

## Free medication check available at Westlake Center

by LYDIA GADD

**D**o you ever wonder whether or not your medicine is working for you? Are you on the right medicine at the correct dose? There is actually a simple, painless test that can give information to you and your doctor about how you metabolize medicine. The test will be available Friday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Westlake Center for Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge Road. Again, it is quick and painless and just involves a simple swab of the cheek.

The test is covered 100 percent by traditional Medicare, Medicare HMO's, Tri-Care and several other insurances. There are no copays or balance bill. Simply bring your Medicare/insurance card, a photo ID (such as driver's license), and a list of all of the medications you take. You must call 440-899-3544 to schedule an appointment time.

» See MED CHECK page 2



American Legion presents new flag to WHS

American Legion Post #385 Americanism chairman Jim Potter, left, and Post Commander Stan Zeager, right, raise a new flag at Westlake High School with senior class President Adam Othman and Principal Tim Freeman.

**T**he American Legion Post #385 recently presented a new flag to fly outside Westlake High School. Jim Potter, the Post's Americanism Chairman received a call from Principal Tim Freeman's office this summer explaining that they had a new school building, but the flag outside was faded and torn. They asked if the Post could present them with a new flag when school opened this fall.

The American Legion ordered a new flag for the school and will retire the old flag as part of their annual Veterans Day flag retirement ceremony.

PHOTO BY JACY NICHOLS

## Your Vote: Use it or lose it

by CONDA BOYD

**A**nyone who watches election returns knows that we Americans take our right to vote for granted. But just how fragile is that right?

Are you a white male landowner who's over 21 years old? When the United States was founded, that's what it took to vote in most states. By the Civil War, most states had removed the wealth requirement, but you still had to be male, white and, in most states, 21.

Are you a naturalized citizen? You couldn't have voted until the 14th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1868.

Is your skin dark? The 15th Amendment, passed in 1870, provided that voting rights could not be abridged based on race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Are you a woman? You couldn't have voted until 1920, when the 19th Amendment was passed. Thank the brave suffragettes who marched by the thousands, suffering derision and assaults. Some even went to jail, conducted hunger strikes and were force-fed.

» See VOTE page 2

## BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

## 'Hidden in Plain Sight' reveals signs of drug abuse in teens' bedrooms

by KAREN DERBY

**P**arents exploring a typical teen bedroom staged at Bay High School will find that, hidden in the usual mess, are clues that signal trouble. "Hidden in Plain Sight" will be on display in the school's auditorium on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Doors open for browsing at 6:30 p.m., with a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. The exhibit is open to *adults only*. There is no charge for admittance, and adult residents of all surrounding communities are welcome.

The unique traveling exhibit was created by the Bath and Copley Township police departments. The departments constructed what appears to be at first glance

the bedroom of the average teenager. Visitors will learn, though, that amidst the clutter of clothing scattered on the floor, school supplies on a desk and personal care products on a vanity are more than 150 items that can actually be signals that a young person could be involved in risky, dangerous and even illegal activity.

The audience is encouraged to explore and interact with items in the display which may be indicative that a teenager is involved in substance abuse, underage drinking, eating disorders,

sexual activity and more. Participants will be enlightened, educated and astonished.

The exhibit and presentation continue the collaboration of the Bay Village Schools and the Bay Village Police Department in educating the community's parents and adults in order to prevent risky behaviors by young people. Last year, the

collaboration presented retired DEA agent Bob Stutman, who addressed the urgent need to prevent drug abuse by children who begin down the wrong path by abusing prescription drugs.

For further information, contact Kevin Jakub, Assistant Principal at Bay Middle School at 440-617-7600, or email at [Kevin.Jakub@bayschoolsohio.org](mailto:Kevin.Jakub@bayschoolsohio.org). ♦



"Hidden in Plain Sight" depicts a typical teen bedroom with clues indicating possible trouble. The display will be open to adults in Bay High's auditorium on Oct. 1 starting at 6:30 p.m.





## VOTE *from front page*

Ever live in Washington, D.C.? You couldn't have voted in presidential elections until 1961, when the 23rd Amendment was passed.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment prohibited poll taxes, which had been used to disenfranchise blacks and poor people in the South, taking us back to the wealthy, white and over-21 scenario that our country started with.

Are you between 18 and 21? You got the right to vote in 1971, when the 26th Amendment was passed because Vietnam-era draftees stood up and cried, "If we're old enough to die, we're old enough to vote."

Since the day our country was born, patriots have fought inch by precious inch to secure your right to vote – and to win it back whenever new rules have restricted it. This fight is alive and well in Ohio, where voters' rights activists are challenging new limits on early voting.

September is Voter Registration Month, and Sept. 23 is National Voter Registration Day. League of Women Voters volunteers will be celebrating by registering students in four Cleveland high schools, as well as shoppers and commuters in Tower City.

If only we had the resources to reach every single new voter – and all the lapsed voters too!

The League is a nonpartisan political membership organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We welcome men and those who cannot vote, in addition to women who can – and do. The only requirement for membership is a passion for democracy. We have chapters in Bay Village and Westlake-North Olmsted. Please join us! Visit [LWVGreaterCleveland.org](http://LWVGreaterCleveland.org) for more information. ●

### VOTER REGISTRATION

If you have moved since you last voted, please update your registration before Oct. 6 at [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us). Registration forms are also available at the Bay Village and Westlake libraries and city halls. The Ohio secretary of state recently mailed Vote by Mail Ballot Applications to voters. If you request a form, you will receive fewer robo-calls because the parties will assume you have voted! But if you do request a form, please use it. If you go to the polls instead, you'll have to cast a provisional ballot.

## MED CHECK

*from front page*

The results of this test will then be sent to both you and your doctor.

In addition, the Westlake Center for Community Services will be hosting a Flu Shot Clinic Day on Monday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Again, a reservation is required. Schedule your appointment by calling 440-899-3544. Appointments will be available for those aged 14 or older.

The flu shots are administered by Maxim, so check your insurance

plan for coverage. For those NOT covered by insurance, the cost is \$31.99. Both regular and high-dose vaccines are available, so please indicate your choice when registering. Don't forget to wear short sleeves!

The staff and programs available through the Westlake Center are dedicated to helping our citizens Live Well and Age Well. For a complete listing of our services, and link to our monthly newsletter, go to our website at [www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org); click on the City Departments tab and then the Community Services tab. You can also visit us and receive a tour. ●

### HUMOR

## What bugs us?

by KATHY LUENGO

Many bugs – especially mosquitoes, sweat bees, gnats, flies and midges – that persistently pursue us, bug us. Beneficial bugs, like bees, bug us when they sting, to put it mildly. Keeping in mind that stinging insects are more aggressive in late summer and early fall, it's a good idea to swap cut-offs and flip flops for slacks, socks and shoes when walking in grassy areas. Swatting at stinging insects increases chances that we'll soon be smarting!

Bugs in the house and ants in the pantry can join the list. What about moths in our woolens? Holy mole! (Shouldn't that be "holey" moley?)

It's little wonder that the word "bug" describes something that annoys or bothers us.

What about litterbugs? While they're not as prevalent in Westlake and Bay Village as in other communities where fewer residents are mindful of community beautification and property upkeep, we have our share, just the same. A pretty good hunch is that many are adolescents. *Parents, please talk to your kids!* Keeping our area litter-free improves property values and the desirability of our communities!

Speaking of bugs, now that September has arrived, we'll hear more about the flu bug. While some Westshore residents are diligent about getting their flu shots, others are not. Take heed: not unlike an insect hitting the windshield, once you catch the flu head-on, it's too late. *Splat!*

Certain people may not be too keen about the bugs that monitor our conversations. While such surveillance devices have been around for many moons, there's no indication that their disappearance is imminent. Yet, the notion of bugs can bug well-meaning people who would never intend any



PHOTO BY EGON LUENGO

**The very sight of spiders might bug some of us, but the awesome arachnids are actually good to have around!**

harm or wrongdoing.

October is knocking on the door, signaling the approach of cooler weather. We all know what follows! Come winter, we'll all be hoping to be as snug as a bug in a rug, which is actually rather nice and can be struck from the list of what bugs us.

Also off the list is the jitterbug. The dance of a bygone era is still enjoyed by those who are still up to its quick pace and ballroom dance students alike.

