

BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Voice of Bay Schools retires

by TARA WENDELL

As schools across the country embark on a new year filled with uncertainty, the Bay Village City Schools will do so without their trusted spokesperson at the helm. After more than 20 years with the district, Karen Derby-Lovell retired from her post as Director of Communications on Aug. 1.

After years in marketing for BP and as a correspondent for the Plain Dealer, Karen went to work as the part-time communications coordinator for Westlake Schools. She pursued a master's degree in communications to pair with her business degree, and was hired for Bay's full-time job in 1999.

Karen joined Bay Schools at a time when controversy was brewing. A bond issue to construct the new middle school had just been rejected by voters for the second time. It was now her job to convince the community that a new school was needed.

The hard work paid off, and the bond issue passed. That early experience was a memorable one that Karen recalled in a conversation with the Observer.

"Working with community members to inform residents about why a new middle school was required was certainly a highlight. Then seeing the old building come down and the new one go up was pretty emotional. We had committees for everything from building art, to a time capsule, to a grand opening. It was exciting," she said.

It was also something of a turning point in the relationship between the district and the community. Since then, Bay voters have approved every bond issue and levy that the schools have proposed.

"We've enjoyed consistent community support, and that is no small thing," Karen said. "The Bay Village school district is really a center of the community. So many residents stay involved long after their children graduate."

Open communication and transparency are key to building trust with the community, which has been a priority for the district.

► See VOICE page 2



Bethesda Childcare Center raises money for local animal rescues

by TRISHA REITER

During our summer camp and throughout the year at Bethesda Childcare Center in Bay Village, we do various community service projects for different causes. We do these projects to encourage the children to think about the world around them, while increasing self-confidence and providing a sense of purpose.

In the past, we have sold lemonade as part of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, raised money to adopt an animal at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, did a Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's, had a bake sale to support Multiple Sclerosis, and also do a Blessing Bag project in December.

On Friday, July 24, we had a car wash to raise money for Lucky Paws Cat Rescue

and Golden Treasures, raising \$750. Lucky Paws Cat Rescue is a small, foster home based, non-profit organization. They rescue animals from situations that are abusive, endangering, or neglectful. They provide foster care and medical care for the rescued animals and find them responsible pet owners to adopt and care for these animals.

Golden Treasures is a non-profit rescue, founded in 2004 by Sandy and April, two golden retriever lovers. The rescue works to remove golden retrievers from unwanted and inappropriate homes and shelters; educate the public about responsible dog ownership, serve as a resource for canine owners regarding the proper care and treatment of their dogs; educate the public about the breed and the need for obedience les-

sons for all dogs; encourage, assist and provide guidelines to other purebred fanciers to form rescue programs; and to provide an alternative to euthanization.

This rescue also works with other rescues to rescue dogs from the meat trade market in China and bring them back here to the United States, to be adopted.

We will be having a bake sale to continue raising funds for these two rescues from Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 7. The time for the bake sale will be 2:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. If you would like to come and support our bake sale, it will be at Bethesda Childcare Center, 28607 Wolf Road. We will have everything individually packaged and practice social distancing, while wearing masks and gloves. ◆

SPORTING VIEWS

Sports in 2020: An absolute pain in the asterisk

by JEFF BING

Based on his first two starts of the season, Indians ace Shane Bieber should win the Cy Young Award. Think about it: 27 K's in two starts? That's the equivalent of striking out *every* batter for an *entire* game. And don't tell me my Cy Young prediction after seven games is premature. Simply because, my friends, seven games – this year – is 11.67% of the schedule. Conversely, in a normal 162-game schedule, 11.67% of the schedule would be 19 games played, with 143 to go. This year, seven games played means we have a whole 53 games to go.

That's right ... we're in the stretch run, baby!

The point of all this nonsensical babble is that – in case you hadn't noticed – 2020 is the year of the "new normal," which right now is anything *but*. It's more like the year of the *abnormal*. I mean, what's good for us today might be bad for us in a couple of weeks. We're creatures of habit, and these days it seems that most of what were considered good habits are now ... not so much. (Hopefully that *doesn't* include reading this column). But think about how much has changed:

A warm, friendly handshake? *What are you, some kind of psycho? Now I have to sanitize and self-quarantine for the next half hour.*

A loving hug? *One step closer, pal, and I swear I'll mace you into the next zip code!*

► See SPORTS page 2

Senior Strong program just a phone call away

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

During this stay-at-home time, the Westlake Senior and Community Services Department and Far West Center are teaming up to offer Senior Strong by phone. This four-part series is designed to support the emotional health and well-being of individuals in

the 60-plus community.

Groups of 12 are invited to discuss ways to cope with the anxiety, isolation and stress which many are facing during the COVID-19 situation.

To take part in the program, all Westlake residents need is a phone and to follow these simple steps:

- Make a reservation with Westlake Senior and Com-

munity Services Center (space is limited to 12 patrons per session).

