

## Administrators present state of Bay schools



Superintendent Clint Keener talks about the new Ohio Report Card grading system during the Bay school district's annual presentation on Oct. 29.

by TARA WENDELL

Administrators from the Bay Village City School District gave their annual State of the Schools presentation to the Bay Village Kiwanis and members of the community on Oct. 29. Much of the focus this year was on the

new statewide standards and the district's curriculum adaptations, where emphasis is placed on students' comprehensive understanding of concepts and integration of skills across subjects. The district has carefully managed the 2012 bond revenue, aiming to extend the life of the levy beyond the tradition-

al three to four years, with three bid packages completed under budget, even with upgrades to the original bids. Necessary infrastructure and technology upgrades have been performed or are nearing completion, with two more rounds in the planning stages.

» See BAY SCHOOLS page 4

## An 11-year-old's birthday wish to show kindness to others

by HOLLY SANCHEZ

“Let's do random acts of kindness for my birthday party this year!” said, Jules, our eleven-year-old daughter, who immediately began to jot down ideas. I could hardly contain my pride!

So, on an October Saturday in Bay, we filled the neighbor's van with Jules and her friends – Halle, Anna, Lilly, Kate, Kayla, Steffi and Grace – and set off on our journey. First stop: deliver pizza and muffins to Bay's police and fire stations (the girls even got a sneak peek of the new fire truck!).

Next, bring homemade vases with uplifting notes to The Village Project, a group that provides meals to area cancer patients (the girls were able to put their hand prints on the new facility's wall, thanks to Executive Director, Barb Harrell). Now, off to pass out roses to residents at Westlake Village nursing home (lots of multi-generational smiles at that stop!).

» See KINDNESS page 8



Jules Sanchez, center, and her friends hid containers of chalk and bubbles in the Play in Bay playground as part of a “random acts of kindness” themed birthday party.

### SENIOR LIVING

## Not just any walk

by JOYCE ABLE SCHROTH

What is 26.21875 miles and has 15 participants? Before anyone thinks this is a trick question on a math test or a knock-knock joke, know that it is just one of the many fun activities in the community services dept.'s “Fifty Plus” programs at the Westlake Center.

Known as a Golden Marathon, 15 participants over the age of 50 participated. This is the seventh marathon in as many years through the Center with walkers committed to trails and parkways twice a month for six to seven months in order to complete the 26-mile, 385-yard walk.

The walks spanned a two-county area, predetermined by the activity staff, with the theme “Build A Better You.” To accompa-

ny the theme a large paper sandwich would be built on the 12-foot bulletin board at the Center. Each month ingredients could be added as stretches of the marathon were completed, beginning and ending with a plain bun but in between the walkers would add condiments and proteins.

The marathon was completed earlier this month and all walkers celebrated with bagels, breakfast casseroles, fruit, etc., provided by Bruegger's at Westlake's Promenade and Manor Care North Olmsted.

As a special bonus for those completing the marathon, a certificate for a breakfast sandwich (appropriate for the theme) from Bruegger's was awarded by their associate field marketing manager, Tim Chesney.

» See MARATHON page 2

## Honoring our veteran ancestors

by JAYNE BROESTL

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will meet at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road, to honor veteran ancestors.

Jon B. Silvis, Past Department Commander (Ohio) Sons of Union Veterans and organizer and past Camp Commander of James A. Garfield Camp #142, will be the guest speaker. (Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War is a lineage society created by the Grand Army of the Republic in 1881.)

Mr. Silvis is a trustee of Cleveland's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and an active volunteer at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky.

Jon has had a lifelong interest in history, particularly the American Civil



War. He has 11 ancestors that served in the Union forces, most notably the Gessner family, who sent five sons to serve from the Dover/Olmsted area.

He is also related to the Wershing family of North Olmsted. Jon will share how he traced his American Civil War ancestors and how he chose to honor them.

The public is invited, at no cost. Social time, with refreshments, is from 6:30-7 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.

For additional information, email [cuyahogawest@gmail.com](mailto:cuyahogawest@gmail.com) or visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs). ♦





# FEATURED STUDENT: Claire Mercer

Featuring some of our communities' great high school students.

by KAREN DERBY

Bay High junior Claire Mercer agreed to embark upon a significant challenge when she was elected Ohio Key Club's Division 14 Lieutenant Governor for this school year.

"I'll be visiting nine Key Club schools in our division this year," Claire said. "My job is to encourage all of them to be active Key Clubs and to keep them informed of events going on with local and state Kiwanis and Key Club organizations."

She will also try to attend as many service project activities as possible for the division high schools, which include Bay Village, Fairview, Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Ridgeville, Olmsted Falls, Rocky River, St. Joseph's and Westlake. While she will do a lot of physical traveling, Claire also plans to enlist her skills with social media and texting to help her maintain strong communication throughout her district.

In addition to her role as Lieutenant Governor, Claire is active in the Ohio Key Club State Conference, is the division-to-division Forums Coordinator, and heads up the state organiza-

tion's Family Relations Committee.

At Bay High, she is a member of the National Honor Society and plays clarinet in both the Bay High Symphony Orchestra and the Bay High Marching Band. This year, Claire was named an AP Scholar, and she has also received the Jefferson Award, a national service award.

Claire enjoys drawing and painting. Her favorite activities are board games, card games, watching movies and attending bonfires with friends. She traveled to Montreal, Canada, with her parents, Carolyn and Jeff, this summer, and she enjoyed a trip in July to Washington, D.C., to attend the Key Club International Convention.

In spite of her heavy schedule with school and Key Club, Claire holds a part-time job with Jimmie John's Gourmet Sandwiches in Westlake. She is not yet sure what her major in college will be, but she enjoys the study of science, and one of her favorite subjects is biology. She recently participated in an informational website video with Bay Village Board of Education member Mike Caputo and Superintendent Clint Keener on Community Partnerships, addressing the good things that Bay High Key Club does for the local and extended community.



Bay High junior Claire Mercer

Her Key Club advisor, Bay High teacher Anita Bauknecht, felt that Claire would make an excellent "spotlight" subject.

"It has been such a pleasure to watch her come into Key Club her freshmen year, find meaning in serving others, display quality character, and grow in her leadership skills to become the poised, confident, and skilled leader she is today," Bauknecht said. "We could not more proud of Claire as she represents Bay High and the State of Ohio in her Key Club Lieutenant Governor role. We look forward to what the future holds for Claire as she continues to make a positive impact on those around her." •

## MARATHON *continued from front page*

Many of the marathoners are part of the Center's Walking Group – a year-round assembly of patrons who walk twice each week; this activity has been in existence for well over 20 years. A number of the marathoners continued their healthy activities during this same time by participating in the summer National Senior Games.

In past years the themes have included (virtual) walking of the Underground Railroad, the Lincoln Highway, and Ohio and Westlake Bicentennial sites. Although not decided, the theme for the 2014 marathon could well center around the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner," building the song with musical notes or perhaps even a banner with stars. Complete information will be available on the city's website, [www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org), in late April for the 2014 marathon beginning in mid-May. •



Rich and Maria Finchum receive sandwich certificates for their marathon from Tim Chesney of Bruegger's at the Promenade.

PHOTO BY JOYCE ABLE SCHROTH

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

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  - Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes in size.
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Letters to the editor (max. 300 words) may be sent to [tara@wbvobserver.com](mailto:tara@wbvobserver.com). Please include full contact information.

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# Local Girl Scouts go global

by KATIE ROUTHIER

When I joined Girl Scouts as a shy kindergartner, I didn't realize the amazing opportunities this organization would provide. Ten years later, I found the GSNEO (Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio) international travel group. I learned that they were headed to China, a country that has fascinated me since the fourth grade.

On June 17, 2013, after two years of fundraising, we boarded a plane that flew us over the North Pole. We hit the ground running for 10 days of sight-seeing in four different cities: Beijing (Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, The Great Wall), Xi'an (Terra Cotta Warriors, Wild Goose Pagoda), Shanghai (World Financial Center, Jade Buddha Temple) and Hong Kong (Lantau Island Buddha, Victoria Harbour). It was humbling to stand on the Great Wall, snapping perfect photos from every angle. I was awestruck at the sight of some of the 8,000 life-sized terra cotta warriors, built as funeral art for an emperor in 210 B.C.

This trip was more than just the sights. Each day brought new surprises. There was a dinner prepared by a family in the Hutong (Beijing's old neighborhood), stretching cocoons during a silk factory tour, calligraphy classes in an art museum, dinner theater, traditional tea

tasting ceremony, an acrobatics show, meeting Chinese students, a "master" tai chi session, swimming in the South China Sea, playing "hacky sack" with a few of the hundreds of elderly residents in a local park, and more.

In addition, we marveled at our modes of transportation, which included a tram, dragon boat, double-decker bus, sampan (tour of "boat people" village), bike and rickshaw.

While some people might worry about the cultural differences or language barrier associated with travel to China, I found that they greatly contributed to my experiences. Learning a few basic words and phrases before we left did help, but smiling and "charades" are ultimately universal.

Western influence was definitely present. If you really wanted a 7-11, McDonald's or KFC, you could find it. There were even seven Starbucks in the Hong Kong airport. Interestingly, the menus at them varied significantly and were more expensive than local cuisine (red bean and green tea frappes were popular at Starbucks). I remain thankful that most of us chose to eat as the locals did.

One experience I couldn't anticipate was being a "model." While we were tour-

ing some of China's largest cities, so too were Chinese people from remote villages, who had never seen "Westerners" before. Because of this, they were truly fascinated with us. Ultimately, we all had our pictures taken hundreds of times. If we were composing a group shot, we knew the locals would "photo bomb" us by jumping in at the last minute! We just went with it, smiled and chalked it up to the experience.

Early on, we learned that no question was off limits for our knowledgeable tour guides, from the "one child policy" to cultural superstitions. In return for this sharing, we asked one tour guide if he had questions about America. After careful

thought, what he wanted to know was why we would let a 16-year-old drive our cars!

I remain thankful for the experience. I couldn't have asked for better peers/roommates. I am also glad that my mother was able to join me on the trip. My last name (loosely translated) means "traveler." I am grateful for the opportunity to live up to my name on this trip and a prior one to New Zealand and Australia in 2011. Hopefully, I can inspire other girls in the area to look into this amazing Girl Scout pathway. ●

*Katie is a senior at Westlake High School. She has received her Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – the highest available to Girl Scouts.*

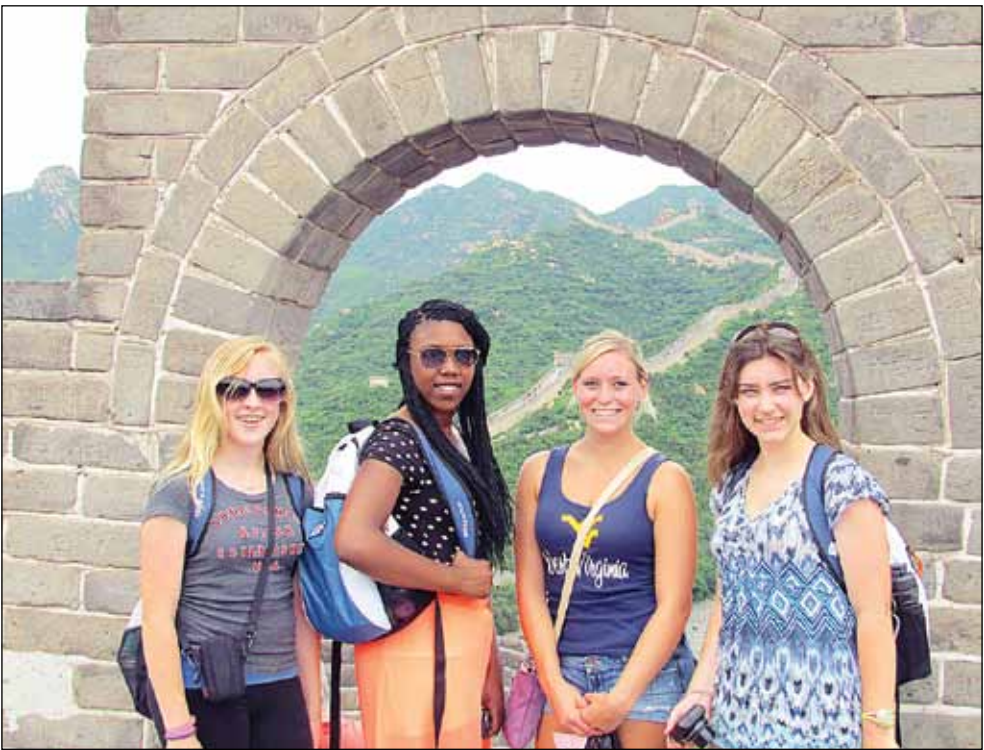


PHOTO BY JUDY ROUTHIER

Lara Cox of Solon, De'Auntranay Nunn of Cleveland and Erin Thomas and Katie Routhier of Westlake visited the Great Wall during their summer trip to China.

