



PHOTO BY MEGAN LAST

Dan Last takes the final steps in his yearlong project to run every street in Westlake.

by DAN LAST

I have always felt that there is no better way to get a sense of a place than to run it. Running connects us to a place in a way that sitting in a car does not. Is it smelling the fresh air, seeing the different houses and buildings or hearing the sound of footsteps on the pavement? Perhaps it is merely the fact that when we run, we slow down and appreciate our surroundings as nature intended. I moved to Westlake seven

years ago from Los Angeles, California, and although I have been very pleased with my decision to settle in Northeast Ohio, it didn't feel like "home." With a desire to truly connect with my adopted city, I made the decision in January 2016 to run every single street in Westlake. I obtained a city street map from City Hall and proudly hung it in my basement.

Admittedly, my map hung on the basement wall for almost two full months without any attention.

» See **RUNNING** page 5

Last call for annual Bay Village award nominations

The deadline is fast approaching to nominate a worthy Bay Village resident or project for the 2017 Citizen of the Year and Project of the Year honors. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 20, and selections will be announced by the Community Council soon afterwards.

Citizen of the year nominees, either individual or couple, must be Bay residents that have provided significant community service without monetary reward.

Special projects will be considered based on community impact and the involvement of volunteers and organizations.

Nominations are accepted online (links to the forms are posted on wbvobserver.com), or via a mail-in form available at City Hall or the Bay Village Branch Library.

For more information about the Bay Village Community Council or the Citizen of the Year/Project of the Year awards, please email tara@wbvobserver.com. ♦

Paul Koomar takes the reins as Bay Village mayor

by TARA WENDELL

Bay Village's extended mayoral transition came to a logical conclusion on Jan. 1, when Paul Koomar was sworn in as the city's 22nd mayor. Koomar, who has served as City Council president since 2011, was first in line under the city charter to succeed former Mayor Deborah Sutherland.

Most on City Council and in the administration were taken aback when Sutherland announced her retirement last September, setting off a scramble to maintain



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

New Bay Village Mayor Paul Koomar, left, is congratulated by Law Director Gary Ebert after being sworn in on Jan. 1.

stability during the transition. Koomar expressed interest in taking over as mayor, but cited

professional obligations that prevented him from making any immediate decisions.

» See **MAYOR** page 3

Students launch Cahoon Creek ecology study

by RICHARD GASH

To answer the question, "Is the Cahoon Creek polluted with

urban runoff and storm sewer drainage?", a seventh-grade team from the Explorer Club 360, and a ninth-grade

team from the Sea Scouts, are collecting bed stream soil and water samples along the course of the creek. Explorer Club

360 will plant seeds in the collected soil and water them with the samples taken from Cahoon Creek. The ninth-graders will do a soil classification study and chemical analysis of the water and soil samples.

» See **CREEK** page 6



PHOTO BY DAWN HAMIL

Students complete the first part of their Cahoon Creek study by collecting soil and water samples. Pictured, from left: Norah Hamil, Jennifer Koomar, Khaled Hamil, Leo Cavalier, Nick LaRosa, Richard Gash and Paul Moody.

MAYOR *from front page*

Law Director Gary Ebert was appointed interim mayor by City Council on Sept. 6, 2016. At that time, Koomar left open the possibility that he would eventually accept the position of mayor. "Right now my work commitments, as I consider this position, would be in effect on Oct. 1 when I would leave to be mayor," Koomar said during the City Council meeting that evening. "I've got to continue to look at that but the city's got to operate and continue to move forward. We need to make sure that the city finishes strong this year."

Koomar, 56, will now complete the remainder of Sutherland's term, which ends Dec. 31. He plans to seek election to a full, four-year term this November. Gary Ebert has resumed his duties as Bay Village's law director.

Ebert is one of the city's longest-tenured employees, reaching the 30-year mark last June, and filled in as mayor in 2000 following the resignation of former Mayor Tom Jelepis. During his most recent go-round in the mayor's office, Ebert quickly announced plans to continue moving forward on current projects and bring new energy to others that had stalled or fallen out of favor. At the top of the list were infrastructure improvements, library relocation discussions, a part-time animal control officer, Community House renovations and a renewed commitment to a team approach between the administration and City Council.

"I'm looking forward to going back to being law director," Ebert remarked during Koomar's inauguration. "These last four months have been interesting, I've enjoyed it. I've communicated with Paul and Dwight [Clark, vice presi-

"Infrastructure and planning improvements will continue to be a priority. Solid financial management I think is extremely important for the city. ... And transparency in government."

— Mayor Paul Koomar

dent of Council] everything that I was doing so there weren't any surprises going forward and I'm sure that a lot of things that I started to implement will be continued on next year and the year thereafter."

said, "Infrastructure and planning improvements will continue to be a priority. Solid financial management I think is extremely important for the city, bond ratings and things like that. And transparency in government."

Koomar has served on City Council since 2000, when he was elected as the Ward 2 representative. He successfully ran for Council President in 2011 and was re-elected in 2015. He is a certified public accountant and ran a health care consultancy that he is shutting down to focus on the full-time responsibilities of mayor. He and his wife, Therese, moved to Bay Village in 1989. They have two daughters: Jennie, 13, attends Bay Middle School; and Katie, a 2015 Bay High grad, is a sophomore at the University of Findlay.

With Koomar's rise to mayor, the Council president seat is now vacant. The charter provides that City Council



Paul Koomar takes the oath of office administered by Law Director Gary Ebert during a ceremony at City Hall on Jan. 1 as his daughters, Katie and Jennie, and wife, Therese, watch.

Koomar and Ebert worked closely during the past four months, ensuring a smooth transfer of power. In an interview following his inauguration, Mayor Koomar expressed his intent to continue the progress made during the transition. Listing his top three objectives upon taking office, Koomar

shall select one of its members to serve the remainder of the term. Councilman-at-Large Dwight Clark and Ward 1 Councilman David Tadych submitted their names to their colleagues for consideration. In the event of a deadlock or Council inaction, Mayor Koomar may appoint the next president of Council. ●

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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.
- Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process. Staff contact information is listed below.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at wbvobserver.com/members to submit your stories, photos and events.

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

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

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

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THE GREEN REPORT

A closer look at the EPA and Cleveland's connection

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

In my last column, I wrote about the Environmental Protection Agency, its history, and role in our lives today. I have been reading more about the EPA and its history, and wanted to revisit the topic again this week. Think of this a Part 2 of the EPA column. (Part 1 is available at wbvobserver.com/read/columns/the-green-report.)

I want to address Cleveland's role in the modern environmental movement, including the establishment of the EPA and the Clean Water Act. It's no coincidence that the first Earth Day was in 1970, the EPA was established in 1970, and the Cuyahoga River caught fire in 1969. As I wrote before, the modern environmental movement was developing in the early 1960s as the result of many events, mainly Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" in 1962 and other significant environmental problems such as heavy pollution in our nation's rivers that ran through large cities. ("Silent Spring" is available at the Westlake and Bay Village libraries; a documentary on Carson will air Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., on WVIZ/PBS.)

As I started researching this column, I was surprised to learn that the infamous June 1969 Cuyahoga River fire was the *last* fire in the river. The river had been used for industrial dumping for decades and decades, and had caught fire at least a



A photo of this 1952 fire on the Cuyahoga River accompanied a 1969 Time magazine article about the polluted waterway, igniting national concern for the environment.

dozen times between 1936 and 1969. In fact, the 1969 fire barely made the news in Cleveland, let alone nationally. However, Time magazine decided to run a story on the fire, further igniting the national concern for the environment.