- Find a quiet, private place at home to join the phone program. Do not call while driving or in a public place.
- Dedicate one hour of time to participate.
- Read the information and materials for each session, which are sent in advance.

- Call a toll-free number at the designated date and time.

- Wait for the hosting program leader to begin when all participants have dialed in.

Senior Strong phone sessions are scheduled on four Wednesdays in August (5, 12, 19, 26) from 10 to 11 a.m. There is no charge for attending. For questions or to RSVP, please call 440-899-3544. ◆

VOICE *from front page*

Karen has executed that plan through three superintendents – Denny Woods, Clint Keener and Jodie Hausmann. She helped ease the transition for each of the district’s new leaders.

“From the beginning, Karen amazed me with her intellect, sharp wit, ability to decipher the story behind the action, and most importantly, always having an accurate pulse of the Bay Village community, making her essential to a successful transition,” Jodie Hausmann commented to members of the school board. “When it became apparent that safety would be a priority based on my listening and learning tour, Karen embraced leading this initiative because communication and transparency was essential to the success of it.”

Karen was instrumental in the current strategic planning process that combines data from the schools with input from more than 100 community stakeholders to help the district best prepare students for future success. She also managed the Bay Schools social media accounts; produced videos featuring students, faculty and administration members; created newsletters; and wrote countless articles for the Observer and other publications.

While Karen won’t be around for the upcoming challenges posed by the pandemic, she expressed confidence that the district can handle it.

“Bay Village Schools will do as well or better than any district navigating through the virus challenges,” Karen remarked. “The meticulous planning by our superintendent and administration is as good as it gets. This is a tough situation, and they have mitigated the risks to the

greatest degree possible, I think.”

Karen’s travel plans for retirement will likely have to wait until the virus plays out, though she is looking forward to reconnecting with some hobbies and spending time with her family. She has a daughter in California and her son’s family – including her 5-year-old granddaughter – have recently moved back to the area.

As Karen wrapped up her final week on the job, she looked back with admiration for the district that she gave voice to for two decades.

“The teachers are amazing and inspire me,” Karen said. “But I am just bowled over by our students – their leadership and how mature, caring and accomplished they are at such a young age. When people gripe about the younger generation, I tell them they should see those kids in Bay Village. They give me hope for the future.” ●

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SPORTS *from front page*

Seriously: baseball games with cardboard cut-outs of fans in the stands? Dubbed crowd noise? I don’t know about you, but the canned cheering track reminds me of the canned laughter common in the TV shows from the ‘60s and ‘70s. Are we watching Indians baseball or “Gilligan’s Island”?

Speaking of laughter, you know how this is going to play out, don’t you? Of course you do. The Indians will ride this wave (actually, given the abbreviated length of the season, “ripple” would be better suited as a descriptor) of pitching excellence all the way to a World Series title. Unfortunately, the victory “parade” will consist of everyone tuning in to watch Tribe players celebrate (being mindful of social distancing) on Zoom. (I’m already getting all emotional merely thinking about it). Maybe

they’ll even have cardboard cutouts of fans lining East 9th. Now I’m getting goosebumps ... bet you are too.

Not to be outdone, it follows that the Browns will also pick this year to celebrate the city’s first NFL championship since 1964. Too bad only a very few fans will be lucky enough to witness the season in person. The early rumors have the crowds from 10-20% of “normal” (there’s that word again) capacity, so most of us will be relegated to watching it on the tube.

Tailgating? Not at Browns games, pal. The only tailgating you’ll experience is the joker in the Saturn who rides your back bumper from Crocker to East 22nd on your way to work every morning this fall. Bank on it.

So the Tribe and Browns will both go all the way in the year of the aberration, otherwise known as the year of the asterisk.

Can’t wait, can you? (Cue the canned applause). ●

Westlake resident receives national scholastic honor

by MARIA BOYER

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) today announced that Westlake resident Madeline Boyer, a student at Hershey Montessori School, has been selected to become a member of the esteemed organization. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. The announcement was made by NSHSS founder and chairman Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

“On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to

recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Madeline has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence,” said Nobel. “Madeline is now a member of a unique community of scholars – a community that represents our very best hope for the future.”

“We are proud to provide lifetime membership to young scholars to support their growth and development,” stated NSHSS President James W. Lewis. “We aim to help students like Madeline build on their academic success by connecting them with unique learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers.”

NSHSS members automatically become lifetime members at the time of their initial membership. At each step along the way – from high school to college to career – NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with the resources they need to develop their strengths and pursue their passions. ●



Madeline Boyer

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PRODUCTION OFFICE

451 Queenswood Drive
Bay Village, Ohio 44140
440-409-0114 • Fax 440-409-0118

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BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Karen Uthe-Semancik is new Bay Schools communications director

by KAREN DERBY

The Bay Village Board of Education voted unanimously in July to appoint Karen Uthe-Semancik as the district's next Director of Communications. Uthe-Semancik assumes her new role in August. She succeeds Karen Derby-Lovell, who recently retired after serving in the role for more than two decades.

