



Dark-eyed Junco

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Register now to vote in Ohio's March 17 primary

by CONDA BOYD

It's time to register for Ohio's March 17 primary election! Remember: whenever you move, you must update your registration. If you're not sure whether your registration is current, check online at boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-443-VOTE (8683).

If you are 17 years old but will turn 18 by General Election Day (Nov. 3), you are eligible to vote in the primary for candidates, but not on issues.

Many voters will have other plans on St. Patrick's Day, so the League of Women Voters encourages everyone to consider voting early. Vote-by-Mail ballot request forms are available at local libraries, as well as through the Board of Elections website and phone line.

Important dates:

- Now through Feb. 18: Registration for the Primary Election
- Feb. 19 - March 16: Early Voting
- March 17: Primary Election
- Nov. 3: General Election

For Bay Village and Westlake residents, the ballot includes one issue, plus primary candidates for Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian parties. The issue is a levy replacement and increase for Cuyahoga County Health and Human or Social Services. Primary races include U.S. President, U.S. Congressional Districts 9 (Bay Village) and 16 (Westlake), shared Ohio Senate (24) and State House (16) Districts, various Cuyahoga County offices, and selected judgeships. See boe.cuyahogacounty.us for details. ●

Sea Scout leader named Bay Village Citizen of the Year

by TARA WENDELL

Longtime resident Richard Gash was chosen as this year's recipient of Bay Village's top honor in recognition of his tireless work with the city's youth.

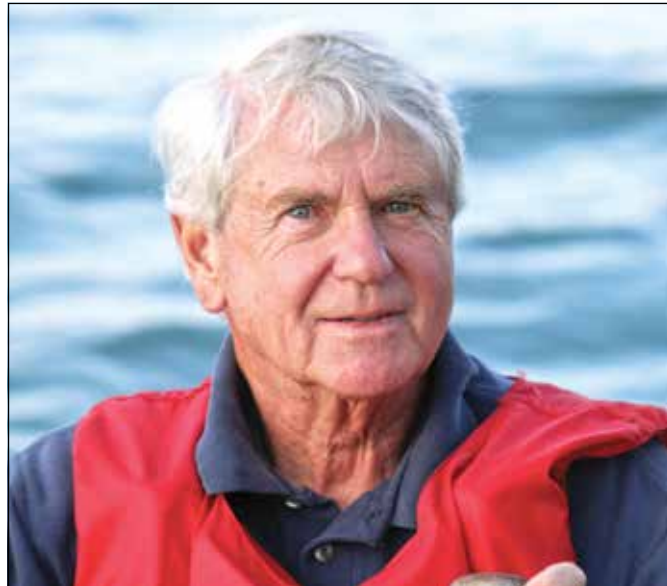
Gash, skipper of Sea Scout Ship 41, launched the program with Scott Engel in spring 2000. Over the past two decades, the Scouting program has provided on-the-water learning adventures to hundreds of area students.

"Since day one I have been impressed with Richard's dedication to Sea Scouts and the principles of Scouting," said Dawn Hamil, whose three children participate in the program. "He constantly finds challenges that allow time for thoughtfulness and there are

plenty of active challenges to test one's spirit and athletics. He takes care of and nurtures mind, body and soul which is an amazing gift to these young adults."

In 2016, Gash and Engel started a junior branch of the Sea Scouts, Club 360, for middle school students who have a concern for their aquatic environment, are interested in performing environmental studies, and love boating. In 2018, Explorer Club 180 was formed for students in third to fifth grade.

In reviewing his nomination letter,



Richard Gash, skipper of Sea Scout Ship 41.

the Bay Village Community Council's Citizen of the Year selection committee was inspired by the amount of time and effort Gash invests in his Scouts. This is not an easy group to impress; the members of Community Council are active community volunteers themselves, representing Bay's civic organizations.

► See GASH page 6

PHOTO COURTESY DAWN HAMIL

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center celebrates 75th anniversary

by MORGAN PASKERT

The curiosity of a child inspired Elberta Fleming to create a nature center for children. While working at the front desk of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, a young boy approached her to ask about the butterfly in his hand. This serendipitous moment sparked an awe-inspiring conversation for the child and demonstrated to Elberta the power of discovery through hands-on learning.

In 1945, Elberta founded a "Junior

Museum" in her home in Bay Village with a display of animals in her backyard, nature specimens throughout her home and a compelling vision to teach nature and science to people in the community. As a mother, artist and environmental advocate, her vision fueled the early formation of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center from modest beginnings.

Supporting Elberta were dedicated community volunteers who understood and shared her vision.

► See 75TH page 2



Elberta Fleming, founder of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.



Westlake's 2020 cutest pets, Owen and Spanky.

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dog and cat share honors as Westlake's cutest pet

by LYSA STANTON

For the first time since the Westlake Historical Society's cutest pet contest began, there was a tie between a dog and a cat. This year's winners are: Owen, a 3-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi; and Spanky, a 16-year-old Himalayan cat.

Both of our winners came to one or more of our pet photo sessions; that is how we met them! Money raised at those sessions goes to the Historical Society's outreach and children's programs. We are delighted to say that both families of our winning pets are now members of the Westlake Historical Society.

Owen is part of the Racevich family and his name is Welsh, meaning "youth/young warrior."

Among Owen's favorite things are his toys – a stuffed cow and a stuffed lamb chop. Corgis are herding dogs, after all. He also likes cooked chicken with his kibble, as well as green apple crunchy treats.

The winning dog joined his family because of their love of books by Tasha Tudor, which feature corgis. Queen Elizabeth II also played a part in this due to her lifelong love of the breed.

► See PETS page 2



PETS *from front page*

After some investigation, the decision was made and Owen was welcomed into the home.

A little note for those who believe in legends: An old Welsh tale claims that the steeds of the woodland fairies were thought to be the whimsical, happy faced, sturdy, short legged Corgis. Believers state you can still see the harness marks on the dogs' shoulders.

The winning cat, Spanky, is part of the Griebbling family, who has enjoyed Himalayan cats before.

He was originally named Snowball, but that changed to Spanky because he reminded a family member of one of the "Our Gang" comedy characters.

Among his favorite things are his feather stick, as well as being carried and snuggled close to the chest. His owner says he is not picky, any chest will do! He gets along with everyone, and is a very sweet old fellow. He eats only Science Diet II dry food, and is very fond of it.

Spanky became a Griebbling because his breed is sweet, social, loves to play, and are very intelligent. He was adopted from Forever Friends Foundation in December 2007, at about 4 years of age. His human mom had passed away, and the Griebblings had just lost their beloved Himalayan, Teddy, a few months earlier.

He has been a great addition to the family, has a great sense of humor, a great personality, and loves to entertain.

If you would like be a judge for the 2021 Cutest Pet contest, please contact us at 216-848-0680. We hope to see both of our winners and their families in the 2020 Memorial Day parade! ●

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75th *from front page*

The Women's Board was founded by a group of six friends who assisted her and the growing museum through service, community awareness and fundraising. In 1950, Elberta and her volunteers began to present programs out of the Bay Village Library, and then approved Articles of Incorporation which gained national attention as one of the first nonprofit children's museums in the country.

By 1960, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center attracted a large constituency and raised funds to create a permanent home on Huntington Reservation. Wildlife exhibits and nature walks through forests and meadows created an outdoor classroom for children to build lasting connections with the natural world. A space science program emerged in 1968

when community leaders and the local school district built the Center's planetarium, introducing children to the wonders of the night sky and beyond. Elberta retired in 1977 after fulfilling her dream and impacting thousands of lives.

Today, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center honors Elberta's vision by continuing to offer free admission to indoor and outdoor exhibits, operating one of two public access planetariums in Cuyahoga County, providing wildlife rehabilitation services at no charge to the public and educating thousands of people each year through nature-based programming for all ages. Four generations of children, families, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have come to the Center for timeless lessons and treasured traditions.

"Connecting children with nature is more impor-

tant now than ever and is the heart of our mission at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center," says Executive Director Catherine Timko. "As we reflect on the Center's 75-year history, we look forward to the next 75 years of educating and inspiring children and families to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world. Children's curiosity about nature has only grown stronger and so has the Center's dedication to encouraging their curiosity with memorable experiences."

Join Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in celebrating its 75th anniversary with special events throughout the year. Past visitors and "alumni" are encouraged to share their memories by joining the Center's 75th Anniversary Alumni group on Facebook. To learn more about anniversary celebrations, visit www.lensc.org. ●

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

'Peace Troubador' James Twyman coming to Westlake

by JOANNE ROWDEN

For years, James Twyman has been known as the "Peace Troubador." In 1995, James was invited to Croatia and Bosnia to perform a peace concert using his songs created from the peace prayers of the 12 major religions. Since then, James has traveled to Iraq, South Africa, Northern Ireland, and most recently Iran, to bring his focus of peace to areas impacted by the tensions of war.

