

## Hail to the chief

Bay Village police chief Mark Spaetzel retires



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Cars line up for a surprise “drive-by farewell” to Chief Mark Spaetzel and his wife, Chris, at Avon Lake United Church of Christ on May 29.

by WARREN REMEIN

If you know the Bay Village Chief of Police, Mark Spaetzel, then you know he is a thoughtful, caring and diligent father, police officer and chief. After 35 years with the Bay Village Police Department, Mark Spaetzel is retiring. Since we can’t have what would be a large party of family and friends the least that should be done is to note a little about his life and achievements.

Born in 1963 in Lorain, Ohio, Mark’s family has lived a long time in Avon

Lake. Not only did he grow up in Avon Lake and go to school there, his grandmother was in the first class to graduate from Avon Lake High School. His father, Richard, and mom, Dorothy, are both still living in Avon Lake and very proud of their son. Police work is in the family: his grandfather, Ed, was part-time Avon Lake officer, while his brother Steve is a Lakewood police officer and a cousin is also a policeman.

After graduating from Avon Lake High in 1982, he went on to earn a degree in Police Science from Lorain

County Community College. The Bay Village Police Dept. called in 1985 and Mark was hired by Chief Bill Gareau. Within two years he was appointed training officer, which was a real honor. Subsequently he was appointed an instructor to train other officers and learning and teaching self-defense. In October 1993 he was made sergeant and was sworn in as chief on Nov. 1, 2013.

Asked what was most special in his work, he said every day brought something different.

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## When it comes to kittens, mom knows best

by SUSAN MURNANE

With spring turning to summer, outdoor kittens will be coming out to play, and well-meaning people may think the kittens need rescuing. Most of the time Momcat

is around, and the best thing you can do is to leave the kittens to her tender care in their outdoor home.

Kittens have their best chance at survival in their mother’s care. Very young kittens are completely dependent on their mothers. They nurse very frequently and



cannot even eliminate waste on their own for several weeks.

Young kittens may not survive even in the care of an experienced kitten foster, and very few rescue organizations have enough experienced volunteers to foster very young kittens.

► See KITTENS page 2

## Bay Men’s Club and friends clean up on Memorial Day

by DWIGHT CLARK

It didn’t take long for the Bay Men’s Club to jump in and help a Bay Village family struggling with cancer. Damon Bower, a Bay High schooler, is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Volunteer organizer, past president of BMC and current Ward 4 City Councilman Peter Winzig led the effort. “A close friend of mine called

and asked if I would reach out to some friends to help the Bower family with some much needed yard work”, said Mr. Winzig. “I made a few calls, sent out an email request to other BMC past presidents, and asked current BMC President Matt Williams to do the same to our membership. In typical BMC fashion, positive ‘count me in’ support rolled in and the guys just kept showing up to help.”

► See MEN’S CLUB page 2



PHOTO BY TESSA KISMET

Volunteers, pictured from left: Larry Bennet, Pete Winzig, Pete Gierosky, Brian Bower, Trigger Bower, Damon Bower, Dwight Clark, Jack Wunder, Matt Williams, Dave Blevins, Levi Wunder, Kismet Wunder, Bob Gerlach and Ray Glinka Jr. Not pictured are Rob Spies, Eric Eakin, Greg Zito.

## Westlake Senior Center offers virtual programs

by LYDIA GADD

Although senior centers cancelled activities and closed their doors to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, the work and provision of services didn’t end with the locked doors, they just changed.

One of the changes resulted in the creation of a

virtual program schedule of events. The Westlake Senior and Community Services Center would like to invite our local seniors (you do not have to be a Westlake resident) to join us in some of our free programs via Zoom. Instructions on how to utilize Zoom are detailed in our newsletter found at [www.cityofwestlake.org/](http://www.cityofwestlake.org/)

community-services.

Recognizing, however, that this unfamiliar territory may sound too intimidating to try without assistance, we have staff Zoom tutors who are more than willing to talk you through the steps over the phone. Call 440-899-3544 for a Zoom tutorial, or to register for the Zoom classes. We send the class invitations out to registered guests only, so that we can monitor who is allowed to enter the virtual program. This is a safety feature.

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# PROGRAMS *from front page*

Here are just some of the offerings in June's calendar of FREE Zoom events. There are some additional offerings in our calendar, such as a trivia night that do have a nominal fee, if you check out our newsletter. Again, the phone number to register is 440-899-3544.

Stay together and stay interested!

**LET'S CONNECT:** Friday, June 5, 10 a.m.

One of the best things about getting together at the Senior Center is the opportunity to connect with current friends and make new friends. Join us for a good, old-fashioned chat where we can connect and get to know each other. In this program moderated by staffers Jodi and Lydia, we discuss how the past few months have affected us; with a chance to share not just the struggles, but some of the positives as well. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 4.

**MEDITATION TO MANAGE STRESS:** Thursday, June 4, 1 p.m.

In this class, director Lydia Gadd, who is also a licensed professional clinical counselor will provide background information about how meditation actually works to reduce stress and provide some sampler meditation techniques to practice. This class is perfect for beginners. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 3.

**AN ARTFUL STORY:** Monday, June 8, 2 p.m.

Join storyteller Kathy Strawser and artistic director of the Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation, Jerry Devis, for an engaging and entertaining hour long art experience. Kathy will share a folktale from Poland with photographs. Jerry will guide you through a hands-on art experience related to the story and the work of artist Marc Chagall. A packet of art materials will be provided for the program, you provide scissors. No experience is necessary! Call to reserve your Zoom spot and pick up a packet by June 5.

**NEWS AND VIEWS:** Wednesday, June 10, 11 a.m.

Instructor Janet Carnall will be joining you to discuss current and world events. A likely discussion about trending new topics is sure to take place. Thank you to Anne Esarove who sponsored this program. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 8.

**REASONS TO SMILE:** Thursdays, June 11 and 25, 1 p.m.

This is a monthly series focusing on good news around the community, the country and the world. Each session, program planner Jodi Rodriguez will share stories of people and groups making a difference in a positive way, highlighting music, art and more that will definitely give you a reason to smile. Call to reserve your Zoom spot one day in advance.

**GREAT COURSES: COLOR, HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOUR MOOD AND EMOTION?:** Monday, June 15, 10 a.m.

There is more to colors than just aesthetics, there's an actual science behind how different colors work with your brain and eyes to influence the way you think, feel and behave. The Great Courses are taught by leading college professors across the country. Join program planner Jennifer Yoo as she plays the 30-minute videotaped lecture, and then leads a discussion about what we learned. This last lecture in the series focuses

on the competitive and moral contexts of the colors black and white. You do not need to have heard the previous lectures to join. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 12.

**MOMENTS WITH THE MAYOR:** Thursday, June 18, 10 a.m.  
Westlake's Mayor Dennis Clough will be on hand to discuss how the city is doing during the pandemic as well as what is happening around town. He will also answer your questions. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 16.

**CRAFTING WITH DEBBIE: WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM, SO DOES HOPE!:** Friday, June 19, 1 p.m.

This fun and easy craft is done using coffee filters and pipe cleaners. Craft instructor Debbie Wang will demonstrate different ways to make your flower a "one of a kind" beauty. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 15. Material kits may be picked up at the center before June 17.

**REMEMBER WHEN:** Tuesday, June 23, 11 a.m.

This month, staffers Michele Hassen and Jodi Rodriguez will lead the group on a memory you wish to share. Show us a picture or an item from your home and tell us the story. We would love to know more about you! Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 22.

**TED TALK: THE STORY OF MAGIC, KINDNESS AND SURVIVAL DURING THE HOLOCAUST:** Wednesday, June 24, 11 a.m.

Listen to this taped TED Talk, followed by a discussion facilitated by director Lydia Gadd. The focus of this talk is less about the Holocaust and more about how a simple act of kindness can inspire and impact your life forever. You will have an opportunity to share and hear your own examples of how simple acts of kindness entered your heart and changed your life. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 22.

