

Kiwanis tree lot opens for Christmas season



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Larissa Strouse, Steve Slane, Em Orlowski, and Foster McMasters set up Kiwanis Christmas trees at Cahoon Park last year. Trees will be available this year starting on Nov. 24. See details on tree sale dates, sizes and prices on page 8.

Westlake student helps City Mission through Socktober

by KIM BONVISSUTO

A chance meeting with a homeless man on the streets of Columbus set in motion a plan by a Dover Elementary School fourth-grader to create Socktober.

Last fall, the Hill family

took a trip to Columbus when Ryan noticed a homeless man on the street. They shared a few dollars with him and moved on, but a few rainy days later Ryan couldn't shake his concern for the homeless. What do they do in bad weather?

» See SOCKS page 2



Dover fourth-grader Ryan Hill has collected over 4,000 pairs of socks in the last two years for The City Mission.

Westlake Meals on Wheels has a new ride thanks to Subaru

by SHARON KANAREFF

Subaru of America presented a wrapped and food-laden 2018 Outback to Westlake Meals on Wheels Nov. 16 at Ganley Westside Subaru. The Westlake organization is one of only 50 programs in the country to receive a vehicle, donated in celebration of Subaru's 50th anniversary, and in keeping with its commitment to support local communities nationwide in partnership with Meals on Wheels America.

"Ganley Westside Subaru, where the Outback was delivered, generously donated cereal, peanut butter, soup and other shelf-stable foods to jump-start our new Stuff the Trunk effort to provide our clients and other area seniors with emergency preparedness kits – non-perishable food, blankets, flashlights and batteries – for days the local weather prevents meal deliveries," said Wendi Schwartz, executive director of Westlake Meals on Wheels. "To build on Ganley's donation, Westlake Meals on Wheels

will hold a public Stuff the Trunk event, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at North Olmsted Community Park."

» See WHEELS page 4



PHOTO BY GEORGE SCHERVA

Ellen Cowher, Westlake Meals on Wheels' longest-serving volunteer, checks out the new Outback. Ellen has been with the organization since its inception in 1975.

Glenview Child Care and Learning Center turns 35

by KAREN DERBY

Bay Village's Glenview Child Care and Learning Center recently celebrated 35 years of service.

Since 1982, the year-round program has operated in the former Glenview Elementary School building, providing infant and toddler daycare, a preschool program based on the Ohio State Early Learning Content Standards, and before-and-after care for school-aged children through grade 5. A summer program for preschool and elementary-aged students takes advantage of the wonderful amenities within walking distance of the Center, such as the Bay Village city pool and the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

The building also houses the district S.E.E.D.



PHOTO BY KAREN DERBY

Three generations of Glenview directors celebrated the school's 35th birthday. Pictured, from left, are current director Dody Chadwick, first director Carol Ball and Barb Manning, director from 1998-2008, after working there as a teacher from the center's beginning in 1982. (Carol is fighting lymphoma and chose not to wear her hat for this photo in support of Bay High's "No One Fights Alone" campaign.)

program, a special needs preschool for children aged 3 up to kindergarten who are experiencing developmental delays.

In 1982, under the direction of John Cavalier (then finance director for the Bay Village Schools),

Glenview entered into an agreement to use the decommissioned elementary building as an early childhood program. Carol Ball, who was on hand for the recent celebration, served as its first director.

» See GLENVIEW page 2

SOCKS

from front page

Ryan and his mother, Jennifer Hill, searched Cleveland homeless shelters online and found The City Mission. When Hill explained that's where the homeless can go in the rain and snow, Ryan's next question was "How do we help them?"

Jennifer reached out to The City Mission and learned that socks and underwear are their most needed items.

"Because they have to be new, and most people only donate their used items, socks are a huge need," Jennifer said. "They are also really easy to ask for and collect – unlike underwear, which can be uncomfortable for a little boy to go around talking about."

Ryan decided to go to places where he sees a lot of people and ask to set up a collection box. He placed boxes at Dover Elementary, Westlake Early Childhood PTA, North Olmsted Recreation Center where he plays hockey, Westlake City Hall, the Westlake Police Department and Goddard School in Westlake, where Ryan is an alum.

Last year Ryan collected more than 2,500 pairs of socks. This year he collected 1,650. Ryan and his family will drop off their collected socks before Thanksgiving.

"The City Mission is in desperate need," Jennifer said, adding that people didn't have a lot to give after donating to hurricane relief efforts this year. "We're teaching the boys you can't just keep going back to the well and ask. You have to think about how people can and will give." ●

GLENVIEW

from front page

"Carol was well-known and highly respected in the community," said Glenview's current director, Dody Chandwick. "She was able to hire a very competent staff that laid the groundwork for a successful program. She brought in consultants from all over to educate staff on the 'best practices' for young children in daycare."

Barb Manning, who began as a teacher at the center, served as director from 1998 to 2008. Manning joined in to celebrate the 35-year milestone.

"It warms my heart to know how initially Barb, and now Dody, continue to develop Glenview into such an excellent child care and learning center," said Ball. "This is evident from the waiting list and the fine reputation Glenview continues to have, as I know from the comments I hear from the community. The corridors and rooms have never looked so good, and there is a tangible sense of quality staff who love their jobs. No small achievement!"

The non-profit, tuition-based program continues to be operated by the Bay Village Board of Education and is licensed by the State Department of Education. ●

Bay Village civic groups planning big fun for the holidays

by MARY KAY WILSON

The Bay Village Community Council met on Nov. 15 to share news and notes about their upcoming activities. Here are some of the highlights. It's going to be a busy winter in Bay.

The Council is accepting nominations for **Bay Village Citizen of the Year and Bay Village Project of the Year**. Nominations are open to the public and encouraged. Citizen of the Year nominees must be Bay Village residents who have provided significant service to the community without monetary reward. Project of the Year nominees are considered based on community impact and the involvement of volunteers and organizations.

Nomination forms are available at wbvobserver.com. Hard copies are available at City Hall and the Bay Library.

American Legion Post #385 celebrated Veterans Day by retiring 274 full size and over 200 cemetery size American flags. Retirement was conducted using appropriate military procedures. The post conducts flag retirements on both Veterans Day and Flag Day.

Bay Athletic Boosters Association announced that their 2018 Snoball Run will take place Saturday, Feb. 18. For details, go to hermescleveland.com/roadracing/events/snoballrun.asp.

Bay Village Education Foundation trustees met in October to decide on this year's grant recipients. Twenty-two grants were submitted by current Bay Village teachers, staff members, or students. The Foundation decided to disperse over \$18,000 to the selected grants for activities or projects that directly benefit students enrolled in the Bay Village City Schools. Awards will be announced soon. Their annual fundraiser, Creating Opportunities, will be held at Arrabiata's Italian Restaurant on Sunday, Jan. 28, 5-8 p.m. It will feature a dinner buffet, open bar, dessert, a silent auction and many fun raffles. Tickets are \$60 each. They are accepting auction donations; contact Jacquie at jaqmayer@gmail.com. For ticket or sponsor information, contact Kim at kcorrigan69@gmail.com.

Bay Village Garden Club is holding their annual Greening of Bay fundraiser on Dec. 5 & 6 at Bay United Methodist Church. Visit bayvillagegardenclub.com for details.

Bay Village Kiwanis Club reminds residents to register their bikes at the police station by Dec. 1 to be entered into a gift card drawing.

Bay Village Library announced its "Great Books for Sale," an annual list of the BEST books from the past year broken down by age level. There a few

titles for sale at the Bay branch, with proceeds benefiting the library's afterschool homework help. For a full listing of library events, visit cuyahogalibrary.org.

Bay Village PTAs (PTA Council) announced that for the second year in a row, all four Bay Village schools were named National PTA Schools of Excellence. Their Holiday Caring and Sharing collections will be held at all schools Nov. 27 & 28. Students will be collecting toiletries and cleaning supplies for Bay Village residents in need.

Bay Village Women's Club and Foundation's annual Holiday Luncheon and raffle will be held Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Westwood Country Club in Rocky River. Social hour will be at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. The Bay High School Choraleers will perform. All are invited. Donations for the raffle will be appreciated. All proceeds benefit the civic contributions fund. For more information, call Nancy at 440-334-7539 or Lou at 440-653-9238. The Women's Club's annual Antique Show and Sale is March 3 & 4 at Bay High School. They will be featuring doll houses this year. If you would like to be dealer in the show or have a doll house to display, call Nancy at 440-334-7539.

Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter, DAR is participating in a Wreaths Across America fundraiser. Wreaths Across America will place donated wreaths on the graves of veterans at our local Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, in Rittman (near Medina) on Dec. 16. The wreaths cost \$15 each. The Chapter will receive \$5 per wreath to be used to help local veterans. Wreaths can be purchased at wreathscrossamerica.org, via the "donate" tab. Use the "Sponsor with a local fundraising group" tab and enter OH0132P or Martha Devotion Huntington to sponsor your wreaths. Chapter members will either participate in the wreath laying or the wreath removal. Volunteers are needed for both events.

VFW Post 9693 will hold their Christmas Party at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Thursday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.

Village Bicycle Cooperative has donated 53 bikes to various charities for 2017 as a part of their Fix It Forward program. Please consider becoming a VBC volunteer, no matter how skilled or mechanically inclined. Check villagebicycle.org for training dates and times.

The next meeting of the Bay Village Community Council is Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., at the Bay Village Library. Representatives of Bay Village's nonprofit and civic groups are invited to attend to share ideas and event schedules and promote their ideas. Contact Tara Wendell, tara@wbvobserver.com, for more information. ●

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Observer

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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 900+ 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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ADVERTISE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Promote your holiday events or gift offerings in special advertising sections in the Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 issues of the Observer.

Contact us at 440-409-0114 or staff@wbvobserver.com for special holiday rates.

Chambers of commerce salute and thank veterans

by MEG SULLIVAN

Members who served in all branches of the United States military were honored at a Veterans Day luncheon hosted by the Fairview Park Chamber of Commerce, one of the seven chambers participating in the Power of More Chamber. Veterans received a complimentary champagne lunch from the 100th Bomb Group and a veteran flag pin from event co-host Hospice of the Western Reserve.

