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# WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE Observer

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 24 | Community News Powered by the Citizens of Westlake and Bay Village | DECEMBER 13, 2016

## Westlake Kiwanis set up fund for police K-9 unit

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis are looking to help the Westlake Police Department and surrounding

communities by starting a project to expand Westlake's K-9 program.

Westlake currently has one dog, "Chico," who is set to be retired in 2017. They are looking to replace Chico and add one or two more dogs to the program. Chico is currently used by not only Westlake but other surrounding departments when needed. With the increase of drugs and drug-related crimes the need for more dogs is obvious.

» See K-9 page 3



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Two-year-old Maisie Bower talks with Santa Claus during the Dec. 4 Cahoon Christmas event at the Bay Village Community House. The annual event, sponsored by the Bay Village Kiwanis and the Bay Village Historical Society, featured Santa's visit, the Bay High Choraleers, museum tours, a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and the lighting of the city's tree.

## Grand Chanukah menorah to light up Crocker Park

by RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

For the second time, members of the West Side Jewish community will join with their neighbors for the annual Chanukah celebration at Crocker Park, starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Last year's event drew a huge crowd gathered to enjoy the warmth and light of the nine-foot Chanukah menorah kindled by Mayor Dennis Clough, and organizers expect a nice turnout this year as well. Spectators will be invited to a grand Chanukah party at the Hyatt Hotel just around the corner following the lighting ceremony. There is no cost to attend the party. ♦



Mayor Dennis Clough kindles the first lamp of the menorah during last year's Chanukah celebration.



PHOTO BY ANNE KERKA

Bay High Student Council members teamed up with AmeriCorps volunteers to load drywall pieces into new construction in Rainelle, WV. Over the next two years, Appalachia Service Project plans to build 50 new homes for displaced families.

by ANNE KERKA

Christmas came early for me this year, in a tiny town of 1,500, nestled in the mountains of West Virginia. Thanks to Bay High teacher and Student Council advisor Rob Grossman, 15 Bay

High Student Council members, grades 9-12, and four adult chaperones traveled to the city of Rainelle the first weekend in December to help repair homes ravaged by a devastating flood that made national headlines last June.

» See WEST VIRGINIA page 3

## BEYOND THE NAME

## Premiering with a double feature: Cahoon and Clague

by ELIZABETH HEINEMAN

As a relative newcomer to the Westlake/Bay Village area, I often find something new to learn about it, past and present; about those who live and lived here. Two names in particular are hard to avoid: Cahoon and Clague. For readers who have lived here longer than I, their stories might already be familiar. But for me, getting to know these families has helped me learn more about my new community.

*The Observer is excited to celebrate the end of the year with a new beginning, as we welcome columnist Elizabeth Heineman. "Beyond the Name" will highlight interesting stories about the people whose contributions to our community have merited the naming of streets, parks, buildings and other landmarks in their honor. Elizabeth discovered an interest in local history through volunteer work at a museum in her home state of Maine. She moved to Westlake in October 2015, then to Bay Village in May 2016.*

Cahoon Creek courses along Bay Village's Cahoon Road and through Cahoon Memorial Park, into Lake Erie. Clearly, the Cahoon family has a prominent place in Bay Village history.

» See BEYOND page 2

*Thanks for a great year!*

As 2016 comes to a close with our final issue of the year, we offer sincere appreciation for the hundreds of volunteers who have helped create, edit and distribute the community's newspaper over the last 12 months. We are also grateful to our civic-minded advertisers, whose financial support makes each issue possible. And of course, to the many thousands of readers who make the Observer the most popular newspaper in our community.

**Happy holidays, Westlake and Bay Village. See you in 2017!**



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# Westlake blood drive honors infant saved by donation

by KELLI JUNKINS

Our family is hosting a blood donation drive with the American Red Cross as a way to pay it forward for saving our sweet infant family member. The drive will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 2-8 p.m. at the Westlake Recreation Center.

As a nurse, I have administered blood transfusions to others in effort to help save lives and stabilize patients. This is something health care providers do every day and sometimes I think we overlook how

important it really is.

In August 2016 I was reminded of this when my four-day-old nephew, Benjamin Aholt, nearly died from complications of medical problems and undiagnosed severe Hemophilia B. I am so grateful that the pediatric intensive care unit staff took care of him and he received several units of blood and blood products and was able to make a good recovery. Now he is a growing boy! Ben's struggle won't end soon; he will need a special helmet and knee and elbow pads to protect him while he



**Benjamin Aholt, pictured here at three months old, nearly died from medical complications days after he was born.**

learns to crawl and walk. Later, when he is big enough, he will have a port placed for life-saving infusions of clotting

factors and medications any time he is injured.

In the spirit of the holidays, I wanted to share our story and encourage you to sign up to give something precious – your blood. Not just for Baby Ben, but for all of our patients, our families, our communities, and each other. You may have had a loved one need blood. This is a great way to honor them and pay it forward.

Ben's cousins – Grant Junkins, who is a Boy Scout and eighth-grader at Lee Burneson Middle School; Avery Junkins, who is a Girl Scout and sixth-grader at Dover Intermediate School; and Carter Junkins, who is a Boy Scout and second-grader at Dover Elementary –

wanted to do more! They wanted to work with the Red Cross and promote blood donation to see how many donors we can get to help save others.

Our goal is to get more than 24 donors. I am confident that we can achieve this goal and get many more. Every donor will get a Red Cross T-shirt and some cookies. My sister hopes to bring Ben to the drive too. We are forever grateful someone donated blood that saved Ben.

The Red Cross continues to be in a critical blood shortage. If you'd like to start the New Year out right, please consider signing up by calling 1-800-Red Cross, or online at red-crossblood.org. ●

## BEYOND from front page

Their story begins with the purchase of Township 7, Range 15, on the shore of Lake Erie.

Joseph Cahoon, one of the early visitors to the township, bought Lot 95, a parcel of land with a creek running through it. In 1810, he and his wife, Lydia, along with their eight children, made the six-week journey from Vergennes, Vermont, to their new home. Lydia is said to have brought a rose bush with her, the first to be planted on what is now Rose Hill.

The Cahoons built themselves a log cabin on the site where Bay Boat Club is now located. Joseph, a miller by trade, constructed a gristmill on the creek in 1813; then, later, established the sawmill that was used to build the family's frame house 1818.

Joseph and Lydia's son Joel inherited the family's farmland; he and his wife, Margaret, moved into the house, which

Margaret named Rose Hill, in 1842.

Their children, especially their daughter Ida Maria, made sure to preserve the family's place in history. Ida held the Cahoon Pioneer Association in 1910 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the settlers' arrival to Dover Township. She wrote a history of pioneer women in Cuyahoga County, as well as a history of the Cahoon family.

Ida and her sisters, all teachers, retired to Hill House in 1910. In 1917, after the death of the Cahoon sisters, the family's farmland was left to the Village of Bay. The sisters left stipulations that carry on their family's legacy; their family's land was left to the city for a public park, and their home and their book collection were to become a library or museum.

Some things have changed since then, but the Cahoon legacy remains. In 1933, a Works Progress Administration project transformed the Cahoon family's barn into the Community

House. The library moved to another location, but, in 1975, the Bay Village Historical Society opened the family home as the Rose Hill Museum. The next year, local Boy Scouts built a replica of the Cahoons' original log cabin in Cahoon Memorial Park. The museum and park activities continue today.

In Westlake, Clague Road separates Clague Park from the Clague Playhouse. The Clagues, like the Cahoons, made their mark on local history as early settlers in Dover Township. They didn't arrive as early, but they came from much farther away. Robert Clague first came to Dover in 1829, but returned to his home in the Isle of Man, where he married Margaret Cowell. Later, they traveled with their six-week-old daughter, Ruth, across the ocean and ultimately walked from Cleveland to Dover Township in 1837. They initially lived in a log cabin and were the first family in the township to grow fruit for commercial markets.

Robert and Margaret

had more children, including two sons who would serve in the Civil War, and the family prospered. Their brick house was built in 1876; their property grew to a total of 78 acres, divided by the dusty lane that would become Clague Road; and they became known for their investments and generous loans to local people.

Walter and Sophronia Clague, the last surviving children of Robert and Margaret, donated their family's farmland to the township as a public park. The land was accepted in 1926 and dedicated in 1929. The Clague house became available for rent in 1967; and the Westlake Historical Society and the Bay Village Players, who changed their name to the Clague Players, rented it.

Two families from different backgrounds who came to the township at different times, both made their marks on the area by their dedication to their respective legacies and the city they lived in; to the past as well as the future. ●

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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 800+ 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 and list the photographer of photos.
- Don't use stories to promote a business – that's what ads are for.
- Review our Observer FAQs on our website at: [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com).
- Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process. Staff contact information is listed below.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at [wbvobserver.com/members](http://wbvobserver.com/members) to submit your stories, photos and events.

All content should be submitted through the online Member Center, not by email.

Letters to the editor (max. 300 words) may be sent to [tara@wbvobserver.com](mailto:tara@wbvobserver.com). Please include full contact information.

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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# K-9 *from front page*

“These dogs are used in all facets of the criminal apprehension of drug traffickers,” said Rick Grane, a Westlake Kiwanian and auxiliary police officer. “They are also used to establish a relationship within the community for preventative education on drugs such as DARE and Safety Town.”

Each dog costs about \$15,000. Officer training,

car and equipment can total between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

The Westlake Kiwanis have set up a fund to attract donations and grants to achieve this goal. If you would like to contribute, checks may be made out to “Westlake Kiwanis Youth Foundation Inc.” and reference the “Canine Fund.” Please send checks to the Westlake Kiwanis treasurer, Ray Budoi, 23247 Maybelle Drive, Westlake, OH 44145. ●



Kiwanian Rick Grane and Westlake K-9 officer Dennis Funari stand with retiring police dog, Chico, outside the Westlake police station.

PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

# WEST VIRGINIA *from front page*

Rob arranged our trip through the Appalachia Service Project (ASP), a nonprofit organization with a mission to utilize volunteer power to make homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need in Central Appalachia. Specifically, we were helping with “Rebuild Rainelle,” an ASP initiative to build 50 new homes in a two-year period and also repair existing ones impacted by the flood.

This was not my first trip to Appalachia with local students. But this situation compared to no other. Make no mistake; each experience has exposed our volunteer groups to poverty and families living in substandard conditions. Every journey has resulted in the satisfaction of helping others by fixing homes and making memories with appreciative homeowners.

However, Rainelle stands out because we were volunteering in an area where an entire community was shattered within a few hours. Hundreds of buildings were destroyed. People lost their homes, their cars and all of their belongings. Some lost friends and family members. Twenty-three people died in the flood – 15 of them were from Greenbrier County. Everyone in the town was touched by this disaster.

During our stay, a local speaker described his feelings of

helplessness as he stood by the river and heard cries for help in the darkness of the night. He told us about a neighbor who used a two-man kayak to rescue 18 people, but was unable to help others who perished.

The night we arrived, ASP Rainelle Center Director, Chris Schroeder, welcomed us and briefed us on our projects. He also suggested we use the term flood “survivor” instead of “victim” as we spoke and interacted with people in the community.

We had two workdays. Half of our team insulated a home in town, the other insulated a trailer in the countryside. On day two, part of the team painted the interior of an older home in the city.

Even though six months had passed since the flood, we saw boarded-up neighborhoods, piles of debris and constant reminders of its destruction. However, wherever we went, we also detected signs of the “survivor spirit” and hope to which Chris had alluded. We saw the eight new homes that ASP plans to finish so families can move in by Christmas. (The first five were dedicated before Thanksgiving.) Other houses were under repair, and businesses were up and running.

At one of the work sites, it was especially moving when locals stopped by, concerned about our

comfort and to share their stories. An older woman brought us freshly baked biscuits and a tub of “Blue Bonnet” spread to thank the team for volunteering. Another neighbor left a case of water bottles and a box of new mittens and warm hats in his truck for us to take if we got cold.

What the adult leaders also experienced was the extraordinary spirit of the student volunteers. It shone through as they worked in 35-degree temperatures cutting insulation and crawling under homes to install it. It was evident as they powered through one job the first day so they were able to take on a second job on day two. Some of the students made their homeowner smile when they sang Christmas carols. At one point, the Bay team joined forces with AmeriCorps volunteers to lift heavy loads of sheetrock from a truck bed into the new homes under construction.

The night before we departed, I returned to the job site with some of the students to retrieve a tool that was left at the trailer the day before. On the way back to the center, we observed a large gathering of emergency vehicles with lights flashing in the Kroger parking lot. All things considered, we assumed it was some type of emergency drill. We later discovered that it was actually the starting point for Rainelle’s Christmas parade. Once again, we were touched by Rainelle’s “survivor spirit.” ●

## SOMETIMES THE MOST STRIKING THING ABOUT CHANGE IS WHAT DOESN'T.

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THE GREEN REPORT

# What is the EPA?

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

I thought I would write about the history and purpose of the Environmental Protection Agency. The truth is that I didn't know much about it, so I thought sharing the information here would be helpful to people who may not understand what the EPA is and what it does.

In a previous column, I wrote about the origins of Earth Day. The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. Earth Day helped form the modern idea of environmentalism that we know today. The EPA was born on Dec. 2, 1970. It can be reasoned that these two dates in history were direct reactions to Rachel Carson's 1962 classic "Silent Spring." Her book informed the public of the widespread poisoning of nature and humans by pesticides, which prompted the public to demand direct government action to protect the environment. Her book provoked politicians to become aware of the political advantages to including environmental issues in their speeches and legislation. Both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson incorporated the issue and President Nixon was also eager to include the environment as one of his issues when he was elected in 1968.

In his first year in office (1969) President Nixon established the Environmental Quality Council and the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality. The following year, Nixon decided to consolidate into one agency the mission of ensuring environmental protection, which became the EPA.

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. When Congress writes environmental law, the EPA implements it by writing regulations. The EPA also sets national standards and helps states meet these standards. The EPA enforces their regulations and helps companies understand the requirements. These regulations involve issues such as acid rain, mold, asbestos, climate change, air and water quality, and more. The EPA's role in climate change is more vital than ever. As I wrote in a previ-

ous column, 2016 has a 99 percent chance of being the warmest year on record, beating 2015 which was previously the warmest on record.

Furthermore, about half of the EPA's budget goes into grants for state environmental programs, non-profits, education, institutions and others. In fact, the EPA has played a major role in keeping the Cleveland harbor and Cuyahoga River clean. During rain storms, debris is pushed through storm drains and into the city's waterways. The debris then floats downstream from the upper Cuyahoga River and its tributaries, and into the ship canal and North Coast Harbor.

The currents and wind push the debris into large piles or mats that float and get stuck against walls or in marinas. These debris piles are not only unsightly, birds get entangled in them. In 2012, the EPA granted the Cleveland Port Authority \$425,000 for the purchase of two boats, named Flotsam and Jetsam. These debris-cleaning boats grab tree limbs, car tires, Styrofoam cups, bottles, cans, etc. from the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland harbor. Flotsam carries a mini-excavator with a shovel to scoop debris, and then loads it into Jetsam for disposal.

Prior to Flotsam and Jetsam, there was no way to remove this debris, and eventually it would get pushed out into the lake and pollute another city along the shore. Now, Flotsam and Jetsam remove the debris, improving the aesthetics and creating safer waterways for recreational and commercial boating. Every year, Flotsam and Jetsam remove between 20 and 40 dump trucks worth of debris. During their first year, the boats removed over 240 tons of debris. This fantastic program would not have been possible without the EPA!

The EPA does far more than I have written about today, but I think this is a good overview of its purpose, and how the EPA is here to protect human health and the environment in the United States, and in our own community! As citizens, we must help ensure its continued success. ●

# Sights of the season

by JEAN SMITH

There are many sights and smells that evoke the holidays to us. One is the abundance of fruits and nuts, especially if they are frosted so that they glitter and glow in the light.

This year the Westlake Garden Club chose fruits and nuts as the theme for decorating the holiday tree at Westlake Porter Public Library. The tree is adorned with white lights and gold beads, and frosted fruits, nuts, pine cones, poinsettias and bows in shades of gold, red, white and burgundy. The gold tree skirt adds to the overall opulence of the tree.

The committee that decorated the tree included chairman Robert Pearl, Regina McCarthy, Margaret Schulz, Jean Smith and Carolyn Steigman. Robert provided all of the ornaments from his vast collection. Please make time in your busy holiday schedule to stop by the



PHOTO BY JEAN SMITH

The Westlake Garden Club chose a theme of fruit and nuts for their Porter Library tree decoration this year.

library and enjoy the tree. It is located in the main lobby near the entrance to the coffee shop.

The Westlake Garden Club wishes you all a very happy holiday season and great plans for your spring gardens. ●

## ONE SENIOR'S OPINION

# Remembering a Christmas past

by DIANNE BOROWSKI

The stars seemed exceptionally bright that night. It was Christmas Eve, always a time of wonder for me. I remember trudging through the church parking lot with two sleepy children in tow. The snow crunched under our boots and seemed to sparkle from the lights above us. The church was always crowded on Christmas Eve.

Christmas clothing of red and green added color to the occasion. The voices of the congregation rose in joyful praise as we sang traditional Christmas hymns. Evergreen trees, poinsettias and red bows were placed near the altar. The depictions of Jesus' birth with life-like representations gathered in a small stable helped to emphasize the real meaning of the celebration.

We were surrounded by friends and



neighbors, smiling with happiness. The children slept during most of the Mass, probably dreaming of Santa and toys, while the adults participated in the service. Returning home, the house was quiet. The Christmas tree lit up the darkness as both children were put to bed.

I love the memories of Christmases past. Life seemed so much simpler then. Now we can travel around the world in the blink of an eye. Technology brings the world's violence into our homes, schools and places of employment. It seems impossible to escape it. I long for the traditions of past Christmases but realize I can't return. I must move on. Now I keep some traditions from the past as I try to build new traditions more relevant to the present.

I wish all a Christmas filled with peace and love and a new year filled with hope. ●

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# Westerly fourth-graders partner with Bethesda-on-the-Bay to bring warmth to urban schoolchildren

by KAREN DERBY

There was a new twist to this year's Blanket Project, an annual service project by the fourth-grade class of Barbara Woodburn and Mary Jo Mahall at Westerly Elementary School in Bay Village.

In order to make enough of the warm, fuzzy and comforting blankets for Cleveland's Urban Community School students, the teachers enlisted the help of the Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church congregation.

"It seemed like a lofty idea to make this an inter-generational event," said

Woodburn. "We've done this in the past at a different school with far fewer blankets for just one grade level of students." She explained that the class wanted to provide a blanket for every student in the after-school program at Urban Community, but the teachers knew they couldn't do it alone.

"We purchased 100 yards of fleece fabric and wondered how many church volunteers would show up to make 26 blankets during just one Sunday School hour," she said. "True to our congregation's reputation, more than 75 volunteers got to work and finished them all!"

The fourth-graders com-

bined the 15 blankets they created at Westerly with the 26 blankets made by the adults and took them all on a bus to Urban Community School on Dec. 1. After presenting three skits to the student audience, they distributed the blankets. As the children receiving the blankets wrapped themselves in the physical warmth provided, everyone basked in the warmth of giving and generosity.

