

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

# Learn how to request public records

by JANICE PATTERSON,  
chair of the Westlake/North  
Olmsted Chapter of the League  
of Women Voters of Greater  
Cleveland

Sunshine Week is a nationwide effort to highlight the importance of transparency in government, freedom of information and open government at all levels. Sunshine Week occurs around the birthday of James Madison, the fourth president of the U.S. and author of the First Amendment to the Constitution. It is being observed this year March 14-20, 2021.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio and Common Cause Ohio

will provide a free virtual program at noon on Tuesday, March 16, to guide citizens through the process of requesting public records. To register for this free event, go the LWV Ohio Facebook page: [facebook.com/events/459270628428774](https://facebook.com/events/459270628428774).

Most Ohio public bodies have changed their public meeting requirements in the past year, due to the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sunshine Week is an appropriate time to review ways in which citizens are informed about plans and actions



and to assess how easy it is for citizens to express opinions to elected officials.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women ages 16 and over. ◆

## WESTLAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES

# Westlake holds inaugural 'Bounty Day'



PHOTO BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

Volunteer Erin Dickens tracks the disbursement of food packages.

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The inaugural "Bounty Day" food distribution event was a resounding success for the Westlake Community Services Department. Volunteers from Grace Baptist Church in Westlake pitched in to load up more than two dozen cars curbside during the Feb. 11 event.

Staff and volunteers received a helping hand from Erin Dickens of St. Joseph

Academy who spent some time shadowing them during the Bounty Day event, keeping track of which of the registered participants had and had not received their food. She also stopped by City Hall for a photo with Mayor Dennis Clough.

As always, the Community Services Department was ever-grateful for the generous donations from the community which make these types of events possible. ◆

# Bay Village City Council appoints Ward 3 rep



New Ward 3 councilman, Michael Greco

by TARA WENDELL

After two months, Bay Village finally has a full roster of City Council members, after Michael Greco was unanimously appointed to the open Ward 3 seat on Feb. 22. Greco was selected from six applicants to fill the seat vacated by Sara Byrnes Maier, who transitioned to the at-large position after the Dec. 31 resignation of Nancy Stainbrook.

Greco, 43, was sworn in during

the regular meeting of City Council on March 1. He has lived in Bay Village since 2008 and currently serves as the director of human resources for the city of Rocky River.

Despite being a rookie on the political scene, Greco has a strong background in local government. At Hiram College, he majored in political science with a concentration in state and local government, along with a second major in history with a concentration in American social history. He followed that with a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State.

The courses Greco took as an undergraduate fueled his interest in local governance.

► See GRECO page 2

# Westerly School offers extended-day opportunity

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

Gov. Mike DeWine has suggested that school districts consider offering extended day or summer programs to help students compensate for any learning losses due to COVID-19. Westerly Elementary School has been offering an extended-day program for many years, and is well ahead of the governor's plan.

Earlier this month, Westerly kicked off its Extended Day Opportunity tutoring program, which continues through April 1.

The program provides third- and fourth-graders with the opportunity to participate in small-group reading intervention and math support at no cost. Transportation is even provided for those students involved in afterschool programs at Glenview Center for Child Care and Learning, Bethesda Child Care Center and Kiddie Kollege.

Students were recommended for the program through teacher monitoring, observation and a variety of assessments, and there are currently 50 students participating in the Extended Day Opportunity program.

tunity program.

"Research shows that early reading intervention is a key component to a child's educational success, and Westerly's Extended Day Opportunity focuses on providing strategies to increase students' reading comprehension, as well as offer extra support in mathematics," said Westerly Elementary School Principal Mrs. Josie Sanfilippo. "We thank our Westerly parents for being a partner in our goal to improve and increase the academic performance of our students." ◆



COURTESY BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

About 50 third- and fourth-graders at Westerly Elementary School in Bay Village are participating in a small group, extended-day program.



## GRECO *from front page*

"I've had a passion for state and local politics since my college career at Hiram College," Greco recalled. "I had a great professor there who taught a number of courses focused on this topic and he was an elected official as well. I've always felt that at the local level, you get the true sense of what actually the most pressing issues are facing a community."

Greco identified one of those pressing issues facing Bay Village that he wanted to spotlight as a member of City Council – the city's sewer infrastructure.

"I feel that with Lake Erie bordering our city, we need to make sure that this environmental asset is taken care of to the best of our ability," Greco said. "I know surrounding Westshore communities have placed a huge emphasis on updating their [sewer] systems and I would like the city to do that as well."

The Council shakeup has caused a shuffling of committee assignments. Greco will become chair of the Services, Utilities and Equipment Committee.

Council is still finalizing the other committee roles.

Greco's Ward 3 seat – along with those of the other three wards, one at-large, the council president and the mayor – will be up for election this November. Greco, who lives on Osborn Road, is looking forward to meeting more of his constituents and running for the position.

"I hope to familiarize myself quickly with the current legislative issues facing the city and introduce myself to my ward and let them know I will do my best to represent their interests," he said.