The guest speaker and lunch sponsor was Lisa Sebastian, president and owner of Ridge Cleaners, who honored all veterans for their service, including her husband John Sebastian, who served in the Air Force.

Twenty-one veterans in total were recognized from the seven chambers of commerce in the Power of More. The following public officials were in attendance to express their gratitude and recognize the Veterans; Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons, Cuyahoga County Councilmember Nan Baker, Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough and North Olmsted Mayor Kevin Kennedy,

Hospice of the Western Reserve ended the program with a touching short poem titled, "What is a Veteran." There was not a dry eye in the house as the chamber members ended the program by singing "God Bless America." ●



Among those attending the Power of More Chamber's Veterans Day luncheon were, from left, Cuyahoga County Councilmember Nan Baker, Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough, local veteran Jack Preston and Judge Donna Congeni Fitzsimmons of Rocky River Municipal Court.

Holiday happenings at the Clague House Museum

by LYSA STANTON

As usual, the historic Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Road, will be very busy this holiday season. If you would like to participate or volunteer to assist with any of the following events, please call the Westlake Historical Society at 216-848-0680 or check our website, westlakeohiohistory.org, for more details.

Pet Photos With Santa

The Historical Society is hosting the always popular Pet Photos with Santa Claus on Sunday, Dec. 3. Santa will be at the museum from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We ask that you make a reservation to help keep things running smoothly during the event. The suggested donation is \$10. Families are also welcome to pose for photo.

Teddy Bear Overnight

Children are invited to drop off their teddy bear at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, to spend the night at the Clague House Museum. Check-out time for the teddy bears is Saturday at 1 p.m. Children and their bears are invited to make a craft at our craft table and visit with Santa in the parlor. Although this event is free, reservations are required.



Santa Claus returns to the Clague House Museum on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Holiday Cemetery Wreaths

Several years ago the Westlake Historical Society began placing wreaths on the graves of founding and pioneer citizens of early Dover (now Westlake). We are extending the opportunity for your family, organization, group or business to place a holiday wreath in memory of someone buried in Westlake. Contact the Historical Society to sponsor a holiday wreath. Volunteers will place the wreaths on graves at either Evergreen or Maple Ridge cemeteries throughout the holiday season. Our goal this year is to get 50 wreath sponsors.

Don't forget the Clague House Museum for your Westlake-themed stocking stuffers. The museum will be open during the winter months by appointment only. ●

Thinking About Joining the Westlake Recreation Center?

There's Never Been a Better Time than NOW to Join!

New Member Drive is November 10 through December 10!

Win a FREE Rec Center Membership! Visit www.CityofWestlake.org/Rec for details.

WHEELS *from front page*

"We are grateful for this amazing gift that will help us better reach our existing clients," Schwartz said. "The car is coming at a perfect time to help us expand to serve more homebound clients in the rural parts of our service territory of Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, North Olmsted and Westlake.

"As more baby boomers age and want to live independently, we are adding a second kitchen in 2018 to meet the need," she added. "This Outback will be a safe vehicle for any weather condition as we start delivery to new recipients and reach out to potential partners and clients. We also will use it to shop for and transport food between the kitchens."

On average each month, Westlake Meals on Wheels volunteers drive 2,262 miles to deliver meals, and the donated 2018 Subaru Outback will enable WMOW staff and volunteers to reach at least 45 more seniors and serve over 1,000 additional meals each month. The program already serves around 75 indi-

viduals each month, delivering a home-cooked hot meal and a bagged lunch each weekday.

This fall, Subaru donated 50 new 2018 Subaru Outback vehicles to select Meals on Wheels programs throughout the county, to be used in the delivery of an estimated 53,000 meals to an additional 3,700 seniors across 39 states.

"We wanted to celebrate our 50th anniversary in America in a way that is appropriate for our brand and are delighted to donate vehicles that will support local communities by combatting threats of isolation and hunger affect-

ing seniors across the country," said Thomas J. Doll, president and chief operating officer, Subaru of America, Inc. "At Subaru, we believe in providing

safe and reliable vehicles for all of life's journeys and are honored to partner with Meals on Wheels to help people live more nourished lives." ●



PHOTO BY GEORGE SCHERMA

Steve Warshawsky, Ganley Westside Subaru general sales manager, turns the keys over to Westlake Meals on Wheels Executive Director Wendi Schwartz, as Tim Stallings, Subaru of America zone manager, and Bob Lisy, Ganley general manager, look on.

Boy Scouts flourishing in Westlake

by PATRICK BYRNE

Boy Scout Troop 225 is out of Westlake, located at St. Bernadette's School. The troop currently has 51 registered scouts, growing consistently every year due to impart from the feeder Pack 225. The scouting program is the most influential program

any young boy could go through to become a man. The troop in the past year alone has had four scouts successfully complete their Eagle Scout rank – Austin Wilson, James Von Pless, Connor Hartup and Patrick Byrne. All are welcome to stop by any meeting to consider joining. The meetings are every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in St. Bernadette's Dempsey Hall. ●



Members of Boy Scout Troop 225 attended the 2017 Seven Ranges Summer Camp.

Find some holiday bling at annual Jewelry Heist

by PAM KILPATRICK

Join us in the Clague Playhouse lobby before the performances of "Christmas at the Wiley Diner" where you will find a little glamour at our eighth annual Jewelry Heist fundraiser.

Are you looking for something unique or fun? Do you need a gift for a friend or family member? Browse hundreds of affordable necklaces, bracelets, scarves, rings, hand bags, hats and more. Friends of the theater have generously donated beautiful semi-precious jewelry, sterling silver, and hand-crafted objects. Purchases will not only support Clague Playhouse, but also help you start your holiday shopping!

The Jewelry Heist is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7-10 p.m. and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 9. Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake. ●

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Westlake basketball kicks off season with Midnight Madness

by GINA REDINGER

The Westlake High School boys and girls basketball teams hosted their inaugural Midnight Madness event on Friday, Nov. 4.

In the spirit of many NCAA college teams who celebrate with a Midnight Madness on the first official day of practice, Westlake welcomed teams and fans to help kick-off the season on the first day that boys teams were officially permitted to practice in the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Nearly 500 fans attended the first-ever event with the first 400 fans getting free Midnight Madness T-shirts at the door. Ahmaad Crump, the in-arena host of the Cleveland Cavaliers, revved up the crowd as the official emcee, and DJ OnePlus Two kept the energy high with tunes throughout the night for the excited crowd.

The Westlake Competition Cheer Squad and Drib-

bling Demons treated fans to a performance before attendees met the players of the LBMS seventh- and eighth-grade teams, as well as WHS freshman and junior varsity players.

Crump introduced the 2017-18 WHS boys and girls varsity teams before the crowd viewed drills and inter-squad scrimmages. The fast-paced evening was topped off with varsity boys vs. girls 3-point contest and the boys dunking spectacular. The crowd was wowed by junior Kevin Walls' straddle jump over head coach Shawn Hood for a slam dunk.

The Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters were on hand for concessions and spirit wear shopping. With great feedback from teams, families and fans, Westlake looks to continue with an annual Madness event in the years ahead.



The 2017 Dribbling Demons performed their ball handling skills.

The Lady Demons tip off their season at home against Norwalk on Friday, Nov. 24, with JV at 6 p.m. and Varsity at 7:15 p.m. Girls are led by head coach Art Daniels.

Boys basketball action gets underway on Friday, Dec. 1, at Rocky River High School. Freshman play at 4:30 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. Varsity at 7:15 p.m. Shawn Hood is head varsity coach. ●

Kiwanis K-9 fund receives a boost

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis project to provide drug dogs for the Westlake Police Department K-9 fund received a major boost with a donation from ECHO Health Inc. Located in Westlake, ECHO Health is a leading innovator of healthcare payment solutions. Bill Davis, chairman and CEO, presented the Westlake Kiwanis Youth Foundation Canine Fund with a check for \$11,000.

With the increase of drugs and drug-related crimes, the need for more

dogs is obvious. These dogs will be used not only by Westlake but other surrounding departments as needed.

"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. ●



Westlake Police Chief Kevin Bielozer, left, and auxiliary officer Rick Grane, right, accept a donation from ECHO Health chairman and CEO Bill Davis and assistant general counsel Katie Hoosenally (holding daughter Harper).

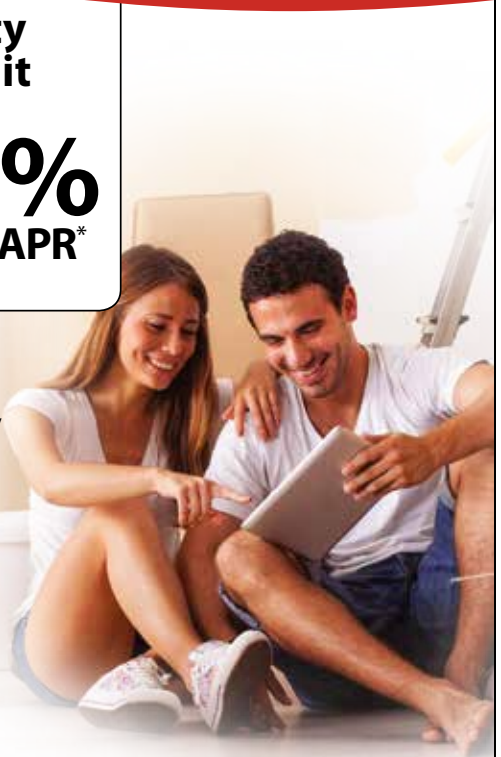
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SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

Bay Village teenage social clubs from the 1930s to the '50s

by KAY LAUGHLIN

Not a lot was offered in the way of programs, athletic or social, for a teenager in Bay Village in the 1930-1950 time period. If you were a girl, you went to school and came home. You could have a job in a local store after school, babysit a neighbor's child or help Mom at home. If you were lucky you had neighborhood friends to chat and laugh with after school. Boys had football, basketball, baseball or track; most just went home or to work. Nothing structured was offered from the high school or Bay Recreation Department for girls or boys back then.