A Bay Village resident, Uthe-Semancik most recently held the position of communications director for Menlo Park Academy, a school for gifted children in Cleveland. She has also served as director of marketing for Magnificat High School in Rocky River. She has worked as a community reporter for WestLife newspaper covering several Westshore school districts, and was a columnist covering pet ownership for the Elyria Chronicle Telegram for more than a decade. Her experience also includes owning a boutique communications firm and working in the nonprofit, broadcasting and advertising agency sectors.

"I am confident that Karen's experience as both a reporter and a school communications officer will help us to continue to transparently share our district's news and stories with the public," said Jodie Hausmann, superintendent of the Bay Village City School District.

Uthe-Semancik is very familiar with the Bay Village City School District as a parent. Her son Alex, a 2019 Bay High graduate, attended the district schools since kindergarten.

The Solon native is excited to begin work in the Bay Village Schools despite the immediate challenges this year caused by the COVID-19 virus. "It will be an honor to serve my adopted hometown's award-winning school district," she said. ●



Karen Uthe-Semancik is the new Director of Communications for the Bay Village Schools.

Bay United Methodist Church finds new ways to connect

by CINDY GULLEY

In the new COVID-19 normal, connection is important, while at the same time tougher to accomplish. As a church, Bay United Methodist feels the absolute calling to reach further than our own members to find connections within and outside of our community.

Through postcards to our neighbors, pizza delivery each Friday to the fire department, online postings of mid-week meditations and Sunday worship, to personal phone calls and Zoom meetings, they've found opportunities to lift people up during this difficult time.

It is not enough. Leadership in the church is actively pursuing fresh looks at ministry, continually asking the question, "How can we do better?"

One way is offering this open invitation to our neighbors, friends and community to join us on Sundays for our drive-in service at 10:00 a.m. The church will make room for everyone. All denominations and anyone in search of connection can find it at Bay United Methodist and they can find it safely. Masks may be required, but that does not inhibit the smiles of seeing friendly faces from car-to-car. Some choose to social dis-




Parishioners can social distance at an outdoor worship session at Bay United Methodist Church.

tance in lawn chairs, sitting with their loved one yet still maintaining a safe six feet from others.

Although in cars, the energy is real. The love is abundant. The blessings of Christ comfort all. In the space of 30-45 minutes there is a chance to reflect and connect. This time will carry you through the week. And everyone is welcome.

Bay United Methodist is located at 29931 Lake Road. ●



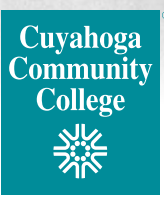

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Kay Laughlin, Bay Village historian, passes away

Kay Rothaermel Laughlin, Bay Village historian and longtime Westlake | Bay Village Observer columnist, has died.



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Kay Laughlin, pictured in 2018 at the dedication of the Bay United Methodist Church historical marker that she helped procure, passed away on July 25.

well all her life. Bay Village's history became her most enjoyable hobby. She lived in Bay Village all her life.

A 1955 Bay High graduate, she received a distinguished alumni award from Bay High School in 1978. Kay got her bachelor of science degree in education at The Ohio State University where she met her husband, Jerry. She was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Along with her sister, Gay, she wrote "Bay Village: A Way Of Life" in 1974, the first written history of the town. In 2007, Kay and Ginny Peterson compiled the picture book, "Bay Village," collecting the pictures and writing the content. Kay joined the Bay Village Historical Society in 1968 and served as president for two years in 1976. She was part of the team that opened Rose Hill Museum in 1974. She was a docent for 20 years at Rose Hill Museum and became the society's historian. She was the manager of the historical society antique show, accessions chairman for 10 years, and one of the organizers at the Osborn Learning Center when the Reuben Osborn house was moved into Cahoon Memorial Park.

For years she presented slide shows of Bay Village history, starting with the lighted school house and the Reflections program at the Bay Middle School. Today Bay Village history is taught in the Bay Schools because of Kay and her sister. She was a past president of the Alpha Delta Pi West Cleveland Alumni Association, served on Normandy PTA for 10 years, and was the Bay United Methodist Church historian when they received an Ohio historical marker.

Kay begin writing her "Snippets of Bay Village History" column in the Observer in 2015, penning more than 100 articles. All are archived online at wbvobserver.com/read/columns.

Kay was a great cook. She set a beautiful table. She loved to read and listen to music. She would say being on the water was her favorite place. She and Jer loved their boat and Kay was a great perch fisherman, many times catching the most fish. She was an avid Cleveland sports fan, loving her Brownies.

For 15 years she did tole painting and worked shows in the area. She took up watercolors, painting the family dogs, cats, and horses. She loved being outdoors and could name every flower and/or weed. She could tell you the artists and names of the songs her children played in the 70s.

There wasn't anything Kay couldn't do. She was the organizer and family tour guide. Her family meant everything to her. She loved Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner was her favorite meal.