Another perennial favorite nearly as old as the jitterbug that deserves a pardon from the list of what bugs us is the Volkswagen Beetle. Even non-Beetle owners who enjoyed Walt Disney's "Herbie the Love Bug" movie series can't help but feel a happy twinge of nostalgia when seeing a Beetle out and about.

Snakes and spiders, while not insects, bug a lot of people because their respective serpentine slithering and additional pair of legs can result in goose bumps and that creepy-crawly feeling. Yet, contributions to controlling the real "bugs" need to be considered. It has been reported that spider venom may have benefits in the medical field. So snakes and spiders have their rightful place – just not inside our dwellings!

If, by now, we're becoming a little bug-eyed, let's take a quick break, look out the window, and then continue reading good Westshore news! ●

## Huntington Playhouse to stage 'Spelling Bee'

by TOM MEYROSE

Huntington Playhouse's 2014 season continues with a production of the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," opening on Sept. 18 and running through Oct. 12.

This hilarious musical comedy celebrates the mania of competition as the funniest, most lovable and sardonically nerdy contestants compete for the spelling bee title. Six wacky misfits with steely ambition strive to define themselves apart from their crazy families as they confront the pitfalls

of puberty.

Performances are on Fridays and Saturday evenings and there is one Sunday matinee on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. For reservations, contact the box office at 440-871-8333.

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

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The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community. The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through citizen participation of the 600+ community volunteers.

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

### Observer Guidelines

Want to submit an article to the Observer? We'd love to hear from you! Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when writing for the Observer:

- Anyone who lives or works in Westlake or Bay Village is encouraged to contribute.
- Aim for 300-500 word articles.
- Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes in size.
- Submit original stories and photos. Don't copy others' work and remember to credit your sources.
- Review our Observer FAQs on our website at: [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com)
- Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process. Staff contact information is listed below.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at [wbvobserver.com/members](http://wbvobserver.com/members) to submit your stories, photos and events. All content should be submitted through the Member Center, not by email.

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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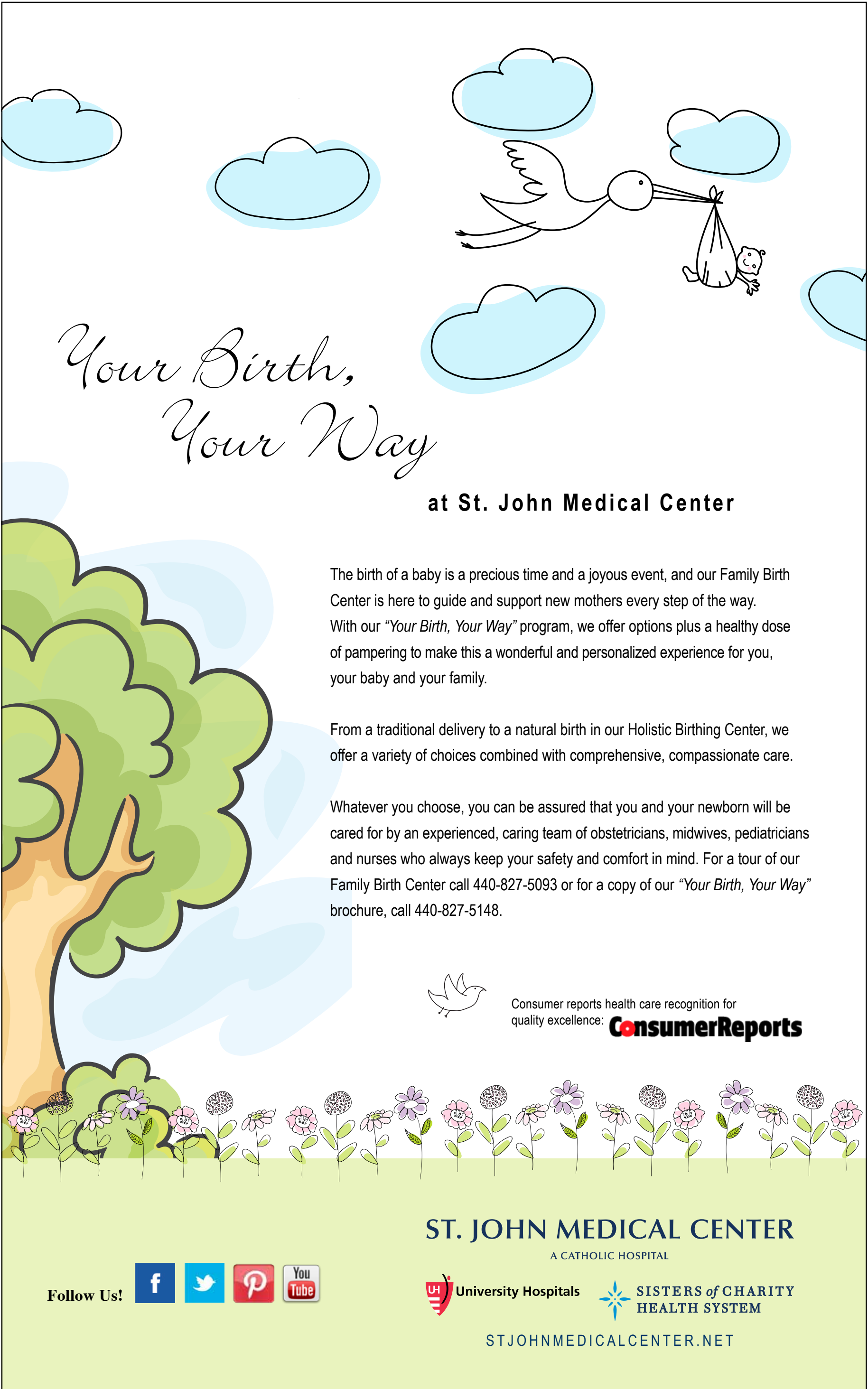
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# Your Birth, Your Way

## at St. John Medical Center

The birth of a baby is a precious time and a joyous event, and our Family Birth Center is here to guide and support new mothers every step of the way. With our “Your Birth, Your Way” program, we offer options plus a healthy dose of pampering to make this a wonderful and personalized experience for you, your baby and your family.





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# St. Raphael School raises more than \$900 with Ice Bucket Challenge

by CATHY PFAFF

St. Raphael School in Bay Village responded to the Ice Bucket Challenge from St. Christopher School in Rocky River. Nearly 20 staff members participated in the challenge, with students donating money for a chance to dump the ice. More than \$900 was raised by the St. Raphael students, with funds being split between the John Paul II Medical Research Institute and the Prayers From Maria Children's Glioma Cancer Foundation. ●

RIGHT: Students watch on as (back row, from left) Evan Johnston, Maura Martin and Tommy McConville dump ice on fifth-grade teachers (from left) Mrs. Rachel Barry, Ms. Shannon Welsh and Mrs. Michelle Wise.



## Construction will not stop Oct. 2 pet blessing at St. Raphael

by ANNE STRAITIFF

Construction of a new church building at St. Raphael Parish will not stop the celebration of the 10th Annual Blessing of the Pets on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn of the church in Bay Village.

The event was first held in 2005 to commemorate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

Individual blessings will be given to each animal. Dog treats from Landmark will be distributed, and a garden statue of St. Francis will be given away. The event is free and all are welcome!

St. Raphael pastor, Fr. Timothy W.

Gareau, commented about the construction and the pet blessing. "We are blessed at St. Raphael with a vibrant and growing parish, and we're grateful for the construction now underway on our new church building. We welcome all our friends in the surrounding neighborhoods to join with us on this day, to give thanks for all God's creatures – especially our faithful animal companions – and ask for His continued blessings on our families, our community, and on all living things entrusted to our care."

St. Raphael is located at 525 Dover Center Road. Parking is behind the church. ●



Fr. Ryan Cubera includes Matthew Rising in the blessing of Matthew's dogs at last year's pet blessing at St. Raphael.