The definition of a social club is: "where members go in order to meet each other and enjoy leisure activities." Social clubs became popular with many of the teenage boys and girls at this time. The clubs met in members' homes after school and were supervised by a man or woman from the community.

At first, social clubs were developed to teach the young folk about life outside the home. They emphasized learning responsibility and how to maneuver in the world. The clubs sponsored dances, and members learned how to advertise the event, collect monies, sell tickets and hire a band. They discussed social skills.

The boys in the Village had two social clubs. One was the Dekes. The girls had three clubs, two were Trigger and Mesama. After World War II, the boys' fraternities began to disappear. Trigger started to disappear when many from the Mesama group decided to stay together.



The Mesama girls social club charm was worn as a locket on a necklace.

Mesama continued to operate up to 1956.

The girls named their club, Mesama. Although spelled incorrectly, it was meant to be the French phrase "mes amis," meaning "my friends." In the ninth grade, girls received an invitation to join Mesama. Mesama in the 1940s had a mom who chaperoned the meetings and activities the girls planned. My sister Barb, Class of 1949, and most of her friends were in Mesama. Once an active member, you paid dues and could participate in everything the club offered. Meetings were held in member's homes.

In the tenth grade another social club named Trigger gave out invitations to join their club. In the sophomore year of the Class of 1949, the Mesama girls, who all liked each other, decided to stay in Mesama and not go on to Trigger. A six-pointed star with their club name on



Mesama girls spent time at a cottage in Vermilion during the summer of 1948.



Members of the Trigger girls social club enjoyed a day at Linwood Park in Vermilion in 1940.

it was fashioned and worn as a necklace. Trigger had a diamond shaped pin. In the summer, the Mesama and Trigger girls went to a cottage in Vermilion. My mom chaperoned one year with Helen Matyas, our neighbor across the street. My sister Gay and I went along.

The girls always seemed happy and to be having fun. Gay and I said we wanted to join too some day. And we did. Our Mesama didn't have a mom, but we still met in each others' homes. Ours was

entirely a friendship group. We didn't put on dances and, hopefully, already knew some social skills. I was in Mesama until I graduated from high school in 1955.

Today, there is so much for a girl or boy to participate in at the high school and in the village that there isn't the need for a social club. As much as I enjoyed the social club experience, I would have given anything to have been able to participate and choose from one of the many activities offered to girls today. ●

Cabbage rolls and jazz make for special evening at the Knickerbocker

by SHIRLEE MANGAN

If you happened to be one of the fortunate visitors last week who came to sample Miss Lydia's cabbage rolls and mashed potatoes, you left the Knickerbocker wish-

ing you could take the whole kettle home with you! She is a straw boss in the kitchen, and informed activities director Cheryl, and all the wonderful volunteers, that she wanted it "her way or no way"! However the result was perfection.

No one went home hungry and wonderful music was provided by the K Five – five terrific gentlemen, all residents of the Knickerbocker Apartments in Bay Village. Mr. Ron is a seasoned veteran of the tuba. He has played great jazz for many

years, many of the pieces being well-known hymns. This evening much material was to celebrate Veterans Day, and being thankful for the men and women who serve our country, and the brave souls who died for the United States of America.

The loving fellowship all of us shared stirred our hearts, and to see all standing with hands over hearts, giving our all to the strains of "God Bless America" and the "The Star Spangled Banner." This really was another evening to celebrate. ●

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or carolmorris@roseseniorkiving.com

SPORTING VIEWS

Browns to be winners soon? Don't bet on it

by JEFF BING

On the other hand, perhaps betting *against* the Browns is exactly what you *should* do. I heard a Vegas gambling expert on the radio the other day who said that if you had bet a grand every week against the Browns versus the spread – for the last two and a half years – you'd be up something like \$20,000 right now.

Wow. Losing hurts, but a few extra bucks would certainly help ease the pain, wouldn't it? (This by no means an endorsement for gambling; I'm just making a painful point here). Personally, I could never do it – I feel stupid enough on the rare occasions I buy a Mega Millions ticket – but it puts in perspective just how pathetic this organization has been for the last couple of decades.

I also heard recently that tickets for some local high school football games cost more than what you might pay online for Browns tickets. Can you imagine that? I wonder how that sits with loyal Browns season ticket holders, who shell out a pretty penny for the “right” to witness Browns football. And to think some folks thought that the Christians versus the lions was one-sided.

It also got me to thinking about the countless number of times I thought that things couldn't possibly get any worse with this franchise – only to be proven wrong time after time by probably the worst organization in pro sports. I can't count the number of times I begged Randy Lerner to sell the Browns ASAP,

because the next owner couldn't *possibly* be worse than Mr. Lerner. Man, did Jimmy Haslam teach me a thing or two.

On the other hand, I have also been wrong about other owners, but in a positive way. For a long time – maybe as much as a decade – I moaned about the Indians ownership and how I wished they would sell the team. I'm referring, of course, to Larry and Paul Dolan, who have quietly watched the Indians make the post season three of the last five years and have shown they are not afraid to spend when the situation warrants it.

The Dolans set up an organization staffed with baseball people, and then let the baseball people run the show. They promote qualified people from within the organization when possible; the majority of high-ranking officials have been with the organization quite some time. Continuity is the key ingredient here. The Dolans' biggest fault may lie in the fact that they are perhaps too loyal at times (see Mark Shapiro) but – especially when compared to Jimmy Haslam and the Cavs' Dan Gilbert – the Dolans look like choir boys. To that end, they may be a little too patient with things that need to be fixed, but after witnessing Haslam's every-other-year annihilation of unqualified/underqualified front office/coaching personnel, you can't argue with the Dolans' results.

And, in spite of the disappointing early exit from the MLB playoffs this year, the lesson should be: Don't bet against them. ●

THE GREEN REPORT

Easy ways to 'green' your holidays

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

This is a column that I wrote last year around this time, and I'm re-running it with a couple of updates. It's information that I believe is important to remember this time of year.

It is estimated that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, household waste increases 25 percent. I want to share some easy ways to reduce waste, and help make your holidays earth-friendly!

An easy step to take is to purchase local and/or organic foods when possible. Locally grown and raised food reduces the carbon dioxide emissions from shipping foods to you. Purchasing organic foods reduces the need for pesticides and toxic chemicals, and every time you do this, you “vote” for organic foods with your dollars. These chemicals, when used on conventionally grown items, are not only detrimental to your health, but they enter the soil, which eventually runs off into rivers and lakes. This time of year it is not as easy to find locally raised produce, but it's still available. I have seen it at both Heinen's and Whole Foods in recent weeks.

Purchasing food and other items in bulk when possible reduces packaging waste (reducing your waste) and also saves you money.

Also, please remember to bring your reusable shopping bags when shopping for the holidays! This is an extremely simple step you can take to drastically reduce your waste. Be sure when buying bulk not to purchase more perishable food than your household can consume before it expires.

It is estimated that 28 billion pounds of edible food is wasted each year. This is equivalent to more than 100 pounds per person. If you are hosting holiday gatherings, it is important to estimate the correct amount of food to purchase so you don't end up with too much or too little. General guidelines are as follows per person you are serving: 1 pound of turkey, one-quarter pound stuffing, one-quarter pound green bean casserole, and one-eighth of a 9-inch pie.

There are simple steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint if you are going to be traveling for the holidays. The first would be to turn lights off in your home before you leave, and make sure your thermostat is turned down. If you are traveling by car, it is a good idea to check for proper inflation of tires and that the air filter is clean; these actions will reduce carbon emissions.

If you are hosting an event, please consider using real plates, napkins, silverware and glasses. Doing

so will greatly reduce your waste. In my opinion, I like eating a nice holiday meal with a real plate and a real fork as opposed to disposable. If you must use disposable, please consider purchasing biodegradable and compostable napkins, utensils and plates. These can be found at Whole Foods or Amazon.com. Another idea is to go to a thrift store and pick up some inexpensive plates, silverware and glasses for your holiday. These are items you can pack in a box after your party and store until the next time you need them. This will reduce waste in your home and possibly reduce stress, as you will not have to run out and purchase disposable items again.

When cleaning your house either before or after a holiday gathering, consider using non-toxic cleaners. Vinegar and newspaper works extremely well for windows, and baking soda with water is a great tub and sink scrub. Simple, non-toxic cleaner recipes are very easy to find on the internet.

Last, but certainly not least, please make sure you recycle everything you are able. Plastic containers, beer cans and bottles, wine bottles, food cans, etc. Taking even a few of these simple steps will go a long way in reducing your environmental impact during the holidays! ●

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting, Nov. 15, 2017

by LWV observer ELAINE WILKINSON (Westlake/North Olmsted chapter)

This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Clough's office prepares official minutes.

Present: Mayors Clough (Westlake), Koomar (Bay Village), Patton (Fairview Park), Summers (Lakewood), and Bobst (Rocky River); Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney

Absent: Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted)

Fiscal Officer's Report:

Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) wages: 2% increase, beginning 2018. This is the going rate. Mayor Bobst said police get 2.5%.

WEB Budget: 1.08% increase due mostly to wages. Grants pay for 40% of operations. Cities pay the remainder based on population (90%) and home valuation (10%). Mayor Clough wondered how home valuations relate to services provided and suggested a formula based on population and services used. WEB provides a bomb squad, police officers, SWAT, and hazardous materials handling. Westlake has three drug dogs, Lakewood two, and Fairview Park one.

Changing the formula requires each City Council's approval. Usage is difficult to establish due to the collaborative nature of WEB and the movement of drugs and

WEB officers across city lines. Mayor Summers stated many of the narcotics offenders apprehended in Lakewood are not residents. Mayor Koomar said narcotics affect us all. What comes into Cleveland affects all of the ring suburbs.

RTA: Mayor Clough's term on RTA's board of trustees is up. He will seek re-election and hopes he has WCOG support. RTA is no longer getting money from the Medicare tax. Most of their funding comes from the federal government. The State of Ohio is backing off, and no legislators are stepping up. NOACA (Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency) is supportive.

