

Porter Library distributing COVID home tests

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library is distributing BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Tests through its drive-up window. Those unable to pick up a test during regular library hours may contact the library to arrange for a test kit to be left in an after-hours locker. WPPL also has RTA passes to

hand out to anyone who needs one to get to a vaccination appointment.

Anyone seeking a test who is feeling sick or showing COVID symptoms should send someone else to pick up a test for them. Users must have a smartphone and a computer with a webcam and internet access to administer the at-home test.

► See TESTS page 2



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay library breaks ground
Bay Village Branch Library staff members shovel ceremonial dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony on March 24. From left, Jessica Breslin, Anna Svigelj, Barbara Isaacs and Kathy Kocar. ► See more on page 6.

SPORTING VIEWS

Tribe 2021: It's not in the cards

by JEFF BING

“Hi pal, what can I do for you?”

“Your sign outside says you buy, trade, and sell baseball cards.”

“That’s correct, friend. What cards are you looking for?”

“Well, I really want a Francisco Lindor card and ...”

“I have to be honest with you, big guy. You’re buying Lindor cards when the guy is at his absolute peak. It will take quite a bit to pry a Lindor card out of my hands. He’s a sound investment.”

“Yeah, tell that to the Dolans.”

“Who?”

“The Dolans: Larry and Paul. They own the Indians.”

► See BASEBALL page 2



The Cahoon sisters, in living color



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Pamela Ebert, left, and BVHS President Cathy Flament, right, examine the life size cutouts of the colorized Cahoon sisters.

by MONICA THOMAS

When the Covid-19 pandemic caused the temporary closure of Rose Hill Museum in Bay Village’s Cahoon Park, Bay Village Historical President, Cathy Flament, and her staff were given the opportunity to undertake some in-house projects. One of these projects involved the artistic talents of Bay Village resident, Pamela Ebert, who has generously shared her talent with

numerous civic organizations.

Several years ago she was commissioned to re-create a charming coloring book featuring numerous historical homes and public buildings in Bay Village.

Last year, Pamela was charged with infusing new life into four cardboard cutouts of the Cahoon sisters. Over the years these cutouts had faded and disintegrated to the point that replacing them seemed the best solution. With the

help of a local carpenter and Pamela’s husband, Gary, new plywood silhouettes were created and then handed over to Pamela for painting.

Since the only photographs of the sisters were in black and white, the actual color of their eyes and hair had to be determined from the subtleties in the photos.

Martha appeared to be the only sister with dark eyes and Ida alone wore glasses.

► See SISTERS page 2

Kitten season is foster season

by SUSAN MURNANE

Bay Village resident Nancy Brian moved here about 16 years ago to be near her children and grandchildren. The children and grandchildren moved away, but Nancy stayed. About eight years ago, she saw a posting online seeking help with a litter of tiny kittens. A nursing momcat had been hit by a car. Knowing there were kittens, the rescuer searched for them and found a litter of four kittens two to three weeks old in an adjacent field. The orphaned kittens needed to be bottle fed, and the poster just couldn’t keep up.

► See KITTENS page 4



PHOTO BY NANCY BRIAN

Nancy Brian fostered these orphaned kittens, spurring her interest in fostering other animals in need.

TESTS from front page

The State of Ohio has partnered with Abbott and eMed to bring rapid, reliable testing into the home where the result is delivered in minutes. The Ohio Department of Health has secured the purchase of at least 2 million tests that can be self-administered outside of a clinical setting. It is Governor DeWine's goal to make these tests available and accessible in every Ohio county.

The 15-minute BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization for at-home testing in collaboration with a telehealth session. Abbott has selected eMed, a digital health solution, as its telehealth partner. This service for COVID-19 testing prescribes and allows the test to be done rapidly at home with virtual instruction and consultation. A trained telehealth professional guides those being tested through the at-home self-test via video call using the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Home Test and Abbott's complementary NAVICA mobile app to enable the testing process and display BinaxNOW COVID-19 test results.

General information on BinaxNOW tests—including a demonstration—can be found by visiting www.globalpointofcare.abbott. ●



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SISTERS from front page

Laura was the only one that had white hair.

The color of the dresses was determined after research of early 20th century ladies wear and then assigned to complement each sister's looks. Accessories such as necklaces and belts could be seen in the black-and-white photos available. Each figure took a week or more to paint. The "new"



The Cahoon sisters, from left, Martha, Laura, Ida and Lydia. Ida finalized the Cahoon Will in 1917, leaving the family's property to the Village of Bay.



Pamela Ebert's colorized paintings of the Cahoon sisters. From left, Martha, Laura, Ida and Lydia.

BASEBALL

from front page

"Oh yeah, I remember now. They are the reason I stopped following the Indians – what's it been – years ago?"

"Yeah, that's about right. Feels longer, though."

"I could tell right away they were exactly what the city didn't need: cheapies."

"I would not argue that point, but the fact is the Indians haven't had a losing season since Terry Francona was hired."

"I said they were cheap, never said they were stupid. They hired smart baseball people and spent where it needed to be spent from a business standpoint. Then they pocketed the rest."

"If I had a nickel for every time I've heard that..."

"You still wouldn't have enough money for a Lindor card."

"Very funny. Now let's talk turkey. I want to offer you a package deal for Frankie."

"Start dealing."

"I will give you every player in the Indians starting lineup."

"As I said, I haven't followed the Indians for a while, but let's hear what you got."

"Cesar Hernandez."

"Who?"

"He's their second baseman."

"He's a bum. What else you got?"

"Eddie Rosario. I know you've heard of him. Has power and proved it last year."

"He's a bum. That's why the Twins dumped him. A butcher with the glove."

Cahoon sisters will be on display at Rose Hill Museum with a target opening date of July 2021.

The Bay Village Historical Society always welcomes new members. Some of the volunteer opportunities are: Rose Hill greeter and guide, Osborn Learning Center volunteer, and preservation committee to name a few. For more information on membership please visit the Membership page on the society's website, www.bayhistorical.com. ●

Have you been in here before? You remind me of somebody."

"Never. How about Jose Ramirez?"

"Now there is a guy I'll talk about."

His numbers will drop though because he's going to have to wear a *Superman cape to hide all the team's flaws this year.*

"Franmil Reyes."

"A human windmill. Strikes out more often than the country gets Covid-19 updates. Next?"

"Josh Naylor."

"Who? And this yo-yo is hitting fifth?"

"Hey, he's not that bad."

"No, of course, he isn't *that* bad. Neither was Johnny Damon. Next!"

"Jake Bauers."

"You still have him? Wow. I take back what I said about Johnny Damon."

"Roberto Perez."

"Ah yes, a household name, especially since he's widely recognized as the guy who brought Triple-A batting to the majors. Makes me long for the days of Nick Swisher. Next?"

"Andres Gimenez. Some think he has Frankie Lindor potential."

"WHO thinks that ... his parents? Maybe way, way down the road, but not now. Next?"

"Ben Gamel."

"Okay, stop, you're killing me with these guys."