"Kay was an amazing asset to the historical society and a pleasure to work with," President Cathy Flament said. "We have all lost a loyal friend. She will truly be missed."

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date to ensure safety for all who would like to attend. ●

She was born Feb. 21, 1937, and passed away July 25, 2020.

Kay was the daughter of the late J. Ross and Alberta (Wurtz) Rothaermel, wife of Gerald Lee Laughlin (married 62 years), sister of Barbara Walker and twin sister, Gay Menning (deceased), mother of Christopher (Connie), Kathy Ann and Thomas (Kelly), grandmother of Sara and Abigail.

Bay Village has lost its historian. No one knew more about Bay Village's history than Kay. She knew all the facts and people that she wove into stories. She had a remarkable memory that served her

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Supporting your favorite apps

by TAK SATO

Hand-held devices such as smartphones and tablets – whether iPhone/iPad exclusively built by Apple based on their "iOS" operating system, or other makes/models where manufacturers like Samsung, Motorola, LG, and others license Google's "Android" operating system – all come with a set of basic apps pre-installed. I'll also use the term "ecosystem" to describe the services and functionalities built around the respective operating systems that add further value to these handheld devices beyond the pre-installed apps.

An example of a pre-installed app on the smartphone is the "Phone" or "Dialer," often represented by an icon of a telephone handset and enables you to make/receive telephone calls. Most tablets can only connect to the internet, aka the cloud, through Wi-Fi so they do not come pre-installed with the Phone app. Tip: Wi-Fi only tablets can still be made to make/receive phone calls using an

app like Google Voice. For the curious, we'll cover GoogleVoice and other VoIP (Voice of Internet Protocol) apps in a future column.

Among the pre-installed apps, Apple's "App Store" on iPhone/iPads and Google's "Play Store" on Android-based handhelds are critical apps to empower your smartphone or tablet by giving you the ability to install apps to suit your needs. These stores are mutually exclusive for the ecosystems they're in so iPhone/iPad can't access Google's Play Store and vice versa. Other than that mutual exclusivity, many popular apps – like Facebook (social media), Spotify (music), Zoom (video conferencing), and many others – are available in both stores, providing same functionalities albeit some visual differences.

Although both have the word "Store" in their names, they offer paid and free apps. The latter are usually supported by showing advertisements, a type of business model called "freemium." A concatenation of the words "free" and "premium," freemium apps

are basically saying "try first and then pay if you want to get rid of the [annoying] advertisements."

Maybe it's just me but ads taking up 1/7th of my smartphone's already small screen, or 1/10th of my tablet's screen, is just too distracting for me to enjoy the app. Hence if I end up liking a freemium app, I look in the app's settings menu to see if I can pay a small fee to get rid of the advertisements or to see if there is an ad-free version in the store that I can buy from the same author. For the latter, often the author of the app will have a "Pro" version sans advertisements (same app name plus the Pro suffix). I've done this for apps I like to use frequently, making the experience enjoyable.

Everyone, including authors of apps, have to make a living so what better way than to support them by upgrading to a version without ads in exchange for a small fee? Doing so is akin to donating to our beloved WBV Observer newspaper so we can keep on reading community news and more by volunteer writers. ●

Curbside food pickup is back in Westlake

Westlake residents in need of assistance with putting food on the table can once again register online for Curbside Food Pickup through the Westlake Food Pantry.

After a brief hiatus, the program restarted in July and will be offering pre-packaged food bags

to residents the last Thursday of each month through at least September.

As with the program's previous iteration in May and June, food will be distributed at Westlake Senior & Community Services Center to residents who register in advance via the city's website: www.cityofwestlake.org/activities. ●

READER'S OPINION

Remembering Aug. 6, 1945

by ROBERT ERZEN

This year we have been marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II – VE Day on May 8, 1945, and VJ Day on Aug. 15, 1945. Japan's surrender was signed on Sept. 2, 1945, my 8th birthday. However, the dates Aug. 6 and 9 stand out most in my mind even today.

Back then my playmates and I were the East 154th Street army ready to protect our neighbors with our toy weapons. When the news broke that the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic bombs, we were beside ourselves celebrating our nation's power that led to the Japanese surrender. We paraded about believing that we had the ultimate weapon to beat any enemy who tried to mess with America.

Looking back, my perspective has changed. The atomic bombs killed over 200 thousand people, roughly half of the deaths in each city occurred on the first day's bombing. Large numbers of people continued to die for months afterward from the effects of burns, radiation sickness, and other injuries, compounded by ill-

ness and malnutrition. In both cities, most of the dead were civilians, although Hiroshima had a sizable military. I shudder to think if Japan had the bomb and targeted the Cadillac Tank Plant (now Cleveland's IX Center). In either case the great majority of those casualties were or would be non-combatants.

I have come to believe that in war there are no real winners or losers, only victims.