NOACA: Mayor Bobst described a presentation about Hyperloop, a high speed train. Denver is building one that cuts a one-hour train ride to 9 minutes.

County Planning Commission: Planning Commission oversees solid waste. Contamination of recyclables is a major problem: when trash is

mixed in, the recyclables must be thrown away. Rocky River is two-thirds of the way through its Master Plan.

Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association: Representatives from 90 communities throughout the state met to discuss microcell communications. A lawsuit claims home rule rights are being violated. AT&T U-Verse lost a statewide franchise and their boxes sit, unused. These need to be removed.

New Business: Mayor Bobst reported the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) was once free, but there are funding problems, so they are asking for money. Something needs to be done collectively. Staff advocates manage the steps for people moving through the court system and beyond. They can also train police. DVCAC is attached to municipalities, not the courts.

Mayor Patton brought up Cuyahoga County's proposed \$5 vehicle registration fee

increase. Two-thirds is supposed to go to infrastructure. She wants to make sure WCOG cities are on the list for repairs. Cities already pay for some county road repairs. Mayor Summers pointed out this is an example of other funding sources available after Local Government Support Fund cuts. District 1 County Councilmember Nan Baker is strongly supportive of the money going to infrastructure. Mayor Patton will be in contact with her.

Fairview Park will have a license plate-reading camera installed at the corner of Lorain and Story roads. ●

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BAY VILLAGE KIWANIS CLUB

Get ready for Christmas and help support your community

by STAN GRISNIK

The Bay Village Kiwanis Club is conducting their annual Christmas tree sale from Friday, Nov. 24, until Saturday, Dec. 16. Bay Kiwanis has been selling Christmas trees since 2004. Tree sales are held near the gazebo in Cahoon Memorial Park. Hours are 4-7 p.m. on Fridays, and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Three types of trees are available: Douglas fir, Colorado spruce and Fraser fir, with sizes ranging from 6 feet to 10 feet.

Tree pricing is as follows:

- 6- to 7-foot Douglas fir and Colorado spruce: \$40 each
- 6- to 7-foot Fraser fir: \$60
- 7- to 8-foot Fraser fir: \$70
- 9- to 10-foot Fraser fir: \$130

The proceeds are used to support college scholarships

and numerous community service projects undertaken by the Bay Village Kiwanis Club throughout the area and around the world. Local projects have helped the Bay Village Schools, Fire Department, Police Department and organizations such as Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, BAYarts, Village Project, Gathering Place and Providence House. International projects supported by Bay Village Kiwanis Club include The Eliminate Project, working towards eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus, and UNICEF to combat thyroid disease. Both diseases have been eliminated in many countries.

Bay Kiwanis club meets most Tuesday evenings at Bay



Bay Kiwanis is gearing up for the annual Christmas tree sale. Pictured at last year's sale are James McMasters, Don Brasted, Foster McMasters, Jim Potter, Jim Comienski, Alan Waddle, Pat Mosier, Tom Mullee and Russ Bauknecht.

United Methodist Church on the corner of Bassett and Lake

roads. Join us for dinner and one of our meetings. Visit bay-

villagekiwanis.com for more information. ●

Former Bay auto parts store made lasting impression

by DAN HIRSCHFELD

In a past Westlake | Bay Village Observer recollection of the now-demolished Westlake Kmart, I mentioned automotive supplies being among the wide variety of products sold there. Indeed, in its original

configuration the store stocked an impressive (for a discount department retailer) assortment of oils, fluids, cleaners, chemicals and parts employed in routine automobile maintenance.

As a recently licensed driver in the mid-70s doing his best to keep a more-than-10-year-old,

hand-me-down 1965 Mustang on the road, I found myself in Kmart's automotive department on a regular basis. Eventually, though, a Bay High School kid such as myself would have to visit an actual auto parts store to round up a more "hard core" item than could be purchased from Kmart.

In my case that auto parts store was the NAPA outlet then at 27105 Knickerbocker Road in Bay (with CK Insulation currently operating at the address) and the first item purchased there was a remanufactured starter motor, I believe. That former NAPA location became my auto parts store of choice, though once or twice I did stop nearby at relatively short-lived independent parts retailer in the old Lawson's store on the west side of Dover Center Road.

While eventually

finding myself feeling right at home visiting the Knickerbocker Road NAPA parts store, frankly, early trips to the place tended to be at least somewhat intimidating. Those familiar with a certain soup purveyor featured in an episode of a popular '90s-era TV situation comedy might have an idea of the way I felt during those initial visits; when approaching the parts counter I'd better get right to the point of what I needed and be ready to provide any pertinent details of the vehicle for which it was needed.

In reality, the counter people at the Knickerbocker Road NAPA were pretty friendly and patient, so I needn't have been quite so intimidated. Being a fairly young guy in a new environment, I was more afraid of appearing inept than I needed be.

Speaking of the parts counter, the main point of interface between customers and parts

specialists at the NAPA store, the most striking thing was a long row, propped up prominently, of bound paper catalogs used to identify part numbers for the myriad items sold there. A seasoned, experienced counter person could navigate around those catalogs like a maestro. It's now easy to forget how parts counter staff had to constantly thumb through voluminous catalogs since such information has long been relegated to electronic databases and accessed via a countertop computer.

The Bay Village NAPA store moved to the Dover Junction shopping plaza sometime in the late 1980s, I believe, and subsequently has not been a presence in the city for a number of years now. At any rate, while for some time no longer performing my own auto repair, the Bay Village NAPA store's old Knickerbocker location was a fundamental influence in my automotive upbringing. ●



A recent picture of the building at 27105 Knickerbocker Road which housed the Bay Village NAPA store for at least a portion of the 1970s and '80s.

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Bay Village Historical Society president honored by DAR

by DORIS GORGAS

Historical Society President Catherine Flament was recognized for her effort and support in the rejuvenation of the flower beds surrounding the Osborn House and the entrance sign for Rose Hill Museum.

Bay Village's Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented Flament with a Community Service Award certificate and pin for her dedication and time directed toward the culmination of this project. This presentation was at the Nov. 17 meeting of the Historical Society.

The garden had been neglected and without a specific plan for many years. Flament received advice, financial support and the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 70769 in the total community effort of this project.

She organized expert gardeners, the Herb Guild Garden Club and the Girl Scouts, along with their leader, parents and many supporters. Countless hours were spent analyzing the deteriorated state of the flower beds. A master plan was drawn up, the Scouts researched native plants and the planting was done in the spring of 2017. The Scouts were careful not to disturb the 30 daffodils planted the previous fall by the Daughters

of the American Revolution.

The beds are carefully labeled and currently dormant. The Rose Hill Museum and Osborn House are decorated for the holiday season and will be open Sundays from 2-4:30 p.m. until Dec. 17. ●



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay Village Historical Society President Catherine Flament, shown leading a tour of Lakeside Cemetery, has been honored by the local DAR chapter.

All aboard! 'Choo Choo Chow Chow' event raises funds for children's hospitals

by SHARON FEDOR

From newsboys' collection cups in Pennsylvania, to offices in eight states, the "Choo Choo Chow Chow" keeps chugging along, collecting donations for local children's hospitals. The "Choo Choo Chow Chow" is actually a wooden toy train, and the name of annual charity event to raise funds for children's hospitals through the Howard Hanna Children's Free Care Fund Foundation.

Each Howard Hanna office decides how to raise funds, like holding a potluck or other eating event, and the money raised stays local. Here in Northeast Ohio, donations go to UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, and Akron and Toledo's children's hospitals.

The donations truly make a difference in an ill child's life. Imagine the joy of a hospitalized child as they eat pizza, and laugh with family and friends at a pizza party. Picture a 5-year-old under palliative care smiling, because this birthday party is for her. Listen to the squeals coming from a 3-year-old, as he

pets a therapy dog.

These situations are a snapshot of what donating to the Children's Free Care Fund accomplishes. The Howard Hanna Children's Free Care Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The difference you make can't be measured in dollars, but in the hearts you have touched.

Howard Hanna's Crocker Road office has different ways to donate and join in the fun. Purchase raffle tickets or make a donation of any amount. Raffle tickets are \$100; only 200 tickets will be sold. Four cash prize winners will be drawn on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6-8 p.m., at Houlihan's, 25651 Detroit Road. Contact Jaime Bealer, 440-793-0100, or Sybil Mundy, 440-522-2504, of Howard Hanna Westlake to purchase raffle tickets, make a donation or for more information.

This year marks the 36th annual Coats for Kids Cleveland collection campaign. The campaign started in early November, and ends in late December. New or like-new warm coats of all sizes are needed, from infant to adult. Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves are also welcome. Donations may be dropped off at Howard Hanna Westlake, 2055 Crocker Road, Suite 101 or at Crocker Park. ●

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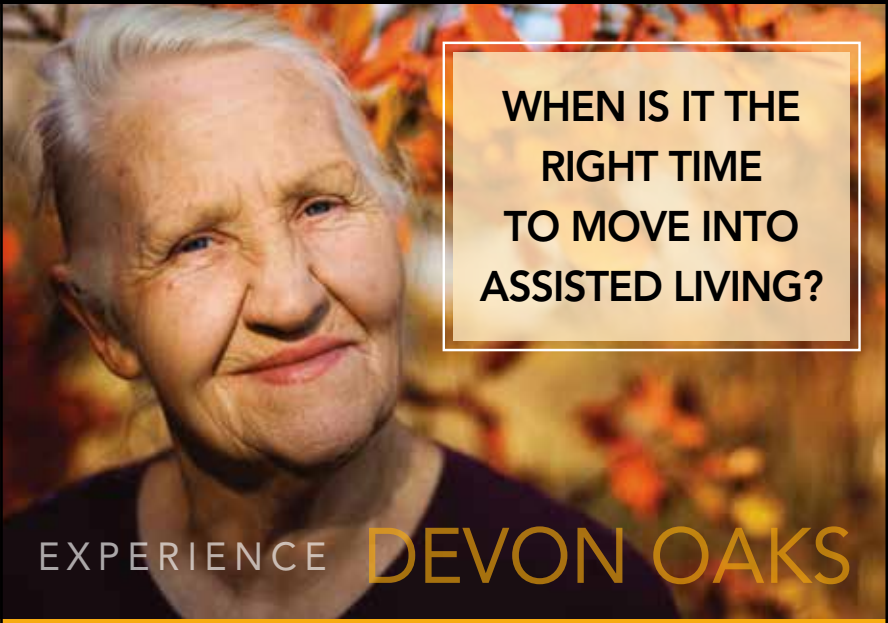
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WHEN IS IT THE
RIGHT TIME
TO MOVE INTO
ASSISTED LIVING?