**MANAGING STRESS IN A RELATIONSHIP:** Monday, June 29, 1 p.m.

The circumstances we are currently living in has created new stress in every aspect of life. For some, relationship stress may be even more pronounced. Learn about common communication pitfalls that contribute to relationship stress, as well as tips on assertive communication and healthy boundaries. Call to reserve your Zoom spot by June 28.

**SENIORS STRONG SESSIONS BY PHONE:** Wednesdays in June, 10 a.m.

If you are still not convinced that you want to try a Zoom program, we also have a teleconferencing option – all you need is a telephone and it doesn't even have to be a smart one! Presented by Bob Piovarchy from the Far West Center, Seniors Strong is a four-part mental health information series by telephone to discuss ways to understand and manage one's emotional and mental health. The phone conferences will hold up to 12 participants.

June's topics include:

- June 3: Understanding Mental Health
- June 10: Managing Loneliness and Suicide Awareness
- June 17: Understanding Trauma's Impact
- June 24: Wellness Coping Strategies

Call 440-899-3544 to reserve your spot and receive instructions for phoning in. ●

# KITTENS *from front page*

There is a real danger that unweaned kittens will be euthanized if taken to a shelter – even a "no kill" shelter – because they cannot be properly cared for. Therefore, it is best to not interfere with young kittens unless they or their mother are visibly injured or ill, and there is no realistic alternative.

You can effectively help kittens, however, by helping the whole family. If you are worried about kittens you see outdoors, watch from a discrete distance for Momcat to return, but she may not come out until she thinks you are gone. You can feed Momcat, but don't leave food out more than 30 minutes or it may attract predators and endanger your feline family. You may also provide the family a shelter (plans for inexpensive DIY community cat homes can be found online), but they may refuse your shelter in favor of other accommodations more to their liking under neighborhood

decks and porches.

The kittens can safely be removed from Mom when they are between six and eight weeks old, but only do this if you have found a rescue or families that agree to take them. Often, rescues are overwhelmed with kittens and can't take any more, and most people who want cats already have at least one.

Kittens can be neutered when they are 8 weeks old, and Momcat also needs to be neutered. A happy ending to your story may be TNR – trap, neuter and return: Momcat and the kittens are neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their happy outdoor home.

For more information about TNR, visit [clevelandapl.org](http://clevelandapl.org), and click on "Programs, Services & Resources." If you have questions about community cats and kittens or want help with TNR, contact Friends of the Bay Village Kennel via their website at [friendsofbayvillagekennel.com](http://friendsofbayvillagekennel.com).

For more information on what to do if you find outdoor kittens, see [www.alleycat.org/resources](http://www.alleycat.org/resources). ●

# MEN'S CLUB *from front page*

On Memorial Day, the volunteer team of adults and kids descended up the Bower house, trimmed trees and bushes, cleaned and raked out the gardens, cut grass, edged the gardens and sidewalks and spruced up the entire yard.

It was such a great day for our Men's Club to lend a helping hand to the Bowers – Damon is a strong young man and will get through this, and with what we all hope will be a full recovery. It feels great to see this group of friends helping out a family who is deserving of our assistance.

The Community Club of Bay Village, otherwise known as Bay Men's Club, is the oldest civic organization in the city, founded in 1917. It has passed through various stages of social and community support over the year and has emerged as a non-partisan organization whose main purpose is to promote camaraderie and good fellowship, combined with occasional acts of volunteer spirit to assist neighbors in need. The Club is open to gentlemen of Bay Village and adjoining suburbs and meets on a monthly basis. ●

WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE

Observer

Community Powered News

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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 the participation of the 1,100+ community volunteers. All Westlake and Bay Village residents are invited to participate.

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# Bay Men's Club awards scholarships

by ERIC EAKIN

The Bay Men's Club has awarded \$1,500 scholarships to three very deserving Bay High students: Claire Blevins, Mason Hewko, and Jane Finley.

Scholarships are awarded based on need, character, scholastic achievement and leadership qualities.

Blevins enjoys art, photography, being outside, and hanging out with friends. She was on the varsity volleyball team her freshman and sophomore years, which got cut short after she was diagnosed with cancer in 2017. She was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and after many rounds of chemo and hospitalizations she finished treatment in December 2019, only to sadly relapse in March. She is preparing for a bone marrow transplant in June, and

plans to take classes at Cuyahoga Community College her first year while she finishes treatment, then transfer to another four-year college and major in nursing.

Hewko is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), band, swim team, and choir. He was a two-year captain of the swim team, treasurer of NHS and a cappella, vice president of show choir, and has been on band leadership since sophomore year. He plans on attending Belmont University in Nashville to study music business with a hopeful double major in singing/songwriting and a potential minor in mathematics.

Finley will be attend-

ing Miami University in the fall to major in political science with a minor in physiology and law. She was a member of NHS, student council, thespians, and class officers. She was the editor for the yearbook, chairman for YPF, and a lieutenant and captain for Rockettes. Jane was also extremely involved in The Leukemia

and Lymphoma Society and was named Student of the Year in 2018 for raising \$70,000. She continues to raise money for the organization with the school.

"The accomplishments of these three recipients, both academically and in other fields, is quite impressive," scholarship committee chairperson Peter Gierosky said. "We are happy to provide this seed money for our leaders of tomorrow." ●



Claire Blevins



Jane Finley



Mason Hewko

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Questions? Email [staff@wbvobserver.com](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com)

# BAYarts kicks off summer

by KAREN PETKOVIC

In spite of the having to cancel many of BAYarts' signature "stay-cation" summer events, the campus is now open.

"Of course we are biased," says BAYarts General Manager Beth Milli, "but we think BAYarts' campus is the best place in town to reconnect with friends and take in some culture while social distancing."

Typically in summer, the arts campus is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and has thousands of visitors for concerts, festivals and the Thursday market. But while those are on hold and with fewer classes as we slowly reopen, there will be shorter hours and no weekends to start. "We want to make sure we are ready to address the flow of park visitors," says Milli. "We have seen record numbers of pedestrians since the COVID-19 shut downs. It'll be interesting what the summer weather brings."

With the mandate for social distancing and safety, BAYarts has been busy preparing. The popular local artists shop has expanded to allow for greater flow and is also available online for pick-up purchases. Although large gallery openings won't be happening for awhile, the Sullivan Gallery will still highlight local artists for in-person viewing and virtual exhibitions. "One thing we're excited about is Gallery Nights where groups of no more than 10 can see an exhibit and


then have a boxed dinner and wine from one of our restaurant partners – a great night out for friends who aren't ready for crowded restaurants and can picnic in the park," says Milli.

BAYarts summer camps, where hundreds of youth participate in weeklong art-focused activities, will be replaced this year by smaller group classes later in the summer. In the meantime, "Art to Go" kits and "Camp in a Box" have been a popular alternative to much of the online and at-home programming families have been doing. The kits can be ordered online at [bayarts.net](http://bayarts.net) for pick-up and can be done in the park in one of the many wide open spaces on BAYarts' campus.

"We are going to start slow," says Milli. "Our goal is to have a safe, fun, BAYarts style summer." ●



BAYarts reopened its doors with social distancing a priority.





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20-0452



DIGGING DOVER

# French coin among early artifacts found in Dover

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

Jack Dianiska has lived in his Henry Road home behind St. Raphael's for 60 years. He contacted the Observer after the first Digging Dover column about Native American relics found in Dover. He had several incredible stories to tell.

He was excited to read about the stone mortar that was found along Cahoon Creek, uncovered when the former Zipp's manufacturing site was being cleared for the Cahoon Ledges cluster development. What he was excited about was that he found a stone pestle in the same location at the same time! The pestle and mortar would have been used to grind nuts.