"Hey, give them a chance."

"NOW I know who you remind me of, with your little charade of trying to pass mediocre talent off as legitimate big leaguers."

"Oh yeah, who?"

"The Dolans."

Ouch. ●

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2021 Rotary Art Festival features artist Eileen Dorsey

by JOSEPH KRAFT

Award-winning artist Eileen Dorsey returns to her roots as the featured artist at the Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Art Festival this July. All look forward to her visit from The Studio inside 78th Street Studios in Gordon Square.

Dorsey is known for her oil landscape paintings. Capturing both local landscapes and fantasy scenes in vibrant hues, Eileen Dorsey paints meditative forests of light and color. Dorsey expresses the energy of the places she visits through impressionistic or expressionistic marks. Emphasizing our connection to nature as a healing and rejuvenating experience, Dorsey's paintings transcend reality to achieve an emotional impact.

"Best Artist" of 2020, 2019 and 2018 – Cleveland Magazine and Scene Magazine, Westlake welcomes her with pride and admiration. One can't miss her works including murals seen on city buildings, canvases in numerous galleries and pages in periodicals from CAN Journal to Canvas and the Plain Dealer.

Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Club

meets Wednesdays in the police station community room in Bay Village. Since COVID, like many others, they've been Zooming and membership continues to increase under the leadership of Dr. Scott Goggin.

This non-profit art festival will support education including the arts; special needs including Connecting for Kids, Milestones Autism Resources, Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, Lakeshore Day Camp, Meals on Wheels, The Knickerbocker Apartments, Hospice of the Western Reserve; annual support to "sister club" in Chinandega, Nicaragua (clothing and school supplies for nearly 1,000 children); and the ongoing effort with Rotary International as it continues to lead in eradicating the world of polio.

Westlake Porter Public Library and Westlake Elementary School have agreed to host the Festival on their grounds on Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will include local artists of all types and admission is free. Music, food trucks, beer and wine will be a part of the day. All are invited. Visit westlakebayvillagerotaryartfest.com for more information. ●



Eileen Dorsey inside 78th Street Studios in Gordon Square.



PHOTO BY NANCY HEATON

BAYarts' Reemergence

by NANCY HEATON

Even with the limits imposed by the pandemic, BAYarts staff has been busy planning for the year ahead. The theme, "Reemergence," is the mantra as new and traditional programming is again rolled out: classes, events, exhibitions and more. Following guidelines from Cleveland Metroparks and the CDC, the number one goal is safety. The second goal is fun.

Right now, classes are filling up and the galleries are filled with new works including the return of annual Ceramics Exhibition and Sale (May 16). In the works for this summer, the popular Thursday Market will return to evening hours with dozens of familiar and new vendors, local community

groups and of course, plenty of friendly dogs. Chatty's Pizzeria, the new café, will be expanding the patio for even more safe distancing and great family friendly fare.

BAYarts' summer concert series returns to Sunday nights, supporting many of the musicians that have been hit hardest. Cleveland Shakespeare Festival will be back, this year with everyone's favorite – "Romeo and Juliet" – and for the first time, GroundWorks Dance Theater will perform. Most events are free but donations to support the artists will be encouraged.

And yes, Moondance will return – all new, very safe, very fun. Look for details and other news coming soon to our website, bayarts.net, as BAYarts reemerges! Welcome back! ●

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KITTENS *from front page*

Bottle feeding kittens is onerous; little kittens may need to be fed every two hours. Kittens younger than three weeks cannot even eliminate waste on their own. Because it is so difficult to successfully care for baby kittens, experts advocate against disturbing kittens you may come across outdoors unless it is absolutely necessary – unless the kittens are in immediate danger or you know, as in this case, that they are orphaned.

Most of the time momcat is around even if out of sight, and the kittens’ best chance is to leave them in their outdoor home in momcat’s tender care. For more information on what to do if you come across kittens outdoors, visit alleycat.org/community-cat-care/finding-kittens-outdoors.

But these kittens were orphans and would not survive without fostering. Nancy decided to take on the challenge. The good Samaritan promised support and supplies; he read articles and shared his research. Nancy was successful and the kittens thrived. Nancy found homes for all but one of the kittens, Harley. Harley had already found his home with Nancy.

After her successful experience fostering on her own, Nancy felt ready to volunteer with the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL). She just went to their website and signed up for volunteer orientation, and one thing led to another. Nancy specialized in fostering litters of kittens, up to six of them at a time. Some of the litters needed bottle feeding, but not too many. Most of the litters were eating on their own but not yet old enough to be rehomed. A lot of the kittens had upper respiratory infections.

Altogether, Nancy fostered about 25 litters of kittens. An important advantage of fostering through Cleveland APL is that you don’t have to find the kittens’ next home – the APL does that for you.

Nancy’s household comprised two papillon dogs and Harley when APL rescued about 30 papillon dogs from a hoarding situation. Nancy decided to foster one of the papillons named Jake. Jake was poorly socialized and didn’t know how to be a dog. He was afraid of people, and other dogs, and strange places. He couldn’t walk on leash because he would bark and jump when another dog or person came within 150 feet of him.

Nancy heard of an agility class that was poorly attended and enrolled Jake, just so he could get used to being around other people and other dogs, and strange places. Jake is very intelligent, and he loved agility training. Jake gained confidence and his behavior improved greatly. Nancy entered Jake in agility trials and he even won a title: AKC Novice Jumper.

One of the difficulties of fostering is giving up the foster when it is ready for a permanent home. Nancy had successfully fostered four other dogs for APL, but Jake was a “failed foster.” Nancy didn’t want someone else to adopt Jake. Jake had already found his permanent home, and he now lives happily with Nancy, Harley, and his papillon sisters Brandy and Foxy.

Spring is kitten season, and Nancy plans on fostering kittens again for the Cleveland APL. You can too. The Cleveland APL receives no government funding and relies on private donations and volunteers.

Cleveland APL needs volunteer fosters to care for animals in their homes who are too young to be adopted out yet, nursing mothers and their babies, sick or injured animals, or animals who, like Jake, just need a safe, loving environment to learn how to live successfully in a home. For more information go to clevelandapl.org and click on Volunteer, then Foster Care. ●

Bradley Park playground upgrade nearly complete

by PETER WINZIG, Bay Village Ward 4 councilman

The Phase III install of the Bradley Park playground equipment has been completed. The City of Bay Village has some additional mulching and site prep to do which should be completed in the coming days, weather pending.

Special thanks to the citizens who contributed to the project, Recreation & Parks Director Dan Enovich and Service Director Jon Liskovec, along with everyone from the Service Department who worked on the project: AJ Goslin, Dan Campana, Bob McGrath, Bob Quarick, Drew Berry, Tom Caveney, Don Dorsett, Eric Bell and Dave Banjoff.

By managing the installation “in-house,” the City was able to save substantial dollars.

