

Arbor Day celebrated with tree plantings



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

Dover Intermediate School fifth-graders participate in a tree planting ceremony on April 29. See page 11 for coverage of Arbor Day events in Westlake and Bay Village.

Bay Village 'plugging along,' making most of resources

by TARA WENDELL

Bay Village was hit hard by the recession, enduring the double whammy of decreased tax revenues and state funding cuts by trimming expenses and reducing staff. Mayor Debbie Sutherland has maintained that there is hope on the horizon as the economy recovers. In her annual State of the City address to the West Shore Chamber of Commerce on April 19, Sutherland reiterated that confidence, this time sharing economic indicators that support her optimism.

While a rise in tax collection has provided some "breathing room," the city looks to take advantage of all



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay Village Mayor Debbie Sutherland listens as Jim Chillemi, president of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce, introduces her State of the City address at the April 19 chamber meeting.

possible resources – increasing the efficiency of city operations, partnering with neighboring

communities and relying on the volunteerism of residents.

» See SUTHERLAND page 5

Plaque for Sally Price a gift from the community

by FRANK DARCY

As the director of Baycrafters for 30 years, Sally Price was the visionary responsible for many community projects and events that still resonate today. To honor her contributions, artist Paula Blackman of Blackbird Fine Art is creating a plaque that depicts the unique accomplishments of a unique woman.

Paula, a nationally celebrated artist known for her large scale public works in bronze and stone had a spe-

cial relationship with Sally. The group is reaching out to friends and family of Sally to fund the plaque as a community gift to Sally. Paula has waived her usual fees but materials and firing are costly; one-third of the goal of \$3,000 has been raised through a GoFundMe campaign and donations made directly to BAYarts.

The plaque which will be installed on the BAYarts Huntington House porch and unveiled this summer. Those who knew Sally will recall that the porch was one of her favorite places to perch, greet visitors and find

new inspiration from the view of the park. To prepare for the dedication, the porch is getting a long overdue face-lift, a project that will be funded and executed by Eagle Scout Max Kunze. Local businesses such as Maple Leaf Landscaping and Hinkley Lighting are donating additional materials.

BAYarts' celebration of the many accomplishments of Sally Price will be held on Saturday, July 2, noon to 2 p.m., and is open to the community. Donations for the plaque should be made through BAYarts. ♦



The Huntington House porch on the BAYarts campus will be renovated this summer and dedicated in honor of Sally Price.



PHOTO BY MIKE BREDIGER

Participants spontaneously join hands during the Relay for Life luminaria ceremony on April 30.

Relay for Life of Westshore ends on an Amazing Note

by AMY BREDIGER

This year's Relay for Life was a celebration. We celebrated people fighting and we celebrated the family members that help our survivors everyday. We were six communities coming together as one. Our event was a great success – only falling short of our

\$34,000 goal by \$4,000. But we still have three more fundraisers coming up over the next two months and I have no doubt we will hit this goal and surpass it!

I cannot name everyone who put their heart and soul into this Relay; you know who you are, so I will simply thank everyone as a community.

» See RELAY page 2

Westlake in Bloom entry forms available

by JIM BEDELL

At last, spring has sprung! We hope that you will consider celebrating the beautiful gardens and landscapes of Westlake by entering your property in the annual Westlake in Bloom competition. Whether you enter your home or business, Westlake in Bloom is our chance to say thank you to the individuals who help beautify our city.

Entry forms are available at Cahoon Nursery, Dean's Greenhouse, Gale's Westlake Garden Center, Plant Crafters, Porter Library, Westlake City Hall, Recreation Center, Community Services Department and www.cityof-westlake.org.

The deadline for entering is Friday,



PHOTO BY JIM BEDELL

Lan and Binh V. To won first place in the category of Rear Yard Residential Landscaping in last year's Westlake in Bloom competition.

July 1, at 5 p.m. Properties will be judged in July and awards presented at a ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 6:30 p.m., at LaCentre. So, put a reminder on your

calendar to pick up an entry form and make sure to get it to City Hall by the deadline date.

Happy gardening! ♦

RELAY

from front page

This was my fifth year as event chair and there was a moment during the Luminaria Ceremony that defined why we work so hard to Relay. Unprompted, the attendees reached out to hold hands around the track in dark silence, while the names of those touched by cancer glowed in front of them.

I could not have felt more rewarded while watching them make a loving circle around our Survivors in this special way. As I stood there with tears in my eyes, I realized what amazing people are out there doing amazing work. It felt like a hug of support and love. I hope everyone there felt the same.

I have made the difficult decision that this will be my last year as event chair. As much as I have loved this privilege, there is a time when every person realizes

that it is time to move aside. I have had incredible support over the years and feel blessed to have been chosen to take this on. I am grateful for what I have learned and experienced but I know I have exhausted my efforts.

It is time for new blood, new ideas and new life. I am not abandoning Relay. I will be there year after year as a team, committee member and a lover of this feeling of community. I will be there for the new event chair as a mentor and a friend. I know I have made friends that will

last a lifetime, who share my passion and that will continue to fight the fight.

I look forward to being a part of this event until we find a cure and I will work every day to make this happen. Please join us in this journey next year. You won't regret it.

Details on next year's event will follow after we all take a much-needed rest. A date will be chosen and I will share that with you as soon as I know, along with all the information you need to help end cancer. ♦



PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL

Cancer survivor Dennis Stosak (center, in purple) and his family lead the Survivors Lap at the 2016 Relay for Life in the gym at Westlake High School on April 30.



Event chair Amy Brediger opens the Relay for Life.

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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 700+ community volunteers. All Westlake and Bay Village residents are invited to participate.

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.

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

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Westlake Kiwanis looking for Memorial Day participants

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Memorial Day will soon be here. The Westlake Kiwanis Club hopes you are planning to participate in our annual community parade and service that day, May 30.

The parade and service will honor those civilians

and military that sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms and protect our shores – many of those fallen were members of our Westlake community. If you participated in the parade or in the services in Clague Park last year, the Westlake Kiwanis and the community appreciate your participation and hope you will take part again this year.

If you missed this vibrant and moving event we hope you will join us. There is plenty of room for various groups of marchers and floats. If you wish to participate in this year's parade and or service, please contact Rick Grane at 440-829-0974 or Russ Milan at 440-777-2720. ●



Project Pedal is ready to roll on June 18

by DIANE FRYE

School is almost out and summer is on its way, and that means it is time once again for Project Pedal. This multi-route bike ride offers beautiful early summer scenery, healthy exercise and an enjoyable experience to share with family and friends of all ages. Best of all, riders will be having fun while helping to raise funds to continue the mission of Village Project. Project Pedal begins at 9 a.m. and all rides are concluded by 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. All routes begin and end at Bay Middle School at 27725 Wolf Road.

There are five routes to choose from:

- **Pea Pod Pedal** (100 yards) is for two- and three-year-olds on trikes and big wheels. Registration fee: \$10.
- **Sprout Route** (400 yards) is for children six years and under on two-wheelers, with or without training wheels. Registration fee: \$15.

- **Cucumber Course** (6 miles) is for all ages. The route travels primarily side streets with a rest stop at Village Project headquarters. Parental supervision is suggested for young riders. Registration fee: \$25.
- **Kale Trail** (15 miles) is for intermediate riders of all ages. The route travels through Bay Village. Rest stops will be at Village Project, Reese Park and Bradley Park. Sidewalks are available throughout the ride. Parental supervision is suggested for young riders. Registration fee: \$30.
- **Artichoke Adventure** (35 miles) is for more experienced riders of all ages. The route travels through Bay Village, Avon Lake and Westlake. Rest stops will be at Village Project, Reese Park and Bradley Park in Bay Village. Much of the ride will take place on well-traveled roads such as Lake, Bradley, Walker and Hilliard. Registration fee: \$40.

Register for Project Pedal at ourvillageproject.com/projectpedal or pick up

an application at Village Project headquarters, 27378 W. Oviatt Road in Bay Village. Riders registered by June 10 will receive a free T-shirt. Those registering after June 10 will pay an extra \$10 per registration and will not be guaranteed a T-shirt.

Join in some healthy competition and help support Village Project by raising funds in addition to the registration fee. Compete individually or as a team to raise the most for this worthy organization. Fundraising pages can be created when you register on the Village Project website.

Need help creating a team page? Village Project volunteers will be on hand to assist with registration and to help develop fundraising pages at two upcoming special events taking place at local businesses. On Thursday, May 19, from 4-8 p.m., Talbots in Crocker Park will host a registration event. In addition, Talbots will donate 10 percent of their sales to Village Project during this event. On Monday, May 23, from 5-9 p.m.,

Buffalo Wild Wings in Avon Lake will be the site to get help with your registration and team page set-up. Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 20 percent of their sales (with coupon) that evening to Village Project. Coupons are available on the VP website.

Prizes will be awarded for the top team as well as for individual fundraisers. The top individual fundraiser will receive a Miller Lite Cruiser bike. The top team receives a dinner for up to 16 people at Village Project. The team with the most creative name earns the right to have a Village Project menu item named in its honor.

Project Pedal is not just a bike ride, it's a community event. Invite your family and friends to cheer you on as you cross the finish line at Bay Middle School, and then get a chance to enjoy live music, activities, food trucks and vendors. NEW this year: one lucky raffle winner will be awarded four club seats to a Cleveland Indians game. Raffle tickets are available at Village Project headquarters, at the registration events and on the day of Project Pedal. Tickets are \$5 each, five for \$20, and 25 for \$100. ●



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SUTHERLAND

from front page

In the service department, director Scott Thomas implemented new work-order software. Iworq stores information on all open and closed work orders, including a history of service calls to a particular location, employees dispatched, time spent on site and photos of the project. All supervisors are equipped with iPads to access real-time information on the status of work orders. Not only does the process save time and identify recurring problems, it also helps with purchase decisions by tracking the equipment used on each call.

“It’s made our department even more responsive and productive and really targeted at correcting issues that come up,” Sutherland said in her address.

The fire department also launched a new database software program that tracks EMS calls and statistics and allows for more efficient EMS billing. Though the prospect of a regionalized fire department appears doubtful, Sutherland said Bay Village is still on the lookout for potential cooperative arrangements as outlined in a consulting firm’s consolidation feasibility study.

“We continue to constantly look at ways in which we can collaborate with our neighbors. I think most of the time people just want response time, they don’t

really care if the truck says Bay Village on the side, or it says Westshore on the side, they just want to make sure that it gets there in less than four minutes. That’s our objective.”

The city took advantage of Cuyahoga County’s Emergency Management Certification Program to evaluate its preparedness to handle emergencies. The voluntary ReadyCertify program reviews the city’s emergency management plan and verifies compliance with 24 performance standards. The program offers an independent assessment of all emergency management activities, including administration, organization, planning, training, response and recovery.