The picture of the river fire that Time magazine ran in 1969 was not from the June 1969 fire, it was from a larger fire in 1952. Prior to the 1960s, the pollution in the river was viewed by residents as a necessary consequence of the city's booming industry. As quoted from the Time story,

the river "oozes, rather than flows." The EPA didn't exist yet, and industries did not have any regulations about how, where, when and why they could dump their waste, so they just dumped it into the river.

As the 1960s went on, residents changed their tune and ironically in

role in the establishment of the EPA. Carl Stokes' brother, Louis Stokes, was a U.S. representative at the time, and the brothers' advocacy played a role in the passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972. Since the \$100 million bond initiative in 1968, local industries and the Northeast Ohio Sewer District have spent \$3.5 billion to reduce sewage and industrial waste pollution.

Cleveland is not the only city that had such major pollution in its river; the timing of the 1969 river fire was just right to add spark to the growing momentum of national concern for protecting the environment. Cleveland, in its river's notoriety, played a major role nationally in the federal establishment of environmental standards and regulations to prevent the further degradation of natural resources. The cleanup efforts and industrial regulations have worked, and today the Cuyahoga is home to more than 60 different species of fish, as well as beavers, herons, and bald eagles.

So, the next time you hear someone call Cleveland "mistake by the lake" you should first of all ask them to join us in the current millennium because that term is ancient and frankly someone who says it sounds like an idiot ... and next you can answer by saying "the mistake by the lake ignited our national concern for the environment, playing a role in the establishment of the EPA and Clean Water Act."

This is something to be proud of, Clevelanders. We have come a LONG way since 1969. The fact that the river is thriving is a testament to not only our city, but our federal government for taking a stand against industrial pollution and protecting our essential natural resources. ●

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Westlake gifted teacher earns national award

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Anne Dill, gifted teacher at Westlake High School and Lee Burneson Middle School, was selected as a winner of the 2016 Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching in Middle and High School.

Dill won the award based on letters from students and colleagues, who acknowledged Dill's hard work and going above and beyond what is expected

of an American Mathematics Competition (AMC) manager to help her students do their best and enjoy mathematics.

"Your encouragement and commitment to your students had made a noticeable difference in your students' problem-solving abilities and love of mathematics," the committee wrote in a letter to Dill.

Dill is one of 34 to receive the award nationwide, and the only recipient from Ohio.

"I feel honored, yet humbled, to receive the 2016 Edyth May Sliffe Award for Westlake High School," Dill said,



PHOTO BY KIM BONVISSUTO

Westlake gifted teacher Anne Dill was honored with an award from the Mathematical Association of America.

adding her appreciation to Gifted Coordinator Carol Froehlich, WHS Principal Tim Freeman, LBMS Principal Paul Wilson and Dover Intermediate School Principal Alex Fleming for helping her find empty classrooms for practices and contests, and finding funding for local, state and national competitions for students. "The kids have grown in their math skills as they have grown into teenagers."

The award was created from a bequest from Edyth May Sliffe, a high school mathematics teacher at Emery High School in California. The award from the Mathematical Association of America recognizes high school and middle school mathematics teachers whose teams participate in MAA AMC Competitions.

While Sliffe's students always received various honors for their performance, the teachers supporting them rarely were recognized. She made this bequest because she felt that hard-working teachers deserve recognition, too. ●



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THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Floating a relationship

by DIANA PI, M.D.

What's the best thing that's happened to your relationship?

Don't say kids.

While they're the best thing to happen to us, they can glue and unglue a relationship.

My husband, Mark, and I used to have deep and meaningful conversations about The X-Files, the best configuration for a Star Trek tricorder (bullet-shaped), and advanced alien form (fewer legs, more evolved). Now we agonize over who has the energy to start laundry.

Thankfully, 10 years ago, our daughter, then five, did us a huge favor by failing – three times – Level One swimming, which, apparently, was a record of sorts.

Instead of seeing it for what it was – she couldn't float, and didn't care – we saw a slippery path of progressive developmental delay leading to physical then mental atrophy to ... who knows?

Not to single her out for this

fatal developmental flaw (her eight-year-old brother swam just fine), we signed up for family swim lessons in solidarity. To be fair, Mark and I didn't know how to swim, either. Our collective athletic trophy: his two capped front teeth, acquired after he'd encountered the flying end of an ice hockey stick at age 8.

After a month, as the girl continued to defy the law of buoyancy, Mark and I learned to float. Our instructor piled on praise. We decided to drop the kids from the lessons (they just wanted to play). After a year, we could swim a few laps; breathing air, not water. Swimming became "our thing."

"Join the O*H*I*O Masters Swim Club," our instructor kindly suggested. "O*H*I*O stands for 'Old Hearts Inspiring Others.' Practices are coached. All levels of swimmers welcomed."

Best marriage advice.

But it took another year before we netted enough mettle for the free week trial. Our first day with the Lakewood Masters

coincided with the last outdoor pool practice, a glorious September morning with muffin clouds, soaring gulls, blue sky on blue lake, and Coach Bob. At 60, his streamlined figure, close-cropped hair and a "200 FLY" license plate were exactly what we aspired to, at any age.

We signed on and joined a league of competitive and fitness swimmers. We see each other first thing on Saturday mornings and last thing on Monday nights, with bed hair and runny mascara, pajamas and flip-flops, short on caffeine and high on stress. Usually I swim with three other women: a math teacher, a CPA and a cardiologist. We're prone to hellacious giggles when the coach yells at us for not kicking harder.

Three years ago, Mark and I did a 5K lake swim. Sighting for and drafting each other, we finished in second-to-last place (we came in minutes before a friend, 70, who'd suffered a dizzy spell). Coming out of the water, we smelled like the front lawn after the first spring thaw; my right shoulder muscle twitched uncontrollably. Mark held my elbow, and we couldn't be happier. ●

Group to discuss stories of challenge, courage in the Middle East

by LYNN TALIAK

Case Western Reserve University, through its Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, is once again offering an eight-week book discussion course in Bay Village. The course will be held on Mondays, Jan. 16 through March 6, and meets at Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Road. Classes run from 10-11:30 a.m.

The participants are engaging, curious and inter-

esting adults, both men and women. It is a non-credit, no exam, no papers required course led by Barbara Parr, an experienced discussion facilitator. A syllabus is provided and discussion follows from the readings, which usually generate diverse and insightful conversations.

Our books this semester are "Infidel" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali; "A Fort of Nine Towers" by Qais Akbar Omar; and "An Afghan Family Story (I Am Malala)" by Malala Yousafzai. These are all

accountings of courage in the face of daunting challenge. All are inspirational stories set in the real world of today.

The cost? For those who pay an annual Siegal membership fee (\$36) the cost is \$82. For non-Siegal members, the cost is \$97. In addition, there is a 10 percent discount for members of the Association for Continuing Education, alumnae of CWRU, and retired or current faculty and staff of CWRU. For more information contact class coordinator Marianne Wagner at 440-808-0076, or Lorraine Nelson at the CWRU office, 216-368-5145. Enrollment can also be done online at case.edu/lifelonglearning (under the Off-Campus Studies Westside section). ●

Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

Did you receive a new e-reader this holiday season? Learn how to borrow free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, movies and music from our Digital Collection anytime, anywhere. Bring your device and passwords to the library Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and our staff will get you started. Our Digital Collection is available 24/7, 365 days a year, and there are never any late fees!

CHILDREN

Caregivers and their children are invited to enjoy rhymes, songs, fingerplays, books and stories together. No registration is required.

• **Mondays (10 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – ages 19-35 months.

• **Tuesdays (10 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – ages 19-35 months.