Phase IV calls for a shade area, trees and landscaping, sitting areas and benches and a walkway to the park restrooms. The Recreation and Parks Committee is working with Kathryn Kerber, City Project Manager, on acquiring additional grant funding for the project completion. Enjoy! ●



RECYCLE RIGHT

CURBSIDE : RECYCLING

RECYCLE CART

Place these items loose, not bagged, in your cart.



FOOD & BEVERAGE CANS

Empty and rinse.



MILK, JUICE & BROTH CARTONS

Empty, rinse, replace cap.



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

Empty and rinse.



PAPER & BOXES

Include all paper, mail, newspapers, magazines, cereal boxes, flattened cardboard. NO shredded paper.



PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUGS & TUBS

Empty, rinse, replace cap. Recycle bottles and jugs with a “neck.” NEW ADDITION: Recycle plastic tubs (e.g. butter, sour cream, yogurt cups).

“SIMPLE RECYCLING” BAG

Place bags curbside for pickup on collection day.



HOUSEWARES & CLOTHING

Small appliances, dishes, clothing and textiles accepted. See simplerecycling.com for full list.

CURBSIDE : TRASH

DO NOT RECYCLE

Disregard the numbers on plastic; only certain types of plastic are accepted for recycling.

These items must be placed in the trash:

- ✗ Produce, deli and bakery trays/clamshells
- ✗ Take-out/storage containers
- ✗ Bags, wraps and film
- ✗ Cups (Solo cups, coffee cups)
- ✗ Drinking straws, utensils and plates
- ✗ Bulky plastic (chairs, crates, buckets, toys)
- ✗ Motor oil, antifreeze jugs
- ✗ Styrofoam

DROP OFF : RECYCLING

PAPER RETRIEVER BINS

Located in parking lots: Reese Park, Cahoon Park, Bay Middle School, Huntington Reservation Wolf Canopy, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Do not bag any items except shredded paper in paper bags.



PAPER, SHREDDED PAPER, CARDBOARD & PHONE BOOKS

CURBSIDE : COMPOSTING

PLACE ITEMS ON TREE LAWN

Bundle large branches. Place yard waste in paper bags or cans marked “yard waste only.”



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WESTSHORE WANDERS

Rebuilt Westshore home pays tribute to original iron works legacy

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

On the cusp of the western cliff overlooking the Cleveland Yacht Club in Rocky River is a home that looks like it belongs in Boston or on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. It is built in the form of a Neoclassical block. A pillared portico with two levels faces the Rocky River and a simple classical façade with a Palladian window faces Frazier Drive. A plaque on a pillar near the front door tells part of the story of this home. It was designed by the architectural firm Scaries, Hirsch & Gavin. It is fitting that the brick pillars that frame the front entrance along the sidewalk support a wrought iron fence.

The plaque states that the home was originally constructed for the James Van Dorn family in 1906.

According to William Ganson Rose in “Cleveland: The Making of a City” (under the year 1878): “James H. Van Dorn’s Akron neighbors admired the iron fence that he had designed to surround his home, and wanted fences like it. This led him to set up a small fence business that he moved to Cleveland ... nearer major sources of supply and shipping facilities on the site of a great future plant. [He named his firm the Cleveland Wrought Iron Fence Co.] While waiting to turn in his bid for fencing a Milwaukee cemetery, someone mentioned jail cells, and he quickly realized

that ‘jail cells are nothing more than fences built indoors.’ Jails soon became the principal business of the Van Dorn Iron Works Company. Stove manufacturers were having trouble with frame breakage, leading Van Dorn to master the art of metal fabrication. He made ornamental iron work, streetcar vestibules, bicycle parts, and metal office furniture. Van Dorn’s structural steel business developed through the interest of T.B. [Thomas Burton] Van Dorn, son of the founder.”

The structural steel was used in the five-mile crib providing Cleveland’s water supply. To this day, if the weather is clear, perhaps the orange painted crib in Lake Erie may be visible from the upper level of the portico on this house!

James H. Van Dorn died in about 1914 and the home remained in the Van Dorn family until 1940 when his son Thomas Burton Van Dorn, by then a widower, sold the home. The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History states that early on, the 1,100 employees of the Van Dorn Company supplied automotive parts for the emerging automobile industry in Cleveland and they produced tanks and armor plates for cars and aircraft during both world wars, but that the company suffered severely during the Depression. Could this have been one reason the home was sold out of the Van Dorn family on the eve of World War II?

According to the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, the

company began to diversify and in 1944 they acquired a can company and in 1945 they entered plastics manufacturing. During the 1970s and 1980s their container and plastics subsidiaries employed 2,200 people with their headquarters and four plants in Cleveland. By 1985 they had 19 plants in seven

states, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Van Dorn closed its primary Cleveland plant in 1991. In 1993, Van Dorn was purchased by another company and the plastics division was spun off to form the Van Dorn Demag Corp. In 1995 Van Dorn Demag employed 650 people in the Cleveland area. Today their headquarters still remain in Strongsville.

Henry Gabriel owned the Van Dorn home from 1940 to 1959, Alice and Robert Ferry from 1959 until 1985, and Terry and Danielle Ripich from 1985 until 2009. In 2009 the property was sold to Kimberly Russell.

Tragedy struck in 1991, during the Ripich’s ownership, when fire destroyed the original home, including the fence! It was all rebuilt in 1993. The architects that designed the rebuild were Gaede Serne Architects and Larsen Architects. According to Jim Larsen the owners loved the house so much that they got their insurance company to rebuild the original house.

The problem was that there were no original drawings and everything was burned down to the brick base on which it once stood. Jim Larsen was called in by the owners to create a set of drawings for the original house – all the details, using photo-

graphs for guidance! Architect Bob Gaede took Larsen’s house plans and elevations and made some interior modifications to align with the new bathrooms and kitchen, the actual plan of the house didn’t change.

According to Jim Larsen, the huge plus was the builder, Bill Weisbarth, followed their

directions on details, using craftsmen of like skills. Jim said the owners were very pleased with the results, hence the plaque.

The 5-bedroom, 6-bath, 3,343 square-foot house at 19420 Frazier Drive is currently for sale with an asking price of \$2,490,000. ●



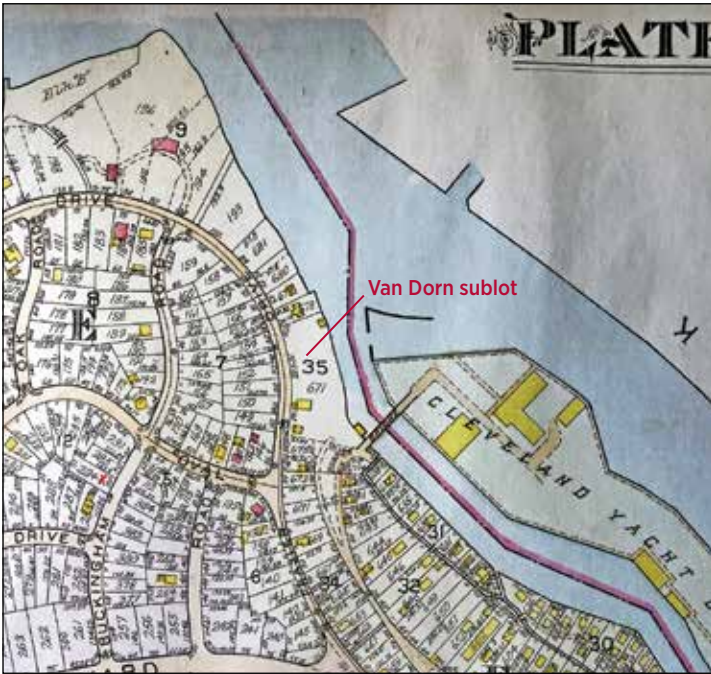
PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE

Current view of the southwest corner of the home, showing it is a Neoclassical block building form.



LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic view looking south at the north facade of the Van Dorn House.



1920 Hopkins Plat showing the Van Dorn home on the largest subplot (671) on Frazier Drive.



LAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic view looking south on Frazier Drive at the north facade of the Van Dorn House.



PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE

Current view looking north with Yacht Club Drive to the right and Frazier Drive to the left. The Van Dorn home is visible in the distance above the two orange barrels.

PET CARE

Spring safety tips for pets

by NANCY BROWN

It’s that time of year to pay extra attention to a few items that could impact your pets’ safety now that nicer weather is here.

- Ensure window screens and storm doors are safe and secure so no one can escape, and uninvited guests can’t enter.
- Check fencing and gates, make sure latches are working properly and consider a “close the gate” sign. Remind

- contractors to please close gates. Check electronic fencing and batteries. Never use generic or inexpensive batteries. Only use manufacturer suggested products.
- Watch for flags where fertilizing and weed spraying has been done. Keep these and other chemicals away from children and pets.
- Check pet collars for wear and tear. Make sure tags are current and on a

- proper fitting collar. Replace broken retractable leashes with safer cloth or leather leashes. Replace tattered soft cloth leashes too.
 - Finally, be considerate of the neighborhood you walk your dogs and please pick up their waste and dispose of it in a city trash can or your own at home.
- For additional pet suggestions please visit the Facebook page for The Friends of the Bay Village Kennel. ●

Let's build a library!

by TARA WENDELL

After what seemed like an interminably long wait, construction on the new Bay Village branch library building officially kicked off with a ceremonial groundbreaking on March 24. The event featured remarks from Cuyahoga County Public Library Executive Director Tracy Strobel, CCPL board president Bill Leonard and Bay Village Mayor Paul Koomar.

The project, which has been in the works since early 2017, was delayed several times – most recently by the coronavirus pandemic. The new building was almost scrapped entirely in 2018, after residents voiced displeasure with the proposed design. Following a renewed commitment to the project from city officials, CCPL hired a new architecture firm that focused on the history and culture of Bay Village and its existing architectural styles to create a facade that better fit the city.

The redesigned building also comes with a bigger price tag – CCPL's construction budget for the new, 17,000-square-foot branch is \$9.2 million, up from an estimated \$7.5 million at the start of the process. That figure includes nearly \$500,000 in private donations for what Strobel termed the "special wish-list items ... that help make a library unique to its community." Donors included the Bay Village Foundation, Friends of the Bay Village Library, Bay Kiwanis and a number of Bay Village residents.

Library customers can look forward to a slew of upgrades over the current branch building, including more meeting and study rooms, dedicated spaces for children and teens, innovation center, second-story reading area, outdoor patio, fireplace, and cafe with vending machines.

"Our staff are thrilled to have reached



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRESLIN

The Bay Library staff threw a party with cake and non-alcoholic sparkling cider to celebrate the groundbreaking.



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

A ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony was held on the site of the future Bay Village branch library on March 24. Pictured, l-to-r: Jessica Breslin, Tracy Strobel, Bill Leonard, Mayor Paul Koomar and CCPL Deputy Director Scott Morgan.

this milestone in the process!" Bay Library branch manager Jessica Breslin told the Observer. "We are excited to be able to experience this with the community we love to serve. It has been great fun to invite our customers in to see the renderings and floor plan, which are all displayed in our current space and watch everyone literally 'ooh and ahh' over the new amenities. It's been such a great way to engage in conversations with folks

about the future 'community campus' we are building in partnership with the city. So far the indoor/outdoor fireplace and patio seem to be the crowd favorite. As a Harry Potter fan, I personally love the cozy study room under the staircase."

Barring any further setbacks, construction is expected to take approximately one year. CCPL hopes to celebrate the new branch opening in spring of 2022. ●



RENDERING COURTESY CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The much-anticipated outdoor patio of the new library will overlook Cahoon Creek.



Looking south, a panoramic view of the new Bay Village Branch Library site where Bayway Cabin once stood. Also shown is the construction of the Bay Creek town homes

Westlake firefighters Pat Grealis and Chris Fielding retire after 25 years

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The Westlake Fire Department celebrated the end of two 25-year careers in March. Firefighters Patrick Grealis and Chris Fielding in March both hung up their helmets for the last time as winter slowly transitioned into something resembling spring.

Both Fielding and Grealis became well known for their respective work ethic and dedication. Grealis was known, in particular, for his friendly demeanor and good sense of humor.

In addition to being presented a proclamation from Mayor Dennis Clough and

an engraved plaque from Fire Chief Jim Hughes, Grealis also received a special token of appreciation from the Westlake Firefighters Local 1814 for his years representing local firefighters.

Fielding chose to retire quietly without a retirement ceremony. ●



Chris Fielding



Patrick Grealis, pictured with Fire Chief Jim Hughes and Mayor Dennis Clough, retired from the Westlake Fire Department at the end of March.

PHOTO BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

Westlake Service Department wishes Al Umerley well in retirement

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The City of Westlake is sending Al Umerley best wishes in retirement after 20 years with the Westlake Service Department!

During a reception at the Westlake Service Center on March 23, Al shared some of the highlights of his two-decade career with the city. He noted how much he loved doing building maintenance work for the city and decorating City Hall for the holidays.

He also expressed how he always took pride in his work, even when assigned to less appealing tasks like collecting/sorting rubbish in his early days with the city. ●



Al Umerley, pictured here working on an irrigation repair project on Crocker Road, retired from the Westlake Service Department on March 23.

PHOTO BY CHRIS STUHM

WESTLAKE IN FOCUS Series shines a light on quietly inspiring residents

by NANCY FOX

Please meet Gloria Flint. Age: 89. Life status: Newly retired.

It took a global pandemic. It took the whole world slowing down last spring for Gloria Flint to retire, at age 88, after working 20+ years for the city of Westlake and decades earlier in education and government. Anyone who has visited Westlake Community Services has likely met Gloria working at the busy reception desk. Known for her quick wit, distinctive accent and impeccable style – manicured nails, elegant white hair, an iPhone and a vanity plate on her car – Gloria exudes the vitality of a woman half her age.