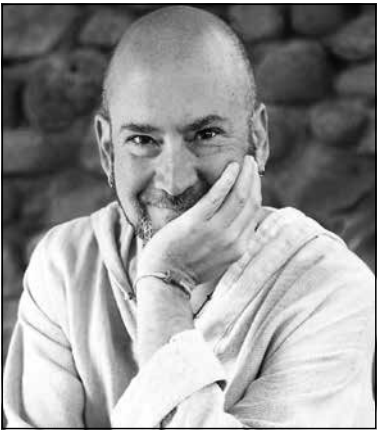
Twyman has always had an affinity for St. Francis, and has been inspired to take his one-man musical, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon," to an off-Broadway venue. He will travel penniless from Portland, Oregon, to New York City relying on the generosity of people along the way.

"That's how Fran-

cis would have done it," Twyman said. "His life was centered on serving humanity in simple, down to earth ways. If he was alive today he'd probably embrace things like social media, but he'd also travel with no money and no possessions. In my case, I'll hitchhike, walk when I have to, and rely upon others for food and places to sleep."

Twyman believes St. Francis' values of inclusion, respect for all living beings, and peaceful coexistence are a clarion call in a world so divided and dissonant.

Once in New York, Twyman will be sharing free tickets with the homeless, and inviting them to



James Twyman

share a meal before the show. Along the way to New York, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" will be presented at venues across the country.

Twyman will be at Unity Spiritual Center in Westlake on Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The public is welcome. A \$20 love offering is suggested but no one will be turned away. Register online at www.uscwestlake.org or by phoning 440-835-0400. ●

WECPTA to host preschool fair Feb. 1

by JULIA KNOTEK

Westlake Early Childhood PTA will host a Preschool Fair on Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. to noon, at Parkside Administration Building, 24525 Hilliard Blvd. Representatives will be on hand from a variety of schools in the West-

lake area to share information about daycare, preschool and summer care opportunities.

This event, aimed at families with children ages 0-6, is free and open to the public. Snacks, door prizes and craft activities will be provided.

More information at wecpta.org. ●

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

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THE GREEN REPORT

The Green New Deal: any way to pay for it?

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

In my last column, I wrote about the Green New Deal after I attended a speaker hosted by Westshore FaCT. I attended the next speaker in the series on Jan. 7 about how to pay for it. The speaker was Raul Carrillo, a research fellow at the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity and is a graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Law School.

As I had not yet researched funding for the Green New Deal, I went into the session with a completely open mind other than knowing the Green New Deal is a radical plan that requires billions of dollars. What I learned during the speech was completely new information to me.

Before you read on, I want to remind you that I am not an economist, and I never pretend to be one! I also want you to know

that my hope is that this column will inspire you to research this issue on your own. I do not want to influence anyone's opinion about this issue; I would like to simply introduce you to this idea as it is worth your time to understand it better.

When you Google "how to pay for the Green New Deal," a lot of articles pop up, and as you scan them you will find that many are from reliable sources including Forbes and NPR. I urge you to read those first.

As you read through the articles, you will note a common phrase, the MMT or Modern Monetary Theory. MMT is what is being proposed as a way that the Green New Deal can be paid for. Essentially, the theory

states that Congress will authorize the spending necessary for the GND, and the program will eventually pay for itself through the economic growth it inspires. Millions of jobs in renewable energy will be created, which will generate income and tax revenues back to the government that will essentially enable it to pay for itself.

Please keep in mind that my explanation is extremely oversimplified. After reading about it and watching a couple videos, that was the best I could do to explain it in my column. MMT is a lot more complicated than that, and I do not feel qualified to try to explain it further unless I just went ahead and plagiarized articles. I'm not inclined to

do that as I'm assuming you all have access to the internet and therefore all of the information you could possibly want to learn about the MMT!

Is MMT a departure from traditional macroeconomics? Yep. Is it worth your time to research MMT and read differing opinions about it? You bet. This theory will most likely gain more and more attention as the climate crisis deepens and radical actions may be required.

It is also my opinion that the more people familiarize and educate themselves with the Green New Deal and other ideas about how to pay for it, the more likely it will be for the country to make the required changes regarding carbon emissions. ●

Community West Foundation announces new president and CEO

by MARIA ESTES

Martin J. Uhle is no stranger to the Community West Foundation or to the west side of Cleveland. Marty, as everyone knows him, has been on the Foundation's board of directors since 2009 serving in many capacities. It has been through his service that he was identified as the optimal candidate to assume the position as the next president & CEO of the Foundation.

"The last several years that I have dedicated to non-profit work have inspired me," says Marty. "I left the for-profit world in 2011, immersed myself in service to the community, and consider this an amazing opportunity to lead such a well-respected and successful organization."

Most recently Marty served

as the superintendent and CEO of the Cleveland Lutheran High School Association from 2016-2019. Under his guidance, both Lutheran East and Lutheran West high schools reached record enrollment in their 70+ year history and installed the next generation of leaders for the schools. In addition, he was Messiah Lutheran's Pierstorf Memorial Fund Executive Director since 2012 which entailed granting interest-free loans to Lutheran students to help them go to college. The number of student loans granted has tripled under Marty's leadership.

Marty holds a Master of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace University and a Bachelor of Arts in business from Wittenberg University. He continues to be an active servant of his undergraduate alma

mater where his dad, brother and sons also graduated. As a member of their board since 2009, he has been involved in many major university milestones including hiring a new president in 2017 and a \$52 million-dollar capital campaign to build an indoor health, wellness, and athletic complex that opened this past fall.

In addition to his board involvement at Community West Foundation and Wittenberg University, Marty also served seven years on the board for the Urban Community School located on the near west side of Cleveland.

Prior to his non-profit work, Marty had a successful career in the for-profit business world. He's held senior leadership positions for the majority of his career including president



Community West Foundation President & CEO, Martin J. Uhle

and CEO of Vantage Financial Group from 2005-2010; president and COO of Heartland Payment Systems from 1997-2004; and senior vice president of payment services with KeyBank from 1985-1997.

Marty grew up in West Park and then later in Fairview Park. His father, Reverend John F. Uhle, served as a Lutheran minister for 56 years on the west side before passing in late 2015. Marty's mother, Jean, continues

to live in Rocky River.

Marty has been married to his high school sweetheart, Laura, for 34 years. They are members of Messiah Lutheran Church located in Fairview Park and reside in Rocky River. The couple have two adult sons: Ryan and Steven.

Marty's business acumen coupled with his passion for philanthropic engagement make him an ideal leader to carry out the mission of Community West Foundation which is to advance the health and well being of our community. In 2019 alone \$4,143,842 in grants were awarded to 56 community agencies that serve the poor by providing food, shelter or other basic necessities; and supported fundraising efforts at Fairview and Lutheran hospitals. An additional \$2,101,531 was given to other non-profits through Donor Advised and Agency Funds.

Learn more at community-westfoundation.org. ●



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STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Synchronized ice skater in Bay Village

by PAIGE THOMAS,
second-grader at Normandy
Elementary School

I am 7-years-old and I am in my second year as part of Ice Storm, a synchronized ice skating club out of the North Olmsted Recreation Center.

Ice Storm has seven teams for girls and boys and one adult team. Synchronized ice skating is when your team does ice skating moves together.

Last year my team's theme was jungle. This year our theme is Inspec-

tor Gadget. Our music and costumes go with the theme Inspector Gadget. We have to include a pinwheel, circle, line and intersection.

I am in SS1 and the age level is 5 to 12. Our first competition was at Mentor. We got first place! We were so excited. We were so surprised that we got first place at our first competition. Our team is made of seven new people and four from last year.

Our second competition was in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The competition rink was big like a stadium. There were two practice rinks and we

practiced on them. We practiced on Saturday and our competition was on Sunday. After sleeping in the hotel, we got up and went straight to the ice rink. We were against six teams and performed well but we only got second place.

Our third competition was on Jan. 4 in Frasier, Michigan. There were five teams in

our division. We skated well and we came in first! We get to engrave our

medals with our names on it and what place we got in. Our last competition is in Mentor in February!

Did you know that you could trade pins at competitions? We have Ice Storm pins and we

find other skaters to trade pins with. In Kalamazoo I got a really big pin from a girl from National Blades in Washington, D.C.! Some pins have moving parts, glitter and I even got one with a fox on it. Synchronized ice skating is so much fun! ●



Paige Thomas holds her first-place medal and team trophy from the Mid-America Competition in Frasier, Michigan.