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## BAY SCHOOLS

from front page

A video of the entire State of the Schools presentation is available on the Bay Village Schools website at [bayvillageschools.com/stateof-schools](http://bayvillageschools.com/stateof-schools). More detailed information about the topics discussed can be found on the webpages listed in each section below.

### BOND ISSUE WORK

*"How do you maximize the bond issue dollars? Common sense really comes into play."*

– Daryl Stumph, assistant superintendent of operations

Bay Schools budgets \$350,000-\$500,000 each year for capital improvements, out of a budget from the operating levy that voters passed in November 2010. To stretch those funds as far as possible, the district takes advantage of "state term" (cooperative) purchasing; looks for high quality products with long warranties; forecasts life-cycle costs, including maintenance, repairs and efficiency; and repurposes or sells obsolete equipment.

Work is 90 percent complete, and on budget, for the first three bid packages of the bond work: heating, exterior and electrical. High-efficiency boilers were installed at Glenview, Normandy, Westerly and the high school. Masonry repairs were performed at Glenview and the K.T. Allen Board of Education building and Bay High's windows were replaced. Electricity panels were replaced at Normandy, Glenview and Bay High – which also received a new, higher-capacity generator so the school can be utilized as a community shelter in the event of power outages.

Future bid projects include electrical upgrades at Westerly and flooring upgrades, air conditioning and classroom renovations at the high school.

More information: [bayvillageschools.com/bondissue](http://bayvillageschools.com/bondissue)

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

*"We are embracing the report card as a new form of information to help us set new goals and set new standards and to benchmark new levels that we want to get at. And hopefully, if we do that, then all the students will be doing better and have better opportunities."*

– Clint Keener, superintendent

All schools in the state will be eval-



Daryl Stumph, assistant superintendent of operations



Clint Keener, superintendent



Char Shryock, director of curriculum



Deborah Putnam, treasurer

PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL

uated using a revamped Ohio Report Card, which assigns a letter grade to represent each district's progress. A "C" grade indicates that expectations are met; for school systems like Bay which are already performing at a top level, the significant level of growth required to earn a "B" or "A" grade will be difficult to achieve. One example offered was Bay students' participation in Advanced Placement courses. Statewide, 60 percent of students score a 3 or higher on AP tests; in Bay Village, that number approaches 83 percent.

The state of Ohio will be instituting new standardized tests next year with higher cut scores, meaning that scores will be lower across the board. When similar tests were rolled out in Kentucky recently, the passage rate dropped by 30 percent. Bay school administrators expect student performance to be on par

with surrounding districts, despite the lower scores, until adjustments are made. More information: [bayvillageschools.com/achievement](http://bayvillageschools.com/achievement)

### CURRICULUM

*"We have a focused set of standards that give [students] the opportunity to really work on mastery of that standard, not just memorizing and moving on ... It also allows our students to make connections from kindergarten all the way through their senior year and into college so that they can build a set of skills and knowledge that they will need to be successful in whatever they choose to do once they leave Bay High School, whether it's go to college or take on a military career or go into a vocational path."*

– Char Shryock, director of curriculum

Ohio is shifting to new learning standards to ensure consistency across the state. The challenge for each district is

how it creates curriculum to achieve those standards. BayVillage schools are adopting a more comprehensive teaching approach that blends content mastery with analytical skills using technology, cooperative learning and real world tasks.

State standardized tests are now computer-based and interactive, requiring schools to be technologically up to date. Bay is using its money from the state's casino fund in two ways: to install a computer lab at Normandy and purchase additional laptops for Westerly; and to offer "innovator grants" to teachers who come up with different ways of using technology.

More information: [bayvillageschools.com/curriculum](http://bayvillageschools.com/curriculum)

### FINANCES

*"I'm projecting that our revenue and our expenditures are pretty much going to be equal this year, we're not going to deficit spend and, as a result of that, we look like we're going to have a reserve and that reserve's going to carry out at least until 2017."*

– Deborah Putnam, treasurer

The Bay Village school district is still in good financial shape from the 2010 levy. The reserve fund is projected to be around \$8 million dollars at the end of this school year, and will help carry the district through the next four years.

The majority of revenue – 85 percent – comes from local property taxes. Fourteen percent comes from the state, with the remaining one percent attributed to state casino funds, facility rentals, all-day kindergarten tuition and a small amount of federal funding.

Expenditures increase an average of 3 percent a year, fueled by rising utility rates, healthcare costs and equipment expenses.

Revenue has exceeded expenditures the past three years; that equation will shift beginning next year, according to the conservative five-year forecast.

More information: [bayvillageschools.com/forecast](http://bayvillageschools.com/forecast); [bayvillageschools.com/budget](http://bayvillageschools.com/budget) ●

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**THE DIGITAL WORLD**

# The weather forecast calls for ‘the cloud’

by TAK SATO

While writing this article I became curious about the etymology of the term “buzzword.” I conducted my research at 2 a.m., hopelessly jet-lagged from having traveled halfway around the world, and in my jammies (but no pink bunny slippers, I swear). All possible because of the “cloud.”

Cloud is the latest buzzword that is rooted in the digital world, heavily marketed to both individuals and businesses alike. There’s nothing new here to intimidate you and chances are good that you have been using the cloud all along. Just like the buzzword “information superhighway,” coined by former Vice President Al Gore, cloud doesn’t represent anything new but it is actually a marketing rehash of the disruptive innovation that we know of as the internet.

Do you have an email address? Pay your bills online? Store your pictures online? Or read your Westlake | Bay Village Observer on your tablet? These are some of the things you can do while connected to the cloud, offering you tangible benefits such as saving money and intangible benefits like saving time. Internet-based services are in every nook and cranny of our lives and these cloud-based services are not going away.

I was testing you on that last sentence, using the phrases “internet-based services” and “cloud-based services” simultaneously to see if you were paying attention that they are synonymous. Another use of this buzzword is to add the phrase “in the cloud,” as in “storing your data in the cloud,” which is again synonymous to saying storing your

data on the internet.

But what’s the catch? For one, privacy and security are hotly debated. For example after backing up your data to an external hard drive (which I discussed in the last issue), you can also back up to the cloud. When doing so I consider it prudent to ask the following question: Would you cry if the data is stolen from your storage locker in the cloud?

Although there are services that enable you to scramble (geek talk: encrypt) your data before it leaves your computer, without such functionality or without knowing how to scramble it yourself, it only takes one bad apple to rifle through your contents.

Data theft also happens through outsider intrusions as witnessed by the current media feeding frenzy on break-in news.

The analogy is that these storage services in the cloud are like apartments where landlords have the master key to all units. I remember keeping my passport and other valuables in a portable safe and hidden away. The bottom line is that you would want to be selective of what you store in the cloud.

When your know-it-all-friend talks about using the cloud, you can nonchalantly inform your friend that you’ve been using the cloud since the new millennium. The truth is, probably you have – because the cloud equals the internet. I just submitted this article from Japan through the cloud!

Next issue’s topic: “Family connectedness in the digital world” ●

*Tak welcomes reader feedback and technology questions. You may send them to editor@wbvobserver.com.*

# Bay residents have until Nov. 18 to switch electric supplier

by PAT MCGANNON

In May 2010, Bay voters approved a citywide aggregation program to contract with FirstEnergy Solutions for electric generation. The three-year term of the original contract expires in January 2014, and has been renewed for another three years. Residents may opt out of the aggregate until Nov. 18, 2013, and select their own electric generation provider.

If you wish to opt out of the Bay Village Government Electric Aggregate, negotiated for you by the city, you must return the opt-out form that was mailed to your house. If you do not respond by Nov. 18, you will automatically be signed up for a new three-year contract, ending January 2017, with FirstEnergy Solutions as your home’s electricity generation source.

Ohio’s electricity market is deregulated and, therefore, allows residents to choose their generation source. No matter who you choose to generate your power, FirstEnergy Corp’s Illuminating Company will continue to be responsible for delivering the power to your home and for billing your household.

Changing your supplier will not result in any disruption in service or disruption in existing auto-pay on your Illuminating Company bill. If you opt out of the aggregate, you will be free to choose your own supplier when your existing contract ends. Most Bay residents are currently part of the Bay Village Government Aggregate from First Energy Solutions, unless you opted out before the start of the contract. You can call

your current energy supplier’s customer service number to verify. That number is listed on your Illuminating Company bill.

If you opt out of the next three-year Bay Village Aggregate by Nov. 18, you can choose a much more sustainable generation source that is currently less expensive per kWh than the Bay Village Aggregate plan.

The sustainable plan is a 100 percent wind power plan, listed on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio’s (PUCO) website as “AEP Energy, 100% Wind Product.” The PUCO site lists all supplier options, including AEP 100% Wind. Visit [puco.ohio.gov](http://puco.ohio.gov), click on the Apples to Apples link and select First Energy to see rate plan comparisons and links to sign up for each. The government aggregate is not listed, only individual plans, so have your most recent electric bill handy to compare rates with the aggregate plan.

Changing plans only takes a few minutes online. Be sure that any existing contract that you may be part of has expired before signing up for a new plan or you may be hit with an early termination fee.

If you choose to switch to AEP 100% Wind, please enter referral code “peF81cl2” in the profile page to support the Bay Village Green Team’s efforts to make our city more sustainable.

If you don’t opt out of the Bay Village Government Electric Aggregate by Nov. 18, you can still change your generation source during the three-year contract, it will just result in a \$25 early termination fee from FirstEnergy Solutions. ●

**READER’S OPINION**

# I was proud to serve as a poll worker

by ERIC EAKIN

For the first time last Election Day I served as a poll worker, and, let me tell you, it was an honor and privilege to be a part of such a special event.

At the urging of my wife, who has served as a poll worker for a number of years and who always came home with some amazing stories and a glow of service about her, I took the four-hour course to qualify as a poll worker.

I met with my compatriots the night before the election to set up the polls, which took about 90 minutes. Election Day morning you show up at 5:30 a.m. to turn on the machines and get everything ready for a long, and sometimes hectic, day.