Bay Village is one of 11 municipalities – the only one in the West Shore region – to be designated as ReadyCertified by the county. “We are very, very prepared and I think that the residents of Bay Village should be very proud of that,” the mayor said.

In a city that is 97 percent residential, the people who live in Bay Village are directly contributing to the city’s quality of life. Their personal income and property tax dollars make up the lion’s share of the city’s revenue, and their involvement in the community helps to fill in the gaps left by a tight budget.

“We could not operate without our volunteers across the city,” Mayor Sutherland said, giving kudos to Bay Village civic groups and the hundreds of

residents that offer their time to the community services department. More than 6,500 outreach services were provided last year, from Meals on Wheels to medical equipment loans to holiday food and gift donations.

Regarding the city’s finances, Sutherland is encouraged by a 7.5 percent uptick over the prior year in income tax revenues and an increase in the amount of building activity across the city. More than \$26 million in building permits were issued last year, mostly for residential alterations. “That’s an indication that the economy is rebounding,” she said.

Eleven new residences valued at a total of \$3.25 million were constructed in 2015, a strong comeback from an average of 5-7 during the recession.

“We just keep plugging along,” Sutherland said. “Bay Village is really hot right now. There’s not a lot of [housing] inventory and if something comes up [for sale] ... a lot of those homes are demolished and then something new is being built in its place.”

Looking toward the future, Sutherland has been active in lobbying state leaders to recoup some of the local funding that has been slashed in recent years. She is co-chairing, along with Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers, a statewide effort to build a proposal for increased local funding in the next biennial budget, which state legislators will begin discussing in July 2017. ●

A little geography can be big help in genealogy

by JAYNE BROESTL

The dawn of the 21st century ushered in a new “information era” of research capabilities. Personal computers and search engines allowed for anyone to easily mine mountains of electronic data from the most relevant sources, for a particular subject, at any hour of the day without leaving home. Traditional research practices of physically visiting various repositories became “so yesterday.”

This is particularly evident in the area of genealogical and family history research, where the need to visit local libraries, historical societies and county courthouses has been reduced greatly. Popular genealogical search engines and databases, such as FamilySearch, Fold3 and HeritageQuest, can be freely accessed electronically from anywhere, using a library account and pin number.

But is relying solely on these “biggies” a mistake? These enormous databases hold only the tip of the iceberg of relevant information. When it comes time to put flesh on the bones

of members of a family tree, traditional research practices are needed.

Many records are still held locally at public and private facilities. This is why it is necessary to learn the history of the town of a family’s origin. And because vital and other public records are held at the county level of government, it is necessary to learn in what county that town was during the time period of interest.

The state of Kentucky is one example of how state and county boundaries changed with time. Kentucky was formed from Virginia. But what year was that? From what Virginia counties was Kentucky formed? Furthermore, county boundaries continued to change as the state became more populated and new counties were carved from old. Some counties have extensive records collections from the earliest dates, others are sparse owing to courthouse floods, fires and storm damage.

Answers to these questions and helpful tips for doing “Genealogical Research in Kentucky” will be provided by Thomas Stephen Neel, historian, genealogist and current director of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) Library in Bellville, at the May 18 meeting of the Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS. Program is from 7:00-8:45 p.m. in the Porter Room at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road. Social time, with refreshments, is from 6:30-7 p.m. The public is invited at no charge. For additional information, visit rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs or email cuyahogawest@gmail.com. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

Cleveland’s unique NFL Draft Day perspective

by JEFF BING

Draft day in Cleveland. Is it me, or is it nothing short of ludicrous how it happens that year after year, massive failure after massive failure, Browns faithful nonetheless religiously plant their posteriors around the tube to witness the NFL draft? I have to assume it’s the never-ending hope – indelibly etched into the collective psyches of all Browns fans – that the odds will be with us this year because of the against-all-odds run of drafting failures. Sort of like “even the blind squirrel finding an acorn on occasion” mentality. (The same way I approach the possibility of writing a good column).

I mean, with the ghosts of William Greene, Courtney Brown, Kam Wimbley, Braylon Edwards, Trent Richardson, Brandon Weeden, and everyone’s favorite, Johnny Football (thanks, Jimmy H.) still fresh in our minds, how does one not get excited about our chances in another draft?

But, I have to admit, it’s difficult for a lifelong Browns fan to divest oneself from the draft. However, in spite of all the red flags – in particular, Cleveland’s NFL draft “track record” – I’ve tried to divest myself of the agony, without success as of

yet. I mean, think of the worst movie or TV show you’ve ever seen, and then picture yourself watching it over and over, *and over*, again. Time to call the guys in the white coats, right?

Not if you’re a Browns fan. Play it again, Sam.

A friend of mine called me the other night after the first round of the draft, wanting to know what I thought of the Browns’ first selection, Corey Coleman. While spending some time trying to formulate an intelligent answer, it finally dawned on me: There IS no intelligent answer. Most experts will tell you it takes several years to evaluate a draft (although it doesn’t take that long to evaluate all the misses the Browns have drafted over the years, as they are invariably out of football within a season or two). The point being, however, that getting all excited over a draft pick in April is ridiculous – along the lines of Jimmy Haslam’s annual promise to “get it right” this time.

Maybe Jimmy Haslam subscribes to the “blind squirrel” theory, too. Unfortunately, the blind squirrel doesn’t work in the Browns’ front office. Even more likely – based upon previous drafts – the blind squirrel would have been a significant intellectual upgrade. ●

Bay, Westlake earn silver medals in high school ranking

Bay and Westlake high schools have been designated Silver Medal Schools in U.S. News & World Report’s 2016 ranking of America’s Best High Schools.

Bay High ranked No. 24 in Ohio (out of 890 high schools), and No. 583 nationally (out of 19,908 public high schools). Westlake High ranked No. 41 in the state, No. 968 in the country. Bay narrowly missed the Gold Medal designation, which is awarded to the nation’s top 500 rated schools.

U.S. News and World Report considers a number of factors in its ranking. First, they determined whether each school’s students were performing much better than statistically expected for the average student in the state, factoring in the percentage of the school’s economically disadvantaged students, on math and reading

proficiency tests.

In the second step, it was determined whether the school’s least-advantaged students – black, Hispanic and low-income – were performing better than average for similar students in the state. Third, graduation rates were considered.

Then, in a final-step calculation, an AP “college readiness” index was computed based on the weighted average of the AP participation rate (12th-grade students taking at least one AP test before or during their senior year divided by number of 12th-graders) along with how many of those students passed at a score of 3 or higher (the score which many colleges accept for course credit).

The quality score (passing rate) was weighted at 75 percent, while the participation rate was weighted at 25 percent for the college readiness index. ●

Bay Village Foundation announces new trustees

by EILEEN VERNON

The Bay Village Foundation announced a new group of trustees joining its board. The new trustees (who replace outgoing trustees Tim Atkinson, Margaux Hamilton, Colleen Harding, Amy Huntley, Jeff Koehler, Elaine Korte and Mike Petrigan) are Molly Bisson, Mark Flash, Mark Mutch, Mike Romanchek Mindy Stroh, Ginger Mlakar, Kristine Stylski, Dave Tadych and Denny Wendell.

The Bay Village Foundation has an exciting year ahead as we complete the fundraising and watch the new construction involved in the remodel of Play in Bay. Any family that wishes to add its name to the more than 300 families listed as donors should mail their contribution as soon as possible to The Bay Village Foundation, P.O. Box 40122. This has been a rewarding successful project.

“On behalf of our board, and the entire Bay Village community, I want to thank Amy, Colleen, Elaine, Jeff, Margaux, Mike and Tim for their tremendous service to the Foundation and to Bay Village. We will miss them and their talents and energy,” said Al Paulus, board president. “At the same time, we welcome Mark, Mark, Mike, Mindy, Molly, Dave, Denny, Ginger and Kristine. While they have large shoes to fill, we are confident that they will be tremendous additions to our board.”

The Bay Village Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that supports projects and programs fostering Bay Village’s historical, cultural, social and educational heritage through its scholarship and grant-making activities. Tax deductible donations may be made by mail to the P.O. Box above or on the Foundation’s website, thebayvillagefoundation.org. ●

Annual hydrant flushing in Bay Village

by DANIEL ULDRICH, Bay Village Fire Department

Our annual hydrant flushing is underway and will be completed, weather permitting, by early to mid-June. Each year we test and flush every hydrant in the city to ensure proper function, pressure and maintenance.

As in past years, we will keep residents aware of our daily progress through the city, as we work from the east side of the city to the west side of the city, by posting temporary signs. We also notify city hall

each morning of our work area for the day. Please note that hydrants are flushed from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since hydrant flushing sometimes loosens some of the rust in the water mains, you may notice rusty or discolored water when we are flushing in your area. If this happens, let your cold water run for a few minutes until it is clear again.

Should any rusty water end up accidentally in your laundry, the Fire Department has a supply of rust remover packets. Call 871-1214 for more information or just stop in at the Fire Station. ●



Committee seeks donations for Bay Days annual fireworks

by ERIC EAKIN

Donations are being solicited to help pay for the Bay Days fireworks celebration.

The Bay Days fireworks display costs \$11,000, with the city paying half. The other \$5,500 must be raised privately.

Many Bay Village civic organizations count on the revenues they raise at Bay Days to finance the scholarships they provide, to fund their civic-improvement programs and for other projects. Without the fireworks finale, Bay Days attendance would drop precipitously and so would the funding upon which these organizations rely.

Details can be found at bayfireworks.org. You can find a PayPal button there to donate quickly and easily.

A limited number of tickets for two different raffle prizes are also available to aid the 2016 Bay Days Fireworks Fund.

The first raffle is for a Cavs package, which includes tickets to 10 select

games of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2016/2017 season, plus membership in the Wine and Gold United, which confers numerous other benefits outside Cavaliers tickets, such as discounts on Monsters and Gladiators tickets and events. Tickets are in Sec. 227, Row 13, Seats 17 and 18, on the aisle and resellable. The winner will also receive a “swag bag” of Cavaliers merchandise.

The second raffle is for an annual membership in the Freedom Boat Club prize. The winner will have unlimited use of a fleet of boats at all club locations, which includes the Rocky River, Sandusky, Catawba and elsewhere. The club takes care of all maintenance costs, except fuel. For details visit freedomboatclub.com.

Raffle tickets for both prizes are \$25 each or five for \$100. They are on sale by calling 216-386-5997 or emailing info@bayfireworks.org.

The winner of the Freedom Boat Club prize will be drawn on Memorial

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Don’t invite a digital con artist into your computer

by TAK SATO

The digital world is experiencing an upward trend of nefarious activity utilizing malicious software called “ransomware.” As the first half of the name implies, ransomware takes your computer’s data hostage and demands a ransom in “bitcoins,” an untraceable internet-based payment system. (We’ll demystify bitcoins in a future issue).