Paige Thomas and the Ice Storm team skate a line down the rink.

League of Women Voters chapters to meet Jan. 25

by JANICE PATTERSON

What's it all about? Who are the people from the League of Women Voters who keep asking you to register to vote? Or urge you to come to a public meeting?

Citizens with such questions are welcome to attend a meeting on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 9:30 a.m., at the Fairview Park Branch Library, 21255 Lorain Road, when the League will kick off its centennial year by discussing how the organization should focus its resources in 2020-2021.

Members of the five westside League chapters (Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake-North Olmsted) will meet together for this session. New and prospective members are especially welcome. Men have been eligible for membership since 1947. A bargain membership fee of \$5 is available this year to students of any age 16 and over.

Since its beginning in 1920, the League of Women Voters has relied on its members to provide direction on how to balance its dual mission of non-partisan education and timely action on issues. The January discussions occur nationwide and culminate in decisions to be made by member delegates at the League's national convention in June.

The same process is used in odd-numbered years to outline future activities at the state League level.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland is scheduling a variety of activities around Cuyahoga County during 2020 in observance of the League's 100th birthday. A number of women from Cleveland and Northeast Ohio were key players in the League's formation in 1920 in anticipation of the passage of the 19th Amendment that opened voting to women. ●

'Heroes' continues Clague's 91st season

by KIM MITSCHKE

forgets them.

It is August 1959, France, in a home for retired military men, where World War I vets Henri (played by Bob Goddard), Philippe (Ron Newell) and Gustave (Robert Hawkes) pass their days gossiping, reminiscing and exasperating one another with harebrained schemes to escape.

The play is a softly heroic treatment of three war heroes for whom death is a familiar presence. They decide to take on one final adventure – granted, an impossible and faintly ridiculous adventure – before the outside world completely

“Heroes” opened Friday, Jan. 17, and closes Feb. 9, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$17 for seniors (60+), and \$10 for students (any age with a valid ID). We're honored to offer special admission price of \$15 for veterans for performances of “Heroes.”

Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 440-331-0403 Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. or visiting www.clagueplayhouse.org. Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake. ●



Philippe (Ron Newell), Gustave (Robert Hawkes) and Henri (Bob Goddard) get “roped up” to prepare for their expedition in Clague Playhouse's “Heroes.”

PHOTO BY TERRY SCHORDOCK

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

A vaccine that stops cancers: The story of HPV

by DIANA PI, M.D.

In 2006, a miracle vaccine became a reality. Targeting human papilloma-virus (HPV), this vaccine only not prevents infections but also prevents cancers.

HPV is ubiquitous, it lives on our skin. About 170 strains have been identified, 40 can make us sick.

The vaccine protects against the most malign strains, the culprits of most cervical cancer, genital warts, genital and throat cancers. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease.

I tell my kids: When you're intimate with one person, you're potentially intimate – in the form of viral (bacterial, fungal) acquisition – with all the sex partners this person has ever had.

Studies following college students showed after two years, new HPV infection occurred in 39% of women and 62% of men. Most of us (80%) will be infected sometime in our life.

Good news: We usually clear these infections ourselves (90% within two years).

But doctors can't tell who can or cannot. Also, because early infections are asymptomatic, chronic infections with high-risk strains can, in decades, lead to cancer.

HPV vaccine boosts our immunity and prevents new infection, effectively. But it can't help an ongoing infection. Thus, it's best to vaccinate young – age 11 to 12 (can start as early as age 9).

Then why did the FDA recently expand vaccine coverage to men and women up to the age 45?

Let me answer two common questions.

1. Why boys?

Sure, boys don't get cervical cancer. But vaccines can protect them from getting genital warts and other HPV-

related cancers.

CDC states, "HPV is estimated to cause nearly 35,000 cases of cancer in men and women every year in the U.S." By stopping early infection, "HPV vaccination can prevent more than 32,000 of these cancers." It's impressive.

And by vaccinating boys, we protect their sex partners.

2. Why adults? Should you be concerned?

If you're in a monogamous relationship with low chance of acquiring new viruses, vaccine won't help.

But if you're exposed to new sex partners – thus new viruses – HPV vaccine might help.

For those unvaccinated, ages 27 and older, HPV vaccine is "a shared decision" – a doctor's buzzword for "let's talk."

HPV vaccine is not a moral debate/choice or government scam. HPV are viruses we live with. And for the Bonnie-and-Clyde strains, doctors can stop most early infections with a 25-gauge vaccine needle. HPV vaccine is medicine at its best. It's civilization.

A good example: Australia offers free HPV vaccines (in Ohio, public health clinics will cover entitled teens). Australia is highly compliant with HPV screening and vaccination. In 20 years, it might become the first cervical-cancer-free country.

I can't say the same about protecting U.S. teens (only 51% are properly vaccinated), but I'll try.

When it comes my kids, I have hang-ups. When they were learning to look both ways before crossing the street, they had also learned: Exercise, adequate sleep, eating lots of vegetables of different colors, composting, recycling, condoms, vaccines ...

Quirky? Yes. I laugh at myself. But for vaccine-preventable diseases, I leave nothing to chance. ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Scanning the airwaves

by TAK SATO

As Clevelanders, we are used to "whiteouts" during winter snowstorms. Whiteout imagery outside the windshield reminds me of what showed up on our TV screen when fiddling with rabbit-ears to get a good reception in the good old days.

When the "analog" broadcast ended in mid-2009 with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate requiring all TV stations broadcast exclusively in a "digital" format, blocky (geeky term: pixelated) imagery on the TV screen equated to poor reception. Many were already on cable or satellite TV service so never saw change.

Increasing cable and satellite TV subscription prices combined with the streaming revolution brought forth by the disruptive innovation we know as the internet, aka the cloud, have created a growing interest in "cutting the cord."

It is true that cutting the cord involves utilizing streaming but with the current state of spotty availability of CLE local channels – i.e. traditional network channels like WKYC Channel 3 (NBC), WEWS Channel 5 (ABC), WJW Channel 8 (FOX), WOIO Channel 19 (CBS), and WVIZ Channel 25 (PBS) to name a few – by streaming service provider offerings, it also considers utilization of the over-the-air (OTA) digital programming that is free.

Gone are the rabbit ears of yesteryear, replaced by – literally – an antenna that looks more like a piece of paper that can be stuck on the wall or window facing the direction of Parma where many TV broadcast towers are located. Just search Amazon or Best Buy website with term "digital TV antenna" and you'll see them listed as low as \$20! But before you even spend \$20, there are other prerequisites to maximize the chance of enjoying free OTA programming.

First, visit the website antennaweb.org to input your street address to see



An indoor digital antenna about the size of a sheet of paper can pick up local broadcast stations.

what kind of OTA programming, i.e. what channels, your address is theoretically able to receive.

Second, you'll need to determine if your TV set has a built-in "ATSC tuner." This ATSC tuner's functionality is akin to the set-top box that cable and satellite TV service providers lease you but ATSC tuners are specifically made to receive OTA programming.

If your TV lacks a built-in ATSC tuner, another search using the term "digital converter" on Amazon or Best Buy website should list these ATSC tuner set-top boxes from \$30 and up. To connect the ATSC tuner set-top box to your TV requires an available HDMI connection on your TV. Most recent TV sets come with multiple "inputs," sometimes referred to as "sources" depending on the TV manufacturer, and usually labeled as HDMI 1, HDMI 2, etc.

Assuming you meet the prerequisites and make your procurements, other than hooking up the antenna to the built-in ATSC tuner or to the ATSC tuner set-top box, you will need to "scan" the airwaves once to have the tuner memorize the frequencies of the digital channels it can receive. This procedure is similar to programing your car's radio and assigning your favorite stations to the preset buttons for easy station-hopping on your commute. ●

Bay Kiwanis encourages support of Aluminum Cans for Burn Victims

by WARREN REMEIN

The Bay Village Kiwanis Club would again like to encourage individuals and organizations in Bay Village and surrounding communities to join in efforts to aid burned children. When you have a party, fundraiser or event please set up a recycle bin specifically for aluminum cans and simply drop off at the Bay Village Fire Department.

In 2019 ACBC Ohio collected 55,000 pounds of aluminum cans earning \$21,000 to assist child victims of burns and promote education. This non-profit is assisted by fire departments of 7 counties of northeast Ohio, including the BVFD. Everyone

can help our firefighters be tops in this worthy cause by bringing your empty aluminum cans to the Can Corral, located on the east side of the fire department parking lot at 28100 Wolf Road.