Mr. Dianiska wondered if the man who found the mortar – which I've only heard about but haven't seen – had ever contacted me. He hasn't. Later, when Mr. Dianiska and I met (with masks of course), I was able to hold the pestle and it had the same finely crafted balanced feel in my hand as the stone celt mentioned in the first article. He also found a grooved stone ax in the dirt pile. Both the pestle and the ax were dated by an expert in stone tools as from the Early Archaic period.

The pestle and ax are made from the same hard, gray stone as the celt from the previous article. Archaeologists surmise that grooved axes and celts were probably companion tools used in the construction of wood framed dwellings. These tools became common 7,000 years ago. In the same pile of dirt Jack found shards of Native American pottery that come from a later period.

Mr. Dianiska has explored Cahoon Creek for artifacts for years; one of his beautiful finds was a white barbed point that the same expert mentioned above said was used for impaling fish. As a life-long bow hunter Jack's admiration for the artistry and skills of these Native American craftsmen was palpable.

After graduating from John Marshall High School in West Park, Mr. Dianiska worked for house building brothers Alex and Henry Bruscino. It was Jack's job to make sure that truckers leaving the brothers' post-WWII pre-fab house factory in West Park were not pilfering materials. He also worked for them in Bay Village.

According to "Bay Village: A Way of Life," in 1950 the Bruscino Construction Company came to the aid of the rapidly expanding St. Raphael Parish by building

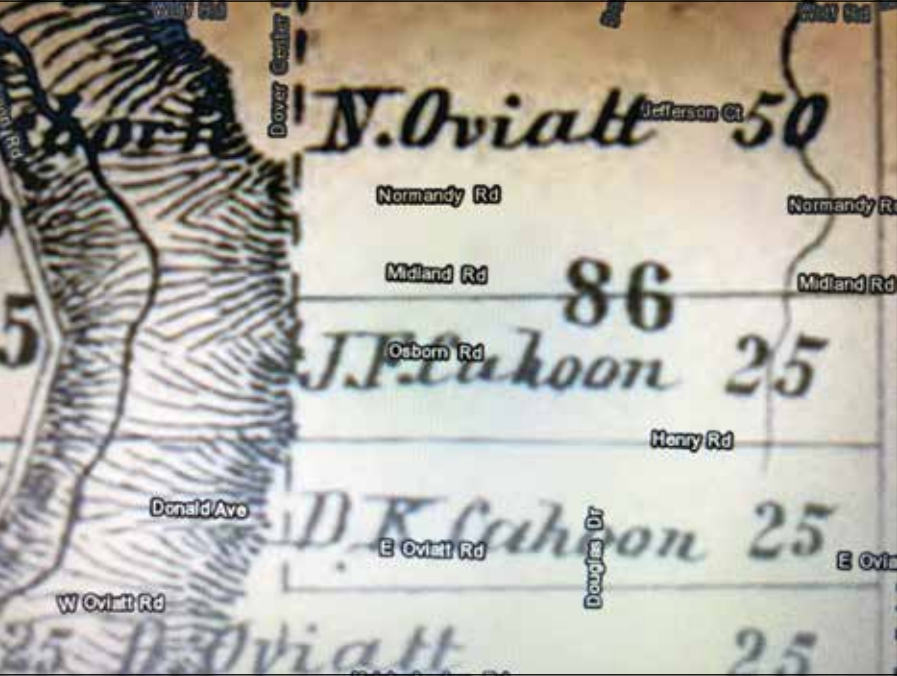
a gymnasium which could be used temporarily as a church and in 1953 breaking ground for the now recently demolished permanent church building. It sounds like the Parish was "land rich and cash poor" and apparently for constructing these buildings at the lowest possible cost for St. Raphael's, the parish gave or sold their backland east of what would become Donald Drive to the Bruscinos. According to Jack Dianiska, Henry Road was named for Henry Bruscino and the identical pre-fab houses were constructed and sold for \$19,000 each.

This is where the other incredible artifact find that Mr. Dianiska made comes in. In 1960, after a seven-year stint in the military, he purchased one of those Bruscino-made homes on Henry Road from the origi-



How a stone pestle was held to grind nuts in a mortar.

JACK DIANISKA COLLECTION | PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE



A 1852 Blackmore map of Cuyahoga County with current streets superimposed showing Henry Road between Wischmeyer and Cahoon creeks, dividing land owned by the Cahoon brothers.



An Archaic Period axhead found by Jack Dianiska at the Cahoon Ledges site, measuring 4.75" x 3.19" x 2".

PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE

nal purchasers. Shortly after moving in, remembering that after the basements were dug and constructed the dirt spoils would be pushed back against the foundations, he decided to do some digging in his front bushes.

What he found was a handsome Native American stone point and a heavily encrusted copper coin, within one foot of each other. After cleaning off the coin as best as he could he saw that the coin had three fleur-de-lis and the words "Liard de Fran\_\_" on one side and the profile of a head on the other. He took it to a coin dealer who could not find an exact match but said it looked similar to French coins of the 1500s and the 1600s. Jack conjectured that the arrowhead and coin were probably once together in a small pouch which had fallen to the ground and disintegrated. This ignites the imagination.

Wischmeyer Creek bisects Henry Road just a couple hundred feet east of Mr. Dianiska's front door. One possible sce-



A teenage Jack Dianiska, bowhunter.



Jack Dianiska at his Henry Road home.

PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL



A Native American white flint barbed point for catching fish, found by Jack Dianiska in Cahoon Creek, measuring 1.75" x .75" x .25". Photographed next to a quarter for size reference.

PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

nario is that a Native American encamped near Wischmeyer Creek lost a couple treasured possessions, to be found 450 years later as treasure for another man.

The French were the first Europeans to explore Ohio. They were the first to trade with Native Americans for furs. The "Jesuit Relations" published by French Jesuits in what is today Canada are the first to mention the Erie Indians which gave their name to Lake Erie. They were missionaries to the Huron Indians in Canada. Eight of them were martyred by the Iroquois in the 1600s and canonized in 1930. St. Raphael Church had a side altar dedicated to these martyrs for many years. It is fitting that of all the places in Dover that a French coin from this period would be found it would be on land once owned by St. Raphael Catholic parish. ●



COIN PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL



French copper coin discovered by Jack Dianiska outside his home in Bay Village.



The French coin, shown at actual size.



SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

# A Bay Village timeline, part 4

by KAY LAUGHLIN

Continuing on with our timeline, I note seven more life-changing events for our village.

**1. Cleveland Metropolitan Park System.** In 1925, the Cleveland Metroparks bought the John Huntington Estate for \$500,000. Within the village limits Bay now had an “Emerald Necklace” with the best beach for miles around. Situated next to Cahoon Memorial Park, the Village of Bay took advantage of these two wonderful gifts that bettered our lives. “The Beach” became a daily visit and fishing and boating off its shores brought much fun and happiness.



The Cleveland Metropolitan Park System bought the John Huntington Estate for \$500,000 in 1925.

Baycrafters arrived in 1948 and Huntington Playhouse in 1957. We now had a cultural area in the center of town.

**2. The Cahoon Barn Becomes the Community House.** In 1936, as a Works Progress Administration project, men from the Village and WPA worked on Lake Road and the remodel. The new building replaced the old red schoolhouse as the center of community activities. The building currently houses the city’s recreation department and the Village Bicycle Cooperative. Plans for the future will make it a modern up-to-date community center to serve us even better.



In 1936, as a Works Progress Administration project, men from the Village and WPA converted the Cahoon Barn into the Community House.