• **Tuesdays (6:45 p.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** – for all ages

• **Wednesdays (10 a.m.) BABY AND ME STORYTIME** – ages birth-18 months

• **Thursdays (10 a.m.) PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME** – ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten)

• **Fridays (10 a.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** – for all ages

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (4 p.m.) POPCORN OLYMPICS – Grades 3-6: Celebrate National Popcorn Day with the Popcorn Olympics! Join us for popcorn inspired games including the popcorn parachute game, popcorn distance throw, popcorn pick-up, popcorn shoe race and more!

Wednesday, Jan. 18 (7 p.m.) MAD SCIENTIST: ROCKETS! – Join us for a hands-on science program building a simple rocket. We will then customize our rockets and compete in target practice.

Thursday, Jan. 19 (4 p.m.) COOKIES AND BOOKS – Grades 3-5: Join us to discuss "Crenshaw" by Katherine Applegate. Copies of the book will be available one month before the discussion.

Saturday, Jan. 21 (10 a.m.) THE MAGIC OF RICK SMITH JR. – Join magician Rick Smith Jr. for a magic show that promises to amaze and astonish one and all! Rick Smith has performed his card tricks and magic on The Tonight Show, The Ellen Show and many other programs. Fun for all ages. Registration required.

TEEN

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18 and 25 (3 p.m.) TEEN ZONE – Grades 5 & up: Join us for something fun to do after school. Gaming, art, movies, technology and more! Registration required

ADULTS

Wednesday, Jan. 11 (7 p.m.) DIY HOT COCOA MIX – Whether you are seeking a quick chocolate fix on a cold night without the high expense or unpronounceable ingredients or seeking a great gift idea, this program is for you. Participants will create their own hot cocoa mix and be introduced to sweet reads shared by the library staff. All supplies will be provided.

Monday, Jan. 23 (7 p.m.) KILL DA WABBIT: OPERA IN POP CULTURE – What do Sesame Street, The Muppet Show, Looney Tunes, British Airways, Apocalypse Now, The Marx Brothers and Citizen Kane have in common? Opera, of course! Opera is woven into the fabric of American popular culture, whether we realize it or not. This lecture draws attention to the ways in which the music and the plots of operas have become part of our everyday life. From The Simpsons to James Bond, the Great Lakes Light Opera will explore the best and worst references and homages to opera. This lecture is appropriate for both opera buffs and novices alike. Come watch clips, listen to recordings and even hear a live opera singer perform beloved tunes.

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

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RUNNING

from front page

The specially purchased marker to highlight each street remained sealed in its plastic package and a thin layer of dust covered the map's frame. Every runner knows that the most difficult part of any run is in those first few steps.

On a sunny and brisk February morning, I took those first steps on a scenic 9-mile run from my home to North Olmsted and back. After that first run, I was hooked. Following that kickoff, I carefully planned each run in advance using a combination of GPS technology and good old-fashioned paper maps to ensure that no street was missed. Upon the completion of each run, I would dash into my basement to record my route and my mileage.

As all years do, 2016 had its ups and downs. There were

freak weather patterns to consider, injuries to nurse and the general demands of everyday life. But my commitment was strong and even on the hardest days I would return home from a run with a great sense of accomplishment and the pride that I was moving closer toward my goal.

My year-long quest was accomplished in mid-December 2016 with my wife following me in her car to celebrate the final few blocks. Of the thousands of steps that were taken in this project, the final few felt the best. As a longtime runner, I am always looking for a new challenge to get me off of the couch and enjoying the outdoors. I have competed in runs at varying distances and terrains including mud runs, relays, and

BY THE NUMBERS

Statistics from Dan Last's year-long quest:

221 miles – the official mileage count to cover every street in Westlake. The number is higher than expected due to dead end streets and roads that had to be run more than once.

49 runs – the number of times Dan ran in Westlake in 2016

4.5 miles – the average length of each run

42 hours and 45 minutes – the total running time it took to complete this project

343,155 steps – the number of steps Dan took to complete his project



Dan Last tracked his progress with an orange highlighter as he ran every street in Westlake last year.

a five-hour obstacle course.

But the feeling of running every street in your town is unique and memorable.

I used to drive through Westlake glancing down some side streets and ask myself what could possibly be around that

next corner. Now I know with certainty. My town has no unfamiliar streets. If you live here, I have run past your home. Maybe you were one of the dozens of friendly people who

shared a wave or a nod or even sprayed me down with your hose in the heat of our summer. What was once a strange city no longer feels so foreign; it finally feels like home. ●

FAITH& SPIRITUALITY

Film night of 'power' at Unity

by SHARON FEDOR

In today's fast paced, multi-media world there are so many ways to be entertained. From Netflix to YouTube to Hulu, the eyes have it. So what to watch next? What if your next movie choice was both entertaining to your psyche, and enriching to your heart and soul? A double-your-fun kind of event!

If you've heard of James Tyman, also known as the Peace Troubadour, you know he is a unique individual with a variety of successes. He is the author of 10 books, including "The Art of Spiritual Peacemaking," and a world renowned folk musician. He has been invited by world peace organizations to perform peace concerts in war-torn countries such as Serbia, Bosnia and Iraq.

He is also a film producer with movie credits such as "Indigo"

and the documentary "The Moses Code."

Tyman is directing movies again, and his latest effort is "A Sound Called Unity: The Twelve Powers." Over 100 years ago, Charles Fillmore, one of Unity's founders, wrote "The Twelve Powers of Man," which each of us has within. These great powers, starting with faith, are woven within the very fabric of who we are, and who we are meant to be.

Recall that faith is the evidence of things not seen. We don't know what our futures will exactly look like, but we imagine (the second power of man) it will be good.

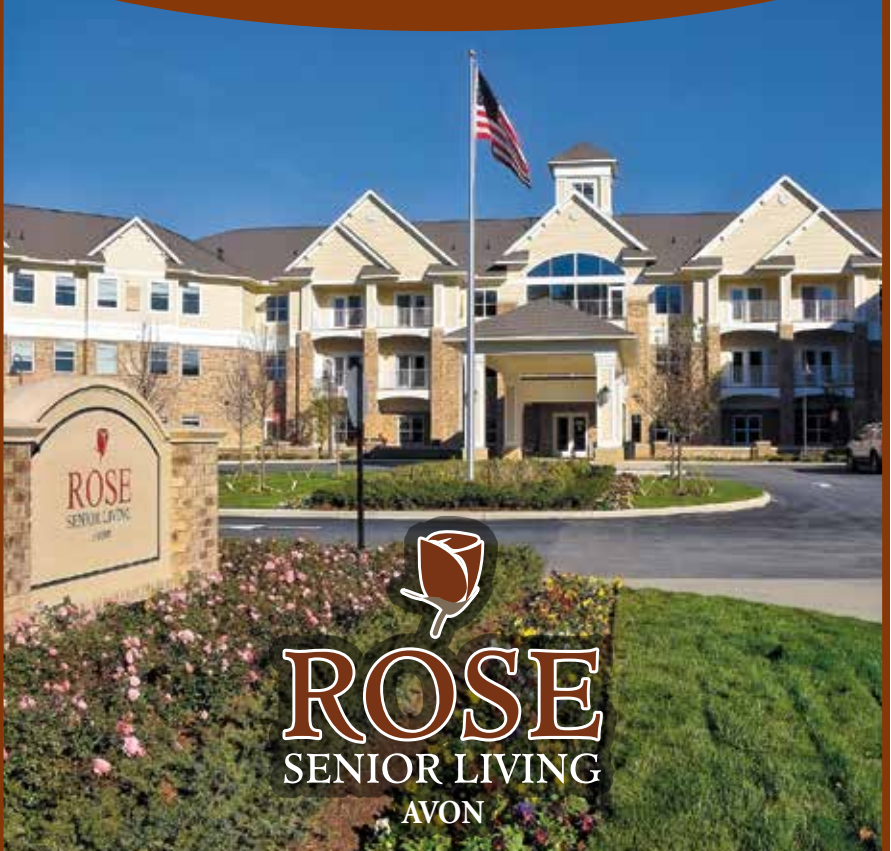
Rev. Joanne Rowden, minister Of Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake, comments that, "As we practice, demonstrate and express these twelve powers, we bring our own unique, inner Christ light into the forefront." These powers

can express through us daily. This documentary film breathes new life and new insights into Fillmore's spiritual classic, with over 30 Unity ministers sharing their own insights on these powers within. Each well-known minister expresses themselves differently, but the thread of unity, and Unity principles, can be followed throughout the film.