As her beloved accent suggests, Gloria was born in New York City – the Bronx to be exact. After marrying and moving to Long Island, Gloria completed her bachelor's in education from Queens College. From there, she taught elementary school in New York and Houston, while raising her four children. While in Texas, she earned her master's degree in administration & supervision at the University of Houston. She later accepted a position with Houston's Chapter 2 program, which oversaw public funding for private schools, eventually becoming its director.

In 1996, at an age when most people are retiring, Gloria uprooted herself from Houston to start a new life in Westlake. The opportunity to join her daughter and son-in-law to help care for her granddaughter, then in grade school, was too tempting to pass up. It was a decision, Gloria says, she gladly made. "I left a wonderful



Gloria Flint recently retired from the Westlake Community Services Department.

job in Houston, but I wouldn't trade a single minute I had with my granddaughter," she shared.

Life in Westlake offered free time that she quickly filled with a part-time job at Westlake City Hall. After working in both reception and later the Engineering Department, she joined the Community Services Center – "the best job I've ever had," she offered.

Life in retirement amid the pandemic has been quieter for Gloria, but she has flourished, losing 50 pounds, tackling daily jigsaw puzzles to "stay sharp" and enjoying visits with her now-grown granddaughter and new grand-puppy. With summer coming and life slowly returning to normal, don't be surprised to find Gloria again out and about, enjoying breakfast at Claudette's, volunteering at the new Community Services Center and staying active and happy. Well done, Gloria! ●

Sign up for 'Over 90 Birthday' proclamations in Westlake

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

Do you know someone who will be celebrating a birthday of 90 or older in 2021? If so, you can arrange for them to receive an Over 90 Birthday Proclamation from Mayor Dennis Clough. Call Cindi at Westlake Community

Services at 440-899-3544 by April 16.

Many of the City of Westlake's 90+ residents are already on a notification list for these special birthday certificates but we want to ensure we reach everyone who may be interested so we can help make their impressive milestone even more special! ●



The library's outdoor patio on the second floor will have a view of Cahoon Creek.

The Community House can be seen in the distance.

PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

across Wolf Road.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) Meeting, March 10, 2021

by LWV observer JUDITH WEISS

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, which are prepared by Mayor Cooney's office.

Present: Mayors Cooney, Fairview Park, presiding; Koomar, Bay Village; George, Lakewood; Bobst, Rocky River.

The meeting was held in the Fairview Park Gemini Center. It was called to order at 9:46 a.m.

Fiscal Officer's Report – Renee Mahoney: Special Agent Matt Vanyo has completed all exams and formally accepted the Westshore Enforcement Bureau's offer of the special agent position, to start June 1. Retiring Special Agent Jeff Capretto was planning on retiring May 1. It is yet to be determined if he will remain in his position through May, full or part time. Fiscal Officer Mahoney asked for the approval of the \$84,500 annual salary for Special Agent Vanyo. Motion passed.

February financial reports: They are produced by a new financial system and Fiscal Officer Mahoney explained the differences in reporting from the old system. Three reports were presented: Summary, Revenue, and Expense. Mayor Bobst inquired about Westshore CERT's financial status. Mahoney will request a report

from CERT. Finance report was approved.

COMMISSION REPORTS

RTA: Mayor Koomar was sworn in as RTA board member; he was briefed by former board president, Mayor Clough.

NOACA (Koomar): There is information about the proposed Hyperloop train on their website, noaca.org. People may see mention of it in the news, and ask about it. NOACA did a study, which the federal government reviewed favorably, but nothing has been finalized yet; they are still looking at which corridors to run it in. The Great Lakes corridor (Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago) is being considered as one of the first sites. There will need to be a surface transportation bill to fund it.

Planning Commission: Mary Cierebiej, new (as of Jan. 11) executive director of Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, introduced herself and reported that so far, she is determining what her role on the Commission should be. She wants the Commission to be more forward-facing, and to improve the dialogue between all mayors and the Commission. They are working on moving planning grants forward and helping communities to access available grants. Mary noted that there is a databook of statistics that the cities can use for grant proposals, etc., and this needs to be shared. There are lots of intermingled

organizations involved, but most cities have a single planning/economic development director, not separate ones. The Commission needs to bring economic development into their planning.

Mayor Bobst pointed out that the Commission discussed the scope of the position before hiring the new director. There were lots of turnovers before. Mayor Bobst acknowledged that meeting remotely over the past year has been difficult, and she gives credit to those who were there before for keeping projects moving. Residents want to hear about collaborations and strategic investments, not duplication of efforts among the cities. She is excited about Mary's energy, and the fact that she has worked with the County and knows the players is a plus.

Mayor Cooney asked about the microgrid as it pertains to the Brookpark Road NASA project. Director Cierebiej did not have specific information about it, and that Aerozone Alliance would be the place to get such information.

Mayors and Managers Assn. (Lisa Barnow, Executive Director): The group has scheduled a Virtual Day in Columbus on April 21 to meet with state lawmakers. Mayor Koomar remarked that it would be good to actually go there; possibly this could happen in the fall.

The Aerozone Alliance was on M&M agenda for their meeting on March 25. Mayor Bobst and Mayor Cooney agreed that letting people know about

the Alliance would be a good idea. Mayor Bobst reported that there will be a release of a document with more information on the Alliance in the near future. Mayor Bobst brought up the Aerozone (Aerotropolis), a \$200,000,000 project, that she hoped would come together with the right public/private partnership.

Director Barno met with U.S. Rep. Anthony Gonzalez regarding transportation. Sewer issues were a main topic at the meeting. Director Barno will be lobbying for funding for sewer issues for cities in and out of the sewer district. She will be sending a survey regarding sewer issues. She also distributed, via email, information regarding the money cities will be receiving from the American Rescue Plan 2021. This money will not have as many restrictions as that which cities received from the CARES Act.

Mayor Cooney asked if there was any information about summer festivals/events. Director Barno talked with CCBH's Terry Allan and he said guidelines will be coming out soon. Mayor Cooney continued that the cities need guidelines for holding public events this summer, even though it's not known what the COVID situation will be. Mayor Koomar suggested putting out initial guidelines for dates until Memorial Day. More details on summer events can come out later.

Mayor Cooney pointed out that the Mayors and Managers Association has been very helpful to the individual cities.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID vaccines: Mayor Bobst said that it's important is to use all vehicles of communication to let organizations know

about their opportunities. The City of Cleveland can't organize transportation to the mass vaccination clinic at the Wolstein Center, but maybe some cities can.

Fairview Park had a second vaccine session at its senior center. Many people have mobility issues and couldn't come in. Cities need to reach out to them. There are no plans for future vaccine distributions at senior centers. Mayor Bobst reached out to the contractor that has distributed flu shots to their employees. Rocky River could set one up, if the vaccine comes in. Small contractors have not been able to get the vaccine.