The doors officially open at 6:30 a.m., and the work begins. A steady stream of voters came throughout the day, and there was never a moment when there was not something to be done. The hours fairly flew by.

Citizens take their right to vote very seriously, and they should.

Tens of thousands of lives have been sacrificed so that we can enjoy this privilege. Many voters came armed with notes or newspaper clippings or endorsement sheets. All came with a sense of purpose and pride.

As the day progressed, I got the sense that many older Americans make sure they come out and vote. Why? Do they have a stronger sense of citizenship and civic responsibility than younger people? Do younger citizens vote via absentee ballot more than older folks? Does the future of their ward, city, state and country matter more to older folks than younger? Have younger voters been made cynical and disenfranchised by the years of deepening political divide? I sure hope not.

I bet many of these older folks have not missed voting in 35 years. Only time will tell if the younger generation has the same sense of purpose and determination.

Everyone, young and old, who came to the polls made a conscientious decision to take time out from

their busy schedules to devote 15 minutes to voice their opinion on the direction and future of our great republic. They “get it.” They know that voting is a privilege. They take this privilege seriously; it shows on their faces and in their stride.

It took about 90 minutes after the polls ended to close the machines, count the unused ballots and justify the books. When I tried to open the outside door to go home it was blocked by a group of citizens who had driven to the polls, aimed their car headlights at the door and were reading the tiny computer printouts of voting totals we are required to post on the door. They take voting seriously, and they should, and I am heartened at their interest and participation.

In a few weeks I will get a check for my hours of service as a poll worker (all in all, the job pays a little more than minimum wage), but the money is a distant second to the civic pride I felt, and will continue to feel, for being part of such a great and glorious thing, Election Day. ●

**POETRY**

# The Mighty Mayflower

by DIANNE BOROWSKI

Over stormy seas  
The mighty ship struggled  
To stay afloat.  
It was a seaworthy boat.

Against raging winds  
Thunderous waves, sleet and rain  
The stalwart vessel  
Pitched and groaned  
over and over again.

The overburdened ship  
Nearly went under  
Leaving passengers and  
Crew to wonder.

Would they make it  
To shore or capsize  
And drown  
Their search for religious freedom  
Never to be found.

The sturdy Mayflower  
Finally landed amid cheers  
The Pilgrims found hope  
As they cried happy tears.

SPORTING VIEWS

# Big Show = Big Mess

by JEFF BING

Anyone out there remember a few years back the hoopla which accompanied the news that Randy Lerner had persuaded Mike Holmgren to come to Cleveland and rescue the Browns from the NFL gutter, also known as football oblivion? Remember how many of us took to dancing in the streets in celebration? (Yes, I was the one doing the Hokey Pokey).

Can't you just picture Randy with his pals in the sauna, between bites of caviar, saying something to the effect of, "Yeah, and I only had to lay out \$40 million clams to get him!" and the reaction of the others was something like, "Wow! Only 40 mil? You really saw *him* coming, didn't you?" followed by a bunch of congratulatory high-fives amongst themselves?

No harm in that, really, assuming no one lost the grip of their towels during the high-fiving process. I bring this up only because the recent (latest) failure of Brandon Weeden as Browns quarterback seems to pretty much sum up Holmgren's contributions as Browns General Manager from 2010-2012. Whenever anyone wonders why the Browns have had such a difficult time dragging themselves out of the NFL's basement, *one* person comes to mind as the poster boy for ALL sports failure in Cleveland:

The Big Show, as Holmgren is often referred to, hereafter referred to as simply "B.S." Hang on, that sounds rather inflammatory, doesn't it? I'll try to

find something a little more politically correct as we continue on here.

Anyway, it was only 18 months ago the Browns traded up to get running back Trent Richardson with the No. 3 pick in the 2012 NFL draft, and selected quarterback Brandon Weeden with the No. 22 selection. Yes, the same Trent Richardson whom we shipped to Indianapolis earlier this year, and the same Brandon Weeden whose only claim to fame so far in 2013 has been his ability to lose his starting job *twice* in less than half a season. And if you should care to hazard a guess, dear reader, as to who might have been the driving force behind those two really nifty draft picks, who might you suppose said perpetrator to be?

Yep, you guessed it: Big Mike, as Holmgren is periodically referred to (by me), hereafter referred to as simply, "B.M." Much more fitting, wouldn't you say? Hard to believe the guy who brought you Jake Delhomme and Seneca Wallace could screw up *that* badly, isn't it?

Imagine that: Forty *million* dollars to take a bad franchise (5-11 before he arrived) and make it even *worse*: 14-34 with B.M. in charge. Heck, I would have offered to screw up the Browns for far less than 40 million bucks -- I'd probably have done it for half that! (And, if anyone's interested, I *am* available).

When you think about it, B.M. or B.S., I guess it doesn't really matter, does it? It's pretty much one and the same, no matter the source.

Because, regardless of whichever one you choose, at the end of the day, it's still gonna *stink*. ●

# Crank it up for Thanksgiving

by JANE BLACKIE

Inflate your tires, lube your chain and get ready for "Cranksgiving," Saturday, Nov. 23, when the Village Bicycle Cooperative partners with Bike Cleveland and Pedal for Prizes to raise \$2,000 to provide meals to disadvantaged families in Cleveland during the Thanksgiving season. Cranksgiving is a combination bike ride, food drive and scavenger hunt. There are two ways you can get involved.

The most fun option is to be a part of the Cranksgiving Ride. Bring a bike, a bag (for groceries), a lock, and about \$15-\$20 to buy food and join other VBC members at the Co-op on the ground floor of the Bay Community House, 303 Cahoon Road (time TBA, check the VBC website at [www.villagebicycle.org](http://www.villagebicycle.org) for updates).

From there, ride to West Park Sta-

tion, 17015 Lorain Ave., where you'll join riders from around Cleveland to grab a manifest, figure out the best route to grocery stores of your choice and start riding to buy food. All food will be donated to the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland to help feed the needy during the holiday season. The event is free and open to anyone with a bike of any kind.

If you can't ride that day, drop off a non-perishable food item at VBC any Tuesday between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. or Saturday between noon and 2 p.m. to donate to the cause.

Be a part of the Village Bicycle Cooperative's first venture into this national event that began in New York City in 1999 and has spread to more than two dozen cities across North America. Visit [bikecleveland.org/cranksgiving](http://bikecleveland.org/cranksgiving) for more information. ●

# Compeer shares fun and games with Westlake seniors

by DENISE AYRES

Dorothy's face lit up with a big smile when she realized she had won the game taught by her Compeer friend, Holly. Dorothy is a member of the Residents' Club at the Gardens of Westlake senior living facility on Detroit Road.

"Compeer Together Volunteers," a supported volunteering group of Compeer at Far West Center, visited the Residents' Club one recent evening and brought along some games to share with seniors. All members of the Residents' Club gave Compeer volunteers a warm welcome, and like Dorothy, happily engaged in conversation and games. When our social evening ended all agreed that we would meet again in December.

The Compeer Program at Far West Center is a nonprofit affiliate of Compeer Inc., assisting adults in recovery from mental illness to avoid isolation, strengthen social networks, and connect with their communities. "Compeer Together Volunteers" began in February 2013 when we received our first opportunity from the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve on Dover Center Road in Westlake.

Compeer staff recognized that a number of members wanted to try volunteering but the anxiety they experienced held them back from doing this alone. Earlier this year, I met with Christine Saner, Director of Life Enrichment for the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve, to discuss how the compassion demonstrated by adults in recovery could help senior residents.

"Game Night" started in February and it was apparent it was a perfect matching of people that love an oppor-

tunity to socialize and have fun. Compeer members and volunteers have met together at the Lutheran Home monthly on Wednesday evenings to play games and laugh along with senior friends. Our new friends at the Lutheran Home like Bill, Nita, Frank and Jeanette, keep us challenged to find more words for Scrabble.

In October Barb Bartlome, Outreach Coordinator at Gardens at Westlake, reached out and invited Compeer staff to meet and discuss how Compeer may be able to connect with senior residents. It was decided that a Game Night with Compeer Together Volunteers was an idea well worth trying. On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Compeer's supported volunteering group made a visit to the Residents' Club directed by Activity Director Linda Burgess. Conversation was easy and games were shared along with smiles and laughter.

These opportunities demonstrate how people managing mental illness can recover and do want to take positive roles in their communities. In the Compeer Program there are many adults in recovery from mental illness that either have experience as caregivers, in home or professionally, or are looking to find opportunities to help others. Individuals managing mental illness have experienced firsthand how patience and compassion are positive factors essential to decreasing depression. The majority of people on their recovery path share this one characteristic – empathy.

Compeer can always use more adult volunteers to help us give support and encouragement to adults who manage a mental illness. Please call 440-835-6212, ext. 242, to become part of the rewarding program. ●

HUMOR

# Halloween Fun

by BRUCE LEIGH

Hundreds of children arrived the day before Halloween. The Knickerbocker Senior Center is a safe, fun place to go trick-or-treating on Beggar's Night.

Seniors were in the main hallway, the game room and any other spot the children and adults could pass easily. The little muppets dressed in all types of costumes. The children were very polite and said thank you with very soft, cute voices. You should have seen the smiles on their parents' faces. Wow, it was great.

The goblins could not eat the candy right away because most of them had masks on, the candy was wrapped, the bags were large and had two handles to hold on to and they couldn't put the candy in their mouth at the same time. The line of tots moved right along.

One of the rooms was like a witches' coven. Most of the seniors there had on witches' hats with veils that covered their faces. The kids were moving from one witch to another. It was scary, even for

me. The witches' howling and hissing was surreal. Then the little goblins began howling as well. The adults got quiet after awhile. The old folks got dry throat and that was that.

Years ago most of the costumes were homemade, mostly bums and tramps. Now the outfits are store bought. The most popular seemed to be TV characters and were really cute. There were ninja warriors, small animals, dancing figures, robots, military in uniforms and little babies in costumes in strollers. The children really dressed up nicely for the event.

The main room featured a balloon maker to entertain the kids. There was cotton candy on cardboard cones and a bunch of other goodies. The big event of the evening was, sounds of trumpets please, the great pumpkin drop. There were several pumpkins which were dropped from the eighth floor to the courtyard below.

The Bay Village police lit up the entire courtyard. What a show. When the pumpkins hit the ground there was a big splat! The noise was yucky. Everyone cheered and then disappeared before the clean-up began. The evening was fun for everyone, from the very young to the more mature witches and goblins. ●



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## HUMOR

# Why wait? Winterize!

by KATHY LUENGO

Delivering little more than frost on the pumpkins, October's first Alberta Clipper was kind to West Shore residents but reminds those who haven't finished winter preparations to act now.

The first chill of arctic air triggers a flurry of activity to ensure that snow throwers and furnaces operate correctly and chimneys are cleaned and inspected. Leaves are collected, lawns aerated and fertilized, spring bulbs planted and shrubs pruned.

Hunkering down for blustery, cold weather involves winterizing yard equipment, cars, boats, RVs and motorcycles. Some homeowners caulk foundations, upgrade insulation, and fix or replace weather stripping, gutters and roofs. Others may purchase doors, windows and siding for added comfort and energy savings.

This time of year finds most Northeast Ohioans pulling heavier seasonal clothing out of storage. The same goes for winter comforters, blankets, comfy throws and fuzzy slippers.

In this regard, purists are properly prepared with fresh outerwear dry-cleaned last spring while perennial procrastinators' coats and jackets spent summer stashed in the front closet or elsewhere.