Why would anyone travel around the world to ISIS occupied lands to pray? Come watch the film and find out. Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake, 23855 Detroit Road, is honored to be one of the few centers airing this new film on Friday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 22, at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.

Bring a friend, and find out why love is a power with companions such as strength and wisdom, and how these are your very own to express any moment you so choose. ●

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BEYOND THE NAME

Westlake's Roman Park

by ELIZABETH HEINEMAN

In Roman Park on Ranney Parkway in Westlake, visitors enjoy a playground, concessions and three baseball fields. Originally called Ranney Park, it was renamed in 1998 in honor of the late Alexander R. Roman, former mayor of Westlake.

Alexander Roman had a long career serving Westlake and Cuyahoga County. He became a member of the Civil Service Commission in 1958, went on to serve as a secretary and chairman, and was elected mayor of Westlake in 1965. He was also a member of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). In July 1980, he resigned from his position as mayor to become a judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Shortly after his resignation, Westlake City Council commended him for his lead-

ership and accomplishments. Mayor Roman's tenure was marked by growth and development of the city, particularly in improvements to safety services and recreation facilities. Notably, the city received federal grants that provided funds for a sanitary sewer program; participated in the founding of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau; and, in 1969, purchased its first ambulance. Roman was also known for supporting local charities and, in 1975, creating a Bicentennial Committee in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial of the United States.

While these contributions to security and infrastructure are clearly crucial to the city, Mayor Roman's most readily visible accomplishments may be in Westlake's parks. He supported the creation of facilities in Clague Park, including its swimming pool, which opened in 1967 and was largely funded by local donations. He also secured Westlake's usage of Tri-City Park, shared with Fairview Park and Rocky River; and he



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

supported the establishment of the facilities that would, not long after his resignation, become Ranney Park.

In a fitting tribute to Mayor Roman, the Westlake City Council changed the name of Ranney Park to Roman Park, as well as naming Roman Road in Clague Park, in 1998, after his death. ●

Denise Rosenbaum contributed to this article.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Ohayo! Good morning!

by TAK SATO

In my technology presentations, when I ask the audience, "What state are we in?", I see some confused faces but most play along and answer "Ohio!" I proceed to explain that the cross-language homonym of the English word "Ohio" is "Ohayo" in Japanese which means "good morning."

I tell the audience a white lie that we are about to wake up my parents at 2 a.m. Japan time. Uneasy laughter fills the room as they debate if they want to be part of my shenanigans. My answer? I simply hit the Skype app's "video call" button on my tablet.

As the live image of my parents show up on the projected screen at the front of the room, the audience has no choice but

shout "Ohayo!" in perfect unison. My dad, ever the show off, responds "Good morning! How are you today?" in English.

Through sheer will to communicate using broken English and body language, smiles and laughter ensue. I pass around the tablet so they can experience what a personal video chat is like, though many times they just smile at each other across 6,000 miles. But anyone can see what is not visible – human connections being made.

Currently I'm in Japan as I write and submit my first WVBO article of 2017. My dad is very ill after living with cancer for almost half a dozen years and is quickly deteriorating as chemo has lost its efficacy. Although I wish the circumstances were different, I am blessed to be physically home with my parents under the same roof. This homecoming also gave me plenty of time to reflect.

I am reminded of the power of technology and why, I believe, my parents willingly support and participate in our presentations that require them to be up at 2 a.m. I believe it boils down to the human connections made.

On one video chat a few weeks ago with my family back in Cleveland, we used Google's Duo app, an alternative to FaceTime that is not exclusive to Apple devices, where our son played piano for my parents. I was busy holding my smartphone for my dad to see and hear but my wife commented that my dad was smiling (which was already becoming rare in his quickly deteriorating health). The other week when our son was playing a basketball game, my wife streamed the game from the high school gymnasium so my parents could see him play. I'm sure our son has high hopes for future Cavaliers owner King LeBron James to draft him in 2028. I wonder what my fellow columnist Mr. Jeff Bing thinks of my prediction of King LBJ as Cavs owner in 2028?

An option to enable people to connect is what I'm reminded of repeatedly through my own personal experiences of using digital world tools. I will ever cherish the smiles and laughter that my dad's "Ohayo!" brought to the presentations even as the sun begins to set. Thank you, Dad! ●

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BAYarts SOUPer Bowl to benefit programming

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

The latest BAYarts benefit will keep you well fed. For those unfamiliar with what a SOUPer Bowl is, it's just as it sounds.

For a \$10 ticket, visitors get a drink, crusty bread from Breadsmith of Lakewood, a handmade bowl (crafted in the BAYarts ceramic department) and, of course, soups. The event will be a bit of a soup cook-off, with caterers, private chefs and restaurants all offering their best recipes. Votes will be tallied as the day progresses. Want to prove your soup is a winner? Email Pam Mills, pam@bayarts.net, to get involved.

Tickets for the Feb. 4 event are expected to sell out, and can be purchased by calling 440-871-6543 or online by visiting the bayarts.net "upcoming events" page. The event will be open between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., with an ability for ticketholders to stop by any time during that span.

The event will benefit the ever-growing education department. With so



Soups from local chefs will be available to taste during BAYarts' SOUPer Bowl fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 4.

many outdoor events in the summer, the SOUPer Bowl creates a winter happening to help combat seasonal inactivity and stagnation that keep people in their homes. "Our students, and the community, love giving back and spending time at our amazing campus. We knew we wanted to organize something to help people get out and have a good time together," said BAYarts Executive Director Nancy Heaton. And if conversation and good food isn't enough for you, there will be a few activities for the younger set.

Kids will enjoy the ball toss game and a photo area. Drinks, hotdogs and snacks will be available a la carte. There will also be a bake sale.

"BAYarts thanks all who support their community endeavors," conveys Heaton. "So we hope you'll come enjoy this fun benefit day!" ●

BayComm continues to recruit residents

by JIM KETTREN

You might remember BayComm as being a "radio group" that began almost 5 years ago, made up of residents from Bay and surrounding suburbs. I haven't written an article in over a year, but I again appeal to all residents to consider joining our volunteer group, after asking yourself the following questions:

- How important is staying in contact with my family and others in the community during an emergency?
- How often do I rely on my phone and the internet to communicate?
- Will standard means of communications always be available to me, or do I feel that they are highly vulnerable to being disabled?
- Do I have interest in volunteering with a group that aims to provide grassroots communications to my family and other residents, via two-

way radio?

Our membership has hovered around 20 households for some time now, but to create a true "safety net" of communications among residents in the six Westshore suburbs, that number needs to be more in the 50-100 range.

Only about 25 percent of our members are radio enthusiasts. The rest are residents who understand the value of having a means of communicating with others, when standard methods of communication are compromised. The radio becomes a "means to an end." Therefore, even if you have no prior experience with operating a two-way radio, we will help you to get established and trained in methods that will help you to keep in contact with others in the community, at a time when you need critical information.

