

Village Project announces plans to serve Westlake

by DIANE FRYE

Village Project has announced plans to serve Westlake, in addition to Bay Village, Avon Lake and Rocky River. According to Executive Director Barb Harrell, “The decision to expand was driven by frequent requests to assist Westlake families struggling with the often overwhelming cancer challenges. Thanks to our over 500 volunteers and generous donors, we are now able to offer much needed services to our Westlake neighbors.”



Barb Harrell, executive director of the Village Project, surrounded by volunteers at the group's kitchen in Bay Village.

The evolution of Village Project has been swift and steady. With a mission to provide nourishment and care to individuals and their families who have been touched by cancer, the Village Food Project (as it was originally named) began in February 2011 by cooking three nutritious and delicious meals a week for three Bay Village families in the basement of Bay Presbyterian Church.

» See VILLAGE PROJECT page 2

Community Council names Bay Village citizens, project of the year

by MELISSA HENDERSON

Eric and Cynthia Eakin have been named 2015 Bay Village Citizens of the Year, and the Bay Village Fireworks Fund has been named 2015 Project of the Year by the Bay Village Community Council.

Eric and Cynthia were honored for their many years of service and leadership to a wide variety of Bay Village organizations and community events. Cynthia is currently a board member of the Bay Village Historical Society and previously served as president. She also works on numerous other projects, including Relay for Life and Friends From the Start Foundation, which provides support for those touched by cancer.

Eric has previously served as president of the historical society and Bay Men's Club. With Eric's guidance, the Bay Men's Club has provided a volunteer force for the annual rake-out for seniors and disabled residents.

In 2014, Eric chaired the Bay Days Fireworks Fund after stepping down as president of Bay Village Community Council after 10 years of enthusiastic service. He also started and successfully completed a project to install dozens of American flags at merchants' locations throughout Bay Village.

Both Eric and Cynthia were essential in enhancing “Cahoon in June” and also initiated the “Cahoon Community Christmas,” which is fast becoming a favorite Bay Village tradition.



Cynthia and Eric Eakin, pictured in Rose Hill Museum, were chosen as Bay Village's Citizens of the Year by the Community Council of civic organizations.

“Eric and Cynthia give to our community without the need for public commendation,” a nominator wrote. Another nominator wrote, “Eric, along with Cynthia, are as close to being the ‘faces of Bay Village’ as you’ll find. ... While Eric and Cynthia each would merit strong consideration based on their own achievements and records, they are synonymous with one another, and have worked as a team extremely well throughout the years for the betterment of the community.”

» See CITIZENS, PROJECT page 2

Bay Village City Council to get amplified

by CONDA BOYD

Bay Village residents will soon be able to listen to recordings of City Council meetings via the web, thanks to a \$10,000 donation for microphones from Bay's chapter of the League of Women Voters.

The microphone project began a year ago in a conversation with Council President Paul Koomar about how Council could be more visible, open and transparent to citizens. Under Mr. Koomar's leadership, Council has since offered a series of

town hall meetings covering timely and important topics. He also initiated posting meeting packets on the city's website, so citizens can review many of the materials behind agenda items.

Microphones are the capstone. They will of course help people in the room hear better. But by making high-quality recordings possible, they will also allow people who cannot attend the meetings to hear what was said. Finally, voice-to-text software will enable efficient and complete production of minutes for all meetings.

Council President Koomar, along with Councilman Paul Vincent, who chairs the Services, Utilities and Equipment committee; Council Clerk Joan Kemper; and Bay's LWV chapter treasurer Alex Dade are to be commended for their hard work. It was not simple project, but for years to come, it will improve access to – and we hope involvement in – city government. ♦

WESTLAKE HIGH NAMED IB WORLD SCHOOL

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Westlake High School has been approved as an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, adopting the Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum through the International Baccalaureate Organization.

WHS joins schools worldwide that share a common philosophy – a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education with a focus on rigor and inquiry. The Diploma Programme is for juniors and seniors and will offer students the opportunity to graduate with an IB Diploma Certificate.

In addition to the IB Diploma Certificate, juniors and seniors will also have

the opportunity to enroll in IB courses that support their interests. Students from Westlake, Avon Lake, Berea, and Rocky River high schools will participate in the IBDP through a partnership.

“The mission of IB is to develop knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully and make contributions to the world,” said Superintendent Geoff Palmer. “Authorization as an IB World School is a reflection of the commitment of our staff, students and families to undertake a program that will result in graduates who will enhance social, cultural and economic environments locally, nationally and even internationally.”

» See WORLD SCHOOL page 2



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VILLAGE PROJECT

from front page

Due to the overwhelming response to this organization, demonstrated by both the tremendous support of its volunteers and the awareness of need in surrounding communities, the organization expanded to serve Avon Lake in 2012.

Realizing that even more supportive services could be offered for cancer patients and their families, in 2013 the organization changed its name to Village Project and refined its mission statement: “To come together as a community of all ages to provide nourishing meals and extended care and service to our neighbors experiencing cancer.”

Later that year, Village Project moved to a larger facility to be able to prepare more meals and organize increased services to provide a bigger outreach. Rocky River was then added to the communities served by the organization. Now, at the beginning of 2015, Village Project is able to begin serving Westlake, as well.

More than 9,000 meals have been served to over 75 families since the inception of Village Project. Each family member receives three full meals, including side dishes and desserts, delivered to their homes every Wednesday. In addition, volunteers offer additional assistance, such as shopping, yard clean-up, laundry, tutoring and more.

The Village Project is very proud of the fact that it is a multi-generational organization. Its 500 volunteers include high school students, as well as working adults, stay-at-home parents and senior retirees from the local community.

All meals are prepared and packaged by high school students under the supervision of adults.

Village Project is funded entirely by donations. Anyone interested in donating to or finding out more about the organization can visit their website at www.ourvillageproject.com.

If you or someone you know is in need of Village Project services, please call 440-348-9401 or email info@our-villageproject.com.

If you are interested in getting involved, the next new volunteer information meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 7–8 p.m. at the Village Project headquarters building at 27378 West Oviatt Road in Bay Village.

The next new student cooking workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 6-7 p.m., also at the Village Project building. Please call or email to register for these meetings. ●

CITIZENS, PROJECT OF THE YEAR

from front page

“Cynthia and I are honored to have been selected for this award,” Eric Eakin said. “The real honor is getting to work with so many wonderful and caring people over the years. The community that we all enjoy today is made possible by countless hours of volunteer work done by many talented, creative and selfless individuals. To work with them, to get to know them, that is the real prize.”

The Bay Days Fireworks Fund was named 2015 Project of the Year. This project was recognized for its exemplary spirit of community involvement by private citizens, who answered the call to keep the annual fireworks display in the Bay Days celebration.

The citizens quickly formed a fundraising committee, developed a plan for resident and sponsor engagement, and successfully funded the spectacular fireworks display was that enjoyed on July 4, 2014. In addition, they set the framework and direction for future fundraising efforts.

The members of the Bay Days Fireworks Fund committee included Dwight Clark, Tony Dostal, Eric

Eakin, Dominic Giovannazzo, Tom Henderson, George MacDonald, Jennie Mace, Camille Sheehan, Mindy Stroh, Dave Tadych, Tara Wendell and Lisa Wilson. “These individuals typify the spirit of community involvement, by residents, that makes Bay Village such a splendid place to live,” a nominator wrote.

“When the city announced it could no longer afford a fireworks show at Bay Days, that lit a fuse beneath a small and concerned group of residents,” committee chairperson Eric Eakin said. “These fine citizens stepped up and worked hard to make sure that our city’s Fourth of July festivities would be celebrated with the fireworks it deserves. After all, Bay Days without fireworks would be a dud.”