Since the U.S. initiated the use of a weapon of mass destruction, the family of nuclear nations has mushroomed to nine nations with Iran and North Korea trying to join the club. In addition, the U.S. has warheads deployed in five NATO countries. Together they have 13,685 nuclear warheads with the U.S. and Russia having 90 percent of them. That is enough to end life on planet earth many times over.

At what cost is our nuclear arsenal? From 1940 to 1996 U.S. taxpayers paid \$9.9 trillion for nukes. Today the government is asking for another trillion dollars over 30 years to renovate our country's stockpile. At the same time, the Defense Department pursues new WMDs and more ways to deliver them.

Rather than continue to pursue the means for our mutual destruction I urge that we as a nation we establish and aggressively pursue reduction of and elimination of nuclear weapons through diplomatic means and reinvest the savings into humanitarian programs at home and in areas of the world in desperate need of aid. ●

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Hepatitis C: A virus with a cure

by DIANA PI, M.D.

In a Covid-19 world, many important health issues are carpeted. One decidedly deserves more attention: Earlier this year, multiple expert groups including the CDC recommended screening all U.S. adults for – Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

HCV is a chronic, blood-borne liver disease and a leading cause of end-stage liver disease, liver transplant and liver cancer. About 1% of Americans have it; most have no symptoms and don't know they have it. For example, in 2018, 3,621 new cases of HCV were reported to the CDC. But experts estimate the actual number was closer to 50,300.

The three common liver infections are Hepatitis A, B and C. Since vaccines became available in the 1990s, the rates of Hepatitis A and B have declined.

Luckily, for HCV, instead of a vaccine, we have an effective viral “cure.”

But in the U.S., HCV infection isn't controlled. The rate has increased threefold in the past decade due, in part, to an increased rate of injection drug use and wider screening. HCV can also be transmitted through childbirth, contaminated tattooing/medical procedures, sex, etc.

Traveling with the opioid crisis, acute HCV infection spreads quickly among young people between the age 20 and 39 – and in regions like Appala-

chian Ohio. For example, the rate of HCV infection in Pike County (463 per 100,000 population; the highest) is 20 times that of Holmes County (23 per 100,000 population; the lowest).

Ohio and eight other states (California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee and North Carolina) account for more than half of our national HCV infection.

So what happens when one is infected with HCV? First, the immune system will try to clear it. But half can't and are infected long-term.

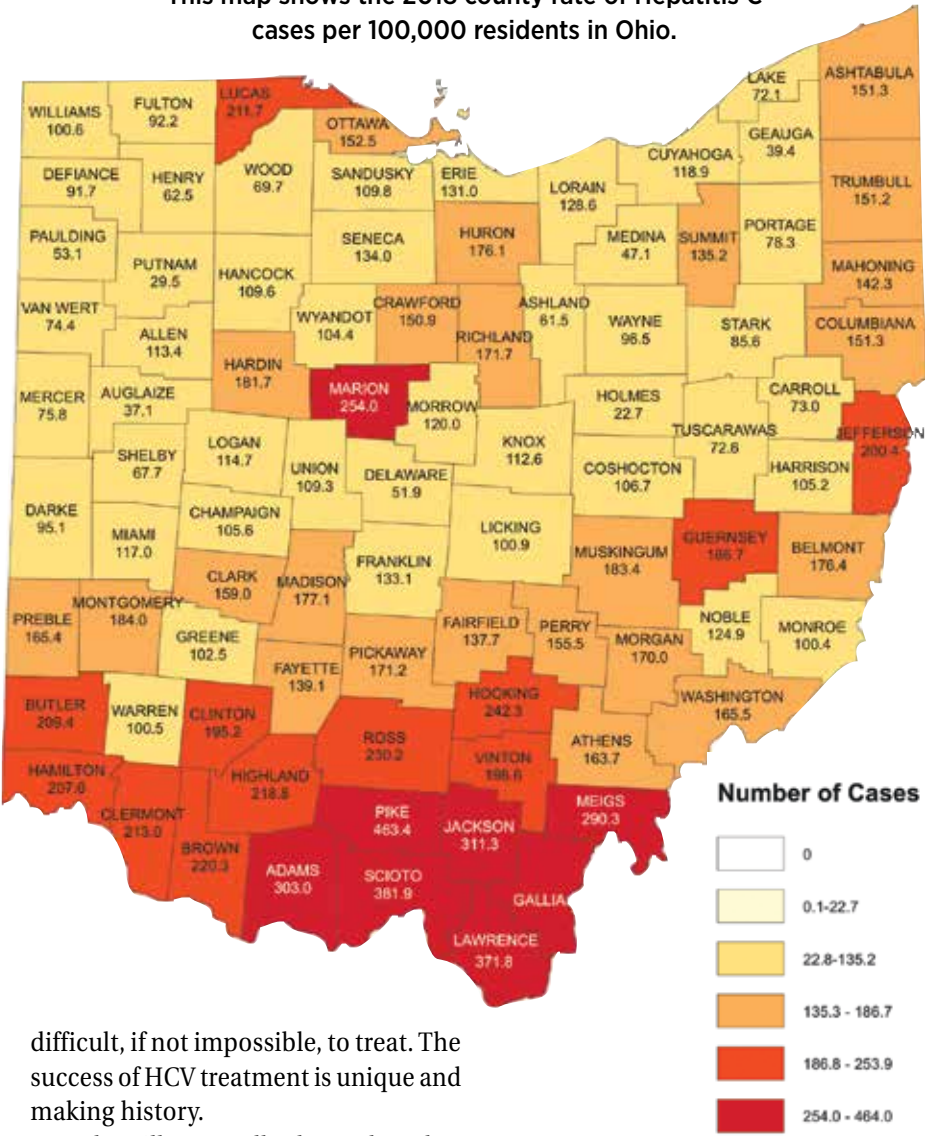
In chronic infection, the liver continues to work well for decades and shows few (e.g. fatigue, depression) or no symptoms until much of the liver is knocked out and scarred over – cirrhosis.

