3442 for an appointment/information or just drop in.
Dwyer Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane, Bay Village

Nov. 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Free Community Meal

Every community needs a time and place to come together. What better way to do this than with warm food around tables in friendship, laughter and connectedness. Please join us

Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bay Village Early Childhood PTA's Santa Shop

Bring your children to buy presents for family members, friends and teachers! Elves will be available to assist your child in picking out gifts, or you can walk with your child yourself. All gifts are under \$5 with free gift wrapping! Also visit our Sweet Shop for holiday bake sale items. Open to the public. Everyone is welcome!
Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.

Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.

The Shining Night

A sparkling evening of stunning choral music featuring Westlake High School Chorale and Singers Companye - Northeast Ohio's internationally acclaimed chamber choir. Tickets: Adults, \$7; students, \$5.
Westlake Performing Arts Center, 27830 Hilliard Blvd.

Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Santa Claus Bingo

Join the fun and be a part of Westlake Families Helping Westlake Families in Need. Cost is \$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. Receive a raffle ticket for a Christmas Goodies Basket drawing with each canned food do-

Dec. 2, noon-5 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 208 Christmas Tree Sale

We are selling 6 ft. and 7 ft. trees from \$35-45 to benefit our troop. For an extra \$5 we will deliver within a 5-mile radius of the church.
Dover Congregational Church, 2239 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

Dec. 2, 7:30-9 p.m.

Carols and Choruses of Christmas

Share an evening of holiday classics with the West Shore Chorale & Orchestra and Avon Lake High

School's acclaimed chamber chorus, the Merples. Seasonal music by Gabrieli, Praetorius, Vivaldi, Biebl and more. Also featuring antiphonal pieces for double chorus and an audience sing-a-long! A free reception will follow. Tickets \$15, students of all ages are free. Call 216-373-7773 or purchase tickets online at westshorechorale.org or at the door. Parking is free and handicap accessible.
Magnificat Performing Arts Center, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Dec. 3, 7:30-9 p.m.

Rocky River Chamber Music Society Concert

RRCMS continues its 54th season with a concert featuring Oberlin College's acclaimed 40-voice chorus, Collegium Musicum,

performing works of such 16th century masters as Monteverdi, Gombert and Gabrieli. No admission charge, all are welcome!
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Dec. 5, 7-8 p.m.

Prosperity Money Club: "Fighting Money Fears"

Monthly meeting, open to all, free of charge, facilitated by financial professional Jan Litterst. This Women's Institute of Financial Education program covers basic money topics in conversational, interactive style. For additional information or questions, please call Jan Litterst at 440-670-2252.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Bay landscape designer enlightens Girl Scouts with gardening tips

by Kendall Thomas, Junior Girl Scout Troop 77104

Have you ever seen a beautiful garden and thought, "I wish that was in my backyard"? If you said yes, it's easy to start your own garden. My Junior Girl Scout troop had a special visitor that taught us about gardening.

You might have seen her HUGE garden while driving down Lake Road in Bay Village. This amazing gardener is Julia Shutt. Julia started in advertising but her love of gardening made her switch careers. She is now a well-known landscape designer for Maple Leaf Landscaping Inc.

Julia created a PowerPoint presentation for us called "Are You a Gardening Girl?" It included some facts and tips about gardening. In her PowerPoint, Julia includes 10 reasons to garden:

1. Partner with nature.

2. Learn about flowers.

3. Become exterior designers. I liked that because she showed us a picture

Bay Village Girl Scout Troop 77104 with landscape designer Julia Shutt.

of a little fairy garden. The only way you could tell it was tiny was a part of a person's foot that was in the photo.

4. Grow organic. People should know that eating fresh, organic foods is better than getting food that had been sitting in the store for a long time. To be organic, you do not use chemicals.