EXPERIENCE DEVON OAKS

Choosing to move a parent into assisted living can be a hard decision. However, in many instances, assisted living is the best solution for everyone involved...especially your loved one.

EVENT: WHEN TO CONSIDER ASSISTED LIVING
DATE: November 29th - 6:00 p.m.
RSVP: Kathy Bultema at 440.250.2300
PLACE: Devon Oaks Assisted Living | 2345 Crocker Road Westlake, OH 44145

Devon Oaks
ASSISTED LIVING
An Eliza Jennings Community

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesday, Nov. 22 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – The November selection is “The Woman in Cabin 10” by Ruth Ware.

Wednesday, Nov. 22 – THANKSGIVING EVE: LIBRARY CLOSSES AT 5 P.M.

Thursday, Nov. 23 – THANKSGIVING DAY: LIBRARY CLOSED

Friday, Nov. 24 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES @ THE LIBRARY! – Join us for a movie in which a suit-wearing, briefcase carrying baby pairs up with his 7-year old brother to stop the dastardly plot of the CEO of Puppy Co. (Rated PG) All ages. Please register.

Saturday, Nov. 25 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS – Bring your ideas and imagination to the club! Ages 3-12. Lego and Duplo bricks provided.

Saturday, Nov. 25 (3-4:30 p.m.) TWEEN CODE CLUB – Learn how to build an app, design a video game, and change the world through code! Registration begins one week before each session. Grades 5-8.

Sunday, Nov. 26 (2-4 p.m.) CHESS CLUB – Hone your chess skills or learn how to play the game. Recommended for ages 8+, but all ages are welcome. If you have a chess set, please bring it with you.

Monday, Nov. 27 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) CYBER MONDAY OPEN LAB – New to online shopping? Want to score Cyber Monday deals? Our staff can get you started in this drop-in lab. Please bring any passwords, payment information, etc.

Monday, Nov. 27 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? We have computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! For grades 7-12 only.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: IMPROVING INTERVIEWING SKILLS – Preparation is the essential ingredient for a successful job interview. It starts with research about the job and the com-

pany and includes preparing to answer difficult questions.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (10 a.m.-noon) MAKING & MAILING HOLIDAY CARDS – Discover how to create cards with Canva, a free and easy-to-use online design software tool. Learn how to use Excel and Word to create mail merged labels. Please register.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (2-3 p.m.) CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS – Learn Spanish vocabulary and pronunciation with an expert instructor. Please register.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (2-3 p.m.) TRAVEL TIPS WITH PD EDITOR SUSAN GLASER – Enjoy travel advice from local expert Susan Glaser. Please register.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) ANIME MOVIE CLUB – Enjoy and discuss all your favorite anime movies from Studio Ghibli and beyond! Grades 6 to adult.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (7-7:30 p.m.) BEDTIME STORIES: GOODNIGHT ZOO – Put on your pajamas and join Mrs. K as we unwind at the end of the day with quiet stories, songs, fingerplays and other activities to help us get ready for bedtime. Ages 4-6. Siblings welcome.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 (7-8:30 p.m.) ESSENTIAL OILS – Learn how essential oils can help you relax and improve your health. Healthy snack samples will be provided by Heinen’s. Space is limited. Please register.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 (3-4:30 p.m.) NANOWRIMO AUTHOR TALK – Memoir writer Marsha McGregor will join us during National Novel Writing Month. Learn creative but practical tools to mine your experiences and what they mean to you, as well as ways to craft those experiences into compelling writing. Please register.

Wednesday, Nov. 29 (7-8 p.m.) CUTTING LANDLINES: PROS AND CONS – Many Americans are cutting the cord, doing away with landlines, and using either mobile phones or Voice Over IP. Come hear some of the pros and cons of canceling landline service.

Thursday, Nov. 30 (4-5:15 p.m.) CODE CLUB! – Learn how to build an app, design a video game, and change the world through code! Grades 3-4. Registration begins one week before each session.

Thursday, Nov. 30 (5:30-8:30 p.m.) NANOWRIMO OPEN WRITING SESSION – Drop in for a quiet space to write, brainstorm and create. Bring your own writing supplies. We’ll provide the space and snacks!

Saturday, Dec. 2 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 3 (1-4:30 p.m.) PORTABLES’ ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – The Friends of the Library’s gift store offers jewelry and other accessories, home entertaining items, gifts for children, and much more. Stop in for your holiday shopping and get great deals!

Saturday, Dec. 2 (10:30-11 a.m.) MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE! – An interactive storytime featuring simple books, rhymes, songs and movement. For ages birth-3 years old with a caregiver.

Saturday, Dec. 2 (3-4:30 p.m.) TWEEN CODE CLUB – Learn how to build an app, design a video game, and change the world through code! Registration begins one week before each session. Grades 5-8.

Saturday, Dec. 2 (3:30-5 p.m.) WINTER POTTERY – Quill Pottery Studio will bring everything you need to make some great clay medallions that you can wear around your neck and a holder to keep them in. Grades 6-9. Please register.

Saturday, Dec. 2 (4-5:30 p.m.) STEAMMAKER LAB: THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC – Make your own octave set of Boomwhackers! Grades 3-5. Registration begins Nov. 25.

Sunday, Dec. 3 (2-3 p.m.) AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CLUB: GRACE – Grace loves to bake with friends and invent new recipes. We will follow a recipe to make a treat, and create a Paris-themed craft. Ages 6-11. Registration begins Nov. 26.

Sunday, Dec. 3 (2-3 p.m. for Grades 1-2; 3:30-4:30 p.m. for Grades 3-5) WINTER POTTERY – Quill Pottery Studio will be here to help you make fun clay mittens that you can use to decorate your tree or use as a gift! Please register.

Monday, Dec. 4 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) SENSATION STATIONS – Engage your child’s senses by scooping, pouring and sorting a variety of materials. For children with special needs and their typical peers. Ages 3-6.

Monday, Dec. 4 (7-8:15 p.m.) A CELEBRATION OF ANIMATION: GREAT CARTOON CHARACTERS FROM TELEVISION HISTORY – Everyone has their favorites, but who are some of the most influential cartoon characters from television? Mark Gitlin, author of the book “A Celebration of Animation: The 100 Greatest Cartoon Characters in Television History,” will host this fun presentation for kids, teenagers and adults. Please register.

Monday, Dec. 4 (7-8:30 p.m.) MAKER MONDAY: TRANSFER 8MM FILM TO DIGITAL – Have old holiday home movies you want to transfer from 8mm film or Super 8? Now you can with our new converter! Bring a film with you if you want, plus an SD card. Bring a blank DVD-R if you want to burn it to that as well. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 (2-3 p.m.) CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH – Spanish is the most popular second language learned in the United States. Please join us to learn Spanish vocabulary and pronunciation with an expert instructor.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 (6:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS COFFEE AND CHAT – Join our interactive support group and meet other families facing similar struggles. Free, supervised children’s activities are available, but adults and children must register separately. Topic: “Blending Families when Children have Special Needs” – Blending families is difficult but even more challenging if a child has ADHD, an autism spectrum disorder or other special need.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 (7-8 p.m.) FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION – Dave Holmes from the Foundation Center will discuss foundation support and other sources of financial aid for students in higher education. Come learn how to research private scholarships and hear about available scholarship opportunities for Cleveland-area students. Please register.

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

Teen volunteers awarded for service

by KATHY RIGDON

The Youth Challenge Volunteer Committee has been named the recipient of the Youth Group in Philanthropy Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cleveland Chapter. The committee, comprised of teen volunteers, received the award at a luncheon on Nov. 3, National Philanthropy Day.

Youth Challenge provides adapted sports and recreational opportunities to young people with physical disabilities. Trained teen volunteers are paired one-on-one with participants to play sports, make friends and have fun. YC serves children throughout Northeast Ohio and has offices in Westlake

and Shaker Heights. All programs and transportation are free for participant families.

Established in 2009, the Volunteer Committee is comprised of young leaders who have given 25 or more hours of service to YC. Teen volunteers apply to be on the committee and are chosen by current members based on their leadership skills and commitment to Youth Challenge.

Volunteer Committee meetings are held throughout the year for members to plan and implement their own program each season and organize fundraising events for Youth Challenge. Programs have included CSI Mystery Night, VANtastic Race, Harry Potter Night, a Krazy Kamp PJ Party, Survivor

Day, YC’s Got Talent, and many others. The group has raised thousands of dollars through fundraising initiatives including movie and game nights, car washes, and the ongoing Pie in the Face fundraiser.

“I am continually impressed with the creativity, initiative, and heart of each member of this group,” said Sarah Perez-Stable, YC’s Director of Volunteer Services. “They all work tirelessly to create fun and memorable experiences for our participants and their fellow volunteers and we are thrilled and honored to celebrate their success!”

AFP’s Youth Group in Philanthropy award recognizes the committee’s outstanding commitment, motivation to others, leadership, philanthropic impact and remarkable ability to work and problem-solve as a team and create unique experiences. ●



PHOTO BY SARAH PEREZ-STABLE

Accepting the Youth Group in Philanthropy Award on the Volunteer Committee’s behalf were Saint Joseph Academy students Grace DeGidio, left, the group’s longest standing member, and Mariam Tadross, one of the group’s co-presidents.