We have increased the number of frequencies and non-licensed bands that we operate on, in an effort to create

back-up and redundancy. As a first responder with the Bay Village auxiliary police and through CERT, my connectivity to BayComm offers you the ability to get help (or to help other residents) more quickly and effectively than those who do not have a radio back-up. We train and prepare ourselves for an event that we hope will never occur, but we are also a group that takes a realistic approach to the "what-if" scenarios.

Members are residents of the community, just like yourself. They come from all walks of life, and everyone's reason for becoming a part of BayComm is a little different. We operate well as a team, and we have routine social engagements, both on and off the radio. Your level of involvement in the group would be completely up to you. I will ensure that you have the equipment and tools that are right for your own situation, and I will support you fully in your efforts to be prepared.

If you're interested in providing this level of community service, please call me at 216-337-6327, to talk it through. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Cure your family's cabin fever

by MORGAN PASKERT

Feeling cooped up after the holidays? Cold weather and continuous snowfall is the perfect recipe for cabin fever, especially in Cleveland.

The best way to combat cabin fever in the upcoming months is to get moving and find engaging activities in your community for the entire family.

If you're not up for hiking the wintry trails of Huntington Reservation quite yet, don't worry. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center offers a variety of engaging, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages throughout the winter months! Providing free admission seven days a week, the Center offers quality nature, environmental and science experiences through native wildlife exhibits, daily planetarium shows and more. Special family programs are offered each month, for just \$4 to \$7 a person.

Upcoming family programs at the Center include:

Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping, Sunday, Jan. 22, 1 p.m. The Center will be abuzz with excitement as beekeeper Christine Cain shares all

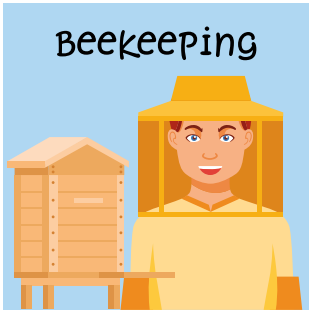
of her knowledge about beekeeping and local honeybee populations. Fee: \$5/person.

Family Astronomy Night: An Evening Under the Stars, Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Spend an evening under the stars and observe the beautiful winter night sky in both the natural elements and inside the Center's planetarium. Fee: \$4/person ages 3+; children 2 and under are free.

Groundhog Day, Sunday, Jan. 29, 1 p.m. Join the Center in celebrating Groundhog Day with special guest Molly Ryan, who will give you an up-close look at some of her groundhog friends. Fee: \$5/person ages 1+.

Owl Prowl, Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. A magical evening at the Center celebrating owls of all shapes and sizes. Enjoy a captivating live owl program and go on a night hike in hopes of spotting wild owls in the forest of Huntington Reservation. Fee: \$7/person ages 3+; children 2 and under are free.

For more information and additional programming this winter, visit lensc.org. ●



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SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

The portables at Parkview School

by KAY LAUGHLIN

In 1922, a two-story Parkview School was built on Cahoon Road at the south end of Cahoon Memorial Park. (There was no Wolf Road at the time.) Parkview School housed grades one through twelve. All the Bay Village children went to school in the building. Two years later a third story was needed. In 1926, Forestview School was built to house grades one through six for the many children who now lived in the east end of the village. Parkview still contained grades one through twelve, being the elementary school for the west end children.

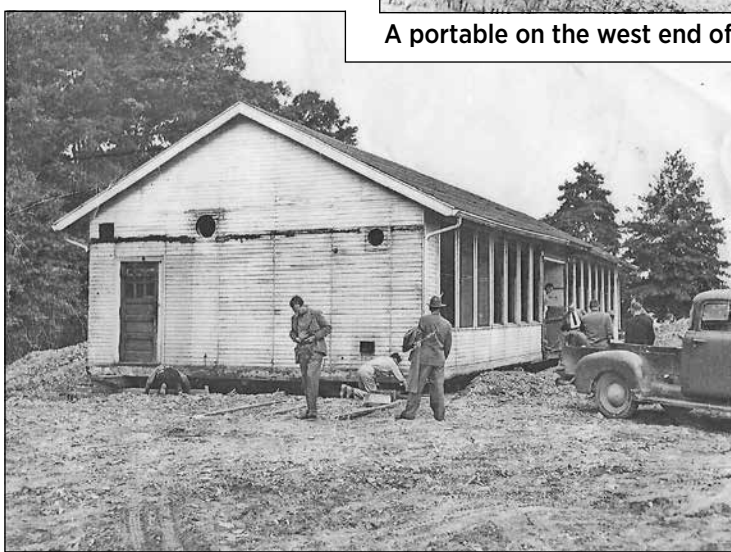
For many years Parkview contained the west end elementary and high school grades with no problem. Sometime in the 1930s the school board decided to purchase portable clapboard barrack-style buildings and

add them to the west end of the school to help the overflow.

The first portable building became the cafeteria/lunch room. The second building was at one time the shop building but when I was in school in 1943, it

held my second- and third-grade classrooms. (It was evident there was a need for a third school on the west end and a bond issue was passed in 1941, but with World War II raging, Glenview wouldn't be built until 1946.)

Walking west down the tiled hallway of Parkview School



Workers assemble a portable building on the west end of Parkview School. Notice one side was all windows.

you exited the west doors into a walkway with windows on each side and entered the cafeteria and lunch room which occupied the entire first building. If you went through the lunch room you continued down the walk-

way to the next portable where the second and third grades were held. I remember that our restroom break was in the washroom on the first floor in Parkview School next to the stage on the far east end of the build-

ing. There was a high school monitor sitting outside the door of the classroom who would escort us to the washroom.



A portable on the west end of Parkview School.



A portable building turned into the BayWay Cabin in 1963.

These portable buildings fit the bill and were used until 1950 when plans were made for a new addition for the west end of Parkview. At this time the portable buildings were detached and taken away. The new two-

story west addition was opened in 1952 and the name above the door was Bay High School.

The portables still had a lot of good years left in them. One was recycled as the changing room for the football team and placed behind the south bleachers next to the old football field at Parkview. The other portable was moved into Cahoon Memorial Park west of City Hall and became a place for the high school students to have "after game" dances run by the recreation department. It was named the BayWay. Now the Bay students had a place to hold a dance after a game.

One of the high school clubs usually sponsored the dance by selling tickets at the door, chips and pop. It was

a good way to make money. The walls were decorated with football or basketball themes. I remember many happy memories there. Later, the BayWay became a place during the day for child care, after school care and clubs. The recreation department moved in and an addition was built on. Clubs

like the Girl Scouts held their meetings there. Today it is rented by Kiddie Kollege.

I don't know what happened to the portable by the football field, but the portable in Cahoon Park is still very much in use. This old barrack has come a long way. ●

Bay Village VFW holiday social brings cheer to veterans

by FRED GREEN

On Dec. 13, Bay Village VFW Post 9693 held our second annual Holiday Social. The event was held at Bay Lodge and due to a healthy turnout of members and guests, as well as over 20 Bay High School Key Club volunteers, we entertained over 50 people. The plentiful array of food was prepared by a few of the spouses and some items were donated. There was plenty for all and even pizza for the Key Club!

Due to a local event conflict, parking was sparse. Like all veterans, we assessed the situation, adapted and carried on! All had a great time. Several widowed or single members were sent home with food, and three full meals were delivered the next day to local veterans that could not make the event.

We send our sincere thanks to several local businesses and groups that donated door prizes, discounts, and assistance to our event, reducing cost and helping our local veterans! Donations included gift cards for restaurants, groceries and hair cuts; a bottle of wine; cookies; pizza; and an official Bay Village ornament and one-year membership to the historical society.