Council President Dwight Clark expressed optimism that Greco's background will allow him to swiftly acclimate to his new position.

"Michael Greco brings a wealth of municipal experience to the City of Bay Village, and we welcome him as the

*"I've always felt that at the local level, you get the true sense of what actually the most pressing issues are facing a community."*

newest member of our Council team," Clark said. "His background in public administration and city government will serve our City well, and allow for an expedited legislative learning curve, especially at a time when Bay Village is undertaking a number of important and transformative public improvement projects."

Of the six men who applied for the Ward 3 vacancy, four, including Greco, had previously applied for the at-large seat that went to Sara Byrnes Maier. Greco's mix of theoretical and practical experience will be an asset to Bay's legislative body.

"Between my education and the experience in local government functions I have gained for working for Rocky River," Greco said, "I feel I can give a unique perspective and input on future legislation and projects for this great city." ●

## Correction

A story published in the Jan. 19 issue on the Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) erroneously reported that Lakewood Mayor Meghan George had been elected to the RTA Board of Trustees in December 2020. Bay Village Mayor Paul Koomar was elected to the RTA Board of Trustees in December 2020. ●

### WESTSHORE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## WCOG meeting covers COVID vaccine response

*This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Westshore Council of Governments, and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters, nor does it represent the official minutes of the meeting.*

by LWV observer JUDITH WEISS

Present: Mayors Cooney, Fairview Park, presiding; Koomar, Bay Village; George, Lakewood; Kennedy, North Olmsted

The meeting was held Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park. It was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Fiscal Officer's Report, Renee Mahoney:** New financial system for payroll has gone live. Ms. Mahoney will send her report next week. It will catch up for January, February and March.

**RTA:** Mayor Clough presided last month, his last session. Mayor Koomar is waiting for his term to begin next month; he also attended last month's meeting.

**NOACA:** Mayor Koomar is acting as alternate for Mayor Bobst, who has been appointed chair of programming and planning. She will have more to report at the next meeting.

**Land Bank:** No report; they meet quarterly, and all meetings have been virtual.

**Planning Commission:** They have not met since the last WCOG meeting. Their new director will come to the next WCOG meeting.

**Mayors and Managers Assn.:** Mayor Koomar said they are planning to have meetings with state and federal representatives. They are trying to work as a group to formulate a capital budget request.

### Old Business

**COVID vaccines:** Lakewood has second doses for those who have already received their first, meanwhile they are still vaccinating members of the 1B group. It seems reactions to the second dose are worse than to the first. Some EMS workers missed work due to side effects, and those workers who have had the disease have been out longer.

Mayor Cooney stated that they received about 60 extra doses that had to be administered on short notice. The Senior Center had a list of seniors and police officers waiting for their vaccines, so the city was able to take care of them at the last minute. Those who received the vaccine will come back on Feb. 23 for their second doses. The State wants every city to have backup lists like this. Fairview Park Senior Center helps people who don't have access to technology to sign up, but it may be a problem to follow up to find out whether they are actually getting the shot.

Mayor George asked whether any of the others are tracking people getting the vaccine. Mayor Koomar said they are asking people if they'll release information through HIPAA; if they do, they receive guidelines for return to work. AFCSME sent a questionnaire to the cities, but it didn't require detailed answers. The cities are simply reporting that they are "following the guidelines," without getting more specific.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of WCOG. Some of the city websites make note of this. Mayors agreed they should all look through archives for photos and highlights.

There being no New Business, the Council went into Executive Session to discuss hiring of a Special Agent in Charge of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau. Adjournment followed. ●

WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE

Observer

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The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community. The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through the participation of the 1,100+ community volunteers. All Westlake and Bay Village residents are invited to participate.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at [wbvobserver.com/members](http://wbvobserver.com/members) to submit your stories, photos and events.

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

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# Town Criers make donation in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Westlake

by RICK GRANE

Connecting for Kids and the Cleveland Animal Protective League each received \$250 from the Westlake Town Criers in the names of 2020's Mr. and Mrs. Westlake, Andrew and Christine Mangels.

Andrew, who is the director of Westlake Porter Public Library, selected Connecting for Kids, a Westlake-based nonprofit that is dedicated to helping families that have a concern about their child's development and holds many of their programs at the library. Christine, a nurse case manager and avid cat lover, selected the Cleveland Animal Protective League because of the great work they do providing shelter

to homeless animals relinquished by their guardians, animals that are rescued from abuse or neglect, and stray or abandoned cats.

Since 1955, the Westlake Town Criers have celebrated one couple that have best served the people of Westlake in a positive and outstanding manner. In 2021 the honor went to Mike and Delicia Ostrowski.

The Westlake Town Criers is an organization comprised of men dedicated to aid and assist worthy causes within the city of Westlake and meets the first and third Monday of every month at the FOP 25 Hall, 26145 Center Ridge Road. The fellowship time starts at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 8:00 p.m. ●

# Bay resident and her partner, Cowboy, wrangle geese

by SUSAN MURNANE

Bay Village resident Janet Kelley is a Canada Goose wrangler for Ohio Geese Control, a company that has been humanely managing goose populations in public parks, beaches and marinas since 2004. Janet works with her partner, Cowboy, a 10-year-old border collie. They have been working together for several years.

