

Westlake welcomes two new firefighters

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough administered the oath of office to two new firefighters the week of Nov. 9.

The week began with the swearing in of Ryan Nerkowski, who previously served as a part-time firefighter for Oakwood Village and Seven Hills. His former commanding officer, Oakwood Village Fire Chief James Schade, did the honor of pinning Nerkowski's new badge to his uniform during the ceremony.

Nerkowski wasn't the city's least-tenured employee for long.

Three days later, Mayor Clough swore in Sean McLaughlin, making him the city's newest



Westlake firefighter Sean McLaughlin, sworn in Nov. 12.

firefighter.

"We are fortunate in Westlake to have a really great fire department," Mayor Clough



Westlake Mayor Dennis M. Clough swears in firefighter Ryan Nerkowski on Nov. 9, as Westlake Fire Chief Jim Hughes and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Freeman look on.

said, moments before swearing in Nerkowski. "And the reason we have it is because we pick good people, and they are dedicated

people. They feel good about the career they have chosen and they make a positive difference."

Both firefighters took their

respective oaths of office in front of friends, family and colleagues in a pair of small ceremonies at Westlake City Hall. ♦

PHOTOS BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

A simple game plan to survive COVID-19

by DIANA PI, M.D.

Recent headline: Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is 90% effective.

Well, maybe. It's too early to tell based on a number released in the middle of a trial. The real news: Pfizer CEO profited by unloading \$5.6 million of his own stock near its peak value – on the day of the announcement.

The real and better news: Not one, but *several* vaccines are close to being ready. Today over 100 vaccines are in the development pipeline.

However, "A vaccine is only a vaccine. It's nothing until it's a vaccination," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, a renowned U.S. epidemiologist. Getting people vaccinated takes time.

Therefore, this winter, we're very much on our own. But it's fine because wearing masks works. (When I say "wearing masks," I mean the whole shebang of face coverings, physical distancing, safely reopening schools and businesses, and extensive testing.)

To close this chapter on COVID-19, we need both low-tech preventative measures and vaccination, per CDC recommendation.

Months ago, CDC estimated 10% to 12% of the U.S. population has been infected by the COVID-19 virus (rates in pockets of the U.S. can be higher or lower; where we are exactly, nobody knows).

► See COVID-19 page 2

Bay school board appoints new member

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

During its Nov. 9 regular meeting, the Bay Village Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Bay Village resident and parent Dr. Scott Schulz to fill its board vacancy.

A Bay Village resident for the last six years, Dr. Schulz has spent the majority of his professional career in post-secondary education. He currently serves as Vice President for Enrollment

Management at Baldwin Wallace University. He is also an adjunct assistant teaching professor for Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Schulz has also served in several volunteer capacities, including assisting military veterans in furthering their education through American Corporate Partners, and working with GED students to explore their education and career options via Seeds of Literacy.

► See BOARD page 2



Dr. Scott Schulz, left, is sworn in by Bay Village City School District treasurer Nicole Spriggs.

BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Keeping tabs on auto-renewals

by TAK SATO

Several columns ago I talked about the "subscription" option, i.e. leasing, for Microsoft's productivity software suite "Microsoft 365" as opposed to buying "Office" outright. Another example,

commercial anti-virus software, operates under a similar principle where they require their users to annually renew (pay) to continue getting the virus signatures to prevent known viruses from infecting your computer or identifying virus infections and eradicating them by using

the updated digital antidotes.

I'm confident that many of you are seasoned geeks who can fix different ailments our technology devices succumb to. I also know some friends who opted for computer repair services from office supply stores or big box electronic stores locally. For the latter, many technology services have also adopted the subscription model to sell their preventative services after repair.

► See RENEWALS page 2

COVID-19

from front page

That means most of us know somebody who's had COVID-19, even if we haven't had it.

To stop the infection from spreading, experts think about 60% (range 30% to 70%) of the population need to have immunity. It can be obtained by natural infection or vaccine.

If we ditch our masks and embrace the "let's get it over with" open-season approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus will find us and our loved ones. The crisis facing NYC hospitals and communities last March and April can strike anywhere, anytime.

Sure, many are symptom-free. And I pray when my time comes, I'd be the lucky one to say, "Phew, it could've been worse." And "Who doesn't love miracles?" As Brad Pitt's Fauci said on an SNL skit, "miracles shouldn't be Plan A."

Today, almost 10 months from the day of the first COVID-19 case in the U.S., over 246,000 Americans have died, and at the current rate of growth, without a universal mask mandate, experts predict another 170,000 may die by the end of winter.