NEW BUSINESS

Hazmat Technical Rescue Team: Mayor Cooney referred to the letter from the fire chiefs about the organizational structure and operations of the Westshore Hazmat & Technical Rescue Team. Copies of the agreement were distributed to members. The chiefs are talking about updating the agreement. All mayors have been talking with their chiefs. Fiscal Officer Mahoney recommended the Hazmat Technical Rescue Team stay with the WCOG in regard to finances. All members agreed to wait until Special Agent Matt Vanyo begins on June 1, and the chiefs can come back with a recommendation. Mayor Cooney will follow up with FFPD Chief Raffin. Mayor Koomar suggested the chiefs attend a WCOG meeting. The item will be added to the April agenda.

Next WCOG meetings: Tuesday, April 13, and Wednesday, May 12. The director of the Metroparks will be a guest in June. ●



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THE GREEN REPORT

Bay Village Green Team to host expert in green burials

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

On Monday, May 10, the Bay Village Green Team will hold their quarterly meeting and will be showcasing a speaker, Chad McGreevey, to discuss what a “green” burial is and what it means when you choose one. Chad is a member of the Green Burial Council and is an owner of Zeis-McGreevey Funeral Home in Lakewood and Berry-McGreevey Funeral Home in Westlake. This will be a virtual meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. For a link please visit our Facebook page or visit our website and join our email mailing list to be emailed a link: bayvillagegreenteam.org.

I know this isn’t the most pleasant topic, however it is an important one to think about and discuss with your loved ones, as we know the only things guaranteed in life are death and taxes.

Green burials are becoming more and more popular as individuals are increasingly thinking about the environment in

their everyday choices and how to live (and die) in a more environmentally friendly way. According to the Green Burial Council, a green burial is “a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emission, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat.”

Some characteristics of green burial cemeteries are: they forgo toxic embalming; they avoid vaults; they choose biodegradable containers, caskets, shrouds and urns; they do not use herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers; they encourage sustainable practices; and they support land conservation efforts.

I hope to “see” you May 10 to learn more about green burials, what is involved with choosing one, and how this choice is an important one for the health of the planet. I am very much looking forward to learning more and hearing from an expert about this topic. ●

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

Spring cleaning for the highway

by AMANDA SEBROSKY

Springtime! A time of melting snow and ... emergence of tons of trash that had been hidden by that snow. Easy to fix on your lawn but have a look along the highways and byways. Horrible and disgusting! It’s especially bad after this year of sequestration due to Covid-19. But we can help fix it. That’s right, you and I can help!

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has an army of volunteers to help keep the highways clean through the Adopt-A-Highway program. I’d seen the adoption signs along the highways; I didn’t think there were enough adoptions to make a difference until I read that, of the 396,000 bags of trash collected by ODOT in 2018, 16,455 were attributed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers.

The Adopt-A-Highway program allows volunteers to adopt a two-mile section or interchange along a state, federal or interstate route. ODOT provides safety training, trash bags, disposable safety vests and two signs (stating who adopted the highway) to be used at the beginning of each side of adopted stretch. The only cost to the group is their time.

The program carries the following

requirements:

- Groups are asked to adopt for two years and pick up litter a minimum of four times each year.
- Participants in Adopt-A-Highway should be volunteers and not paid to pick up litter.
- Groups can partner with others in adopting but may not pay another group to pick up litter.

For your protection, you need to schedule the times that you want to pick-up at least 48 hours in advance to let ODOT know that pedestrians will be at your selected location. This allows crews time to plan for placing cones then retrieving them along with the bagged trash. A really helpful point is that crews work on Saturdays and Sundays so pick-up can be done when the road is less busy with traffic.

I found Jason Szabo, the program coordinator for the district containing Cuyahoga County, to be very patient and accommodating. Per the terms of the program, volunteers are expected to pick-up and return supplies to the local office but Mr. Szabo offered to meet at a central location since he is often “on the road.”

If you hate trash along the roads as much as I do, consider doing something about it! To find out more, visit www.transportation.ohio.gov, and click on Programs to find the Adopt-A-Highway link. There you will find contact information for district coordinators (we are in District 12) and the application, which also has a detailed page of terms and conditions. ●

BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Bay High School seniors move on to National Merit Finalist status

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

In October 2020, Bay Village Schools announced that 11 Bay High School students were recognized in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP), including Semifinalists Thomas Beckwith, James Bish and Samuel Ferry. Bay High School Principal Jason Martin was recently notified

by NMSP that these three Semifinalists have all advanced to Finalist standing in the 66th annual competition.

These academically talented high school seniors are now eligible for Merit Scholarship awards totaling more than \$30 million to be awarded later this spring. These young men are three of only 15,000 Finalists of the more than 1.5 million NMSP entrants. ●



Thomas Beckwith



Samuel Ferry



James Bish

Bay Village Board of Education appoints treasurer

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

During its March 13, 2021, Special Board Meeting, the Bay Village Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Meghan Rohde as Bay Village Schools’ next treasurer. Her start date with Bay Village Schools is April 26.

Rohde is currently the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for Clyde-Green Springs Exempted Village School District – located in southeastern Sandusky and northern Seneca counties – a position she has held since 2016. Prior to this role, the Castalia, Ohio, native served as a Senior Internal Auditor for PNC Bank in Cleveland and Standard Register Company in Dayton.

During her career, Rohde was recognized with the 2018 Emerging Leaders Scholarship Award from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, and has also received an Ohio Auditor of State Award with her current school district. She is a graduate of Wright State University (B.S. in Accounting and Finance), Ohio University (MBA) and completed her School Treasurer Licensure coursework with University of Phoenix. Rohde is an active member of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and enjoys running, reading and biking with her family.

Bay Village Board of Education President Lisa Priemer said Rohde’s school district treasurer experience, coupled with her time as an internal auditor for two of the state’s larger companies, made her the right choice.

“Meghan stood out as a great addition to Bay Village Schools because of her forecasting, budgeting and financial reporting experience,” said Priemer. “Being able to interact with



Meghan Rohde has been appointed Bay Village Schools’ next treasurer.

staff and community members with candor and integrity is vital for this role.”

Rohde is excited to get started in her new position, and to make Bay Village her family’s new home. She and her husband, Andrew, and two young children plan to relocate to Bay Village before the start of next school year.

“I am grateful to the Bay Village Board of Education for this opportunity,” said Rohde. “I look forward to being a part of the Bay Village community, and working with the district staff, administration and students. For our community stakeholders, I will be transparent about financial analysis, and will strive to continually look for ways to enhance the district’s financial performance.”

Rohde was appointed to replace Nicole Spriggs, who retired as Bay Village Schools’ treasurer in December 2020. John Scott has served as interim treasurer since early 2021, and will continue in that role through Rohde’s transition. ●

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For more info, contact Scott Gessner, yfmdirector@unityspiritualcenter.com, uscwestlake.org

Westlake Porter Public Library’s early April calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s early April 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.

Friday, April 9 (4-4:30 p.m.) **Cup of Science (Live)** – Join Miss Holly on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a fun video on Stormy Science! Recommended for ages 4-6.