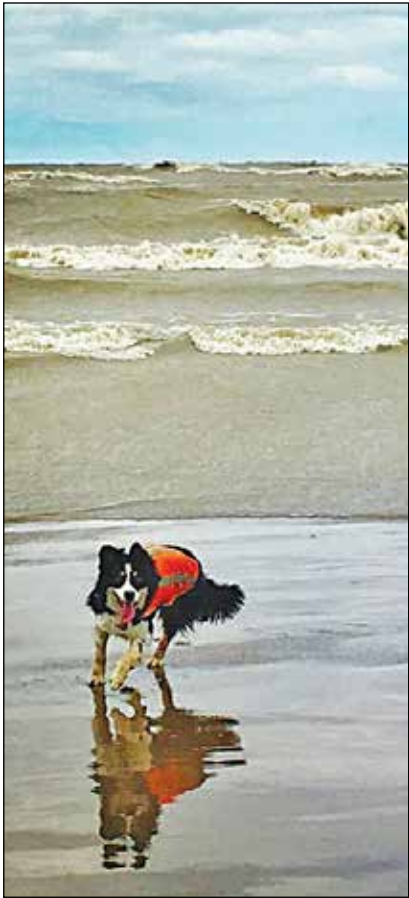
Janet started with Ohio Geese Control after retiring from a career directing a chronic condition management program that staffed and managed on-site clinics for large corporate clients. Janet has a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

Janet and Cowboy police a route that takes about five hours to complete. Cowboy's job is to worry the geese, and bother them until they give up and go someplace else. Cowboy never hurts the geese – it is humane goose management. Janet's job is to take Cowboy where he needs to go.

Cowboy used to work five days a week – the key to controlling geese is consistent harassment. Cowboy is semi-retired now, and he and Janet only work every other weekend. Other dogs cover the route during the work-week and on the alternate weekend.

Geese wrangling is the best job Janet ever had, and she got it because of her experience as a dog foster for Cleveland APL. About 10 years ago, Janet decided to volunteer at the APL and signed up on the Cleveland APL website. She started out doing simple things like dog walking and grooming, but because of her nursing background Janet soon found herself fostering desperate cases – like very sick dogs, and itty-bitty baby kitties who needed to be bottle fed every three hours.

Cowboy came to live with Janet's family in December 2019. Unsure how he would respond to fosters, especially itty-bitty baby kitties, Janet temporarily stopped fostering. Cowboy is a very gentle dog, and Janet expects to be able to begin fostering again when kitten season



Cowboy wrangling bothersome Canada Geese.



Border collie, Cowboy.

heats up this spring. Cowboy knows how important animal rescue is. Cowboy was a rescue dog himself.

The Cleveland APL receives no government funding and depends entirely on private donations and volunteers. In 2020, more than 400 volunteers contributed more than 100,000 hours, and saved the lives of 1,896 animals. For more information and instructions on how to volunteer, go to ClevelandAPL.org. ●

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THE GREEN REPORT

# The tale of the donut holder

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

I'm going to start off my column this week with a tale:

Your neighbor, Bob, decides he wants to start a donut shop in town. Good donuts are hard to find, so everyone thinks this is a wonderful idea. The city government even votes to give Bob a tax subsidy because they also strongly believe good donuts should be easily accessible to everyone in town.

Bob's donuts are special, and with each donut comes a donut holder. It's the way these particular special donuts are made and the use of the donut holder is unavoidable. You start buying a donut every day, so do your neighbors. You start noticing that you have much more trash, as donut holders are being thrown away every day. You also start to notice that your neighbors have the same issue, with their trash cans overflowing. Pretty soon, you start noticing empty donut holders on the streets, at the parks, and just about everywhere.

Everyone is loving the donuts, purchasing them daily. A few residents request that Bob stop serving donuts in the holders, but he tells them it's impossible and everyone is loving the donuts so he will continue to sell them. Soon, Bob sells his house and buys a big home on the lake. He buys a luxury car. He is enjoying his success from the donut business and, remember, his business has a tax subsidy so he's really raking it in!

The city starts fielding complaints from residents about the new litter scattered about town and the overflowing trash bins. The city hires two more service employees to pick up the donut holders from the street and public grounds. The city then contracts with the waste removal company to provide every household an additional trash can to hold the extra trash everyone is producing. Soon, taxes rise for residents, as the cost of extra services to handle the excess waste needs to be paid for.

When asked what he can do about all the donut holders everywhere, Bob tells the city that with some effort, they can ensure the holders get disposed of properly. It's the city's and residents' responsibility to dispose of the holders even if it means higher taxes and more litter. Everyone loves the donuts, right? Bob is not going to stop selling them.