With vaccines so, so close to reality, every death and illness seems senseless.

COVID-19 is a slow burn. It's called the 16-trillion-dollar virus because it can be – if we let it.

I have a simple game plan: wear my mask in public, maintain a healthy routine including regular exercise, stay put and wait for the vaccines.

As Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks, the British TV sleuth, said, "You can't make it right; you can make it better." ●

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BOARD

from front page

He is a graduate of the University of Arizona, where he earned both his B.A. in Communication and his Ph.D. in Higher Education. He and his wife, Ruth, have two daughters in the district, one at Westerly Elementary School and one at Bay Middle School.

Bay Village Board of Education President Lisa Priemer said she appreciated Dr. Schulz's post-secondary education expertise, budget knowledge and experience working with nonprofit boards. "Dr. Schulz brings a wealth of knowledge to our Board, especially when it comes to serving our students post-graduation. His background is especially important as we move forward in the writing of the school district's next strategic plan as we focus on the future of work."

Eleven Bay Village residents applied for and were interviewed for the appointment.

"We are grateful for the passion

for Bay Village Schools and our community that each applicant exhibited during the interview process," said Board of Education Vice President Dave Vegh. "We hope they will all continue to pursue volunteer opportunities on committees and other activities within the school district."

Dr. Schulz was appointed to replace the seat vacated by Dr. Gayatri Jacob-Mosier, who stepped down from the Board last month. He will fulfill Dr. Jacob-Mosier's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2021. He must run in the next general election – Nov. 2, 2021 – in order to serve the next four-year term, which would begin January of 2022.

"I am both honored and humbled to join the Bay Village Board of Education to serve a community that has given my family so much already," Dr. Schulz said. "I see how my daughters have thrived in the district over the last six years, and I look forward to using my experience as an educator to further enhance Bay Village Schools for the benefit of our students and community." ●

RENEWALS

from front page

The volume of robocalls and SPAM calls were exacerbated in the weeks leading up to the recent election. I also noticed that the increased volume has become a new baseline for unwanted call volume. Literally the day after the election, "different" 10-digit numbers started to leave messages with the "same" content in my voicemail: "From the billing department of computer services. This is to inform you that \$399 is going to be charged from your checking account or plastic card, which is attached in our system for the auto-renewal of your subscription. If you want to cancel the subscription, please press 1 or call us immediately at 854-222-9342."

My dear readers know that I always preach to let unsolicited calls and texts, even if the Caller-ID says they are from local area codes like 440, 216 or 330, to let them go to your answering machine or voicemail (the latter an answering machine in the cloud). My assumption is that if important, they'll leave a message.

Since the digital world has embraced the subscription business

model, from movie streaming services to computer repair/preventative services and anything in between, you may have several subscriptions active at any given time. Whether monthly or annually, it may also "auto-renew" to the credit card you initially used to buy the product or service. I can only speak for myself but I will never remember all the different subscriptions and the renewal dates so I keep a spreadsheet of subscription renewal dates and associated contact information. But why?

Another Tak-ism is that technology evolves very fast hence although auto-renewal is convenient, a year is a long time for any technology-based product or service. I would want to reevaluate whether I should renew with the same product or service for another year.

The message left on my voicemail did make me wonder which subscription it might be – a knee-jerk reaction due to the \$399 renewal amount. That is when I just referred to my spreadsheet. Even if one of the subscriptions was \$399 or close to it, I will definitely NOT call the number left in the voicemail but rather rely on the contact information in my spreadsheet (or keeping a paper notebook is fine too). Stay safe! ●

WESTSHORE ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

2020 drug collections a huge success

by JEFF CAPRETTO, SAIC,
Westshore Enforcement Bureau

The Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) Drug Task Force gratefully acknowledges the citizens of our six western suburbs for actively participating in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 24 with 439 pounds of outdated and unwanted medications collected for safe disposal.

In addition, the citizens of our WEB communities were responsible for properly disposing of medications

via the use of the 365/24/7 drop boxes located within each of the six police departments to the tune of 2,445 pounds through Oct. 31.

I continue to urge our citizens to make use of the drop boxes whenever the need arises for the purpose of protecting the environment and preventing the diversion of pharmaceuticals for criminal activities.

The WEB Drug Task Force will continue to offer this valuable service to increase the safety and wellness of all Westshore families. ●

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

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A marathon of perseverance

by JACOB KAMM

Since March, if you found yourself on Lake Road before dawn between Bradley and Clague, there is a good chance you passed Bay resident Chad Pado running. If you were on foot as he passed, you were likely greeted with a warm “Good morning.”