A special thanks to the Bay Lodge reservation staff for their assistance to swap events so that we could use the larger facility. And finally, the wonderful help from the Key Club to assist veterans to and from their cars, and with the meals and drinks, as well as clean up. They were all dressed professionally and represented themselves and the Key Club with class and dignity.

Our sincere thanks to all that attended or helped in any way. We are already looking at 2017 plans, so stay tuned! ●



Sherlyn McFarland, Paula Schock and Jacob (Jake) Schock. Jake is a highly decorated Bay Village WWII veteran and a true local hero. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. Jake earned many medals and ribbons, including the Purple Heart and most recently the French Legion of Honor, awarded in 2014.

Christmas Greening Workshops a success

by KARLA MUSSULIN

The Bay Village Garden Club would like to thank the 143 participants who attended this year's "Greening." A total of 175 arrangements were created to beautify local homes at Christmas. A special thank you goes to Carol McDonald and Anne Massey, the co-chairs

of this event, whose dedicated service has led this major project for several years. The funds raised from our workshops will enable us to continue our civic beautification projects and add other service projects for 2017.

To view photos of our creative attendees please visit our website at bayvillagegardenclub.com. ●



Carol McDonald and Anne Massey co-chaired the Bay Village Garden Club's Christmas Greening Workshops.

FAMILY OBSERVATIONS

Seeing our home through buyers' eyes

by RJ JOHNSON

The reality of moving really set in when the realtor's photographer arrived to photograph the house. It wasn't so much that the listing would be online for the entire world to see that next day that brought home the reality of the move. It was the absence of so many things that let someone know that a family lives in that space.

The boy's drawings and the girl's report card were no longer affixed to the refrigerator with magnets. The kitchen counter was completely bare. Even the microwave had been moved out of the sight of the camera. Then, the photographer caught sight of the garbage can.

"Can we move that to another room?" she asked.

"The garbage can?" I thought. "Who doesn't expect a garbage can in the kitchen?" I could understand if it had been a plastic garbage can with trash heaped over the top. This was a stainless steel receptacle with a self-closing lid. It is as stylish as a garbage can could possibly be. If I saw a house without a garbage can anywhere, I would wonder if there were magic fairies that take the trash away.

"Can we unplug that computer?" she asked, moving into the next room, "Cords don't look right in the photos."

"Are we risking that people will think the appliances don't require a power source in this house?" I thought. I wouldn't want people to get the impression that this house is magic. I could just imagine someone looking at the listing online and thinking, "Wow! That house must have really low electric bills. It won't matter anymore if the kids leave the television going all day, or if they stand in front of the refrigerator with the door open for hours on end, complaining that there's nothing to eat. I wonder if the lights work that way too."

I understand the process. Showing a house is like getting ready for a date. You want to highlight the best features. No one wants to see your scar from your appendectomy on the first date. No one wants to know the cat threw up on the statue of St. Nicholas a few hours earlier when they are looking for a new home. They want to think that their cat will be the first cat to throw up in that house. It makes sense, but when I see our house like that, it's a little strange.

Yes, dear readers, we are moving out of state. I will soon be looking at houses with no garbage cans, appliances that need no power source, and where no messes have ever been made. We have enjoyed our time in Westlake, Ohio, but as a member of my parish in Virginia said before we moved here, "Clergy sure are a nomadic bunch." God calls and we follow.

I hope you've enjoyed getting to know my family as much as I have enjoyed telling you about them. ●

LOCAL HISTORY

Past and present Westlake / Bay Village lawn mower maintenance hot spots

by DAN HIRSCHFELD

As an adolescent in the early '70s the first lawnmower I tried to maintain ended up throwing a connecting rod through its engine block. If there's much to learn in one's failures I must've learned quite a bit during that episode.

Since that time I've managed to get one or two lawnmowers to run past their prime. For that reason I've appreciated several businesses in the Westlake/Bay Village area where one could acquire lawnmower parts. With one of those being Cricket Yard Equipment, I was especially interested to find in the Dec. 13, 2016, edition of the Observer that after more than 37 years of serving the lawn care equipment sales and maintenance needs of our community, owners Craig and Nan Baker are selling the business to E&H Ace Hardware, where it will be relocated to their store at the corner of Dover Center and Detroit roads.

The sale of Cricket Yard Equipment leads me to reminisce of past businesses that sold and serviced lawn and garden equipment but are now closed, leaving Cricket a sole survivor, of sorts, in the Westlake/Bay Village community.

Going back to the 1960s, the first I remember was a shop doing business as Sauer's Corner at the intersection of Dover Center and Center Ridge roads, land owned by well-known Westlaker Frank Sauer. In that the business was eventually owned by Sam Wyatt,

it was later renamed Wyatt Tractor and Mower. That business closed in December 2011 to make way for the Speedway station presently occupying the corner.

The old Bradley Supply Company, located in the building now occupied by Brian's Furniture at Bradley and

Center Ridge roads, was also a locally familiar purveyor of lawn and garden power equipment and repair parts. Through online research I uncovered an ad mentioning the Bradley Supply Company in a Dec. 10, 1947, publication, so the business goes back at least that far. It appears sometime in the '80s the business was sold and became Bobson's Bradley Hardware Supply, and some years later closed for good as a hardware/lawn equipment supplier.

Lastly, the old Roger and Wray's store, once located in the Bay Village Shopping Center, really sticks in my mind because one could buy bicycles and bike parts there, as well as lawn and garden equipment. It was also an easy bike ride for an adolescent/young teen

tinkerer living in Bay Village at the time. If I remember correctly Roger and Wray's didn't particularly encourage hardcore lawnmower engine parts sales, as did Sauer's Corner and Bradley Supply, more emphasizing their own sales and service, but I still enjoyed checking the store out. The space is now accompanied by Ross Wine & Liquor.

While those three businesses are now but memories, I thank the Bakers for their years of providing for the yard equipment needs of the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, and wish the E&H Ace Hardware folks all the best in carrying on the Cricket name. ●



A Wyatt Tractor & Mower display ad appeared in the 1999 edition of the Orange Line phone book.



A 1962 picture of the Bradley Supply Company from Cleveland State University's Cleveland Memory Project Westlake Photograph Collection.



An ad for Roger and Wray's appeared in the back of the 1975 Bay High School "Bluebook" yearbook.

Friends of Bay Village Library to hold winter book sale

by LINDA LAMB

The Friends of the Bay Village Library Winter Used Book Sale begins Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m. and runs through Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. The sale is held in the meeting room of the library.

There is a large selection of books

for readers of all ages as well as magazines, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks and more. All materials have been categorized for easy shopping. Tuesday, the last day of the sale, is bag day when a full bag of books costs \$1. Bags are provided by the library. Proceeds from the sale are used to support library programs and activities.

Volunteers are needed to help with the book sale and other library-related projects sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Bay Village Library. For information on volunteering, the book sale, or becoming a member of the Friends of the Bay Village Library, visit the library at 502 Cahoon Road or call 440-871-6392. ●

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Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 and 18 (10:15 & 11 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – Sing and move to the music with Miss Nancy! For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please arrive early to receive a ticket.

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

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 and 18 (4-5:30 p.m.) and Thursdays, Jan. 12 and 19 (6:30-8 p.m.) BOW WOW BOOKS – Stop by the Youth Services Department and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with a reading therapy dog! Bring your own book or choose one of ours. Registration begins each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and each Thursday at 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The January selection is “Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Start-Up Bubble” by Daniel Lyons.

Friday, Jan. 13 (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 all about birds in our area, their colors, shapes, calls, habitats and more. Grades 5-6. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Jan. 14 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.) ACT PRACTICE EXAM – Get ready for test time with an ACT practice exam. Students are asked to bring their own pencils and scientific calculator. Grades 9-12. Please register.