But it doesn't have to be this way: Screening (a simple blood or finger-stick test) can pick up HCV at any stage.

The treatment is also simple: Take pills for two to three months. Four months after treatment, more than 95% have no detectable virus in their blood. Studies show a one-time HCV treatment can reduce chances of developing cirrhosis and liver cancer by 64-71%, and reduce liver-related deaths by 90%.

Please believe me, viruses – as seen with SARS-CoV-2 – are incredibly

This map shows the 2018 county rate of Hepatitis C cases per 100,000 residents in Ohio.



difficult, if not impossible, to treat. The success of HCV treatment is unique and making history.

The pills are well tolerated, and as far as I'm concerned, the most toxic side effect is the cost.

When the drugs first came out in 2014, the price tag for a 12-week treatment: \$84,000. Now more options are available, and the cost ranges from

\$26,500 to \$94,500. The WHO plans to eradicate Hepatitis C by 2030. Universal screening puts us on track to achieve just that. Yeah, I thought you could do with some good news. ●

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Hospice of the Western Reserve, one of the largest hospice and palliative care programs in the country, seeks full-time and part-time (16-40 hours/week) dietary servers for its Westlake facility.

Employees prepare and serve meals, wash dishes, clean kitchen and may perform cashier duties. Positions include working on alternate weekends. Must have good communication skills. Dietary experience preferred. A genuine commitment to the mission, values and work of the agency, and an ability to work effectively with others are required.

In addition to a competitive salary structure, compensation program includes paid medical and dental insurance as well as a paid time off program, education reimbursement and continuing education assistance.

Please email (recruitment@hospicewr.org), fax (216.481.3201) or send a letter of interest and resume for review to HWR, Human Resources, 17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44110.

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Westlake Porter Public Library

Upcoming events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early to mid-August 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.

Monday, Aug. 3 (6-8 p.m.) **Virtual Tarot Card Readings** – After a short introduction to tarot card reading, practice reading with the assistance of an experienced reader. Bring your own cards (Rider-Waite recommended). Some tarot card experience helpful. Please register. An email must be provided to receive meeting instructions.

Wednesday, Aug. 5 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Horror Film Club: Online Edition** – Calling all horror film fans: Join us for another creepy classic from the vault... if you dare! New members always welcome; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Please register. The club will meet online using the video sharing site Watch2Gether. To participate, please check the event on the library's website as early as 6 p.m. on the day of the program. There will be a link to take you to the site.

Thursday, Aug. 6 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Monday, Aug. 10 (7-8 p.m.) **Pets and the Pandemic** – Do you have a

pet that has helped you cope through the pandemic? This is your opportunity to show him or her off! Please register. This program will take place on Zoom, so attendees must provide an email address to receive meeting instructions.

Tuesday, Aug. 11 (1-3 p.m.) **Career Transition: Sharpen Up Your Resume** – What's the latest in buzz words? How does your resume stack up? Have your resume on hand to evaluate while we talk. Be on top of the pile next time you send it to an employer. Please register. Participants must provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, Aug. 11 (7-8:15 p.m.) **Queer Pop! Happy Hour Online** – Join WPPL staff for a fun discussion about the LGBTQIA-themed books, films, music and TV shows that we're currently indulging in as well as the new releases available at the library. Please register.

Tuesday, Aug. 11 (7-8:45 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Discussion** – This month's selection is "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris. If you are unable to get a physical book, digital copies are available via Hoopla. The discussion will be held via Zoom. Please register. An email must be provided to receive meeting instructions.

Wednesday, Aug. 12 (7-8 p.m.) **Alternatives to Cable TV** – Frustrated with cable service? Let us help you sort through the variety of viewing alterna-

tives available. Learn about media players, streaming services and more. Event streamed live.