On the morning of Sunday, Oct. 18, the culmination of seven months of that daily routine was achieved with the successful completion of the Columbus Marathon accomplished virtually in a time of 3 hours and 38 minutes. Run entirely on the streets of Bay, the marathon included long stretches on Lake and Wolf as well as sections of Bradley, Clague, Walker, Walmar, Carlton and Cahoon.

The gravity of his achievement was certainly not lost on those that knew Chad’s story. In April of 2019, the idea of running a marathon was not a high priority. At 43, Chad had hip replacement surgery and was more focused on just walking again. However, if you met Chad as I have you would quickly conclude that he is a person of quiet conviction and strong determination. A former educator, high school basketball coach, and college athlete, it is no surprise that his perseverance and self-determination would allow him to overcome any physical setback and cancellation of the in-person

marathon and finish his marathon.

The months leading up to the race proved the importance of community involvement, a hallmark of Bay Village, in Chad’s success. From the homeowner on Clague and another near the corner of Wolf and Columbia who welcomed his storing of energy bars and Gatorade in their yards as he trained, to his family and neighbors on race day who provided rehydration stations and emotional support along the route, Chad was surrounded by the warm support necessary to a lone marathoner.

During the race, he was joined by a number of friends to provide companionship. Most notably, as Chad completed mile 17, two fellow Bay Village residents, Craig Martin and Jeff Scheid, joined him for what unknowingly turned out to be the final 6 miles. Craig and Jeff helped pace Chad, kicked away any sidewalk obstacles including what seemed like an endless sea of



Chad Pado is joined by his wife, Kristen, and children, Olivia and Jack, after completing the Columbus Marathon virtually by running the streets of Bay Village.

acorns, and stopped traffic at several street lights.

As Chad ran up Carlton at around 10:30 a.m., he was cheered by his wife, Kristen; son, Jack; and daughter, Olivia. Doubtless, seeing the outpouring of their love proved the greatest recognition of an achievement that seemed implausible in April of 2019. ●

BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bay Village Snow Angels to shovel snow for seniors

by LESLIE SELIG

One of the services most needed to enable Bay Village older adults to stay in their home is snow removal. In response to this need, Bay Village Community Services has developed the Snow Angels program, in which volunteers are matched with a qualifying senior who requested assistance. A Snow Angel coordinator pairs the volunteer with a neighbor for the winter season.

Becoming a Snow Angel is a great way to:

- Get involved in our wonderful Bay Village community;
- Get to know your elderly neighbors;
- Get fresh air & exercise this winter.

For those who need a Snow Angel:

- You must fill out an application and show proof of residency and income. To qualify, household income is not to exceed \$30,000 per year.
- You will be assigned a volunteer or group of volunteers who will shovel your driveway and sidewalk when 2 inches of snow or more have fallen.
- You will be notified by the Snow Angels coordinator if you have qualified and have been paired with a Snow Angel.

To volunteer as a Snow Angel or receive an application, please contact Jennifer Ruese at 440-835-6565, or jruese@cityofbayvillage.com. ●

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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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Holiday wreaths will honor loved ones, history

by LYSA STANTON

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Show me first the graveyards of a country, and I will tell you the true character of the people.”

For over 10 years, the Westlake Historical Society has been placing holiday wreaths on the graves of founding and pioneer citizens of early Dover (now Westlake). We believe placing a wreath on a grave is not only a symbol of remembrance, it is a sign of respect for that person and who they were.

We would like to extend the opportunity for you, your family, organization, group or business to place a wreath this year in memory of one of our pioneer

families or one of your loved ones. Volunteers from the Westlake Historical Society will be placing wreaths soon at Evergreen, Maple Ridge, and surrounding cemeteries.

If you would like us to place a holiday wreath, please contact us at 216-848-680 or 440-808-1961. You may also email us at claguemuseum@yahoo.com. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, the cost is \$25 each. Please make checks payable to The Westlake Historical Society and mail to 1371A Clague Road, Westlake, OH 44145. Orders can also be placed online at westlakeohiohistory.org.

November Update

The Clague House Museum will remain closed to the public until fur-

ther notice due to the ongoing public health situation. Special events through the end of 2020 have been cancelled.

Those wishing to make a donation to help with our ongoing expenses may send a check to The Westlake Historical Society, 1371A Clague Road, Westlake, OH 44145.

