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Community News Powered by the Citizens of Westlake and Bay Village | 4 MAY 2021 VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 9



DIS students Freda Elsebaei and Ryan Brediger take their turn helping to plant a tree in front of the school.

by MARY BETH SCHNEIDLER

₹riday, April 30, was Arbor **d** Day at Dover Intermediate School in Westlake. Paul Quinn III, Westlake's Service Director; Stan Barnard, Westlake's Urban Forestry Manager; and members of the Westlake Service Department were there to assist with the planting of a tree.

Several weeks prior to the

ceremony, all fifth-grade students were invited to submit a poster explaining "Why trees are important to me!" Forty-five members of the class generated a poster to enter in the annual contest! The posters were then judged by Stan Barnard, Paul Quinn, Mary Beth Schneidler, Diane Morris, Ken Sadd and Justin Parks, members of the Westlake Tree Commission.

► See ARBOR DAY page 2

## Westlake Garden Club awarded grant for pollinator garden

couple of local gardeners are spearheading **▲**a vision of pollinator gardens throughout the city of Westlake. The Westlake Garden Club is sponsoring this initiative. This vision was enhanced on April 27 by the recent award of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's (SWCD) Conservation Action Grant & Scholarship Fund.

Susan Baker and Deb Dougherty, both Westlake residents, started planning the project in late 2019 and early 2020. They decided to approach the City of Westlake to test the level

Susan Baker's affiliation with the City of Westlake began with her involvement with the annual Westlake in Bloom event. Her contacts with the City's Planning and Economic Development and Public Service Departments helped introduce the concept on the City level. Susan commented that the City of Westlake and particularly Jim Bedell and Chris Stuhm are amazing advocates for improving our community.

Deb Dougherty's involvement came via the Westlake Garden Club.

► See GARDEN CLUB page 2

## Bay High named a 2021 'Best High School'

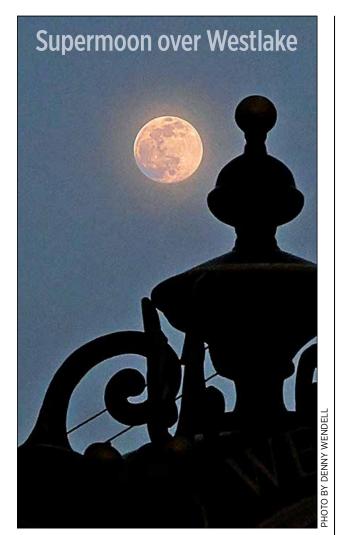
by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

ay High School has again been named a 2021 Best High School by U.S. News & World Report. The annual ranking was released late last month. Bay High is ranked #4 in Northeast Ohio and #17 in Ohio, moving up five spots this year.

"Of course we are thrilled that Bay High School has again made the top 10 list in Northeast Ohio as it relates to our math and reading proficiency, graduation rate and AP testing opportunities, but most importantly, we are proud that we have been in-building five days a week for 80 percent of the school year," said Jodie Hausmann, superintendent of Bay Village City School District. "Our students have continued to thrive in a nontraditional year because of in-person learning and a dedicated faculty and staff."

The 2021 edition of Best High Schools included a numerical ranking of nearly 18,000 public high schools nationwide. National, state and metropolitan-area rankings are issued. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, AP testing data, graduation rates and how well they prepare students for college.

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.



A Super Pink Moon appeared over the Bicentennial Clock in front of Westlake City Hall on April 25, 2021. A supermoon happens when the full moon coincides with the moon's closest approach to Earth in its orbit. What is a Super Pink Moon? Despite the phenomenon's name, the moon usually doesn't appear pink (although it does in this photo). The name comes from the early springtime blooms of the pink phlox plant that's native to eastern North America.

**BAY VILLAGE KIWANIS CLUB** 

## **Kiwanis offer** take-out spaghetti dinner

by WARREN REMEIN

**T**he Kiwanis Club of Bay Village invites you to the takeout spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 8, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Pre-order online or order at drive-up for Tony Dostal's award winning signature sauce and spaghetti. Take home a dinner for only \$10 including salad, roll and sweet. Also available: sauce in quarts and 50/50 raffle. Order online at bayvillage-kiwanis-club.square.site.