This effort was started in 1986 by the Northern Ohio firefighters' and fire chiefs' associations and MetroHealth Medical Center. It has evolved into ACBC Ohio. The efforts of our firefighters and contributors help to educate children about fire hazards and safety, provide scholarships to pediatric patients of burns, and pay for medical equipment and needs of patients not covered by insurance.

Two mobile fire safety houses available to elementary

schools and community home days promote fire safety education. A total of 4,500 children received safety education in 2019. The program also operates Camp Phoenix in Strongsville, providing summer and winter camp experiences for 25-30 burn survivors ages 5 to 16.

The Bay Village Kiwanis is urging all residents to please bring your aluminum cans to the Bay Village Fire Department to be a part of helping Northeast Ohio children recover from burn trauma, educate kids about fire safety and give victims opportunity for the future. You can visit www.acbcOhio.org or call the BVFD at 440-871-1214 for more information. ●

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Weekly ministry focuses on praise, revival

by PAUL LARSEN

The Praise Community has been gathering since early September at 7 p.m. weekly in the sanctuary of Advent Church, 3760 Dover Center Road, Westlake. The core leadership team of this initiative comes from four different area churches.

The Praise Community is an opportunity for believers to gather together weekly to offer up praise to the Lord and expect that He will meet with His people. The Praise Community is a non-denominational min-

istry that has the blessing of Advent leadership to use their great sanctuary. You are invited to come as we seek to lift up the name of Jesus seeking personal and regional revival!

The focus of the music of TPC is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Much of the music comes from the last century when most of the leaders had a personal spiritual encounter with the Lord. The weekly gatherings also include a brief teaching and time for personal prayer ministry.

For more information, visit yourpraisecommunity.org. ●

GASH *from front page*

As leader of the Sea Scouts, Gash teaches students boating skills and water safety lessons. Scouts can also learn how to race various types of sail boats and participate in international regattas. The group has taken part in the Great Lake Erie Boat Float, highlighting the use of recyclable plastics, since 2010, winning several first-place awards.

Gash guided a team of ninth-grade students in a water quality study of the Porter Creek watershed in 2018, which won second place in a statewide competition sponsored by the U.S. Army. A team of sixth-graders were named one of 20 national finalists in the competition for their project to prevent microfibers from entering the lake from washing machines.

"My family has few opportunities to spend time on the water, and we have little marine knowledge," said Katy Sutherland, mother of Club 360 and Club 180 members. "Mr. Gash shares his vast knowledge with the kids, making things as age appropriate as possible," including the dangers of rip tides and hypothermia,

how to right an overturned boat, and the effects of wind direction during sailing.

Gash was born and raised in England, and has lived in Bay Village since 1972. He and his wife, Barbara, have four children: Richard (Bay High class of '92), Jill ('94), Andrew ('97) and David ('99). He became a U.S. citizen in 1993 during a ceremony at Bay Middle School.

When asked what drives him to dedicate so much of his time to the Sea Scouts, Gash joked that his wife would like to know the answer as well, before responding that has enjoyed sailing and boating since he was a young boy. Living in a lakefront community provides easy access to water-based activities.

"Bay Village is right on the shores of Lake Erie and I believe we should all have the opportunity to enjoy this great resource," Gash continued. "That is why we study aquatic environmental challenges during the winter months. We learn to be good stewards of our creeks, beaches, and lakes. We are very fortunate to have the Bay Boat Club that the Sea Scouts can use to teach and develop future boating citizens. The challenge is to make boating fun with the needed

emphasis on safety."

In addition to his work with the Sea Scouts, Gash served as a Cub Scout den leader, then Cub Master, then Scout Master of Troop 41. He sat on the Board of Zoning Appeals from 1989-1993, was a deacon at Bay Presbyterian Church, a

coach with the Bay Soccer Club and a trustee of the Bay Boat Club.

The Bay Village Community Council will hold a reception in Richard Gash's honor at a mutually agreeable time and place, likely in the spring. Details will be announced when they are finalized. ●



PHOTOS COURTESY DAWN HAMIL

Richard Gash teaches students how to be safe on the water – while also having fun.



Gash led a team of seventh- and ninth-graders in a study of the soil and water of Cahoon Creek in 2017.



Students learn how to use flares as part of their marine safety training.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Bay Village City Council rings in the new year

by DWIGHT CLARK,
City Council President

As we all welcome the 2020 New Year, the City Council of Bay Village has been busy, already holding three meetings during the 2020 year. In addition, those Council members elected in November 2019 were sworn into office by Rocky River Municipal Court Judge Brian Hagan on Jan. 1 at the Dwyer Center.

Those re-elected to new Council terms included David Tadych (Ward 1 and Council Vice President), Lydia DeGeorge (Ward 2), Sara Byrnes Maier (Ward 3), Peter Winzig (Ward 4), and Dwight Clark (City Council President). We extend a warm welcome to new Councilman-at-Large Thomas Kelly, who formally begins his four-year

term. Councilwoman-at-Large Nancy Stainbrook rounds out the group; she was the only Council member not up for re-election in 2019. City Council works to operate efficiently and transparently, and much of this credit goes to our valued and long-standing Clerk of City Council, Joan Kemper.

As a group, we recently and unanimously approved the city's 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets, which include a variety of important capital projects throughout Bay. Council works closely with the city administration, led by Mayor Paul Koomar, to allocate financial resources to

initiatives important to all residents. These include utility and paving work in the Sunset area; playground enhancements to Bradley Park; continued funding of the city's road improvement program; slope stabilization of Rose Hill; procurement of a new finance and payroll system; funding for enhancements to the city's website; newly constructed basketball and pickleball courts

at Reese Park; enhancements to walking trails in proximity to Cahoon Creek; conversion of traffic lights to LED technology; and annual, yet vital, funding for service and public safety vehicles, among others.

Council was heavily involved in providing the funding for a number of recently and successfully completed bridge projects throughout the city,

including the Columbia Road culvert, Queenswood Bridge and Lake Road bridge (financed primarily by ODOT).

2020 promises to be another busy year for your legislative team, and on many fronts. Along with the administration, we will be overseeing construction of the new library and residential housing project, both located in the center of town. We willingly support work being done on a new zoning overlay project, which is geared to keep Bay Village up to date, while still maintaining the city's charm.

I am pleased with the breadth of talent, skill sets and experience each and every one on City Council brings to the legislative table. We are honored to serve, to do what is in the best interests of all Bay Village residents. We, both individually and a team, strive to perform professionally, efficiently and with great civic pride. ●



PHOTO BY RENEE MAHONEY

Bay Village City Council, from left: David Tadych, Dwight Clark, Lydia DeGeorge, Peter Winzig, Clerk of Council Joan Kemper, Nancy Stainbrook, Sara Byrnes Maier and Thomas Kelly.

Learning and giving at Bay Village Garden Club

by CHRIS NOWAK

Members of Bay Village Garden Club join together to increase their knowledge of gardening and to give of their time and efforts to share the beauty of nature with the community.

Interesting and informative programs are always on the calendar. We spent the fall learning how to create water-conserving rain gardens and, among other topics, how to grow herbs for teas and remedies.

This year, we'll be visiting Monet's Gardens of Giverny through a slide presentation by a local art historian. We'll learn how to grow the modern perennial cutting garden with an OSU agriculture and natural resources educator. Then we'll find out about the plants that changed the world from a past vice president of horticulture at Cleveland Botanical Gardens. We'll tour the historical English gardens through the insights of a third-generation nursery



Judy Minium, co-president of the Bay Village Garden Club, displays her handiwork at the club's recent Christmas Greening workshop.

owner and we'll take a field trip to Kingwood Gardens. Plus enjoy a workshop in container gardening. Finally, we'll discover the new plants for 2020.

Throughout the year we generously give of our time and efforts. During the holiday season, members created tabletop decorations for thankful seniors and cancer patients through our Care and Share program. In December, we held our most successful fundraiser when the community came together to create at the popular Christmas Greening workshops. The funds will be used to support the Club and all of our service projects throughout our community.

In May, you'll find us cleaning up and planting gardens around the gazebo, City Hall and Welcome Signs at Bay Village entrances and throughout the city.

If you would like to become a member, attend a program or have any questions, please call Sharon Svec at 440-871-9098. ●

Tri-C program puts focus on Lake Erie's plastic pollution

by JOHN HORTON

The impact of plastic pollution on Lake Erie and the rest of the Great Lakes will be examined during an upcoming program at the Westshore Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. This topic is the focus of the latest "Learning for Life" lecture series program at the campus. The free program takes place Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The discussion will be led by Jill Bartolotta, extension educator with Ohio Sea Grant. The group works with organizations and communities to solve the lake's most pressing environmental and economic issues.