Saturday, April 10 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **STEAM Maker Lab Supply Pick-Up** – April is Financial Literacy Month! We’ll provide most of the supplies needed to make our own banks out of recycled materials and duct tape wallets. Kits available in the Youth Services Department. Grades 3-5. Registration for the pick-up also registers you for the April 17 STEAM Maker program on Zoom. Please provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Sunday, April 11 (1-5 p.m.) **Pet Day Craft Pick-Up** – It’s National Pet Day! Stop by the Youth Services Department to pick up a craft kit that celebrates pets! Please register.

Sunday, April 11 (1-5 p.m.) **Ameri-**

can Girl Doll Club Pick-Up and Program – Earth Day Fun supply kits will be available beginning April 11. Ages 6-10. Registering for the supply pick-up will also register you for the Zoom event on April 18 from 2-2:30 p.m. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions. You will need a kit to participate in the program. Please register.

Monday, April 12 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Busy Baby Bag Pick-Up** – Looking for a way to keep your little one busy? Pick up a bag filled with craft and play activities to engage with and entertain your young child. Bags available through 5 p.m. on April 18. For children ages 2 and under. Please register.

Monday, April 12 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) **Budgeting and Money Flow (Live)** – Learn about one of the basics of good money management – the budget. Learn what a budget is, why a budget is a good idea, the benefits of a budget, and the budgeting process. Then brainstorm some ideas on how to make practical changes that may assist you in meeting your financial goals. Please register. Participants will receive log-in information the day before to attend this presentation via Webex.

Tuesday, April 13 (1-3 p.m.) **Career Transition: Targeting Your Job Search (Live)** – Learn some basic expectations of the interviewer with extra tips from employers on how to succeed. Learn how to answer difficult questions, discuss salary needs, and what differentiates you from other candidates. Please register to receive an email with instructions for joining via Zoom.

Tuesday, April 13 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Discussion (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for a discussion of “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins. Please register to receive a Zoom invitation and instructions. Participants without a computer, tablet or smartphone can join using a traditional phone.

Wednesdays, April 14, 21 and 28 and May 5 (2-3:30 p.m.) **Learn American Sign Language Basic Sign Language for Beginners and Beyond (Live)** – In this beginner to intermediate class, students will learn how to meet and greet people, basic gestures, fingerspelling and the basics of communicating with the deaf. The instructor is Valerie Williams. Ages 10 and up are welcome. Registration begins April 7. Please provide an email address to

receive Zoom instructions. For the class to be interactive, we recommend you have a working microphone and webcam.

Wednesdays, April 14 and 28 (6:30-7 p.m.) and Tuesday, April 27 (11-11:30 a.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.

Friday, April 16 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **Got Science? Supply Pick-Up and Program** – Join us as we explore the phases of the moon and make a model lung! You will need a kit to participate in the Zoom program at 4 p.m. on April 23. Grades 1 & 2. Registering for the supply pick-up will also register you for the program on April 23. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions. Registration begins April 9.

Monday, April 19 (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 one week before each pick-up.

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

BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bay Village groups share spring news and activities

by TARA WENDELL

The Bay Village Community Council met via Zoom on March 30. Annual elections were held and the following officers will begin their terms at the May meeting: Tara Wendell, president; Mary Kay Wilson, vice president; Peggy Ludwig, treasurer; and Beth Zellers, secretary. Community group representatives presented reports from their organizations:

The next **Bay Village Green Team** meeting is Monday, May 10, 6:30-8 p.m. We will host green burials speaker Chad McGreevey to discuss what is involved with choosing a green burial in Ohio. The Green Team is hosting a Habitat for Humanity collection of gently used household goods, appliances and building materials on Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bay police station.

The **League of Women Voters, Bay Village Chapter** will host community forums at election time for each of the contested city offices. This year, our mayor and most city council positions are up for re-election. This is the year that our long-standing efforts to end gerrymandering go into high gear - after the census results are released, the state legislature will begin to re-draw congressional and state district lines to adjust to the new census figures. To that end, we will be offering educational programs about the new rules and a map-making contest so high school students and adults in Bay Village can get involved.

The **Bay Village Kiwanis Club** continues to assist with projects at Bay Arts,

most recently restoring the stage platform and erecting a new canopy. We will be having a take-out spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 8, 4-7 p.m. It will be at the Village Project. Tony Dostal’s spaghetti sauce will be for sale. Dinner is \$10 and includes salad, roll and a sweet. Orders will be taken online at bayvillage-oh.kiwanisone.org. Thirst Project Walk for Water will be on Saturday May 1, including the Bay High School Key Club and other Kiwanis-sponsored school groups.

Village Project is looking for a full-time executive director and will be accepting applications through April 2021. The virtual Nourish celebration on Feb. 27 raised nearly \$70,000. We will be selling raffle tickets to win a diamond necklace. Winner will be drawn on May 5. Project Pedal will be Saturday, June 19, providing various routes through the city for riders. More information about all Village Project activities at ourvillageproject.com.

The **Bay Village Foundation’s** Memorial Day bronze plaque ceremony is still up in the air but hopefully will happen. The Howard Hanna office will host a food truck in the parking lot on Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A clean-up day at Play in Bay is coming soon, date to be announced.

The **Bay Village Branch Library** is open to foot traffic, but still providing curbside service for those that want the option. All programs will be virtual for spring. A book discussion on “Hamnet” by Maggie O’Farrell will be Wednesday, May 5, at 7 p.m. or

Friday, May 7, at 10 a.m. A Butterfly Gardening program will be Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. A children’s book discussion on “Big Foot and Little Foot” by Ellen Potter will be on Wednesday, April 21, 4 p.m. Preschool story times with rhymes, songs, finger-plays and stories is Thursdays, April 8 to May 6 at 10 a.m.

The **Lake Erie Nature & Science Center** continues to offer free general admission to indoor and outdoor exhibits. The Center is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is available at www.lensc.org. Free wildlife services are offered seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 440-871-2900, ext. 204 or email wildlife@lensc.org with wildlife questions and concerns. If the animal needs human assistance, our wildlife staff will schedule a wildlife intake appointment. Summer camps and preschool offerings are available at www.lensc.org. Capacity is limited. All-inclusive Scout backpack rentals are available. The packs provide all the materials, instructions and activities necessary for your troop to complete a variety of natu-

ral science badges on your own. Email scouts@lensc.org to schedule a backpack rental.

Village Bicycle Cooperative has reopened for bike sales and donations only. All transactions will occur outdoors on non-rainy days. For safety, no patrons will be allowed in the building. We will not be assisting with bike repairs until further notice. Bicycle and other donations will be accepted during Open Shop hours. Village Bicycle Coop is located at 303 Cahoon Rd. More information and Open Shop hours are at villagebicycle.org.