Procrastinators rationalize that cleaning anything other than the most salt-encrusted outerwear can be postponed. Like reaping the autumn harvest, winter wraps are ripe for the picking, from the pockets, that is.

Consider when the car key thought to be lost for good and replaced for \$100 and up (if part of a keyless entry system), suddenly surfaces. How could that be? Each pocket was inspected multiple times. It is as explicable as socks disappearing from the wash. *Profound mysteries of the universe have yet to be solved.*

Conversely, a few rolled-up dollars, a \$5, \$10 or \$20 bill or any combination thereof, is money found and enables one to spend or splurge as befits the booty.

Running late to a meeting after

lunching on a tuna melt with too many onions? That now sticky but ever-so edible restaurant peppermint is like a gift from above.

However, encountering the pulverized pack of saltines intended to pick up the slack when there was no time for breakfast is simply the pits. Even worse is when the packet's pocket space was shared with a pen, pencil or car key (particularly non-keyless entry) and pierced, surprising one with a sudden shower of cracker dust and coarse crumbs. Where's that coupon for the cleaners? It's in the other pocket, long expired.

Finding a ticket stub from a great performance may elicit fond memories, but if the evening didn't go well, it becomes a sore reminder. A three-year-old ticket stub is guaranteed to raise eyebrows and may represent owning a few too many topcoats.

Coming across a scrap of paper with a phone number without a name may give rise to spending the rest of the winter



PHOTO BY KATHY LUENGO

**It won't be long until the colorful fall landscape gives way to shimmering snow. The time to prepare for winter is now!**

wondering to whom it belongs!

The purists avoid such surprises by cleaning their garments in spring – or do they? Why not ask the dry cleaner on your upcoming visit about some of their better finds? It could make for some interesting conversation! ●

## KINDNESS

from front page

Then on to ALDI supermarket to put quarters in their rental carts and give one of the employees, who's a new mom, two movie tickets for a well-deserved night out. Time to go to Play-in-Bay, where the girls strategically hid containers of chalk and bubbles throughout the playground (and of course, got to play), all while passing out helium balloons to random kids along the way.

We then went to the laundromat to secretly leave detergent, dryer sheets and a bag of quarters. Next, drop off a cake to our parish priests at St. Raphael's, and then post a "take a smile" sign on the Walgreen's bulletin board with smiley tabs for those in need of one.

Lastly, the girls wrote inspirational messages on

the sidewalks and threw some pennies near their message to "make a wish." As a bonus, the girls donated 36 books, 11 board games and two puzzles to a children's shelter from their own collection.

In just under three hours, we were back home. With smiles on their faces and love in their hearts, the girls proved



that kindness makes every day more beautiful. Those 11 acts may have been brief, but the feelings remained. No pre-made goodie bag would have been large enough to fit the love that was given and

received that afternoon.

In sharing Jules' story, I am hopeful that others will be inspired by her kindness, just as I was. Kindness, in any form, and at any age, makes a difference. ●



PHOTOS BY HOLLY SANCHEZ

**Jules Sanchez and her friends practiced random acts of kindness in the community, including bringing a cake to Father Al from St. Raphael's.** To view more photos of the girls' day of random acts of kindness, view this story online at [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com).

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## Bay High grad honored for soccer play at Tri-C

by JOHN HORTON

Bay High School graduate Adam Tepper earned second-team all-conference honors this fall while playing soccer for the Cuyahoga Community College Challengers. The Ohio Community College Athletic Conference recently recognized Tepper for his performance during his first season with Tri-C, where he played midfielder. He was one of four Challengers to receive post-season awards from the conference. The team ended the season with a 1-18 record.



PHOTO COURTESY CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE





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## GREEN SCENE



PHOTO BY BRENDA O'REILLY

This litter was picked up a few days ago within the first minute of walking on Huntington Beach. As much as 70 percent of the pollution in our waterways comes from local residents.

## Why you should care about storm water runoff

*The Observer is excited to introduce our newest column, "Green Scene," which will shed light on sustainability topics that affect the quality of our lives in Bay Village and Westlake and offer easy, do-it-yourself tips for reducing negative impact on the environment.*

*Brenda O'Reilly, who has been a frequent contributor to the Observer as the co-chair of the Bay Village Green Team, also serves as a zero-waste consultant for Earth Day Coalition, chairs the Zero Waste NEO subcommittee for Earth Fest 2014, is a member of Zero Waste NEO and participates in Sustainable Cleveland 2019.*

by BRENDA O'REILLY

**W**e've all heard the term "storm water runoff", but what does it really mean and why should we care? When it rains, you can see the water running off your driveway, your sidewalk, the street, and even your lawn, and then flowing down a drain. After that, it's easy to lose track of what happens to the water, since it is below ground and out of sight.

But ... that water flows directly into our local streams and then into Lake Erie.

It's amazing how easy it is for toxic chemicals and litter to flow into the streams and the lake. According to Amy Roskilly, Conservation Education Specialist with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, it is estimated that 70 percent of the pollution in our waterways comes from local

residents, largely from lawn chemicals, pet waste, leaking oil and gas, and litter. These materials often contain chemicals that are harmful to humans.

It's not that one car's oil leak or the chemicals placed on any one lawn would have much of an impact, but the collective impact is extremely significant. In fact, the collective impact of ongoing actions can be much larger than a single catastrophic event. To illustrate, a real life example was provided by Jay Manning, Director of the Washington Department of Ecology who was interviewed in the PBS Frontline special called "Poisoned Waters." According to Manning, the storm water runoff into Puget Sound over a two-year period carries in the same amount of oil that was infamously spilled by the Exxon Valdez off the coast of Alaska.

So what can you do to protect our beautiful local waterways? First, get more educated on the topic. Over the past few years, an extensive study called the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been underway to evaluate potential pollution sources within the Porter Creek watershed. Come and learn about how to reduce storm water pollution on your property and hear the results of the study on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. The seminar is free and open to the public.

Have a "green" topic to suggest for a future article? Email it to [bayvillagegreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:bayvillagegreenteam@gmail.com). ●

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT





# Village Bicycle rolls into third year

by DONNA WILSON

On Oct. 23, Village Bicycle Cooperative celebrated its second-year anniversary with a meeting and refreshments in its shop on the ground floor of the Bay Community House. The presenter and founder, Bay resident Jennifer Smillie, recapped what has happened, especially in the second year, and answered questions from the more than 30 people in attendance. The audience included local residents, Ward 4 Councilman Mike Young and VBC board members Bob Piccirilli, Carl Gonzalez, Peggy Ludwig and Patrick McGannon.

Village Bicycle Cooperative was started as a vision from Jennifer who wanted to establish a sustainable, productive bicycle organization for Bay Village. With assistance from volunteers and support from the city, Village Bicycle is fulfilling its mission “to offer a bicycle education-based workspace and advocate for bicycling to foster a healthier, safer and more sustainable community.”

Throughout the past year, more than 100 bikes have been refurbished and sold or donated. Community programs such as “Ready-To-Ride,” which provides instruction on fixing or maintaining a bike, and “open shop” hours for community members to use the workshop or just drop by to talk about bikes, were held.

Some of the future goals are to promote community rides, offer tune-up classes and continue with

previous programs. Most of these events are facilitated by volunteers who are either very knowledgeable or, like me, just learning.

Village Bicycle is a community based organization and it needs volunteers to keep it sustainable. It is easy to volunteer and you will learn quickly because the skilled mechanics are patient and friendly. No skill is necessary to volunteer and you may actually have a fun time as you learn about bikes. The shop is open



Volunteers work on bikes at the Community House.

on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. for anyone interested in learning about the cooperative.

Visit the website for winter hours at [www.village-bicycle.org](http://www.village-bicycle.org).

I invite you to come and visit the facility and get involved! The main focus of Village Bicycle Cooperative is “to be true to the word cooperative” and have fun. ●



Jennifer Smillie highlights the history of the VBC.

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## It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!

by MAEVE RANSOM, third-grader at Westerly School

One day when I arrived at school, I noticed a giant pumpkin and lots of kids crowded around it. I was curious and I wanted to find out what was going on.

There was a sign that said Mr. Tony Anselmo had brought in a really big pumpkin and he wanted the kids to guess its weight. Each guess cost twenty-five cents and the money went to UNICEF. The person who guessed the weight would win a gift

certificate to Dave and Buster's.

Guess what! I guessed 215 pounds and I won. It was a surprise of a lifetime. I called Mr. Anselmo and found out that he did not actually grow the pumpkin. In fact, he has never grown a pumpkin! He bought it at an Amish produce auction in Middlefield, Ohio, and he bought it to donate it to the school.

Mr. Anselmo likes to surprise his daughter who is in fourth grade and he wanted to include all the kids at school. The most important part of all is that lots of money was raised for UNICEF. ●



Maeve Ransom sits on the giant pumpkin.

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## Westlake PD gets grant for new bike

by TARA WENDELL

Westlake police officers will be patrolling the streets on some sweet new wheels, thanks to a donation from the Elks.

Lakewood Elks leaders Maria Gregg, Stan Soja and Bob Geiger presented a check for \$750 to Lt. Ray Arcuri and auxiliary officer Rick Grane on Nov. 4 at Lodge #1350 on Center Ridge Road in Westlake. The funds will help to cover the cost of a new Raleigh Talus bicycle for the department, bringing the number of bikes at its disposal to more than a dozen.

The bikes are a valuable tool for Westlake police and auxiliary officers, according to Lt. Ray Arcuri.

"Bicycles supplement the motorized patrol," Arcuri said. "They are more approachable; people flag you down ... it invites comments and questions. You're able to use more of your senses, like smelling marijuana smoke, and your vision and hearing are better."

The Westlake PD primarily uses the bikes for community relations activities, like crowd control at parades and fireworks shows, the annual bike rodeo for children and park patrol. But the two-wheel

cruisers also come in handy when agility is needed, Arcuri explained. Officers on bikes can jump curbs and cut across fields if necessary. The bike patrol is also more nimble in traffic, as a recent arrest at The Promenade illustrated.

When a call came in about shoplifters at Giant Eagle, Arcuri said, the responding patrol car was stuck at the stoplight at the Detroit-Bradley intersection. A bike officer, bypassing the traffic,

made it through the intersection first and arrived on the scene just in time to catch the fleeing suspects.

The bike patrol season runs roughly from March through October, depending on weather conditions.

This was the second partnership in recent months for the two organizations. In August, the Elks gave a \$2,000 grant to the Westlake D.A.R.E. program. ●



Bob Geiger, Stan Soja and Maria Gregg from the Elks Lodge #1350 present a check to Lt. Ray Arcuri and officer Rick Grane for the Westlake Police Department's new bicycle.

PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

## Santa to help kick off Bay's holiday season

by ERIC EAKIN

Santa Claus is coming to Bay Village aboard a big, red fire truck Sunday, Dec. 8.

Santa will depart from the Bay Lodge about 2 p.m. and travel throughout Bay Village, ending up at the Community House about 3 p.m., where he will meet guests and be available for photographs.

Community groups will have tables set up in the Community House, offering holiday items and complimentary refreshments.

The Rose Hill Museum and Osborn Learning Center will be open, and Bay Kiwanis will be selling holiday trees. There will also be a holiday story time in the museum.

About 4:15 p.m. Santa will throw the switch to light the city's official holiday tree in the gazebo. Local choirs and choral groups are expected to participate.

Bay Village residents may help celebrate the holiday by lighting luminaries throughout the city that evening.

Santa's route will be Ashton Lane, Lincoln Road, Knickerbocker Road, West Oviatt Road, Dover Center Road, Osborn Road, Parkside and Huntmere Drives, Osborn Road, Bayfair Drive, East Oakland Road, Fordham Parkway and Wolf Road.