For more information about the Clague House Museum, updates on closures, or to purchase items from the Museum Store, please call us 216-848-0680. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Clague House Museum when it is safe to do so.



PHOTO BY LYSA STANTON

A wreath next to the obelisk marking the Evergreen Cemetery burial site of the Lilly family, early settlers in what is now Westlake.

Thank you for your support during these unusual times. ●

THE GREEN REPORT

Cleaning during Covid

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

As with everything this year, we all need to roll with the punches – in other words, be ready for changes at any time.

A recent change that is important for Westlake residents to be aware of: Simple Recycling has suspended service until the spring, unless we see a change for the better in Covid numbers. Bay Village residents: For now the city is still on the weekly route, however be prepared for this to change at any given time. Thank you to all of you out there who use Simple Recycling on a regular basis to keep as much out of the landfill as possible.

So, what to do with your stuff that you were going to put out on the curb for Simple Recycling? Easter Seals is still doing pick-ups in the area so please check their website, www.easterseals.com/noh, or call 1-800-708-2716 for details. Additionally, Savers in Rocky River is still accepting donations, but please make sure you confirm that before you drive over there. Donations to Savers also benefit Easter Seals and are tax deductible.

Do you have furniture you would

like to donate? Please try the Cleveland Furniture Bank. For a fee of \$25 (or \$50 if stairs are required) they will come pick it up from your home. Your furniture donation will go to local families in Cleveland who don't have furniture. Cleveland Furniture Bank will also pick up other household items, appliances, clothing, linens and books. With so many people and families struggling during this uncertain time, these types of donations become all the more important. Visit clevelandfurniturebank.org or call 216-459-2265 for more information.

Do you have an unwanted television? Please consider taking it to a Best Buy for recycling. They charge a \$25 fee for this, but you will know that you did the right thing by recycling the TV rather than letting it sit in a landfill for eternity. Please call ahead before dropping anything off at a Best Buy to ensure they are still running the program. If you have other electronics or computers you are wanting to get rid of, Bay Village offers residents a drop-off on the last Friday of each month for such items at the service department from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Westlake holds computer and electronics round-ups in spring and fall.

Thank you to all of you readers who do what you can to Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle! As I write at the end of almost all of my columns: Yes, your small actions MATTER! All of our actions add up to a huge cumulative positive impact on our environment. ●

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Pam Denzler, founder of A Place 2B ME

by DIANE REHOR

Many of us have heard of services available for those aging out of foster care, but what about services for those with special needs aging out of high school who are losing their social life connections? When Pam Denzler's nephew, Thomas, was graduating from high school in 2012, she wondered the same thing.

Without finding a local resource, Pam, an occupational therapist by trade, founded A Place 2B ME, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help those with disabilities explore what they enjoy, connect with others and participate in activities of their choosing.

Pam, who lives in Westlake, founded A Place 2B ME with 40 years of occupational therapy (OT) experience, including health care, nursing homes and group homes.

“My work motivated me to start A Place 2B ME. People were always deciding the leisure activities for the clients. I'd ask myself, ‘How do you know that's what they want to do?’ I wanted to empower those with special needs to figure out what they wanted. I developed a Leisure Interest Inventory to help them explore,” says Pam.

“An occupational therapist meets people where they are at and modifies and adapts tools/strategies to increase one's independence in all areas of their life. While this usually involves basic skills, one area we specialize in is leisure activities. We meet these young adults with special needs where they are at, help them identify their own likes and interests and empower them to create connections, ideally with others of similar age, to pursue those passions,” says Pam.

Pam was inspired by three significant people in her life – her twin sister, Paula, who spent her life in a wheelchair due to



Pam Denzler

cerebral palsy; her autistic son Lucas; and her nephew, Thomas.

“Paula was Miss Social. In her wheelchair, she'd finagle her way to the park to meet other women. Those women befriended her and accepted her for who she was. I wanted to create that opportunity for others with disabilities as making connections is so important,” says Pam. “Paula also helped me better understand the struggles families with disabilities go through. At times, I felt ‘pushed aside.’ I needed my own identity with my likes and interests acknowledged. That is why I named my organization A Place 2B ME.”

Not all those with special needs are social. Pam's nephew, Thomas, was a quiet soul with a few friends. When he graduated high school, he lost his daily social life.

“While Thomas adapted by creating many friends on social media, we asked Thomas to walk with another young man that wore sound deafening headphones due to his disability. Thomas walked beside him silently. Eventually, this young man took off his headphones and continued their walk. Thomas guided me so much to let people be themselves,” says Pam.