Ransomware renders your data unreadable, and thus useless, until you pay the ransom. Non-payment means you lose your data forever (unless you have an uncompromised backup).

Individuals and organizations, including society’s lifeline services such as hospitals and police departments, have fallen victim to ransomware attacks. Numbers reported by the media are probably on the lower estimate as some victims may just pay the ransom and never report it to authorities. NBC News reports that last year more than 2,500 ransomware attacks were reported to the FBI, costing victims \$24 million. The amount of reported damages skyrocketed to \$209 million in just the first 3 months of this year.

For malwares and viruses to inflict damage, the perpetrators have to first get them into your computer. In most cases they can’t just get them into your computer unless your computer was already compromised from an earlier incident.

In other words you have to explicitly “invite” them into your computer, just like inviting a con artist into your house, for the perpetrators to extort money or inflict other damages.

Email may be an old communication tool in the digital world but it is still the preferred vehicle for nefarious entities to distribute their scams efficiently, expeditiously and to large numbers of

potential victims.

Just as a real-world con artists may try to persuade you to “invest in a deal of your lifetime,” these email messages with virus-laced attachments, or links to malicious websites, will be accompanied by message bodies that entice the recipients to open the attachment or click on the link.

Here are some healthy email habits that will help minimize the risk of being victimized:

- Don’t open unsolicited emails or messages from senders you don’t recognize.
- Don’t participate in chain email.
- Don’t be click happy (i.e. don’t click on every link you receive).
- Be wary of financial institutions asking for account information via email. Banks do not communicate important matters through email; instead they will direct you to log into your online account’s message center at their official website.
- Look out for “phishing” attempts, where the perps try to acquire personal information such as user ID and passwords. Rather than clicking on the provided link to get to the login page, open a browser and type in the website address manually.
- If a deal is too good to be true, it most probably is. Delete the message without clicking on the links.

These additional measures are recommended to protect you in case you make a mistake: (1) subscribe to anti-virus and anti-malware software; (2) apply application, system and security patches regularly as prescribed by the manufacturer of hardware and software.

Finally, always remember that the gray matter between your ears is the single most powerful tool you possess, as it is where good habits are cultivated. ●

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SENIOR LIVING

Over-90s celebration keeps growing in Westlake

by LYDIA GADD

The Westlake Center for Community Services together with the Westlake Women's Club recognized our city's over-90s residents with a Birthday Brunch Celebration on April 28. These two organizations have partnered to provide this time-honored tradition for well over 15 years now. The biggest change to this event over the years is that the number of celebrants keeps growing. Some of us (including myself) who attended the brunch as special guests, have given up our seats to meet the demand.

In fact, approximately 100 people over the age of 90 attended this year's brunch! The celebration included a handshake, photo-op and proclamation from Mayor Dennis Clough. Among the attendees were individuals from the eight assisted living/senior living facilities in Westlake, as well as 25 or more residents who live independently. There were plenty more Westlake nonagenarians who could not attend the brunch, but will still receive Proclamations. Many reside in the six nursing home facilities within the city. In total, over 325 individual Proclama-



Mayor Dennis Clough presents a Proclamation to Elsie Cornelius at the recent Birthday Brunch Celebration.

tions were prepared. The room belted out a reprise of the Happy Birthday song, for Lydia Lohrenzen, who's 95th birthday fell on the actual day of our party! In addition to the Westlake Women's Club, we would like to thank our other sponsors for helping to make the day special, including: Life Care Centers of Westlake (for sponsoring our pianist, Jack Hogue), First Light HomeCare (for the dessert), as well as Heinen's, Petitti's Garden Center and Westlake Giant Eagle. ●

Bus tour takes riders on trip through Bay's memories

by REBECCA KRUEGER

The Village Bicycle Cooperative and the Bay Village Historical Society teamed up with the Dwyer Memorial Senior Center on April 28 to present a 14-mile historical tour through the memories of Bay Village.

The event was to help publicize the cooperative's upcoming "History Mystery Tour" bicycle ride through the city, scheduled for Saturday, May 7.

Local citizens boarded the community's 14-passenger "covered wagon" to learn about the city's rich history, spanning from 1810 to the present. "The mystery wave," Sam Sheppard, Elliott Ness and Cahoon family stories were just four of many discussed that day.

Carl Gonzalez, board member of the bike cooperative, emceed the tour while Eric Eakin, board member of the historical society, added backstory and tidbits of delightful commentary.

As the tour unfolded, participants chimed in with their own memories and revealed many "secrets" about the town. Laughter and smiles filled the air

on the 90-minute journey.

Upon disembarking, participants enjoyed an 1810-style picnic, featuring foods reminiscent of the menu the Cahoon family enjoyed during one of their annual October reunions. It was a true cooperative effort as individuals signed up to bring delicious items to



Riders enjoy a bus tour of some interesting historical sites in Bay Village.

make the meal a success.

Leslie Selig, director of the Dwyer Center, said she was delighted with the turn out. Because the first bus quickly filled, another tour date was added on April 26 to handle the overflow.

We were very pleased with the community spirit reflected on the tour. Communities are only as strong as the number of their engaged citizens. Clearly, the city of Bay Village continues to have a very solid foundation. ●

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Village Bicycle COOPERATIVE

Take a ride on the History Mystery Bike Tour



Saturday, May 7

Flexible start time from 12-2 p.m.

Where: Village Bike Cooperative
303 Cahoon Road, Bay Village

Cost: \$10/adult, \$3/child

or bring the whole family for \$25

Register at the event or in advance at:

villagebicycle.org



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Bay Village Police Station Community Room

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- Simple errand trips to replace
- Learn about basic gear requirements

Friday, May 20,
6:30-8:30 p.m.

COMMUTING 101

- Set up your bike
- Learn about commuting options
- Learn about basic gear requirements

Thursday, June 7,
7-9 p.m.

ADVENTURE BIKING 101

- Set up your bike
- Learn about possible local destinations
- Learn about basic gear requirements

Tuesday, June 21,
6:30-8:30 p.m.

FAMILY CRUISING 101

- Set up your bike
- Learn how to properly fit your child's helmet
- Learn about local family fun trips & gear

Friday, June 24,
7-9 p.m.

Pre-registration is required at villagebicycle.org

May 7 a day for biking in Bay Village

by DONNA WILSON

The second annual History Mystery Bike Ride sponsored by Village Bicycle Cooperative will be on Saturday, May 7, from 12-2 p.m. at the Cooperative, located on the ground floor of the Bay Village Community House, 303 Cahoon Road. The fundraiser is an easy-paced, family-friendly bike tour that includes a map of stops designed to educate riders about Bay's rich history and a few of its mysteries. Cost is \$10/adult and \$3/child, or bring the whole family for \$25. Raffle tickets for a bike and other items are available for \$1 each. There will also be live music, geocaching, a photo scavenger hunt and light refreshments. Volunteers

will be on hand to assist and answer questions. Children 14 and under need the company of an adult. Helmets are mandatory.

Also join us that day from 1-3 p.m. for an informational drop-in session at the Bay Village Police Department's community room to learn how you can "Bike More and Drive Less." The president of VBC, Jennifer Smillie, explains that the goal of this new program is to educate people on how to use bikes to do activities within the community. The program offers four free classes: Family Cruising 101, Adventure Biking 101, Errand Running 101, and Commuting 101. You will also learn how to make your bike more efficient with suggestions for available products to help you. This is a wonderful activity to continue improving Bay Village's sustainability and green efforts.

We look forward to seeing you on May 7 at Village Bicycle Cooperative for a day filled with fun, exercise, and information! Visit us online at villagebicycle.org for more information. ●

Annual Bay Bike To School Challenge underway

May is National Bicycle Month. For over 1,200 middle school and elementary school students in Bay Village, that means Bike To School Month as the annual Bay Bike To School Challenge returns for the ninth year. The Bay Bike To School Challenge began in 2008 at Bay High School and Bay Middle School, following on the heels of an informal student-organized protest at Bay High School in 2007 that saw students biking to school to beat the high price of gasoline. This year, the Bike To School Challenge returns to Bay Middle School and Westerly Elementary School.

During May, students are encouraged to ride their bikes to school to help the environment, get more physical activity to improve their health, have fun, and win prizes. The Bike To School Challenge for Bay Middle School began on Monday, May 2, and ends on Friday, May 20. The one-week Bike To School Challenge for Westerly Elementary School begins on Monday, May 16, and ends on Friday, May 20.

Students carry a "Ride Card" that

is stamped each day they ride a bike to school. When they accumulate four bicycle rides to school, students receive a free T-shirt from the main Bike To School Challenge sponsor and organizer, Century Cycles of Rocky River. The more students bike, the more they can win – every Ride Card they fill up earns them more entries into a grand prize raffle that includes two new bicycles per school from Raleigh Bicycles. Safety is also rewarded: Students earn twice as many entries if they wear a bicycle helmet.

May 4 has been designated as National Bike To School Day, and the schools expect record participation. On last year's National Bike To School day, 580 Bay Middle School students, or 73 percent of the student body, rode their bikes to school.

Overall in 2015, students in the Bay Bike To School Challenge pedaled over 44,000 miles during the three-week program, saving their parents over \$4,800 in gasoline, and burned over 1.2 million calories, the equivalent of almost 6,700 cans of Coca-Cola. ●

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FAMILY OBSERVATIONS

There is hope

by RJ JOHNSON

“Isn’t it amazing that my children cannot find the large, open dishwasher rack for their dirty dishes – yet somehow manage to find their small mouths with their forks while eating?” I was nearly despondent when I saw this friend’s post on Facebook.

I wasn’t despondent because he was feeling frustrated. The feeling arose because I knew if he cannot get his children to find the “large, open dishwasher rack,” there is little hope that I will be able to have better luck with my own. His children are the kind of kids that your parents used to say, “Why can’t you be more like…” They are the epitome of responsible youth, the ones that you point to and say, “I have hope for the future.”

When we put a computer in the living room, we prohibited the consumption of food or beverages while sitting at the computer. Flying milk has an adverse effect on microchips.

“Can you grab the power cable?” asked my wife when we walked into the living room and saw the empty plate and glass sitting by the keyboard.

“Should I grab the dishes too?” I inquired.

“No,” she said. “Maybe he’ll figure it out on his own.”

This was depressing on two levels. First, the boy had ignored the rule.

Second the boy left the evidence.

“Where’s the power cable?” he asked when he sat down to use the computer.

“Can you guess why it’s gone?”

He looked at the incriminating evidence. “Oh.” He took the dishes to the kitchen, then returned. “Can I have it now?”

“No.” I tried to sound sympathetic. “You lost computer privileges until tomorrow. I’m disappointed that you broke the rule.”

“Sorry,” he said, then let out a long sigh and wandered away.

I was fairly certain he had learned his lesson. Actually I hoped he had learned two lessons. Don’t disobey the rules, and if you do disobey the rules, you will be caught. The boy is not very good at deceit, a trait for which I am thankful.