You are frustrated. You have watched Bob start a highly successful business that has enabled him to upgrade his living circumstances while simultaneously you have had your taxes increased and witnessed trash from Bob's business strewn all over town. And Bob is still enjoying his business tax subsidy. How do you feel about this? Is this a situation you are okay with and believe is fair? What if I told you this exact

scenario has been playing out on a grand scale for years and years?

I recently had the opportunity to watch the film "The Story of Plastic" through a screening offered by the Bay Village Green Team. If you have a chance, you should absolutely watch this film. The plastics industry is guilty of the above scenario, and it's a factor in all of our lives, in every city across the world.

Plastic is produced using petroleum and fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are subsidized in the United States. Shale gas, extracted during fracking, is cheap because of the subsidies. With the push for cleaner energy to power our homes, the fossil fuel industry has doubled down on the production of plastics.

Since 2010, over \$180 billion has been invested into new plastics production that convert natural gas into ethylene, which is used to make plastics. There is no end to this expansion. The fossil fuel industry is planning to make the Ohio River Valley the next petrochemical hub for plastic production. Plastic pellets manufactured in other U.S. plants have been found in waterways around those plants, making the proposed Ohio River Valley plastic production plant projects even more concerning. The energy companies are betting that the world's demand for plastics will grow, not recede. And they will ensure that this happens by backing recycling campaigns and telling us that *we* need to figure out the waste problem, not them.

The bottom line: natural gas and oil companies have tax subsidies that incentivize them to produce more and more plastic. Environmentally speaking, plastic will never go away. Just 9% of plastic produced is recycled. It is polluting every corner of the earth. It is polluting our water and food supply.

The film equates the plastic production problem to attempting to use a teaspoon to stop an overflowing bathtub with the faucet on full-force. The faucet **MUST** be turned off, and then the teaspoon will begin to make a difference. The way to turn off the faucet is to cease subsidies for fossil fuels, enact legislation to put an end to single-use plastics, and hold companies responsible for cleaning up the waste they create.

This problem is not "ours" as consumers. We have been led to believe that it *is* our problem, that we can solve it by recycling. Recycling absolutely has a place but it is not going to solve the plastics problem.

What can you do? Let your local, state and national representatives know your concern. Call and email them. Send them letters. This is not a problem we will ever be able to recycle our way out of. The tap must be turned off. Bob must be held accountable and financially responsible for the donut holders all over town, he must find a better way to deliver his product. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

# They talked the talk

by JEFF BING

The recent passing of local sports talk legend Les Levine got me thinking about many of the area sports talkers I've listened to, from the early '60s all the way through today. (Yes, folks, if you do the math, that's 60 years of listening to others talk sports).

Ironically, I never caught Les Levine that often. It wasn't an intentional omission, but it always seemed his show would air while I was unable to listen, like during Indians, Cavs and Browns games, or he was up against a show I already had taken a liking to, or I was at work.

I thought I'd make a list of those whom I remember the best, and why I ranked them in the order I did...

1. Pete Franklin. Undoubtedly because he is the earliest memory I have listening to sports talkers, I was fascinated by his propensity to insult callers, guests, and the world in general. Yet he had a likable quality about him. (It didn't hurt that his show came in the best on the "limited range" transistor radio I snuck into bed with me on school nights – which might explain my limited skill set at, well, most *anything*). He hated the New York Yankees (which, of course, he kind of *had* to) and obviously was pro-Cleveland in everything – but wasn't afraid to bash those guilty of making stupid trades, draft picks, and the like. He had a quick wit, a sharp tongue, and could be very funny at times. I hated it when he moved on to New York in the late '80s. If I could get my hands on some of his broadcasts from the glory years, I'd eagerly

listen to them again. *Seriously*.

2. Bill Needle. A daytime sports jock when I listened to him in the '80s, he – ironically – was the antithesis of Pete Franklin: relatively soft-spoken, was courteous to all, and delivered more calculated, insightful commentary than Peter J. Franklin did. Maybe I found the drastic change in personalities refreshing. Maybe – on a much deeper psychological level – I *was* mad at Franklin for deserting me and my (dreadful) Indians. Or maybe Needle was the only guy I could pick up at that time of day (come to think of it, I think that *was* the reason). *So much for psychological insight*.

3. Geoff Sindelar – Here was a guy who made his initial impact on the area with his knowledge of sports collectibles and their value. "The Professor" proved to be far more than that, however, as he knew his sports and didn't mind having a lengthy debate with a caller (a radio sin) if Geoff felt the topic was worthy of the time. He had the persona of one with sage, grandfatherly wisdom (I'm still waiting for mine to show up – any day now, I'm *sure*) and you at times felt as if he were addressing you personally.

Due to space (as well as boredom) limitations, we'll leave it at three for this column, and perhaps we can visit other favorites somewhere down the road.

Oh, and if you're wondering if I intentionally left out Mike Trivisonno, then you are 100 percent correct. I couldn't find a good thing to say about that guy, even with the Hubble telescope.