Thursday, Aug. 13 (All Day) **Calling Crafters Online: Library Card Mini Notebook** – Learn how to make a library card mini-notebook at home! In addition to internet access and a computer, tablet or phone to view the presentation, you will also need a pencil, ¼-inch hole punch, and glue stick. Other materials will be provided. On or after Aug. 13 you will receive an email with a link to presentation that you can watch anytime, anywhere, at your own pace and on your own time. Please wait for email before coming to pick up materials.

Thursdays, Aug. 13, 20 and 27, and Tuesdays, Aug. 18 and 25 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Storytime Online** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a livestreamed storytime with one of our Youth Services staff.

Thursdays, Aug. 13, 20 and 27 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **WPPL Roblox Club** – Love Roblox? 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.

Friday, Aug. 14 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **DIY Crafts for Your Learning Space** – Tweens and Teens: Whether you are at home or in a school building, these crafts will make your learning space all your own! We will provide most of the supplies with instructions to complete

4 crafts. Register now for pickup beginning Aug. 14.

Fridays, Aug. 14, 21 and 28, and Monday, Aug. 31 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Library at 11 (Online)** – Join us on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube to see what family friendly video we have in store for you!

Monday, Aug. 17 (6-8 p.m.) **Virtual Medicinal/Nutritional Herbs from Your Garden** – Learn how to grow your own herbal remedies from healing plants. Turn your home-grown herbs into creams, tinctures, teas and more. Learn the plant parts to use and their nutritional/medicinal value. Program will be held via Zoom. Please register. Participants must give an email address to receive Zoom instruction prior to the program.

Wednesday, Aug. 19 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Sing and Dance! (Zoom)** – Join Miss Nancy on Zoom! Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions, which will be sent the day of the program.

Wednesday, Aug. 19 (7-8 p.m.) **Moralists in Disguise: Mark Twain Meets the Twilight Zone** – What do Mark Twain and Rod Serling have in common? Join author and actor Mark Dawidziak for a fascinating online program to find out! Dawidziak is the author of "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in The Twilight Zone," as well as five books about Mark Twain. This program will be hosted on Zoom. Registration is required to attend.

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

READER'S OPINION

How Westlake High School should reopen during a global pandemic

by NATHAN HSIAO

During the rise in COVID-19 cases, reopening school in the fall may force educators to integrate creative solutions. As a recent graduate from Westlake High School, I care deeply about our community, health and education. While I recognize that I am not a qualified health expert, I have outlined below some of my ideas of how our Westlake education system could adapt to the global pandemic. These changes would primarily entail: 1) a more centralized classroom model; 2) prepared lunch delivery service; 3) preservation of the most important values of education.

I believe that a hybrid model that features both in-person and remote learning would be best. Many high schools are thinking about alternating days students come to school. In addition, I think more drastic changes should be implemented to limit the spread of COVID-19 transmission.

A typical day at Westlake High School looks something like this: students come to school and either stay in common areas or directly go to their 1st-period class before school starts. They then leave their 1st-period class and move on to different classrooms for their successive classes around the building.

This conventional system may be difficult to limit a potential infection, especially when hundreds of students are walking through the same hallways, eating off the same tables, sharing the same chairs, and using the same computers.

Even with all hygiene precautions in place- not touching your face or putting your fingers in your mouth – many students can underestimate how often they subconsciously do that. Thus, I believe that our educational system should be more centralized.

Rather than having hundreds of students move from successive classrooms, educators should provide the option of allocating students into a single classroom or "cohorts" for the entirety of their in-person coursework. Teachers, not the students, would transfer from respective classrooms.

Centralizing our education system

could significantly limit the spread of infection as the number of teachers is significantly less than the student body. Furthermore, if there was a potential infection, health authorities are able more effectively introduce contact tracing because students are contained with their specific "cohorts" or classrooms.

In regard to lunch, I believe it is in the best interest of our education system and health to remove public cafeterias. Instead, lunch should take place within the students' assigned classroom. School districts should implement prepared meal delivery service for students who choose to opt-in to school dining options.

I also believe that school is a place for not just learning, but also an important environment to foster humanizing interactions. As humans, we are inherently social creatures. We strive to find friends and interact with our classmates and teachers. School ultimately helps us develop important empathetic skills and relationships.

Moving school completely virtual could possibly remove these integral experiences in our lives. In a hybrid model, on the days remote learning takes

place, I recommend that teachers assign video lectures and reading material to students. Then, during the days of in-person learning, students will have the opportunity to work together on problem sets, ask questions, and participate in class discussion. Thus, I believe that a more centralized system would preserve the most essential humanizing aspects – group collaboration, the facilitation of ideas, and interaction with our classmates and teachers.

I recognize many logistical complexities. However, I sincerely believe that this model would best limit a potential infection, without having to move classes online. The goal of this system is to preserve our education values without jeopardizing our health. ●

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DIGGING DOVER

Bay’s Moses Cleaveland Trees revisited

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

This column is dedicated to fellow Observer columnist Kay Laughlin who died July 25. Kay was also THE historian for the BayVillage Historical Society. She, and her twin sister Gay Menning, were the primary co-authors of “Bay Village: A Way of Life” published by the Bay Village Historical Society.