The next day, I returned the power cable, and all seemed right with the world. That evening my wife again said, “Can you grab the power cable?” A half-eaten cup of noodles sat next to the keyboard.

A few minutes later I heard, “Hey, where’s the … Oh, I did it again.”

I can offer some measure of comfort to the father of some of the most responsible youth I know. I was the same way when I was a child. My mom said if I ever got lost, they could easily track me by following the trail of socks I left behind. At some point when I was in college, I started cleaning up after myself. It was like a switch was thrown somewhere in my brain, and I just started doing it.

So to my friend, my wife, and all other parents, there is hope. You may not see it until they’ve gone to college, but there is hope. ●

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Children and spirituality

by SHARON FEDOR

Prayer is the cornerstone of the Unity philosophy, and a way of life. Children our are future. How do we teach children that they are spiritual, not just physical beings, living in a very physical world? How do we explain that the Divine Source is within, and follow up with how to go within? How do we reinforce that faith, hope, love and compassion are important, and can be practiced in everyday life? Not only is “how” a consideration, but what age is appropriate to instill these critical concepts?

Unity believes that their teachings can make a positive difference in the lives of children and families. Unity minister Rev. Jim Fisher created three guiding principles for the Youth Ministry that supports the healthy development of the spiritual and emotional lives of individuals. He gives insight into the particulars of how to accomplish these. Children who have participated in the Youth Education Program regularly will understand these principles; the first has to do with love.

Principle No. 1 states, “God and the people at my church love me.” One particular that goes underneath this principle is, “I know God loves me because I am treated with loving respect by the adults in the Youth Education Program.” Principle No. 2: “I know the basic Unity teachings, and use them in my life.” Putting it into prac-

tice says, “I can make affirmations and denials that are relevant to the life experiences that I want.” Principle No. 3 states, “I know Bible stories and I am therefore prepared to later consider metaphysical interpretations discussed by adults.” One such Bible story is “Joseph and his coat of many colors” from Genesis.

From Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, we receive the Twelve Powers of Man. The first power touches on faith, and says, “Faith is the ability to say yes to letting good manifest in your life.” The affirmation for it is – “I have faith that God works for good in my life.” Fillmore’s fourth power, wisdom, is the ability to discern what decisions best reflect your true God-Self. The affirmation for wisdom is – “I use my inner wisdom to guide all I think, feel, say and do.”

Teacher Bernadete Leal realized that teaching children about affirmations could use a dash of creativity. She created the word “a-fun-mation,” and found that children enjoyed the exercises she put together to help the idea stick. One exercise has the teacher writing the affirmation on the board minus two words. Words have previously been hidden in the classroom, and children have to find the missing parts, and complete the affirmation. Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Rani, at Unity of Westlake feels the Youth Education Program supports her as a mom. She’s experienced her daughter coming to her with answers to various problems, and focusing on the positive as Unity teacher Kathy has emphasized. Westlake Unity offers Youth Ministry Classes for ages 3 through 12th grade on Sunday mornings. Visit unityspiritual-center.org to learn more. ●

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SENIOR LIVING

Dancing is great exercise

by JOHN KOWALSKI

The Westlake Center for Community Services is having a monthly daytime dance. Dancing, watching dancing and listening to music have many benefits. Throughout a person's entire life, the brain responds to music. Unborn babies hear and respond to music in the womb. Those with Alzheim-

er's disease and dementia often can still remember words to songs, even when they can't recall other things.

Music combined with dancing triggers unique brain activity because a dancer is moving to the music, thinking about the rhythm and tempo, recalling the melody and the words, processing memories connected with the song, all while maintaining balance and coordination moving around others on the dance floor. It creates powerful and productive brain activity.

Join us for dancing at the Westlake Community Center, 29694 Center Ridge Road. It's a fun amateur activity that has great health benefits in a party-like atmosphere. Enjoy live music



and refreshments.

Dances will be held from 2-4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month

through December (except October, when it will be the first Thursday). Cost is \$4. ●

Westlake school board adopts strategic plan

by KIM BONVISSUTO

The Westlake Board of Education adopted the outline presented by Westlake City Schools' Strategic Planning Committee at its April 25 meeting. The committee is a cross-representational group of over 50 residents including business, nonprofit, civic, mental health, higher education, clergy, parent and neighborhood leaders.

"We want to thank the Strategic Planning Committee members for being forward thinking and sharing their input and ideas to help ensure our school district's priorities are aligned with the needs of the community and the skills required to compete in today's society," said Board President Carol Winter. "Their commitment to this process demon-

strates the importance of strong schools and a strong community."

At the April 11 board meeting, six representatives of the committee – Gary Sole, Liz Pirnat, Dana Hoffman, Ellie Peiffer, Jane Peer and Dina Abugroon – shared an overview of the planning process and presented the goals and initiatives they developed to help ensure Westlake City School District is staying on the right track and "Educating for Excellence."

The Strategic Planning outline focuses on five main priorities for the district:

- Finance
- Curriculum & Technology
- Facilities
- Communication & Community Partnerships

- Culture & Environment

For each priority, Strategic Planning Committee members created a goal and identified accompanying initiatives. The result is the Strategic Planning Outline that reflects the unique perspectives and backgrounds of the over 50 community members who participated in the process.

"It was an honor and a privilege to sit with this group of dedicated community members who invested their time, experience and knowledge in this process," said Dina Abugroon. "We come from different backgrounds and have unique perspectives, but we are all committed to the success of our schools and the youngest citizens in our community. We hope these goals and initiatives will help ensure the Westlake City Schools stay on the right track and continue Educating

for Excellence."

The next step is for faculty, staff and administrators to use the outline as the foundation for a Strategic Plan they will complete and implement.

To view the Strategic Plan Outline and the April 11 presentation, visit wlake.org and click on the Strategic Planning button at the top of the page. ●

POETRY

BLUE JAY

A haiku by ANNA CORN, age 11

Oh how beautiful.
The blue jay soars though the sky.
Then returns home again.



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Observing Arbor Day in Westlake and Bay Village

The importance of Arbor Day

by JEAN SMITH

Trees are such a big part of our lives that sometimes we tend not to notice them, to take them for granted. Then once a year on the last Friday in April, we see articles written and programs taking place to celebrate Arbor Day.

The first official Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1874, in Nebraska. Soon other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day and it became a nationwide tradition by 1882. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day.

All of this came about because of the efforts of a pioneer by the name of J. Sterling Morton, a journalist and editor who became secretary of the Nebraska Territory. Morton and his wife loved nature and came to realize the importance of trees to the landscape and environment. Besides the visual beauty and shade to protect us from the sun, trees are functionally significant in controlling storm water and soil erosion, conserving energy, and removing pollutants from the air and water. Trees also provide nesting sites for birds, food for birds and other animals, and nuts, seeds and fruit for our own diets.

We protect the things that we value, and we should protect our valuable trees. Morton said, "Each generation takes the earth as trustees." We are very fortunate to live in a community that recognizes the importance of trees to our quality of life. And so on Arbor Day 2016, the Westlake Garden Club planted an Ivory Silk Tree Lilac in the Reading Garden at Westlake Porter Public Library. This tree can grow to 25 feet, is low maintenance, fragrant and showy with creamy white blooms May to June and attracts hummingbirds



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

Porter Library Director Andrew Mangels and Westlake Garden Club President Marsha McEntee shovel dirt on a newly planted tree at the library.

and butterflies. As this tree grows, our generation and future generations will enjoy its beauty and rest in its shade.

The Westlake Garden Club has been planting a tree in the City of Westlake every year on Arbor Day for over 40 years, but of course we cannot do it on our own. We would like to thank Brian Corrigan and Cahoon Nursery for again donating this beautiful tree and Stan Barnard, urban forestry manager for the City of Westlake, for coordinating the tree and site selection. Thanks to Paul Quinn, Westlake service director, and his staff for their part in this ceremony (they dig the hole and plant the tree). We could not do it without them. And, a special thank you to Kathy Molner of the Westlake Garden Club for making all of the initial contacts for this year's program. Kathy was the driving force behind the garden club making the Arbor Day Tree-Planting Celebration happen every year for over 40 years. ●

Bay Middle School students learn about conservation

by GREG HASTINGS, junior at Bay High School

Bay High School's Project Earth club members contributed to the celebration of Arbor Day by spreading environmental awareness to young students at Bay Middle School on April 29. The Arbor Day Ambassadors designed activities to help seventh-grade students understand the importance of renewable resources. With help from the Bay Village city arborist Mike Polinski and the donation of 200 red oak trees the students were able to learn and plant, then take home their own renewable resource.

Members of Project Earth discussed the importance of conservation and how we can all protect the environment. Students learned about the impact

of healthy trees within our community and the importance of cleaning our local waterways.

Students were given trash and recycle bags and sent throughout Cahoon Park to collect litter. The seventh-graders created makeshift boats using both garbage and natural material they found and raced their boats down the creek. This was intended to dispel the idea that preserving the environment is tedious and make it entertaining.

Hopefully, each seventh-grader took home the understanding of how simple acts of keeping the earth green can go a long way. With the help of the City of Bay Village, Bay Village Schools members, seventh-grade students and the Project Earth team our city became a little greener this Arbor Day! ●



PHOTO BY GREG HASTINGS

Bay Middle School students spent time on Arbor Day in Cahoon Park collecting litter, which they used to make boats to race in the creek.

Dover Intermediate students celebrate trees with planting, poster contest

by MARGIE ROSSANDER

In celebration of Arbor Day, the Westlake City Tree Commission sponsored a poster and essay contest for Dover Intermediate School's fifth-grade students. Essays included information about the importance of trees for the city and its residents. The students' posters were colorful illustrations of the area's trees and the theme "Why Trees are Important to ME". The posters showed methods of preserving and protecting trees as well as encouraging the planting of new trees for shade, erosion control, animal habitats, wind shelters and beauty.

Posters were judged by the Westlake City Tree Commission members Mary Beth Schneider, Margie Rossander, John Walz, Diane Morris, Justin Parks, Westlake Urban Forestry Manager Stan Barnard and Westlake City Service Director Paul Quinn.

The poster contest and tree planting are components of Westlake's status as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Being a Tree City USA requires the city to meet criteria to ensure the pres-

ervation and protection of trees as well as observing Arbor Day celebrations for the community. This is Westlake's 25th year earning this designation and was the fourth year for the poster contest. All of the fifth-graders who submitted a poster for the contest were invited to the April 29 ceremony and tree planting.

An introduction to the planting and a brief history of Arbor Day was given by Mrs. Schneider, chairperson of the Westlake Tree Commission and then Mr. Quinn read aloud the school's proclamation from Mayor Dennis Clough in honor of their efforts to recognize the importance to trees in the community. With their principal, David Schindler, all these students helped plant an Ivory Silk Tree Lilac in the school's side yard. The tree was chosen as it will beautify the school grounds with blossoms in the early summer. Students joyfully took turns shoveling dirt around the tree and were also given a white pine sapling to take home for their own yards.