"We all witnessed the true joy of giving during this special event," said Woodburn, "and we recognize that it would not have been possible without the generosity of the people of Bethesda." ●



Bay Village Westerly Elementary fourth-graders show off the beautiful blankets they created for Cleveland's Urban Community School students.

# THE DIGITAL WORLD Connectedness through digital literacy

by TAK SATO

As I started writing the final WVBO column of 2016, I started reflecting on the mile markers my wife and I crossed this year. One of those milestones was starting a nonprofit, getting approved as a 501(c)(3) organization and graduating the first 12 senior participants from our pilot program – all in 367 days! In a future column I hope to talk about our mission and also additional important work undertaken by the Westshore Senior Center Collaborative, of which we are a part, and includes senior centers from the cities of Westlake and Bay Village, to help the senior citizens of the Westshore area.

Although it is easy for me to rattle off the benefits of digital literacy in today's duality of the real and digital worlds we live in, the core benefit of the digital world always boils down to one word: connectedness. The word "connectedness" is probably what the English poet John Donne had in mind when he penned the poem "No Man Is an Island." That poem was definitely about connectedness in the real world as he lived in the late 1600s to early 1700s, while I speak of the virtue of connectedness that was born after the arrival of the mother-of-all-disruptive-innovations – i.e. the internet.

Nothing replaces real-world connectedness even though digital-world connectedness exists as an option and reflects the change in generational preferences of how to communicate (aka how to connect). And is it the same? No, not in a thousand years; and I have first-hand experience with my parents who are aging-in-place 6,500 frequent flier miles away from me. Yet it is an option I would rather benefit from as only going home once every several years is too long, especially when my parents are aging seniors.

Although I chose to study the earlier iteration of digital literacy using computers in the late 1980s at Cleveland State University, it is much easier to become digitally literate in 2016 and doesn't involve the kind of money a college education demands. The digital-world tools I often refer to as "Power of One" devices (tablets and smartphones that only require a minimum of one finger to operate through touchscreens) are intuitive and have become commodities and thus are affordable.

Affordability, by the same token, is subjective and for many seniors aging-in-place, becoming digitally literate can be a decision pitted against food and medicine. Our nonprofit is trying to change that by providing a path to digital literacy and hopefully the means to benefit from the new life skills attained. You can make a difference too: This holiday season a gift of a Power of One device to your parents or relatives who have not embraced digital literacy. It may be a gift that will not only enable them to benefit from the digital-world offerings but also increase their connectedness.

Afterall, no person is an island – aging-in-place or otherwise! ●

# Play in Bay upgrade underway

by EILEEN VERNON

The ground is broken! That's a good thing. The Bay Village Foundation, the City of Bay Village, Bay Kiwanis and many friends were present on Nov. 30 for the official groundbreaking of the extensive work to renew the 1995 community-built Play in Bay playground.

Former chairs of the project were Jim Potter and Connie Dieken. While Connie sent her best wishes and regrets, Jim Potter was present to read the proclamation they received when it was named Project of the Year in 1995.

Over the past 20-plus years, this playground has been a tremendous blessing for the community, representing what a strong community can do


when put to the task. But those attending the groundbreaking event saw that the playground is showing signs of deterioration. The wood has sustained water damage and some of the equipment is broken or in need of replacement.

Meyer Design, an Akron playground equipment company, began work on Dec. 5 and the playground will be closed until Jan. 31 when the construction will be completed, weather permitting.


Over 350 individuals and groups donated in excess of \$100,000 to help renovate and refurbish Play in Bay. President of The Bay Village Foundation, Al Paulus, said, "Thanks to the generosity of our community, we can now update Play in Bay and get it ready for 20 more years of active use by our children and grandchildren." ●



Al Paulus, center, president of The Bay Village Foundation, addresses the crowd during the official groundbreaking to renew the Play in Bay playground.



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THE MEDICAL INSIDER

# Cutting Drug Costs, Part 3: Artichokes save the day

by DIANA PI, M.D.

*Part three of a three-part series on ways to manage drug costs.*

If I had to pick the two most effective, all-purpose health interventions, I'd say: start walking and eat three artichokes each day.

Drugs, all drugs, are a game of rolling the dice against the devil. Each therapeutic benefit comes with a price – cost and side effects. Most of the time, we get away with either nothing or a rash, dizziness a mild headache. But all physicians have stories of patients whose guts turned into the Mar-a-Lago of drug-induced bugaboos after a short course of antibiotics. Or the current 78.5-billion-dollar nightmare of our “first-do-no-harm” profession: the epidemic of prescription drug and heroin abuse.

The best way to reduce drug costs is to minimize the need for them. Let's see if you can't drop a drug or two with these two maneuvers.

First, walking.

No doubt, life has improved since we had to chase and club

our dinner on the head. But now, according to a 2015 National Health Interview Survey, only half of Americans do the recommended weekly 150 minutes of moderate activity (walking or its equivalent) or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise.

And how does this bit of exercise help? Regular exercise can lower your systolic blood pressure by 8 points. Blood pressure medications can't do much better; each drug lowers it by 6-13 points.

What about glucose? While one in 10 Americans suffers from diabetes, one in three has prediabetes. In a 2010 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, of patients who started aerobic and resistance training for 140 minutes per week, 41 percent reduced their medications. Just picture yourself “walking” away from this diabetic predicament.

In addition to regulating glucose and blood pressure, regular exercise has sustained benefits in reducing pain and restoring function for people with (name your joints) arthritis, chronic fatigue,

fibromyalgia and depression. It raises the good cholesterol, helps insomnia ... frankly, like roasted nuts, I can't think of anything bad to say. It's an addiction we're all entitled to.

Second, fiber. (Did you know that one artichoke contains 10 grams of fiber? I didn't.)

Fiber is the nondigestible part of a plant, a natural laxative. It can lower systolic blood pressure by 10 points, the bad cholesterol by 10-20 percent (similar to statins at low doses). It gives a feeling of satiety without the calories, a must-do-first in every diet plan. Just think of fiber as the ghostwriter behind every politician's “I-promise-you” speech.

The biggest problem? Even though we've been chanting the fiber mantra since the 1970s (for gut health), most of us don't eat enough of it. The average American eats 16 grams of fiber per day, while the recommended amount is 20-35 grams. For diabetics, the more the better.

So unless you eat three artichokes daily (I don't), you need to read nutrition facts label to make sure you're getting enough fiber. And take your dog for long walks. Don't have one? Do what I do and borrow your neighbor's Shih Tzu mix. Just looking at that happy little marshmallow lowers my blood pressure. ●

# Upcoming programs at Bay Village Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

As we head into 2017, the Bay Village branch library staff would like to thank you for your patronage in 2016. It's been a great year for books, movies and music. Stop by the library for recommendations on titles we think you'd love.

Books make wonderful and appreciated gifts. Cuyahoga County Public Library's Great Books for Kids – an annual list of the best recent publications for kids of all ages – can give you some ideas on what titles to give to children and teenagers this holiday season.

Our library will be closed on December 24, 25, 31, and Jan. 1 to celebrate the holidays. Our digital collection is always open, so don't forget to browse ebook, emagazine, movie and music selections.

## CHILDREN

Storytimes are on hiatus for the month of December. Please join us again in January. Meanwhile, check out

our seasonal and children's programs for this month.

**Tuesday, Dec. 13 – Friday, Dec. 23 (all day) MAKE AND TAKE CRAFT** – Drop in to make a seasonal craft.

**Thursday, Dec. 14 (4 p.m.) COOKIES AND BOOKS** – Grades 3-5: Join us to discuss “The Terrible Two” by Marc Barnett. Copies of the book will be available one month before the discussion. A parent/guardian must sign a release form before the program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library. Registration required.

## TEEN

**Wednesday, Dec. 14 (3 p.m.) TEEN ZONE** – Grades 5 & up: Join us for something fun to do after school. Gaming, art, movies, technology and more!

**Please register to attend the programs online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), call us at 440-871-6392, or stop in to the library at 502 Cahoon Road and register with a librarian.** ●

# Bay Village VFW holds essay contest

by FRED GREEN

Every year VFW Post 9693 sponsors an essay contest for junior high (“Patriot's Pen”) and high school students (“Voice of Democracy”). The topic changes every year for each contest. The subject of the 2017 Voice of Democracy competition is “My Responsibility to America.” Due to many reasons, the Post had not received entries for many years.

This year, Ms. Colleen Lanning, an English teacher at BHS, learned of this competition and encouraged her class to participate. Two VOD essays were submitted to the Post by the Nov. 1 deadline.

Ms. Lanning worked closely with VFW Senior Vice Commander John Stewart to process and define the contest after many years of non-participation. As the Commander, I assisted from a distance. Both essays and accompanying vocal presentations were reviewed by Ms. Lanning,

Mr. Stewart, and myself.

The two essays were from Ms. Sarah Brumagin and Ms. Carolyn Carter, both BHS seniors. Each essay was truly excellent and worthy of further consideration. Both vocal presentations were not only professionally delivered, they were delivered in the context of the perspective of their essay.

The judging process was very difficult, but in the end, only one could be submitted. The winner was Carolyn Carter. As the first-place winner, Carolyn will be presented with a check for \$150 and her entry was provided for further review at the District 7 level and if selected, a state and national competition are possible. For second place, Sarah will receive a check for \$100.

Carolyn's essay addressed the lack of deeper knowledge of issues and perspectives of her generation and others in a time or sound bites and Tweets. She talked about her responsibility to encour-



Bay Village VFW Post 9693 Commander Fred Green with the winners of this year's essay contest, Sarah Brumagin, left, and Carolyn Carter.

age those around her to spend time to understand the differences in perspective and form educated opinions.