Please note: Dogs should be on leashes; cats and other pets in carriers or cages. The event will be cancelled if it rains.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE RAMEY

## Kindergarteners welcome the new school year

The kindergarten class of Westshore Montessori School in Westlake participated in the annual making of the Japanese koi windsock celebrating the beginning of the kindergarten year. As a cultural enrichment lesson, the children learned that the koi fish is renowned for its determination for swimming upstream against the hard current, therefore is thought to be a worthy example for children. In Japan, the koi windsocks can be seen hanging from tall poles around the neighborhoods celebrating the festival for children traditionally held in May. ●

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## Westlake Animal Hospital was honored to be a sponsor of Celebrate Westlake

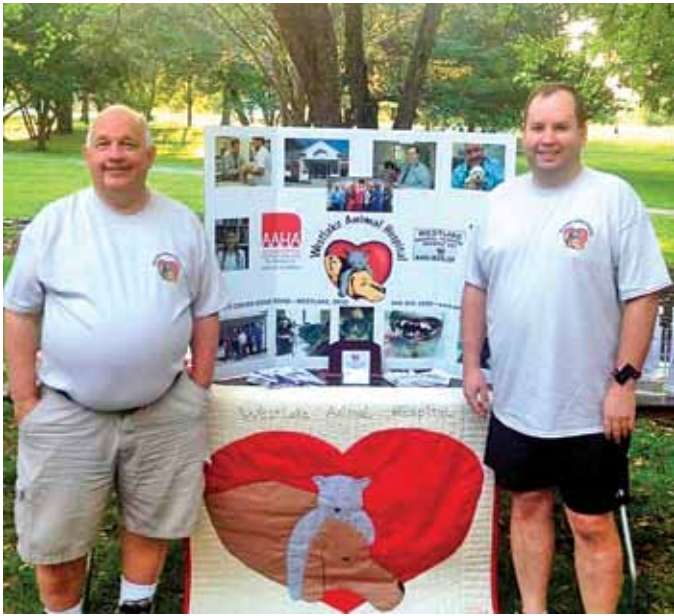
which raises money for Westlake local charities. Dr. Love has practiced in Westlake for 40 years and the Westlake Animal Hospital philosophy is not only supporting but giving back to this outstanding community. Dr. Love, Dr. Nappier and Dr. Madden work with the Westlake Police Department in providing health care for Chico the canine officer as well as in treating the strays found by Westlake Animal Control. Via Facebook we raise money for local rescues; 'like' our Facebook page to help raise money for our current charity Erie Shore Greyhound Adoption of Ohio. And we have fun doing it all!



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FAMILY OBSERVATIONS

# College Prep

by RJ JOHNSON, pastor of Advent Westlake

“Where do you want to go to college?” I remember people asking me this question when I was a junior in high school. I had a couple of ideas, but I was not quite sure. I was very surprised when people started asking my daughter the same question when she was in eighth grade. She had not given much thought to what she wanted for lunch. How could she be expected to know where she wanted to go to college?

When she said she was not sure, she would often get the response, “You need to start thinking about it. It is not too early to start building your resume.” Every time she mentioned an activity she was involved with, people would evaluate it in terms of how it would look on a college application.

Before the end of her sophomore year, an acquaintance asked me if she was going to spend all summer studying for the ACT. “All summer?” I thought. “You can get a 15-year-old to spend an entire summer studying for the ACT?” I had never considered that possibility.

“She will not be spending much time studying for the ACT,” I admitted, “She will be spending the summer in Seoul, South Korea.”

I braced myself for the reproach that would certainly come. Then I added,

“She will be studying Korean.”

“Wow!” he said. “That will look great on a college application.” By the look on his face, I could tell that he thought I had found the holy grail of things to add to a college application.

To be honest, when my wife and I discussed whether we would allow her to go to Korea with a friend to visit her friend's grandparents, the topic of college applications never came up. The first question was whether our daughter would be safe. After making certain she would, we talked about the fact that this could be a once in a lifetime experience. We hoped that she would enjoy the summer. We liked the idea that she would experience a different culture.

I wonder if we are teaching our children to be so focused on preparing for the future that they are missing the present. Are they missing the years when they can develop a passion for something that will make the future meaningful?

I do think preparation for the future is important. The danger is, however, that we might miss the present. I remember the summers I spent climbing in Rocky Mountain National Park when I should have been studying for the ACT.

On my desk, I keep a photograph of myself, ice axe in hand, standing next to a sign that reads, “CAUTION: OPEN AND HIDDEN CREVASSES. DESCENT MAY BE HAZARDOUS.” The descent did nothing for my college application, but it did prepare me for life in ways that I never would have been prepared if I had been focused on building a resume. ●

**FAITH & SPIRITUALITY**

# Drum circle and 'Untethered Soul' highlight Unity's leap into fall

by KENNETH COOPER

A high-energy drum circle and a fall program focusing on the modern spiritual classic, "The Untethered Soul," highlight an exciting next few weeks at Unity Spiritual Center. If you've had thoughts of checking out Unity, now is the perfect time to find out what we're all about.

First up is the Autumn Equinox Celebration, Potluck and Drumming Circle. This fun-filled family event will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6-8:30 p.m. on Unity's campus at 23855 Detroit Road in Westlake. The evening begins with a fall harvest ceremony around the fire. Next we share a delicious potluck, followed by a community drum fun circle led by Corky & Barb. Bring a dish for the potluck, as well as any drums or rattles you might have. Corky & Barb, however, will provide many instruments for the drumless.

The celebration continues the following weekend as Unity launches its annual fall program. The opening ceremony, “Awakening Your Soul,” will be held Friday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. The program this year focuses on "The Untethered Soul" by Michael Singer, a writer recently featured on Oprah Winfrey's “Super Soul Sunday.”

Starting Sunday, Sept. 26, and for the next seven weeks, Sunday speakers

will address the key issues presented in Singer's book. To supplement the Sunday talks, small groups will meet during the week to discuss individual chapters.

There will be 17 such groups, eight of them (including a Spanish-speaking group) meeting at Unity Spiritual Center. Seven other groups will meet in congregants' homes around the area. Check Unity's website, [unityspiritualcenter.com](http://unityspiritualcenter.com), or call 440-835-0400 for more information.

"The Untethered Soul" is deeply personal and wonderfully readable. Singer's approach will engage you immediately: “If you want to be happy, you have to let go of the part of you that wants to create melodrama. This is the part that thinks there's a reason not to be happy. You have to transcend the personal, and as you do, you will naturally awaken to the higher aspects of your being. In the end, enjoying life's experiences is the only rational thing to do. You're sitting on a planet spinning around in the middle of absolutely nowhere. Go ahead, take a look at reality. You're floating in empty space in a universe that goes on forever. If you have to be here, at least be happy and enjoy the experience.”

Whether you choose to join us for part or all of the fall program, you will be welcome at Unity Spiritual Center. Enjoy the experience. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

# Perception is reality?

by JEFF BING

I was perusing a certain well-known online shopping site not too long ago when something for sale caught my eye. It was an “autographed” Cleveland Indians baseball from the early 2000s, and it looked strangely familiar. A quick trip to my basement confirmed my suspicions; it was the *same* autographed ball I had in my possession. In fact, I still have a bunch of ‘em.

First, let's back up the memorabilia truck for a moment, and allow me to explain. From 1999 to 2010, I had a part-time business selling sports novelties at Indians and Browns games. I also worked many weekends in Pittsburgh, doing Pirates and Steelers games when the Tribe or Browns were out of town. Finally, on rare occasions I'd even work some Reds or Bengals games in Cincinnati. For the most part, it was a lot of fun; when the weather was nice, there wasn't a better job in the world.

I never got into the business of autographed memorabilia, simply because of the risk involved. I remember hearing at the time that upwards of 75 percent of all autographed sports memorabilia was forged, and that number was probably low. In the instance of the autographed baseball above, what I had – and what someone was apparently selling as “legit” – was known as a “facsimile autographed” item.

In other words, the company would obtain the autographs of a team, copy them, and then “stamp” them on a baseball. It was strictly a novelty item, and anyone with a bit of common sense could see that the autographs were clearly copies. Plus, at the time, I sold the baseballs I had for \$5 each, so you can imagine what I paid for them. Obviously, legitimate signatures would fetch just a wee bit more.

After confirming my suspicions, I went back to the site to email the seller to let him know his ball wasn't

authentic, but his ad was already gone, hopefully because someone else already pointed out the error of his ways. Or, more likely, perhaps he found a sucker and was covering his tracks. Then again, on the flip-side, how sorry can you *really* feel for someone who buys something as risky as autographs *online*? If anything ever screamed out for “in-person scrutiny” prior to purchase, you'd have to think an autograph would rank right up there, wouldn't you?