The conversation will address the widespread use of plastic and its impact on human health and safety, wildlife and the environment. Plastic is the most prevalent type of marine debris found in the world's oceans as well as the Great Lakes.

Research has shown that Lake Erie has one of the highest concentrations of microplastics in the world.

The free program begins at 6 p.m. in room 310 of the Liberal Arts and Technology building at Westshore Campus, located at 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake. Registration is requested but not required.

For more information, call 216-987-5968 or email kara.copeland@tri-c.edu.

The January program is the third of four on the 2019-2020 "Learning for Life" calendar featuring Ohio Sea Grant staff. Visit www.tri-c.edu/LearningForLife for a full schedule through April. ●



Bay Village Kiwanis completes another Christmas tree sale

by STAN GRISNIK

The Bay Village Kiwanis Club's 2019 Christmas tree fundraiser was a huge success! A record 300 Christmas trees were sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many thanks to the

Bay High School Key Club, their families and the Bay Village firefighters for sacrificing their weekends to help Bay Kiwanis unload the delivery truck, set up the trees, sell and load the trees onto customer vehicles. Bay Kiwanis could not have accomplished our goal without their support.

Bay Kiwanis would also like to thank the customers who continue to support us year after year. Many customers have been purchasing a tree from us since 2004, the year the Bay Jaycee's stopped selling trees and Bay Kiwanis continued to provide the service to the local com-

munity. Many children of previous customers bring their families to purchase a tree, continuing their family tradition of celebrating the Christmas season with a Bay Kiwanis Christmas tree. Through your purchase, Bay Kiwanis is able to continue our community service efforts. ●



Kiwanians and Key Clubbers unload Christmas trees for the start of the 2019 sales event.

The Praise Community

yourpraisecommunity.org

Worship with Christians from other area churches expecting to encounter the Presence of the Lord in a non-denominational setting.

Wednesdays 7pm
at
Advent Church
3760 Dover Center Rd.
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

FEBRUARY 6-9 • THE 2020 ANNUAL

BOOK SALE

FRIENDS' PREVIEW NIGHT
Wednesday, February 5, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Only for Members of Friends.
Memberships Available at the Door!

REGULAR SALE DAYS
Thursday, February 6, 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Friday, February 7, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

HALF-PRICE SALE
Saturday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

\$2 BAG SALE
Sunday, February 9, 1:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Special priced books will not be available at the Bag Sale. We will supply the bags.

Bay Village Community Council Winter Events Report

by THERESE KOOMAR

The Bay Village Community Council met on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Bay Library. A group of five members served on the Citizen of the Year selection committee immediately preceding the general meeting. Richard Gash was unanimously selected from the pool of nominations as the 2020 Bay Village Citizen of Year. The next meeting of Community Council is Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m., at the Bay Library. All civic organizations in the city are encouraged to send a representative to share their group's news and events.

American Legion Post #385 will be sending two boys from Bay High School and one boy from Westlake High School to Buckeye Boys State in June and two girls from Bay High School jointly sponsored by the Bay Village Kiwanis Club to Buckeye Girls State, also in June. The Buckeye programs last 9 days and the participants learn how the state, county and cities function. Each participant campaigns for an office from governor to local city council person. At the conclusion of the programs, the participants appear before at Legion and Kiwanis meetings and relate their experiences at the program. The Bay Legion has been sponsoring Bay students to these two programs for 40+ years.

The Bay Village Educational Foundation's "Celebrating Opportunities" event will take place on Sunday, Jan. 26, 5-8 p.m. at Arrabiata's. Tickets are \$75 each and are still available. Tickets include open bar, appetizers, dinner and dessert. There will be door prizes and raffles. Funds raised help fund student scholarships and teacher grants. Contact Kim Corrigan-Stojic to purchase tickets: kcorrigan69@gmail.com, 216-440-0648.

The Bay Village Green Team will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Bay Library. Anyone interested in sustainability is encouraged to attend.

Bay Village Kiwanis Club and the Bay High Key Club are sponsoring a

Pizza Bake-Off on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 5-8 p.m., in the Bay High cafeteria. The pizza will be prepared by vendors from Bay Village and Westlake. For \$10 (\$5 for ages 6-11), you receive unlimited pizza, one beverage and dessert. This is the night of the Bay vs. Rocky River basketball game, so eat pizza and then go to the game. Bay Village and neighboring Kiwanis clubs will be having Lenten breakfast programs on Wednesday mornings starting Ash Wednesday until Easter at the Rocky River Community Center. Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. and the program will start at 7:30 a.m.

The Bay Village League of Women Voters will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m. at the Bay Library. The League is celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage in 2020. The Western Reserve Historical Society will open an exhibit on May 22 in honor of the anniversary, titled Women and Politics. Events are being planned for the year, more details to come.

The City of Bay Village is bringing back Food Truck Fridays. A truck serving lunch items and another serving dessert will be parked in the City Hall parking lot from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Fridays from May 22 to Sept. 4, except for July 3. Participating vendors will be listed on the city's website.

Bay Village Library will host a Penguin Race Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m. Families with children grades K-4 will help their penguin pal race down a slide, use a toboggan and zipline its way to a polar victory. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village Branch Library. Jazz for All Ages is Monday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. The Biasella Trio will take you on a live musical journey through America's jazz history from Swing to Latin to Blues to Ballads. Scott Longert will discuss the World Series Champs of 1920 on Saturday, March 21, 2 p.m. Players including Tris Speaker, Bill Wamby and others will be discussed. Plus rare World Series photos will be shared.

The Bay Village PTA Council will host Investing In Your Child's Future on Thursday, Jan. 30, 6:30-8 p.m. at Bay Middle School. Bay graduate Bob Gillingham will be sharing information on what to consider when making investment decisions. Char Shryock, Director of Teaching and Learning, will be sharing information on the kinds of academic/social emotional investment in time and activities families can make. (Open to Bay families. Information targeted for families with children in preschool through 2nd grade.) Bay Village PTA Council Founders Day is Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30-8 p.m. at Bay Middle School.

The Bay Village Women's Club and Foundation's 51st Antique Show will be held Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Bay High School. The proceeds will go to scholarships for Bay High seniors as well as support for Bay organizations. Community organizations looking for funding should send a request to the Bay Village Women's Club at PO Box 40443, Bay Village OH 44140 by May 1.

This year marks **Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's** 75th anniversary. The Center will celebrate with special events and community partnerships throughout the year. Special events include a 75th Anniversary Brunch on April 19, a 75th Anniversary Barbeque on June 13, a free family celebration on Aug. 2 and a 75th Anniversary Gala on Sept. 26. Past visitors and "alumni" are encouraged to share their memories using #LakeErieNature75 or by joining the Center's 75th Anniversary Alumni Group on Facebook. To learn more about the Center's history and vision for 2020, visit www.lensc.org.

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center Women's Board ended 2019 on a high note with a sold-out benefit at Clague Playhouse in December. Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month with speakers, often from the Center, who provide information on nature-related topics. Feb. 5 is speaker Tim Jasinski, Wildlife Rehabilitation Spe-

cialist, with the latest information on Lights Out Cleveland, an initiative on bird migration and species conservation. March 4: Christine Barnett, Wildlife Program Specialist, presents Project Wildlife, a program that gives high school students the chance to develop skills, experience and leadership. To learn more about joining the Board, call Chris Hansen at 440-666-9941.

Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution is planning a piano program featuring Yaaron Kohlberg, the president and CEO of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. This free event will be held on Saturday, April 4 at Westlake Porter Public Library and is open to the public. Details are still being finalized and will be published soon.

VFW Post 9693 has selected its Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The winner will be announced after a presentation is held.

Village Bicycle Cooperative's Fix it Forward program continues with donations of refurbished bikes to Salvation Army and other charities. VBC donated 75 bicycles in 2019. In addition half of the reconditioned bikes are sold to the public. The Co-op accepts financial, material and volunteer time donations. Needs at present include: bikes, helmets, bike locks, reflective bands, LED light sets and batteries, clean rags, Simple Green cleaning product and more. See villagebicycle.org for additional info and Open Shop hours.

Village Project's fundraising gala, Nourish, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 29, at Hyland. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and we are accepting donation items for our silent auction and raffle. Nourish invitations have been mailed or you can go online to register or stop by VP to pick one up. After seven years, we will be taking a year off from Project Pedal in 2020 to allow us to focus on our 10-year anniversary celebration in September.

For more information about the Bay Village Community Council, including how to join, email Tara Wendell at tara@wbvobserver.com. ♦

Porter Library's annual book sale is Feb. 6-9

by CAROL MASEK

The Friends of Porter Public Library in Westlake will have their annual book sale from Feb. 6-9 with a preview night for members of Friends on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 4-7 p.m. Memberships will be available at the door.