Saturday, Jan. 14 (2-4 p.m.) CARRY OUT CRAFTS – Stop in to see our featured craft. We have all the supplies you’ll need to create something fantastic!

Saturday, Jan. 14 (3-5 p.m.) MAD 4

MANGA – A great club for anime and manga lovers! All otakus and newbies welcome! Grades 7-12 only please.

Monday, Jan. 16 (6:30-7:15 p.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME – Features an adapted storytime for children with special needs and their caregivers. Siblings welcome. Includes time for social play. Content is geared to ages 3-7. Registration begins one week before each session.

Monday, Jan. 16 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTORS’ INTEREST GROUP: EXCHANGE TRADED PRODUCTS, PROS & CONS – Ian Abbott, past president of AAIL Cleveland Chapter and owner of Abacus Financial Services will discuss the pros & cons of owning ETFs. Please register.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (10 a.m.-noon) KEYS TO FINDING HIDDEN JOBS – Competition for published job opportunities is fierce. Learn about the research needed to determine the best job for you and how to find out about positions before they’re advertised.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 (7-8:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS: FAMILY DISCUSSION GROUP – Join us for a discussion on a relevant childhood topic with a local pediatric expert. Register at www.connectingforkids.org or by phone, 440-250-5563.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: GENEALOGICAL ROUND-TABLE SHARING – Bring your photos, trees, brick walls, successes, Eureka! moments, etc. to share with the group.

Thursday, Jan. 19 (noon-1:30 p.m.) SMALL BUSINE\$\$ LUNCH & LEARN: NON-PROFIT – Starting a non-profit can be confusing and complex. This session will address the requirements and challenges and how to recruit and orient board members, and provide some tools to assure success. Please register.

Thursday, Jan. 19 (6:30 p.m.) and Friday, Jan. 20 (9:30 OR 11 a.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS’ TEACH ME

TO PLAY – Designed for children ages 3-6 who need help with communication and social skills. Join us for a play-based program designed to model and teach families strategies to improve their child’s social interactions, facilitate communication and manage behavior in a positive way. This program is led by an early intervention specialist in behavior from the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Friday, Jan. 20 (4-4:45 p.m.) FUN SCIENCE FRIDAY: STATES OF MATTER – Join Mrs. K as we explore the wonders of the world. This month we’ll discover how water changes from solid to liquid and back again! Ages 4-6. Registration begins Jan. 13.

Saturday, Jan. 21 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) POKEMON FUN! – Bring your cards and accessories for a fun morning of Pokemon-themed play, prizes and crafts! Ages 6- 11.

Saturday, Jan. 21 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS – Bring your ideas and imagination to the club! Ages 3-12. Lego and Duplo bricks provided.

Sunday, Jan. 22 (2-3 p.m.) FRIENDS’ SUNDAY SOUNDS – “Vibrant Wind Dancers” will perform Middle Eastern belly dancing.

Sunday, Jan. 22 (3-4 p.m.) ART SMARTS – Explore some works of a well-known artist and then use what you’ve seen to create an art piece of your own! Grades 3-5. Registration begins Jan. 15.

Monday, Jan. 23 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, Jan. 23 (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.

Monday, Jan. 23 (7-8:30 p.m.) MAKER MONDAY: GOOGLE CARDBOARD – Experience 3D video with Google Cardboard! Bring your smartphone and (optionally) headphones. Please register.

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

Tri-C’s Women in Transition program open for registration

by JOHN HORTON

The Women in Transition program at Cuyahoga Community College will launch a new session at Corporate College West on Jan. 17.

The free program uses education and training to empower women at a life crossroads. Participants build confidence and self-esteem through classes on personal development, career exploration and financial and computer literacy.

The course is designed to assist women in transitional periods of their lives, such as a career change or return

to the workforce. The eight-week, non-credit program is free and open to the public.

Classes will be held at Corporate College West from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 17 to March 9. Corporate College West is at 25425 Center Ridge Road in Westlake.

Registration is required for the program. To learn more or to enroll, call 216-987-3899.

A second spring session will be held beginning the week of March 20. For more information, go to tri-c.edu/women-in-transition.



Come join us for a community education presentation:

Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer’s – Early Detection Matters

O’Neill Healthcare is hosting a series of educational events about Alzheimer’s Disease. Our memory support communities are designed for safety and comfort, and are staffed to care for individuals with cognitive impairments such as dementia, Alzheimer’s and memory loss.

Wednesday, January 18 * 12 p.m.

Presentation in the Assisted Living lobby

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | A light lunch will be served.

To register for this event, please contact Cynthia Davenport at 1-800-272-3900 by January 16.

Presented by  **alzheimer's association**

**O’Neill
Healthcare**

BAY VILLAGE

605 Bradley Road
ONeillHC.com

Bay Village Community Theater seeking donations, sponsors for first play

by PATRICK MEEHAN

Chosen as the first full production of the Bay Village Community Theater, “Almost, Maine” offers a lot for our organization to be excited about. It consistently sells out and in 2014 was the most-produced play in North American high schools for the third time in the last five years.

The New York Times called it “a beautifully structured play, with nifty surprise endings (most but not all of them happy) ... [and] a touch of good-natured magic realism.”

Almost, Maine, is a town that’s so far north, it’s almost not in the United States – it’s almost in Canada. And it almost doesn’t exist. One cold, clear Friday night in the middle of winter, while the northern lights hover in the sky above, Almost’s residents find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. Knees

are bruised. Hearts are broken. Love is lost, found, and confounded. And life for the people of the town will never be the same. Almost, Maine: It’s love. But not quite.

The Bay Village Community Theater will stage the production at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, March 3, 4, 10 and 11; closing with a 3 p.m. mati-

nee on Sunday, March 12. Discounted tickets will be available for purchase at baytheater.yapsody.com until Jan. 31.

You can help our production by making a tax-deductible donation, purchasing an ad in our program or by becoming a sponsor of the show.

Annual contributors will be listed in our program at the following levels: Visionary, \$1,000+; Benefactor, \$500-\$999; Sustaining Member, \$250-\$499; Patron, \$100-\$249; Friend, \$50-\$99; Donor, \$25-\$49; Member, \$10-\$24.

Sponsorships range from \$750 to \$1,000; ad prices range from \$100 to \$500.

Donations can be made on our website or sent to Bay Village Community Theater, PO Box 40451, Bay Village, OH, 44140.

Visit baytheater.org for more detailed information about our advertising program and tickets. ●



WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A candle in the window, 21st century style

by LYSA STANTON

If you have driven past the Clague House Museum or Lilly Weston House at night, you have probably noticed the candles in the windows. Placing a burning candle in one’s window is a common tradition that dates back to colonial times.

The candle was often placed in the window when a member of the family was away. The lit candle was also placed in the window as a sign of good news or as a beacon to weary travelers. To keep this historic tradition alive, the Westlake

Historical Society has, for the last several years, placed electric candles in the windows of the Clague House Museum and Lilly-Weston House.

In 2016, the historical society set a goal to replace all of our incandescent light bulbs with the newer, energy efficient LED lighting. This included all indoor and outdoor lighting, as well as our electric candles in the windows.

The conversion to LED lighting provided many advantages. First, we noted that overall maintenance would be reduced since the bulbs typically last eight years or longer.

Second, LED bulbs use approximately 80 percent less electric power to produce the same amount of light. Finally, LED bulbs operate far cooler than incandescent lights, making them safer to use.

This all seems a little ironic since the Clague family never actually had electricity in the family home when they were alive. Furthermore, it is even more ironic to think Thomas Edison was born only 45 miles away in Milan.