The eight winning entries were submitted by Sophia Fitzpatrick, Michelle Ho, Allie Chang, Kate Mulloy, John Angok,



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

DIS seventh-graders display their winning poster contest entries during a ceremony to celebrate Arbor Day.

Andrew Huang, Kaitlin Campbell and Ronit Bafna. The contest winners each received a certificate from the mayor proclaiming their designated day of honor in the City of Westlake. They also received green-and-white rosette ribbons from the Tree Commission.

All posters submitted will be on display at the Westlake Recreation Center through May 6. The posters will then be displayed at the Tree City USA awards ceremony to be held at LeCentre on May

10, which the Westlake City Tree Commission is hosting in honor of its 25th anniversary of being designated a Tree City. This awards meeting includes all Northeastern Ohio cities with a Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation along with many special guests, and features speakers, educational displays and information on the preservation and management of urban forests. ●

Mary Beth Schneider contributed to this article.

Two earn Bay Village Historical Society scholarships

by ERIC EAKIN

Bay High seniors Rachel Zvara and Jocelyn Joseph have been selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Bay Village Historical Society.

Rachel has lived in Bay Village her whole life. She is the daughter of Jennifer, and granddaughter of Janet Zvara, former Bay Village citizen of the year and longtime curator of the Rose Hill Museum.

Jocelyn has lived in Bay Village for 18 years and is the



Jocelyn Joseph

daughter of Jeanne; she also lives with, and cares for, her grandmother.

Rachel will be attending



Rachel Zvara

Cleveland State University; she is undecided about a major. "I do enjoy creative writing, and have an interest in some type of

religious studies, philosophy or leadership opportunities," she said.

Jocelyn will be enrolled in both the honors and pre-med programs at Baldwin Wallace University, with a major in psychology and a minor in either dance or family relations.

Both are members of the National Honor Society.

"I have been a member of the Bay Village Historical Society for as long as I can remember," Rachel said. "My grandmother has been the director of Rose Hill for almost my entire life.

She has had a strong influence on my volunteer work, and has opened the door for my passion in history and preserving historical memories."

"I am so honored to have been granted this generous scholarship from the Bay Village Historical Society," Jocelyn said. "Not many cities have such a long and rich history as Bay Village and I am honored to have grown up here and continue to learn and grow from that. I would like to thank each and every person that has made this opportunity possible." ◆

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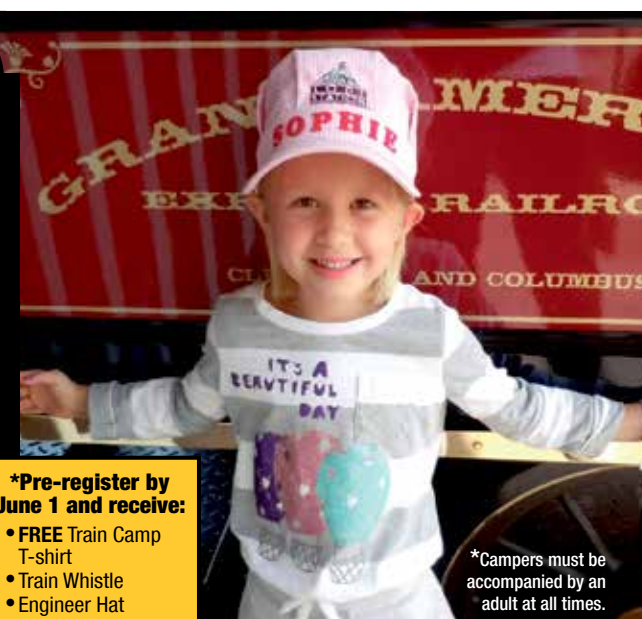
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BAYarts' annual May ceramics show opens May 13

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

The Annual Advanced Ceramics Exhibition at BAYarts will take place this spring, starting on May 13 with an opening reception that night from 7-9 p.m.

The theme this year has been “The Potter’s Kitchen” with students tackling the theme by creating sushi platters, cutting boards, cheese plate accessories, spoon rests and tons of bowls. Gallery coordinator Eileen Seifert-Stockdale has overseen the popular ceramics exhibitions for the past 10 years, and it has become one of the most popular times for the Sullivan Family Gallery. Seifert-Stockdale says the variety of artists and

items is part of what makes this exhibition special.

“Pieces in our ceramics exhibitions are always artful and entirely utilitarian. Our advanced students create sturdy pieces of art that you can truly use in your kitchen, but are equally beautiful handmade pieces for display. I am always proud to help arrange these ambitious gallery exhibitions because our entire ceramics department is so lovely and talented.”

The exhibition will have a shorter run-time than usual, concluding by May 25. Because of this, pieces that are purchased can be taken with the buyer in real-time, instead of waiting for the exhibition to conclude. It’s an added perk, and works well for visitors.

“BAYarts has really honed onto a theme for the past year with the farm-to-table approach, which is why we did a ‘Potter’s Kitchen’ theme for this exhibition,” explains Seifert-Stockdale. “There’s also the Farm + Art market, Down on the Farm girls camps, and brand



new Dinners in the Dark with Pam Mills starting this summer. The entire BAYarts family has been excited to support this organic and fresh motif, and I think that will absolutely be evident in ‘The Potter’s Kitchen’ ... even as visitors go to sit out on our porches and see the handmade tables and chairs that our staff has created for events.” ●



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Westlake Board of Education begins search for new CFO/treasurer

by KIM BONVISSUTO

The Westlake Board of Education has begun the search process for a new chief financial officer/treasurer after Mark C. Pepera announced that he accepted a similar position with the Brunswick City School District. Pepera has been with Westlake City Schools since 1998 and received numerous national and state accommodations and accolades for excellence in financial reporting, a focus on transparency and superior audit results.

Pepera and his staff recently earned the district its 23rd consecu-

tive national Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award, the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

"The board has been fortunate to include Mr. Pepera on its leadership team. His financial expertise, experience and hard work have resulted in substantial district savings, which have allowed us to continue offering excellent programming in spite of the district's financial challenges," said Westlake Board President Carol Winter. "We wish him the best as he moves on to

Brunswick."

Pepera said he was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to serve the Westlake community during the last 18 years, but the opening in Brunswick provided a unique opportunity for him and his family. Brunswick is the eighth largest K-12 school district in the state with more than 7,400 students and 11 school buildings.

The Westlake Board of Education will work with K-12 Business Consulting – who recently helped the district in its superintendent search – to have a new CFO/treasurer in place by Aug. 1. ●

Cheers to 40 years!

by KATHY RIGDON

Leisure suits, go-go boots and miniskirts were spotted throughout the crowd of more than 300 supporters to help Youth Challenge celebrate turning the big 4-0. The Westlake non-profit's annual benefit and auction "Celebrating 40 Years!" was held on April 16.

Guests helped raise over \$200,000 to fund adapted pro-



Greer Gibbons, former teen volunteer and current YC trustee, and Joe D'Ambrosio got into the '70s theme of the April 16 fundraising event.

grams for children with physical disabilities and their teen volunteer partners. This support allows

Youth Challenge to reach hundreds of children in the Greater Cleveland community, providing them with opportunities to play sports, make friends, and embrace their own unique abilities.

Partygoers enjoyed a fun, '70s-themed evening with cocktails, food stations, silent auction and vacation raffles. Tie-dye artwork created by YC participants and volunteers was on display and for sale.

Fred Koury was the honorary event chair. YC trustees Tom Fraser and Ernie Vargo were co-chairs of the event. Christy McGucken and Marcia Obrock served as auction co-chairs. ●

Incoming superintendent addresses Westlake Kiwanis

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Scott Goggin, the current superintendent of Midview Schools and soon-to-be superintendent of Westlake Schools, addressed the Westlake Kiwanis at a recent meeting. Scott is originally from North Olmsted and attended St. Edward in Lakewood. He has a degree in special education from Bowling Green State University and a graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling from Kent State University. He is currently working on a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Ashland University, which he expects to receive in August.

Scott began his teaching career in 1993 at Lakewood City Schools as a special education teacher. He became an assistant principal of Midview High School in 2002 and principal of Midview Middle School in 2005. In 2010 he became the director of education for Midview Schools. He became the superintendent of Midview Schools in 2013 where he will serve until taking the job as superintendent of Westlake Schools this fall.

Scott said his goal is to meet the needs of the learners. "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," he said. Scott and his wife, Michelle, who is a special education teacher in Lakewood, and two children, Emma and Scott, currently live in Avon but have just purchased a home in Westlake. ●



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Scott Goggin, who will head the Westlake Schools this fall, speaks at a recent Kiwanis meeting.

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READERS' OPINIONS

Memory Day

This year Memorial Day falls on May 30. On this day we remember and honor those Americans who died while serving in the armed forces.

Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971. Perhaps late May was chosen because it is in the spring-time that we can go out to the cemeteries and lay flowers and wreaths on the graves of these heroes. A moment of silence is to be observed at 3:00 p.m. so we can think about and pray for the men and women who died serving and defending the United States.

Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to learn about American history, which I believe is important because it unifies and gives us a common identity regardless of where we or our ancestors came from. Knowledge of U.S. history helps us understand what it means to be an American. With that power, we can become confident and create a positive future for ourselves and the country.

And I can't think of a better way to spend the last Monday in May!

— Kathleen Maloney, Westlake

Round and round we'll go!

I'm not a traffic "expert" but with over 62 years of experience driving in many cities, most states and several countries, I have learned something about coordinating the movement of vehicles on streets and roads — the good, the bad and the ugly systems.

Westlake's mayor and city council seems to be "going in circles" in considering a roundabout (traffic circle) at the intersection of Center Ridge and Canterbury roads. If they decide to build one, I hope they also put in some bleacher seats so we can watch the fun as drivers try to navigate around it. They are merry-go-rounds without the merry.

While roundabouts are useful in certain situations (more than four branches), they should be the solution of last resort given the trouble so many people seem to have in using them. Round and round some go, where to get off (or how) they just don't seem to know. Such confusion exists even in areas where such circles are the established traffic system. I don't know why this is so, it just is.

To add to already built-in confusion, a Westlake roundabout would have one branch coming up the Canterbury incline to enter from the north or going down it to the north to leave. I have usually only seen these circles on flat ground.

With all due respect to our planners, the proposal for a roundabout seems to be more of a desire to do something different rather than doing what is traditional.

I remain to be convinced that we need a roundabout instead of simple, familiar, practical turn lanes. However, if Westlake goes ahead with one, please reserve me a seat in the bleachers near the popcorn stand.