Drive-thru pick-up at Village Project 27378 W. Oviatt Road (between Dover Center and Cahoon roads). Drive, bike, or walk up – everyone is welcome. Proceeds from Kiwanis events are used to benefit the children of our community and around the world. Currently we are supporting the high school Key Club, Project Thirst, Academic Achievement Awards for high school students, and BAYarts' stage, wood shop and sign projects. Kiwanis also needs volunteers. If you want to help, call 440-724-1578.

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### ARBOR DAY

from front page

This year, because of the pandemic, students were permitted to enter a poster online or by submitting their creative ideas on poster board. Six students were selected as the winners of the contest. Ryan Brediger, Leah Navratil, Freda Elsebaei, Miles Salem, Callie Barnes and Sanika Jadhav were all presented a proclamation by Paul Quinn who was there representing Mayor Dennis Clough. Each proclamation designated a day in Westlake honoring each student and congratulated them for an outstanding poster. The students also received a ribbon for their winning posters and were told all the posters would be on display on the City of Westlake website.

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The students learned the history of Arbor Day, which began in the U.S. in 1872 in Nebraska when an estimated 1 million trees were planted to promote more tree coverage in the United States. Since 1970, Arbor Day has been observed on the last Friday in April in the continental United States.

The City of Westlake provided the beautiful Prairie Fire Crabapple tree that was planted by the students at Dover Intermediate School.

The Westlake Tree Commission, which has been in existence for 30 years, works tirelessly to preserve trees in the city. They also have a great deal of input on what trees should be planted throughout the city. The commission certainly hopes that this poster contest will encourage all Westlake residents to cherish our beautiful trees!

### **GARDEN CLUB**

from front page

Susan was sure the Club would want to be involved and Deb was glad to jump on board to provide that involvement and dialogue. It was a perfect fit!

Both women were impressed by Grant Junkins' Eagle Scout project at Clague Playhouse last year. The signage and use of pollinators were inspirational. The City of Westlake has offered an area in Clague Park for the Garden Club to expand upon the theme.

The goal is to establish enhanced habitats and nectar corridors throughout Westlake properties; increasing the population of threatened pollinators and butterflies. The use of plant signs and descriptions may assist local gardeners do the same in their yards.



251 Citizens participate in writing, editing,

photographing and delivering this newspaper.

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 to submit your stories, photos and events.

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## **Bay Board of Education April 12 meeting notes**

by JANE BLACKIE

**T**he Bay Village Board of Education met on April 12 with Board members Beth Lally, Scott Schulz, Dave Vegh, Paul Vincent and Lisa Priemer in attendance.

Here are some highlights of that meeting:

Director of Communications Karen Uthe Semancik and Technology Coordinator Brian Reynolds introduced a video presentation to demonstrate Apptegy, a school marketing resource system. Later in the meeting, funds for that program were approved.

The December board meeting will be moved from Dec. 13 to Dec. 6, 2021.

The Board of Education adopted the resolution regarding graduation requirements for the Class of 2021.

The Board approved Superintendent Jodie Hausmann's contract. Interim Treasurer John W. Scott's resignation was accepted, but he was soon installed as a financial consultant to the new treasurer. Three-year contracts were approved for Holly Schafer, Director of Human Resources; Ramsey Inman, Bay High Assistant Principal; Josephine Sanfilippo, Westerly Principal; and Daniel Sebring, Normandy Principal. A modification to the contract for Karen Uthe Semancik was also approved.

Several certified and classified staff positions for special contracts were approved including those for the Summer 2021 programs STEM Academy, Wild Summer Reading Camp, and Safety Town. Other contract changes were also approved.

In further financial business, the Board approved the OSBA service agreement as well as approving multiple salary schedules.