I always get a kick out of the “certificate of authenticity” which many collectors display proudly with their (supposedly) legitimate autographs. Wait a second ... if an unscrupulous seller is going to forge an autograph, isn't it just as easy to forge the certificate?

I used to set up my novelty stand on East 9th Street right across from the players' parking lot, where crowds would gather hours before game time in hopes of securing an autograph. The epitome of social consciousness, I sold baseballs, Sharpies, etc. to those in need.

Over the years, I noticed many of the same adults showing up, eventually discovering that these guys – who couldn't care less about the game of baseball – were grabbing the autographs and then immediately selling the items online. Eventually, the players started to recognize these same “fans” and soon stated they would only sign for kids, to stop the profiting of their autographs by the adult autograph hounds.

Of course, it wasn't long before I saw these same adults driving up with cars full of kids, carefully directing each child as to whose autograph he was to try and obtain, and then hiding in the background as the kids did their dirty work. Ah ... free enterprise at its best!

Now, if anyone is interested in souvenirs from the memorable Tribe World Series of '96 – seriously, who can forget *that* one? – please look me up... ●

# Bay Cares event showcases volunteer opportunities

by TARA WENDELL

Bay Villagers know that our city is a wonderful place to live, play and raise a family. There's the beautiful lakeside setting, the friendly people and the small-town feel. Part of the community's charm are the many residents who volunteer their time with civic groups, clubs and foundations dedicated to maintaining the Bay Village way of life.

If you're looking to spend a little of your free time giving back to the community, Bay has a group to fit almost any interest. In fact, it can be daunting to research all of them and decide which one(s) to choose.

The Observer and the Bay Village Branch Library are partnering to bring civic organizations and interested volunteers together.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the library, the Bay Cares Fall Fest will feature representatives from Bay-based groups with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Do you love dogs, cats or snakes? How about recycling, reading, biking, gardening, Scouting, voting, writing? Are you a veteran or the descendant of one?

On a beautiful fall day, you can learn about more than 20 non-profit organizations that help make Bay the special community it is.

This indoor/outdoor event will also feature kids' crafts, live music from the Bay Village Community Band and free doughnuts from the DonutLab truck.

Come alone or bring the family and find out how you can give back to the community and meet friendly people, all while doing something you enjoy! ●

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



# Bay Village Early Childhood PTA Kids' Resale on Oct. 4

by CHRISTINE RINTO

The Bay Village Early Childhood PTA will host its annual Fall Kids' Resale on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon at Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Road. Admission is \$5 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The sale features gently used baby and children's clothing (sizes newborn to 14/16), baby items, toys and games, books, and large items such as strollers, cribs, high chairs and outdoor play items.

It's a great place for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors and babysitters to pick up gently used, high quality items for children. Shoppers with strollers are welcome!

Are you interested in becoming a seller? Cost is only \$30 per 9-foot space (includes 6-foot table). Please visit [bvccpta.org/events](http://bvccpta.org/events) to download sellers' form or email [casey85@hotmail.com](mailto:casey85@hotmail.com) for more information. Tables are going fast – register by Sept. 19 to reserve your spot. ●

## TRAVELERS' OBSERVATIONS

### South African Safari

by MELISSA HENDERSON

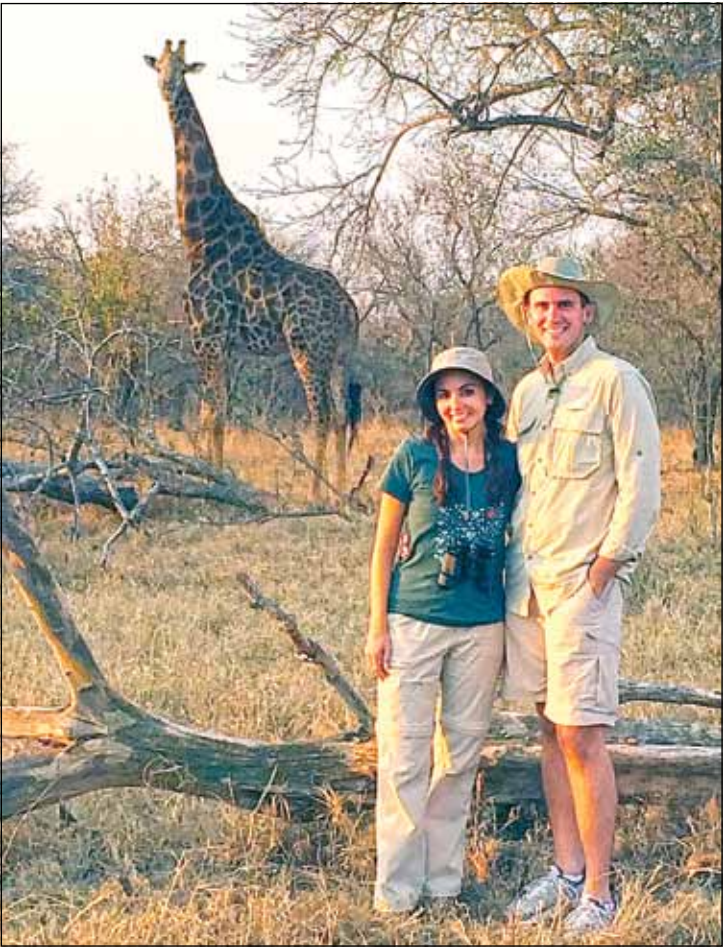
My husband, Tom, and I recently went on a South African photo safari in the Kapama Private Reserve. Each day we took two three-hour game drives and participated in an additional fun activity like a bush walk or an elephant-back excursion. We were fortunate enough to see the "Big Five" (lion, elephant, cape buffalo, leopard and rhino) along with many other wild animals. Everyone was very friendly and we had a great time. ●



Some animals are so familiar with people that they aren't afraid to come close ... too close!



An elephant's-eye view of the African plains.



Melissa and Tom Henderson in front of an African backdrop.



The sunsets in South Africa are rivaled only by the sunsets in Bay Village.

PHOTOS BY MELISSA AND TOM HENDERSON



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**WESTLAKE RECREATION CENTER**

# Saying goodbye to a familiar face

by JIM DISPIRITO

Friday, Sept. 5, marked the end of an era for the Westlake Recreation Center as longtime employee Brenda Larion retired. After 16 years at the center, it was time for Brenda to join her husband in retirement.

Brenda came to the City of Westlake from the North Olmsted Board of Education in 1998. Brenda was hired as the original front desk manager where she remained for over a dozen years. The past several years Brenda has downsized and was acting as the Recreation Department's finance guru. If you wanted something, Brenda was the person you had to go through.

During her years of service, Brenda always had a smile on her face and brought that energy to not only the Recreation Center but to City Hall where she was often seen spreading her cheer from department to department. Her daily "run" allowed her to go to the golf course, bank, city hall and, during the summer, even Peterson Pool.

Brenda has two loves, Marblehead and Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Oh, well maybe a third – her husband, Bill. On this particular Friday, Brenda's last day, it was 5:00 somewhere but for Brenda, the staff made her wait. Wait to show their appreciation as staff from the recreation, service and finance departments and City Hall joined together at the Ironwood Café to help share in this happy time.

Brenda will still be in the area as her one son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter reside in the area. However, once the cold winds start to blow, Brenda and Bill will be heading south to Fort Myers Beach where it will always be 5:00! ●



Brenda Larion celebrated her retirement with her husband Bill, left, recreation department director Bob DeMinico, and the many friends she made during her tenure in the city of Westlake.

# Clague Playhouse presents 'An Inspector Calls'

by KATHERINE HARPER

Clague Playhouse will present J.B. Priestley's classic mystery "An Inspector Calls" as the first production of its 86th season.

The play is set in the home of a prosperous family in an English mill town in 1912. The Birlings and their prospective son-in-law react coolly to the news that a young village woman has killed herself. But was Eva's death really a suicide, and are the family members as law-abiding and moral as they appear? With a police inspector inquiring into each person's past, it is only a matter of time before

the exposure of the guilty party – or parties.

"An Inspector Calls" is directed by Ron Newell. The cast includes Dale Hruska, Lou Will, Rebecca Knab, Monica Zach, Bryan Heard, Eric Lucas and Richie Lynch.

The production opened Sept. 12 and runs through Oct. 5 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$15 for seniors (60+), and \$10 for students (with valid ID) and may be purchased by calling the box office at 440-331-0403 Wednesday through Saturday from 1–6 p.m.

Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake. ●



The Inspector's (Dale Hruska, center) arrival sparks a confrontation between Mr. Birling (Lou Will, left) and his son Eric (Bryan Heard) in Clague Playhouse's production of "An Inspector Calls."

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 (10:15 & 11 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE!** – Sing and move to the music with Miss Nancy! For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please arrive early to receive a ticket at the Pre-school Desk.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOW WOW! READ TO UNCLE CHOW CHOW!** – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with Uncle Chow Chow, our reading dog! Bring your own book or choose one of ours. Registration begins each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 (7-8:30 p.m.) PROPOSAL WRITING BASICS** – Learn the steps of writing a thorough grant proposal, from planning and research to writing to following up. Please register.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 (7-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** – Dr. Judy Cetina, Director of Cuyahoga County Archives, presents “Cuyahoga County: The First 200 Years.”

**Thursday, Sept. 18 (12-1:30 p.m.) SMALL BUSINESS LUNCH & LEARN** – SCORE presents “Managing Your Business ... the Owner’s Role.” Whether you have an existing business or just getting started, this seminar will help you to identify the important elements of your business, describe the multiple roles that must be filled and guide you through the process of planning to achieve business success. Please feel free to bring lunch or purchase at Pulleys at Porter. Please register.

**Friday, Sept. 19 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME** – Join us for a storytime for children with special needs and their parents/caregivers. The program includes interactive stories, rhymes, songs and movement activities, followed by 30

minutes of play. Content is geared to ages 3-7. Please call with questions or to register.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 (2-4 p.m.) CARRY-OUT CRAFTS** – Stop by the Youth Services Department to see what each day’s featured craft is! Tables will be set up with all of the supplies needed.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 (2-4 p.m.) WOMEN: DISCOVER YOUR PASSION** – This empowering workshop guides you through the process of identifying your passions and will leave you with the spark to tap into them. Please register.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 (3-5 p.m.) MAD 4 MANGA** – 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! Grades 7-12 only.

**Sunday, Sept. 21 (2-3:30 p.m.) DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS CLUB** – Are you looking for something dangerous, but not too dangerous? Learn how to tie knots, make a battery and tell the age of a tree in our Dangerous Book for Boys Club. Ages 9-11. Registration begins Sept. 14.

**Sunday, Sept. 21 (2-4 p.m.) CHESS CLUB** – Hone your chess skills (or learn how to play the game) through WPPL’s new Chess Club. The club is recommended for kids ages 6+, but all ages are welcome to attend. If you have a chess set, please bring it.

**Monday, Sept. 22 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Monday, Sept. 22 (3:45-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We’ve got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Grades 7-12.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (10:15 & 11 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE!** – Sing and

move to the music with Miss Nancy! For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please arrive early to receive a ticket at the Pre-school Desk.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – The September selection is “Looking for Me” by Beth Hoffman.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOW WOW! READ TO UNCLE CHOW CHOW!** – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with Uncle Chow Chow, our reading dog! Bring your own book or choose one of ours. Registration begins each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (7-8 p.m.) IPAD BASICS** – Bring your new iPad and learn some basic skills. This class is geared toward beginner users. This will help you get acquainted with your new tablet.

**Thursday, Sept. 25 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – Please join the Westlake Historical Society for their general meeting.

**Friday, Sept. 26 (10 a.m.-noon) PORTER’S FIBER FANATICS** – A time for needlecrafters to share, solve problems and show off.

**Friday, Sept. 26 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) IPAD USERS GROUP** – Listen to a 15-minute iPad topic on Wi-Fi and General Settings and then talk and share tips with other iPad users. Must bring your iPad with you. Registration required.

**Friday, Sept. 26 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS PARENT DISCUSSION & FACILITATED PLAYGROUP** – Parents will participate in a parent discussion group led by a local pediatric expert. Childcare is offered but space is limited. You must RSVP by calling 440-250-5563. Children do not need a formal diagnosis to attend, however Connecting for Kids programs are geared towards families with concerns about childhood development. This month’s topic: “Communication Temptations” with Lakeshore Speech Therapy.

**Saturday, Sept. 27 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB** – Bring your ideas and imagination to the club! All bricks pro-

vided. Ages 6-12.

**Saturday, Sept. 27 (3-5 p.m.) WHO-VIAN HAVEN (DR. WHO CLUB)** – Whovian Haven is a place for Who-vians to get together, watch episodes of “Doctor Who,” and talk about Doctor Who and all other Timey-Wimey things. Grades 9-12. Please register starting Sept. 20.

**Sunday, Sept. 28 (2-3:30 p.m.) MAGIC: THE GATHERING** – Magic: The Gathering is the world’s premier trading card game. It was the first of its kind, and it’s still the best and the biggest. Come and learn to play the game, or bring a group and fight with other planeswalkers for glory, knowledge and conquest. Players must furnish their own cards. Grades 7-12.

**Sunday, Sept. 28 (2-4 p.m.) CHESS CLUB** – Hone your chess skills (or learn how to play the game) through WPPL’s new Chess Club. The club is recommended for kids ages 6+, but all ages are welcome to attend. If you have a chess set, please bring it.

**Monday, Sept. 29 (3:45-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We’ve got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Grades 7-12.

**Monday, Sept. 29 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) SAVVY SOCIAL SECURITY PLANNING** – Get answers to important Social Security questions such as: How and when does one become eligible? How are retirement benefits calculated? What spousal benefits are available? And more. Please register.

**Tuesday, Sept. 30 (7-8:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP** – Parents will participate in a parent discussion group led by a local pediatric expert. Childcare is offered but space is limited. You must RSVP by calling 440-250-5563. Children do not need a formal diagnosis to attend, however Connecting for Kids programs are geared towards families with concerns about childhood development. Topics are listed at connectingforkids.org.

**To register for any of the programs, please call 440-871-2600 or visit signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080. ●**

## Village Bike Co-op plans history-themed bike ride

by DONNA WILSON

Do you like a good mystery? Here’s your chance to visit some historical “mystery” sites in Bay Village and learn about some strange phenomenon such as the MysteryWave, Dover Center Gun Battle and the Sheppard Murder. Come support the Village Bicycle Cooperative’s first annual History Mystery (“Hi My”) Ride which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants will meet at the Village Bicycle Cooperative located on the ground floor of the Bay Village Community House at 303 Cahoon Road, in Cahoon Park. There will be stops at some historical places and the Bay Village Branch Library will also provide books and information on Bay’s history.

The inaugural ride will have

three route options, including an easy-paced, family-friendly 12-mile History Mystery cruise, a 25-mile challenging ride, and an exhilarating 50-mile ride. All three ride levels will end with a meal at the Village Bicycle Cooperative where riders will enjoy a historic style picnic experience catered by strEAT Mobile Bistro. VBC volunteers will host programs in the afternoon.

All riders will receive a ride packet that will include a T-shirt, map directions and meal tickets. Early registration is \$40 until Sept. 27. Registration after that date is \$45. Visit the website at [www.villagebicycle.org](http://www.villagebicycle.org) for registration and other information, or call Rebecca at 440-346-0560.

So put your wheels and brain to the test as you solve the “history mysteries.” This event is guaranteed to bring you much fun and good exercise. ●

## BVEF to award annual grants to schools

by MEREDITH PREWITT

It’s that time of year again when the kids are back in class and teachers and school personnel have put the finishing touches on their plans and rooms for their eager students. The Bay Village Education Foundation, however, lends a helping hand to those teachers and staff that desire a little something extra at the beginning of each year, such as to initiate a revolutionary idea, gather more purposeful and helpful supplies, or to try using new equipment with their students.

Those, of course, are just to name a few examples of the possibilities. The BVEF’s mission is to support, promote and fund all areas of public school curriculum and enhance enthusiasm for learning inside and out of the classroom. Therefore, each fall, they extend the offer to Bay teachers and staff to award grants to fund these exciting ideas that are requested throughout the district. The grants awarded can range from providing support to extra-curricular activities, classroom and district activities, and to a variety of creative

learning opportunities.

Over the past three years, the BVEF has awarded \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually to fund various ideas, materials and activities with dollars contributed and fundraised throughout the year. The average grant size gifted each year is \$150 to \$1,500, based on the level of expense that is being requested per staff member.