For example, Pam's son Lucas had a love of woodworking. “Inspired by the Buddy Bench concept, we encouraged Lucas to build a wooden bench. Lucas felt good accomplishing the task. It calmed him. He was engaged. We took it to school for other kids to paint and donated it to an elementary school,” says Pam. ●

American Legion membership requirements have changed

by JIM POTTER

The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis has announced that all veterans, honorably discharged, who served in the active military or reserves since Dec. 7, 1941, are eligible for Legion membership.

An applicant need only provide a copy of their DD 214 discharge

papers to show qualification.

Bay Village American Legion Post #385 Vice Commander, Joe Cronin, says that dues in the local post are only \$35 per year and that there are many benefits available to members.

Joe can be reached at 216-521-7849 for further details.

The Post welcomes all veterans who have served our great nation. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

Tribe pitching depth already a curse

by JEFF BING

Before you say it, I'll say it for you: "Almost every team in the Major Leagues would love to have the Indians' pitching staff."

I can't argue with that. For the better part of the last decade, the Indians have sported one of the most consistent – and consistently deep – pitching staffs in the American League, if not *all* of baseball. They have been contenders year in and year out, and not had a losing season during Terry Francona's tenure as manager. And yep, there are a plethora of baseball franchises who would love to be where the Indians are right now. The winning culture. Annual contenders. Strong (obviously) farm system. A steady and effective front office with an excel-

lent scouting staff – especially when it comes to drafting and/or trading for pitching talent.

So then *what*, pray tell, is the problem here? Am I just getting ornery in my advancing age? Can't I just sit back and appreciate what we have, *while* we have it?

Well, we can discount the "ornery to advancing age" theory because truth be told, I've been fairly ornery most of my life. In fact, I kind of like it. What I don't like, however, is where the Tribe is headed, mostly because of the "Dolan philosophy" as it applies to baseball.

Here's the thing: Most baseball franchises, coming off the season the Indians had (considered by most to be successful in spite of departing the playoffs in the blink of an eye) would want to grab this opportunity – spend

some cash – and gear up for a real shot at a world championship. And given the cyclical nature of sports (unless you're, ahem, the Browns) teams usually follow a period of success with a period of "rebuilding."

Indians owner Paul Dolan isn't buying into that approach anymore. As far as he's concerned, we took our shot in 2016, and the couple of years that followed, when we spent big bucks on Andrew Miller, Edwin Encarnacion, and others, and, well, it didn't pan out as hoped. The Indians were very competitive, but never went back to the World Series, and the Dolans claimed (stop me if you've heard this) to have lost gobs of money as a result. *That will teach us fans to want a world championship!*

Yes, dear reader, because of our collective thirst for world domination

(in a baseball sense) we are now entering year three of the "reduce the payroll so we can make more money" approach that is borne – unfortunately – largely in part from our success at amassing awesome pitching staffs. Even Chris Antonetti, who I always regarded as the bastion of clear thinking when it came to the Indians' approach to building and maintaining a successful baseball franchise, has said that because of our pitching depth, "We will be contenders for the next half-decade or so." And that's all the Dolans needed to hear to continue to jettison payroll.

So, fret not, Indians fans, we will be "contenders" for another five years. But because we let Carlos Santana go, and will lose Frankie Lindor sooner rather than later, we are going to have an offense that will be hard-pressed to score 3 runs a game. And with the current cheapskate philosophy, it's hard to envision any quick-fixes.

It's also hard to envision any return trips to the World Series. ●

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Dreaming big at Porter Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library is encouraging tweens, teens and adults to dream big this month by viewing a series of engineering-related video programs and panels on Vimeo, Mimecast and YouTube. Titled “Dream Big: Engineering Our World,” the programs are presented by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the STAR Library Network (STAR Net) and its Project Build engineering program.

“Dream Big: Engineering Our World” will be presented On-Demand on Nov. 17 and 24 via Vimeo. Registration is required to receive

a password to access the video. The remaining panel programs include:

- Dream Team: El Futuro se Diseña (Spanish) – Thursday, Nov. 19 (3-4 p.m.)
- Dream Team: Chats with Change Makers featuring Avery Bang – Friday, Nov. 20 (2-3 p.m.)
- Dream Team: Engineering Extravaganza – Tuesday, Nov. 24 (4-5 p.m.)