A reception honoring the Bay Village citizens and project of the year will be held Sunday, March 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Village Project headquarters, 27378 West Oviatt Road; a short presentation will be held at 3 p.m. The community is invited to attend and join the Bay Village Community Council in recognizing this year’s honorees. ●

PROJECT OF THE YEAR Bay Days Fireworks Fund

Committee members:
Dwight Clark
Tony Dostal
Eric Eakin
Dominic Giovannazzo
Tom Henderson
George MacDonald
Jennie Mace
Camille Sheehan
Mindy Stroh
Dave Tadych
Tara Wendell
Lisa Wilson

WORLD SCHOOL

from front page

WHS Principal Tim Freeman said he is proud of the work the school administration, faculty, students and parents put into the process.

“The authorization of Westlake High School as an IB World School strengthens our mission to Educate for Excellence,” Freeman said. “We provide an outstanding educational experience at Westlake High School, and I believe that the addition of the IB Diploma Programme provides our students with an exciting opportunity to achieve their goals.”

WHS joins the district’s four elementary schools, which are awaiting authorization as IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) World Schools. The IB PYP supports learning in all academic areas. The district chose to pursue IB PYP certification following an appreciative inquiry process through its Continuous Improvement Plan. Through that process the community called the district to action to grow internationally competent, competitive and engaged learners.

Through the IB program, students participate in activities that put an emphasis on the whole child. The process encourages students to choose, reflect and act not only in their academics, but in the school, community and beyond.

IB works with 3,641 schools in 146 countries and offers programming to more than 1 million students. In the United States there are 1,448 world schools. There are 35 IB World Schools in Ohio. ●

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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.

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
- 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 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. Please include full contact information.

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451 Queenswood Drive
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440-409-0114 • Fax 440-409-0118

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Denny Wendell
Co-publisher, Community Advocate
staff@wbvobserver.com

Tara Wendell
Co-publisher, Senior Editor
tara@wbvobserver.com

Laura Gonzalez
Advertising Consultant
laura@wbvobserver.com
440-477-3556

QUESTIONS? Contact us:
staff@wbvobserver.com or 440-409-0114

Contributing Writers
Bernice Bolek, Kim Bonvissuto,
Conda Boyd, Kelly Brewer,
Jim Dispirito, Diane Frye,
Katherine Harper, Melissa Henderson,
Dan Hirschfeld, Karen Huhndorff,
Taylor Ieropoli, RJ Johnson,
William Krause, Marty Mace,
Sharon Matthews, Tara McGuinness,
Susan Murnane, Tak Sato,
Angela Smith, Lysa Stanton,
Jessica Stockdale, Elaine Willis

Photography
Tammy Bertrand, Susan Fabian,
Dave Pfister, Terry Schordock,
Denny Wendell

Also Helping
Dianne Borowski, Renee Mahoney,
Laurel Wendell, Kathy Winzig

For advertising rates, contact
Laura Gonzalez 440-477-3556
laura@wbvobserver.com
or
Denny Wendell 440-409-0114
denny@wbvobserver.com

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Four earn rank of Eagle Scout

by LYSA STANTON

On a cold January afternoon, Boy Scout Troop 41 from Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church in Bay Village honored Brian Meermans, Nico DiGiulio, Robert Finicle and John Hessler as they earned the elite rank of Eagle.

The Boy Scout Court of Honor included recognition from local political leaders including State Senator Tom Patton, State Representative Nan Baker, Bay Village City Councilman Paul Vincent, Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst and Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough.

The rank of Eagle Scout takes several years to earn and includes the

completion of a major local service project. Only about 3 percent of the boys who become Boy Scouts finally earn the highest rank of Eagle.

The Westlake Historical Society was proud to work with Nico DiGiulio on his service project, the design and construction of a new military history exhibit in the Clague House Museum. Brian Meermans' project was to refurbish the dumpster enclosure at Bethesda-on-the-Bay. Robert Finicle's project benefitted the Holiday Valley ski patrol as he assisted with medical supplies. John Hessler planned and hosted a health fair at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

We congratulate these fine young men on their achievement! ●



Local Scouts, from left, Brian Meermans, Robert Finicle, Nico DiGiulio and John Hessler, recently earned the rank of Eagle.

WEST SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sean O'Reilly receives West Shore Chamber award



PHOTO BY TAMMY BERTRAND

Sean O'Reilly, center, accepts the 2014 Hugh Dawson Award from (left to right) George Hillow, 1995 award recipient; Mayor Dennis Clough; West Shore Chamber President Susan Uranker; and Chamber Executive Director John Sobolewski.

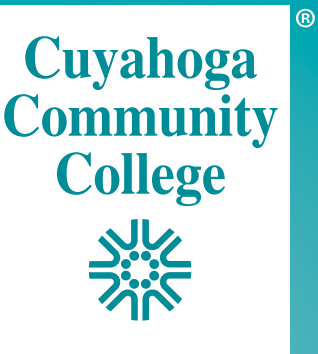
by SHARON MATTHEWS

The West Shore Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Sean O'Reilly as the recipient of the 2014 Hugh Dawson Award. Sean received this award at the monthly chamber luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at LaCentre. The Hugh Dawson Award is the highest award a chamber member can receive. In addition to the award, Sean was also presented with a proclamation from Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough.

"Sean has been involved in the West Shore Chamber of Commerce for

nearly 20 years and has served on the board for approximately 17 years," said John Sobolewski, Executive Director. "He has shown outstanding leadership, previously serving as president. Sean also shares his financial expertise to help keep the chamber financially sound." O'Reilly is senior vice president, investment officer, at Wells Fargo Advisors.

The award is named in honor of Hugh Dawson, a founding member of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce. Dawson also served as chamber director until his death in 1994. ●



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WESTLAKE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Westlake unveils Recreation Master Plan Study

by JIM DISPIRITO

The City of Westlake would like to invite residents to the presentation of the steering committee's Master Plan report on Citywide Recreational Usage. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. in the chambers of City Council at Westlake City Hall.

The purpose of this plan is to address the needs of the community. A primary focus of the master planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Westlake residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The public was involved in the process in the following methods:

- A public workshop at the beginning of the process.
- A statistically valid Community Attitude and Interest Survey conducted by ETC/Leisure Vision that was completed by 706 residents.
- A web-based survey that was completed by approximately 500 residents.
- A web-based community engagement effort through the Live Well, Play Hard!
- Westlake website, powered by MindMixer, which provided opportunities for input throughout the master plan process.



Westlake officials will present a report on Jan. 27 detailing the usage of the Rec Center, above, and recreational facilities citywide.

- An active Parks and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee.
- Meetings with over 20 stakeholder groups within the city.

The community is invited to hear the results of this process at City Hall on Jan. 27. ●

Nan Baker to chair workforce development committee

by TAYLOR IEROPOLI

State Representative Nan Baker has been named the chairwoman of the Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee for the 131st General Assembly.

"I am excited to again chair the Economic Development Committee with a focus on workforce training. Since I began my service at the Ohio House, creating an environment to retain, create and bring jobs to Ohio has always been our goal," said Baker. "In this 131st General Assembly, we will also focus on encouraging our Ohioans to obtain the skills they need to obtain a good paying job."

Rep. Baker has been a small business owner for more than 30 years, and has received numerous awards throughout her career for her dedication to the business community. She has also been a member of the West Shore Chamber of



Nan Baker was recently sworn in for her fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Commerce for two decades, serving as president for two years and currently serving as a member of the board of trustees.

She previously served as the chair of the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee, as well as the Economic and Small Business Development Committee. ●

Bay wellness program helps residents start new year on the right foot

by ANGELA SMITH

Cleveland Clinic teamed up with the City of Bay Village and several community partners to offer a new community outreach and wellness program called "Be Fit in Bay."

Part of Cleveland Clinic's healthy communities initiative, the goal of the new program was to promote optimal health and wellness and positively impact the community through education and awareness. "Be Fit in Bay" was created as a result of the community health needs assessment, combining resources within the Bay Village community to target education, nutrition and physical activity.

More than 100 people registered to participate in late September, attending eight weekly health talks and walking sessions every Tuesday night at Bay High School. Before and after results were tracked during the initiative.

The winners were: Paul Langer, first place; Judy Skully, second; and Joe Talaba and Laurie Boylan, tied for third.