Superintendent Hausmann reported that the Bay Schools have been awarded the Best Community for Music Award again. Prom and com-

mencement will take place in person with adaptations to be COVID safe. The superintendent gave an update on the reopening of the schools, reporting that the air quality in the Bay schools is good and meets the governor's criteria. Student plexiglass barriers are no longer recommended, but teacher barriers will remain. There is a change in the guidelines from maintaining six feet between children to three feet. For the 2021-22 school year, no e-learning options will be offered. Lunches will return to the cafeteria, and the school day will be the same as pre-COVID, except for the high school where the extra time will be used for teacher collaboration and club time.

The Bay teacher evaluation language is being used as a model across the state. Superintendent Hausmann said that there is new software to compile data, and the Kiwanis will fund landscaping for Bay Schools.

Curriculum Director Char Shryock announced that Bay Schools will collaborate with the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center for a summer reading program, "One Community, One Book."

Treasurer Scott asked that the Board of Education authorize the disposal of approximately 50 Chromebook carts by the best method available (sale, trade or scrap) to the district. That motion carried. It was also declared that it's impractical for the Bay Board of Education to transport pupils in grades K-8 to St. Christopher School in Rocky River.

More detailed information about this meeting and others can be found on the Board of Education website at bayvillageschools.com. Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 6:30 p.m. During COVID, Board meetings have been taking place at Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Road, to allow for social distancing.



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#### WESTLAKE IN FOCUS

## Please meet ... Ron Zenkewicz

by NANCY FOX

Clevelander by birth and a Westlake resident since 2001, Ron Zenkewicz has a gift for turning obstacles into opportunity. Born in 1942, Ron grew up in Cleveland's Slavic Village, near Fleet and Broadway. He graduated from Cathedral Latin High School near University Circle.

After graduation, Ron sold shoes and managed stores for Thom McAn with thoughts of joining his father, a lifelong US Steel worker, in the mill. The arrival of a draft notice derailed those plans. Ron opted for a four-year stint in the Air Force, hoping to become an air-traffic controller. Incoming tests landed him, instead, as a non-Morse intercept operator, capturing Russian and Chinese military communications. Stationed initially outside London, Ron was eventually sent to Pakistan until his discharge in 1967.

Once back in civilian life, the CIA tried to recruit Ron to continue intelligence work. He chose, instead, to return to Cleveland where he had heard the FAA was hiring air-traffic controllers. After qualifying for the position, he completed a four-year training program, eventually ending up in front of a radar screen at the

Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center in Oberlin. By then married, he and his wife, Dana, had two sons, Trent and Ryan. In 1981, everything changed for the family when President Reagan fired the unionized air-traffic controllers over a strike dispute. By then in his early 40s and unable to work in his hard-fought career, Ron had to reinvent himself again.

An opportunity with the Boilermakers Union and four years of training offered Ron a second career. He learned all aspects of the trade, from repairing small school-building boilers to CEI's 11-story tubes and huge oil refinery boilers, eventually managing teams of 200-plus. The work kept Ron away from home for weeks at a time and always over weekends and holidays when plants would close for repair. He credits his wife, Dana, with keeping their home and family functioning well. Both boys graduated from St. Ignatius High School with storied high school football careers. Trent went on to play for the University of Michigan and Ryan for John Carroll University.

Ron retired from the Boilermakers Union in 2001 and later worked as an estimator for NBW (formerly known as National Boiler Works), retiring for good



Ron Zenkewicz

in 2010. Ron eventually became a part-time driver for Westlake's Senior Transportation program, beloved by his older riders for his gentlemanly courtesy and warm conversation. Then, in 2019, life had another twist for Ron when he faced a daunting health crisis that forced him back into retirement. Always a fighter, Ron completed treatment in March 2020, just as Covid-19 arrived and the world slowed down for all.

Today, Ron is feeling great and enjoying reconnecting with his sons and their families (six grandchildren) in Columbus and Chicago. Ron and Dana have found a happy routine in retirement with Ron serving as the family barista each morning and sous-chef at suppertime. Much of his spare time is taken up by yard work, Sudoku and occasional fishing trips.