All Bay Village community groups are invited to participate by decorating a holiday tree, to be displayed in the park. Tables in the Community House also are available for the sale of Christmas ornaments and merchandise. Anyone interested in taking part in the festivities or selling holiday merchandise should contact Cynthia Eakin at [info@bayhistorical.com](mailto:info@bayhistorical.com) or 216-213-0312, or Rhonda Schneider at [baykiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:baykiwanis@gmail.com) or 216-225-6538.

This event is co-sponsored by the Bay Village Historical Society and the Bay Kiwanis. ●

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(3) Participation in the promotion requires you to enroll in Online banking and eStatements within 60 days of opening your new checking account. You will be awarded \$10.00 to your FFL Benefits Checking Account after you receive your first eStatement.

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# Kiwanis work around construction for pancake breakfast



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Sean Keenan, Key Club member, transports Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast attendees around construction at the high school.

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis family of Kiwanis and Key Club, Builders Club and Aktion Club would like to thank Westlake and surrounding communities for traversing the many construction obstacles to make their recent pancake breakfast at the high school a success. A new location and construction of buildings, parking lots and sidewalks made getting to the breakfast an adventure. They would like to also thank all their corporate sponsors.

The funds from their pancake breakfasts support projects such as WHBS-TV, Westlake Relays, community food baskets, Salute to Excellence, Westlake Memorial Day Parade and Service, flower boxes on Hilliard, iPads for special classes, Pedi boards for the emergency services, Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels and many more

throughout Westlake and surrounding communities.

Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14-18, Builders Club for students age 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas.

Westlake Kiwanis is looking for individuals interested in community service to become members. Please contact George Christ, membership chairman, at 440-871-3980 or gchrist44140@yahoo.com.

# Halloween festivities at Bradley Bay

by DONNA D'AMICO

Lots of great inter-generational events celebrated Halloween at Bradley Bay with our community neighbors. Bay Village's Normandy School Brownie Troop #70769, led by troop leader Julia Frindt, stopped in for a visit. These energetic and creatively dressed Brownies helped serve during our pumpkin pie social and

played charades with our residents.

A few days later, the parent group of Bay Presbyterian preschool, Mothers of Pre-Schoolers, brought 20 of their children in to make both the residents and staff smile. Dressed in the cutest costumes ever, the children had a great time as they trick-or-treated through the halls of our Assisted Living, and then went into the dining room to party with the Nursing residents.



PHOTO BY DONNA D'AMICO

## WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

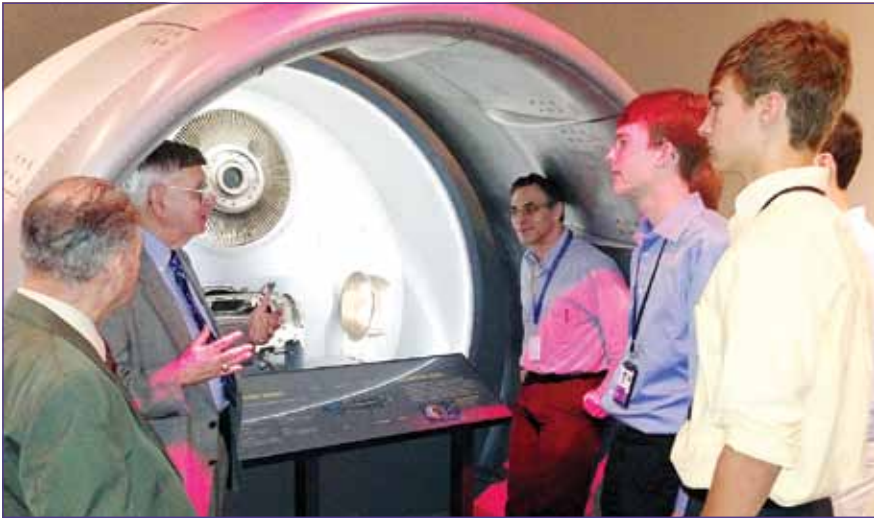
# Westlake High senior worked with NASA on ISS experiment

Westlake High School senior Ethan Fitz assisted in ongoing research on drop-let combustion in microgravity by analyzing and processing results from an experiment running on the International Space Station (ISS) remotely during an internship at NASA Glenn Research Center this summer.

Ethan was part of the Glenn High School Internship Project/Small Business Innovation Program (GHIP/SBIR), an eight-week paid summer internship for students interested in careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and professional administration at NASA Glenn.

The project, sponsored by the Educational Programs Office, engages high school sophomores and juniors in research and development under the mentorship of a scientist, engineer, technical or administrative professional. The project is designed to expand the students' understanding of possible career choices available at NASA.

Ethan was involved with the FLEX (Flame Extinguishment Experiment) Project that measures the effectiveness of inert gases as fire suppressants in microgravity. Ethan said the experience confirmed his plans to go into a STEM career and provided him with first-hand experience in working in a research-focused environment.



WHS senior Ethan Fitz (fourth from left) on a field trip to the Great Lakes Science Center as part of the GHIP/SBIR internship.

# Bay resident celebrates 100th birthday

Evelyn Ballantine celebrated her 100th birthday one day early, on Oct. 24, at Bradley Bay Assisted

Living, where she is a resident. Evelyn is a native Cleveland, and she and her late husband moved to Bay Village in 1950.

She and Thomas were married for 63 years, during which, in addition to being a homemaker, she worked at the Cleveland Club and Union Commerce Bank. She has one son, Tom, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Her birthday was celebrated with family and friends during a delicious lunch, while being serenaded by the South Shore Four Quartet. Bay Village

Mayor Debbie Sutherland presented Evelyn with a proclamation for her centenarian status.



PHOTO BY DONNA D'AMICO

Bradley Bay resident Evelyn Ballantine celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family, including her son, Tom, and grandchildren Christina and Tiffany.

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# The November presidents

by MEL MAURER

*This month marks two significant anniversaries in the history of our country: President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address – to help dedicate a National Cemetery in that small town in Pennsylvania 150 years ago this Nov. 19, while three days later, Nov. 22, it will be 50 years since President John F. Kennedy was hit by an assassin's bullets, tragically taking his life. These events, one inspiring and one tragic, live forever in American history. It's right that we pause to recognize and reflect on them this fall.*

## LINCOLN

The cemetery to be dedicated in Gettysburg in November 1863 would hold the bodies of those United States soldiers who gave their lives in a three-day battle there, almost five months earlier, in the first three days of July 1863. The main speaker at the dedication was to be Edward Everett, a renowned orator who specialized in such occasions. President Lincoln was also invited almost as an afterthought to offer a few “appropriate remarks.” This was to be a state – and not a federal – event so no insult was intended to or taken by Lincoln. Each state was honoring its own dead.

I like to think that Lincoln took the challenge of using only a few words to fully express his beliefs, in writing his short talk. He loved poetry – its beauty and its brevity – with its simple way of saying so much. As was his custom, he took some time in preparing the 272 words he would

speak that day. Most historians agree that his talk was complete or nearly so by the time he left the capital – with maybe just a few finishing touches added – such as the words “under God” added after he arrived.

The day itself was a bit dreary but the early rain had stopped without affecting the ceremony. Everett spoke, without notes, for about two hours as he was expected to do, receiving the appreciation of the crowd of over 15,000. He was followed by a hymn sung by a local church choir. It was then Lincoln's turn to speak (with his relatively high pitched voice with a trace of a Kentucky accent) inspiring those there and those in the world who would later read his words – and every generation ever since.

In less than three minutes, Lincoln redefined our country from what it had become since 1776 to what it should be – and would be – in the future.

The country we live in today: “... a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

A nation built on the sacrifices of many: “The brave men [and women], living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it [our land], far above our poor power to add or detract.”

A nation that requires our continuing commitment to its principles: “... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from

the earth.”

Lincoln's words reached the back of the crowd as he was sitting down and have been reaching the ears of many Americans, and others, ever since.

## KENNEDY

President Kennedy once said: “The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy.”

The courage of Kennedy's life met the tragedy of his death Nov. 22 in Dallas as he rode through its Dealey Plaza in a motorcade on his way to give a speech to city and state leaders at its Trade Mart.

I've been to that plaza three times visiting its assassination sites: the Texas School Book Depository building, the spot on Elm Street where the president was fatally hit, and the Grassy Knoll overlooking Elm Street – close by where Abraham Zapruder filmed the historic event.

While those spots memorialize the president's death, there is another location just a few blocks from the plaza that commemorates his life. It's the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza. Its centerpiece is a monument honoring the president.

The unique structure is a cenotaph – an empty tomb – meant to symbolize the unbound freedom of Kennedy's spirit. Its four unconnected walls seem to float with no visible support two feet above the earth. Eight columns extend to the ground as legs, supporting the monument with each ending in a light fixture. At night, these lights create the illusion the structure is supported by the lights alone, a magnificent sight.

I was impressed with the unique beauty of the structure the first time I saw it and, as I approached it, I looked forward to seeing a statue of JFK inside with some of his most memorable words inside on each of its four panels. However, once inside, I saw only a black marble base with the words: “John Fitzgerald Kennedy” engraved with gold lettering on each of its sides. The longer I stood there the more I felt his loss again – he was gone. I feel the same sense of loss in the room where Lincoln died in the Petersen House across from Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

I've read about Lincoln as much as Kennedy. I respect both for their intelligence, courage, charisma and leadership. Our history would have been better if both had lived longer. Of course, men like these never really die – they live on in the inspiration they provided while with us through their deeds, and the words they left behind.

Here are President Kennedy's closing words from the speech he never got to deliver that fateful day:

“We, in this country, in this generation, are – by destiny rather than by choice – the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of ‘peace on earth, good will toward men.’ That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: ‘except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain.’” ●



Thank you for selecting **THIS PAPER**

from among the myriad options available to you. Our small, dedicated staff and estimable volunteer writers, photographers and deliverers have worked hard to get this issue – and all those that have come before and all that will follow – into your hands. It is a labor of love for our community, produced entirely by the residents of Westlake and Bay Village. You might expect that a publication of

this great quality **COSTS MONEY** to read or write for, but it doesn't. This unique medium encourages residents inform their neighbors with firsthand knowledge about the news on our streets, to warm hearts with uplifting tales about the good deeds of people living in our neighborhoods and to enlighten readers with the experiences and perspectives that are the foundation of a strong community. We depend on the support of the generous businesses and organizations whose advertisements are displayed within

to cover the costs necessary **TO PRINT** every issue in full color on bright white paper and offer it free for the reading public to enjoy. This media project reflects not only what is on the minds and in the hearts of Westlake and Bay Village residents, but also what can be accomplished when an entire community comes together.

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# West Shore YMCA announces holiday donation drives

by MIKE MCCLAIN

The West Shore Family YMCA in Westlake announced today that it will be running two holiday donation drives to give back to the local communities for the holiday season. Branch leadership is combining efforts with Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army to make the season more enjoyable for local families.

The West Shore Family YMCA expects this donation drive to promote social responsibility, a key component to the YMCA's mission. In addition to social responsibility, the West Shore Family YMCA will also promote youth development through the generosity of others.

This donation drive will help struggling

local families through the holiday season to provide for their own. In addition, the employees from the West Shore Family YMCA will also donate items and their time that will benefit others. The West Shore Family YMCA is actively searching for volunteering opportunities for the upcoming holiday season.