BAYarts hosts murder mystery party Dec. 8

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

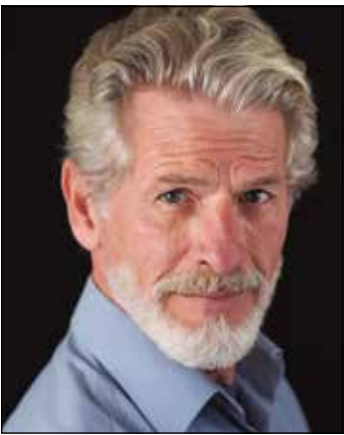
The year is 1857, and a celebration is taking place to honor Miss Evangeline Steele on the occasion of her 21st birthday. The location is the Fuller House, located above rocky cliffs on Lake Erie. In attendance shall be noted alchemist Lyra Cross, nobleman Mr. Ivan Burnet, the gruff Mr. Morgan Bishop and the youthful widow Lady Araminta Steeles.

That is the setting to be staged on Friday, Dec. 8, at BAYarts, for the first ever Murder Mystery night, titled

“A Dickens of a Holiday Party.” It is a steampunk Victorian night, which will feature a hearty buffet of appetizers, jovial music, good company and a ghastly murder to solve.

The interactive night features an emcee and a bevy of seasoned actors who will be taking on the parts of characters. Tickets are \$35 for adults 21 and over; purchasing in advance is encouraged. Call 440-871-6543 or visit bayarts.net/events/upcoming.

The evening runs from 7-10 p.m. Starting at 7:15, an outline of the murder and main family will be given, and then partygoers will eat, drink



Fred Munkachy will be the emcee of the Dickens of a Holiday Party at BAYarts on Dec. 8.

and mingle with the suspects. Sheets with questions will be available to aid in making deductions. At the end of the night, people will vote on who they believe committed the murder, as well as their favorite character.

“It’s going to be edgy

and fun,” explained Pam Mills. She is in charge of special projects at BAYarts, and has always wanted to do a murder mystery night. “Being from Great Britain, I’ve always had a fondness for traditional Dickens-style Christmases, as well. So this fit together quite nicely. I wanted to bring that British holiday feeling to BAYarts.”

The 12 suspects, whom Mills says remind her of the ones in Clue, will be played by actors dressed up in steampunk costumes. The emcee of the night will be Fred Munkachy, who is excited by the unknown. “No one at the event knows who the murderer is, absolutely no one. Not even the perpetrator – his or her self! Everyone will be a sleuth at the event!”

Guests will indulge in

finger sandwiches (turkey with cranberry chutney, curried chicken salad, roasted portobello mushrooms), beef stew potato cups, baked brie, roasted vegetable focaccia, gingerbread cake and plenty of cookies.

“This is the first time we’ve done a night like this,” said Executive Director Nancy Heaton, “and it’s a fun-raiser to help with the renovation of the Playhouse. Once we can use the space there, we can provide even more great community events to everyone.” In addition to buying tickets, people who want to make sure their help extends further, can also donate to our end of year fund at bayarts.net/donate/options. “Our goal is to keep building this destination of arts and culture here on the Westshore.”

Light up Bay Village for the holiday season

by CYNTHIA EAKIN

Once again this holiday season, the Christmas spirit will shine a little more brightly in Bay Village.

The Bay Village Historical Society and the Bay Village Kiwanis are asking Bay residents and children of all ages to join them in celebrating an old-fashioned community Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A kickoff to the holiday season, the event will include a children’s craft at Rose Hill Museum, the reading of holiday stories, caroling and crafts for kids in the Bay Village Community House, the Kiwanis Christmas tree sale, a visit by Santa Claus and the lighting of the community tree in the Cahoon Memorial Park gazebo.

Residents can help to “Light up Bay Village” by placing luminaries in their yards that evening.

Bay Village community groups are invited to participate by decorating a holiday wreath, to be displayed in the gazebo. Tables in the Commu-

nity House are available for the sale of Christmas ornaments and merchandise. Any civic or school groups interested in taking part in the festivities or selling holiday merchandise should contact Cynthia Eakin at info@bayhistorical.com or 216-213-0312, Rhonda Schneider at baykiwanis@gmail.com or 216-225-6538, or Bay Kiwanis President Foster McMasters at 440-670-5388.

Santa Claus will leave the Bay Lodge on a fire truck at 2 p.m. and will arrive at the Community House about 3 p.m. The Bay High Choraleers will sing holiday tunes beginning at 3:15 p.m. The Fairytale Foundation will provide photo opportunities. There will be a reading of “’Twas the Night before Christmas.” The tree lighting will take place at the gazebo at about 4:15 p.m. The Bay Village Community Theatre will present a full production of the holiday classic, “A Christmas Carol,” beginning at 6 p.m. in the Community House. Admission is free and open to the public.

Join the Bay Kiwanis and Bay Village Historical Society in welcoming Santa Claus to town!

5th annual
Cahoon Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 3 ★ 2-4:30 p.m. Tree Lighting 4:30
Bay Village Community House

- ★ Watch for Santa as he tours Bay Village in a city fire truck!
- ★ Santa lights the official Bay Village Christmas tree at 4:30 pm!
- ★ Children’s activities at Rose Hill Museum 1-4 pm
- ★ Bay High Choraleers perform at 3:15 pm
- ★ The Fairytale Foundation will be on hand for photos
- ★ Free refreshments!
- ★ Bay Village Community Theater will be performing “A Christmas Carole” at 6 pm

Santa’s Route

Kiwanis Christmas Trees

The Bay Village Kiwanis will be selling Christmas trees at Cahoon Memorial Park.

Fridays 4-7 pm, Saturdays 10 am-7 pm, Sundays 10 am - 7 pm.

We are selling Fraser Firs, Colorado Spruce and Douglas Firs. The prices range from \$40 to \$130 depending on type and height of the tree. Sizes range from 6 foot to 10 foot. Deliveries made in Bay are free, but donations welcomed. \$10 out of town fee.

For more information, email baykiwanis@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

BAYarts

HOLIDAY SHOP

Open 7 days a week

www.bayarts.net

OPEN HOUSE
Nov. 18 & 19

TRUNK SHOW
Dec. 7

KID’S SHOPPING DAY
Dec. 17

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Ibuprofen in the age of opioids

by DIANA PI, M.D.

My mom, age 84, and I don't always have the easiest time. She doesn't like me telling her what to do. I don't like her dropping hints on how to raise kids. For sure, she missed the AARP memo on simplifying life after retirement.

Months ago, in a freak accident mowing grass, Mom went airborne. I saw her in the ER, bruised and stitched. Two ribs and left elbow broken; left shoulder dislocated and broken.

Before I opened my mouth, she said, "Why the face? I'm not dead!"

Two month after her injury, she started painting her backyard fence. I asked how it went.

She said, "I hurt all over."

"What pain med are you on?"

Her doctor prescribed piroxicam, a once-daily, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), which she took – as needed.

"The drug works, Mom," I said. "But you're doing it wrong."

NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, etc.) have been around in one form or another for thousands of years. The Egyptians, Greeks and Chinese brewed and chewed beans, peas, jasmine and willow bark to treat fever, joint and labor pain.

Somehow opioids have taken on a mythical image as stronger pain killers than NSAIDs. But are they really?

Since 2000 almost half a million people have died from drug overdoses; we need to revisit that question.

In this month's JAMA, a study looked at patients who presented to ER with acute extremity pain. They were given four different analgesics: three opioids (codeine, hydrocodone and oxycodone) were pitted against ibuprofen.

The result: a wet blanket for

the opioid myth.

Even at a modest dose of 400mg (200mg is the OTC dose), ibuprofen provides pain relief equal to the opioids. With fewer side effects.

NSAIDs are relatively safe, work very well at relieving acute pain and have the added advantage of reducing inflammation, which opioids don't do. NSAIDs are frontline drugs in treating gout, dental pain, migraine headaches and certain postsurgical pain.

Is one NSAID better than another?

For pain relief, not much. A higher dose works better. I prefer ibuprofen because of its fast onset and low cost.

Piroxicam, for example, takes hours to reach peak blood level, days to reach steady state.

Meanwhile, ibuprofen takes minutes to kick in, an hour to reach peak blood level and is mostly eliminated in hours.

The price difference: a month of piroxicam costs \$38.45 (retail: \$110.11) on GoodRx; a month of ibuprofen equivalent starts at \$4.

Who cannot take NSAIDs?

I worry most about patients with heart conditions or strokes and those prone to stomach ulcers.

But for anybody who takes NSAIDs long term (more than two weeks), let your doctor know. Maybe there's a better choice. Celecoxib, for example, is designed to protect against ulcers.

I told – no, I suggested – that Mom take ibuprofen before she started painting, another in four hours if she still hurt. Today, her fence is dancing with dolphins and mermaids.

Regrettably, I wasn't gifted with my pretty, high-spirited mom's artistic gene (or her prettiness), but I pray I've got her nine lives. ●

Community vendor event comes to Westlake for Hanukkah

by RABBI MENDEL JACOBS

Chabad of the West Side, a local Jewish organization serving Cleveland's western suburbs, will be hosting a pre-Hanukkah holiday season vendors event on Dec. 3 at the Westlake Recreation Center.

The event will feature lots of local vendors offering their goods at great prices, including loads of gifts, toys, crafts and Judaica. Of course, lots of Hanukkah-themed decorations and crafts with a variety of menorahs will be available too! Kids will enjoy an afternoon of crafts and games, and adults will shop away.

"This is the first event of its kind in this area," said Devorah Jacobs, one of the event's organizers. "We're super excited about it. It's sure to be a blast!"

The vendors event will take place from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 in the Westlake Recreation Center community room.

Hanukkah starts this year on the evening of Dec. 12 and continues through Dec. 20. If



Members of the committee organizing the community vendor event expect a great turnout for this first-of-its-kind occasion.

you or someone you know would like assistance with the holiday observances, please reach out to Chabad by calling us at 216-973-1148 or visiting www.jewishwestside.com. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Eyes to the sky this winter

by MORGAN PASKERT

Winter is known for its cold temperatures and snowy skies, but did you know winter happens to be one of the best times of the year to go stargazing? When winter skies are clear, they are crystal clear and hold some of the brightest stars in the night sky.