“Due to the contest, I was led to think more deeply about my role in America as well as the roles of my peers,” said Carolyn. “Through writing the essay, I was able to further my passion for America and government as well as learn more and develop a bigger appreciation for those fighting and who fought for the freedom I am able to experience and enjoy today.”

Sarah's essay focused on respect and empathy for others. She suggested that understanding and discussion, not divisiveness, should be the basis of communication. After a very negative political

year from all sides, we can all respect this approach.

“The Voice of Democracy scholarship competition was such an enjoyable experience that I was lucky to be a part of,” Sarah said. “As one of the participants in this essay contest, I can honestly say it was the most fun I've had writing an essay. The prompt “Your Responsibility to America” was extremely interesting to write about, considering it was given during all of the 2016 election chaos. This competition was a fun way to creatively show my perspective on the responsibilities that myself, and others, have towards our country.”

Both of these topics are right on the mark for our current society and the way we collect and process information and interact. This process is changing daily, and both responses bring hope for our future generations, a core goal of the VOD program..

The contest results were announced as a surprise via video at BHS with Carolyn, Sarah, Mr. Stewart, Ms. Lanning, Principal Jason Martin, and myself. The video was presented to the entire school at a home room.

If Carolyn is chosen to be honored by VFW District 7, additional information will be provided. Please join us in wishing her the best of luck! ●

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**LOCAL HISTORY**

# Does Westlake have a plank road toll house?

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

Passing by the Plank Road Tavern at 16719 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood, you might wonder about the unusual name but you certainly wouldn't connect its name with today's city of Westlake in any way. But these two places on our changing earth are connected. They are connected, of course, today by Detroit Avenue which extends westward from Lakewood into Rocky River and Westlake (becoming Detroit Road when it crosses the bridge over the Rocky River). The cities also once were connected by a road made of planks of wood which followed this right-of-way. This was during an era when Westlake was known as Dover Township and today's Detroit Road was known as North Ridge Road in Dover Township.

The Plank Road Tavern prides itself on Midwestern craft beers and contemporary rustic fare. That is a description not too different from the refreshments offered by the taverns that had sprung up along the plank road to serve the Dover and Rockport farmers returning



LAKESIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**This known plank road toll house, formerly at Warren and Detroit roads, is now located at 1325 Cook Ave. in Lakewood.**

home after a day at the market.

Our interest in the plank road all started with stories that the little red clapboard Westlake home at 23046 Detroit Road, just west of the Rocky River border, was once a toll house. The unusual tiny house includes a side porch which would be a perfect place for a toll taker to collect tolls from travelers. This house resembles at least one drawing we have seen of a toll house from that era.

However, when the house was listed in the Ohio Historic Inventory in 1977, the then-owner speculated that the two-story block originally may have been a horse barn built circa

1824 as part of a brick yard operated on the property by a man named Farr. The name "Isaac Asplin" appears in the 1874 Atlas of Cuyahoga County. He had nearly 50 acres and the atlas shows a brick yard on his property behind the house. The porch and western part of the house could have been added later.

The same inventory form states that tax record research conducted by the Westlake Historical Society indicated that the house was built circa 1844. We were unable to locate the research but going back to the original tax records we see jumps in value in 1847 and 1854 which may indicate construction of a home or an addition. 1824 tax records are not available.

According to "Rocky River Yesterday" by the Rocky River Historical Society, in 1850 the Ohio Legislature authorized Cuyahoga County to extend a \$6,000 loan to the Rockport Plank Road Company to build a wooden decked bridge over the Rocky River, so 1854 would make sense for a porch addition to collect tolls.



PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE

**A possible plank road toll house at 23046 Detroit Road in Westlake.**

The same 1874 Cuyahoga County atlas mentioned above shows a toll house clearly labelled behind the area where the Spanish Revival Westlake condominiums now stand, but no toll house on the Asplin property. There is an existing circa 1865 photo showing a portion of this toll house. It resembles the other known plank road toll house which still exists at 1325 Cook Avenue in Lakewood, neither of which look like 23046 Detroit Road.

"The Lakewood Story" accessed online a few years ago states that the home on Cook used to be located at Warren and Detroit roads when it was a toll house; that the plank road extended from West 25th Street to five miles beyond Rocky River, and that the first toll house was located at West 65th Street, later moved to about 100th Street, then West 117th Street, and

finally to Warren Road. There was another toll gate at the Rocky River and additional toll was charged for crossing over the bridge.

Other sources state that the plank road extended from the Cuyahoga River to Dover Center Road. The distance from the Cuyahoga River to 23046 Detroit Road traveling along Detroit Road is 9.4 miles, from 23046 Detroit Road to Dover Center Road an additional 2.4 miles, for a total length of 11.8 miles. The distance from the Rocky River bridge to Dover Center Road is five miles with 23046 Detroit Road almost exactly half way between the Rocky River and the end. The other toll houses mentioned were one or two miles apart.

Does anyone have hard evidence that this was a toll house? Please contact me with information at wrk295@aol.com. ●

# Unite to bring in the light

by SHARON FEDOR

Alament I hear continuously these days is about how soon the daylight turns to darkness. I hear, "Is it dark already?" Or, "I leave work, and it's dark outside. Hurry back, summer!"

Summer may not return soon enough for some, but there is light at the end of this winter time tunnel. The winter solstice has been described in many ways – the shortest day and longest night, or as a marker for the first day of winter. The exact time of the December solstice in Cleveland is Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 5:44 a.m.

The solstice is an astronomical event, caused by the earth's tilt on its axis. On Dec. 21 we have a day with the greatest amount of darkness in the entire year, but then on Dec. 22, it reverses. The daylight starts to get longer until six months later on June 21, when the summer solstice gives us the greatest amount of light.

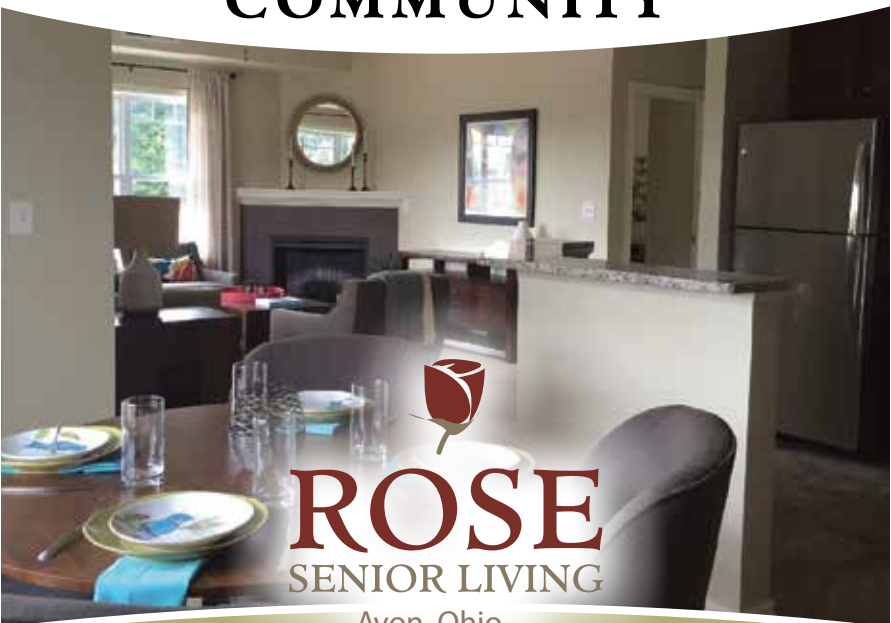
Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake will be welcoming the increasing light on Dec. 21 for "Unite to Bring in the Light," a combined prayer and labyrinth experience. At 6:30 p.m. we will meet in Unity Hall for an introduction to the labyrinth; at 7 p.m. there will be a prayer service; then at 7:30 p.m. we will walk the outdoor labyrinth, one of the largest in the region. If weather is inclement, we will use our indoor labyrinth.

Labyrinths are walking prayer and meditation tools. They combine the imagery of a spiral within a circle into a path that's winding, but purposeful. The proportions of a labyrinth come from sacred geometry. It is not a maze or a puzzle. A maze is designed to make you lose your way, whereas a labyrinth is designed to help you find your way. The tradition is to walk the path to the center while praying and meditating, stay in the center, then walk out again. The labyrinth teaches us the process of letting go, releasing the need to always be in control.

Join us to welcome the light as it grows within and without. All are welcome. Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake is located at 23855 Detroit Road. Email [unityinfo@unityspiritual-center.com](mailto:unityinfo@unityspiritual-center.com) for more information. ●

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## Westlake and Bay Village students share their favorite traditions

The holiday season has arrived, with all of the magic and wonder that make this time of year so special. It is a time for rejoicing, connecting with loved ones and creating memories that will last a lifetime. For the Observer's annual last-issue-of-the-year feature, students from Mrs. Martha Fisher's third-grade class at Westerly Elementary in Bay Village and Mrs. Melissa Graham's fourth-grade class at Dover Elementary in Westlake share favorite family traditions. These are some of their responses.

### A Holly Jolly Family

When the adults wake up on Christmas, the kids are forced to stay upstairs. My aunt and uncle sleep over and the rest of my family comes over in the morning to eat breakfast together. After eating we open our presents. Everyone stays for lunch and dinner. After dinner we stay up late. The adults talk while the kids play with their toys. Getting coal on Christmas is a possible outcome of being naughty. But it has not happened to me ... yet!