For the 2014-2105 school year, the grant deadline is Sept. 26, via electronic submission. The online grant application can be accessed through the Bay Village Schools website under “Parent/Support Groups” and then the Bay Education Foundation tab to access the “Grants and Awards” site. After careful consideration by the BVEF, the much anticipated notification of grants takes place around the end of October with the BVEF “Grant Prize Patrol” that visits each awardee.

For more information on requesting a grant, you can contact the Chair of Grants, Ellie Bricmont, [ebricmont@wowway.com](mailto:ebricmont@wowway.com), or newly inducted BVEF President, Amy Papp, [amypapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amypapp@sbcglobal.net). ●



**READERS' OPINIONS**

# Bay Village steps up again

by NATHAN CONOVER

On Sept. 3, it was made known that an autistic teen from Bay High was talked into taking the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, only to be duped into being doused with a mixture of water and bodily fluids. Of course, everyone knows this. The entire nation knows this, due to the horrific nature of the crime.

This event has cast an ugly light on our town. However, its students and residents have risen to the occasion to disparage that light and prove that, in spite of the acts of a few, we, as a community, truly care.

On Friday, Sept. 5, Bay

High students and members of the community held a rally outside the football field before Friday's game. They showed support for autism awareness, the student involved in the incident, and raised money as well. Earlier in the day, the students wore blue; both to support their school (whose color is blue) and create awareness for autism (who's official color, ironically, is blue). Once again, Bay Village did what it does best: turn a negative into a positive.

I am proud of this city and the people in it for taking this horrific act and both turning it into a positive and never, ever letting it define who we are. ●

# And in Bay ... East met West

by DAVE TADYCH

It was the hottest, the most humid, and a very stormy night in Bay. I know it sounds like the beginning of an Edgar Allan Poe story, but on Aug. 26, 82 to 100 residents (not everyone signed in) from Wards 1 and 4, and other wards, came together. Despite the weather, Bay's Community House was buzzing!

Folks came to listen to Tom Henderson (Ward 4) and me, Dave Tadych (Ward 1). We also were proud to welcome County Representative for District 1, Dave Greenspan. We had stories, announcements, slides, tax explanations, city ideas and improvements, business changes, Ward information and pending Council legislation, along with Avon Lake's new white-tailed deer legislation on the agenda for

review. And review we did.

Residents came with comments about our wards, along with all-encompassing city questions and problems to review – all of that in the unbelievable heat and humidity of the evening. We had homemade baked goods, cold lemonade and door prizes, and we met for two hours. Time very well spent.

Tom and I want to publicly thank Tara Wendell of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer for her well-written article in the Sept. 3 issue of our “East Meets West” wards meeting. Additionally, we want to thank our constituents for their support and interest in us and the city and invite them to maintain that interest in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for your responsiveness. ●

**BAYARTS**

# Huntington House classroom gets a facelift

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

The second floor of BAYarts' historic Huntington House has been used as a classroom for art programming since the early '60s. Now, thanks to a generous donation from the family of Virginia Beach, one of the original founders of the organization in 1948, it has finally been renovated. On Sept. 12, a celebratory reception in the newly christened “Virginia Beach Art Studio” was attended by Virginia's three children: Ann Preston of Petersburg, N.H.; Jane Wessel Lang of Bay Village; and Dr. George Beach with his wife, Barbara, of Madison, Va.

BAYarts Education Director Erin Stack explained how important the renovation was. “The room felt busy and cluttered. It was like the ‘teenager's bedroom’ of our campus.” To remedy this, the floors were sanded and refinished while the walls and trim were painted. Along with new tables and chairs, a new sink and floor-to-ceiling cupboards were installed.

It was a massive overhaul that has had a big impact. “Each teacher and student that walks into the new space is completely shocked at how beautiful it is,” Stack said. “It now feels like a professional studio that we hope fosters learning.” None of the BAYarts staff will forget the Bay Village woman who inspired this reno.

With her husband, Stephen Beach, and their three children, Virginia settled into Bay Village during 1944. Once there, she managed to build a group of like-minded friends who were all passionate about the arts. She helped begin Baycrafters, and then taught there for several years. As her daughter, Ann, recalls: “There was always a new project underway – sewing draperies, refinishing furniture, designing lamps,



PHOTO BY ERIN STACK

Virginia Beach's three children, Ann Preston, George Beach and Jane Wessel Lang, at the Huntington House reception.

braiding rugs [and] stenciling rocking chairs for her young grandchildren.”

American decorative stenciling was where Virginia's special interest lay, and so she transformed furniture pieces with brightly colored images of baskets, fruits, flowers, cornucopias, vines and leaves. Strongly dedicated to the craft, Beach visited museums and libraries to procure authentic 19th-century designs to use as her stencils. She made art a priority in her life, and the quality of her creations mattered to her.

The \$9,000 gift from her family made a crucial facelift possible. The Beach children have found a way to honor the spirit of their artistic mother. Ann summed up her mother's gift as one that embraced the idea of reinvention and refurbishment. “She could take the most common objects – sometimes things discarded by others – and turn them into treasured gifts for her children and grandchildren.” ●

# Snap a better selfie with BAYarts classes

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

With so much of your life photographically shared on social media outlets, why wouldn't you want to improve the quality of those images? Luckily, there is a slew of classes and workshops coming to BAYarts this fall that are directly aimed at this cause. Teachers from BayLight Studio will be aiding students in creating better portraits, action shots and utilizing

posing skills.

The classes include “The Basics” as well as “Photographing for Publication.” In these, students will get a chance to discuss each other's work, as well as participate in weekly homework assignments so they can demonstrate what they're learning.

The one-day workshops focus on particular angles, and include the “Lighting Workshop” and “Sports Workshop,” as well as ones called “Making Great Family Photos” and “Finding the Photo.” Each workshop will enlighten students about those respective topics. The cost for each class is \$20 (\$65 for The Basics class); BAYarts members save 10 percent. Visit bayarts.net to view the schedule and sign up. ●

**Bay Cares  
Fall Fest**  
**Saturday, Oct. 4**  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Bay Village Branch Library**  
**502 Cahoon Road**

*Presented by the Westlake | Bay Village Observer, the Bay Village Branch Library and the Friends of the Bay Village Branch.*

Looking to volunteer in and around Bay Village, or just want to enjoy a beautiful fall day? Stop by for a fun, family-friendly outing and learn about the many community organizations that help to make Bay the great city that it is. This free indoor/outdoor event will feature the DonutLab food truck, kids crafts, music and tables with representatives of Bay's civic organizations.

Interested groups may register until Sept. 26; call Barb or Jessica at 440-871-6392 or email tara@wbvobserver.com.

- League of Women Voters
- Bay Village Community Band
- Bay Village Garden Club
- Bay Sea Scouts
- Boy Scout Troop 41
- Bay Village Education Foundation
- Bay Village Women's Club
- Bay Village Green Team
- Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
- Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women's Board
- Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library
- Westlake | Bay Village Observer
- Fashion Forward Project
- American Legion Post 385
- VFW Post 9693
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Daughters of the War of 1812
- Daughters of American Colonists
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- Bay Village Foundation
- Friends of the Bay Village Kennel
- Village Bicycle Cooperative
- Hospice of the Western Reserve



THE DIGITAL WORLD

# A smartphone as your pet chameleon

BY TAK SATO

Consider smartphones to be the “chameleon of the digital world,” because their utility can be adapted for any situation, much as a chameleon changes colors to blend with its environment. Each “app,” short for application, that you use on your smartphone morphs one physical device into many useful tools, depending on your needs at any given time.

While pet chameleons requires a stream of non-monotonous diet (they’ll stop eating if you feed them the same thing over and over) and a heat lamp to mimic their natural habitat, smartphones have no such demands; just charge their battery nightly to keep them happy.

Apps empower you to use your smartphone for making phone calls, sending emails, navigating unfamiliar roads (aka GPS), listening to music, capturing Kodak moments, storing contacts, forecasting weather on demand, and the list goes on and on.

With so many different apps available in Google’s Play and Apple’s iTunes stores, it can become daunting to seek useful apps. I lost count a long time ago but I think I have downloaded over

100 apps onto my smartphone! And the truth of the matter is I use only half a dozen of the same apps daily and another dozen that I use frequently during the week. So here’s what I use often that you may also find useful and/or even enjoy!

Phone/Contacts: The default phone Dialer app and Contact (or Address Book) of each smartphone usually works well so the K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, stupid) philosophy applies even for a digital world chameleon.