Kind of like the never-ending search for my loyal fan(s). ●

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT



Turkey vultures hold their wings in the shape of a V as they soar through the sky.

by MARYANN FITZMAURICE

The Ides of March – March 15 – is best known as the day Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Roman Senate. But it is also the day the swallows famously come back to Capistrano and, less famously, the buzzards return to Northeast Ohio. The buzzards – or rather turkey vultures – have been gone since last fall. Did you miss them? They are migratory, leaving NE Ohio in the fall for warmer climes and returning in early spring for breeding.

For years the Cleveland Metroparks Hinckley Reservation celebrated the turkey vultures' return to Whipp's Ledges in mid-March. There won't be a Buzzard Day celebra-

tion there this year due to Covid-19. But you can celebrate Buzzard Day on your own by going out and spotting for them. And you don't have to wait for the Ides. Start looking now, you might spot a few early arrivals.

Any place with a wide-open patch of sky will do. Kettles of turkey vultures – yes, kettles – are most often seen soaring in tight circles, riding the thermals, high in the sky. You can tell they are vultures, and not eagles or hawks, because vultures hold their wings up in the shape of a V.

Turkey vultures may seem tiny when you spot a kettle up high in the sky. But they are very large, mostly black birds, almost 3 feet in length, with striking bald red heads. You can't see their red heads from a distance. But you can see the turkey vulture's red head up close at the Lake Erie

Nature & Science Center in the Metroparks Huntington Reservation. They have a turkey vulture in the Outdoor Wildlife Exhibit. Advance online registration ([www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org)) is required.

Turkey vultures are critical to our ecosystem. They do not kill live prey, but use their keen sense of smell to locate and scavenge dead carcasses. They have strong stomachs and can feed on carcasses without getting food poisoning. But they can get lead poisoning from lead shot in carcasses left by hunters. So do our vultures, eagles – including the Avon Lake bald eagles – and other birds of prey a favor and use lead-free ammunition.

And start looking up. Remember, V is for vulture. ●



**BAY VILLAGE FOUNDATION**

# BVF Bronze Plaque Program honors local residents

by ELIZABETH MILLI

If you've ever walked along the lake in Cahoon Memorial Park, you may have noticed a small footbridge lined with bronze plaques. You may even recognize the names engraved on the plaques as some of the city's finest citizens. Do you have a family member or friend that you wish to honor in this special way?

The Bay Village Foundation has been creating a beautiful place to remember loved ones for 19 years. The Foundation's Bronze Plaque Program was established as a way for families and friends to give permanent recognition to Bay citizens in one central place. Donors that contribute \$2,500 or more may request a plaque to honor the life and work of Bay Village residents, living or deceased. The plaques are engraved with personalized text and are installed on the T. Richard Martin Footbridge in Cahoon Memorial Park.

Each Memorial Day, the Foundation hosts a public ceremony celebrat-



ing those who have been honored with a plaque. The program is a beautiful outdoor event that takes place following the Bay Village Parade and Veterans Memorial Service in Cahoon Park.

All contributions to the Bay Village Foundation are used to support grants to Bay Village organizations and scholarships for Bay high school seniors. All of the awards serve the purpose of helping to make Bay Village an even better place to live, work and play.

For more information about the Bay Village Foundation's bronze plaque program or other estate planning options, call 440- 899-3490 or visit [www.thebayvillagefoundation.org](http://www.thebayvillagefoundation.org). The deadline to honor someone with a 2021 bronze plaque is April 1. ●

# Westlake resident wins 2 speech awards

by MARILYN MONGEON QUILL

Westlake resident Monica Reusser won not one, but two Toastmasters Area 40 speech contests in February. Representing Westlake-based Westside Advanced Toastmasters, she competed Feb. 13 against four other Area 40 clubs.

Reusser won the International Speech Contest with her speech, "A Reckoning," the story of a mother finding and reuniting with her adopted child after 38 years. She also won the Tall Tales Contest with "A Dream Come True," the fanciful tale of three wishes from a genie – one of which was to

advocate for individuals with ADHD.

She will compete against clubs in Toastmasters Western Division in April. Meanwhile, when she's not winning speech contests, Reusser is usually working as an economic editor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, sewing or practicing her violin.

Westside Advanced Toastmasters is an affiliate of Toastmasters International, a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). ●

# State Board of Education members to address League of Women Voters

by JANICE PATTERSON

Members and guests of the Westlake/North Olmsted Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland will delve into the workings of the Ohio State Board of Education (OSBE) at its Monday, March 15, meeting via Zoom. The speakers, two elected members of the OSBE, Dr. Christina Collins and Meryl Johnson, will be introduced at 8:00 p.m., following the 7:30 p.m. chapter business meeting.

Dr. Collins was elected in November 2020 to represent the widespread District 5, which includes Westlake and Bay Village. She is an adjunct professor at Kent State University and formerly served as curriculum director in Buck-

eye Local Schools. Ms. Johnson represents District 11, which covers the city of Cleveland and the remainder of Cuyahoga County that is not included in Dr. Collins' district. A retired Cleveland Public Schools teacher, Ms. Johnson was first elected to OSBE in November 2016 and was re-elected in November 2020.