All told, residents logged more than 60,500 minutes of exercise altogether, and as a result, lost more than 120 pounds and dropped 365 total cholesterol points decreasing their risk of heart disease.

"Be Fit in Bay" is a collaborative effort between Cleveland Clinic and several community partners, including Bay Presbyterian Church, Bay Village City Schools, Heinen's, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, O'Neill Healthcare, Walgreen's, and Perfect Fit Health Club.

Bay Village Mayor Deborah Sutherland attended the weekly sessions and congratulated the winners on their new lifestyles.

Plans for the 2015 "Be Fit in Bay" program are underway. For more information, please call 440-356-4362. ●

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

You don’t have to be a geek

by TAK SATO

My primary care physician called me as soon as an email notification arrived with my electronic health record. She said my recent blood work didn’t show RBC or WBC counts; only a note saying that I had too many 0’s and 1’s (aka language of computers) running in my veins. Then I woke up – whew, it was just a dream! Note to self: do not read fan mail before going to bed as the last one questioned me if I follow what I preach!

Yes, I do “talk the talk and walk the walk.” I also “talk the walk” as I learn something new everyday. How’s that for a mouthful? Anyway, I thought it would be fun to take a look at how yours truly uses his digital world tools.

I use a smartphone, MacBook Pro laptop, convertible Windows 7 laptop, Mac Mini desktop, iPad tablet, Nexus tablet, and Windows 8 tablet.

All of my tools connect to the same emails, calendars and contacts. This synchronizing process keeps me in-line throughout the day, both professionally and personally, so that I know where to go, who to call and what to do next. Whichever tool I reach for, the information is consistent and up-to-date.

At home, the internet connection is distributed wirelessly throughout the house. The internet line is the conduit through which digital world-based creature comforts become available. It also saves money.

I “cut the cord” some time ago, meaning I do not subscribe to cable/satellite TV. I see the shows I want, and even binge on a season’s worth of my favorite show over a weekend, received (streamed) from the internet.

I’m looking forward to the recently announced SlingTV service by Dish Network that will finally provide me with ESPN (and dozens of other networks) streamed through the internet for only \$20 monthly. Cheering the Cavs, knowing I’m not paying for channels I don’t watch, will be fulfilling.

I’ve also disconnected from landline telephone service. Local and domestic long distance phone calls made on cell phones and over the internet save me money; international calling rates are excellent too. Through the same internet connection, my wife and I video chat with our parents overseas, offering audio and video – the next best thing to being there!

(Seniors and people with health issues may not be good candidates for telephone services over the internet, especially if telephone availability during prolonged blackouts is necessary, as internet connectivity requires electricity and traditional corded telephones do not.)

I haven’t written a check in years as I pay most of my personal and professional bills by utilizing online banking through the internet.

The kicker is you don’t have to be a geek to start taking advantage of what the internet has to offer. Analogous to the city water line coming into your house which enables you to cook, take a shower, water plants, and do a lot more, internet coming into your house will enable you to do many things ... a lot more than what I can explain in 500 words! ●

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

It’s audition time at Clague Playhouse!

by KATHERINE HARPER

Clague Playhouse, 1371 Clague Road, Westlake, will hold auditions on Tuesday, Feb. 3, and Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 7-9 p.m. for “Shipwrecked! An Entertainment: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself)” by Donald Margulies. Rougemont was a real man who told a not-so-real story that so captivated and entertained audiences that he derived a living from its telling for much of his life.

Director Tyson Douglas Rand is seeking four cast members, all of whom should have some basic musical skill:

- Louis de Rougemont, a proud, beaten-down old man who becomes filled with astounding energy, enthusiasm and agility as he tells his story. He plays himself at every age from infancy to his current state of antiquity.
- Two energetic, versatile actors,

probably one male and one female, to play multiple characters – including a little boy, a pickpocket, Queen Victoria, an octopus expert, and an Aborigine princess – with the change of a hat or scarf.

- An unscripted character who can play piano with more gusto than accuracy. Actor can be any gender or age but will be portraying a matronly church organist.

The director suggests preparing an audition monologue of two minutes or less that showcases the actor’s movement, storytelling and multiple-voice skills. Please bring a current headshot and résumé if available, along with a list of all conflicts for the rehearsal dates of Feb. 16 through April 29. Performances will take place May 1-24 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Questions? Please leave a message for the director with Clague Playhouse’s box office, 440-331-0403. ●

FAMILY OBSERVATIONS

The adventure of a mutt

by RJ JOHNSON, pastor of Advent Westlake

“A designer what?” I asked my wife who was telling me about the puppy our friends brought home shortly after we had adopted our dog.

“A labradoodle is a designer dog,” she explained.

I remembered designer jeans from the 1980s. Those were a terrible idea. I wondered if a designer dog was an equally bad idea.

“It’s a cross between a Labrador retriever and a poodle,” she continued.

“You mean like our dog,” I said.

“No, our dog is a mutt,” she corrected me. “A labradoodle is bred to get the best qualities of both breeds. The idea is that you get a dog with the friendly disposition of a Labrador and that, like a poodle, doesn’t shed. No one would intentionally breed our dog.”

She was right about that. Our dog has a great disposition. She likes children, but will instantly alert us to any adult who approaches the house. The problem is she sheds, and not just in the spring and fall. Any time of the year you can run the vacuum at 9:00 a.m., and by noon, no one would have the remotest idea that a vacuum had been close to the room.

We know that the mother of our dog was a Labrador. No one knows any-

thing about the father. There are some clues. She has the distinctive howl of a hound, and fur about the right length for a retriever. I have been told that we could have a genetic test that would let us know what breeds are in her father’s lineage. I might be inclined to have the test done if I wanted to create a designer breed.

“What if you end up with a dog that sheds like a Labrador but has the high-pitched bark of a poodle?” I inquired.

“Then you have a mutt,” she said, looking at the dog that was dropping a fresh covering of fur on the kitchen floor.

I am not sure I like the idea of designer dogs. Too many things in our society have been designed to give us a consistent experience. You can walk into any chain restaurant across the nation, and know exactly what you will find. There is no adventure. When you walk into a mom-and-pop diner just off I-70 somewhere west of Salina, Kansas, you have no idea what you will get.

Some people like chain restaurants and designer dogs. There is safety in something that has been designed to provide a consistent experience. I prefer a world that is less predictable.

Owning a dog that does not shed and has a consistent disposition is like walking into a chain restaurant. Our dog, like that mom-and-pop diner surrounded by fields in Kansas, has been an adventure. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library offers digital album loans

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library users can now borrow digital albums with their library card via the Hoopla service. The music module joins the digital movie and television show collection the library offers through Hoopla, as well as the library’s other digital music service, Freegal.

“We’re very excited to offer music through Hoopla, because now our customers will be able to access more digital music than ever from the library,” said Mary Worthington, the library’s collections, outreach and programming coordinator.

The digital albums may be accessed, borrowed and played on devices using the iOS and Android operating systems. Users must have a valid Westlake Porter Public Library card and create an account with Hoopla before borrowing the albums or videos. Once you log in to the app using your library card number you will see the library’s collection. The album checkout period is 7 days, and albums will be automatically removed from your account when the loan period expires.

For more information, please visit the “Downloadables” page on the library’s website at www.westlakelibrary.org/?q=downloadables or call 440-871-2600. ●

Westlake schools host kindergarten information night

Learn more about the Westlake City Schools’ kindergarten experience for 2015-2016 by attending an information night on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m.

Each neighborhood elementary school will host an informational session:

- Bassett Elementary School, 2155 Bassett Road
- Dover Elementary School, 2300 Dover Center Road
- Hilliard Elementary School, 24365 Hilliard Blvd.
- Holly Lane Elementary School, 3057 Holly Lane

Learn about the new registration process. Each school will offer the same information. If you are unsure which school your child may attend in the fall, visit the Westlake Schools’ website at www.wlake.org for a school of attendance map under the “Registration” tab. For more information call the Department of Pupil Services at 440-871-7300.