Email: I use Google’s Gmail for my personal emails and Google Apps for Work (formerly known as Google Apps for Business) so I like the simplicity and ease-of-use of Google’s Gmail app. Contrary to what you may think, Gmail app is available for both Android and Apple devices.

Camera: Here again the default Camera app of each smartphone usually fits your needs. If you are into social media you are already aware that Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and others have integrated picture-taking functionality. Just think how easily you can update your friends on what you are eating for lunch that day – LOL!

News: Both on my smartphone and tablets I love the app

Flipboard. Using a finger to flip the pages like a book/newspaper ... how much more intuitive can it be?

Other Communication Mediums: Google Voice, Google’s phone service business, has recently been merged into their Hangouts app. Now this app can handle instant messaging, video chats, and make free domestic phone calls in the United States (requires free Hangouts Dialer app); the latter even on a Wi-Fi only tablet. I also have the long-time stalwart Skype app that I use to communicate with my parents in Japan.

Productivity: I use Google Docs, Sheets and Slides apps for all my editing needs. If you fly the Microsoft flag, the Microsoft Office Mobile app with Word, Excel and PowerPoint is available.

Miscellaneous: Instead of digging through the desk drawer looking for a magnifying glass, try the Magnifying Glass With Light app for iPhone and iPad. Its innovative use of the rear camera projects the magnified object on the screen and gives you more control with the pinch-and-zoom motion.

*Have a question for Tak about computers, software or other technology? Send it to editor@wbvobserver.com.* ●

HEALTH + WELLNESS

# End stigma and create compassion

by DENISE AYRES

In this age where technology emerges at rapid pace there remains a baffling amount of misunderstanding about mental illness. The medical science related to diagnosing and treating mental illness is as extensive as the science related to treating diabetes or arthritis. The fact remains that even among educated people, mental illness is often seen as a fault and not a physical health affliction. Stigma about mental illness is predominant and implies that mental illness is a flaw of character. Stigma is harmful because it is an obstacle for many to receive psychiatric treatment and it directly stands in the way of social acceptance.

Stigma about mental illness is very evident on television, in movies, and news reports. Everyday conversation often casts light to show us that there is misunderstanding about mental illness. One of the biggest misunderstandings is that mental illness is related to violent behavior.

Mental illness is a physical illness brought about by an imbalance of natural brain chemicals, neurotransmitters. When symptoms develop, an evaluation is done, a diagnosis is made, and a course of treatment, including medications, is prescribed. Similar to every physical illness, when treatment is received it decreases symptoms of mental illness and moves the individual into the recovery stage. Mental illness is not the same thing as predisposition to violent behavior. Facts, including long-standing research and sociological data, show that individuals with mental illness are far less likely to engage in violent behaviors and are more often victims of violence than the general public.

Comparing mental illness to violent behavior is like comparing apples to oranges. Please ask yourself, “What if I were treated like a violent person through no fault of my own?” Also ask yourself, “What if people in my community talked about me being flawed and unacceptable?” These questions evoke sadness, fear and anxiety. This experience is similar to what people managing mental illness face every day. It would be amazingly helpful if people in every community could take the empathy they feel from asking these questions and turn it into compassion! Compassion creates changes and 2014 is the year to end stigma with compassionate thinking.

The Compeer Program at Far West Center in Westlake serves adults in recovery from mental illness. Compeer encourages these individuals to reconnect with their communities. Now that you understand the impact of stigma you can understand that these men and women have to face and conquer a great deal of social anxiety to be able to reconnect.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, Compeer is participating in the “NAMI WALKS” event for the Greater Cleveland affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. For more information about NAMI Greater Cleveland, visit [namigreatercleveland.org](http://namigreatercleveland.org). Please consider volunteering for Compeer and use your compassion to improve the lives of people in recovery from mental illness. Contact Compeer at Far West Center: 440-835-6212, ext. 242. ●

# Bradley Bay celebrates Grandparents Day



Bradley Bay resident Carol Rodman celebrates Grandparents Day with her family.

by DONNA D'AMICO

Sunday, Sept. 7, was National Grandparents Day, and at O’Neill Healthcare Bradley Bay it was celebrated in style! On a “picture-perfect” weather day, 175 residents and guests gathered outside. Musical entertainment was provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band while residents and their families enjoyed root beer floats. Volunteers from Providence Church and the Lake Breeze Youth Group joined in the fun, and along with the Bradley Bay staff made sure that every resident felt honored and cherished for the special gifts that only a grandparent can give. ●



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**BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY**

# Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

As autumn approaches and cooler weather arrives, you may want to stop by the Bay Village Branch Library for some fabulous fall books. Whether you're looking for craft ideas, delicious crock pot recipes, or a good novel or DVD to curl up with, our library has something for you.

As well as a vast selection of book and audio visual materials, we have some great events coming up in the next couple of weeks. With the holidays just around the corner, you may find yourself reminiscing of making the trip downtown to Higbee's or Halle Brothers. Join us on Sept. 18 as a representative from the Western Reserve Historical Society presents a program on the Golden Days of Cleveland Shopping. Come share your memories. See below for more events and registration information.

**CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT**

**Mondays and Tuesdays, Sept. 22, 23, 29, 30 (9:30 a.m.) TODDLER** – Caregivers and their children ages 19-35 months are invited to join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories.

**Wednesdays, Sept. 17 and 24 (9:30 a.m.) BABY & ME** – For caregivers and their children ages birth to 18 months. Join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and books.

**Wednesdays, Sept. 17 and 24 (7 p.m.); Fridays, Sept. 19 and 26 (9:30 a.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** – Children of all ages and their adult caregiver are invited to join us for stories, songs and fingerplays.

**Thursdays, Sept. 18 and 25 (11 a.m.); Tuesdays, Sept. 23 and 30 (1:30 p.m.) PRESCHOOL** – Caregivers and their children ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten) are invited to join us for rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories.

**Thursday, Sept. 18 (4 p.m.) COOKIES AND BOOKS** – Children in grades 3-4 are invited to enjoy cookies as we discuss a good book. Copies of the book will be available one month before the discussion. A parent/guardian must sign a release form before the program. Refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Library.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 (10 a.m.) KID-KART14: THE BIG RACE** – Drivers, start your engines! You've got to be fast at the wheel or you get the peel. Burn rubber on the Mario Kart Wii race track in our third annual 3rd-5th grade gaming tournament. The top 2 karts from each site will advance to the final championship at the Garfield Heights branch on Nov. 15.

**Thursday, Sept. 25 (4 p.m.) BRAIN BUILDERS SCIENCE** – Attendees

in grades 1-4 can learn how to use the power of observation and code-cracking skills to become a super spy! Create a spy gadget, crack codes and play the lie detector game.

**TEEN DEPARTMENT**

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (3:15 p.m.) TEEN ZONE** – Video games, challenges, art and more. Join us for something fun to do after school. Parents must sign a permission form, good for all fall programs.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 (2 p.m.) G2P: SMASH CON14** – Think you've mastered Super Smash Bros Brawl? Test your skills against other gamers in this county-wide tournament for teens in grades 6-12. The top 2 brawlers from each site will advance to the final championship at the Garfield Heights branch on Nov. 15.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (3:30 p.m.) ROUND TABLE** – Join other teens at the Round Table and enjoy projects that serve the community and help the library, all while having fun together. This program is an on-going series and snacks will be provided. Parents must sign a permission form and registration is required. Attendee must be between grades 5-12.

**ADULT DEPARTMENT**

**Thursday, Sept. 18 (7 p.m.) GOLDEN AGE OF SHOPPING IN CLEVELAND** – Which was more glamorous: riding the elevator (with an operator!) or your first few tries on the escalator? Remember with us Halle Brothers, May Co., Higbee's and the Sterling Linder Christmas Tree! From trucks that delivered your purchases the next day, to dining in tea rooms, shopping downtown was definitely a dressy affair. Delight in this look back at the height of downtown elegance and elaborate holiday displays. Registration required.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24 (7 p.m.) HAITI ADVENTURE** – Join retired Bay children's librarian Susan Ballard as she tells about her social justice trip to Haiti with a team from West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church. Susan will share photos and stories about the work the team did in the Central Plateau region helping build one of the eco-villages that a Haitian organization is creating. Registration required.