The role of the OSBE and current issues being debated by the Board will be the focus of the discussion, which will include a question-and-answer period. The presentation will also be recorded for later viewing.

Members will receive the Zoom link for this meeting by e-mail. Guests may request the link by leaving an e-mail address on the chapter's voicemail by noon on March 15. The voicemail number is 216-246-6496. ●

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Libraries have done it again!

by TAK SATO

If it was anyone else, phrases like “the smartest card on the planet” or “the smartest card you’ll ever own,” would sound like an overused marketing pitch by a credit card issuer. However, it wasn’t just “anyone” as this was a library proclaiming this on their website and in their mobile app and I couldn’t agree more. A library card is the most beneficial card to have while the price of becoming a patron is free!

I fondly recall my wife taking our just celebrated 1-year-old son to storytimes at the different area libraries. Our son is a quintessential “library kid” where the area of the library he visited could easily show his approximate age, just like the etched markings on the

inner door frame that parents record their children’s growth throughout the years.

The library’s stature as a community treasure was underscored when physical distancing and “stay at home” orders became the way of life last spring. Despite the pandemic shutting down libraries to walk-in traffic (they are open now with limitations), they already had their digital service offerings operating smoothly for years. They were ready before COVID-19 and continued to provide “open access” that libraries are known for in the digital world. I can also attest to their digital services as it continues to be one of the most popular topics of discussion for our nonprofit’s “Discover Digital Literacy!” program.

Once upon a time, the now-bankrupt Borders and still-standing Barnes & Noble bookstores were my favorite places to satisfy my cravings for any gearhead/pistonhead magazines from across-the-pond or down-under. I could never procure these foreign magazines as they were expensive compared to domestically published car magazines but since the business models of these mega-bookstores encouraged reading while sipping coffee, I happily obliged. But, now, I have a better option!

I discovered recently that both of our neighborhood libraries, Westlake Porter Public Library and the Bay Village branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, added a new digital service. The newest service is called “Pressreader” and both my wife and I have been test driving it.

For me the “Flipster” digital magazine service was already one of my favorite offerings that I used frequently, second only to the New York Times digi-

tal newspaper I would read twice-daily. When I stumbled upon Pressreader, the idiom “Flipster on steroids” was exactly how I explained my discovery to my wife.

The competitive advantage of Pressreader over Flipster seems to be the sheer number of magazines they have. They can attain this goal of “quantity” not because of the back numbers they keep, but rather they have magazines from different countries in different languages on top of the usual magazines from American publishers.

Here’s a tip when setting up Pressreader for the first time using your favorite browser on a computer or an app on your smartphone/tablet. Look for the button that says “Library or Group,” search for the library by typing in the library name at the top, select your library from the result list, and enter your library card number and PIN. That’s it and you’ll be enjoying a sea of digital magazines in no time! ●

Westlake Porter Public Library  
Early March Events

by ELAINE WILLIS

*Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s early March 2021 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.*

Thursday, March 4 and Monday, March 22 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Thursday, March 4 (7-8 p.m.) **Thursday Night Book Discussion** – Join us as we launch a new discussion group! March’s title, “The Last Flight” by Julie Clark, is available in ebook format in the Hoopla app. The group will meet on the first Thursday of the month in March, May, July, September and November. Due to the extended time frame, participants will need to obtain their own copies of each month’s title. Please register.

Fridays, March 5 and 12 (11-11:30 a.m.) **First Chapter Friday! (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube to hear our Youth Services staff read the first chapter of a book suitable for children in grades K-4.

Saturday, March 6 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **Suma Wears Your Mask Supply Pick-Up** – Suma needs some new masks to celebrate National Library Week in April. Pick up a mask to decorate at home and return it to the library where it will be featured in a puma photo shoot! All masks must be returned by 9 p.m. on March 15 to be featured in the photo shoot. Please register.

Sunday, March 7 (1-5 p.m.) **Fancy Nancy Perfectly Paris Party Supply Pick-Up** – Bonjour! You are invited to a Fancy Nancy Perfectly Paris Party! Pick up your party kit and get ready for the party on March 14 at 2 p.m. Ages 5-8. Please register. Registering for this event also registers you for the party. An email address must be provided to receive Zoom instructions.

Monday, March 8 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Tween Craft Pick-Up** – Come to the Youth Services Department starting today for a tween craft kit. Kits will be available for pick-up through 5 p.m. on March 14 unless other arrangements are made. Grades 4-6. While supplies last. Please register.

Monday, March 8 (7-8 p.m.) **Alternatives to Cable TV (Live)** – Frustrated with cable service? This program will help you sort through the variety of viewing alternatives available. Learn about digital media players, streaming services, and additional options. Event streamed live via Zoom. Please register to receive the Zoom event link. Please register. Participants must provide a valid email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, March 9 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Calling All Crafters: Small Easter Wreath Take-Home Kit** – Make a beautiful Easter wreath with silk flowers and enhancements. Register March 1-6 and pickup March 9-13.