The **Bay Village American Legion Post #385’s** delegates for 2021 Buckeye Girls and Buckeye Boys State programs are Angelica Jameson and Mary Ereditario from Bay High, and Brandon Knapp of Bay High and Mantas Viazmitinas of Westlake High. Both the girls and boys will be part of an eight-day program to learn the business of running a state, county and city government. The Bay Village American Legion has been sponsoring these programs at the local level for over 40 years. ●

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Practice Internet Street Smarts to protect yourself online

by TAK SATO

During our daily Google Meet session on April 1, I was telling my mom that I woke up to snow that morning. It reminded me of a late snowfall on March 30, 1987. It was sunny when I walked into the Richfield Coliseum for a Bon Jovi concert (yes, my son would say “Bon who?”) and I came out to a snowy parking lot. God won April Fools’ Day this year ... he gets to have all the fun!

I do reminisce about the early-1990s digital world where computer viruses were more about pulling pranks than ill-gotten gains and racketeering. I often talk about Internet Street Smarts and how good “habits” are important

in minimizing the risk of being victimized on the internet, aka the cloud, while reaping the many benefits of the digital world. This is analogous to how we were practicing good habits in 2020 to thwart COVID-19 by staying home for non-essentials, physically distancing, and wearing a mask.

However, unlike the COVID-19 vaccine that will hopefully lead to herd immunity, there is no silver bullet against the nefarious actors of the digital world. Hence the importance of building good habits.

Many of the habits in my Internet Street Smarts toolkit, which I use when helping seniors discover digital literacy, are trivial. Think of all the things you employ, i.e. habits, to keep a con artist

away in the real world but adapted for the digital world to keep the garden variety nefarious actors at bay. Here are some of those habits to nurture:

1. Do not open/answer unsolicited emails, texts, social media messages, or phone calls.
2. Verify sender’s email address instead of relying on the name displayed.
3. Do not participate in “chain” email or social media messaging. (No, you won’t bring bad luck.)
4. Discern the language, grammar, spelling, and other nuances in messages to spot imposters pretending to be someone else.
5. Update operating systems and applications, especially the Swiss Army Knife of the digital world – browsers – when updates become available for any of your devices.
6. Use unique passwords for each online account, using a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, special symbols, and introducing spelling errors on purpose.
7. Use encrypted messaging apps like “Signal” instead of regular texting apps when communicating sensitive information.
8. Review credit card statements and credit reports (www.annualcreditreport.com) for accuracy and signs of identity misuse.
9. Immediately change your email password and check for new email forwarding rules if one of your contacts complains of receiving SPAM/phishing emails from your address.
10. Do not send cash, checks, gift cards or valuables without discussing the matter with family and/or close friends who you trust.
11. Be cognizant of the tactics employed by the nefarious such as tugging on your empathy, embarrassment, fear and other emotions.
12. Use websites such as haveibeen-pwned.com or monitor.firefox.com to keep tabs on whether your email was involved in a data breach and needs a password reset. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Answering your springtime wildlife questions

by MORGAN PASKERT

Spring is a time when everything is growing and bursting into life. Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing and baby animals are starting to be seen.

As the weather warms and

people spend more time outdoors, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is here to answer your wildlife questions and concerns. Below, the Center’s wildlife experts answer some of the most common wildlife questions they receive from the public each spring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caring for the less fortunate across the globe

We live in one of the most powerful nations on Earth, and it is easily forgettable that across the world 1 in 9 people are hungry and one billion people are still living without electricity. To those that live in an underdeveloped country, their thoughts consist of where their next meal will come from, or how far it is to get to a bathroom.

Living in a nation with so much influence on the rest of the world, we have a responsibility to help those that are impacted by global poverty. Especially from the secondary socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

Anybody can call their congressional leaders today and tell them to support the International Affairs Budget. This budget invests in fighting pandemic disease, implementing agriculture programs to prevent hunger, and providing essential governance assistance to emerging democracies.

When we invest in these vulnerable communities, we protect ourselves by increasing national security, creating new opportunities for American exports, and increasing potential for much larger returns on investment.

– Maddie Mulloy, Westlake

Celebrating Bayway Cabin

While we celebrate the groundbreaking of a new addition of a library coming to Bay Village, we also celebrate the Bayway Cabin and the great impact it had on the

youth of our community. Let’s strive to replicate this model since the children of Bay need it now more than ever. Great memories.

– Gary S. Sharp, Bay Village

I noticed a fawn alone in the grass. Is it abandoned?

Baby wildlife is rarely abandoned in nature. Mothers will often leave their young unattended for hours for a variety of reasons.

For instance, a fawn lying quietly by itself is perfectly normal. Deer do this to protect their young, as the presence of an adult would attract the attention of predators. If a fawn is walking around and making noise, it may be abandoned and in need of assistance.

There is a rabbit’s nest in my yard. Should I move them?

Eastern cottontail rabbits often build their nests in yards and open spaces. If you stumble across one, do not move the bunnies because their mother will be unable to find them. She will return at dusk and dawn to feed and groom her babies.

Baby animals are vul-

nerable, yet resilient. Pets, predators and automobiles are all a natural part of their urban and suburban environments. Baby wildlife must grow up among these circumstances in order to learn how to successfully co-exist with them. Growing up in the wild is dangerous, but removing animals from their parents can be equally as detrimental to their survival.

I see a baby bird that can’t fly. Should I help it?

A baby bird with skin still visible or only covered in downy feathers should be placed back in the nest or in an artificial nest. If fully feathered but unable to fly, the bird is a fledgling that should be left alone as it is in the process of learning critical survival behaviors.

A common myth is that wild animals will abandon their babies due to the scent of humans. In fact, most birds have little sense of smell. While

mammals have a strong sense of smell, human scent will not cause wildlife to abandon their hormonal and maternal behaviors.

A baby squirrel fell from a tree. Should I feed it?

Squirrels often maintain more than one nest site and will retrieve their babies when they end up out of the nest too early.

Baby wildlife will never receive the same quality of care from humans as they would receive from their natural parents. Each species requires a specialized diet, and feeding an animal the wrong food can be harmful to its health. Human care can cause serious damage to the animal and should be seen as a last resort.

If you have questions about baby wildlife this spring, contact Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at 440-871-2900, ext. 204 or wildlife@lensc.org before intervening. ●

Knickerbocker donation drive a success

The Old Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard donation event to replenish the kitchen supplies at the Knickerbocker Senior Center in Bay Village was a resounding success. I would like to say thank you to all the Bay Village residents and those from the surrounding communities; our four sup-

porting churches: Bay United Methodist, Bay Presbyterian, Bethesda on the Bay and Christ Church Westshore Anglican; six Bay High School students: Cullen Gergye, Ashten Price, Brock Pickett, Kaden Ullom, Hayden Coffman and Jack Nageotte

who unloaded all the drop-offs with a smile and a thank you; the mayor’s office and the Board of Trustees from Bay Interfaith Housing for helping make this event so successful. To say I am profoundly moved at the caring and generosity that was displayed is an understatement. On behalf

of the staff and seniors at the Knickerbocker Senior Apartments and the Knickerbocker Senior Center, I again say thank you. Please know you have done your part and helped some wonderful people.

– Nancy Plain, Knickerbocker Senior Center Activities Director



Thank You!

Thank you to our kind readers who have donated to help keep the Observer's presses rolling and to support a free press.



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

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

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

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