**3. Growing Up, the Schools Come Into Their Own.** A new school, named Parkview, was completed in 1922. The Red Brick School House school colors of blue and white appeared on sports uniforms for Parkview. In 1946, Jack Llewellyn came to Bay to coach the Parkview football team. He advised the high school athletic council they needed to have a mascot for their athletic teams. A contest was held and the winner was “Bay Blue Devils.” The school board, not happy with the winner, accepted the second entry name, Rockets, as being more appropriate. In the fall of 1947, for the first time, a Parkview team took the field under the name Bay Rockets and the senior class petitioned the administration and board of education to change the name

of the school from Parkview High School to Bay High School. They were the first class to graduate from Bay High School. At the same time, Miss Joyce Rowbotham became the new choir director and taught us all how to “breathe from our diaphragm.” Mr. Roland Hosmer arrived with a military marching style and midnight blue/black uniforms with red sashes. The high school stepped out into the future and never looked back. Our lives became more centered around our schools. “Our children are our best business” became our motto.

**4. Three New Churches.** By the late 1940s, St Raphael’s Parish, St. Barnabas Protestant Episcopal Church and Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church were well established. They changed the daily life patterns for many citizens. St. Raphael’s built a church and school. These churches are still active. St. Raphael’s has grown to become one of the largest churches in the village.

**5. The Bay Shopping Center.** Dr. Knoll built the first strip shopping center in Bay Village in 1949. Located at the corners of Wolf and Dover Center roads, it had a great impact on the daily life of the citizens. Mom



Dr. Knoll built the first strip shopping center in Bay Village in 1949.

and Dad could now find most of their sundries, hardware, new shoes, shoe repair, bakery, sporting goods, pharmacy, grocery store, five-and-dime all in the same place.



**6. The Village of Bay Becomes a City.** The charter we use today was offered to the voters in 1949, passing in 1950. At the same time the village became a city, having been certified as having 6,917 residents, passing the required 5,000 resident threshold. An election was held to name the new city. The winner was “City of Bay Village.” This name told you three things: first, we were a city; second, we were rural; and third, we were on the shores of a body of water. We had new addresses.

**7. The Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020.**

Our residents have lived through many difficult events over the years. To name some of the past crises we have overcome: WWI, Spanish Flu, Polio, Diphtheria Epidemic, Depression, Bank Crash, WWII, Vietnamese War, and today the coronavirus. We have always seemed to persevere, help our neighbors, be giving souls and offer prayer and companionship. Today, we are facing another difficult period in our history. We will be OK. This too will pass. ●



# Bay Village Senior Center connects by mail

by LESLIE SELIG

Seniors are affected in many ways by the Coronavirus, and they remain the most at-risk population. While it’s hard on all of us to stay home and social distance, many seniors live alone, which makes the quarantine even more difficult. To make matters worse, while many of us pass the time and socialize online, research shows that less than half of seniors have a computer, or know how to use one.

With this information, the Bay Village Senior Center staff decided that if the seniors can’t come to the senior center, we will take the senior center to them, and created Senior Center by Mail. This program will start in June and continue monthly, until the center opens back up again.

The content of Senior Center by Mail will mirror what we do at the senior center, where we focus on physical exercise, mental stimulation, socialization and outreach. The June packet includes a booklet of chair exercises, word search and spot the difference puzzles, a listing of multiple resources to help those who are struggling during the pandemic, and a Connections newsletter with senior center updates, and options to connect with us by phone or via a pen pal program for those who like to write or may have hearing difficulty. For those who do go online, there is also a section of online resources with valuable content.

Those on our mailing list will receive their first Senior Center by Mail this first week of June. If you want to be added to our mailing list, please call 440-899-3409, or email lselig@cityofbayvillage.com. ●

# Bay Village Kiwanis announces annual scholarship awards

by STAN GRISNIK

The Bay Village Kiwanis Club has been sponsoring the annual Bay Village Academic Achievement Awards Night for over 50 years. The Awards Night is typically held in the Bay High School auditorium. This year, due to social distancing guidelines, the event was held online. The annual

Kiwanis Awards Dinner honoring the recipients will tentatively be held later this summer.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Bay Village Kiwanis Club has awarded 16 scholarships totaling \$12,750, to the following students:

- \$250 Department Awards: Olivia Doland, Art; Thomas Ferrara, Business; Dominic Yontosh, Career Based

Intervention; Elizabeth Holup, English; Caden Barker, Family & Consumer Sciences; Ben Anderson, Mathematics; Max Linn Shelton, Music; Audrey Ray, Science; Patricia Yuhas, Social Studies; Stephen Tepper, Technology; Juliana Reising, World Language

- \$2,000 Kiwanis Scholarship Awards: Olivia Doland, Noah Lowery, Edward Papp

- \$2,000 Kiwanis Key Club Scholarship Awards: Madison Florez, Shea Janos

Bay Kiwanis is able to provide scholarships to deserving high school graduates because of the support that we receive from the community. When you support our pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, Bay Days, Christmas tree sales and other fundraisers held throughout the year, you provide the means for us to continue our work.

Visit our bayvillage-oh.kiwanisone.org for more information. ●



# SPAETZEL

from front page

Detective work brought crimes like homicide and rape, and solving these was important. However, getting to meet and help people, relating to their needs and trying to help them though problems was the most special part of his years of service. Each new career move brought something new to learn and do. Also he has 100% support from his wife and family, and the department has been like family.

Years ago a young police officer came to this writer's house (in uniform) and knocked on our door to "check us out." His wife and mine had been elected to co-lead the Girl Scout troop our daughters were joining. I was startled but glad to invite him in. Over the years I have come to know Mark as very thoughtful, insightful, sensible and genuinely caring.

I asked him how he saw himself as chief and what qualities he thought a chief should have? He answered he sees lots of gray, not just black and white in law enforcement. He believes an officer needs empathy and

understanding of people's position and problems. He sees himself as having a servant mentality – helping others, saying: "A chief needs to be tough yet soft, quick thinking but deliberate."

I also asked if he had any comment about the case of Amy Mihaljevic, who was abducted from the Bay Square shopping plaza in 1989. He told me he is very disappointed the case has not yet been solved. He hopes there will be justice and closure for the family some day in the future. He was very firm in saying the case is not about him, but about Amy and her family.

A few years ago he gave me a tour of the police station, built in 2006, and we talked about its special features. This week I asked him about the experience of guiding the building process. He was appointed to be a liaison with the architects and builders. Mark was heavily involved in planning, decision making, doing his full-time officer duty and still attending every meeting, asking lots of questions, using department resources to determine direction the design should take. He believes our police station has been very successful and is considered by peers as well-

built and well-designed with good facilities for the department.

Speaking to Bay Kiwanis just a few months ago, Mark noted drug abuse has gotten worse since the start of his career. Most crime today has some element of alcohol or drug use. He has seen many good people just taking a wrong turn. Some have gotten clean and later thanked the police for helping. When asked about how the pandemic has affected the department's ability to operate, he said, "Our officers are coming to work, doing their job, are well protected, and do not complain."

Technology has absolutely changed significantly. When the Chief Spaetzel first joined the force, they typed forms in triplicate. Today everything is computerized. Personnel use laptops and cameras. The department's annual budget is \$3.2 million. Protective equipment is vastly improved, and there is much more equipment an officer is required to carry.

People have also changed significantly. Today, new hires are much more a part of the decision-making process. Ideas are



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay Village Police Chief Mark Spaetzel addresses the audience at the 2020 State of the City presentation in February.

free flowing. Hiring emphasizes decision-making and the brand of the department. A good deal of thought has to go into seeking and selecting officers.

When Mark was hired in 1985, 300 officers might answer an ad. Today it might be 10-15. Leadership spends lots of time meeting the public and promoting the department as a solid place to work. Today's officer is the leader at the scene. Leadership is part of career path train-

ing. Mark is rightfully proud of 35 years with great people in a great department. He has worked in transitioning new Chief Kathleen Leasure and has great confidence in her ability to lead.