– Emma M., Westerly

### Elf on the Shelf

My favorite family tradition is our Elf on the Shelf! He is an elf named Elfie that is magical and hides every morning. Sometimes he is found in a baby doll stroller or even a candle! Once he put shaving cream all over the bathroom! It was a mess. He does not show his magic so that is why you have to believe in him. It is also very important that you do not touch the elf or he will lose his magical powers! Elfie is always watching us to make sure that we are behaving and then he reports back to Santa each night. Elfie can even take your Christmas list to Santa. You can get an Elf on the Shelf at any store and there is also a book explaining his magical powers. I hope that you can enjoy your own Elf on the Shelf this year!

– Maddie B., Dover

### Are You Ready for Christmas?



Jingle! Jingle! Jingle! Let me tell you about my tradition from the beginning. Before Christmas or even Christmas Eve, we decorate our trees. One of my trees is in the front room by the big window. The other tree is in the living room by the backyard door. I'll tell you about my small tree first. My small tree has lots of adventure ornaments, family ornaments, and friend ornaments. We have ornaments that my little brother and I made. We have some from when we were born and some of my cute little dog Reagle when he was alive. (He died about 4 years ago.) Other ornaments are from when my parents were kids. Some are from vacations, even ornaments from Owen's and my friends. The other tree is all blue and silver, blue poinsettia flowers, silver and blue fake plants, blue and silver ribbon. It is beautiful! I love seeing my little brother's face when we're all done decorating the trees. He sparkles with joy!

– Olivia M., Westerly

### Black Friday

Every year my family goes Black Friday shopping after our Thanksgiving dinner. They head off to Bath & Body Works and Dick's Sporting Goods. My mom, dad, two cousins, aunt and uncle all enjoy doing this shopping tradition together. My brother and I stay back home with my grandmother and watch fun movies such as "Despicable Me." We also enjoy playing games together. When it is about 8:00 or 8:30 the shoppers come home and we eat pumpkin pie. They give us a surprise that they bought on their shopping trip. We head home and rest up for the next day. That's what we enjoy doing on Thanksgiving night.

– Caroline L., Dover



### Awesome December Traditions

One of our December traditions is we make tons and tons of cookies. We give some of the cookies to our neighbors. We probably make 200 cookies. I really like two types of cookies: sugar cookies and peanut butter cookies. The cookies taste very good. One other tradition is we go to Christmas Eve Mass at St. Charles in Parma. After mass, we go to my Mame and Pepe's house. When we get there, we have dinner of sausage and pierogies, yum! After dinner we open presents. I hope you have very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

– Joe B., Westerly



### Christmas Eve at Granny's

Every Christmas Eve, my parents, uncle, grandparents, great-grandparents, brothers, cousin, great aunts, Aunt Nat and I all go to church together. When church is over at 6 p.m., we head over to Granny's house in Westlake. Then we all wrap Christmas presents for our family members while looking in a big book of memories. The memories go back as far as my great-grandmother's childhood! Next, the kids make Christmas cookies with Granny. We make gingerbread cookies, sugar cookies and chocolate chip cookies. We frost them with red and green frosting. After baking cookies, we get to open presents. I love seeing everyone so happy! We eat dinner and enjoy the delicious cookies that the kids made earlier. At the end of the night, we pretend we are sleeping so we do not have to leave! My mom usually has to bribe us with candy canes to get us in the car! Christmas Eve is my favorite tradition because I get to spend it with my entire family!

– Lili Kate E., Dover



### Sweet Candy Elf

We have an Elf On The Shelf for our tradition. She comes to our house in early December. She hides somewhere at night when we are sleeping. Then we wake up in the morning and try to find her. When we find her, she has candy! She makes sure we're good because she goes to Santa's house every night. She also takes our letters to Santa and shows Santa our Christmas lists. Sometimes she even changes her outfit! She has rosy cheeks, short



brown hair, red skirt with white ruffles at the bottom, a Santa hat, and blue eyes. On Christmas she even brings extra candy! Last but not least, her name is Sweet Candy. Jingle! Jingle! Don't forget if you don't find her, you don't get any candy!

– Kara D., Westerly



### Christmas Countdown

There are many traditions that my family does every year to get ready for Christmas. First, my family makes a countdown chain a few weeks before Christmas. We make a loop out of paper and glue it to another loop. When we are done we hang the chain on the stairway handle. Every day, we take turns removing one loop from the chain. Another thing we do to prepare for Christmas is we all head to my aunt's house in Pittsburgh on Christmas Eve. We have ham sandwiches and watch football on television. After visiting with my aunt, we head home to put cookies out for Santa. We go to sleep and wish for lots of toys. When we wake up, there are a lot of presents under our tree. These are some of the things that my family does to get ready for Christmas. Happy Holidays!

– Matthew S., Dover

### Christmas FUN!

First, on Christmas Eve I bake cookies and all kinds of treats with my mom. My mom and dad are divorced but my dad comes over to my mom's house. We go to church together. On Christmas morning I wake up early and I only get treats for breakfast. We all put our hands together and say a prayer of thanks. Then we take silly pictures of each other. My dog opens his present and I open my presents. My dad leaves and my mom and I drive to my grandma's house with all my new toys. I get presents there too. My cousin and I play together with our new toys. All December I have two Advent calendars, one is chocolate and the other is Lego. My Christmas is always fun and I hope yours is too.

– Margaux J., Westerly



### Christmas Party!

Every Christmas Eve, my family and I celebrate Christmas at one of my cousin's houses. A few weeks before Christmas Eve, all of my aunts and uncles figure out who will have the party and tell each other what types of food they will be bringing. My absolute favorite part of having a Christmas party every year is getting to see and hang out with all of my family. At the party, we have a big meal and eat lots of food because I have 17 cousins! Some dishes that my relatives bring are my great aunt's salad, meat, mashed potatoes and a variety of cookies! After we have dinner, my cousins and I open the presents that our godparents got us. Soon after the kids are done opening presents, the adults and children split up. The adults play a game where they all give someone a present and one by one they open them. If they do not want their present they can trade it, but if they do want it, they can keep it. Meanwhile, the kids are either playing games, doing a craft, or watching the Santa tracker.



The Santa tracker tells us where Santa is currently located. Finally, we all have to say our goodbyes. This is by far one of my favorite family traditions.  
– Quinn W., Dover

**Christmas Ornaments**

For Christmas we go to Hixson's in Lakewood with my family. Mr. Hixson made ornaments for the White House. I have a bunch of ornaments from there. I have two cats hugging each other. One is black and one is brown. I have another ornament that is a pickle that says "Dill with it." I have a banana Santa and it is yellow and shaped like a banana with a Santa face. The mermaid ornament has a blue tail and blond hair and is sitting on a rock. My dad has a cat playing the banjo in Hawaii. One of my favorites is a soccer ball with red, white and blue colors. It usually takes two or three hours to pick mine but I always find the best one. I wonder what I will find this year!  
– Cannon C., Westerly

**Breaking the Fast**

A tradition my family celebrates every year is Ramadan. Ramadan lasts an entire month. We fast during the day and can eat after 9 p.m. When my family and I celebrate Ramadan we make a huge feast. Also, my mom, sister and sister-in law make warak dawali, maklouba, and mashed potatoes. My family and I go to restaurants, play a lot of games at Dave and Buster's, and go to the movies. We have tons of fun while playing a lot of video games. On the last day of Ramadan, my dad gives us each \$100 in cash! When I get \$100 I can save it or get a gift. I enjoy celebrating Ramadan because I get to spend time with my family.  
– Aziz, Dover

**White Elephant**

My family has many Christmas traditions but my favorite is the White Elephant. If you don't know what that is, let me explain. Anyone who wants to participate brings in a gift, not for anyone in particular, and you get a number. When your number is pulled, you pick a gift no one has yet. If you decide you don't want this gift, then when someone else picks a gift you can trade. But you can only trade three times. This year, I'm probably going to do a toy-sized carousel with three white horses. One has purple reins and saddle, one has blue reins and saddle, and one has pink reins and saddle. I'm pretty sure it lights up, but I know that it winds up and spins. Two years ago we got a white fuzzy blanket. Last year we got a black fuzzy blanket. I'm also excited for this year's White Elephant because it's my first year not sharing a gift. My favorite part is when everyone opens their gift to see what they got! Now that you know my favorite Christmas tradition, you should start your own!  
– Amy I., Westerly

**Disney on Ice**

Every year in December, my family and I go to a show called "Disney on Ice." We wake up really early in the morning, eat breakfast and quickly get bundled up. It is often cold outside and in the skating rink. We hop in the car and drive to the Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland. My family and I sing Christmas songs on the way downtown like "Last

Christmas," "All I Want for Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman." Once we get to The "Q" we check in and go see the show! We sit in our seats and see all the Disney characters like Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Goofy and Donald Duck. Finally, when the show is over we head to lunch at Applebee's. After lunch, we get ice cream from Sweet Moses and then drive home to finish the wonderful day with a movie. That's what I enjoy doing this time of year with my family.  
– Dana M., Dover

**Christmas With Cousins**

Thirteen cousins! I wonder what will happen? On Christmas morning my family opens all of our presents at home and then all of my cousins go to my aunt and uncle's because they have a really big house. On Christmas days that are snowy we all play outside. My uncle has a Bernese Mountain dog named Obi and he is so big that he can pull us up and down the hills on a sled. If there is no snow, we play the "Monster Game" in the basement. One cousin is the monster and tries to turn the other cousins into monsters by tagging them. We run all around the basement. I hide in the dark and the monster/cousins never see me. Ha ha. After all of the activity we eat brunch because by now we are really hungry. Thirteen cousins make Christmas Day special to me.  
– Gavin F., Westerly