In 2019 Kay wrote an article lamenting the loss of what she thought was the last designated Moses Cleaveland Tree in Bay Village. This led me to do an article about the Moses Cleaveland Trees of Westlake. In the meantime a reader contacted the Observer stating that they still had a plaqued Moses Cleaveland Tree in their yard on Sunset Drive in Bay.

The Moses Cleaveland Tree project started in 1946 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Moses Cleaveland landing here in 1796. Its goal was to designate and plaque 150 trees that were growing in the Cleveland area when Moses Cleaveland arrived.

Subsequent surveys were done in 1971, 1976 and later to check on the status and size of the originally designated trees and add new trees to the list to replace those that had been removed. What we learned is that the records for the 1946 designated trees were pretty solid but the list of subsequently designated trees was sketchy. Also, the exact location of some of the trees was ambiguous.

Roy Larick, retired archaeologist and newly designated member of the Euclid Tree Commission, contacted me with his plan to create a master list of all of the known Moses Cleaveland trees, including precise latitude and longitude locations and current status and size of the trees. He provided me with a list of trees in Bay he compiled from Kay Laughlin and my articles and other sources. It showed that four trees had been designated in 1946, two in 1971 and five in 1976 (11 total).

His project eventually got folded into the goals of the Forest City Working Group under the City of Cleveland’s Office of Sustainability. They asked me to go into the field to gather as much information as I could.

The results for Bay: Two healthy trees, two stumps, seven gone. One of the seven included the Black Oak on Sunset which had been in decline. When new owners bought the property this year, all that was left was the stump, which they had removed.

The two healthy trees are an approximately 55-inch diameter white oak behind the house at 27408 West Oviatt, visible from both West Oviatt and Donald Drive, and a 32-inch diameter hickory in the backyard of 270 Breezewood Drive. The owner explained to me that this rear area of their yard and the adjoining yards was once part of a deep lot that went with the William Saddler II house at 30165 Lake Road. There are many large specimens in this parklike setting. Unfortunately, the hickory tree is not visible from the street so enjoy the accompanying pictures but please don’t trespass on their property.

The two stumps are from a beech tree at 29357 Lake Road and a white oak at 24015 Lake Road. The beech stump is along the east property line of the former Steinbrenner property. The tree measured 43 inches in diameter in 1976, now it is a 70-inch stump. The White Oak measured 47 inches in 1976, now it is a 72-inch stump adjoining the sidewalk.

It is not that the trees grew that much since 1976 but the official diameter of a mature tree is measured at 54 inches above ground. This is done to avoid the root flare at the soil line.

The beech had been healthy until about 10 years ago. The owners even commissioned a new plaque for the tree because a split in the trunk had split the original plaque. Unfortunately, they



The majestic hickory tree at 270 Breezewood on the former William Saddler II property.

were never able to mount the new plaque because before they could the tree completely died. Since it is near their neighbors’ house they had the tree removed.

Besides the two remaining trees, the best news is that there are a number of other large trees that have been discovered in the process that, if there is a list of 225 trees dedicated in 2021 to celebrate the 225th anniversary of Moses Cleaveland’s landing, may qualify.

Before I submitted the list in June, I was in contact with Kay through her husband, Gerald, trying to pinpoint the exact location on the former gun club property



PHOTOS BY WILL KRAUSE

The 72-inch diameter white oak stump at 24015 Lake Road. The tree had been designated a Moses Cleaveland Tree in 1976.



A white oak at 27408 West Oviatt Road as seen from Donald Drive.

of the tree Kay called “Her Majesty.” If anyone can tell me exactly where that tree formerly stood, it would be appreciated. My email address is wrk295@aol.com.

The results of the whole Moses Cleaveland Tree survey update will eventually be hosted on the Holden Arboretum website, holdenarb.org. ●



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Westlake Kiwanis and Town Criers join forces to help fire department

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis and the Westlake Town Criers joined forces in donating to the Westlake Fire Department purchase smoke detectors. The donation of \$250 each was to help the Westlake Fire Department provide smoke detectors for qualifying families.

To qualify, you must: live in the city of Westlake; own and live in your home; and live on a low income, are a senior citizen or are disabled. To request installation of smoke alarms in your home, call the Westlake Fire Prevention Division at 440-835-6422, Westlake Fire Department at 440-871-3441, or Community Services' outreach coordinator at 440-899-3544. ●



From left: firemen Rob Thompson and Ryan Clifford, Asst. Fire Chief Mike Freeman, Town Crier/Kiwanian Rick Grane and fireman Fran Cavotta.

PHOTO BY MIC KUTKOSKI

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Since 2009 the Observer has strived to fulfill our founding mission – to strengthen our community by informing and engaging Westlake and Bay Village residents.

Times are tough, and the pandemic has presented an added challenge at a time when emotional connection and togetherness matter so much.

Please help us continue to provide a free medium where the community can share news, share stories and share laughs.

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