Students must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1 to be age-eligible to enter kindergarten. ●

LOCAL HISTORY

Meet two brave missionary women from Dover

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

Dr. Lucy P. Bement and Frances K. Bement were brave sisters who served as Christian missionaries to China in the early 20th century. Also, from 1912 until the 1940s, they owned the little stone home at 30419 Center Ridge Road in Westlake.

They were born in Dover Township (as Westlake was originally known) just after the Civil War and Lucy lived until the eve of World War II, Frances until after the end of it. Their father, Lorenzo C. Bement, was a postmaster in Dover who owned a grocery store at what became the southwestern corner of Bradley and Center Ridge roads, where Wagner's Country Inn is located today.

Passport applications show that Lucy was a missionary doctor who lived in Shao-wu (aka Foochow) China for at least 17 of the 20 years between 1899 and 1919. Frances was an Oberlin College-educated teacher who served alongside her, but they seem to have always called Dover home. Despite the Boxer uprising in China from 1899-1901, which included the massacre of numerous Christian missionaries, including many from Oberlin College, the Bement sisters carried on. They sought and obtained emergency passports in Hong Kong in 1912 during the fall of the Q'ing Dynasty (the last Chinese imperial dynasty) for "travel and protection."

It is unclear how long they actually occupied 30419 Center Ridge. Travel records indicate they sailed to England in 1912 and they also did sightseeing in Japan when traveling to and from China. The 1920 U.S. Census has Frances



Frances Bement



Lucy Bement

as an "inmate" of a congregate living facility for missionaries at 101 East College St. in Oberlin, along with other missionary families, many with children born in Ceylon, Turkey and Japan.

The 1930 Census lists Lucy and Francis as residents of Claremont, Los Angeles, Calif., which was the location of another missionary facility. An Oct. 14, 1938, news tidbit for Dover Center in the Elyria Chronicle Telegram states that "Miss Frances and Lucy Bement left Friday for Los Angeles, California where they will spend the winter," suggesting that they lived in Dover for at least part of the year.

A family story about "Kit" (Frances) and "Goody" (Lucy) posted on Ancestry.com states that it was in 1897 that they first went to China under the American Board of Foreign Missions and put up 10 buildings, comprising a hospital, a school, churches and other buildings, and that Dr. Lucy ran the hospital and Kit ran the girls school. According to the story, Kit said, "I boarded the school girls, fed, medicated and educated them, all for \$100 a month."

Kit was called the "Mother of 1,000 Daughters," a title from Chinese lore where a girl has two mothers, her mother by blood and her teacher. The story continues that in 1930 she or they left China and went on a lecture tour for the American Board that included 40 states. The tour was followed by a 12-year stint in a missionary home in Claremont, Calif. The story concludes that she summed up her life with "It has been a wonderful life and experience. I would do it all over again."

Kit and Goody are both back home, buried in Evergreen Cemetery. ●



Frances and Lucy Bement's father, Lorenzo, owned Bement's Country Store and Post Office at what became the southwestern corner of Bradley and Center Ridge roads, where Wagner's Country Inn is now located.

COURTESY WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hearing police radio calls with a twist of the dial

by DAN HIRSCHFELD

"Calling all cars... Calling all cars..." That's a phrase one in the Cleveland area may have been able to hear on the family radio set in late 1929 or early 1930, provided they happened to have just the right model.

In September 1929, the Cleveland Police Department initiated operation of radio station WRBH on a frequency of 1,712 kilohertz (kHz), which was just above the upper frequency edge of the AM broadcast band. The Cleveland Police Department's (and region's) first foray into the then-new world of radio communication with their patrol cars was supposed to be unavailable to the ears of the general public.

As it turns out, though, the frequency originally assigned to their radio station wasn't quite high enough to escape detection by some AM broadcast band receivers, which either by chance or design were able to tune in signals just a bit beyond the upper frequency limit of the band.

It apparently didn't take some Cleveland area residents long to discover the enhanced tuning range of their radios. According to an Oct. 3, 1929, story in the Plain Dealer, radio listeners were sending letters to the paper that indicated they found tuning in to police radio dispatches more interesting than the programming carried by regular broadcasters.

To prevent wrong-doers from eavesdropping on radio calls, potentially providing them an early warning of officers' response, in the spring of 1930 (according to a March 8, 1931, Plain Dealer article) WRBH moved to a higher operating frequency, making reception of their signal on a standard radio set impossible.

In those early days of police radio communication the path to officers on patrol was one-way; a dispatcher would send calls out to units in the field but those units could not acknowledge any calls over the air, just hear them on a special receiver installed in their police cruisers. Enhancing their radio communication capability, according to an Oct. 13, 1938, Plain Dealer article, the Cleveland Police Department had just initiated the use of updated two-way radio equipment, giving officers the ability to reply back to the dispatcher or converse between each other over the air.

Cuyahoga County suburbs increasingly relied on WRBH to provide dispatch services for their expanding fleet of police cruisers, until a growing amount of call traffic sent those municipalities on to their own radio systems.

WRBH was initially designed, started-up and run by former shipboard radio telegraph operator, Plain Dealer associate radio editor, talented cartoonist and WHK engineer Ralph C. Folkman. Engineering personnel from broadcast radio station WHK, Mr. Folkman being among them, were instrumental in helping to launch WRBH. Mr. Folkman would end up staying in his role as head of the Cleveland Police Department's radio room until retiring after 38 years of service. ●



While this is a small replica of an old police cruiser, it helps set the tone of the story. It was a gift to a real retired police officer, however.

The United Methodist Women invite you to attend our annual

Soup Supper

Saturday, January 31 • 5-7 pm
Bay United Methodist Church
29931 Lake Road, Bay Village

Come enjoy a variety of great soups - You are encouraged to try them all!!
Proceeds will support the charities "Fill This House" & "Seeds of Literacy".
Cost: \$9 adults/\$7 seniors/\$5 children
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Get to know the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women’s Board

by KAREN HUHDORFF

Are you familiar with the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women’s Board? Perhaps you have heard of us but are unaware of our history, which dates back to 1954. Let me share a bit of our heritage.

We trace our roots to the Center’s founder, Elberta “Bert” Fleming. This amazing young woman, with hopes and dreams of creating a museum to stimulate and encourage interest in nature and the environment among young and old, founded the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, then called Lake Erie Junior Museum. Her home and backyard were the “beginnings” which she funded by writing articles for local publications.

Supporting Mrs. Fleming and her dream were six women, dedicated community volunteers who understood and shared her vision. We have been a constant companion to the Center since its 1958 incorporation. Throughout its history, the Women’s Board has supported the Center and its mission through service, leadership, community awareness and fundraising.

Regular monthly meetings emphasize contributing to the Center with time, energy and enthusiasm, to develop public interest in the Center’s cultural and educational programs and to provide volunteer hours for the Center.

In the past, Nearly New, plant, and bake sales were held and the Board opened and

operated “The Owl’s Nest” gift shop within the Center. A Fall Cultural Arts Festival in conjunction with Baycrafters evolved into Huntington Heritage Day. “Spring Thing,” a plant and craft show thrived for several years. The annual House and Garden Tour was eagerly anticipated each spring and we supported the Center’s Animal Adoption Program.

Today, we continue our meetings with interesting programs, often meeting with Center staff members who keep us informed of the Center’s goals and accomplishments.

We are proud to report that recently, in support of the Center, we donated our \$1,000 quarterly pledge and also a \$1,000 gift to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program. A new Center Internship Program is also being supported by our Women’s Board with a yearly \$1,000 stipend.

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings, the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Look for our two main fundraising projects, Christmas Carousel in November and an annual Huntington Playhouse production sponsored in the summer. For further information, please call the Center or pick up one of our brochures in the Center’s information rack.

There is more going on behind the scene than you might have realized. We are always happy to welcome anyone with the desire to learn more about our activities and our endeavor to continue volunteer and monetary support of our “backyard gem,” the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. ●

Lee Burneson Middle School geography bee winner



LBMS Geography Bee winner Christopher Haddad with advisor Anne Dill and Principal Paul Wilson.