The panel programs will be available on YouTube except for “Chats with Changemakers,” which will take place on Mimecast. To register for any of the programs or panels please visit westlakelibrary.org/events or call 440-871-2600. ●

Porter Library partnering with SJMC to provide ‘Welcome Baby Bundles’

Westlake Porter Public Library is partnering with the Family Birth Center at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center to provide “Welcome Baby Bundles” to expecting families. Beginning in November, families who take childbirth and/or newborn classes through UH St. John Medical Center will receive a

bib, board book and information about early literacy and your baby. “Studies show that reading to your infant helps them develop language skills as they grow,” said Youth Services Manager Rebecca Shook. “This project aims to support parents and provide resources to help them start their children on the road to literacy.” ●

Westlake Porter Public Library Upcoming late November events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's late November 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, Nov. 18 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Sing and Dance! (Live)** – Join Miss Nancy on Zoom! Participants must provide an email address in order to receive Zoom instructions. Ages 2-6.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – This month's title is “The Stationery Shop” by Marjan Kamali. Please register to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesdays, Nov. 18 and 25 (4-5 p.m.) **Teen Writers Group: Writers Room (Live)** – A bi-weekly meet-up

for writers in grades 7-12. We're working our way through National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) with a dedicated hour just to write. We'll reserve the last 15 minutes for any writer in need of group brainstorming. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 (7-8 p.m.) **A Taste of Tea: Tea Preparation and Health Benefits (Live)** – Join us on Zoom as we learn all about tea! Paula from Storehouse Teas will teach us how to properly select and brew tea, while also explaining the health benefits of various varieties. Please register. Participants must provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Thursday, Nov. 19 (11-11:30 a.m.) **American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Storytime (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for a storytime celebrating American Indian and

Alaskan Native Heritage Month.

Thursday, Nov. 19 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **WPPL Roblox Club** – We have some private servers set up for Tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games via Zoom. Please register.

Friday, Nov. 20 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Fall Yoga with Miss Nancy! (Live)** – Join Miss Nancy on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube to calm your body and mind with yoga. Ages K-4.

Saturday, Nov. 21 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Mystery STEAM Bag Challenge (Live)** – Join us on Zoom to share your Mystery STEAM Bag designs. Grades 1-2. Participants must register for and pick up STEAM Bags in advance.

Saturday, Nov. 21 (2-2:30 p.m.) **Yoga with Miss Jen (Live)** – Calm your body, mind and spirit in this live Zoom Yoga class taught by a certified yoga instructor. Teens and adults. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Mondays, Nov. 23 and 30 (9 a.m.-8 p.m.) **Teen Craft Pick Up** – Stop by Youth Services to pick up a craft kit while sup-

plies last. Grades 7-12.

Monday, Nov. 23 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Building Worlds: NaNoWriMo Month Tutorial (Live)** – Tweens, Teens and Adults: Join us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for a writing tutorial series in support of your National Novel Writing Month goals!

Tuesday, Nov. 24 (All Day) **Kinder Club Packet Pick Up** – Pick up your Kinder Club packet on or after Nov. 24. Each packet will contain three alphabet letter activities that will be featured weekly on our Kinder Club blog. Ages 4-6. While supplies last.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – **Library Closes at 5 p.m.**

Thursday, Nov. 26 – **Thanksgiving Day: Library Closed**

Friday, Nov. 27 (4-4:30 p.m.) **Cup of Science (Live)** – Join Miss Holly on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube to view a fun science video! Recommended for ages 4-6.

Monday, Nov. 30 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Pictionary! (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a game of Pictionary!

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This winter, use the right S.A.L.T.

Winter is coming! Road salt, or sodium chloride, only works above 15°F. One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water! Salt works best when it is applied before the snow falls, or right after snow is removed from your sidewalk or driveway. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, it will just wash away into the storm drain and out to our waterways.

This winter, pledge to use the right S.A.L.T. (Stuff, Amount, Location, Time):

- Only use rock salt (sodium chloride) above 15 degrees F.
- Spread only enough salt to do the job – one 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to effectively de-ice about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Spread salt only on the surfaces that need to be de-iced, and never on the lawn, at the base of a tree or right next to a stream or storm drain!
- Only apply salt right before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from my driveway or sidewalk – and never when rain is in the forecast.

To formally take the pledge and earn your very own Lake Erie Starts Here mug (pick up required while supplies last), go to cuyahogawcd.org and click on programs and pledges to take the “This Winter, Use the Right S.A.L.T.” pledge.