Tuesdays, March 9 and 16 (11-11:30 a.m.) and Wednesday, March 10 (6:30-7 p.m.) **Family Storytime (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for an interactive storytime

featuring books, rhymes, songs and movement. For families with children up to 2-6, siblings welcome. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, March 9 (1-3 p.m.) **Career Transition: Targeting Your Job Search (Live)** – Times have changed and so have your needs and desires when it comes to new employment. Remote work, hybrid jobs, shared jobs, and contract work have become a staple in the market. What fits your lifestyle and financial needs now? Let’s take a look at options and how to find those jobs for which to apply. Put your creative hat on and join us. Please register. You must provide an email address to receive instructions for joining us via Zoom.

Tuesday, March 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Discussion (Live)** – Join us for a discussion of “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett. Please register to receive a Zoom invitation and instructions. Participants without a computer, tablet or smartphone can join using a traditional phone.

Friday, March 12 (4-4:30 p.m.) **Cup of Science (Live)** – Join Miss Holly on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a fun video on Going Green! Recommended for ages 4-6.

Saturday, March 13 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **Kids in the Kitchen Supply Pick-Up and Program** – Pick up a recipe kit then tune into the live kitchen demo on March 15 at 3 p.m. For children ages 8-12 with special needs and peers who may not be successful in a typical hands-on program. If your child has food allergies, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471. Each simple recipe is presented with minimal steps and uses inexpensive, easy-to-find tools and ingredients. Registration begins March 6. Registering for this event also registers you for the Zoom program. An email must be provided so you can receive Zoom information.

Saturday, March 13 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **STEAM Maker Lab Supply Pick-Up** – It’s almost spring and time to get excited about planting! We’ll provide most of the supplies needed to complete 2-3 projects about plants. Kits available in the Youth Services Department starting

on March 13. Grades 3-5. Registration for the pick-up also registers you for the March 20 STEAM Maker program on Zoom. Please provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Saturday, March 13 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Adapted Storytime (Live)** – Join us for this Zoom storytime designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime. Content is geared toward ages 3-7 years. Registration begins March 6. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Monday, March 15 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Grab Bag Craft Pick-Up** – Stop by the Youth Services Department to pick up your craft kit beginning March 15. Registration begins March 8.

Monday, March 15 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Spring Sensory Kit** – Pick up a sensory kit and experience the sounds, scents, sights and textures of the season with your child! Ages 3-7. Registration begins March 8.

Monday, March 15 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Teen Craft Pick-Up** – Come to the Drive-Up Window to pick up a craft kit. Grades 7-12. Registration begins March 8.

Monday, March 15 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Investors Interest Group: Zoom Edition (Live)** – The cost of long-term care can quickly drain a family of their resources. Elder law attorney Elizabeth Perla will discuss how one puts together a long-term care plan that can save your family money. Please register. Once registered you will receive an email containing Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, March 16 (4-5:15 p.m.) **Introduction to Finding Grants** – Are you new to the field of grantseeking? Discover what funders are looking for in nonprofits seeking grants and how to find potential funders in this introductory course. Please register. Once registered you will receive an email containing Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, March 16 (7-8 p.m.) **Currently Reading (Live)** – Bring a book to rave about or find your next favorite! An open discussion for teens in grades 7-12 who love to read. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

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

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PET CARE

# Animal hospital gives back to the community

by NANCY BROWN

Vince, Timmy and Cash – the current Westlake Police K-9 Officer Unit – have been receiving their routine medical care from Dr. Greg Cunningham and staff at Detroit Dover Animal Hospital for approximately four years. They are a Dutch German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois purebreds.

The duties of a canine law enforcement officer include searching for drugs, explosives, search and rescue, finding crime science evidence, and attacking people targeted by the handler. The most commonly used breeds

are the German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd. Police dogs must remember multiple hand and verbal commands. Their training is intense and is never completed until they retire.

According to Westlake Police Officer Denny Funari, who has been with the K-9 unit for 22 years, the average working span of a K-9 officer is 6-8 years. Most recruited are males with high prey drives.

Andrea, Detroit Dover Animal Hospital's lead customer service representative, dedicates time to fundraising,

events and grant research to assist with offsetting expenses for the purchase of the dogs. Many times these dogs are purchased from select international breeders. Andrea's effort also helps procure items like vests, training and safety equipment. You can contact the animal hospital or Westlake Police directly if you would like to donate for any of these expenses or upcoming events.

Additionally the staff also provides the same care for stray dogs and cats that arrive through the city's animal control program. Registered vet technician, Rebecca, ensures the felines are given proper care and socialization. She coordinates fosters and adoptions. Her dedication keeps the city on track with no more homeless pets and educating residents about the importance of spaying and neutering pets. Fundraising and donations are always in need to help offset foster and adoption expenses to Rebecca's feline

rescue called Whisker Lickers.