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Christopher Haddad, a seventh-grader, won the 2015 Lee Burneson Middle School Geography Bee and will take a written test in hopes of advancing to the state Geography Bee for the chance to represent Ohio in the National Geography Bee.

Advisor Anne Dill will work with Christopher to prepare him for a written qualifying test. The top 100 ranked students in each state will qualify to represent their school in the state Bee on March 27. The state champions attend the national championship in Washington, D.C., in May.

Second and third places, respectively, went to Ameen

Zayed and Matt Epple, both eighth-graders.

“It was the most competitive Geography Bee in recent history at LBMS,” said Principal Paul Wilson. “I was certainly impressed with how well our finalists did in both the final and championship rounds. I am very proud of all of our contestants.”

Other participants were Greg Deeb, Tommy Guirguis, Pat LaVechia, Richard Garber, Jason Zhang, Tommy Kolocouris, Katie Cirincione, Danny Mather, Jonah Devich, Jane Protos, Matt Brizes, David Gough, Davin Amy, Ben Routhier and Max Lew.

The Bee was judged by social studies teachers Sally Fetko, Gregg Henderson and Paul Hammond. ●

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Please join us in celebrating the retirement
of our dear friend and colleague,
Felicia Munday.

Saturday, February 7, 2015, 2-4 p.m.

Parkside Preschool & Child Care Center
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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library’s late January adult programs cater to a variety of interests. In addition to the monthly Investor’s Interest Group and Small Business Lunch & Learn, the library is also offering programs focusing on de-cluttering your home, energy healing, and how to take apart computers. Here are the details:

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (7-8:30 p.m.) TAKE APART COMPUTERS! – Ever wonder what’s inside a computer that makes it work? Here’s your chance to take one apart! Computer knowledge is not required, and no, you don’t have to put it back together! Safety glasses and tools will be provided. This is part of the monthly Maker Club Emerging Technology Program, which explores Maker Movement projects. Please join us for an E-Tech Lab, bringing emerging technology to our club. Please register.

Saturday, Jan. 24 (1-2 p.m.) SIMPLE STEPS TO ORGANIZING & DE-CLUTTERING YOUR HOME – Professional organizer Kandi Walker Sartori, with Organizational Cleaning, will show you how to control the chaos in every room of your home to create a tranquil space for you and your family. Please register.

Thursday, Jan. 29 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) COFFEE WITH LINDA – Join us for the second in our small group discussion series with Linda Street, a spiritual teacher, intuitive and author (“Rays of Light: Listen to the Dark”). Ask questions, relate your experiences and get Linda’s input on your personal situation in a casual, friendly atmosphere. Coffee and tea will be served. Registration required.

OTHER JANUARY PROGRAMS:

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (10 a.m.-noon) ARTISTS’ REFLECTIONS...ON THE HUMAN CONDITION – View large screen images of art treasures created over the centuries. Find out about the artists who created them, their inspirations and the symbolic references incorporated in their art, as well as the historical and cultural events during the time they worked. Presented by Bill Mannion, MBA, MFA, an award-winning artist. Please register.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (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 Preschool Desk.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOW WOW BOOKS – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with a reading therapy dog! Bring your own book or choose one of ours. Registration begins each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (7-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, Jan. 22 (12-1:30 p.m.) SMALL BUSINESS LUNCH & LEARN – Thinking of starting a business? Take a guided assessment to find out if you have the

right personality, skill set, tools, etc. to be an entrepreneur. This session will help you answer those questions, and provide you with tools and resources to get you moving in the right direction. Presented by SCORE. Please register.

Thursday, Jan. 22 (4-5 p.m.) MAGIC TREE HOUSE BOOK CLUB – Do you already love the “Magic Tree House” adventures or are you curious to find out what the fuss is all about? Join us for one of the “Magic Tree House” books, discussion and craft related to the book. Grades K-2. No registration required.

Friday, Jan. 23 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME! – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys. Teaches sharing and socialization. For children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome! Registration begins Jan. 16.

Friday, Jan. 23 (10 a.m.-noon) PORTER’S FIBER FANATICS – A time for needlecrafters to share, solve problems, and show off.

Friday, Jan. 23 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) IPAD USERS GROUP – Listen to a brief iPad topic then talk and share tips and techniques with other iPad users. Must bring your iPad with you. Registration required.

Friday, Jan. 23 (11:30 a.m.) PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP – Meet other parents as we discuss childhood development topics with a local expert. Free child care available, register at connectingforkids.org or call 440-250-5563. Today’s topic: “Social Skills for Preschoolers.”

Friday, Jan. 23 (1-2:30 p.m.) FANTASTIC FRIDAYS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS – Calling all homeschoolers! Join us for our homeschool Fridays. We will cover a different library-related topic every month. Ages 6-12. Registration begins Jan. 16.

Saturday, Jan. 24 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) SENSORY 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. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Jan. 24 (2-3 p.m.) JUNIOR BRICK BUILDERS! – Let’s build with Duplos! Bring your imagination and we’ll provide the bricks. Ages 3-6.

Saturday, Jan. 24 (3-5 p.m.) WHOVIAN HAVEN (DR. WHO CLUB) – Whovian Haven is a place for Whovians to get together, watch episodes of Doctor Who, and talk about Doctor Who and all other Timey-Wimey things. Grades 9-12. Please register.

Sunday, Jan. 25 (2-3 p.m.) FRIENDS’ ANNUAL MEETING – Includes a historical look at fashion.

Sunday, Jan. 25 (2-4 p.m.) CHESS CLUB – Hone your chess skills (or learn how to play the game) through WPPL’s 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, Jan. 26 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, Jan. 26 (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, Jan. 26 (7-8 p.m.) ACCIDENTAL ART – Mistakes can often be turned into beautiful art – come make your own accidental artwork by staining paper with everyday things! Grades K-5. For typical peers and students with special needs with a caregiver; siblings welcome. Registration begins Jan. 19.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: NETWORKING EFFECTIVELY – People are your single greatest resource in a job search and networking helps you reach those people. Learning how to build a network of “business friends” is essential to uncovering hidden job opportunities and to learning more about companies and their cultures. Learn how to build and maintain business relationships that will assist you throughout your career.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 (7 p.m.) PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP – Meet other parents as we discuss childhood development topics with a local expert. Free child care available, register at connectingforkids.org or call 440-250-5563. Today’s topic: “Strategies to Deal with Challenging Behaviors in Elementary-Aged Children.”

Wednesday, Jan. 28 (10:15 & 11 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – SEE JAN. 21 LISTING.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – The January selection is “The Invention of Wings” by Sue Monk Kidd.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOW WOW BOOKS – See Jan. 21 listing.

Thursday, Jan. 29 (All Day) CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY! – Puzzles of all types will be available for your solving pleasure! Crossword, sudoku, word search, jigsaw, jumbles and more! No registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 29 (4-5 p.m.) MAGIC TREE HOUSE BOOK CLUB – See Jan. 22 listing.

Thursday, Jan. 29 (7-8 p.m.) ANDROID TABLET GROUP: TOUCH SCREEN SKILLS – Must bring your Android-based tablet with you. Practice with touch screen motions and basic button functions. Please register.

Friday, Jan. 30 (9:30-11 a.m.) SIGN UP FOR KINDLEGARTEN! – Must bring your registered Kindle with you. Learn how to download eBooks to your Kindle and other basic techniques. Call the Popular Materials desk to sign up for this eLab. Space is limited for each session.

Friday, Jan. 30 (4-5:30 p.m.) WEIRD SCIENCE – Learn science while having fun! Our interactive after-school science program teaches fundamental principles in an entertaining format. Students will participate in hands-on experiments that they can reproduce at home. Ages 8-12. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Jan. 31 (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, Jan. 31 (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.