The Winter Solstice on Dec. 21 will mark the shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year, as the sun will set at 5:01 p.m. Katy Downing, planetarium specialist at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, shares her favorite constellations to spot this winter.

Orion the Hunter

One of the most popular constellations, Orion the Hunter happens to be one of the easiest to find in the winter night sky. Look south in search of three stars crossing diagonally through a large rectangle. The three stars create Orion's Belt, while the four stars of the rectangle represent Orion's shoulders and knees. On a clear night, grab your binoculars and look for the Orion Nebula (a formation of gases and dust) within the constellation.

Fun fact: The Orion Nebula is the middle "star" in Orion's sword, which hangs off of Orion's Belt.

Canis Major, the Great Dog

Follow the diagonal stars of Orion's Belt southward and it will point you to one of the winter sky's most prominent constellations, Canis Major. In Greek mythology, it is said that Canis Major, along with Canis Minor, are Orion's hunting dogs. Canis Major is known for its many bright stars, including Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. To find Sirius, use the diagonal stars of Orion's Belt as a guide. The three stars point downward toward Sirius to the



Orion the Hunter constellation is defined by three stars crossing diagonally through a large rectangle.

left. Sirius will shine bright like a tag on a dog's collar.

Fun fact: If Sirius were placed next to the Earth's sun, Sirius would outshine it 20 times over.

Taurus the Bull


Located west of Orion, Taurus the Bull appears to face off with the Hunter in the winter night sky. The Bull resembles the letter "V" and passes through the sky from November to March, but is at its most visible in January. The orange giant star Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation and the 14th brightest star in the night sky, represents the eye of the bull.

Fun fact: Aldebaran is located about 65 light years away from the sun.

Too cold to go outside and stargaze this winter? Try the "gaze-and-dash" method by looking up before you hop into your car or walk inside your house. Even for just a moment, the bright winter stars are sure to amaze you.

Save the date for the Center's educational family programs this winter including Holiday Night Tree Tradition (Dec. 1), SkyQuest (Dec. 13), Winter Solstice Celebration (Dec. 21) and extended daily programming throughout the holiday season. Register in advance at www.lensc.org. ●

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for affirmative prayer,
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23855 Detroit Ave., unityspiritualcenter.com

Clague Memorial Park, Part II: WPA funding turns farmland into park

Second in a series of articles on the Clague family (and Clague Memorial Park).

FIDIO DI VILLANI KRAUSE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

this way Clague Park is linked to Bradley Woods Metropark, though Bradley Woods did not become a park until 1962. 

A squirrely tale

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRS & EVENTS

**Nov. 25,
9 am-2 pm**



Pet Photos
with
Santa

Paws by the Lake
33757 Lake Road
Avon Lake

Sunday
December 3rd
Noon to 5:00pm

Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR

Exploring Lawnfield, home of President James A. Garfield

The Observer is pleased to introduce our newest columnist, Rachel Polaniec. Rachel grew up in Elyria and has lived in Westlake for the past 5 years. She has a passion for historic sites, studying living history museums as a student at Case Western Reserve University and participating in historic reenactments with her family. Her column will explore Northeast Ohio's rich history, touring sites that aren't too far from the Westlake/Bay Village area. Perhaps you'll be inspired to let the Magical History Tour take you away on a trip of your own.

by RACHEL POLANIEC

When driving along U.S. Route 20 in Mentor, it is difficult to imagine the area without its usual bustle – the store fronts, the eateries, the people milling about; a veritable concrete jungle. But continuing along this road brings a reminder of a different time: Close to the street behind a white picket fence sits a tidy gray house with a burgundy roof and inviting front porch. This is Lawnfield, named such in 1880 by reporters who came to hear the Republican presidential candidate James A. Garfield campaign from his front porch.

Garfield's successful front porch campaign was the first of its kind, and he was sworn into office March 4, 1881. His term was tragically cut short – after being shot by an assassin on July 2, Garfield died on Sept. 19, 1881, just 200 days after his inauguration.

Today's Lawnfield is a United States National Historic Site maintained by the National Park Service, and is open to the public. Driving into the site, visitors pass the house, campaign office, and windmill before stopping at the carriage house, turned into a visitor center and museum. Like most of present-day Lawnfield, the carriage house was added by Garfield's

wife, Lucretia, after his death.

The museum's exhibit offers a brief history of Garfield's life, beginning with his birth in a log cabin, his education and marriage, his political career, and ending with his assassination and legacy. Interspersed throughout the various scenes are photographs, excerpts from diaries and letters, original artifacts, and other visuals that enrich the overall experience. A short film wraps up the museum experience.

From there, visitors are free to explore the grounds on their own. A cell-phone tour is available for the technologically savvy, while informative signs align with points of interest for those who prefer the old-fashioned approach. Access to the house is granted only as part of a guided tour for small fee, but the experience is well worth the price.

Informative and highly engaging, the house tour begins as visitors walk across the front porch into the original portion of the house, restored as James Garfield would have known it. What makes this experience truly remarkable is that, due to circumstances related on the tour, most of the items present in the house belonged to the Garfield family.

As one moves from room to room their story begins to unfold, from the bedroom of Eliza, James' mother, decorated with numerous pictures of her deceased son, to the spacious, colorful dining room with its fireplace decorated



The Lawnfield House in Mentor was home to former President James A. Garfield and his wife, Lucretia.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL POLANIEC



The Memorial Room, in James Garfield's former home in Mentor, was the country's first presidential library.

with both presidential china and tiles hand-painted by Lucretia and her five children. Upstairs, the majority of the family's bedrooms and Garfield's office are viewable, but the true nexus is the Memorial Room.

Tucked among the many shelves of books owned by Garfield are several items of interest, including an original congressional desk, while the vault contains a wreath sent by Queen Victoria for Garfield's funeral. Begun in 1885 and finished in 1886, this stately yet surprisingly intimate wing was added by Lucretia to preserve the life and legacy of her hus-

band. She was remarkably successful: In creating the Memorial Room she also created the country's first presidential library.

It is largely through Lucretia's efforts that Lawnfield today pays such fitting tribute to President James A. Garfield and the years he made it his home. In light of this, perhaps its most poignant story is her own, quietly woven throughout the others she wished to tell. Thanks to Lucretia's tireless work in using the house to preserve James' legacy, Lawnfield as a memorial to them both is available for current and future generations of Americans to enjoy. ●

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL

Students learn importance of respecting, thanking veterans

by ELLEN SKONCE

On Thursday, Nov. 9, St. Raphael School honored more than 30 U.S. military veterans in the community at a Veterans Day assembly. Principal Mrs. Ann Miller organized this assembly as a way to teach students the importance of honoring and respecting the brave men and women who served our country. An announcement was put into the St. Raphael Parish bulletin inviting veterans to attend the assembly, and veterans from all five branches of the military responded.

The students and guests stood in respectful silence as the veterans processed in

behind a student color guard bearing the American flag. The assembly prayed, said the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem, accompanied by a student vocalist and the school band. Each veteran was announced by name, rank and military branch. The audience then listened to the anthems of each of the branches of the U.S. military and invited our veterans to stand when they heard their anthem being played. The students respectfully applauded each of the veterans.

The guest speaker, retired Army Col. Jim Riley, spoke to the students about the sacrifices made by the members of

our military and their families on the homefront. He taught the students that the veterans are the ones who fought for their freedoms, that Veterans

Day is always celebrated in the 11th month on the 11th day in the 11th hour, and thanked his fellow veterans for their service. To end the assembly, music teacher Mr. Matthew Wirfel, a retired member of the U.S. Navy Band, played taps on his trumpet while all those gathered faced the American flag in respectful silence, and the veterans processed out.

Thank you to Mrs. Ann Miller, Mr. Roger Andrachik, Mr. Matthew Wirfel, Col. Jim Riley, and all of the veterans who attended the assembly. The Veterans Day assembly taught the students of St. Raphael School the importance of respecting our veterans and thanking them for making so many sacrifices to protect our freedoms. ●



St. Raphael students and veterans gathered for a special assembly on Nov. 9.

Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

The Cuyahoga County Public Library’s annual Great Book for Kids guide is back just in time for your holiday shopping. This year, we’re selling a few select titles at our branches. Stop by the library to buy or check out a copy of one of these recommended reads.

The library will be closing at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22, for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 24.

CHILDREN

Storytimes will be on hiatus for the month of December. Please join us at a storytime below through the month of November.

- **Mondays & 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

Monday, Dec. 4 (11 a.m.) HOMESCHOOL: COASTER CHALLENGE – Grades 4-8: Build roller coasters and then test their limits. Can you meet the challenge?

Tuesday, Dec. 5 (7 p.m.) HOUR OF CODE – Grades 3-4: Celebrate Computer Science Education Week by coding your own game. Registration required.

TEEN

Wednesday, Nov. 29 (3 p.m.) PAINT LIKE GEORGIA O’KEEFFE – Georgia O’Keeffe merged realism with abstract to create her own unique way of seeing the world. Learn about O’Keeffe then create your own unique realistic abstraction with professional artist JoAnn DePolo. This program will be limited to the first 15 participants.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 (3 p.m.) TEEN ZONE – Grades 5 & up: Chill with something fun to do after school – gaming, art, movies, technology and more!

ADULT

Friday, Dec. 1 (10 a.m.) BAYARTS BOOK DISCUS-

SION – Join fellow book lovers and library staff at the Sullivan Gallery on the BAYarts campus as we discuss this month’s book, “Our Souls at Night” by Kent Haruf. Books are available at the library and BAYarts.

Saturday, Dec. 2 (1 p.m.) BOOK FOLDING – Cari Hearn will present a class on book folding with a holiday theme. Materials will be provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library. Space is limited so please register.

Monday, Dec. 4 (6:30 p.m.) KEEP CALM AND COLOR ON – Drop in and experience the latest trend in relaxation: adult coloring books! Studies show coloring can have a calming effect on the adult mind and help to promote overall wellness. Coloring pages from books designed especially for adults as well as colored pencils markers or crayons will be provided. We’ll color to some relaxing music.