— Mel Maurer, Westlake

SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

An addendum to the Dover-Bay golf course story

by KAY LAUGHLIN

A few months back, I wrote a story about the Dover-Bay Country Club, from its grandeur to its demise. After the story appeared in the Observer, I received an email from a longtime friend who added more information to why the Union Carbide Research Facility was not built in Bay Village. Following is the rest of the story:

In the late 1950s, the Union Carbide Company had proposed to build a research facility on the golf course property. The land where the golf course was located, at the corners of Lake and Clague roads, was not zoned commercial. The first thing the city needed to do was rezone the parcel of land to commercial.

A concerned group of citizens formed a "For the Project Committee." It was decided every household would receive a post card proposal. The rezoning committee, sent post cards asking for a vote on the proposal. The straw vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the project coming to Bay, roughly 3 or 4 for approval, versus 1 against. My friend remembers, distinctly, the counting of all the returned postcards.

Meanwhile, over on Humiston Road on the eastern border of the golf course, the residents of the street were very much against the research facility. A small group of Bay Villagers led by attorney Oliver Hasenflue, a resident on Humiston Road, led the fight against the project and rezoning, with the intention of going to court to prevent the project.

Rather than becoming embroiled in a controversy, Union Carbide gave the Recreation Department of Bay Village a goodwill check for \$10,000 and moved the research facility to Snow Road in Parma. They built a



Relatives of Washington Lawrence, who owned the Dover-Bay property, play golf on the course located on Lake Road between Clague and Humiston. The Lawrence mansion is in the background.



An aerial view shows the former Dover-Bay golf course.

beautiful facility, the property having the appearance of a college campus.

So, the city lost the opportunity for new significant tax revenue, and instead had to provide additional services, schools, etc., for the houses that were developed on the old golf course. Even though most citizens were in favor of this project, the challenge from this small group of Bay Villagers blocked what could have been a significant benefit for the city.

Today, nearly 60 years later, Union Carbide no longer uses the Parma facility for research. ●

Porter Library will celebrate renovation, thank Patton and Baker

Westlake Porter Public Library will celebrate the completion of its renovation project and thank State Senator Tom Patton and State Representative Nan Baker for their years of service with a special event on Sunday, May 15, at 2 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The event will feature remarks by Patton and Baker, who will be leaving their posts at the end of the year, as well as Library Director Andrew Mangels. Their remarks will be followed by tours of the newly refurbished areas, and refreshments.

The \$600,000 renovation began in the Youth Services Department in November and moved forward through the building through the first quarter of 2016. The project addressed wear-and-tear on the 14-year-old building and includes some changes needed to better serve the public. It was funded through private donations and the library's Permanent Improvement Fund. ●

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR CENTER FOR BRAIN HEALTH STUDY

Are you generally healthy, between the ages of 60 and 80, and have had a family member diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease? If so, you may be eligible for a new study being conducted at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

The study will look at the effects of Donepezil HCL (Aricept) on Task-Activated fMRI brain activation. Participation will last approximately 7-8 months including 9 clinic visits and will involve 2 MRI scans, genetic testing, and evaluations of memory function. Financial compensation will be provided.

For more information, please call:

216-445-9009

Or email: CBHresearch@ccf.org



BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

How do we find the joy in our daily routines, engage more deeply in everyday living, and live each day with grace and wisdom? Author Claudia J. Taller will join us at the Bay Village branch library on Thursday, May 12, at 7 p.m. to discuss how she did it during her 30-day quest to engage more deeply in everyday living. She'll present her book, "30 Perfect Days: Finding Abundance in Ordinary Life," which takes you through her process to create a perfect life from perfect days.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Storytimes are on hiatus this month. They will start back up in June. Meanwhile, join us for one of the special events we have in the children's department in May:

Monday, May 2 to Saturday, May 7 (All

Day) MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT – Drop in to share the story of "The Kiss Box" and make a Mother's Day craft to take home.

Tuesday, May 3 (6:45 p.m.) PLAY, LEARN AND GROW – Children will play with developmentally appropriate toys in a playgroup atmosphere while parents meet and learn from community health experts.

Wednesday, May 4 (10 a.m.) PLAY, LEARN AND GROW – Ages birth to 3 years with parent or caregiver. Children will play with developmentally appropriate toys in a play group atmosphere while parents meet and learn from community health experts. Registration required.

Thursday, May 5 (7 p.m.) IT'S AN ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE PARTY – Grades K-2: Celebrate the publication of the final book in the Elephant and Piggie series with

stories, activities and a craft.

Saturday, May 7 (10 a.m.) SUPER HERO AND COMIC BOOK DAY – Join forces at the Bay Village Library to celebrate Free Comic Book Day! We will feature a selection of free comics while supplies last!

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (3 p.m.) TEEN ZONE – Students in grades 5 and up can stop in to enjoy fun apps, book discussions, video games, community service, challenges and more!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, May 11 (7 p.m.) ORGANIC GARDENING – If you are ready to start growing your own organically grown produce join Jeff Muhlbach, from Muhlbach Design, and find out all the basics to get your garden started.

Thursday, May 12 (7 p.m.) CLAUDIA TALLER: "30 PERFECT DAYS: FINDING ABUNDANCE IN ORDINARY LIFE" – Author Claudia Taller will join us to discuss her book, "30 Perfect Days: Finding Abundance in Ordinary Life." The book challenges the reader to live more in tune

with who they are and the author demonstrates tools that help people achieve abundance in ordinary life.

Friday, May 20 (10 a.m.) BAYARTS BOOK DISCUSSION – Join friends, neighbors and library staff as we discuss this month's book, "Best Boy" by Eli Gottlieb, on the BAYarts campus in the Sullivan Gallery. Copies of the books will be available at the library and BAYarts one month prior to the discussion.

Wednesday, May 25 (7 p.m.) VINCE MCKEE: THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS: A HISTORY OF THE WINE AND GOLD – Author Vince McKee has proven to be a top-notch chronicler of the impact of Ohio sports through his various books about Jacobs Field, the Cleveland Cavaliers and other sports figures from Cleveland. Join us as he recounts the history of the Cavaliers and his experiences with the sports heroes he's written about. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

Please register to attend the programs at cuyahogalibrary.org, call us at 440-871-6392, or stop in to the library at 502 Cahoon Road and register with a librarian. ●

WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Tuesday, May 3 (7 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS COFFEE AND CHAT – Join us as we discuss a topic related to parenting children who struggle. For this program we do not invite an expert speaker; however, the group discussion is facilitated by a mental health professional. This month: Grandparents Chat.

Wednesdays, May 4 and 11 (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.

Wednesday, May 4 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Wednesday, May 4 (5-8:30 p.m.) MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU – We'll celebrate the Star Wars universe with trivia, crafts, a raffle and some of your favorite characters! Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

Wednesday, May 4 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) HORROR FILM CLUB – Join us as we explore some of the classic films from the genres of horror, science fiction and suspense. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. Please register.

Wednesday, May 4 (7-8 p.m.) CINCO DE MAYO! – Hola! Let's celebrate Cinco de Mayo together with stories, songs and a pinata! Ages 4-6. Please register.

Saturday, May 7 (All Day) NATIONAL FREE COMIC BOOK DAY – Join us to celebrate National Free Comic Book Day. We'll be giving out free comic books (two per person) all day while supplies last!

Saturday, May 7 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) MOTHER'S DAY AT THE LIBRARY! – Join us in the Youth Services Department for fun-filled Mother's Day crafts and activities! All ages.

Saturday, May 7 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS – Bring your ideas and imagi-

nation to the club! Ages 3-12. Lego and Duplo bricks provided.

Sunday, May 8 (2-3:30 p.m.) BOREDOM BUSTERS! – Are you bored? Drop by the Storytime Room and join in the fun! We will have different activities available each month. All ages welcome! Children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, May 9 (1-1:30 p.m.) YOGA RHYME TIME! – A perfect way to introduce yoga and practice simple poses with rhymes that imitate animals and nature. Remember to wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel or yoga mat. Ages 3-1/2 to 5 years.

Mondays, May 9 and 16 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to the Teen Lounge! We've got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Grades 7-12.

Monday, May 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) MAKER MONDAY: PLAY WITH LINUX – Linux is another operating system that your computer can run (for free!), and it's easier than you may think. Come try Linux Mint Cinnamon out on our computers to see if it's something you might like! Part of Maker Mondays, which celebrates STEAM initiatives (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and meets one Monday each month. Please register.

Tuesday, May 10 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: TIME MANAGEMENT – Most jobseekers do not spend time efficiently to get the best outcome for their time invested. Learn how to plan your work and work your plan, including the ABC method for overcoming obstacles to success!

Tuesday, May 10 (10 a.m.-noon) IPAD SKILLS LAB – If you need help with basic iPad skills, stop by the Computer Lab with your questions and your iPad.

Tuesday, May 10 (7 p.m.) TUESDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION – In May we'll discuss "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee.

Wednesday, May 11 (7-8:30 p.m.) GENEALOGY BASICS: USING ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION – Learn how to navigate Ancestry Library Edition to find your family history information more efficiently. Please register.

Wednesday, May 11 (noon-1:30 p.m.) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: SPEAKER SERIES LUNCH & LEARN – Guest speakers join Career Transition Center to present informative and timely topics for job seekers. Bring your lunch; learn and grow. Coffee provided.

Thursday, May 12 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The May selection is "H is for Hawk" by Helen MacDonald.

Friday, May 13 (9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Family Sessions) and Saturday, May 14 (9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Family Sessions) MUSIC THERAPY & MORE – This program is designed for children (ages 1-6 years) who are struggling in an area of development. A board-certified music therapist will lead families in a fun and exciting music-making class. Throughout the session, the therapist will present experiences that address a variety of areas of development. Registration is required at connectingforkids.org/music.

Friday, May 13 (4-5:30 p.m.) WEIRD(ER) SCIENCE – Learn science while having fun! Our interactive after-school science program for middle school students teaches fundamental principles in an entertaining format. This month we'll learn about fossils. Grades 5-6. Please register.

Monday, May 16 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR'S INTEREST GROUP: FINANCIAL PLAN – Simply putting money into an investment is not a strategy for financial success. A financial plan assesses every aspect of your financial life – your assets, liabilities, taxes, cash flow, insurance, distribution of wealth and your family. A financial plan is a roadmap. If you don't know where you

are going, you may not get there. Please register.

Tuesday, May 17 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: LINKEDIN GROUPS – How you select and interact with the groups on LinkedIn can make or break your online presence. Learn techniques to help you better utilize these groups, identify people who can assist your search and engage in conversations that will show your knowledge, experience, and skills.

To register for any of the programs, visit westlakelibrary.evanced.info or call 440-871-2600. ●

Porter Library adding to its digital collection

Starting on May 7, Westlake Porter Public Library users will be able to access more content through the Hoopla downloadable digital resources app. In addition to the digital video (movies and television) and music collections the library already offers, users will also find downloadable comic books, ebooks and audiobooks.