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

Used furniture, computer sale

Westlake Porter Public Library will hold a used furniture and computer sale on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until all items are sold. Also being sold are miscellaneous other items. All items will be sold as-is and all sales will be final. Payment may be made by cash, check or credit card. Please call 440-871-2600 for further information.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Police station leaves officers in the cold

It has come to this writer’s attention that during the recent cold snap (temperatures of 0 degrees actual and -20 degrees with wind chill) Bay’s relatively new police station was totally without heat.

Built with a considerable cost to local taxpayers, the new building is poorly designed. The heating unit is housed in the attic area which is unheated and receives the full brunt of cold weather, ditto the air conditioning units with an extremely hot spell.

The city’s temporary solution was to install an array of space heaters which raised the working area to a balmy 60-62 degrees. Hopefully the cells housing local miscreants were similarly provided for.

Might we consider that this provided a three-day nightmare for our fire department as well as an enormous electric bill for the city coffers to absorb?

When will politicians learn that accepting the lowest bid is not always the best policy when dealing with contractors and service providers?

The more logical process would be to tally all estimates to reach an average cost and then accept the bid which comes closest to that average. Certainly our uniformed service providers deserve that much concern from our elected officials. The taxpayers of this community have every right to expect this level of grounded thought from city officials.

On behalf of the citizens of Bay Village, and a hearty (and warm) thank you to our police department.

– Joanne Rubino, Bay Village

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAYarts offers special watercolor workshop

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

Reference your calendars now, and mark down Saturday, April 25. BAYarts is offering a special, one-day workshop for those interested in pursuing their watercolor skills.

Visiting artist Yuki Hall will be leading the day of hands-on education. Hall is known for her particularly beautiful and proficient impressionistic watercolor work.

Participants in the workshop will be learning to achieve stronger atmospheric moods in their landscape, waterscapes and cityscape paintings through the studied use of “reducing the subject matter into a simple pattern of shapes and tonal values, and expressing it with one’s personal visual language without being bogged down with unnecessary details.” The class description also notes that perspective elements (directional lines, edge textures) will be shown to be strongly applied to explore ways of increasing depth.

What students will particularly gain is a way to “turn an ordinary scene into a



Watercolor artist Yuki Hall will lead an April workshop at BAYarts. Pictured is “Rainy Day - Main Street” from Hall’s Dayton cityscape series.

memorable watercolor painting which will evoke viewers’ emotion.”

BAYarts educational director Erin Stack says that this workshop will nurture any watercolor artist, and the chance to work with Yuki Hall is not one they should overlook.

You can see several watercolor works from Yuki Hall on her website: yukihall.artspan.com.

This one-day workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For intermediate to advanced artists. Fee is \$100. Space is limited for the class, so early sign-up is encouraged. You can do so directly on bayarts.net, or by calling 440-871-6543. ●

BAYarts’ latest exhibitions: ‘Small Still Voice,’ ‘Fleeting Moments’

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

Don’t let the snow keep you isolated this January. Your go-to, local arts spot (BAYarts), has two new exhibitions that will be holding opening receptions on Friday, Jan. 30, from 7-9 p.m.

In the Sullivan Family Gallery, artists Moira Beale, Sue Peplin, Jessica Ramage and Erin Stack will present “Small Still Voice.” Textural elements are at play in works of ceramic and mixed media pieces.

Mary Burkhardt and Andrea Serafino will have their paintings and pottery on display in the Diane Boldman Education Gallery, just a few steps away. The exhibition, titled “Fleeting Moments,” explores ephemeral moments of beauty.

Artist Mary Burkhardt’s “fleeting moments” are centered around Lake Erie. “As a native Clevelander, I am energized and inspired by the vast beauty of our lake. My current work is a collection of female figures standing, walking, or spinning on the shores of Lake Erie. The mood of each painting is reflected in the color of the sky, signaling an approaching storm or a glowing sunset. An element of surprise in each composition encourages the viewer’s own narrative of risk and refuge, real or imagined.”

The exhibitions will be on display through Feb. 26, with Monday to Saturday general gallery hours from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit bayarts.net for more information. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for future images of the art from these exhibitions. ●



“Vermilion Beacon” by Mary Burkhardt captures a “fleeting moment” on the Lake Erie shoreline.

Who says theater is not real life?

by BERNICE BOLEK

Clague Playhouse’s production of “Trying” delights audiences with its humor and the strong acting by Robert Hawkes and Debbie Jenkins. Playwright Joanna McClelland Glass writes about her real-life experience as secretary to Judge Francis B. Biddle who had been U.S. attorney general from 1941-1945, serving first under Franklin D. Roosevelt and then Harry S. Truman.

“What gives the distinct sound of truth to the script,” said Director Douglas Farren, “is that the story comes out of a real life experience.” Farren believes that the short relationship Glass had with Biddle led her into the world of writing.

“Trying” reaches a professional level that incorporates the best of live theater – actors who inhabit the characters, a set that draws you into the story, costumes

representing an era (1960s), and area lighting that keep you focused on the action.

Set designer Ron Newell, who is also an actor, realizes that a set needs space where the actors can live. His design and details transformed a 16-by-16-foot bare stage into Biddle’s office in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

The two characters from different generations and their reactions to one another are the basis for the constant humor of the play. The character Sarah Schorr is newly hired as a secretary to Biddle, and throughout the play they master survival in a caustic employee/employer relationship. Their interaction throughout the play draws you into their world and endears you to them.

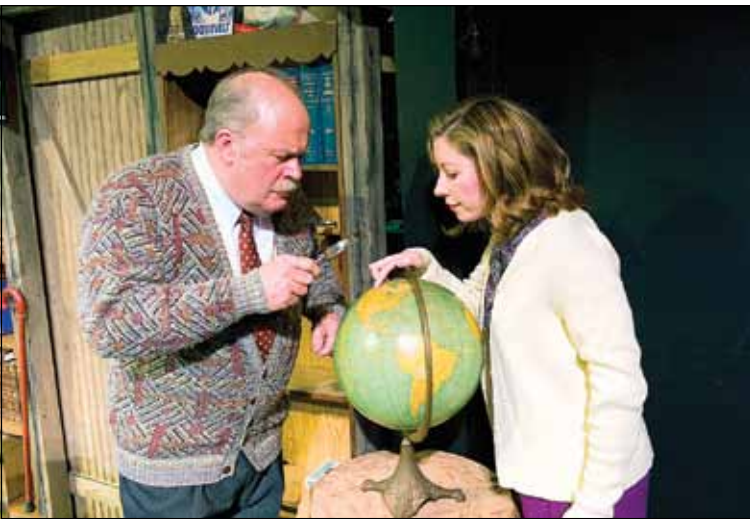


PHOTO BY TERRY SCHORDOCK

Debbie Jenkins and Robert Hawkes perform in the Clague Playhouse production of “Trying.”

The play runs through Feb. 1 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For reservations, call 440-331-0403 Wednesday through Saturday noon to 6 p.m. ●

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— Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

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OBSERVED AROUND TOWN

Winter in Bay Village



Susan Fabian of Bay Village captured this scene of a frozen Lake Erie from Huntington Beach.

RITA taxpayer assistance event

The Regional Income Tax Agency is offering help to all taxpayers who are required to file a municipal income tax return for any RITA municipality with free taxpayer assistance events across the state. The Northeast Ohio regional session will be held Tuesday, March 3, 1-7 p.m., at North Ridgeville City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.

RITA agents will work with taxpayers on a first come, first served basis. Bring necessary tax documentation, including: Social Security numbers for yourself and your spouse; W2s; Form 1099s; Federal Schedules C, E, F; Federal forms K-1, 2106, 3903, 1040; addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2014.

For more information, contact RITA Customer Service at 1-800-860-7482. ●

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Bay Men’s Club seeks to raise money while dropping weight

by KELLY BREWER

Established in 1917 as an organization that promotes brotherhood, boy’s baseball, community and scholarship for Bay Village students, the Bay Men’s Club has embarked this winter on a mission to lose a half-ton of weight.

One thousand pounds may seem like a lot, but not for the men of BMC who hope to lose the weight while raising money to support their scholarship mission.