What is next for the chief? Mark has not decided his next steps other than to be active. I hope you take the time to thank him and the other officers that dedicate their service to helping others and wish Mark the very best moving forward. ●



## The Bay Village Legion remembers

by JIM POTTER

The Bay Village American Legion Post #385 honored Memorial Day with their traditional 21-gun salute at Lakeside Cemetery. Chaplain Ed Kus gave an opening prayer and Commander Stanley Zeager read the names of those 59 individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that we all enjoy. Janice Blanton represented the Daughters of the American Revolution at the event. ●

## In memoriam: Jerrie Berg Barnett

Jerrie Berg Barnett of Bay Village, Ohio, age 82, passed away at O'Neill Healthcare, Bay Village of natural causes.

Jerrie was born in Erie, PA. She lived in Louisville Kentucky through high school before attending Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Upon graduation, in 1960 Jerrie taught elementary school for 30 years on the west side of Cleveland, finishing the last 26 years in Rocky River school system.

Beloved wife of the late David Barnett. Loving step-mother of Kim Barnett (Mark), and Kelly Millis (Jeff). Grandmother of Kaley Millis, Quentin Millis, and Nico Barnett. Great-grandmother of Bria Monaghan. Sister of Mary Joe Fletcher (Michael), of Baton Rouge, LA and Karen Smith of Westport, KY. Aunt of Brook Smith (Pam), and Kim Wooldridge and great aunt to ten.

Jerrie did volunteer work at the Bay Village library upon retirement in 1992. She loved to read books and was well known in Bay as the lady who read books as she walked. Jerrie was an avid knitter and played a lot of bridge. She also was a golfer and a bowler in her younger days.

Jerrie had been involved for years in Bay Village city council meetings before she moved to Westlake at the end of December 2017. She moved to the Gardens at Westlake Senior Living as an Independent resident. After 40+ years of living in Bay Village, this was the beginning and the end of a new era in her life.

Memorial Service Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 2 p.m. at the Berry-McGreevey Funeral Home, 26691 Detroit Rd. (One mile west of Columbia Rd.) Westlake. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bay Village branch library or to the Humane Society. Please visit [www.BerryMcGreevey.com](http://www.BerryMcGreevey.com) to sign the guest book and to provide your memories and stories of Jerrie for the family to enjoy.



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# How old is my tree?

by DENNY WENDELL

With spring finally upon us, here's a fun outdoor activity you can do in your own yard. Estimate the age of your tree(s) following the steps below,

courtesy of Purdue University. I'll use the white oak in my backyard as an example.  
STEP 1. Measure the CIRCUMFERENCE of the tree trunk using a measuring tape that measures in feet and inches. This should be done at 54 inches above the ground, or slightly below shoulder height.

EXAMPLE:  
Our white oak tree measures 11 feet, 2 inches in CIRCUMFERENCE or 134 inches. STEP 2. Calculate the DIAMETER. Divide the CIRCUMFERENCE by

3.14. For the white oak, the diameter of 134 inches divided by 3.14 = 42.67 inches.  
STEP 3. Multiply the DIAMETER of the tree by the growth factor as determined by species.  
Back to our white oak tree. I determined that the tree has a 42.67 inches DIAMETER, so you would then multiply it by the growth factor of 5 (refer to table below), and our answer is 213 years old!  
Is there a tree in your yard older than that? Take a picture and send it to [staff@wbvobserver.com](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com).



134

CIRCUMFERENCE  
IN INCHES

÷

3.14

=

42.67

DIAMETER

x

5

GROWTH  
FACTOR

=

213

TREE  
AGE



My 213-year-old White Oak tree

Tree Species	Growth Factor
American Beech	6
American Elm	4
American Sycamore	4
Ash	4
Aspen	2
Basswood	3
Birch	5
Black Walnut	4.5
Black Willow	2
Cherry	5
Common Horsechestnut	8
Cottonwood	2
Hornbeam (Ironwood)	7
Littleleaf Linden	3
Northern Red Oak	4
Pin Oak	3
Redbud	7
Red Maple	4.5
Scotch Pine	3.5
Shagbark Hickory	7.5
Silver Maple	3
Sugar Maple	5.5
Sweet Gum	4
Swamp White Oak	5
Sycamore	4
Tulip Tree	3
White Ash	5
White Oak	5
Yellow Buckeye	5

  
American Beech

  
Birch

  
Hornbeam  
(Ironwood)

  
Scotch Pine

  
American Elm

  
Black Walnut

  
Littleleaf Linden

  
Shagbark Hickory

  
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White Ash

  
Aspen

  
Common Horsechestnut

  
Redbud

  
Sweet Gum

  
White Oak

  
Basswood

  
Cottonwood

  
Red Maple

  
Swamp White Oak

  
Yellow Buckeye



THE GREEN REPORT

# The importance of planting natives

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

Native plants are defined as those that occur naturally in a region in which they evolved. After reading this column, I hope you'll have a better understanding of why it's important to plant native trees and plants in your yard.

Over the past century, urbanization has occurred in the United States: 54% of the land in the lower 48 states is made up of cities and suburbs, and 41% is made up of agriculture. We, as humans, have taken over 95% of nature. Lawns and exotic ornamental plants have

taken over ecologically productive land. Lawns cover over 40 million acres in the United States, and over 3,400 species of alien plants have invaded 100 million acres, and that is expected to continue to increase.

Landscape that is human-dominated is not able to support functioning ecosystems. As a result, biodiversity (the variety of life in a habitat or ecosystem) has greatly suffered. All life depends on biodiversity, including humans and birds. Local birds would not survive without the insects that have evolved along with native plants. For example, native oak trees have been shown to host

over 500 species of caterpillars; ginkgo trees host only five. This is a significant difference when it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees. Songbirds have been in decline since the 1960s, with 40% of them gone so far.

Native plants do not require fertilizers and pesticides like non-natives do. Fertilizers and pesticides contaminate Lake Erie and other waterways through run-off, so using less or none at all is an immediate help to the environment. Natural landscapes are also low-maintenance, which I know for me is a wonderful benefit! Native plants not only support bird populations, but also support pollinators. Pollinators are crucial to the survival of all living things, including humans.

I'm sure you are asking yourself what you can do to help preserve our biodiversity

in Northeast Ohio. The answer is actually quite simple, and if you do it, you will absolutely contribute to helping the problem. All you have to do is plant native plants and trees on your property.

Planting native plants gives local animals what they need to survive and produce. Every single animal gets their energy from plants or from something that eats plants (i.e. insects). This is why insects are a vital component of the ecosystem.

Alien ornamental species support 29 times less biodiversity than native ornamentals. Even modest increases in native plants in suburbs significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds. Native plants also help you use less water, as their deep root systems increase the soil's capacity to store water. Native plants significantly reduce water runoff and flooding.

How do you know if a plant or tree is native? Cleveland Metroparks has put together a nice guide for native plants that are broken down by height, sunlight requirements, and bloom times. You can find that here: [bit.ly/2zHY7ny](https://bit.ly/2zHY7ny).

If that feels too overwhelming (believe me, I get it!) I have some good news! A friend of mine has recently started an "ecologically minded garden design company" right here in Bay Village. The name of the new company is Erie Shore Gardens. They will come to your house and talk about the types of plants you are looking for and then develop a plan for your landscaping. Native plants and natural landscaping are becoming all the rage, so hop on board this ecologically friendly trend! You will simultaneously help the local biodiversity in more ways than you can imagine. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

# Return to 'normal'? R-i-i-i-i-g-h-t

by JEFF BING

Now that we've shed our figurative "stay at home" ankle bracelets – at least, it's figurative for *most* readers – many states are gradually re-opening businesses with the idea of getting the economy back up and running ASAP.

That includes sports. Perhaps not exactly as we recall them, but sports just the same. As of this writing, the plans for the four major professional sports return were changing quickly – seemingly at the rate of about once every couple of hours or so.

Let's take a peek at the latest absurdities:

**Hockey:** The NHL continues to claim that the league's fans want to see a champion crowned for the 2019-20 season. The league commissioner, Gary Bettman, says there will be a tournament starting the end of July (at the earliest) which will determine seeding (and get the players back into shape, *theoretically*).