"More and more of our library users want to access information and entertainment digitally," said Library Director Andrew Mangels. "We're thrilled to be able to offer them even more digital content through Hoopla."

Hoopla is a digital mobile app which users can download for free on their Apple or Android devices (find it in the App Store or Google Play). Using their WPPL library card, they can then check out and view thousands of movie and television series videos, listen to hundreds of music albums, and now read and listen to comic books, ebooks and audiobooks. The library introduced Hoopla in 2014, and added the music module in 2015.

For more information and to access the library's Hoopla digital collection, visit the website at westlakelibrary.org and click on "downloadables." ●

Clague Playhouse shows some ‘Panache’

by ALEXANDER NALBACH

Clague Playhouse, 1371 Clague Road in Westlake, will present Don Gordon’s quirky and heartwarming romantic comedy “Panache” as the fifth and final production of its 88th season.

Kathleen, a Scarsdale socialite, has tracked down Harry, a short-order cook from Brooklyn, in hopes of convincing him to sell his one-of-a-kind vanity license plate. In the course of their negotiations, two people from dissimilar backgrounds discover that, in their quests for life’s intangibles, they may not be so different after all.

“Panache” is directed by Chris Bizub. The cast includes Jenny Erbs, Leah Kraynak, Casey McCann, Colin P. McCauley and Brett Miller.

The production runs from May 6 through May 29 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. Please visit clagueplayhouse.org for details. ●

Fish and swim at Westlake Rec

by JIM DISPIRITO

Spring has finally sprung! Well maybe not totally, but it will, I know it will! As we move into May, the Westlake Recreation Department has several exciting programs for you and your family. Check these out:

Family Fishing Derby (Ages up to 12)
Saturday, May 14 (9 a.m.-noon) – Enjoy a morning of fishing in the Westlake Recreation Center’s lake. The lake is stocked with plenty of bass, channel catfish, crappie, trout and blue gill. Please bring your own equipment. Parent/guardian is required; however there is no cost for the parent. Bait (while supplies last

and prizes will be provided. All children must be registered to receive bait and prizes. Cost is \$10 per child. Pre-registration is preferred.

Spring Fling Preschool Party (Ages up to 6)
Friday May 6 (10 a.m.-noon) – Come and celebrate the start of spring! There will be inflatables, games, crafts and light refreshments. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$5/member, \$10/non-member.

Nature & Me, Let’s Go Outside (Ages 3-5)
Thursday, May 26 (10-11:30 a.m.) – We will read a short story and then march into the forest where the giants live! Wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$10/member, \$15/non-member.

Peterson Pool Learn-to-Swim Lessons (Outdoor Pool at Clague Park)
Online registration is open for Westlake residents and Recreation Center

members. Non-residents may register online beginning May 4. In-person registration begins May 14. Register for one swim lesson and receive a \$10 discount on a second registration during the same transaction.

Summer Bocce League (Adults)
Join us for this fun summer program. Teams consist of 2 men and 2 women. Register as an individual, couple or an entire team of 4. Games are played on Tuesday nights at the Westlake Community Service Center next to Meadowood Golf Course. Games start at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Deadline to register is May 10. ●

More information regarding all of these programs and more can be found at our website at www.cityofwestlake.org or by stopping by the Recreation Center at 28955 Hilliard Blvd., calling us at 440-808-5700 or by picking up our new Rec Gazette.

Be a part of the seventh annual Westlake Special Olympics

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis Family and the Westlake City Schools would like to invite anyone with special needs to take part in the seventh annual Special Olympics competition at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, at the Westlake High School track, 27830 Hilliard Blvd. The event will start with a parade around the track with the Special Olympics torch.

The event is open to anyone ages 7 and older with special needs. Last year’s event included contestants ranging in age from 7 to 80. There will be seven track events: 25-meter wheelchair race (independent), 50-meter



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

wheelchair race (independent), 25-meter wheelchair race (assisted), 50-meter wheelchair race (assisted), 25-meter independent walk, 25-meter walk and 50-meter dash. The

field events will include: softball throw, standing long jump and wheelchair softball throw. Participants may pick up to four events to participate in, two track and two field.

Forms may be obtained from the Board of Education office at Parkside, 24525 Hilliard Blvd., or [facebook.com/westlakespecialolympics](https://www.facebook.com/westlakespecialolympics). Deadline for entry is May 14. Any questions regarding the Special Olympics may be directed to Russ Milan at 440-777-2720 or LR24498@aol.com.

Anyone is welcome to attend, so come on out and enjoy the day and cheer on these special athletes. The event is open to residents of all communities in northeast Ohio. ●

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Bike for Beck
Sunday, May 22, 2016 | Fifth Anniversary!
Choose between 12-, 25-, or 60-mile rides through the Cleveland MetroParks. Enjoy FREE interactive art experiences beginning at 9 a.m. followed by live music at noon. Refreshments on sale!
Registration: \$40 per rider | Group rates available

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May 13 - 22, 2016 | Mackey Theater
Youth Theater Season Finale! The classic 1988 film bursts onto stage when Josh Baskin transforms from kid to adult over night. Discover what it means to be BIG in this family favorite!
\$10 Students (18-Under) | \$12 Adults/Seniors.

Heathers: The Musical
May 27 - July 2, 2016 | Studio Theater
REGIONAL PREMIERE! Based on the 1989 cult film, this is the story of Veronica Sawyer, a teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful clique at school: the Heathers.
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PET CARE

It's kitten season again

by SUSAN MURNANE

Warm spring weather has returned, and soon kittens born to stray and feral cats will be coming out to play in the sun. Many people mistakenly think that such kittens are lost or abandoned, but that is usually not the case. Most of the time the kittens are not in need of rescue; their mother is around and taking good care of them. In fact, trying to rescue "stray" kittens may not be the best thing for them. The best course is to go slow, and try to do no harm.

When you see a kitten, the first thing you need to do is determine the kitten's age. Alley Cat Allies has useful charts that will help you determine a kitten's age at alleycatallies.org. A kitten taken from its mother too

early will need to be bottle fed, and rescue organizations are overwhelmed. They will not be able to help you with that. Watch the kittens but do not interfere unless you are certain that they are orphaned or abandoned, and unless you are prepared to take responsibility for caring for them yourself. Your veterinarian will be able to help you obtain the necessary supplies and show you what to do. Even with the best care, a kitten separated from its mother too soon may not survive, so do not take this course unless it is absolutely necessary.

Feral cats are just domestic cats that have not been socialized to people and live on their own outdoors. Feral kittens can be socialized and turned into fine domestic pets, but there is a narrow window of time when



Feral kittens may not be in need of rescue if their mother is around. It is best not to interfere unless you are certain they have been abandoned.

this is possible. The kitten can be taken from its mother when it is six to eight weeks old, and it can often be socialized until it is about twelve weeks old. However, socializing a feral cat is very time consuming and not always successful. Alley Cat Allies warns that socializing a feral kitten generally takes several hours of one-on-one contact daily for a month or more.

Furthermore, socializing the kitten is just the first step; that kitten must have a permanent home. Most no-kill shelters will not have room for it, and most people who want a house cat already have one. Unless you want to keep the kitten for your own pet, or know someone who wants the kitten as a pet, the kitten is better off living with its mom outdoors.

Most likely the cat family is doing fine, but it could use some help. First, feed the cats. That will also keep them around so you can monitor them and determine what intervention may be appropriate. And consider TNR (trap, neuter, release). The Cleveland APL offers Cuyahoga County residents a reduced price of \$10 to neuter and vaccinate outdoor cats. Thanks to sophisticated surgery techniques, the cats and kittens can then be safely returned to their outdoor home the day after their surgery.

Kittens can be neutered once they weigh two pounds, which usually occurs by the time they are eight weeks old. Friends of the Bay Village Kennel has traps which can be borrowed for TNR. TNR improves the cats' health and benefits the community by reducing the number of stray and feral cats. For more information, contact Cleveland APL or Friends of the Bay Village Kennel. ●

Bay Village VFW Post seeking new members

by FRED GREEN

The Bay Village VFW Post is looking for new members – male or female – and a "new generation" to carry on our veterans and community service. Post meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Bay Village Police Department, 28000

Wolf Road. Meetings last about an hour and we usually have refreshments afterwards.

You do not have to be a Bay resident to join, we support most of the West Shore communities (Rocky River, Westlake, Avon Lake). Also, our post does not have a facility, nor do we have an auxiliary. Unlike larger posts, we do not run a full-time food and beverage operation. However, your VFW Membership Card can get you access to any VFW Post in the county. If you are looking for a great opportunity to provide a positive impact to the community and can qualify for VFW membership, this is your chance!

If you are not eligible for VFW membership, but are a veteran in good standing, please consider the Bay Village American Legion, they too are looking for new members and we are all work-

ing to support our veterans and their families.

There is a lot that the VFW Post currently does – hospital visits, Eagle Scout honors, school support for veteran events, burial honors, and work with our community leaders for our veterans, but we can do so much more! The majority of our members are WWII and Korea veterans. Many of our members have maintained their affiliation but no longer live in the area. This generation has given so much for our freedom, to continue to honor their service and the service of all veterans, our Post needs to build a new generation of leadership!

If you were in the VFW and have stopped your membership, consider re-joining. If you have recently separated from service or have never joined a veterans group after serving your country,

consider joining. If you are one of the many unaffiliated VFW Life or Annual members, not associated with a specific post, please consider affiliating. For any new annual member, the post will pay your first-year dues. The time commitment is small but our impact can be large.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. As a Vietnam-era veteran, our generation is providing a lot of the leadership now. We need a generation of active leaders and members behind us. Please consider this challenge and the many rewards.

If you are interested, you can find information on eligibility at vfw.org or you can contact me at fgreen1978@gmail.com or 440-899-7416. You will need a copy of your final DD214 with eligible combat, campaign or area service. ●



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THE GREEN REPORT

Weed-free, green lawns cost more than you think

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

Weed-free, lush, green lawns. Many people strive for this. I tell my kids not to play on them. Why? I have many reasons for avoiding “perfect” lawns. Lawn perfection typically comes at a high cost. A cost to Lake Erie, a cost to wild animals and a cost to our health. It is estimated that more than one billion pounds of pesticides and herbicides are used by homeowners in the United States every year for their lawns.

When chemical fertilizer is applied to lawns, the excess nutrients are carried away by rain waters into Lake Erie. Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides contain nitrogen, and when too much nitrogen (and phosphorus) get into the lake, it causes an imbalance, which in turn can trigger an algae bloom. This is the cause of the toxic algae blooms we see in Lake Erie in the summer time, especially in the western Lake Erie basin.

The microcystin algae is not just gross looking and smelly, it is highly toxic to humans. When swallowed, it can cause nausea, fever, stomach pain and severe headaches. Further, when the algae die, they sink to the bottom of the lake, and decompose in a way that removes oxygen from the water, creating “dead zones” in which fish and other aquatic species can’t survive. In 2014 the bloom was so severe, Toledo declared a water ban, warning residents not to drink the water even when boiled.