You will find plenty of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books. There will be three rooms, including a room dedicated to hundreds of children's books.

This year there is a large collection of leather-bound classics in the Special Priced books section. A silent auction of special books is currently being held in the lobby of the library. There are many books with a Cleveland theme, books signed by the authors, and many more treasures. Final bids are due at 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 9. Check it out!

New this year, we are accepting Apple Pay, Google Pay, VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

Hours for the general sale are: Thursday, Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m.-8: p.m.; and Friday, Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The half-price sale is Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The \$2 bag sale is Sunday, Feb. 9, 1:15-4 p.m. We will supply the bags. ♦

Friends of Bay Village Library's winter book sale is Jan. 25-27

by LINDA LAMB

The Friends of the Bay Village Library's winter used book sale begins Saturday, Jan. 25th, at 9:00 a.m. and runs through Monday, Jan. 27, at 7:00 p.m. The sale is held in the meeting room of the library during regular library hours.

There is a large selection of books for readers of all ages as well as magazines, DVDs, CDs, audio books and more. All materials have been categorized for easy shopping. Monday, the last day of the sale, is bag day when a full bag of books costs \$2. Bags are provided by the library. Proceeds from the sale are used to support upcoming library programs and activities.

Please note the sale is now a three-day sale and will be from now on. It will NOT extend to Tuesday as in the past.

For more information on the book sale, volunteering to help with the sale, or becoming a member of the Friends of the Bay Village Library, visit the library at 502 Cahoon Road or call 440-871-6392. ♦

Bay Schools kindergarten information night Jan. 29

by KAREN DERBY

Bay Village parents and legal guardians of children who will be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2020, are invited to attend a Bay Village kindergarten information meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., at Normandy Elementary School, 26920 Normandy Road.

Meeting attendance is limited to parents or legal guardians, due to restricted space. The kindergarten registration packet will be distributed at this meeting.

In addition to an overview of kindergarten and kindergarten readiness, there will be information tables for those with questions regarding daycare, speech therapy, early entrance, transportation and volunteer opportunities.

Find more details at: bit.ly/BayVillageSchoolsKindergarten. ♦

BAYARTS

Emma Wolpert explores her Chinese roots at BAYarts

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

This month, BAYarts has an exhibition that hits close to home. In “Finding My Home, Finding Myself,” photographer Emma Wolpert displays images taken on a return visit to Huazhou, China. It was there that she was abandoned at a bus stop and taken to an orphanage.

The orphanage Wolpert was taken to is called Huazhou Social Welfare Institution, founded back in 1930. Prior to 1995, children had to live there until age 18 when they got a job, or else they stayed at the orphanage. But in November 1995 the orphanage allowed some of the children to be adopted. That April, Wolpert was adopted (at 8 months old) and then raised in Bay Village.

Photographs in the exhibit include Wolpert’s health records and information booklet as kept by the orphanage, the bus station she was found at, and scenery on the train ride as she, her mother and

older sister traveled from Guangzhou to Huazhou.

Wolpert says she has a strong connection with her adoptive family. “I’m the youngest in the family with two older sisters who I’ve always been close to, especially since I’ve graduated college. I think a major reason why my family and I have a strong connection is because we have always been very open about my adoption. Since I was young, my parents have strived to keep my Chinese heritage prominent in the family life.”

For Wolpert, her journey has largely been defined by art. As a junior in high school, her interest in photography was piqued. She then minored in photography during college. These days, she has “2 DSLR cameras, 4 lenses, and many more photo gadgets!” Her passion for the art form is deep, and she conveys this easily. “I love the idea of pausing a moment in time and having the ability to change someone’s perspective,” she



PHOTO BY EMMA WOLPERT

Children playing “train” at the Chinese orphanage where Emma Wolpert was taken after being abandoned. She was later adopted by a Bay Village family.

explains. “Photography allows you to see things on a deeper level, in my opinion.”

It is simplicity that often appeals to this young photographer. “You go out into the world and see everything in it, but you pick up on the most minute things that most people just walk right by. Someone reading a book on a park bench could tell such a beautiful story as a photograph. I love turning the simplest subjects into something interesting.”

According to Wolpert, art itself in any application is important. And she speaks to that in an eloquent way. “I think

art allows people to tap into themselves and find pieces and parts they never knew existed. Everything else in my life is enhanced when art is involved in my life because art allows me to feel more. Whether I am creating art or looking at someone else’s, I know it will make me feel and I think that is a very human thing that keeps you in touch with who you are.”

Wolpert says she wishes only happiness for her birth family.

This exhibit is on display in the Diane Boldman Education Gallery until Feb. 1. ●

Bay Rec offers winter programs



PHOTO BY CARTER CRUSE

Gemma Wichmann, Avery Bellack, Paige Rosa and Mikaela Davala won last year’s 3v3 Tournament in the 4th/5th grade girls division.

by MAGGIE KING

The Bay Village Recreation Department is offering a plethora of programs this winter to entertain your children and offer some sunshine during these gray days.

The Valentine’s Day Cookie Decorating Class on Saturday, Feb. 8, is geared towards children ages 5-12. The participants will be using a royal frosting to decorate prebaked cookies. Valentine-themed designs as well as their own creativity will be used. Cost is \$28 for residents, \$48 for non-residents.

The Recreation Department will also be hosting a 3v3 Basketball Tournament for boys and girls in grades 3-8. The tournament will take place on Presidents Day, Feb. 17, when the kids have no school. This tournament is

open to residents (\$120 per team) and non-residents (\$150 per team) with a maximum of five players per team. Last year’s tournament was a great success. Friends, competitive spirits and music made for a great time had by all participants and spectators.

Another popular winter program is Indoor Afterschool Tennis for grades 3-4. These classes will focus on stroke work and live ball play. The next session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 28, and will run until Feb. 18. Cost is \$45/residents; \$55/non-residents. The Recreation Department also offers Indoor Tennis for kindergarten-2nd graders as well as a parent/child class.

Visit www.cityofbayvillage.com to register or check out more programs being offered by the Recreation Department this winter. Phone 440-871-6755 with questions. ●

Bay VFW launches new website

by FRED GREEN

In order to better serve and communicate with our local communities on the West Shore, the Bay Village VFW has initiated a website for our Post, vfw-post9693.org.

As more of our membership is online and as most of our potential members are looking for quick info, we believe that this will greatly benefit our recruiting and communication.

The website can be utilized by members for event and meeting information, by students looking to partici-

pate in one of our essay competitions or apply for the military scholarship, and by community members interested in learning about Post events and Americanism activities throughout the year.

We are adding information to the site as soon as possible. We will have member names, photos, events, and links to other sites. Come online and take a tour! You can contact us for information or view the requirements to join VFW.

We are always in need of new members to keep the Post fresh and continue to serve our veterans, military and community. ●

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S My Furry Valentine Pet Photos

**Wed. Jan. 29 • 5-9 p.m.
& Sun. Feb. 2 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**
at the Clague House Museum • 1371 Clague Road
Please call 216-848-0680 for reservations and info.
A \$10 donation is requested.



Got Questions About Life?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of Christian faith. Each session includes a meal, a movie and meaningful conversation.

Open to the Public - Free
Tuesdays from Jan 21
thru Mar 31
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Pre-register at: saintraphaelparish.com
or email: alpha@saintraphaelparish.com
(Registration helpful but not required)
Childcare is available to parents attending
and dinner is included for children.



St. Raphael Catholic Church

525 Dover Center Rd. • Bay Village • 440-871-1100

DIGGING DOVER

Now and then in Dover, Part 1

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

Part one in a series on places featured in early 20th century Leiter postcards.

Many collectibles cherished by previous generations have little market value today. One exception are postcards, especially Real Picture Post Cards (RPPCs) which command high prices. One reason for their popularity is that they provide a glimpse into daily life during a time when few people owned their own cameras.

One local purveyor of RPPCs in the early 20th century was The Leiter Post Card Company which was located in Lorain, Ohio. They photographed and printed cards of places in Dover from their founding in 1901 at least into the 1910s.

North Dover High Level Bridge and Saw Mill

There are at least two Leiter postcards which refer to the Dover High Level Bridge near North Dover. Bay Village Historical Society's "Bay Village: A Way of Life" published in 1974 indicates that this bridge was a link to the Oviatt saw mill which was located between Cahoon and Dover Center roads north of the Lake Road bridge.

In earlier days West Oviatt did not meet Cahoon Road at a right angle like it does today. It was angled in a north-westerly/southeasterly direction. It also is

depicted on Hopkins plat books as late as 1937 as a bridge and aerial photographs from 1951 still seem to show a bridge in this location. Later the road was straightened when a large culvert and fill were added in the ravine beneath it.