Now, I don't know about you, but I've waited, like, eight months for the weather to get nice again so I could go outside and social distance myself from the inside of my *house*, which I'm pretty sick of right about now. I don't need no stinkin' hockey to force me to stay inside. There, I said it.

**Basketball:** The NBA, at the direction of commissioner Adam (Hi-yo) Silver, want to do something as nutty as – perhaps even nuttier than -- the NHL. Silver also maintains that NBA fans want a champi-

on crowned for the 2019-20 season.

I'm not sure who Silver sought out for opinions regarding the prospect of continuing the NBA season, but the smart money says it wasn't anyone in Cleveland. I was just starting to forget how bad the Cavs were; why re-open that old wound?

Not only that, but the proposed set-up would require a seeding plan (similar to that of the NHL) and play would begin the end of July or early August. So, a season that began in 2019 would likely end precariously close to 2021?

**Baseball:** I already voiced my displeasure with MLB last issue; there is no need to rehash that nonsense. The only thing that's important here is that baseball wouldn't start – best case scenario – until roughly the same time as hockey and basketball. At least baseball would have the argument that they were still playing some of their games during the period they were *supposed* to play – summer. Of course, even with the late start and proposed shortened schedule of 82 games, they will be playing well past Halloween. *Boo!* (Yes, the idea scares me too).

**Football:** The NFL has benefited from the coronavirus timing, in that everything COVID-19 hit the fan here smack-dab in the NFL's off-season. As of now, it looks like the NFL's season may go as scheduled, although some games (especially the early season ones) may be played in empty stadiums. We'll see how it plays out.

The bottom line is that, for the first time in history, all four of the major sports will be playing a significant number of games within the same calendar time frame, a circumstance they all try to avoid as much as possible during a "normal" year. The pie will be cut into much smaller pieces, with the NFL getting the most slices. Baseball, basketball and hockey will likely be left wondering why they all rushed back. ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD

# A new dimension to embrace

by TAK SATO

“Other than throwing it at me or against the wall out of frustration, I can fix anything so don't be afraid to experiment.” This is one of the many “Tak-isms” my students will hear throughout the Discover Digital Literacy! (DDL!) program, taken from the “Satosan Method” I devised for teaching seniors. In the last three years, I haven't seen a single tablet fly out of our students' hands and that's a good thing. Although tablets are near commodities, we are only able to assign them as a hands-on learning tool to each student because of our generous donors.

The Satosan Method, a handbook of sorts, is the culmination of my experience over the span of three decades in helping people with technology and specifically tuned for helping seniors discover digital literacy.

For 16 consecutive weeks, barring holidays, seniors age 60 and over see the same 12 faces at the same time and day of the week. I think of myself as the “teacher” for the first several classes, morphing into a “guiding” role for the duration of each program. This journey, once embarked, becomes another of their lifelong learning initiatives as digital literacy is a 21st century “life-skill.”

The Center for Aging in the Digital World, the nonprofit my wife and I co-founded, held our 4th annual Living in the Digital World Senior Expo virtually for the first time last month where presentations were live streamed. Westlake | Bay Village Observer was our media sponsor (thank you WBVO!) and was joined by other sponsors and partners to make it possible.

In our 2016 strategic plan, we had a

goal to simultaneously introduce an online equivalent of our in-person DDL! program. Since we were just starting and had to prove Satosan Method's efficacy, we prioritized in-person (i.e. real world) over digital world program delivery.

Earlier this year, before the coronavirus pandemic unfolded, we tested “DDL! in FOCUS” for our graduates. This pilot program explored a singular topic, this first time we explored curation options for digital photos amassed on smartphones and tablets, in four consecutive weeks. It was received well thus becoming a regular offering to continue to support our graduates on their journey. Another pilot, “DDL! for Workforce,” was delayed due to the pandemic.

We know that the coronavirus pandemic will forever change our lifestyles going forward. Our in-person programs will continue to be offered under new social distancing practices.

Four years later, we are borrowing a page from our old strategic plan to introduce online versions of our in-person programs. Our first pilot for this initiative will be called “DDL! FastTrack” which will be an advanced version of the flagship DDL! and shorter in duration. We should be ready by mid-summer so stay tuned to empower seniors.org and @center4aging on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more news.

Discovering digital literacy will provide benefits and introduce options to minimize the risk of becoming lonely and socially isolated when in-person emotional connectedness becomes a challenge as in the past couple months of social distancing has shown! ●

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Bay Village Clerk of Council Joan Kemper examines the recently exposed wall in council chambers.

# The Wall

by JOAN KEMPER

An interesting thing happened in Council Chambers of Bay Village City Hall last month. The Chambers have been very quiet lately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and corresponding regulations concerning public gatherings. So, the Service Department seized the opportunity to remove two panels of the north wall in the Council Chambers that were leaking an unknown substance to remove the substance and repair the wall. They told me to stay away from the area for two full days, but I could return to my office directly behind Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 20.

When I walked into the Council Chambers early that morning, I was greeted with a very beautiful, but unexpected sight. The panels had been removed, revealing a most beautiful brick wall, from floor to ceiling. It is truly magnificent, and speaks of the handiwork and skills of generations gone by.

A plaque in the chambers sets the date of 1914 as the year this portion of the City Hall was dedicated. There is an old saying: "The walls have ears." I wish this wall could speak, and tell us the story of those who did this work in the early 1900s. And, if it is true that the walls have ears, what stories this beautiful wall would tell. ●



Bay Village city hall in the 1950s. The building has undergone several renovations since its construction in the early 1900s.

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12.11





# A cut above

by DIANE REHOR

Part of a series of articles highlighting local employees going above and beyond during the coronavirus pandemic.

Heroes wear many uniforms ... and this one wears jeans and a baseball cap!

I'd been wanting to buy a glass top for my pedestal table for five years. The stay-at-home mandate created time to research this purchase. I grabbed my phone and typed in "glass tops" in Google

Maps, and a list appeared.

First listing: permanently closed. Sad. Second listing: within five minutes, I knew this was NOT the person I wanted to do business with as he made selecting a glass top as complicated as rocket science.

Then I called the third listing, Superior Glass and Mirror in Avon Lake. Owner Kurt Kuenzle answered and within five minutes, I knew we had found our person! Simple, quick, efficient – YAY! He was closing in 20 minutes, yet he said my hubby and I could come in right then and there.

Within 10 minutes of our arrival, Kurt showed us options, shared pros and cons and gave us the info we needed to complete the purchase. Just like that! A dream

come true. We complimented him not only on his of-service attitude but on his ability to simplify the purchase process.

We were so impressed with this competent, young business owner that I had to ask, "How did you ever learn so much about glass?" He replied, "I've been doing this since I was 15. I used to work in my father's shop on school breaks. Everyone on my dad's side does glasswork since my grandfather started a glass business in 1940."

Now you may ask, "How does this relate to Kurt being a hero during the Covid crisis?"



PHOTOS BY DIANE REHOR

My glass top table cut to perfection!



Owner Kurt Kuenzle

I asked him how the coronavirus has affected his business. Smiling humbly, he said, "I do what I have to do to stay in business and make my customers happy." Then he told the following story: "I had placed glass orders for various projects like shower doors and wine rooms to be shipped from Pennsylvania. When the Covid crisis hit, I was originally told there would be serious delays, leading to unfilled orders, refunds and unhappy customers.

"So when the manufacturer announced it was closing its doors at 11 p.m. that night, I called and persuaded them to rush the order. I hopped in my truck and drove five hours each way through wind and rain to pick up 1,000 pounds of glass.

Returning the same day, I called my customers back and told them their orders were now ahead of schedule and ready to install." Grinning, he added, "I worked my magic with distribution and was able to get the job done."