Seven million birds die each year from exposure to residential lawn chemicals. Seven million. When I think about that number, it blows my mind, and then I think, if it’s killing seven million birds a year, why would we ever think it’s not slowly killing us? Turns out, those chemicals are very dangerous to human health

and most likely are killing us too. The dangers of synthetic pesticide use have been known for decades.

The National Coalition for Pesticide Free Lawns reports that of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 13 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system. Pesticides have also been linked to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children. Yikes!

Poisons from lawn chemicals are absorbed through the skin, by the mouth, or by breathing sprays, dusts or vapors. If you or your children are present during lawn chemical application, you can be poisoned. If you walk on contaminated grass, your shoes and clothing can become contaminated, and risk bringing it into your home. The same goes for dogs and cats – if they walk on contaminated grass not only can they become poisoned themselves, but they can then bring the chemicals inside your home on their paws.

Children are at a much higher risk of poisoning because they are much more likely to put their hands in their mouths as they play on the grass with pesticide powders and granules. Children and pets are at higher risk for health effects from exposure to pesticides than adults because their internal organs are still developing and maturing. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in a study of 9,282 people nationwide, found pesticides in 100 percent of the people who had both blood and urine tested. The average person carried 13 of 23 pesticides tested.

Please do not think that when

lawn chemicals have dried that they are safe. They’re not. Lawn chemicals can remain active from one month to a year.

Okay, I know you’re waiting for some good news, and I have some! Use organic lawn treatments. There is no reason you can’t obtain a weed-free, healthy lawn using safe alternatives to chemicals. A simple “organic lawn care” Google search brings up lots of how-to websites, including one titled “Organic Lawn Care for the Cheap and Lazy.” That sounds good to me! However, my family takes the EVEN lazier approach by hiring Good Nature Organic Lawn Care to service our yard. They do a wonderful job keeping our lawn healthy. I am also proud of the clovers and other scarce weeds I find. It means that I’m doing my best to keep my family healthy! And I tell my kids when they see those little signs that say “chemical lawn application” to steer way clear and to avoid those lawns in general whenever possible. ●

Herb Guild to spruce up Rose Hill garden

by BARB ARMSTRONG

The May 11 meeting of the Herb Guild will be held at the Rose Hill Herb Garden, which is located in Cahoon Park between Wolf Road and Lake Road in Bay Village. The Herb Garden is located by the Cahoon House in the park and has been the longest supported garden effort by the Herb Guild. Volunteer teams tend to the garden monthly, weeding and watering as needed.

The meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by a vigorous workout in the garden to spruce it up after the long winter. Members are asked to bring garden gloves and tools.

The guest speaker for this meeting will be Shirley Swindell, who will talk about growing a low-maintenance garden, something everyone needs in these busy times. She will also conduct a “make and take” workshop. Non-members will be asked to pay \$5 for the workshop.

Tickets for the long-awaited Scholarship Luncheon, which will be held on Aug. 3, will go on sale at the May meeting. The cost of the luncheon is \$35 and includes a full course lunch, a guest speaker, culinary tasting table, basket raffle, silent auction and bake sale. This is a fun event not to be missed. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Kathie Conrad at 215-872-9725.

As always, new members and guests are welcome. For further information on the upcoming meeting, call 440-582-0191 or visit our website theherbguild.org. You can also find us on Facebook under The Herb Guild. ●

Town Criers aid kids



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Westlake Town Criers secretary Rick Grane, left, presents a check to Andrew Mangels, president of Connecting for Kids. The Town Criers, an organization comprised of men dedicated to aid and assist worthy causes within the city, and Connecting for Kids, a nonprofit with a mission of providing education and support for families with questions or concerns about their child, participate in many community projects in Westlake.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Wednesday, May 4, 1-2:30 p.m.
Free Family History Research Help Session
Members of Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will offer free family history research assistance, to the public. If you have data recorded to pedigree and/or family group sheets, please bring these forms.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
The Mediterranean Diet: A Heart Healthy Eating Plan
College Club West welcomes a dietitian from Cleveland Clinic Wellness Center to outline the benefits of the Mediterranean Diet. CCW membership is open to women who have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited degree-granting college, visit collegeclubwest.org.
Rocky River Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd.

Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
Composting Seminar
This free seminar by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District explains the process of composting and provides how-to instructions for creating your own natural fertilizer at home. Composting bins will be available for \$50. Registration required; 216-443-3749 or krocco@cuyahogacounty.us. Visit bayvillagegreenteam.org for more information.
Bay Village Police Station Community Room, 28000 Wolf Rd.

Thursday, May 5, 5-7 p.m.
Gift Basket Galore & More
The fundraiser for Chapter AE of P.E.O. International includes a silent auction of Longaberger Baskets filled with various items, cash-and-carry gift items, plants, wreaths, baked goods and light refreshments. There is no admission charge. Cash and checks will be accepted. For more information, call Denece Praeger, 440-667-0120.
Dover Congregational Church, 2239 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

Thursday, May 5, 6:30-8 p.m.
Program for Young Adults Surviving Cancer: Forgiveness – Healing Yourself
Relax, learn new coping skills, and practice mindfulness meditation techniques in a group setting. Advance registration required by calling 216-595-9546. Free.
The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

Thursday, May 5, 7-8 p.m.
Toastmasters Meeting
Overcome your fears of speaking, develop better speaking and presentation skills, learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet, build strong

leadership and mentoring skills, and open doors in your personal and professional life. Contact: Mary Anne, 216-374-3205.
Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd., Westlake

Fridays, May 6 and 13, 2-3 p.m. and Monday, May 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Creative Connections
Free art sessions for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. Participate in visual art activities, music, storytelling, and poetry. Must preregister by calling 440-414-0434. Learn more at farrellfoundation.org.
Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation Studio, 26040 Detroit Rd., #3, Westlake

Friday, May 6, 7-9 p.m.
Victorian Tea With Psychic Medium Susan Avere
The Westlake Historical Society welcomes Susan Avere, a spiritualist psychic medium with the ability to connect you to your loved ones in spirit. If you are seeking direction about relationships or other issues, her readings are healing and uplifting. Tickets are available at westlakeohiohistory.org. For more information, call the museum at 216-848-0680.
Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Rd., Westlake

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Habitat for Humanity Collection
Donate any indoor or outdoor household items in good, usable condition. Items Accepted: furniture, building supplies (windows, doors, kitchen and bath cabinets, lighting fixtures, sinks, tubs, showers, plumbing/electric/HVAC items, lumber, tile, full rolls of wallpaper), tools (hand, power, yard), landscaping items, appliances. Items NOT Accepted: mattresses, paint, clothing.
Bay Village Police Station Parking Lot, 28000 Wolf Rd.

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon
Family Fishing Day
Learn about the basics: equipment, how to cast, where to fish and what kind of fish you’ll catch. Then head to Lake Erie to throw your line in the water. All equipment will be provided. For families with children ages 5+. Adults and teens (ages 16 & up) who wish to fish must possess a valid fishing license. One adult must accompany every 2 children. Tickets are \$2/person. Register in advance, lensc.org or 440-871-2900.
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cleveland Water Open House and Tour
Guided plant tours led by our water quality and treatment experts will take visitors on a journey to see first-hand how drinking water is produced.

The Open House will also feature family-friendly activities from face painting and our water hop-scotch to a magic show, balloon act and more!
Crown Water Treatment Plant, 955 Clague Rd., Westlake

Monday, May 9, to Friday, May 13, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, May 14, 7:30 a.m.-noon
Westlake Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Westlake residents only. No businesses, churches or schools. Accepted materials: oil- or solvent-based paints, sealers, primers, coatings, paint thinner, spray paint, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, car batteries, mercury, fluorescent light bulbs. Not accepted: latex paint, medical waste, explosives, tires, electronics. For a complete list, visit www.cityofwestlake.org. Call the Service Center at 440-835-6432 for more information.
Westlake Service Center, 741 Bassett Rd.

Monday, May 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Rocky River Chamber Music Society Concert
The program will feature baritone Mario Diaz-Moresco and pianist Spencer Myer performing art songs by Schubert, Poulenc, and Schumann, as well as solo piano works by Ravel and Schumann. Free admission; all are welcome. For more information, call 440-333-4296, visit rcms.org.
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
Survivorship Symposium: What Do I Need to Know After Cancer Treatment?
This comprehensive program is for those who have completed treatment and will include discussion on survivorship care plans, long term side effects, managing fear and anxiety, nutrition, and exercise. Advance registration required by calling 216-595-9546 or visit touchedbycancer.org. Free.
The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.
West Shore Democrats Meeting
Linda Laronge will portray Eleanor Roosevelt, the “First Lady of the World.” Open and free to the public. If you wish, bring a snack to share. Beverages provided. For more info, contact Jeanne at 440-892-3430.
Western Cuyahoga Lodge, 26145 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
NEOPC Q&A Workshop Session
Lee Gerber, Dennis Lewis and Tom Jones will answer questions and discuss topics including: basic computer fundamentals, security, maintenance, software, wireless, tablets,

smartphones and digital cameras. Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, followed by the program at 7 p.m. Free and open to everyone; for more info, go to neopc.org.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Wednesday, May 11, 7-8 p.m.
Backyard Wonders: Coexisting with Wildlife
Have you ever had a bird nesting in a vent, a nest of bunnies in an unfavorable location or an unwanted guest in your attic? While these situations are frustrating, they can often be avoided by better understanding the animal’s behavior and making minor adjustments to our own. Join us as we explore how to coexist with our backyard wildlife. For adults and youth ages 10+. Tickets are \$7/person.
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Thursday, May 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
SkyQuest: Galileo - The Power of the Telescope
Galileo Galilei revolutionized human understanding of the world 400 years ago with the introduction of the telescope. Journey back to this time in Pisa, Italy, to learn about his work with early telescopes, explore how this has led to the instruments of today and what we’ve been able to learn with them. This program is followed by a look at what’s up in the current night sky. For pre-teens through adults. Tickets are \$5/person.
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Spring Waterways Cleanup
Bay High’s Project Earth club is teaming with the Bay Village Foundation and Bay Village Green Team for a spring waterways cleanup. Volunteers are welcome to help remove trash from the shoreline and creek beds. Dress for the weather and terrain; no sandals permitted. Children under 14 must be accompanied by a parent.
Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.

Sunday, May 15, 3 p.m.
A Tribute to the Beatles
The Church of the Redeemer Chancel Choir presents a free concert featuring songs by the popular ’60s group. Reception following program. More information at corucc.org or 440-331-0834.
Church of the Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Tuesday, May 17, 6:30-8 p.m.
Prostate Partners
A Medical Oncologist’s Perspective. Family members are welcome. Call 216-595-9546 or visit touchedbycancer.org for more information. Free.
The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

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