**The Albanian Party!**

My favorite tradition this time of year is an Albanian party! The Albanian party is held on Nov. 27. One of my mom's friends plans the party and has different Albanian shops sell tickets to the party. Before the big day, all of the guests go shopping for new clothes. I always get a new red and black dress because those are the colors of the Albanian flag. The party begins at 5 o'clock and ends at 10 o'clock. The location is different each year. At the party, the guests perform a special dance that involves dancing in a circle. We enjoy Albanian foods and have ice cream for dessert! After dinner, the adults sit down and talk while the kids plays with their friends. I look forward to this party every year!  
– Emma A., Dover

**Christmas in Florida**

Jingle, Santa, gifts and then Florida! The day after Christmas I have to start packing. Why do I have to start packing? My family is going to Florida. Going to Florida is our biggest holiday tradition. Some of my family lives in Florida and we stay through New Year's Eve and then an extra week after that. When we go to Florida, we drive by car and stop in North Carolina to see more cousins. I usually am sleeping by the time we get to Clearwater, Florida, our final destination. We go to my aunt and uncle's house and stay there. Once we spend some time with them, we walk across the street to my other cousins' house. They are two girls and one boy. I play with them for a while and swim in their pool. My sisters and I sometimes sleep over at their house. Every year together we put on a circus and a magic show. Going to the beach is so much fun. The best thing we do when we are in Florida is celebrating

2017 on New Year's Eve. At one point we have to leave. It is very sad to leave but then I am happy to see my friends from Ohio. Family, Florida and fun. Going to Florida is the best part of my Christmas!  
– Morgan M., Westerly

**Christmas and Dad's Birthday**

My favorite Christmas tradition is when all my family comes over to my house to celebrate Christmas and my dad's birthday. My cousins, aunts, uncles and grandmother all arrive at my house. The kids play in the basement while the adults watch football upstairs. After playing in the basement, we go outside to play in the snow. We usually divide into teams, make snow forts and have a big snowball fight. The only bad thing is that it is always the big kids vs. little kids and the big kids usually win. Finally, we come back inside and sing "Happy Birthday" to my dad. Everyone eats a delicious dinner and enjoys cake in our living room. This is my favorite Christmas tradition because I get to spend time with my family.  
– James S., Dover

**Lake Farm Park**

Warm and loving, what does this make you think of? When I hear this it makes me think of Christmas. One of our Christmas traditions is going to Lake Farm Park. About a week or two before Christmas we go there. When you arrive, the first thing you see is a big snowy barn. When you get inside, there's a gift shop, Santa, and Santa's workshop. In the workshop there are wooden toys you can make. You tell an elf what toy you want to make. They give you all the big and little pieces to make the toy you picked. After you build, it you get to paint it and add glitter. Then we on get a ride in a carriage pulled by horses to look at the Christmas lights. Some of the lights are curved over you. Soon you're at another barn to see a horse show and we ride a pony. Then we look at all the other animals in the barn like the cows and the pigs. Next we ride the carriage back to the main barn. My sister and I fall asleep in the car on the ride home. I love Lake Farm Park.  
– Paige K., Westerly

**A Grand Hotel**

Every Christmas Eve, my family and I hop into our car and drive to a big, pretty church. When we get there, we walk up the steep, spiral staircase and into the balcony seats. My older brother and I gaze down at the seats way down below us, and try to spot our relatives and wave to them. Loud, but pretty music fills the gigantic church, and my family and I sing along with the music. After church ends, we go back into the car and drive to a grand hotel in downtown Cleveland. After we walk through the big hotel doors, we ride the elevator to a cozy room. We see my grandma and grandpa, and look at a huge gingerbread house. It has smooth frosting, candies on the roof, and gingerbread men. We have ice water and enjoy small, yummy snacks. We say our goodbyes, and drive home to enjoy a big dinner. Finally, we get into our comfy beds, and snuggle under the covers to go to sleep.  
– Allison G., Dover





# Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

**Wednesday, Dec. 14 (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.

**Wednesday, Dec. 14 (4-5:30 p.m.) and Thursday, Dec. 15 (6:30-8 p.m.) BOW WOW BOOKS** – Stop by the Youth Services Department sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with a reading therapy dog! Bring your own book or choose one of ours. Registration begins each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and each Thursday at 6 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 15 (4-5 p.m.) TBD** – Programming with Scratch. Grades 5-7.

**Thursday, Dec. 15 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) PAINT & POP: PAINTING PARTY** – Sip on yummy carbonated drinks while you dip your brushes and create a beautiful wintry work of art! Mobile Art Party will lead us, step by step, through a painting that you can make all your own. No painting skill necessary! Grades 7-12. Registration begins Dec. 8.

**Thursday, Dec. 15 (7-8:30 p.m.) CHRISTMAS IN CLEVELAND** – See how Clevelanders celebrated Christmas past, from viewing the spectacular department store window displays, to visiting Mr. Jingeling at Halle's and shopping at Higbee's! Please register.

**Friday, Dec. 16 (10 a.m.-noon) FIBER FANATICS** – A time for needlecrafters

to share, solve problems and show off.

**Friday, Dec. 16 (1-2:30 p.m.) FANTASTIC FRIDAYS** – Fantastic Friday is a great day for homeschoolers! Every month we'll explore a new topic with related activities. Ages 6-12. Registration begins Dec. 9.

**Saturday, Dec. 17 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) POLAR EXPRESS FUN DAY!** – Join us as we celebrate Chris Van Allsburg's "The Polar Express." We'll have crafts and activities for all ages to enjoy.

**Saturday, Dec. 17 and Friday, Dec. 30 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME** – Features an adapted storytime for children with special needs and their caregivers. Siblings are welcome. Includes time for social play. Content is geared to ages 3-7. Registration begins one week before each session.

**Saturday, Dec. 17 (1-2 p.m.) STARRY NIGHT** – Create your own starry nights after viewing how technology can transform art. For adults with special needs and a caregiver, if needed. Registration begins Dec. 10.

**Saturday, Dec. 17 (3:30-5 p.m.) TEEN SN LOUNGE** – Enjoy a centers-based open lounge including video games, LEGO and more! For teens in grades 6-12 with special needs, siblings are welcome. Registration begins Dec. 10.

**Sunday, Dec. 18 (1-1:45 p.m.) MEET-UPS!** – Join us for a centers-based open play group including video games, LEGO and more! For children in grades 1-5 with special needs. Siblings are welcome. Registration begins Dec. 11.

**Monday, Dec. 19 (1-1:30 p.m.) YOGA RHYME TIME!** – This is a perfect way to introduce yoga and practice simple poses with rhymes. Remember to wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel or yoga mat. Ages 3-1/2 to 5 with a caregiver.

**Monday, Dec. 19 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We have computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! For grades 7-12 only.

**Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 27-30 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY!** – Join us for winter break movie matinees! All ages. All movies are rated PG. Registration begins one week before each session.

**Friday, Dec. 23 (4-5:30 p.m.) WEIRD(ER) SCIENCE** – Each session teaches fundamental principles in an entertaining format, through demonstrations and hands-on activities. This month: Learn about all aspects of bridges, including history and design. Grades

5-6. Registration begins one week before each session.

**Saturday, Dec. 24-Monday, Dec. 26 – LIBRARY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday, Dec. 28 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – The December selection is "At the Water's Edge" by Sara Gruen.

**Thursday, Dec. 29 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Saturday, Dec. 31 (11:15 a.m.-noon) COUNTDOWN TO NOON FAMILY STORYTIME** – Join us for a special New Year's Eve family storytime celebrating our favorite stories, songs and rhymes. We'll make a simple craft and do our own early countdown to 12:00 (noon). Ages 3-5. Registration begins Dec. 23.

**Saturday, Dec. 31 – LIBRARY CLOSING AT 5 P.M.**

To register for any of the programs, please call 440-871-2600 or visit [westlakelibrary.evanced.info](http://westlakelibrary.evanced.info).

## Porter Library to upgrade catalog system Jan. 3-5

Westlake Porter Public Library will ring in the New Year by performing a major catalog system upgrade from Jan. 3-5, 2017. The upgrade provides a more cost-effective method of backing up the system and will allow the library to take advantage of some new products offered by the vendor, SIRSI Inc. The library will remain open throughout the process, and no materials will be due during this time.

Because the system being upgraded provides the online catalog and keeps track of user accounts, check-outs and holds, several functions will be unavailable, including:

- Online access to library card accounts
- Placing, suspending or unsuspend-

ing of holds

- Notices from the library about availability of items on hold, items about to be due, or items that are overdue
- Access to library databases and digital services may be affected, especially from 8-10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

"Library staff will work diligently to make sure that full service resumes as quickly as possible," said Library Director Andrew Mangels. "We appreciate our customers bearing with us during the upgrade, and look forward to the improved service we'll be providing to them as a result."

For updated information during the transition, please visit the library's website ([westlakelibrary.org](http://westlakelibrary.org)) or Facebook and Twitter feeds, or call 440-871-2600.



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## BAYarts spotlights watercolor in January

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

**B**AYarts will start the new year off with an adult student exhibition from the watercolor classes of Bernie D'Ettorre. It will have an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6, from 7-9 p.m., and run until Jan. 28.

D'Ettorre was once taught by Diane Boldman, for whom the BAYarts Education gallery is named. As a member of the Ohio Watercolor Society, D'Ettorre has won several awards at all levels that include the "Best of Show" ranking.

She began teaching at BAYarts around 2010, and this show will feature her intermediate/advanced students. No specific theme will be employed. Instead, D'Ettorre says they will choose their best



"Venice Lights" by Bernie D'Ettorre. Students from D'Ettorre's watercolor classes will display their work at BAYarts in January.

pieces of work from a number of subjects.

She teaches watercolor year-round at BAYarts, and her classes can be registered for on bayarts.net.