Well, he worked his magic to get the job done for us, too. Within two weeks, I had my glass top table. It fits perfectly and I love it! Thank you, Kurt! And thanks to all the small business owners who not only go above and beyond the line of duty to stay afloat but provide outstanding service as well. ●

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READERS’ OPINIONS

Covid Courtesy

by COLLEEN HARDING

In the midst of this very scary and uncertain time, we fill our days with projects, thoughts and worries about the unknown. Covid has robbed us of many things. I think the biggest thing is our freedoms. Freedom to walk, talk, socialize, travel, put kids on a bus, sit at a bar close to friends, sit in a pew at church, exchange a handshake, and have a good night’s sleep.

While we are putting our toes in the water and testing a re-entrance into normalcy, it’s essential to remember courtesy and kindness.

Whether we are shopping, filling up our tank, or walking the dog, eye contact is engaging. A smile can still be felt even through a mask. I find myself avoiding eye contact at the store and looking down uncomfortably when someone looks me in the eyes. I feel nervous about any connection with strangers, and I don’t think I’m alone, but I’m going to stop it.

I keep seeing signs that say, “We’re in

this together,” yet I feel more separated today than ever. We need to make an effort to warm up a bit and remember that we don’t need to physically touch to be courteous, kind, friendly and polite. Avoiding each other altogether feels sad, empty and cold.

Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Smile when someone crosses your path, even in a mask.
  - 2. Say excuse me if you need to get around someone.
  - 3. Make eye contact and don’t look down all the time. (Or at least try.)
  - 4. Ask if someone would prefer that you wear a mask when speaking and carry one with you just in case.
  - 5. Give space to people and explain that you are doing it to make them comfortable.
  - 6. Don’t avoid connections. Call, text, Facetime, Zoom, email. We still have plenty of opportunities to socialize.
  - 7. If you are going to the store, offer to pick up something for a neighbor as a kind gesture.
  - 8. Seize opportunities to extend kindness. People will remember what you did for them long after Corona is Gona. LOL.
- Be well. Be kind. Be courteous. ●

Pandemic Memories

by MEL MAURER

I had two wonderful grandmothers growing up but no grandfathers. My father’s father, Frank, died when I was too young to remember him and my mother’s father, Adam Schramm, died decades before I was born. Frank died of old age; Adam died in the “Spanish Flu” pandemic in 1918.

Adam and Grandma Elizabeth had six children in 1918, the youngest just a baby. They lived in a house built by Adam, a carpenter, in 1900, in the Troy Hill community, a German community, overlooking Pittsburgh. My mother was 13 when her father died, her older brother was in training to become a priest, which he would be.

Grandma, a young widow, had to leave her beloved home for a smaller house in another part of Pittsburgh but with some help from her older brothers, both parish pastors, the family survived with the children

becoming fine adults.

Growing up, my brother, sister and I were always told that Adam had died of pneumonia. It was only later we learned the pneumonia was brought on by that pandemic flu. About 18 years ago, my brother and I, doing genealogy work on our family, visited family places in Pittsburgh. We were invited into the Troy Hill house by its present owners, who were restoring it. With us was our Aunt Ethel, the baby when her father died.

Inside we saw the carpentry artistry of Grandpa Adam, especially with his intricate work on each of its fireplaces. We saw the bedroom where our mother and her younger siblings were born and where Adam died – and was then laid in repose in the parlor. We were then connected in a special way with our grandfather.

Sadly, my grandmother’s story is being repeated today as so many people are dying now from Covid-19. Statistics are necessary but they don’t tell the story of the great losses being experienced by so many families today. We need to pray for them and to help them where we can. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library  
Upcoming virtual events

by ELAINE WILLIS

*Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s early June 2020 calendar of events. All programs are subject to change. Please check westlakelibrary.org or follow the library on Facebook and Twitter (@WestlakePorter) for the latest updates.*

Wednesday, June 3 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Stories and Signs** – Join us on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter and enjoy a storytime while learning a few words in sign language. Ages 0-3.

Wednesday, June 3 (1-1:30 p.m.) **Preschool Storytime** – Join us for a live Preschool Storytime on Zoom! Ages 3.5 to 5 with a caregiver. Registration begins May 27. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the program.

Wednesday, June 3 (3-3:45 p.m.) **Virtual Self-Defense** – Join the folks at Horizon ATA (via Zoom) to learn a variety of self-defense techniques that will get your blood pumping and your confidence soaring. Make sure you allow some space to move around as this program will involve arm swinging, kicking and possibly jumping. You may want to make some room in case of any accidental falling that may occur. Basically, just don’t hurt yourself or anyone around you. For tweens and teens. Registration required. Participants must provide an email address in order to receive Zoom instructions, which will be emailed the day of the program.

Wednesday, June 3 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Horror Film Club Online** – The Horror Film Club returns for an online viewing! This month’s creepy classic stars Boris Karloff as the aged Baron Von Leppe and a young Jack Nicholson as Lt. Andre Duvalier, the young French soldier determined to find out his secrets, especially his connection to the mysterious woman whom he has fallen in love with. The Club will

meet online using the video sharing site Watch2Gether. To participate, check the program’s online listing at bit.ly/2zaS36Z as early as 6 p.m. on the day of the program. There will be a link to take you to the site. You do not need an account with Watch2Gether to participate.

Thursday, June 4 (10-10:30 a.m.) **Toddler Storytime** – Join us on Zoom for a live Toddler Storytime! For ages 2-3.5 with a caregiver. Please register. Participants must provide an email address in order to receive Zoom instructions, which will be emailed the day of the program.

Thursday, June 4 (7-8 p.m.) **Walking the Path of Dementia: Online Health Talk** – Join us online for an interactive presentation offering a look into the emotional and physical disabilities of dementia with tips on how to provide support and care to people with the disease. This program is presented by Arden Courts of Westlake. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive a confirmation email containing Zoom instructions.

Saturday, June 6 (9-11 a.m.) **STEAM Mystery Bag Challenge** – Pick up your Mystery Bag on May 26 between 9 am and 11 a.m. at Westlake Porter Library (if you are unable to make the pick up time on May 26, please feel free to call Youth Services at 440-250-5471 and we will arrange a time for you to pick up the mystery bag) Each bag will contain mystery craft materials and a challenge card. Use these materials to complete the design challenge. Share your designs on a Zoom meeting on June 6 at 11 a.m. with Miss Holly and Miss Andrea. Grades 1 and 2. Registration required. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom meeting instructions, which will be sent the day before the Zoom meeting.

Tuesday, June 9 (1-3 p.m.) **Career Transition: How to Use LinkedIn Better** – Join us on Zoom to learn techniques to

set up and maintain a great LinkedIn profile and better utilize this necessary tool. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be emailed the day of the program.

Tuesday, June 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Discussion (Online)** – Join us for an online discussion of the book “Writers and Lovers” by Lily King. If you can’t get a hard copy of the book it is available from Hoopla through the library’s website. To participate, please register with an email address to get an invitation to the online book discussion on Zoom. You can join using a desktop, laptop, mobile phone, tablet or Chromebook. While it is not necessary to sign up for a free Zoom account, for best results we recommend downloading the Zoom Meeting Room Client (for desktops and laptops) or the Zoom Cloud Meetings App (from your phone or tablet app store) before our discussion. Downloading should take a few minutes. Participants without a computer, tablet or smartphone can join the discussion using a traditional phone.

Wednesday, June 10 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Let’s Sing & Dance** – Join Miss Nancy on Zoom for our Sing and Dance! Registration required. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the program.

Wednesday, June 10 (7-8 p.m.) **Virtual Trivia Night** – Play as a single player or as a family. Presented live via Zoom. Registration is required. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions. You can join using a desktop, laptop, mobile phone, tablet or Chromebook.

Thursdays, June 11, 18 and 25 (3:30-4:0 p.m.) **WPPL Roblox Club** – Love Roblox? Then WPPL has a club for you! We have a few private servers set up for Tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games. Please register separately for each session. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of

the program.