Toys for Tots are accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys. There is a toy drop-off for Toys for Tots at the West Shore Family YMCA. The Salvation Army is accepting all donations from gently used coats, shoes, shirts and pants. There is also a drop-off for donations to the Salvation Army at the West Shore Family YMCA.

The West Shore Family YMCA is located at 1575 Columbia Road, Westlake. ●

# Spiritual retreat in Westlake, Nov. 24-26

by NELSON BLOUNT

Do you seek something more than what could be called "churchianity?" We invite you to CrossPointe Community, 1800 Columbia Road, Westlake, for a spiritual retreat featuring Billy Huddleston. Gathering times for the three-day retreat are Sunday, Nov. 24, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 25, 7 p.m.; and Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.

Billy Huddleston has a passion to lead people into a powerful encounter with the living Christ. It

is his desire to see lives and lifestyles changed as a result of those encounters. It is Billy's belief that all lives, young and old alike, are valuable to Jesus Christ and that each one has a vital role to play in the fulfillment and building of His Kingdom.

At the heart of Billy's message is the Cross. He has found that Jesus' style is the Cross Style. To be a follower of Christ is to participate in His Cross and allow Him to be revealed.

Check out this spiritual retreat! It may just be what you've been longing for in your life. ●

# Bay Village Community Band concert plays tributes to veterans

Patriotic songs played and veterans were honored during the Veterans Day Concert at Bay Middle School on Nov. 6. This annual concert has become a tradition for many area veterans and their families as they are honored for their service to our country and to hear rousing renditions of classic patriotic songs and marches.

As a special part of the program, Fred Green, commander of VFW Post 9693, presented Jake Schock with the Legion of Honor medal (the highest medal award that can be presented to a non-Frenchman) for his outstanding service in the Battle of the Bulge, during which he was wounded by machine gun fire. U.S. veterans who risked their lives during World War II while fighting in French territory may be awarded this distinction. Those selected are appointed to the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor. Accepting the medal, Jake said: "Some people say we are heroes. I don't believe that. I think we are survivors. The heroes are the guys that never came back." ●



Dave Patzwahl of the Bay Village Community Band plays taps at the conclusion of the Nov. 6 Veterans Day Concert at Bay Middle School.



Fred Green, left, commander of VFW Post 9693, presents Jake Schock with the French government's Legion of Honor medal for his service during World War II.



The Bay Village Community Band plays military songs as veterans stand when their branch of the armed forces is recognized.



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BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

# Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by JOYCE SANDY

Halloween is over and we're about to enter the busy-ness of the holiday season. The library is the perfect place to get away from it all with a good book or magazine, and to find some items to take home, too. From cooking, to decorating, to traditional storybooks of the season, you'll find everything you need right in one place. We're here to help you!

While you're at the library this month, make sure to wish Branch Manager Mark McKinstry all the best in his upcoming retirement! He's worked closely with library patrons, community groups and local leaders during his time in Bay Village and although he'll be missed by many, we all wish him well in his future adventures.

Please join us for these upcoming programs and stay to browse the collection!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

**Wednesday, Nov. 13 (1:30 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – Join us as we discuss the book “Brooklyn” by Col Toibin.

MIXED AGES

**Thursday, Nov. 14 (7 p.m.) FAMILIES READING TOGETHER** – For families with readers ages 8 and up. Discuss a good book, try a related activity and enjoy a treat.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

**Saturday, Nov. 16 (11 a.m.) MOVIN AND GROOVIN** – For preschoolers with an adult. Enjoy a story then put on your dancing shoes for some fun movin' and groovin'!

**Tuesday, Nov. 19 (4 p.m.) NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T** – For grades K-5. School-age children are invited to come and have fun with optical illusions. Learn how they trick your brain, play a game and make a craft.

**Thursday, Nov. 21 (11 a.m.) PRE-SCHOOL PALS** – For ages 3-1/2 to 5, on their own. Preschoolers are invited to this storytime just for them! We'll foster their independence as the children go into the Storyroom by themselves. Adults are invited to relax in the Children's Room for a half-hour!

**Please register for these programs online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), by calling 871-6392, or when you stop in to visit us at 502 Cahoon Road. ●**

MUSINGS FROM THE MIDDLE

# The perils of picking partners

by AUDREY RAY

Have you ever had to find a partner in school, but ended up without one? That has happened to me multiple times, and it's never been fun.

I wonder why teachers make us pick partners. Picking partners or groups works well when you are included or when you have a lot of friends in the class. But still it is a lot of pressure to try and include all your friends to be sure they don't get left out and to be sure that you don't get left out either.

In middle school you already have a lot of friend pressure. Picking partners/groups just adds to that stress. As soon as the teacher says that we need to pick a partner and still is explaining the assignment, kids start looking around the room to try and find a partner. They ignore what the teacher is saying because they are more concerned about being left out and less concerned about what they actually have to do.

I think teachers make us pick partners because it is easier for them. If teachers don't pick groups for us, then kids can't complain about whom they are with. But I wonder if they remember what it was like when they were students and were left out or had to leave

out a friend.

Some kids have trouble finding partners. I was talking with a classmate about this problem. She agrees that she hates picking partners, especially in classes where she doesn't know anyone very well because she often ends up without one. It's really stressful finding a group or partner if you are left out. Nobody should ever be put in that position. It's not right!

This year one of my teachers picked “study buddies” for us and we use our study buddies for partners all the time. It's a lot easier than picking partners every time. It works well because we know exactly who our partners are and we aren't distracted when the teacher is explaining what we have to do because we know who our partner is. I imagine it works for the teacher too because she just assigns them one time, and then she can use them over and over again.

I have another teacher who has work groups that I like but we still have to pick partners sometimes.

So if you are a teacher or lead a group of kids, please consider picking groups for your students or kids. Don't leave it up to the kids because it doesn't work out as well as you might think. ●

BAY VILLAGE RECREATION DEPT.

# Bay Rec Winter programs

by CARLY BANASIAK

Preschool Playtime

Spend your mornings with Bay Rec! Tumble mats, bouncing balls! A perfect opportunity to get your child out of the house, release some energy and make new friends! Parent supervision required. Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday, 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Location: Community Gym. Fee: \$2/child; \$4/non-resident.

Girls Get Fit!

NEW! Youth fitness class for girls only, ages 11-17! Promotes a positive, healthy attitude towards exercise while building self-esteem. Cardio, strength training, flexibility, agility, even dance! Strength and beauty begin on the inside. Session: Monday/Wednesday, Oct. 28-Dec. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Location: Westerly School All Purpose Room. Cost: \$60/session; \$75/non-resident; Drop-In Rate: \$8/class; \$10/non-resident. \*No class on Nov. 25 or 27.

Fifth/Sixth Grade Cheerleading Squad

NEW for the basketball season! Practices: Wednesdays, Dec. 4-Feb. 22, from 3:15-4:30 p.m. at the Bay Middle School cafeteria. Games are Saturday afternoons. Fee: \$95.

Creative Cupcakes

Let your child's creativity shine in this cupcake decorating class! Students will learn how to decorate festive cupcakes for the holidays and bring their tasty artwork home to share. All supplies included. Location: Bay Lodge. Fee: \$28/session; \$43/non-resident. Thanksgiving Cupcakes: Saturday, Nov. 16; Ages 5-8, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Ages 9 and up, noon-1:30 p.m. Christmas Cupcakes: Saturday, Dec. 14; Ages 5-8, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Ages 9 and up, noon-1:30 p.m.

Full Body Fitness with Cathy

Join certified kickboxing, boot camp, modern Pilates, and weight training instructor Cathy DuBois for this full body workout. Class is designed to challenge YOU, at your own personal level. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Location: Community Gym. Drop in Rate: \$7/class; \$8/non-resident. Purchase your four-month punch pass today!

Zumba Fitness

Join the biggest dance/aerobic craze! Monday evenings, 7-8 p.m., at Dwyer Center; Thursday mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Community Gym; Thursday evenings, 7-8 p.m., at Bay Middle School Gym. Drop-in Rate: \$7/class; \$8/non-resident.

High School Basketball League (Grades 9-12)

This league is all about fun and participation. Parent volunteer coaches are needed! Saturdays, Dec. 7-Feb. 8, at the Community Gym/BMS Gym. Fee: \$81; \$96/non-resident. Registration deadline: Nov. 13 (\$10 late fee).

Kindergarten Hoops

Season: Tuesday evenings, Jan.7-Feb. 25. Fee: \$68; \$88/non-resident. Location: Community Gym. Registration deadline: Dec. 13 (late fee \$10).

1st & 2nd Grade Basketball

Learn the fundamentals of basketball in a fun recreational environment. Season: Jan. 8-Feb. 27; Wednesday evenings (1st grade) and Thursday evenings (2nd grade). Location: Community Gym/BMS Gym. Fee: \$68; \$88/non-resident. Deadline: Dec. 13 (late fee \$10). Register for any of our programs online at [www.cityofbayvillage.com](http://www.cityofbayvillage.com) or visit the Recreation Office, 400 Bryson Lane. Questions? Call us at 440-871-6755. ●

READER'S OPINION

# Holding Hands

by DAVE SCULLIN

There is something special about holding hands and the human touch. An intimate, non-verbal way to say many things. To show emotion, support, help, friendship, affection. A handshake can also mean a closeness, peace, a comforting gesture or a sign of welcome.

How and why people hold hands depends on the culture and gender. But it is a universal act around the world. In African and Arab countries men and boys use it as a

sign of respect and friendship. In the U.S. a mom uses it as a means to control the child as she crosses the street.

It's such a simple gesture but sometimes it is one of the first overt social acts between a young boy and girl. Many times even before the first kiss! Many churches have a congregational handshake or linking of hands to show fellowship, community, a welcoming gesture or a sign of peace.

See the old couple, with years of experience, and still on their journey together clasp hands effortlessly. The grip so familiar and still comforting after all these years.

Reach out and touch someone. ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Mayoral campaign brought issues to forefront

To the residents of Bay Village,  
I'm so very proud of the hard work that so many people provided during my Bay Village mayoral campaign. I'm proud of the issues we brought to light and the needed recognition that transparency, safety, and public involvement received during this election season. I'm confident that the days of executive sessions and emergency measures will be much fewer and farther between because of our work.

I am forever grateful to all those who

supported me along the way and especially to those who challenged me at every step.

It is now in the hands of the people. Don't stop asking questions. Don't stop attending council meetings. And don't ever forget how wonderful it is to live in the city of Bay Village.

I congratulate my opponent on a hard-fought campaign and I wish her the very best in this next term.

– Marty Mace, Bay Village

Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com)



WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

**Wednesday, Nov. 13 (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.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13 (10 a.m.-12 p.m.) CALCULATING YOUR HOURLY CONTRACTING RATE** – Not having much luck finding the right employment option? Are others approaching you about contracting your services or working for a contracting firm? Learn practical approaches to determine your hourly rate and obtain a big picture look at the pros and cons of becoming an independent contractor to avoid unpleasant surprises. Please register.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOOKS WITH BELLA** – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 15-minute reading time with Bella the Bulldog! Bring your own book to share with Bella or choose one of ours. Registration begins every Wednesday at 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13 (5-5:45 p.m.) THE BOOK-A-HOLICS: TWEEN BOOK CLUB** – Join us for discussions about books, audio, apps and more. Grades 5-7. Please register.

**Thursday, Nov. 14 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION** – The November selection is “I’d Like to Apologize to Every Teacher I Ever Had” by Tony Danza.

**Friday, Nov. 15 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME!** – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes. For children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome! Registration begins Nov. 8.