**Monday, Sept. 29 (7 p.m.) HISTORY OF AMERICAN JAZZ AND LATIN CLASSICS** – The Eric Everett Jazz Ensemble will perform and discuss American jazz and Latin classics by composers Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, Bill Evans and more..

**Please register to attend the programs online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), call us at 440-871-692, or stop in to the library at 502 Cahoon Road and register with a librarian.** ●

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS**

# WHS senior scores perfect 36 on ACT

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Westlake High School senior Kartik Dhinakaran scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test given over the summer. Fewer than 1/10th of 1 percent of the average 1.6 million students who take the ACT annually earn a top score of 36. This is the ninth time in six years a WHS student has earned a perfect score on the test.

As a sophomore, Kartik scored in the top 2.5 percent of test takers on the American Mathematics Competition 10 exam and competed in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) for the last four years. Last spring he was one of two WHS students representing Ohio in the American Regions Mathematics League – a national high school mathematics team competition – at Penn State University.

Kartik is an AP Scholar with Distinction and earned the Gold Medal on the National Latin Exam. He is involved in the WHS Latin Club, Math Club, Academic Challenge and National Honor Society. He also is a member of the varsity boys tennis team.

While he is still working on his specific future plans, he intends to major in biomedical engineering with a possible double major in math or applied math. He has yet to commit to a particular career field, but intends to pursue a future in science.

“One of my main priorities in picking a career is that I want to do something that isn't monotonous and that I get to talk to a lot of people,” Kartik said. “Math has been intuitive for me since I was really young, and potentially getting a Ph.D. in it is something on my bucket list even though it isn't something I'd necessarily want to have a career in.” ●



Westlake High senior  
Kartik Dhinakaran

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

# Report: Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting, Sept. 10, 2014

by LWV observers SUSAN MURNANE (Bay Village) and NIKKI SALUPO (Fairview Park)

*Highlights of this month's WCOG meeting are presented here. For the full League of Women Voters observer report, visit [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com) or [LWVGreaterCleveland.org](http://LWVGreaterCleveland.org). Official minutes are prepared by Mayor Patton's office and are available on Fairview Park's website.*

Guest: Cuyahoga County Director of Regional Collaboration Jennifer Scofield.

In June, Ms. Scofield replaced Ed Jerse, who retired in December. She does not manage the county's various shared services, but rather is charged with facilitating utilization of shared services.

Ms. Scofield provided a handout listing shared services currently offered by Cuyahoga County. Most of the services are in public safety and justice services, such as the MARCS radios that WCOG communities obtained through the county, joint training opportunities, facilitating jail and fire service regionalization, and the REDSS (Regional Enterprise Data Sharing System). Other shared services include public works such as sewer, road and bridge maintenance; operations training and some service provisions for human resources; IT training and maintenance; grant writing assistance; and regional geographical information services (GIS). County Council Representative Dave Greenspan presented a summary of the services used by each of the WCOG municipalities.

**County Council Update**

Mr. Greenspan said that the county is considering demolition grants for blighted property that would be independent of the Land Bank but contain incentives to use the Land Bank. As envisioned, the grants would be in the form of interest-free loans

to the municipalities. These loans would be repaid by dedicating half of the increase in property taxes on the demolished properties for the term of the loan. Any balance remaining at the end of the term would be forgiven. Only a small number of properties in the WCOG municipalities would be eligible for the grants.

**NOACA**

Lakewood has a permanent seat on NOACA, and Mayor Summers reported that the reorganization presents a challenge for Cuyahoga County. All the other counties routinely send all eligible voting members and vote in a block, but Cuyahoga County has been very fragmented and has done a poor job of defending its interests. For example, Cuyahoga County rated 87 out of 88 counties in license fees that are returned to the county. Mayor Summers expressed the conviction that the most important initiative of the next county executive would be to spearhead a cohesive caucus in NOACA to defend Cuyahoga County's interests.

**New Business**

The mayors began a discussion about exploring utilization of alternative fuels. Mayor Clough reported that RTA had announced that the next fleet would use alternative fuels. Mayor Summers reported that Clean Fuels Ohio could provide grant funding for a shared alternative fuel depot. Possibly a shared alternative fuel depot could also be opened to the public as an additional source of financial support.

*The Westshore Council of Governments was founded in 1971 “to foster cooperation between municipalities in all areas of municipal service.” All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be Oct. 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Fairview Park Gemini Center's Birch Room.* ●



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Post your group's free community events online at [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com)

**Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30-8:45 p.m.**  
**OGS, Cuyahoga West Chapter Meeting**  
Guest speaker will be Dr. Judith Cetina, director of the Cuyahoga County Archives and author of "Cuyahoga County: The First 200 Years." The public is invited, at no cost. The program starts at 7 p.m. Social time, with refreshments, from 6:30-7 p.m.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Friday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Free Medication Check**  
HealthScreen will be providing a free health test that will let you and your doctor know if your medications are working for you. The test identifies how you are metabolizing your medicine and if your dosage is correct. It is a simple swab of your cheek, completely painless and quick and covered by Medicare and many private insurances. Reservations required; call 440-899-3544 to schedule your appointment time. Bring your Medicare/insurance card, photo ID and list of medications.  
*Westlake Center for Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Friday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Group for Older Adults**  
Support group for those touched by cancer. For more information call 216-595-9546 or visit [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org).  
*The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.-noon**  
**Clothing, Toy and Equipment Sale**  
The Westshore Mothers of Twins Club's fall sale

with more than 40 families selling gently used maternity, baby and kids clothing, toys and equipment. Homemade baked goods for sale. Cash only. \$5 Early Bird Admission 8-9 a.m., \$2 General Admission 9 a.m.-noon.  
*Rocky River Memorial Hall, 21016 Hilliard Blvd.*

**Wednesday, Sept. 24, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Westlake Garden Club Fete de Fleurs Fundraiser Luncheon**  
Enjoy a delightful afternoon of fine dining and entertainment, featuring the Minister of Culture, Michael Heaton. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, speaker at 1 p.m. Fantastic raffle baskets, a cash wine bar, homemade treats for sale from the bake shoppe and the outstanding speaker will entertain all. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Jean Smith at 440-665-5463. Deadline for reservations is Sept. 17.  
*Lakewood Country Club, 2613 Bradley Rd., Westlake*

**Friday, Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Communication Temptations for Preschoolers**  
This interactive presentation is filled with take-home ideas that will tempt your child to use his/her words. The talk will be geared toward the parents of toddlers and preschoolers concerned about their child's speech. Childcare is provided but space is limited. To register for the program and child care, please visit [www.connectingforkids.org/events](http://www.connectingforkids.org/events) or email [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org).  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**Exploring Spirituality through the Practice of Gratitude**  
Experience how practicing gratitude can help enhance one's spirituality during the cancer journey. Family members welcome. Advance registration required for those touched by cancer. To register call 216-595-9546 or visit [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org) for more information.  
*The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Free Community Meal**  
Please join us for a free meal, good conversation, and friendship! The church is accessible to the physically challenged. No carry outs.  
*Clague Road United Church of Christ, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted*

**Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**The Gender Continuum: Answering Parent's Questions about Gender Identity in Children**  
Your son likes to play with dolls and wants to be a princess for Halloween. Your daughter tells you she is a boy and wants to be on the boy's baseball team. Are these things to be concerned about as a parent? Join Vanessa Jensen, Psy.D., Cleveland Clinic, as she discusses gender identity in children. Come with your questions and concerns and Dr. Jensen will share the latest research and discuss resources for families. This is open to all parents with children ages birth to 12. Childcare is provided but space is limited. To register, visit [www.connectingforkids.org/events](http://www.connectingforkids.org/events) or email [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org).  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

# Reiki master to lead energy healing discussion

Local author and Reiki master Linda Street will lead a small group discussion on energy healing on Monday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. at Westlake Porter Public Library. The discussion will be an opportunity for attendees to share their experiences with energy healing, ask questions and interact personally with Street, who has led several larger programs on Reiki at the library.

Street is the owner/founder of Healing from the Heart, a metaphysical healing practice. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., and spent six years in the field of mental health.

After completing her master's in public administration and working in human resources for almost 20 years, Street moved into energy work. She has achieved several certifications in that field, and is the author of "Rays of Light: Listen to the Dark."

Registration is limited to 25. To register please call 440-250-5460 or visit [signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080](http://signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080). ●

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