The “BMC Half-Ton Challenge” is all about men’s health first, which is an important issue for many, given that heart disease and many other weight-related ailments are leading causes for further troubles down the road. As an organization, BMC would like to reduce that risk for our spouses, children and the community.

With the partnership of the Perfect Fit Health Club in Bay Village Square, the members of BMC are weighing in and intent on losing those bellies toward an overall goal of 1,000 pounds.

A friendly competition among teams and individuals should keep everyone focused through the winter until the individual and team champions are crowned on May 7 at the BMC meeting. All successful participants are invited to open the Bay Village Pool in “grand” fashion as summer 2015 begins.

The board of BMC decided last fall to

do this. Many of us, like me, need the support of our club brothers to stay focused on a goal to get healthy. That is what our club is all about. We had such a great response to this challenge that we decided to open it up to other community organizations, and really any man that wants to get a little more healthy. Anyone that would like to participate is welcome to sign up and weigh-in until the end of January.

This friendly competition is open to any individual or team (resident or not) that would like to join and you do not have to be a member of the Bay Men’s Club to take part. Half of your registration fee of \$30 per person goes toward scholarship. The rest of the fee goes toward the winners.

Participants are encouraged to find sponsors for their efforts, but not necessary to take part. For every \$100 raised, each team receives a competitive advantage toward the final tally. Either way, graduating Bay High seniors win and the much healthier male participants of the challenge do as well.

Go to www.baymensclub.org to learn about the Half-Ton Challenge and also about BMC scholarship. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Kelly Brewer at mkellybrew@gmail.com. To join or learn more about Bay Men’s Club, mark your calendar for the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Bay Lodge at 492 Bradley Road. ●

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BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

As we start off a new year of books, you may be anticipating some of the titles to be released in 2015, but what great books of 2014 did you miss? Join us at the Bay Village library on Wednesday, Feb. 4, as Bill Kelly, branch manager of Beachwood Library and “Book Guru,” presents a list of notable books from 2014. He’ll introduce you to books that won awards, notable books, and a few of his favorite titles. So while you wait for the release of 2015 titles, come hear about last year’s great reads. And, don’t forget to stop by the library for our next Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library book sale which starts on Saturday, Jan. 24, and ends on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

Storytimes: Caregivers and their children are invited to

enjoy rhymes, songs, finger-plays, books and stories together. No registration is required.

- **Wednesdays, Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4 (9:30 a.m.) BABY & ME STORYTIME** – For caregivers and their children ages birth to 18 months.
- **Thursdays, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5 (11 a.m.) PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** – For caregivers and their children ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten).
- **Thursday, Jan. 22 (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.
- **Thursdays, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5 (7 p.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** – For children of all ages with a caregiver.
- **Fridays, Jan. 23 and 30**

(9:30 a.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME – For children of all ages and a caregiver.

- **Mondays, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 (9:30 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – For caregivers and their children ages 19-35 months.
- **Tuesdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 (9:30 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – For caregivers and their children ages 19-35 months.
- **Tuesdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 (1:30 p.m.) PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** – For caregivers and their children ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten).

Wednesday, Feb. 4 (3:30 p.m.) BRAIN BUILDERS: ENGINEERING – Bring your ideas and imagination and join us for hands-on fun as we use building bricks to create with. Registration required.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Jan. 21 (3:30 p.m.) ROUND TABLE – Join other teens at the Round TABLE and do what Teens At Bay Library Enjoy ... whether it be projects that serve the community, help the library or sometimes just hang out and have fun together. This program is an on-going series and snacks will be provided. Registration is required, along with a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian.

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 most every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday! Check with the library for details. Parents need to sign one permission form, good for all of the fall programs. Programs provided courtesy of

the Friends of the Bay Village Branch.

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Monday, Feb. 2 (7 p.m.) AUTHOR ALLAN MAY – Allan May, local author of “The Sly-Fanner Murders: The Birth of the Mayfield Road Mob” will talk about one of the most violent periods in the history of Cleveland. Book signing to follow presentation.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 (7 p.m.) BEST BOOKS OF 2014 – Join us as Bill Kelly, Beachwood branch manager and “Book Guru” will share the notable books of 2014. Titles listed on various notable lists will be presented along with some of Bill’s personal favorites from the past year.

Please register to attend any programs online at www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call 440-871-6392 or stop in at 502 Cahoon Road. ●

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting, Jan. 14, 2015

by LWV observers MARTY MACE and SUSAN MURNANE (Bay Village)

This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Sutherland's office prepares official minutes, which are posted on Bay Village's website.

Present: Mayors Sutherland (Bay Village), Bobst (Rocky River), Summers (Lakewood), Clough (Westlake), Patton (Fairview Park)

Absent: Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted)

Also present: Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney; District 1 County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Legal Advisor Gary Ebert; Jason Phillips (Clean Fuels Ohio), Christina Yoka and Scott Sanders (Clean Cities Coalition); and Fire Chiefs Lyons (Bay Village), Hughes (Westlake), Hernen (Avon Lake), Raffin (Fairview Park) and Leonard (Rocky River)

RTA: Increased sales tax collections are improving RTA’s budget outlook. Bay Village’s Lake Road bus shelters have been replaced.

NOACA: Cuyahoga County is 86th of 88 counties in license plate fee retention. NOACA is considering hiring a lobbyist to increase funding from these fees and ODOT.

Land Bank: Mayors Bobst and Sutherland are working to resolve vacant property issues.

County Planning Commission: Lakewood is using the Commission on active living facilitation. The Commission is helping Rocky River and Fairview Park update their Master Plans. Bay Village is seeking a grant to update its Master Plan.

Cuyahoga County Mayors & City Managers Association: CCMCMA is consulting with ODNR on controlling urban deer. North Olmsted is planning a helicopter survey, which must be completed during winter.

Clean Fuels Ohio: This nonprofit promotes cleaner domestic fuels and efficient vehicles. Jason Phillips gave a presentation on alternative fuels. The recent drop in gasoline prices has reduced the immediate advantage of converting many vehicles. However, savings can still be realized

by converting large diesel trucks to compressed natural gas.

Clean Fuels Ohio leverages DOE, EPA and state funding by writing grants and helping with feasibility studies. The mayors expressed interest in a feasibility study, which requires a 10 percent match. WCOG is unlikely to meet this quarter’s March 8 application deadline.

WeShare: This collaboration among fire departments, the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals provides medical oversight by defining protocols and training paramedics. Lakewood and Fairview Park fire departments requested better support for SWAT medics. These two cities have decided to leave WeShare and obtain medical oversight from Metro Hospital. Mayor Bobst expressed concern about deterioration of a 40-year collaboration. Fairview Park Chief Raffin stated there would be no effect on the cities working together. Bay Village Chief Lyons urged the cities to maintain “associate” status within WeShare.

Westshore Enforcement Bureau: Ms. Mahoney proposed a 2 percent pay increase for WEB’s six employees. They have received 0 percent over the past couple years. The workload has increased with area heroin abuse. Mayors Patton and Bobst stated they could not support 2 percent when their law enforcement employees received 1.75 percent and 1.5 percent respectively. The measure passed 3-2 with Mayors Patton and Bobst voting against.

Mr. Greenspan: Bay Village and North Olmsted received funding from the County Road Reimbursement Program. Mayor Clough said improvements should continue to an intersection rather than stopping at the city line (as done on Bradley Road). Mr. Greenspan will look into the policy.

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 Feb. 11, 9:30 a.m., in Bay Village City Hall. ●

Bay, Westlake libraries to hold book sales

Bay Village Branch Library: Jan. 24-27

The Bay Village branch of the Cuyahoga Library Public Library will hold its annual winter book sale from Jan. 24 through Jan. 27. The hours of the sale are: Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m., and Tuesday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Bay Village Library.

There are hardback books, paperbacks, audiobooks, magazines, CDs, DVDs, etc. There is a wide range of subjects for readers of all ages that have been arranged accordingly for easy shopping. Tuesday is bag day when a bag of books can be purchased for \$1. Bags are supplied by the Friends.