**Friday, Nov. 15 (10-11:30 a.m.) PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP** – Parent discussion group led by a local pediatric expert. Childcare is offered but space is limited. You must RSVP by calling 440-250-5563. Topics are listed at [connectingforkids.org](#).

**Saturday, Nov. 16 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) INTERNATIONAL GAMES DAY** – Celebrate the 6th annual International Games Day! We’ll have all kinds of games to play, from classics like Monopoly to some you’ve never tried before! All ages are welcome. No registration is necessary.

**Saturday, Nov. 16 (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. No registration.

**Sunday, Nov. 17 (2-4 p.m.) FRIENDS’ SUNDAY SOUNDS** – The Friends of the

Library present The Swinging Bavarians. Free program.

**Monday, Nov. 18 (4-5:45 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!

**Monday, Nov. 18 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP: PROTECTING YOUR PORTFOLIO FROM DEVASTATING EVENTS** – Discussion will include the trends driving different investment strategies, strength and weakness of the economy in light of these trends, and asset class performance during different phases of the business cycles. Please register.

**Tuesday, Nov. 19 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: WRITING TO EMPLOYERS** – Learn professional letter-writing techniques including how to write effective cover letters, marketing letters, follow-up letters and more. You’ll also gain information on preparing writing samples when employers request them.

**Tuesday, Nov. 19 (7-8:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS COFFEE & CHAT** – Parent support group for families who have a question or concern about their child’s development. Please refer to [www.connectingforkids.org](#) for the topic.

**Wednesday, Nov. 20 (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.

**Wednesday, Nov. 20 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOOKS WITH BELLA** – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 15-minute reading time with Bella the Bulldog! Bring your own book to share with Bella or choose one of ours. Registration begins every Wednesday at 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 20 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Wednesday, Nov. 20 (7-8 p.m.) CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS TRA LA LA PALOOZA** – Join us for a Captain Underpants Tra La La Palooza. Experience trivia contests, games of skill, crafts and more! Ages 6-10. Registration begins Nov. 13.

**Friday, Nov. 22 (10 a.m.-Noon) PORTER’S FIBER FANATICS** – Socialize, share, and solve problems while you work on your current project.

**Friday, Nov. 22 (4-5:30 p.m.) WEIRD SCIENCE** – Our interactive program explores fundamental science principles, and you’ll participate in hands-

on experiments that you can reproduce at home. Grades 4 and 5. Registration begins Nov. 15.

**Saturday, Nov. 23 (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. No registration.

**Saturday, Nov. 23 (3-5 p.m.) MAD-4MANGA** – Do you love Manga, Anime or Japanese culture? If you do, this club is for you! Each month we watch a different Anime series and talk about our favorite Manga. Sometimes we even throw in some crafts, Manga drawing or Japanese treats just for fun! Grades 6-12 only. Registration not necessary.

**Monday, Nov. 25 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Monday, Nov. 25 (4-5:45 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!

**Tuesday, Nov. 26 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: LINKEDIN FOR JOB SEARCH** – Learn techniques to better utilize this growing social media tool to help you meet people who can assist your search and find companies that are hiring and fit the requirements for your future position.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27 (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.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – The November selection is “Sweet Salt Air” by Barbara Delinsky.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27 – LIBRARY CLOSSES AT 5 P.M.**

**Thursday, Nov. 28 – THANKSGIVING – LIBRARY CLOSED**

**Saturday, Nov. 30 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) CRAFTS A GO-GO!** – Come on in and make a craft! We provide the supplies, you provide the creativity. No registration necessary. Meets in front of the Youth Services Desk. No registration.

**Saturday, Nov. 30 (2-2:30 p.m.) JUNIOR BRICK BUILDERS!** – Let’s build with Duplos! Bring your imagination and we’ll provide the bricks. Ages 3-5 only. No registration.

To register for any of the programs, please call 440-871-2600 or visit [signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080](#). ●

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

WHS students earn superior scores on Spanish CAAP tests

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Sixty students from Cheryl Bendik’s Spanish 3 honors classes at Westlake High School participated in the spring 2013 OSU Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP).

The tests show a student’s projected placement into language courses at The Ohio State University. A total of 3,046 Level 3 students from 74 high schools throughout Ohio 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.” ●

Math teacher publishes in national journal

Parkside Intermediate School fifth-grade mathematics teacher Bridget Royce co-authored an article that was recently published in a national mathematics journal.

Royce co-wrote “Dropping In on the Math of Plinko” with Nirmala Naresh, an assistant professor of mathematics at Miami University and Royce’s teacher.

The article, published in the November 2013 issue of Mathematics Teaching In the Middle School, a publication of the National Council of Teacher of Mathematics, originated as a senior capstone project during Royce’s senior year at Miami University. ●

HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS

Get a jumpstart and have your pet photos in time to use for your holiday cards by coming to **Just Dogs! Gourmet/Trendi Paws Boutique** for our professional pet portraits with Santa or Holiday Photos on **Nov 22, 23 and 24!**

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**WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL**

# With smiles and humor, Andrea Levy shares insight to her art

by MARGE WIDMAR

**D**uring nearly her entire Nov. 5 presentation at Westlake Porter Library, Andrea Levy had a smile on her face. She emphasized the importance of being positive, “making oneself bigger,” “resisting resistance,” and using the energy in the moment an idea occurs.

In this program sponsored by Westlake-Westshore Arts Council, the award-winning Plain Dealer artist shared that she has been drawing since she was a very young child. Her mother would buy her stenographer tablets. Levy would anxiously open them and energetically draw repetitive circular images along the lines.

One day, her mother purchased a pad without lines. Describing that experience, Levy raised her voice, smiled, and moved her arms about as she recalled the thrill of having a “WHOLE page to draw upon, WITHOUT lines.” She spoke fondly about her parents’ support and their strong encouragement for her to major in painting at Ohio University.

Another childhood treasure was her first camera. To this day, a camera goes everywhere with her, sensitively capturing the unique.

Levy’s illustrations begin with a

layout drawing for a visual to accompany a writer’s text. She meets with editors for discussion and evaluation of the concept. Once a “go ahead” is given, the subject matter may be created in unique ways such as dipping her hands and arms into black paint and using them to brush on the image, as she did to create the award-winning illustration for the ten-year commemoration of 9-11. Levy, as audience member Ursula Ryan noted, “takes intangible subjects, eliminates all obvious solutions, and comes up with a unique and succinct powerful resolution that grabs the viewer’s attention.”

When her illustrations require models, Levy often fills that role from among her three daughters and their friends. This frequent recruitment often brings pleas of, “I did it last time – ask her!” Occasionally, she hires a model. Sometimes, she incorporates a fairy tale, such as Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf as she did in her photo



PHOTO BY MARGE WIDMAR

Andrea Levy is all smiles as she talks with an audience member after her Nov. 5 talk at Porter Library. In the background, Bob Parry looks at one of her illustrations.

illustration for an article, “Taxes: How to avoid unpleasant surprises.”

Some illustrations are composed of paper sculpture or collage with newspaper, printed music or even currency. Additional props are selected from a vast collection of items in her studio. Upon completion, the illustration is again reviewed by the paper’s editors who, she stated, sometimes need convincing. Mind expansion, sensitivity awareness and “beating down prejudice” are among her objectives in newspaper illustration.

The remarkable creativity in Levy’s art has earned her the Cleveland Arts

Prize 2013 Mid-Career Artist Award for Design. Also, a Creative Workforce Fellowship was awarded to her by Cleveland’s Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. Her illustrations have been in national newspapers including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post.

Her creativity also spurred Ursula Ryan to ask Levy: “Can I have just a tiny part of your right brain?” More of that right brain thinking may be on exhibit and perhaps in the form of painting as Levy hinted regarding a future exhibition of her work. ●

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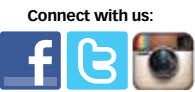
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## Westlake Historical Society selects Cutest Pet winner

by LYSA STANTON

**E**ach year the Westlake Historical Society holds a contest to find Westlake’s Cutest Pet.

This year, as in all years, the competition was fierce. We proudly announce this year’s winner: Buzz Ryan.

The Ryan family of Westlake wrote a bio about Buzz that we would like to share with our readers.

“Buzz is a one-year-old Golden-doodle male puppy. He is named after our family favorite Disney character,

Buzz Lightyear, from our favorite movie, ‘Toy Story.’ Buzz’s interests including sniffing, digging, fetch, taking long walks, naps and belly rubs (preferably in that order). He also loves to play at Camp Bow Wow in Westlake. His favorite toy is a stuffed dragon and any tennis ball.”

The historical society looks forward to seeing Buzz at many of our events in 2014. The Cutest Pet in Westlake is an honor for both the pet and the owners. Congrats to the Ryan family of Westlake for owning the Cutest Pet in Westlake. ●



Buzz, a one-year-old Goldenoodle, won this year’s cutest pet contest.



## FAITH &amp; SPIRITUALITY

# Grandkids camp can help foster lifelong connections

by STACY WINDAHL

What is the best time for grandparents to influence their grandchildren as they consider life's biggest decisions – those life-shaping decisions about college, careers, relationships and marriage? Hu Auburn, former pastor of Bay Presbyterian Church and author of a new book entitled "Grandkids Camp Guidebook," believes that window of opportunity opens when grandkids are three-years-old and potty-trained.

At least that's an ideal time to begin planning and hosting an annual grandkids camp: a week (or less) when grandkids gather at their grandparents' home to "do life" together in a way that phone calls, shorter visits and the presence of parents don't allow. A week at the Auburns' grandkids camp includes daily flag-raising ceremonies, a camp pledge, hikes, outings, games and a daily excursion to local ice creameries to score and rank the product and experience.

During their seven years of hosting the camp, Hu and his wife, Jan, have fielded dozens of questions about the experience: "What do the kids eat? Where do you go on your outings? What are the

rules?" And, their favorite, "Can we send our grandkids to your grandkids camp?" (The short answer is "no.")

To respond to those questions and assure other grandparents that planning and conducting an annual camp is not only possible, but also enjoyable and worthwhile, Auburn has organized practical grandkids camp how-to's with related and thought-provoking "why's" in his recently published book.

The impact of a grandkids camp extends beyond the fun of the week's scheduled events. Hu and Jan Auburn have discovered a greater purpose to walks through the woods, afternoons playing "Minute-To-Win-It" and visits to Chick-fil-A than they imagined in year one – a purpose that can play a role in a grandchild's response to life's greatest questions.

Auburn said, "Whether we recognize it or not (and many of us don't), whether we can articulate it or not (and very few can), each of us has a worldview, or a set of beliefs about life and the universe. These are deeply rooted within us and impact every decision we make. Inevitably, we live our lives in alignment with our worldview. And this worldview is largely set by the age of 12."

The influence of a grandparent can be far-reaching, and the opportunity to love grandkids intentionally and earn a hearing with them begins early and possibly with something as unassuming as grandkids camp. "Is grandkids camp a big deal? Maybe not," said Auburn. "It is not the cure-all for multi-generational relationship issues within families. But it is one vehicle that God, by His grace and power, is able to use for us to connect with and invest in the lives of our grandchildren – connections and investments that may not have happened otherwise."

Auburn challenges other grandparents – particularly baby boomers like him – with the question, "Could our grandparenting be our last chance to bring a blessing for future generations?" Auburn believes that grandkids camp is an opportunity to offer that blessing. "Can we honor, celebrate and affirm those (our grandchildren and their gen-



Former Bay Presbyterian pastor Hu Auburn's new book offers tips for hosting a "grandkids camp," featuring illustrations by Beth See of Bay Village.

eration) who are likely to have challenges and responsibilities far beyond any that we have faced? There is still plenty of time to say 'yes.'"