Detroit Dover Animal Hospital, founded in 1958, continues to serve their clients and other Westshore municipalities with their injured, lost and stray animals even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Procedures have changed with all animal clinics across the state causing many to offer only curbside and maybe one in-person family member for end-of-life or emergency procedures.

Recent Covid-19 mandates have impacted animal hospitals across the country. Some are still rebounding from having to give up PPE and equipment. Proper care, sanitizing rooms and ensuring social distancing, even among staff, have created limited numbers of staff and visitors in clinics. Almost every veterinarian across Ohio has implemented and maintains protocols in an effort to stay safely open.

Dr. Greg Cunningham is very pleased with his staff as they continue to take care of clients, each other and provide outstanding curbside service during the Covid challenges. "However they keep serving the very best they can," he said. "The patience and kindness of clients is also greatly appreciated."

Hospital manager, AJ, also reiterates how the staff is coming together to provide quality and safe care for everyone.

The animal hospital also accepts monetary donations and pet-related donations all year. They then allocate those donations to shelters and rescue organizations.

Please visit Detroit Dover Animal Hospital's and the Westlake Police K9 Unit's Facebook pages to learn more about their services and how they continue to give back to the community. ●



K-9 Vince



Ptl. JP Toth with K-9 Timmy



Ptl. Funari with K-9 Cash

## Knickerbocker to host Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard event

by NANCY PLAIN

Not every city has two senior centers like Bay Village does. Most know about the Dwyer Center that serves all of Bay Village and surrounding communities with programs and services. However, the Knickerbocker Senior Center exists to serve the residents living in the Knickerbocker Senior Apartments. During the pandemic our center was closed down per the gover-

nor's orders. We are yet to open back up but are eagerly awaiting word that it's OK to do so.

Since the Knickerbocker Senior Center is a 501(c)(3) entity, run entirely on donations and volunteers, we are holding our first annual Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard event. We are in desperate need of replenishing our kitchen supplies. There will be a drive-thru, drop-off event at the Knickerbocker Apartments, 27100 Knickerbocker Road,

on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to collect donated kitchen items from the list below. If you are unable to make that time slot, we welcome your donations any time.

Needed items: paper plates (dinner and dessert including miscellaneous leftover holiday items), bowls, cups, coffee stirrers, coffee filters (large for Bunn coffee makers), coffee (regular and decaf), sugar packets (regular and artificial), creamers, tea bags, silverware,

napkins, paper towels, paper place mats, tin foil, Ziploc bags of all sizes, salt and pepper packets, straws, plastic glasses for iced tea, etc.

If a check is more your style, you may send it to the Knickerbocker Senior Center, 27100 Knickerbocker Road, Bay Village, OH 44140. We hope the community will rally around us and help keep the Knickerbocker Senior Center going. If you have any questions, please call 440-835-1111. ●

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WESTLAKEBAY VILLAGE

Observer

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Evelyn Allen	Gary & Pamela Ebert	The Mack Family (Jon, Lisa and Holly)	David Smalley	Anonymous
George Arruda	Bob & Ellen Erzen		Jean Smith	Anonymous
David & Carol Ball	Michael & Diane Ferry	Martha Devotion Huntington	Marilyn Sommer	Anonymous
Bay Village Garden Club	Susan & Richard Fink	Chapter/Daughters of the American Revolution	Lysa Stanton & Dave Pfister	Anonymous
Bay Village Women’s Club	Jan Foote	Tom & Kirsten Martin	James Stevenson	Anonymous
Bonnie Belda	Tom & Lois Fornes	Mel Maurer	Kathleen Swetkis	Anonymous
Ruth B. Bertrand	Diane Frye	Thomas & Holly McGowan	Nick & Judy Taranto	Anonymous
John Biesterfeldt	Lee Gase	Mary Kay McLean	Barbara Taushanoff	Anonymous
Jeffrey D. Bing	Rick Grane	Joan Hayes McSweeney	Terri Telepak	Anonymous
The Bing Family	Marybeth Hackenberg	Mark Miller	Brian Thompson	Anonymous
Marie Black	Rosemary & Walt Halun	Tom Mullee	Judy & Don Trask	Anonymous
Bocce Partner JD	Linda Harris	Mike Nock	Village Bicycle Cooperative	Anonymous
Barb Bobrowski	Linda Heiden & John Heidenreich	Michael & Ann O’Donnell	Westlake Kiwanis Club	Anonymous
Jean Bowman	Dawn Hilt	Julie & Al Paulus	Shirley Whitbeck	Anonymous
Judy Brody	Karol Hoeffler	Jim Potter	Cynthia White	Anonymous
Judy & Ray Budoï	David W. Kaman	Connie Priest	Marge Widmar	Anonymous
George Cadwallader	Patrick Keating	Tim Rasgaitis	Edward L. Wilkinson Sr	Anonymous
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Stephen Clarke	Paul & Therese Koomar	Carole Roske	Barb & Ian Woodburn	Anonymous
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Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS	Thomas Kovach	Louis Ruscitto		Anonymous
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