D'Ettorre says that what's so rewarding is when she can educate students beyond what they think they're capable of with their watercolors. "I love teaching what is supposed to be the most difficult of art mediums, and have the students discover how accomplished they truly are." ●

## Delta Kappa Gamma, Tau Chapter honors longtime members

by JOANNE HEPP

**T**he Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, based in Westlake, honored its longtime members at their Christmas meeting on Dec. 8.

Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. The members of Tau Chapter are from

the far Westside suburbs of Cleveland. The teachers honored have been members in Tau for 20 years and more.

The longtime members are Evelyn Maroon with 61 years, Betty Nassif (53), Kathy Welsh (42), Kathleen Slenczka (40), Ramona Tomko (32), Marijane Kubach (31), Roberta Leach (31), Dorothy Winovich (31), Lois White (29), Linda Beebe (26), Carolyn Ann Hope (26), Barbara Sones (23), Nancy Stasek (23), Antoinette Tartaglia (23), Maurita Prendergast (23), Judy Miller-Steinmetz (22), Joyce Murphy (22), Joan Cifani (20) and Mildred Montain (20).

Congratulations to all of the longtime members and their dedication to Tau. ●



Tau Chapter honored members of 20-plus years.

## WEST SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Burntwood Tavern holds guest bartender fundraiser

by TAMMY BERTRAND

**B**urntwood Tavern in Crocker Park has a very giving relationship with Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. It wasn't enough to make a donation to the Clinic for every gift card that is sold this holiday season; they also held a special night of guest bartenders to give more.

Crocker Park's vice president, Tina Roberts, and their marketing director, Dan Crandall, joined the West Shore Chamber of Commerce's executive director, John Sobolewski (aka Santa),

as the guest bartenders for the Dec. 8 event. All tips brought in during the two-hour event went directly to the Children's Hospital fund.

Many chamber members attended as well as Burntwood's regular customers to pack the bar with generous patrons. Santa and his elves were able to raise \$250 in that short time while entertaining the guests with their holiday costumes.

Burntwood's marketing manager, Jen Leonard, said, "We are so glad we can give back and support the Children's Hospital in this way." ●



PHOTO BY TAMMY BERTRAND

Crocker Park's Dan Crandall and Tina Roberts, Burntwood Tavern manager Tom McCabe, and West Shore Chamber Executive Director John Sobolewski tended bar for tips to the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital.

**Happy Holidays**

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# Conclusion drawn: artists' workshop a total success

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

The return of a respected artist to Westlake High School on Dec. 8 was “bread cast upon the waters.” And for Martin O’Connor his return to the place where his talents were honed proved to be a satisfying and rewarding experience.

Several weeks ago, Jean Driggs, Westlake West-shore Arts Council president, contacted WHS art teacher Kelly Atkinson to propose that a visiting artist spend a day with art students. Following some discussion and meetings, the WWAC proposal was accepted and O’Connor, a 1990 WHS graduate, was commissioned to conduct the day-long workshop.

Art students recognized to have exceptional abilities were invited to participate and 27 students, from all four grade levels, enrolled for the day-long workshop.

Driggs visited the class mid-day and watched as O’Connor drew an eye on the board. “The class was spellbound, that is the only word to describe them,” she said. Later in the day it was evident that although the students worked intensely, their level of concentration



Martin O’Connor (standing) offers art instruction to Westlake High School students Graham Kowalski, Madyson Lecomte, Martin O’Connor, Fouad Ahmed and Yousef Al-Shinnani.

and absorption with their work never diminished.

When asked her opinion of the workshop, student Annabella Krupa said, “I am working with techniques I never used before. It’s really cool.” Art teacher Atkinson also expressed pleasure for the opportunity to have a visiting artist of O’Connor’s experience and stature

work with the students. She called the workshop a terrific experience, adding, “We could never do this on our own, we don’t have the funding.”

Displaying sincere interest and pleasure, O’Connor made continuous rounds of each art table to observe, suggest or answer questions. The artist’s own work, which was available for viewing on slides, is impressive in volume and quality. There is an incredible reality about his portraits, cityscapes and everything in between. O’Connor said some of his cityscapes were drawn from photos he took when he was in high school, adding that some of those real sights no longer exist.

O’Connor received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the Cleveland Institute of Art and has taught painting classes and workshops for 20 years and has over 13 years of experience as a professional mural artist and surface designer. He maintains a studio in The Screw Factory in Lakewood.

Driggs is pleased that the WWAC could provide the workshop as part of its mission of fostering art at all levels and hopes the group will be able to support the WHS art workshop again next year. ●

## WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



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SERVICE SCHEDULE	
Dec. 24th	Family Contemporary & Traditional Worship Services 5:00 pm
	Contemporary Worship Service 7:00 pm
	Traditional Worship Service 7:00 pm
	Traditional Candlelight Service 11:00 pm
Dec. 25th	Traditional Worship Service 10:00 am
Dec. 31st	Traditional Worship Service 7:00 pm
JAN. 1st	Traditional Worship Service 10:00 am

For further information, call the church office at (440) 835-3050

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## St. Raphael Catholic Church

525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village

### Christmas Mass Schedule

<b>Christmas Eve:</b>	<b>Christmas Day:</b>
4:00 pm Church/PAC	8:00 am Church
8:00 pm Church	10:00 am Church
10:00 pm Church	12:00 pm Church

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SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

Dad built a dollhouse for Christmas

by KAY LAUGHLIN

In 1934, my dad, J. Ross Rothaermel, built a wooden dollhouse for my sister Barbara. An architect friend drew blueprints for a two-story colonial house. (We still have the blueprints.) When finished, the house sat in the middle of a five-by-two-foot grass-covered yard containing a walkway with trellis adorned with climbing roses that led to a driveway and garage.

The house and yard sat on a table that rolled on wheels. The chimney had a big metal “B” on it for Barbara. Downstairs there was a living room with fireplace, front hall with hall closet, and dining room. The kitchen was housed in a one-story addition

next to the dining room. Upstairs was the master bedroom with another fireplace, bathroom and children's room. A porch was over the kitchen.

The children's bedroom furniture was green, the bathroom purple, the kitchen orange and the porch red. The living room, dining room and master bedroom furniture was stained walnut. The mullions in the windows were made of square toothpicks and the shutters were corrugated paper. The wooden front door had a metal door knocker and handle. Every room had a light bulb in the ceiling to light the room. The fireplaces had red lights in them to look like fire.

My dad worked at the Cleveland Trust Company. Many of

his employees got in on the fun and surprised him with a doll house shower. They knit and sewed curtains and rugs and built a metal birdcage. Tiny glass dishes and a painted picture for above the sofa appeared. They went to Halle's and purchased twin beds, cedar chests, a desk, dresser, dining room table and chairs. (Some of the price tags showing 15 cents and 25 cents are still attached.)

The Cleveland Trust Co. made home loans and one year the dollhouse was displayed on a turn table in a window facing East 9th Street. Above it was a sign that read: “Get your home loan here.”

The dollhouse is in my living room today. ●



Barbara Rothaermel and her dollhouse on Christmas Day 1934.



**WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**



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**6:30 pm**  
SANCTUARY/Classic  
AUBURN HALL/Contemporary

**8:30 pm**  
SANCTUARY/Contemporary  
AUBURN HALL/Classic

(all services live)

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Hymns, Special Music, Christmas Meditation and Candlelighting



**Celebrate Christmas at Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church**

**Children's Christmas Program**  
11 a.m. | Sunday, Dec. 18

**Christmas Day**  
10 a.m. | Sunday, Dec. 25

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
5, 7:30 and 10 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 24

**New Year's Day**  
10 a.m. | Sunday, Jan. 1

Bethesda's regular Sunday services are 8:30 and 11 a.m., with Sunday School held at 9:45 a.m.

**Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church**  
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440.871.2276 **www.bethesdaonthebay.org**





# WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

## SPEND CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL



### CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Family Service  
& Pageant  
10:30 p.m. Prelude  
11 p.m. Choral Worship

### CHRISTMAS DAY

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Carols

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**3:00 & 5:00 PM**  
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**7:00 PM**  
**Lesson & Carols with Communion**

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## ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### Christmas Eve, Sat. Dec. 24

**Family Service 5:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight Service 10:00 p.m.**

Please join our Advent Family as we  
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**Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.  
**The Gift of Jesus Christmas Service**  
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

**Parkside Church of the Nazarene**  
23600 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake  
(Corner of Clague & Hilliard)  
[www.parknaz.org](http://www.parknaz.org)

**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service 6-7 p.m.**  
**Christmas Day Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
St. Nicholas is scheduled to arrive during Worship



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[www.saintjamescleveland.com](http://www.saintjamescleveland.com)  
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**Christmas Cantata - Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE- 5:30 p.m.-Family Service**  
**7:30 p.m.-Candlelight Holy Communion**



**LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER**

# How local wildlife prepares for winter

by **MORGAN PASKERT**

As humans, we prepare for winter in a variety of ways. We turn on the heat in our homes, bring our winter coats and snow boots out of storage, winterize our automobiles and more. Animals also prepare for winter, but in their own unique way. Throughout the next few months you will likely notice reduced activity in local wildlife, as animals prepare for the harsh conditions of the winter months.

According to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's expert wildlife staff, there are four common strategies local wildlife use in preparing for winter – migrating, hibernating, undergoing dormancy or simply dealing with it.

Migrators do what appeals to some humans when the weather cools down and the snow begins to fall – they head south to a warmer place. Many birds, including almost all insect eaters (woodpeckers being one of the exceptions) follow this strategy. Certain bats are

among the few mammal migrators in Ohio, who fly down to the southern states and even Central America to find warmer climates. While this strategy may seem appealing, migrators use a significant amount of their energy traveling back and forth each year.