Grandkids Camp Guidebook will be available for sale at Bay Presbyterian Church, 25415 Lake Road, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24. Hu and Jan Auburn will sign copies and, if asked, recite the Grandkids Camp pledge. Visit [www.grandkidscamp.org](http://www.grandkidscamp.org) for more information, or read an excerpt at [www.baypres.org](http://www.baypres.org). ●

## Village Project quilt squares: community and memory

by SCOTT STELTER

Have you lost a loved one? Has someone you know lost a family member? Are you a member of a group in our community?

The Village Project is currently creating six-inch quilt squares to honor and memorialize loved ones, as well as show support for the VP. These squares will help raise funds, ensuring that the VP can continue reaching out to families affected by cancer.

Groups such as brownie/daisy troops, school clubs, sports teams, bands, local corporations and civic groups are encouraged to give their support! These squares will be crafted into a large collective quilt, which will be hung in the Village Project's Community room. Donators will be able to create their own squares at the VP. Supplies will be provided along with on sight creative designers to aid in production.

Construction day is Nov. 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Squares can be acquired for a donation of \$100, through check or credit card. If you are interested in purchasing a square, please contact Lisa through her email, [Priemer@gmail.com](mailto:Priemer@gmail.com). ●

## Youth Challenge launches Paralympic Power Soccer program



Youth Challenge participants and Invacare employees celebrate the launch of the YC Paralympic Power Soccer program.

by KATHY RIGDON

Youth Challenge, a leading provider of adapted sports and recreation in Northeast Ohio, received eight power wheelchairs from Invacare Corp. to kick-off a Paralympic Power Soccer Program.

A group of Invacare employees presented YC with the power wheelchairs at Youth Challenge headquarters in Westlake. YC participants and volunteers then faced off in a series of 4-on-4 Power Soccer games, the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users.

"Power Soccer gives many of the children at YC a unique opportunity to play a competitive team sport. Thanks to the generosity of Invacare, children who utilize power wheelchairs can now join a team, learn a skill and partake in friendly organized competition," said Chris Garr, Youth Challenge's director of program services. "We are excited

to develop those athletes who show promise and make competitive sports a reality. Invacare's generous gift of eight power wheelchairs, coupled with a grant from Northern Ohio Golf Charities to purchase equipment, allows us to bring team sports to power wheelchair athletes who previously had few opportunities for team athletics. We plan to introduce the sport to our participants throughout the winter and spring months, and kick off our formal team training in September 2014."

"Invacare is pleased to be able to participate in this event with Youth Challenge and all of their amazing athletes and volunteers," said Judson Cummins of Invacare. "We're very excited to help Youth Challenge expand their sports offering with Power Soccer and we look forward to many successes on the court in the future."

Youth Challenge provides adapted sports and recreational

opportunities to children with physical disabilities. Trained teen volunteers are paired one-on-one with participants to play, socialize and have fun. YC serves children throughout Northeast Ohio and has an office in Westlake. The nonprofit has been designated a Paralympic Sports Club by the U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee. As a Paralympic Sport Club, YC will continue to introduce adaptive sports to children with physical disabilities while also promoting athletics and teamwork. ●

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# Committee forming to build Bay community fireworks fund

by EILEEN VERNON

Your ideas and your help are needed to raise funds for the Bay Village Independence Day Fireworks.

All are invited to join the committee that is forming to keep the fireworks in Bay Village. Tony Dostal, George MacDonald, Charles Kennedy and Dwight Clark are heading up the community fireworks committee.

The committee wants to keep the tradition going in Bay for all to enjoy. People come from all of the surrounding cities to attend Bay Days and to enjoy the fireworks. To this end, a special fund has been created in the Village Foundation so that contributions can be accepted throughout the year. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is asked to email Dwight Clark at DACBay@gmail.com.

To get the fund started, an anonymous donor offered two generous donations of \$11,000 that paid for the fireworks each of the last two years. Those funds were managed by the Village Foundation. To date, \$3,400 has been raised towards 2014 fireworks. Contributions have been made by several residents as individual contributions. The Village Foundation, Kiwanis, VFW and League of Women Voters have also contributed.

The goal is to raise the additional \$8,600 needed before March 15, 2014, in time for the city to order the materials. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to: Community Fireworks Fund, The Village Foundation, P.O. Box 40122, Bay Village, OH, 44140. ●

# ‘William Gould’s Cleveland’ the new exhibit at BAYarts through Dec. 27

by NANCY HEATON

Artist, architect, urban designer, Renaissance man: William Gould has been making his mark on Cleveland architecture and the regional art scene for years. BAYarts is pleased to offer a look at the artist’s achievements and the vast, lasting impression he has made on greater Cleveland.

Gould is a hyphenated artist-painter, artist-architect, and artist-city planner with over 40 years experience in all three disciplines. The artist-painter deals with everyday impressions of the urban and built environment in Northeast Ohio as he paints en plein air with watercolor and oils. His original watercolors evoke many emotions, and express impressions of the surrounding bridges, cement silos and industrial factories.

Gould integrates three disciplines – art, architecture, and city planning – into his vision of the city. Through his watercolors and oils he continues to paint the industrial and by-gone scenes of Cleveland.

Bill and his wife, Harriet, reside in an artist live/work studio in the Superior-St.Clair neighborhood. They are the founders of ArtSpace Cleveland, whose

mission is to assist artists seeking affordable live/work studio space in the city of Cleveland.

The show opened on Nov. 8 and will be available to view in the Sullivan Gallery through Dec. 27. A gallery talk will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13. For more details, visit bayarts.net. ●



“West Bank Fixed Railroad Bridge,” by William Gould



This watercolor by William Gould shows his eye for architectural detail.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS Post your group's free community events online at wbvobserver.com

**Wednesday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
**The Herb Guild Meeting & Herbal Decorative Workshop**  
Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and program starts at 12:15 p.m. Featured speaker and herbal workshop teacher, Glendalee Burns, a former teacher and well-versed Herb Guild member in the many uses of herbs, will share the fine art of making naturally attractive, aromatic herbal potpourri for the holidays and other herbal crafts. This fun workshop will be a make-and-take workshop. The public is welcome. For more information, call 440-281-8579 or visit theherbguild.org.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
**Simplify Your Email Program**  
Thunderbird makes using email easier and more productive. Collect email from several accounts in one place automatically. Thunderbird will be explained from installation to using it in any environment – Windows, Mac or even portable versions for both. Address books, attachments, and backup are just some of the basic features to be covered. Sending secure emails will also be described. Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, followed by the program. Free and open to all.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**The Brain Lecture Series: The Post-traumatic Brain**  
Learn how trauma impacts the brain at this interactive evening lecture series. Information on services for veterans will be available, and additional strategies and resources will be available for caregivers and survivors. This event is free and open to the public.  
*Tri-C Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m.**  
**Bay Village Women's Club meeting**  
Program: Dr. Tom Steigerwalt of Stags Family Wellness presents "How to Stay Young the First Hundred Years." For information call: 440-892-4344 or 440-334-7539.  
*Bay Village Branch Library, 502 Cahoon Rd.*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-7 p.m.**  
**Free Community Open House**  
The public is invited to tour the house and grounds at Ames Family Hospice House. The new 40,000-square-foot Craftsman inspired house opened last summer, and is tucked away on a hidden 30-acre site in the woods near Porter Creek, just off Crocker Road between Holiday Inn and Bonne Belle. Refreshments will be provided. Reservations can be made by visiting [www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org) or calling 216-486-6645.  
*Ames Family Hospice House, 30080 Hospice Way, Westlake*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m.**  
**Community Family Wellness Night**  
This free event, geared toward preschool to fourth-grade children and their families, will include information on internet safety, concussions in children, eye care, fun activities and free health evaluations, including blood pressure checks, chair massages and body fat measurements. This is not a drop-off event. Adults must be present with children. Presented by Westlake City Schools, in partnership with the Westlake Recreation Department and St. John Medical Center. For more information call 440-827-5440.  
*Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Free Health Lecture on Nutrition**  
Helen Kwon, MD will speak on "Nutrition & The Brain – How What You Eat Affects Your Brain and In Turn Your Mental, Emotional & Physical Well-Being." Call 440-835-0104 to reserve seating.  
*Preventive Medicine Group, 24700 Center Ridge Rd., Suite 370, Westlake (use rear entrance)*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m.**  
**West Shore Republicans November Meeting**  
We will be discussing Obamacare and Ohio's Medicaid Expansion, among other topics. Come join your West Shore neighbors to discuss politics, community, and how to make a difference! Registration starts at 6:45.  
*Rocky River Public Library, 1600 Hampton Rd.*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**A Holistic Watershed Approach to Health at Huntington Beach**  
Since 2011, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project team has been sampling storm drain outfalls along Porter Creek to test for bacteria. Join us to learn the results of the water analysis, understand how near-shore water quality is affected by the Porter Creek watershed and learn simple steps you can do to be the solution to storm water pollution. Enter for a chance to win a rain barrel and rain garden plant kits. Light refreshments and crafts for kids will be provided.  
*Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village*

**Sunday, Nov. 17, 3 p.m.**  
**Amethyst String Quartet in Concert**  
Led by violinist Mary Beth Ions and featuring cellist Linda Atherton, violinist Carol Ruzicka and violist Alexandra A. Vago, the ensemble will perform music inspired by the PBS hit series "Downton Abbey." The wide-ranging program of music from the historical period of Downton Abbey takes you on a journey of music from around the world from World War I to the present. The concert is free and open to the public. Free parking; professional childcare is provided at no charge; handicap accessible.  
*Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Monday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.**  
**Medicare 101**  
2014 Medicare Annual Enrollment Period Seminar with Brad Petrella: Where we learn about Medicare and any changes or updates for next year's HealthSpan (formerly Kaiser Permanente) Integrated Care Delivery Model. Time allotted for Q&A. RSVP to 835-6565 or 866-949-9551 to register.  
*Dwyer Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane, Bay Village*

**Tuesday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Westside Professional Women's Connection**  
Casual Networking 11:30 followed by lunch at 11:45, speaker Attorney Susan Weaver, and

formal networking. Cost: \$20 for guests; \$15 for members, cash or check. We are currently in our membership season! Make new business connections with women in diverse businesses. WPWC is for all women in business.  
*The Copper Cup, 680 Dover Center Rd., Westlake*

**Wednesday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m.**  
**Westlake Garden Club Meeting**  
Lunch will be served at noon. The program will start at 1 p.m. Program: "Silk Flower Arrangements" presented by member, Robert Pearl. Robert will demonstrate the art of creating floral arrangements from silk and artificial materials, using a variety of unusual containers. Come join us, everyone is invited. For reservations or information call Bill Hock, 440-892-0189.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Free Community Meal**  
Please join us for a free, hot meal served around tables in friendship, laughter and connectedness. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and dinner is served continuously from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Come for great food and good company. The church is handicap accessible from the rear Christian Education wing entrance.  
*Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Thursday, Nov. 21, 1-2 p.m.**  
**The Brain Lecture Series: The Mentally Ill Brain**  
This lunchtime lecture series is based on the Charlie Rose: The Brain Series, which began airing on PBS in 2009. The Brain Series is a multi-part program hosted by Nobel laureate Eric Kandel, M.D., which explores the final frontier of neuroscience research examining current advances in brain science. This event is free and open to the public.  
*Tri-C Corporate College West, 25425 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

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