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

Rae-Ann facilities named to US News best list

Two Rae-Ann skilled nursing facilities in Westlake – Rae-Ann Suburban and Rae-Ann Westlake, as well as a third Rae-Ann facility in Geneva – have been named to the prestigious 2017-18 list of “America’s Best Nursing Homes” by U.S. News & World Report.

This is the seventh time Rae-Ann Suburban has received this honor, and the third time for Rae-Ann Westlake.

The facilities are part of family-owned Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Inc. Each earned a five-star overall score in the latest evaluation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), placing them in the top ranks of the nation’s 15,000+ nursing homes. Only 15 percent

of nursing homes in Ohio earned the five-star designation.

U.S. News assigned each facility a rating, ranging from 1.0 to 5.0, using its own analysis of CMS data. Best Nursing Homes has several enhancements designed to make the ratings more meaningful to consumers than CMS’s star ratings – including evaluating a nursing home’s performance over time by averaging the CMS star ratings over a 12-month period, plus greater emphasis on medical quality measures and on providing rehabilitation services. Only 15 percent of the facilities that U.S. News rated achieved “Top Performing” status by earning a rating of at least 4.5.

“Earning this important designation from U.S. News year after year is a tribute to the exceptional quality of care that our dedicated staff delivers to our residents every day,” stated John Griffiths, owner and administrator. “We are extremely proud to be recognized for our commitment to excellence in patient care.” ●

WestShore Lions meeting to feature YC athletic coordinator

by DAVID SACCO

WestShore Lions Club will feature as part of their Dec. 7 meeting, a presentation from Youth Challenge athletic coordinator Mackenzie Vecchio. Ms. Vecchio will give a description of what Youth Challenge is and speak to their mission of bring-

ing together young people with physical disabilities and teen volunteers, who inspire each other through adapted sports, recreation and social growth activities.

She will also explain the programs that YC offers for youth who are blind, as well as how teen volunteers are incorporated into the program.

Team YC Paralympic sports teams, and benefits of being involved with Youth Challenge, will be part of the overall program presentation.

WestShore Lions meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road. Registration is not required. ●

BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY THEATER

BVCT to raise spirits with staged reading of ‘A Christmas Carol’

by JOHN HNAT

Bay Village Community Theater will be getting into the Christmas spirit with performances of a staged reading of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, adapted for the reading by Bay Village resident Preston Postle. Like the ghosts that visit Scrooge, there will be three performances of the production.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, after Santa has left the Community House and lit the Christmas tree in the Cahoon Park gazebo, BVCT will present the first show in the Community House at 6 p.m. What a fitting way to finish off the festivities of the fifth annual Cahoon Christmas!

There will also be perfo-

mances at O’Neill Healthcare Bay Village on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., and at Mojo’s Coffee and More on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m.

Admission to all performances are free.

“A Christmas Carol” will end the second season of BVCT’s “All the World’s a Stage[d Reading]” series. We will be back in 2018 with more staged readings and full productions. Our next full-length theatrical performance will be the play “Over the River and Through the Woods,” written by Joe DiPietro. More information to follow in the coming months.

But for now, in the immortal words of Tiny Tim, “A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!” ●

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Cardboard Testimonies: Innovative activity transforms problems into solutions

by SHARON FEDOR

Who would have thought that a piece of cardboard with a word or phrase written on it could mean so much? Turns out, at Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake, there is a great deal of meaning, insight, enlightenment and emotion poured into this cardboard experience, for both the observer and the participant.

With strong encouragement from Rev. Joanne Rowden, usually 40 people participate in “Cardboard Testimonies,” and this, the third year, could be more dynamic than ever. The format is simple. On one side of the cardboard is written a problem the person is experiencing, on the other side is written the solution. Problem – solution, easy ... well, maybe not that easy.

Side one of the cardboard is the problem that is undergoing transformation, and side two is the resolution with “possibility” thinking. There is a lot of hard work to be done, not just getting from problem to solution, but starting with what may be the hardest part of all, recognizing that there is a problem. The work to be done is extensive mental, spiritual, emotional and maybe sometimes even physical. Condensing the problem/solution down to its simplest form eliminates the drama, the frills, the

details, and brings clarity and focus to the transformation that is occurring, and becoming a reality.

Per Rev. Joanne, this is a service where the participants need not worry about what to say, they don’t have to give a speech or explain what happened to them as a child. The cardboard does all of the talking for them. Sometimes it is laser sharp, with one word written on the front, and one word written on the back. These are not just random, “fluff” words, like “unhappy” then flip side “happy,” but powerful words that embrace the full, true meaning of the word transformation.

The person’s faith, and belief in transformation is what makes these words so powerful. As Rev. Joanne explains it, each cardboard testimony supports a focus on the transformation into something positive. The “problem” on one side is always overcome by the “possibility” on the other. The problem is not viewed as static or unchanging energy, but viewed in the light of its real possibility. The practical nature of Unity teachings include Principle 5: “It’s not enough to know the Truth, we must be the Truth we know.”

Join us for Cardboard Testimonies on during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Nov. 26. Unity Spiritual Center is located at 23855 Detroit Road. ●

St. Raphael Parish hosting community pasta dinner

Father Tim Gareau and the Parish and Community Engagement (PACE) committee cordially invite you to enjoy the first in a series of gatherings celebrating our parish family and benefiting St. Raphael Parish. Join us for a Community Pasta Dinner prepared by parishioners Liz and Dave Sfeir, owners of Well Done Catering, on Friday, Dec. 1, 5-7 p.m., in the Parish Activity Center. The cost is \$16 (adults) and \$10 (seniors and children ages 2-10). Lemonade, iced tea, coffee and water are included. Wine is available for purchase. Reserve your spot today by getting your tickets before and after weekend masses, or at the parish office next to the church at 525 Dover Center Road. Ticket payment and reservation is needed by Friday, Nov. 24. Contact the parish office, 440-871-1100, for more information. ●

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

Saturday, Nov. 25, 4:30-6 p.m.
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

All are welcome. The church is accessible to the physically challenged. No carry outs. Our meal is hosted by Church of the Redeemer Westlake and Clague Road United Church of Christ. There will be no meal in December.

Clague Road UCC, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 4:30-9 p.m.
ST. RAPHAEL SHOPPING GALA

Shop over 50 artisans for perfect and unique holiday gifts. Gift-quality bake sale and Gala Cafe. \$3 admission fee at the door.

St. Raphael Church, 525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village

Tuesdays, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5,
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

AMERICAN GREETINGS TOASTMASTERS

Learn to overcome your fears of speaking, develop better speaking and presentation skills, think quickly and clearly on your feet, and build strong leadership and mentoring skills. Contact: Anand.More@amgreeting.com; 314-258-2264.

American Greetings, One American Blvd., Westlake

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
STUFF THE TRUNK FOR WESTLAKE MEALS ON WHEELS

Help provide for your local Meals on Wheels

recipients and other area seniors by "stuffing the trunk" of our Outback with items for emergency preparedness kits. Your donation of non-perishable foods, blankets and flashlights will help provide more than 75 home-bound individuals with food and warmth for days when weather prevents meal delivery in Westlake, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township.

North Olmsted Community Park, 28114 Lorain Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m.

WHEN TO CONSIDER ASSISTED LIVING

Choosing to move a parent into assisted living can be a hard decision. However, in many instances, assisted living is the best solution for everyone involved, especially your loved one. Join us for this free program to learn when it may be time to consider assisted living. Meet with knowledgeable professionals who can offer answers and advice. RSVP: 440-250-2300.

Devon Oaks, 2345 Crocker Rd., Westlake

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7-8 p.m.

WAGNER'S FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A free Christmas concert featuring the St. Joseph Senior Choir from Avon Lake. The volunteer 4-part choir is composed of 20-50 volunteers who will perform a cantata entitled "Night of the Father's Love," and will also sing some favorite Christmastime hymns and carols.

RSVP is appreciated but not required; visit wagnersofwestlake.com.
Wagner's of Westlake, 30855 Center Ridge Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

SENIOR RESOURCES HEALTH FAIR

Learn more about the newest healthcare resources available. Speak to representatives from elder law attorneys, home care, hospice, independent, assisted, memory and skilled care communities. Enjoy giveaways and more.

UH St. John Medical Center, Bldg. #2, Aud. A & B, 29000 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Friday, Dec. 1, 6-8:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY NIGHT TREE TRADITION

Celebrate the heartwarming story of The Night Tree – one family's tradition of sharing the spirit of the holidays with nature. Santa will be celebrating with us, so bring your cameras! Create a holiday craft, enjoy a close encounter with animal ambassadors and take home a special treat for the wildlife in your own backyard. Dinner is provided. Fee: \$14/adults; \$8/children ages 2+; children 1 and under are free. Call 871-2900 to register.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

Saturday, Dec. 2, 3-4 p.m.

AUTHOR VISIT: MIKE OLSZEWSKI

Mike Olszewski will share stories and sign copies

of his new book "Cleveland Radio Tales." The book shares stories of eccentric personalities from Cleveland radio history, mostly from the 1960s to 1990s, including their on-air and off-air antics. Olszewski is a veteran Cleveland radio and TV personality and the curator and archivist for the Ohio Broadcast Archive and Museum.

Barnes & Noble, 198 Crocker Park Blvd., Westlake

Sunday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m.

WESTLAKE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Westlake Town Criers will hold the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony inside City Hall when they will introduce the new Mr. & Mrs. Westlake. Everyone is invited to celebrate the season with us!

Westlake City Hall, 27700 Hilliard Blvd.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 7:30-9 p.m.

CAROLS & CHORUSES OF CHRISTMAS

Join the West Shore Chorale & Orchestra for an evening of choral and orchestral music featuring popular guest artists, the Fuller Sounds Bell Choir. Seasonal works by David Conte, Handel, Lauridsen, Mendelssohn, Vaughn Williams and others, plus carol singing with the audience. A free reception will follow. Tickets \$15, students of all ages free. Purchase at the door, online at westshorechorale.org or call 216-373-7773. Parking is free and handicap accessible.

Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

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