Hibernators seem to have the best of both worlds. Rather than spending all of their energy traveling, they simply shut down their bodies until spring. Woodchucks, turtles, snakes and some bats are common hibernators in Northeast Ohio. While in hibernation, woodchucks drop their body temperature into the low 40s, taking only one breath every six minutes. Painted turtles burrow into the underwater mud and stay submerged for up to five months, surviving by absorbing tiny amounts of oxygen through their skin.

The route most of our Ohio mammals take when the weather gets rough is dormancy, which involves a series of mini-hibernations where animals can den up for many days during harsh conditions and “wake up”



**Dark-eyed Juncos are among the animals that come to Ohio for the winter months.**

to forage for food when the conditions are milder. Squirrels, skunks and raccoons use this strategy.

Some animals simply deal with the winter, due to their special adaptations that allow them to survive in harsh conditions. The Red Fox, a resident animal at the Center, grows a thick undercoat of fur for hibernation, while American Robins change their diets to cope with winter. Rather than foraging for worms on the ground, they are likely to

be seen in the trees foraging for berries.

“Although the winter blizzards and brutal cold can seem unbearable to humans, wildlife is well-adapted to contend with the elements,” says Director of Wildlife Amy LeMonds. “Certain animals even come to Ohio just for the winter season! Keep an eye out for Dark-eyed Juncos, Red-breasted Mergansers and Snowy Owls during the winter months.”

For any questions or concerns about wildlife, please call the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at 440-471-8357 for advice. ●

# Holiday gifts that give back

by **MORGAN PASKERT**

The holiday season is a special time of the year. A time when families and friends come together to celebrate, enjoy each others' company and exchange gifts. Whether you are looking for the perfect gift or a fun stocking stuffer for family and friends, the non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

is a great place to find gifts that give back.

Becoming a Wild Pal at the Center is a wonderful way to show your support for native wildlife and give something meaningful to the animal lovers on your list. This symbolic animal adoption program features 18 native animals and provides you with the opportunity to contribute to the medical care, food and maintenance of the animal of your choice. Wild Pals

# Cricket Yard Equipment to move into Westlake's Ace Hardware store

by **CRAIG AND NAN BAKER**

After over 37 years in business servicing the West Shore power equipment needs, it is bitter/sweet to say that we have sold our business. We are very pleased that the family-owned E&H Ace Hardware, at the corner of Dover Center and Detroit roads in Westlake, will be relocating Cricket Yard Equipment at their current location, expanding their facility to accommodate your mower, rider, tractor, leaf blower, snowblower and other power equipment needs for both sales and service. They have hired our long-term technicians so your servicing needs will continue with the same

level of expertise.

The new ownership, location and phone number will transfer to Ace Hardware on Jan. 30, 2017. Until then, we are offering a store-wide sale on all of our existing equipment while supplies last. We sincerely appreciate the loyal patronage of our West Shore customers over the years. It has been a pleasure getting to know them and the generations of families we have sold to and serviced their equipment for almost four decades.

Thank you for your years of patronage. We are so grateful that Cricket Yard Equipment will live on in Westlake as we begin the next chapter of our lives with a little more free time to enjoy! ●

receive a certificate of adoption, a species fact sheet and a donation acknowledgment. To begin the adoption process, simply visit the Center's website and click on the support page to find our Bald Eagle, Red Fox, Great Horned Owl and other native animals to symbolically adopt for family and friends.

Looking for something special to add to a gift or stocking? Visit the Center's Raw Honey Sale on Dec. 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The raw honey, extracted from the Center's Stickney Family Honeybee Exhibit, is pure, unheated and unprocessed to preserve its many valuable nutrients. The foodies in your life will be sure to appreciate this unique gift and so will native wildlife, as all proceeds will support the Center's wildlife rehabilitation program. The 4

oz. jars cost \$8. Limit of 4 jars per family, while supplies last.

The holidays can also be a time for charitable giving. The Center gratefully accepts monetary donations and non-monetary donations of medical and cleaning supplies, animal care products and more. Visit [lensc.org/support](http://lensc.org/support) to find additional ways to support the Center's wildlife rehabilitation program and education programs for people of all ages. Your donation makes a difference. ●



LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

**The Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will sell raw honey from its honeybee exhibit on Dec. 17 beginning at 10 a.m.**

# Dwyer Senior Center volunteers honored



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

More than 50 volunteers from the Dwyer Senior Center were honored with a catered lunch, entertainment and raffle prizes on Nov. 30. The Dwyer Center relies on volunteers to prepare and deliver meals-on-wheels, legal services, event help, tax preparation, gardening, advisory board positions and more.

# WILD PALS

THE ANIMAL ADOPTION PROGRAM OF  
**LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER**

Becoming a Wild Pal is a great way to show your support of the native wildlife at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

**For more information visit**  
[www.lensc.org/support/wild-pals.htm](http://www.lensc.org/support/wild-pals.htm)

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center**  
28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH | (440) 871-2900 | [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org)



# WordStage to perform at Porter Library

by JOANNE PENKALSKI

“**T**hy breath be rude,” William Shakespeare famously told winter in “As You Like It,” invoking a common complaint about the season: winter is cold, windy, bleak and awful. Five centuries later, poets have much the same complaints. WordStage celebrates the season with a performance of Winter Words on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 3 p.m. at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center

Ridge Road.

WordStage Literary Concerts is dedicated to the presentation of works with special literary, historical and musical merit, employing professional local artists whose talents will illuminate the texts and music of some of the most fascinating and remarkable figures in the realms of history and the performing arts. Using letters, diaries, recorded conversations and contemporary chronicles, underscored with musical compositions of the era, a Word-

Stage performance entertains, informs and educates audiences who love literature, the humanities and the performing arts in their purest form.

Not all poets dwell on the harshness of the season, some use winter to concentrate on renewing and affirming their human relationships. The poem “Now Winter Nights Enlarge” by Thomas Campion celebrates human warmth amidst chilly weather. Others see winter as nostalgic and celebrate the joys of the holidays and good cheer they

bring, like the classic “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” by Clement Clark Moore.

Winter Words will include selections from Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walt Whitman and many more. Folk tales from the Inuit, Native American, Norwegian and Middle European traditions will also be woven throughout. The recited texts will be enhanced with season-inspired musical selections for the piano and violin.

If you plan to join us for WordStage’s Jan. 8 performance, please register by calling 440-871-2600, or online at westlakelibrary.org. ●

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.**

**Sleep Issues**

Learn strategies for getting a good night’s sleep. For individuals and families touched by cancer. *The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Freeware: The Good and the Bad**

Many people become very anxious when you mention freeware software; they have been told all their lives nothing is free. The whys and wherefores of freeware will be detailed. There will be a presentation of some of the most popular freeware. Finally, NEOPC President Bruce Brockman will moderate an open forum to discuss any freeware-related questions. If saving money interests you, you should attend this meeting. *Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Friday, Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.**

**Holiday Luncheon**

Whether you’ve been naughty or nice, join us as we gather to celebrate and send tidings of comfort and joy to all during the holiday season. Enjoy a delicious meal and listen to the festive music of the Avon Lake Women’s Chorus as they perform favorites mixed with some new Christmas tunes. Free; RSVP to 835-6565. *Dwyer Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane, Bay Village*

**Friday, Dec. 16, 2-3 p.m.**

**Creative Connections**

Arts sessions for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. Participate in visual art activities, music, storytelling, poetry, and dance. No cost. Pre-register at 440-414-0434, ext. 2. *26040 Detroit Rd., #3, Westlake*

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-noon**

**Holiday Fun Day with Santa**

Visit with Santa, and enjoy fun crafts. Free for Bay Village residents. *Community Gym hallway at Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.*

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 2-3 p.m.**

**Staged Reading: “A Child’s Christmas in Wales”**

Bay Village Community Theater presents “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” by Dylan Thomas in their staged reading series. Admission is free. *O’Neill Healthcare, 605 Bradley Rd., Bay Village*

**Sunday, Dec. 18, noon-5 p.m.**

**BAYarts Kids Shopping Day**

Send your kids into the Holiday Shop with one of our personal shoppers and let us help them pick out something special for you! Cocoa, cookies & free gift wrapping. *BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd.*

**Sunday, Dec. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Winter Solstice Celebration**

It’s the longest night of the year and we’ve filled it with great family fun – hikes on a wintry trail, visits with nighttime animals and a family holiday activity. Visit the planetarium to learn about what a solstice is and experience the night sky. Be sure to find a few minutes to relax by the crackling fire. Fee: \$7/person; children 2 and under free. *Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village*

**Monday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.**

**NOPEC Informational Meeting**

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council is the nation’s largest governmental retail aggregator that works cooperatively to achieve lower energy costs for its customers. NOPEC has over 205 communities in Northeast Ohio, including Bay Village. A representative will discuss the services provided by NOPEC, their “Do Not Knock” program and answer questions about gas bills. This is a great opportunity to learn how to reduce your utility expenses and ask questions. RSVP to 835-6565. *Dwyer Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane, Bay Village*

**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2-3 p.m.**

**Card Making Workshop**

For individuals affected by dementia along with

their care partner (spouse, child, caregiver). Drop in to create the artwork for cards and socialize. Please preregister by calling 440-414-0434. *26040 Detroit Rd., #3, Westlake*

**Wednesday, Dec. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Denim to Diamonds: An Early New Year’s Eve Celebration**

Linda Kirk will entertain you with her dazzling and extensive repertoire of songs. Lunch is served at noon, featuring 24-Carat Salad, meatballs in marinara with bowtie pasta, rolls, Southern Comfort Cake, coffee/tea and a special non-alcoholic beverage to toast the New Year. Cost: \$10 payable by Dec. 21. RSVP to 899-3544. *Community Services Center, 29694 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, Jan. 5, 7-8 p.m.**

**Westlake Toastmasters Meeting**

Find out how Toastmasters can help you 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*

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