5. Use sun power.

6. Reuse and recycle.

7. Notice how things grow.

8. Just be outdoors.

9. Get creative ideas like making art out of natural things.

10. Plant what's beautiful.

Between Julia's lesson and a Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Girl Scout class the next day, our troop earned a flower badge. Now, I know a lot about flowers that I didn't know before! ●

ONE SENIOR'S OPINION

Checking in from Fayetteville

by Dianne Borowski

Greetings from Fayetteville, North Carolina, the home of Fort Bragg, one of our country's largest military bases. I am spending Thanksgiving with family, getting to know our five-month-old granddaughter, Izzie. Weather here is terrific. I am so proud to walk among our military, at church, the store, McDonald's; you name it and they are there.

Fayetteville is also where they shot some of the scenes from the movie "Cape Fear," as the river runs through the city. I still remember Robert Mitchum in the first version of the movie. Scary!

Well that's enough of my life. Hope you and yours had a great Thanksgiving. There's still time to send Christmas greetings to those who serve in the military. Let them know how much they mean to us. ●

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Westlake students earn superior scores on Spanish tests

by Kim Bonvissuto

Sixty-six students from Cheryl Bendik's Spanish 3 honors classes at Westlake High School participated in the spring 2012 OSU Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP).

The tests show a student's projected placement into language courses at The Ohio State University. It compares Level 3 students from 51 high schools throughout Ohio who participated in the CAAP testing, along with OSU students in Level 1102 (third quarter) language classes.

The students were tested in

four skill categories: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The vast majority of Westlake students placed in OSU's level 3 classes and many placed in high level classes. The Westlake students were especially strong in the listening and reading categories.

"I am very proud of the hard work and determination our students display. The CAAP test is in line with the Ohio Department of Education's standards and this is a good indication of how the students might do on the AP test," Bendik said. "It also provides practice at Level 3 for the AP test that most will be taking in two years." ●

When the lights went out at Westerly

by Emily Frindt, third-grader at Westerly School

It was Monday, Nov. 12, at Westerly Elementary School, and we were just finishing recess. I was reading and I saw the lights flicker. I asked my friend if the lights had just blinked. The lights totally went out and the school went BLACK! The emergency lights came on in the hallway. Everyone screamed! My class went to a hallway with big windows on both sides. We wrote poems about the lights going out. Here is my poem:

In the Dark

By Emily Frindt

*Wind and rain, I hear loud BOOMS!
Suddenly it's dark in the room.
Screaming with excitement, shh quiet down!
Dancing like crazy, acting like clowns!
Really? At this time? I'm reading a book
Why don't you look at the pictures we took?
Not scary, it's fun, not boring!
If you look outside you'll see that it's pouring.*

After an hour, the lights came back on. The cool thing about poems is that they can be about anything and you can write them any way you want. Even in the DARK!

Emily Frindt writes her poem on the floor of the Westerly hallway when the school lost power Nov. 12.

Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

30 MINUTE EMERGENCY PLEDGE

Introducing St. John Medical Center's 30-Minute Emergency Pledge

When you're hurt, sick or just not feeling well, the last thing you want to do is wait in an emergency room. That's why St. John Medical Center has introduced the 30-Minute Emergency Pledge. When you arrive through our Emergency Department doors, you will be seen by a member of our caring team of ER physicians within 30 minutes.