One of the two postcards is reprinted on page 37 of "Bay Village: A Way of Life" with a caption stating: "Oviatt farm buildings alongside the Oviatt bridge built to replace the wooden bridge erected in 1854. Cahoon and Oviatt Roads." A 1914 Hopkins plat book seems to support this interpretation of the postcard with a farm building drawn in the right position. A large oak tree behind 27408 West Oviatt may even feature prominently in the center of the image on the postcard near the location of the former farm building!

Another interpretation of this postcard is that it is a "View from about 1911 of the Lake Shore Electric High Level Bridge through Huntington Park." This is the typed caption accompanying another copy of the postcard in the collection of Westlake resident Bob Collins. There were farm buildings on the estate that could be what is seen here but the angle of Porter Creek in relation to the Huntington trestles does not seem to match this view.

The Lake Shore Electric Interurban had two trestles in Bay Village. One was located in what is today Cahoon Park and the other in what is today Huntington Park. Before the two trestles for the

Interurban were replaced with concrete piers in 1925 (which still remain today in Huntington Park) they most likely looked like the bridge pictured on the postcard with metal support structures bolted to quarried sandstone piers. A photograph on page 26 of "The Lake Shore Electric Railway Story" by Harwood and Korach shows the interurban bridge over the Rocky River with virtually identical railings, decks, support structures and piers to what is pictured on the postcard. This suggests that the "high level bridge" was actually the interurban trestle on the Clague land but there is no farm building shown on plats in the correct location.

The other Leiter postcard is captioned "Scene from High Level Bridge near N. Dover, O." It appears to be looking north from the bridge at a mill located on the edge of a creek. If this is from the West Oviatt Bridge then it depicts the Oviatt sawmill. The bend in Cahoon Creek north of West Oviatt Road and possible stone foundation remains on the west bank of the creek seem to support this interpretation.

However, the Cahoons also had a sawmill and it is possible that the picture is of their mill which might have been visible north of the Interurban trestle that passed through what is today Cahoon Park roughly in the location of today's sledding hill. The fact that the tree line appears to end north of the mill makes it easy to imagine one is looking toward Lake Erie. Could it be that the Oviatt bridge

and Interurban bridge/trestles were constructed by the same manufacturer and there were multiple "high level" bridges in or near North Dover? ●



Historical photograph of Lake Shore Electric viaduct over the Rocky River in 1905. Published in "The Lake Shore Electric Railway Story" from the Karel Liebenauer collection. Identical construction to Dover bridge pictured on Leiter postcard.



Possible site of Oviatt sawmill on Cahoon Creek, north of West Oviatt Road in Bay Village in 2019.



"Scene from High Level Bridge near N. Dover O." on Leiter postcard published about 1910. This building may be either the Oviatt or Cahoon sawmills.

PET CARE

The two extremes of apartment cat life

by BETH PASEK

Life for an apartment cat can be quite boring or melodramatic. A nice quiet apartment on the top floor can make for a very bored cat, while a cat on a middle floor will experience all sorts of intrusions on their day. It may be the dog next door incessantly barking, the kids running up or down the hallway, or even the movers of another apartment may trigger an episode of anxiety in your apartment cat.

These situations often have overlapping ways to resolve

themselves. The first thing you need to recognize is if your cat is indeed bored or stressed out.

A bored cat may sleep all day and then have the kitty crazies all night. Few people I know appreciate this kind of crazy behavior at night, but it often comes from being able to sleep the day away. A cat's natural instinct is to hunt at dawn and dusk when the most amount of prey would be available. To fulfill this need in an apartment-dwelling cat, one should consider food puzzles that mimic hunting activity.



Luna walks the rails in her apartment. Various perching locations can help mitigate boredom in apartment-dwelling cats.

One can place high value treats in prime resting locations and then gradually make finding those treats more difficult. Providing several perching locations to view the outside

can help mitigate some of the boredom.

Cats experiencing apartment anxiety may never come out of the bedroom while you are gone. Every noise they hear in the hallway can trigger a quick trip under the bed or a retreat to the closet. How do you know your cat is experiencing this kind of anxiety? I recently observed a client's cat look to the door, his body stiffen, and it was clear, the cat was ready to dart to his nearest safe spot. Can you imagine living life that way in a one-bedroom apartment? So a few questions with his owners and we developed a plan to help reduce the cat's anxiety. Anxiety in cats can create all sorts of problems if the triggers cannot be resolved or mitigated.

Food puzzles to help keep this cat's mind occupied and dis-

tracted from the outside disturbances were introduced. We also encouraged using Alexa and the Smart TV to their fullest potential. Pets benefit just as much as people do from music therapy. "Classical for Pets" music and RelaxMyCat videos were introduced. In both cases, we encouraged several play sessions of 15 minutes in the morning and evening. Play is also a great bonding activity and confidence builder in stressful situations.

Considering your cat's environment is important to keeping them happy and healthy. We often forget that soft, purring, cuddly creature next to us is a finely tuned predator and prey. Looking to improve their apartment life comes with recognizing the behavior your cat is showing you. Often simple steps can be taken to improve their quality of life and yours. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library Late January Events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesdays, Jan. 22 and 29 (9:30 & 10:15 a.m.) **Let's Sing and Dance!** – Sing and move to the music with Miss Nancy! For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please arrive early to receive a ticket.

Wednesday, Jan. 22 (2 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – The January selection is “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng.

Wednesdays, Jan. 22 and 29 (3-4:30 p.m.) **Tween Scene** – Drop in after school to play board games and video games with your friends. Snacks will be provided. Grades 5-6.

Wednesday, Jan. 22 (4-5 p.m.) **Winter Walk** – Bundle up for a winter walk with us in our garden and on our property. We will quietly observe nature, hear a story, and warm up with hot cider and a treat. Registration begins Jan. 15. Please register siblings separately.

Wednesdays, Jan. 22 and 29 (4-5:30 p.m.) and Thursday, Jan. 23 (6:30-8 p.m.) **Bow Wow Books** – Stop by Youth Services to sign up for a 10-minute reading time with a reading therapy dog. Dogs will stay for 10 minutes past the last registered reader or 1.5 hours, whichever comes first. Sign-ups begin Wednesday

at 3:30 p.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22 (7-8 p.m.) **Alternatives to Cable TV** – Frustrated with cable service? This program will help you sort through the variety of viewing alternatives available. Learn about digital media players, streaming services and additional options.

Thursday, Jan. 23 (noon-1:30 p.m.) **Small Business Lunch & Learn: Grant Writing Basics** – Join us to get answers to your grant writing questions, discover key do's and don'ts, and learn how to navigate the grant writing process. Leave with tips for writing successful proposals. Please register.

Thursdays, Jan. 23 and 30 (3:15-4:30 p.m.) **Teen Writers Group** – A weekly meet up for writers in grades 7-12.

Thursdays, Jan. 23 and 30 (4-5 p.m., Grades 3-4) and Monday, Jan. 27 (4-5 p.m., Grades 3-8) **Code Club!** – Learn how to build an app, design a video game, and change the world through code! Registration begins a week before each session.

Thursdays, Jan. 23 and 30 (6-6:45 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 25 (11-11:45 a.m.) **Adapted Storytime** – This 30-minute storytime followed by a time for social-

ization is designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime experience. Content is geared to ages 3-7 but all ages are welcome. Siblings may also attend but must register separately. Registration begins one week before each session.

Friday, Jan. 24 (10 a.m.-noon) **Fiber Fanatics** – A time for needlecrafters to share, solve problems, and show off.

Friday, Jan. 24 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday: Winter Animals** – Explore the animals that love the winter and have adapted to the snow and cold. Discoveries will be made through hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Ages 4-6, kindergarten or lower. Registration begins Jan. 17.

Saturday, Jan. 25 (noon-4 p.m.) **Family Football Fun!** – Kick off your day with fun halftime activities! Team up with us to celebrate the Super Bowl with crafts and games. All ages.

Saturday, Jan. 25 (3:30-4 p.m.) **Family Storytime** – An interactive family storytime featuring books, rhymes, songs, movement and a small craft. For families with children ages 2-6. Siblings welcome.

Sunday, Jan. 26 (2-3 p.m.) **A Conversation with Matt Harry** – Join us for a conversation with best-selling YA author Matt Harry. Harry is the author of “Cryptozoology for Beginners,” the much-awaited sequel to “Sorcery for Beginners.” Books will be available for

purchase and signing after the event. Registration begins Jan. 12.