Tuesday, June 16 (9:30-10 a.m.) **Lapsit Storytime** – Join Miss Jamie on Zoom for a live Lapsit Storytime for ages birth-24 months with a caregiver. Registration is required. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the event.

Tuesdays, June 16 and 30 (3-4 p.m.) **Hunger Games Book Club Online** – In this book club, we’ll be reading through the “Hunger Games” series in chronological order. For the June 16 meeting, please read “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.” For the June 30 meeting please read “The Hunger Games” (and watch the film too!). Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the event.

Wednesday, June 17 (1-1:30 p.m.) **Preschool Storytime** – Join us for a live Preschool Storytime on Zoom! Ages 3.5 to 5 with a caregiver. Registration is required. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the program.

Thursday, June 18 (10-10:30 a.m.) **Toddler Storytime** – Join us on Zoom for a live Toddler Storytime! For ages 2-3.5 with a caregiver. Registration is required. Participants must provide an email address in order to receive Zoom instructions, which will be emailed the day of the program.

Tuesday, June 23 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Ohio is So Gay! Trivia Night** – Ohio’s LGBTQ+ history exhibits the classic components of a Hollywood blockbuster: heroes, villains, epic crowd scenes, meet-cutes, and a soundtrack to end all soundtracks. This interactive trivia extravaganza will test your knowledge of the past 50 years of Ohio’s LGBTQ+ activism from mustache-twirling, dastardly state senators to heroic 19-year-olds to how a blade of grass almost caused the arrest of a cadre of protesters. Join us online and learn a heck of a lot about our LGBTQ+ history in the process!

**To register for any of the programs, please visit events.westlakelibrary.org. ●**

Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com)



BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bay groups discuss coronavirus-altered plans

by KIM CORRIGAN-STOJIC

The Bay Village Community Council convened via Zoom on May 27, with representatives from many of the city's civic and nonprofit organizations sharing news and notes from their groups. Here are excerpts from their reports:

**American Legion Post #385** honored Memorial Day with their traditional 21-gun salute at Lakeside Cemetery. Chaplain Ed Kus gave an opening prayer and Commander Stanley Zeager read the names of those 59 individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that we all enjoy. Janice Blanton represented the Daughters of the American Revolution at the event.

**Bay Village Education Foundation** awarded the Amy Mihaljevic Scholarship to Katherine Knight and Natalie Surdy. The scholarship was established in 1994, and is awarded to one or more college bound Bay High seniors who have been active in community affairs. The Annual Tri-Bay Golf Outing fundraiser has been cancelled for this year.

The Fall 2020 grants cycle has been put on hold due to the uncertainty surrounding what the 2020-2021 school year will look like. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 7 p.m., via Zoom.

**Bay Village Foundation** awarded

scholarships to three Bay High School seniors: Olivia Doland, Olivia Reed and Eddie Papp. The Foundation also awarded grants to seven local organizations: BAYarts, to be used toward new programming initiatives; the Bay Rockets Association, to be used toward the fieldhouse at Bay stadium; the Bay Village Historical Society, for their textile preservation project; the Cuyahoga County Public Library, for naming rights of a room at the new library; Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, to be used toward new programming initiatives; the Village Project, to be used for the purchase of generators; Youth Challenge, to be used toward new programming initiatives.

**Bay Village Green Team** hosted a cleanup of Cahoon Creek on May 16. Close to two dozen people showed up and collected 70 pounds of trash – mostly lightweight plastic – from the creek bed. The group will host monthly waterway cleanups around the city – June 18, 7 p.m., at Reese Park; July 15, 7 p.m., at Columbia Beach; and Aug. 18, 7 p.m., at Cahoon Park. The next quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. Email info@bayvillagegreenteam.org for details.

**Bay Village League of Women Voters** will meet via Zoom on June 6, 7 p.m. Email bayvillagelwv@gmail.com for meeting details.

**Bay Village PTA Council** announced

Safety Town has been cancelled this summer due to the Covid-19 virus global pandemic. The PTA is working on offering a digital alternative.

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center** temporarily closed on March 13 following the directives from the State of Ohio. Programs and classes were cancelled, and wildlife intakes were halted. Throughout the closure, the wildlife staff continue to care for resident animals and respond to wildlife inquiries from the public 7 days a week. Other local wildlife rehabilitators and animal control officers continue to turn to the Center for its specialized resources and expert care. The Center is accepting the transfer of these injured animals and fostering abandoned goslings, caring for an injured Mallard and her ducklings, and rehabilitating a Great Horned Owl.

Instructors are providing virtual education through the Center's social media channels and website, such as behind-the-scenes videos of how we care for resident animals, tips on how to help preschoolers learn at home, what you can discover in the night sky, and fun and educational experiments. Visit lensc.org.

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Women's Board** is considering some kind of an informal outdoor get together in July. The Board donated \$2,000 to the Center in April to help with staff salaries and animal

care, and has encouraged members to donate cash or items from the LENS C Wish List. Anyone interested in joining the Women's Board can call Chris Hansen at 440-666-9941 for more information.

**Village Bicycle Cooperative** has reopened for bike sales and donations only. All transactions will occur outdoors, during Open Shop hours, on non-rainy days. For safety, no patrons will be allowed in the building. We will not be assisting with bike repairs until further notice. Bike sales will be by check only. All bikes will be displayed outdoors and VBC volunteers will be wearing masks. All bikes will be wiped down with sanitizing solution after each test ride. VBC is located on the lower level of the Community House at 303 Cahoon Road. Information and Open Shop hours are at villagebicycle.org.

**Village Project** is accepting new clients receiving active cancer treatment living in Avon, Avon Lake, Bay Village, Rocky River or Westlake. Those interested in receiving services can visit ourvillageproject.com or call the office at 440-348-9401. Project Shoppe is now open to shoppers with curbside meal pick-up available. Visit shoppe.ourvillageproject.com to view weekly meals, featured items, and store and curbside hours.

*The next meeting of the Bay Village Community Council will be in September. All civic organizations in the city are encouraged to send a representative to share their group's news and events. For more information, email Tara Wendell at tara@wbvobserver.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The summer of 2020 (a child's perspective)

"Every summer has a story." This is going to be especially true for the summer of 2020. Hi, I'm Remy Harding and I'm 12 years old. I love summer so much and am wondering how different it's going to be this year because of Coronavirus.

One of my favorite activities during the summer is riding my bike with my family to Huntington Beach. All 5 of us ride in a straight line like ducks and we wear helmets. When we get to Huntington, Honey Hut is our first stop. My favorite ice cream to order is chocolate with chunks of peanut butter. Sometimes they are so big, they are more like slabs of heaven. Nothing beats choco-

late ice cream on a hot summer night.

Another thing I love to do during the summer is swim. I love to swim because it's refreshing and is a great activity when it's hot outside. I am on a swim team and it's so much fun. The only thing I don't care for is having to jump in a cold pool early in the morning. Otherwise, swimming is right up there with ice cream.

This summer I hope to start babysitting some of the neighborhood children. Even though the summer of 2020 is going to be very different we'll be able to tell people what it was like and how we still had wholesome fun.

– Remy Harding, Bay Village

What I am looking forward to this summer

Hello my name is Gabbie Harding and I am 13 years old.

I am looking forward too many summer activities this year. I will spend most of the summer with my family having fun. I'm also looking forward to going to summer camp.

Covid-19 has definitely changed some of our plans, however we are getting creative and resorting to some old fashioned traditions. We are spending more time creating games, painting outside on the driveway, baking and riding our bikes. We still get to barbecue and sit around a fire pit. I am looking forward to a Weenie Roast and making s'mores.

I look forward to eating ice cream at Malley's. I do not have a favorite flavor and I enjoy all their many ice cream choices. This summer, I am feeling very lucky. At a time when there is so much uncertainty in the world, being a kid in Bay Village is pretty special.

– Gabbie Harding, Bay Village



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Westlake & Bay Village citizens have joined in writing, photographing and delivering this unique community news project.

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