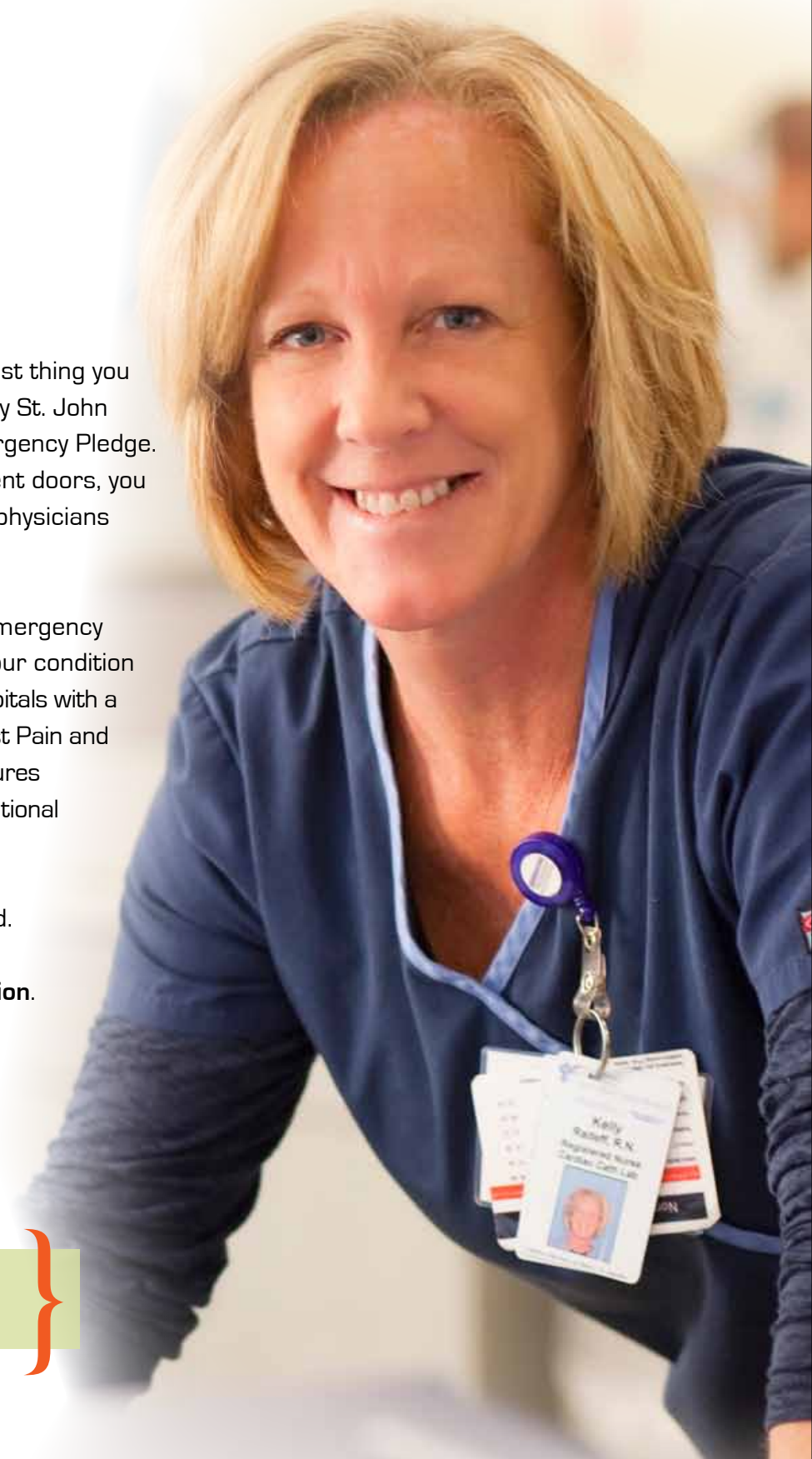
Their expertise is matched by our state-of-the-art Emergency Department, which helps our staff quickly assess your condition and respond appropriately. As one of Ohio's few hospitals with a Level III Trauma Center together with accredited Chest Pain and Primary Stroke Centers, St. John Medical Center assures that you will be treated in a timely manner following national standards, resulting in superior medical outcomes.

Emergency medicine is about skilled care and speed. At St. John Medical Center, we pledge to provide fast, efficient quality care...with **heart** and **compassion**.

All within 30 minutes.

This is our pledge to better serve you.

Kelly Radeff, RN
Emergency Department Nurse



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ST. JOHN MEDICAL CENTER
A CATHOLIC HOSPITAL



University Hospitals



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