Monday, Jan. 27 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) **Teen Lounge** – Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We have computers, video games, board games, snacks and more. For grades 7-12 only.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Beginning Tarot Card Reading** – Learn how to become familiar with Tarot cards, ask the right question, shuffle the deck, and get information from the cards. Please bring your own cards. The Rider-Waite deck is perfect for beginners. Please register.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 (10-11 a.m.) **Laughter Yoga** – Brighton Gardens will present this program on Laughter Yoga, a modern exercise involving prolonged voluntary laughter. Please register.

Thursday, Jan. 30 (7-8 p.m.) **Optimal Aging vs. Successful Aging** – Lauranne Scharf from Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging will present this program. Please register.

Friday, Jan. 31 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Got Science?** – Have you ever wondered why some foods taste better than others? This month we'll test sweet, salty and sour. Program may not be appropriate for children with allergies. Grades 1 and 2. Registration begins Jan. 24.

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

Bay Village Branch Library Upcoming Programs

by TARA MCGUINNESS

CHILDREN

Weekly Storytimes

- 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.) **Preschool Storytime** – ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten)
- Fridays (10 a.m. and 11 a.m.) **Family**

Storytime – for all ages

Wednesday, Jan. 29 (3:15 p.m.) **Stuffed Animal Sleepover** – Drop off your stuffed animal at the Bay Village Library on Jan. 28 any time between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Join us for a stuffed animal sleepover party on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 3:15 p.m. for stories, crafts and activities when you pick up your favorite stuffed friend.

Saturday, Feb. 8 (10 a.m.) **Preschool STEAM** – Ages 3-5: Join us for stories and a hands-on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) activity. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bay Village

Branch Library..

TEEN

Wednesdays, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5 (3-4 p.m.) **Teen Zone** – Grades 5 and up: Hang out with something fun to do after school – gaming, art, movies, technology and more! Parents/guardians must complete a Release and Hold Harmless form.

Thursday, Feb. 6 (3 p.m.) **Write On** – Grades 5-8: Join us for fun, quirky and challenging writing exercises and activities to get your creativity flowing. Registration required.

READER'S OPINION

Winners and losers in the grocery game

by HENRY LEVENBERG,
Westlake High School senior

The retail chains Aldi and Trader Joe's have always been competitors in the city of Westlake, but many aren't familiar with these stores' origins.

In 1946 Germany, brothers Karl and Theo Albrecht founded the grocery store Aldi. In a war-torn country, the idea of a low cost grocery store chain took

off and they were soon able to expand. Within four years, their small chain had expanded to 13 stores and the business continued to grow.

As Germany's economy continued to evolve, tensions began to rise between the two brothers. The final blow occurred in 1960, when the two brothers disputed on whether to sell cigarettes. Both brothers had different ideas on what kind of business –

or what kind of problems – that the cigarette-smoking consumer would bring.

Unable to compromise, they decided to split the business into two separate divisions: Aldi North and South. Despite this, both businesses continued to grow. Both companies had different plans to go international.

Theo Albrecht, CEO of Aldi North, decided to purchase the small retail chain Trader Joe's; Karl, CEO of Aldi South, chose to open Aldi stores under its original name. Almost 50 years later, our little community is home to both Trader Joe's and Aldi, one mile apart.


Westlake's economy has

shifted and evolved, and this shift in changes may be pushing out one of these stores. Rumors have begun to swirl that the Aldi on Detroit is moving into Lorain County in the next few years, unable to compete in the market that this city has grown into. Unfounded rumors are never basis for good reporting, but corporate America understands that for a majority of Westlake customers, a low cost grocery store is not wanted or needed – which is why stores like Fresh Thyme, Market District, and soon-to-be World Market have opened in the last couple years.

However, the majority is not

always an accurate representation of the whole. Not unlike the Albrecht brothers, we stereotype our neighbors based on economic standing and push them from our community. Aldi leaving – and along with it, the lower-class, cigarette-smoking consumer the two brothers disagreed about – could be interpreted as the continuing evolution of Westlake's class distinctions.

It begs to ask the question: Is our need for a high quality grocery chain ostracizing our neighbors who cannot afford it? And in doing so, are we losing our sense of community? Maybe it's just a few grocery stores, or maybe it's a tale in history repeating itself. ●

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Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

Phaeton Piano Trio from Germany to perform local concert

by CAROL JACOBS

After years of touring Europe, Asia and South America, the Phaeton Piano Trio is making its first tour to the United States where it will perform at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the Frick Collection in New York

City, and the San Jose Chamber Music Society in California. Notably, between New York and California, the Trio will also perform at the Rocky River Chamber Music Society! The Trio will play classic works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Dvořák on Monday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., at the West Shore

Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River.

Based in Eastern Germany, artists Florian Uhlig, piano; Friedemann Eichhorn, violin; and Peter Hörr, violoncello, have an extensive discography performing as soloists under several different labels. The Trio

has received many accolades from critics who call their performances “spirited and virtuosic,” “fantastic” and “masterful.” One German reviewer declared, “The members of the Phaeton Piano Trio are virtuosos who cannot be surpassed in their musicianship and who unconditionally place their art in the service of inter-

pretation.”

The Rocky River Chamber Music Society is fortunate to present the Phaeton Piano Trio on Feb. 10. Arrive early since the sanctuary fills up quickly. There is no admission charge for any of the Society’s concerts and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.rcms.org. ●

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6:30-8 p.m.

BAY VILLAGE GREEN TEAM MEETING

All are welcome to join a group of volunteers working to make Bay Village a more sustainable community.

Bay Village Library, 502 Cahoon Rd.

Thursday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m.

CENTER RIDGE CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

The City of Westlake, with help from County Planning, is developing a Master Plan for possible improvements along the Center Ridge Road Corridor. At this meeting, County Planning will introduce the Corridor Master Plan and ask residents to share thoughts and ideas through interactive exercises. *Westlake City Hall, Council Chambers, 27700 Hilliard Blvd.*

Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

“STAY IN BAY” PUBLIC MEETING

Residents are invited to hear updates and provide input on Bay’s proposed zoning overlay project to encourage more retail, additional housing options, and new community gathering spaces. *Bay Village Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane*

Monday, Jan. 27, 11:30 a.m.

BAY VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Delight your eyes with the genius of Claude

Monet. Local art historian and artist, Felicia Zaverella Stadelman, has worked closely with the Cleveland Museum of Art, and has trained over 200 docents. Learn of the artistry of Monet. Join us for lunch at 11:30. \$5 fee for registered guests and \$10 for walk-ins. Register at www.bayvillagegardenclub.com or by calling Sharen at 440-871-9098. *Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.*

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FAMILY DRUMMING NIGHT FOR THOSE COPING WITH CANCER

No experience necessary. Children are welcome. Drums provided. Advance registration required: 216-595-9546.

The Gathering Place, 25425 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30-9 p.m.

FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Spend an evening under the stars as we observe the winter night sky in both the natural elements and inside our planetarium. Outdoors we’ll have night hikes and telescopes set up for viewing (bring your binoculars if you have them). Warm up indoors with a planetarium program and hot chocolate! Advance registration is strongly encouraged. Fee: \$10/person; children 2 and under are free. *Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village*

Saturday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

BAYARTS SOUPER BOWL

Help us choose this year’s winner. Dozens of homemade soups to sample, bread, baked goods and beverages. Take home a one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl made in BAYarts’ ceramic studio. Advance tickets (\$20) include soup and take-home bowl and benefits the ceramic studio. Buy online at bayarts.net. To enter your soup, contact Pam@bayarts.net. *BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd.*

Saturday, Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.

BAY UMC SOUP SUPPER

Bay United Methodist Women will be hosting their annual Soup Supper in their Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go toward mission service. Cost is \$10 per adult, children under 10 free. All you care to eat of a variety of homemade soups, rolls, dessert and drinks. All are welcome. *Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.*

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2-3:30 p.m.

MEET A GROUNDHOG

Join us in celebrating Groundhog Day! Special guest Molly Ryan will bring along her groundhog friends and give you an up-close look at these ground dwelling hibernators. Learn all about why groundhogs have their own holiday and the meaning behind their many nicknames. Fee: \$10/

person; children 2 and under are free.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1-2:30 p.m.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Members of Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will offer assistance to the public. If you have data recorded to pedigree and/or family group sheets, please bring these forms with you, to help volunteers help you. *Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2-4 p.m.

SENIOR STRONG: MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Participants will learn to promote strong emotional health, reduce risk factors for suicide, avoid isolation, combat loneliness and develop supporting relationships and compelling behaviors. Senior Strong, a Far West Center initiative, has the goal of increasing awareness of mental health in older adults and reduce risk through education, training and early intervention as well as to improve coping skills to better manage the stressors of aging and increase a sense of community belonging. RSVP by Feb. 3 to 440-835-6565.

Bay Village Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane

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