Proceeds from the sale are used to support various library activities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Bay Village Library, helping with the book sales, or obtaining more information about the sale, visit the library at 502 Cahoon Road or call 440-871-6392. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library: Feb. 5-8

The Friends of Porter Public Library will be having their Annual Book Sale on Feb. 5-8 with a preview night for members of Friends on Feb. 4 from 4-7 p.m. Memberships will be available at that time.

Regular sale days will be Thursday, Feb. 5, and Friday, Feb. 6. The half-price sale will be on Saturday, Feb. 7, and the \$2 Bag Sale will be Sunday, Feb. 8. No special priced books will be available at the Bag Sale.

Thousands of books, fiction and non-fiction, children’s books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books will be available in the three rooms we have set aside for the sale. Most hard-backed books are \$1 and small paperbacks are 50 cents.

Special this year will be a large number of Mitchell Car Manuals and a nice selection of children’s non-fiction. Many tables of specially-priced books will be set up in the Porter Room and a silent auction of donated treasures can be seen in the lobby of the library, 27333 Center Ridge Road. Bids on these items will be taken until Sunday, Feb 8, at 3 p.m..

Our volunteers have been working all year to prepare for this sale. We hope you will join us for this annual event and take advantage of these super bargains. ●

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Post your group’s free community events online at wbvobserver.com

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 12:30-2 p.m.

College Club West: Board Games and Cards

College Club West will continue its monthly gathering with an opportunity to unwind after the holiday rush and meet new friends at a social gathering involving board games and cards. This social club is a nonprofit organization for college educated women. New members are welcome. For more information, visit www.collegeclubwest.org. Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Cuyahoga West Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society

This first program of the New Year begins a three-part series of how-to tips for researching your family history. “Digging for Your Roots: Embarking on the Quest” will focus on how to organize your search. The program begins at 7 p.m. Social time, with refreshments, is from 6:30-7 p.m. The public is invited, at no cost. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7-9 p.m.

Love and Logic Parenting Program

The Westlake Council of PTAs and School Counselors are sponsoring this entertaining parenting program that is designed to give practical skills that can be used immediately with preschool through teenage children. This six-session program will be held on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m., Jan. 21 through Feb. 25. For more information, contact our school counselors: Sandee Erdman at 250-1366 (Dover/Bassett), Sheri Foster at 250-1155 (Hilliard/Holly Lane) or Kerry Brickman at 250-1198 (Dover Intermediate). Westlake High School, Lecture Room A201, 27830 Hilliard Blvd.

Thursday, Jan. 22, 8:45-10:30 a.m.

Westside Christian Academy Open House

Come see the school in action, meet a few WCA parents and teachers, and take a tour with the headmaster. While parents are learning about the school, their children can join the in special “FunZone” activities for ages 3-12 in the gym run by WCA parent and student volunteers. WCA provides instruction in grammar, Latin, logic, rhetoric, the arts and daily instruction from the Bible appropriate to the grade level. Extracurricular activities include volleyball, basketball, cheer squad, track and a variety of clubs. Pre-registration is recommended at westsideacademy.org or 440-331-1300. Westside Christian Academy, 23096 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Thursday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.

County Councilman Dave Greenspan’s Town Hall Meeting

Councilman Greenspan will host a town hall

meeting featuring Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge John J. Russo, who will present the “State of Affairs” of the Common Pleas Courts, as he looks back over his first year as Administrative and Presiding Judge and discuss his vision for the upcoming years. Bay Village Police Station, Community Room, 28000 Wolf Rd.

Friday, Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m.

Social Skills for Preschoolers

Cooperation, sharing and emotional self control are problem areas for most preschoolers. At this age, many kids don’t yet know how to read social cues or empathize with a peer. They also don’t have the skills to compromise or verbalize how they are feeling. For these reasons, parents often must play the role of referee during play dates. Join Aletta Sinoff, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCBA-D, as she discusses specific ideas to increase social skills in preschoolers age 3 to 6. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Friday, Jan. 23, 5-7:30 p.m.

Bay High Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, side salad, bread/butter, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$7 per person; kids under 5 eat free. Buy tickets in advance or at the door. For advance sales, email Keri.altieri@bayschoolsohio.org. Proceeds benefit all classes. Bay High School Cafeteria, 29230 Wolf Rd.

Friday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

Strategies to Deal with Challenging Behaviors in Elementary-Aged Children

Whether it is aggression, classroom disruption or noncompliance at home, there are strategies parents can use to prevent and manage challenging behaviors in elementary-aged children. Join Sandra Curran, MEd, LISW, and Pam Spinner, MEd, at this parent discussion group as they share practical tools to help parents de-escalate the cycle of behavior. This talk is targeted at parents of elementary-aged children (5 to 12) and you do not need a formal diagnosis of your child to attend. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
One-day Jewelry Class: Copper and Sea Glass Necklace

Call BAYarts at 440-871-6543 to join this workshop today. No prerequisite skills required! Create a stunning pendant by brazing copper wire and adding faux sea glass. Brazing is a unique way to permanently bond copper. Class fee: \$60. A \$30 materials fee is due directly to the instructor at the workshop. BAYarts, 28795 Lake Road, Bay Village

Sunday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saint Bernadette School Open House

Saint Bernadette School educates grades pre-K through eighth-grade children in faith and academics. Tours will be given of our 25-acre campus, including a state-of-the-art computer lab, plentiful library/media center, new gym, art studio, science lab, brand-new preschool, new playground, baseball and football fields and so much more! There will also be an art show, science fair, family activities, refreshments and registration for new students for the 2015-2016 school year. Saint Bernadette School, 2300 Clague Rd., Westlake

Sunday, Jan. 25, 1 p.m.

‘Stop Hunger Now’ Meal Packing Event

The community is invited to participate in this local meal-packing event in which 10,000+ meals will be packed and then shipped to the neediest places in the world! Meals are packed assembly line fashion. The meals have been paid for through the church’s Christmas Eve offering so all you have to do is show up, roll up your sleeves & know you will be making a difference in the life of a starving child. Please RSVP to westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org or call the church office at 440-871-3088. Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2 p.m.

Sunday Sounds

Friends of WPPL invites the public to enjoy a historical look at fashion presented in song by Terry Willingham. Refreshments will be served after the event. There is no cost to attend. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Monday, Jan. 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Rocky River Chamber Music Society Concert: “Men Who Don’t Bite”

Formed in 2007, Men Who Don’t Bite is a bassoon quartet comprised of two members of The Cleveland Orchestra, a professor of bassoon at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, and an associate professor of bassoon at the University of Kansas. The works span from 1597 to 2013, and encompass such styles and traditions as

Renaissance, folk, classical and modern. There is no charge for this concert and all are welcome! West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 5:30-6:30

Free Community Meal

The community is invited to share in a free hot meal and fellowship around tables in connection & friendship! Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and dinner is served continuously from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The church is handicap accessible thru the rear parking lot. Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 5:45-7 p.m.

Communication and Behavior Changes in Individuals with Dementia

This program is designed for caregivers of those with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. The presentation will include tips and techniques to improve successful communication, as well as information about common behavior changes and how to intervene. RSVP 440-808-9275. Arden Courts, 28400 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7-9 p.m.

Two Opening Art Receptions at BAYarts

Come view two opening art receptions at BAYarts, with light refreshments and our great community. The exhibitions are titled “Small Still Voice” (ceramics, photography) and “Fleeting Moments” (paintings, ceramics). Featuring artwork by Moira Beale, Sue Peplin, Jessica Ramage, Erin Stack, Andrea Serafino and Mary Burkhardt. BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd., Bay Village

Thursday, Jan. 31, 5-7 p.m.

Soup Supper

The United Methodist Women invite you to attend our “Soup Supper,” offering many different varieties of soups, with proceeds supporting several charities, including “Fill This House,” to support former foster children, and “Seeds of Literacy,” supporting adults seeking a GED. Cost: adults \$9; seniors \$7; children \$5. Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.



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