– Elizabeth Hiser, Watershed Program Manager, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

HUMOR

Considering the GIOAT

by GIOVANNI PALMIERO

From birth to the age of 12 I thought living in a double house on West 128th in Cleveland was nirvana. My grandmother and Aunt Vance lived downstairs and every Sunday we gathered down there with 15-20 relatives for spaghetti and meatballs.

My brother was two years older than I. We both were pretty fast runners. The biggest difference was he dreamt of using that speed getting around end for the Cleveland Browns while I saw myself stealing bases for the Indians.

Rocky Colavito was the star for the Tribe. Even the non-Italians wanted to be him. He had a very unique ritual before every at-bat. He lifted his bat up over his head and brought it down with both hands behind his back. He had tremendous power and could throw the ball from the outfield straight to the catcher, cut-off man be damned.

We couldn't afford to go to many games so we made our stadium visits count. A bunch of us would take the 22 bus downtown to attend on bat day. Even the cheapest seat in old Municipal Stadium merited a free bat. On our way home we all practiced our Rocky-style stretch and of course fantasized about hitting that game-winning homer.

I don't remember the acronym GOAT (greatest of all time) being around when I was young. If it had been I'm sure there would have been little debate. Rocky was our favorite but everyone knew Babe Ruth was the greatest. Jim Brown was the GOAT in football. There were no Cavaliers and the only NBA we saw was one game on Sunday afternoon. It was usually a Celtics game so in my mind Bill

Russell was THE MAN.

Being a younger brother is a role I take seriously. First and foremost it involves giving my brother periodic grief. So in order to open up a discussion, err argument, I brought up the GOAT topic with a twist. “Hey bro, who is the GIOAT – greatest Italian of all time?” I inquired. My brother has a degree in electrical engineering. He is smart but deliberate. Years before I had dubbed him Mr. Science. After much thought he answered “Galileo.” I was stunned.

“Are you kidding me?” I snorted. “Someone would have eventually come up with that whole planets revolve around the sun thing!”

“OK, Mr. Wizard,” he replied with some annoyance, “who is your pick?”

“Joltin' Joe DiMaggio!” He patrolled center field for the Yankees like a gazelle and could mash right up there with Ted Williams. His 56-game hitting streak is an amazing record that may never be equaled. It has stood for 79 years.

Adding to his resume was his marriage to Marilyn Monroe, the most incredible movie star of her era and arguably any era. Before we began littering landfills with empty K-cups, one of the greatest inventions in the '70s was the Mr. Coffee. Every house had one and they chose Joe D. for their spokesperson. His impeccably dressed visage was a TV constant.

My brother lives in the Bay Area of California. Many Genoese fishermen settled in 'Frisco and one of them had a son named Joe. So on one of my visits I had my bro take me to the church where Joe married Marilyn. We also lifted a few cocktails at Lefty O'Doul's on Union Square where Joe spent many an evening with his close friends.

People wrote songs about Joe. Could you imagine Paul Simon singing “Where have you gone, Galileo”? Hmmm ... no. ●

BAYarts adapts for the holidays

by KAREN PETKOVIC

With the cancellation of festivals and holiday bazaars due to COVID, many artists who rely on these events for their income have been struggling to find ways to get their work seen. For decades, BAYarts has provided income for regional artists in the year-round consignment shop and galleries. The annual Holiday Shop alone provides income for hundreds of artists while supporting the local economy. Artists love it for the ease and reward of selling their work.

“BAYarts does all the heavy lifting – ticketing, marketing, display – I just drop it off,” says Westlake artist Laura Robbins. “I can then spend time in my studio instead of hassling with setting up at a festival with hefty fees that may or may not pan out.”

With COVID mandates for limited



BAYarts highlights hundreds of regional artists throughout the year.

capacity and safety, BAYarts has spread out! Wide aisles, timed entrances and multiple checkout points have been implemented. An online shop was launched early this year and private shopping parties have been popular for small “pods.” For more information, visit bayarts.net. ●

Bay Schools hosts virtual town hall on anxiety, adapting to change

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

Bay Village Schools invites community members to attend a virtual Town Hall – “Anxiety and Adapting to Change” – from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, via Zoom. The webinar event is hosted by Bay Village City School District, with experts from MetroHealth, Recovery Resources and the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio.

The event is geared toward parents and guardians of students in grades PreK-12, and the panelists will help families adjust to change and uncertainties. As families move from

crisis mode to adapting to a new way of functioning, they may seek advice, tips and resources to help their students better adapt.