I often think of what Walter Clague might have thought of all the electrical advances in the family home. Although his sister Sophronia did not feel electricity was necessary, I have a hunch that Walter Clague would have very much appreciated it.

May the lights shining brightly at the Clague Family



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Energy efficient LED candles were placed in the windows of the Clague Museum, above, and Lilly Weston House in 2016.

Homestead remind you that the historical society welcomes you throughout the year to learn more about our local history.

For more information about the Westlake Historical Society including membership, please call us at 216-848-0680. ●

Booker Prize winners in Westlake this winter

by JOAN GRACE

Case Western Reserve University’s Off-Campus Studies program is offering a course on “English Booker Prize Winners” with leader-teacher Joseph Jacoby on Thursdays, 10-11:30

a.m., Jan. 19-March 9, 2017 at Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Road.

The Man Booker Prize has been awarded each year since 1969 to the best original full-length novel, written in the English language, by a citizen of the Commonwealth of Nations or the Republic of Ireland. In 2014, it was opened for the first time to any work published in the United Kingdom and in the English language. The winner of the Man Booker Prize is generally assured of international renown and success; therefore, the prize is of great significance for the book trade.


In this book discussion course, participants examine English novelists who

are profoundly interested in issues of ethics and morality. Iris Murdoch’s classic work, “The Bell,” examines a group of well-intentioned, but muddled idealists in the Gloucestershire countryside. The past collides with the present in “The Sense of an Ending,” Julian Barnes’ novel about the tragic death of an intimate friend. Ian McEwan’s newly published novel, “The Children Act,” explores the clash of religious and secular world views in the law courts of contemporary London.

The Case Off-Campus Studies program is offered in collaboration with the Association for Continuing Education (ACE). These book-discussion courses are eight weeks long and meet for 1.5


hours per class in locations throughout greater Cleveland. There are no written assignments or exams, but rather the classes provide an open environment for lively discussion based on meaningful examination of shared texts. Leader-teachers facilitate discussion and provide academic background and context. The fee for each course is \$82 for members of the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program; \$97 for non-members.

For questions, call one of the co-coordinators, Sandra Berendt, 440-892-4931, or Joan Grace, 440-777-9381. Register online at case.edu/lifelonglearning (click on Off-Campus Studies, scroll down to West Side Courses and look for the title), or call 216-368-2090. ●



WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

January 25 - March 19, 2017



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30502 Center Ridge Road

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- Each player receives a reversible Jr. Cavs jersey and a ticket to a future Cavs game!
- \$90 per player; \$70 Westlake Goddard School members (Use promo code: 2016WINTERJRCavs at checkout)

REGISTER TODAY!!
Registration deadline is Jan. 11, 2017

www.TNBABasketball.com TNBAOhio/?event=2017-jr-cavs-winter-goddard

Questions? Want to volunteer as a coach?
Contact Steve Vega:
svega@thebasketballacademy.com
440-227-3595

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

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
Bay Village Green Team Meeting
All are welcome to join a group of volunteers working to make Bay Village a more sustainable community.
Bay Village Branch Library, 502 Cahoon Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
Bay Village VFW Meeting
Post 9693 will hold our monthly meeting (2nd Tuesday every month). All active members or prospective members are welcome. If you are a prospective member, please bring a copy of your DD214.
BVPD Community Room, 28000 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Help on Your New Devices
Bring your new Christmas tech gift – tablet, phone or device – to Northeast Ohio Personal Computers' (NEOPC) January meeting. We have arranged for informal "table discussions" for computers (desktops, laptops), tablets, phones and personal assistants like Amazon's Echo. Maybe you'll discover a new device you'd like to own or just learn how to use the one you have more effectively. Coffee and cookies at 6:30 p.m.; table talks and summaries are 7-8:30 p.m. Free and open to all; for more info, go to neopc.org.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
SkyQuest: South of the Equator
Join us on an adventure in the Southern Hemisphere as we travel below the equator. Many people don't realize that the southern sky is very different than the northern sky. We will examine

southern constellations and sky traditions, as well as the southern giant telescopes. Katy Accetta will share her research experience done in Chile, complete with telescope photos. Fee: \$5/person.
Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Fridays, Jan. 13 and 20, 2-4 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

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 3-5 p.m.
Forget-Me-Not Cafe
Free arts enrichment and socialization cafe to engage individuals affected by dementia along with their care partner (spouse, child, caregiver). Each session will include either music, dance, poetry, song, or TimeSlips storytelling. Preregister by calling 440-414-0434.
26040 Detroit Rd., #3, Westlake

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Dealing with Preschool Behavior in Public
Embarrassed by your kids' behavior in public? How should you appropriately discipline in public without causing a scene? Christine Jurik will discuss ways to deal with preschooler behavior when running errands, attending parties and participating in community functions. Jurik will also teach attendees how to address whining, yelling, tantrums, unsafe behaviors and more.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Westlake Democratic Club Meeting
Barbara Folds and Sgt. Patrick Greenhill of the Berea Police Department will discuss the heroin epidemic. Beverages are provided. If you wish, bring a snack to share. For more info, call Jeanne at 440-892-3430.
Western Cuyahoga Lodge 25, FOP Hall, 26145 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Wednesday, Jan. 18, noon
Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's
Come join us for a community education presentation by the Alzheimer's Association. Open to the public. A light lunch will be served. To register for this event, please contact Cynthia Davenport at 1-800-272-3900 by Jan. 16.
O'Neill Healthcare Bay Village, Assisted Living lobby, 605 Bradley Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 6-8 p.m.
Saint Raphael Kindergarten Open House
Come see all St. Raphael has to offer at our Kindergarten Open House. Information on registration will be available.
St. Raphael School, 525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.
Westlake Unity Toastmasters
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. (Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays.) Contact: Mary Anne, 216-374-3205.
Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd., Westlake

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m.
No Body is Perfect
Are you concerned because your child has a negative body image? Kelly Bhatnagar will discuss how to model positive body image behavior and ways you can talk to your child about weight and wellness that will positively impact self esteem. She will provide tips for keeping mealtimes healthy, social and fun to promote a peaceful relationship with food. Dr. Bhatnagar will also address what to do if you suspect your child may have an eating disorder.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

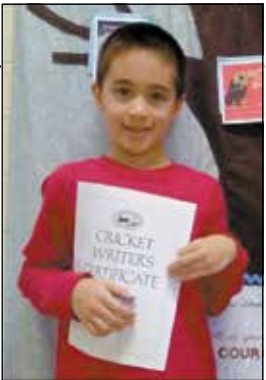
Monday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m.
From Sunlight to Syrup
Bethany Majeski, of the Cleveland Metroparks, will discuss the magical process of making maple syrup. We will hear about the natural and cultural history surrounding this amazing seasonal food. Luncheon served at 11:30. There is a \$5 fee for guests. Please make reservations at bayvillagegardenclub.com or by calling Sharen at 440-871-9098.
Bay United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 29931 Lake Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8 p.m.
Immunology 101: For those touched by cancer
Learn about this complex topic in a way that the lay person can understand. Presenter: Joanna Brell, M.D. Advance registration required, call 216-595-9546. For individuals and families touched by cancer.
The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

Young Bay writer published in online magazine

Bay Village resident Jordan Gordon received an honorable mention award from Cricket Magazine for his submission to the September story writing contest. Gordon, a third-grader at Birchwood School of Hawken in Cleveland, composed an original 350-word myth and submitted it to the family magazine. His story was published online and his name appeared in the December edition.

Gordon's entry, titled "Why the Snowy Owl is White," describes the making of a great owl king. The story can be found at cricketmagkids.com/league/contest/winners/282981. ●



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