Town Hall guests can submit their questions when they pre-register at bit.ly/Nov19TownHall. Once registered, attendees will receive a special Zoom link to join the event.

This event is the second virtual Town Hall webinar the district has offered to families this fall through its Rocket Family Learning Series. In October, a group of experts conducted “Responding to COVID-19,” with the focus on health questions and mitigation processes related to the virus. ●

Westlake hosts ‘Patriotic Pick-Me-Up’ for local veterans

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

In honor of Veterans Day 2020, the Westlake Senior and Community Services Department hosted a drive-through event on Nov. 11 to say “thank you” to local veterans.

Mayor Dennis Clough was on hand to greet the brave men and women who have served our country. Participants received gift boxes and baked goods from the safety of their cars and were able to converse with the mayor from a safe distance.

“We’re just very pleased that the



PHOTO BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

Westlake Senior and Community Services Director Lydia Gadd and Activity Planner Jodi Rodriguez hold up signs thanking veterans.

veterans are coming out here so we can say ‘thanks’ for their service to our country over the years,” Mayor Clough said during the event. “And it’s just nice to be able to put a little smile on their face.” ●

Clague Playhouse holds annual jewelry sale

by DOTTIE PALAZZO

Many in the community look to our annual holiday Jewelry Heist Sale for interesting and quality jewelry, handbags and accessory items at reasonable prices. We will be holding our 11th Jewelry Heist on Fridays and Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., from Nov. 20 through Dec. 12 in the Clague Playhouse lobby.

By diligently following the following COVID-19 guidelines, we believe we can offer our patrons a comfortable and safe shopping environment. Our staff and volunteers will be checking their temperatures each day and we will follow these

protocols: limit of 6 shoppers in the lobby at a time; all to wear proper masks or facial coverings; all to wear gloves when handling jewelry; socially distanced displays; cashier available behind a plexiglass panel; all earrings and some other items carefully pre-cleaned, and bags will be available for wrapping.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and your support will help offset the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cash, check or credit card.

Any questions please call the Box Office at 440-331-0403 on Friday and Saturday from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Clague Playhouse, 1371 Clague Road in Westlake. ●

READER’S OPINION

How to raise a gentleman

by COLLEEN HARDING

If you follow the news and current events, one observation comes to mind. We are a bit starved for gentlemen and some leadership. My statement is not a political crack on anyone. Repeat my comment is NOT meant to criticize anyone. It is also not meant to sound sexist. This article is about our boys, and I’m looking for “a few good men.”

So how do we find them, and better yet, how do we raise them? What needs to be done to improve the number of young men raised with dignity, character, integrity, morals, values, kindness, respect, discipline, and a little empathy?

Before we talk about the steps needed to get started, let’s first address why it’s important. If we don’t teach our young men how to care for others, to think outside of themselves, to practice discipline, and the impor-

tance of looking out for others, we are in a world of trouble. These boys are going to grow up and go into a world of much uncertainty. It is our job to prepare them. They will go out on dates, to colleges with countless temptations, into the business world, marriage, fatherhood, and possibly into war. Each of these paths requires a firm backbone, the ability to think of others, and a good sense of self.

Here are a few tips on how to get started. Everything starts with baby steps, and the earlier you start, the better. Developing a gentleman and a leader doesn’t happen overnight. It is a consistent work in progress. These steps will introduce our young men to how to put others first.

1. Ladies go first, and gentlemen

hold doors. Whether it’s getting on the bus, going through a lunchroom door, or into a church, gentlemen go last. (Older adults always go first, men and women.)

2. Teach your young man how to listen. A gentleman understands that there are times when one should respectfully listen. Also, gentlemen do not interrupt anyone when they are speaking.

3. Gentlemen stop and look at you in the eyes when they speak to you.

4. Gentlemen say please and thank you, which seems relatively simple, but it’s not. Most people are in such a hurry today, they rarely use common courtesies.

5. We need to teach our young men to have empathy and a moral compass – how to think independently and not always follow the pack. The pack gets people into

trouble at times. A good leader knows the difference between right and wrong, and pivots away from the group when they proceed in the wrong direction. This is critical. Young men need to learn to think on their own if they are going to be good leaders.

This is a good start.

As a mom, I look at this generation with some concern and fear at times. One day our girls may get into a car with one of these young men. We will trust them to make sure they get home safely. We will hope that they will look out for them. We will trust that they will be kind and respectful. I hope that if the world presents a situation that is not favorable, these young men will be strong enough to make the right decisions for our daughters and yours. ●

Dare to be the LIGHT!

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