## Bay Village resident qualifies for national **CrossFit semifinals**

by COLLEEN HARDING

essica Androsik, a 22-year-old from Bay Village, is heading to Las Vegas to compete in the CrossFit Semifinals. Jessica's bracket started out with 70,000 women competing in North America. After several competitions, the semifinals have come down to 120 women, four groups of 30 competitors, and Jessica is one of the 30 women going to Las Vegas. The top five in each group will go onto the CrossFit Games.

Jessica stands 5 feet tall and been training twice a day for months to prepare for this opportunity. Jessica is a force and we are so proud of her accomplishment.





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#### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

## Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) Meeting, April 13, 2021

by SUSAN MURNANE

This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Cooney's office prepares official minutes.

Present: Mayors Cooney (Fairview Park), Bobst (Rocky River), Clough (Westlake), George (Lakewood), and Koomar (Bay Village). Mayor Kennedy (N. Olmsted) and WCOG Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney were unable to attend.

The meeting was held at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park, Mayor Cooney presiding. It was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

**Fiscal Officer's Report:** Fiscal Officer Mahoney was unable to attend because of training for the new financial reporting system. Retiring Westshore Enforcement Bureau Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Jeff Capretto will continue on a part-time basis through May. Incoming SAC Matt Vanyo will begin on June 1. Fiscal Officer Mahoney will report on any budget adjustments next meeting.

#### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

**RTA:** Mayor Koomar reported that the RTA board of trustees was going forward with the purchase of new vehicles for the Euclid Avenue Health Line. Service redesign effective in June should enhance connectivity and increase access to employment for individuals.

**NOACA:** Mayor Bobst reported that Bay Village will receive a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) implementation grant in the amount of \$140,500 to reconfigure the intersection of Wolf and Cahoon roads. The total projected cost of the project is \$175,451. Rocky River will receive a TLCI implementation grant in the amount of \$95,500 for the Beachcliff/Lake Road Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project. The total projected cost of the project is \$118,805.

NOACA has released a draft of its longrange plan, "eNEO2050: An Equitable Future for Northeast Ohio," and is seeking public input. A lot of information is available on NOACA's website, eneo2050.com.

**Land Bank:** Mayor George reported that the Cuyahoga County Land Bank announced Round 2 of the Housing Construction Gap Grant Program to build new single-family housing. The Land Bank is also working on a preliminary development concept for expanding single family housing in East Cleveland.

**County Planning Commission:** Mayor Bobst announced that "Our Communities: The 2021 Data Book" is out. It may be accessed online or a paper copy may be downloaded and printed here: countyplanning.us/resources/data-books/our-communities. It is an invaluable resource for grant applications.

The Lakefront Public Access Plan continues. Conceived by County Executive Armond Budish in 2019, the early work concentrated on public meetings to assess public interest in improving public access to the lakefront. Cuyahoga County has provided a \$350,000 grant to advance the next stage of planning: determining how this access can best be achieved in an environment where much of the lakefront is privately owned. The consultant, SmithGroup, will receive \$300,000 to design a feasible plan; Cuyahoga County Planning Commission will receive \$50,000 as administrator of the grant.

The County Planning Commission, Lakewood, Rocky River, Metroparks, and NOACA have joined to conduct a Community Confluence Study to rationalize access to the

Metroparks Rocky River Reservation, especially by pedestrians and cyclists, and to better connect it to surrounding neighborhoods. The study is funded by a TLCI grant from NOACA. The problem is complicated by the topography of the Rocky River valley and awkward intersections with the Detroit, Clifton, and Hillard bridges. The contract has recently been expanded and increased to complete the study.

Diane Bickett has resigned as CEO of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and Beth Biggins-Ramer will take over. She is local, having previously worked for Cuyahoga County for 10 years. She has served as coordinator of the Medina County Solid Waste since 2014. She will be invited to a WCOG meeting in the fall.

**Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association:** Mayor Bobst reported that the Mayors and Managers Association discussed with elected officials continuing issues regarding place of business for local income tax purposes because of Covid-related temporary work situations. They also discussed SB 9, which requires arbitrary cuts on regulatory standards. Skepticism was expressed whether arbitrary regulatory cuts made sense.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Commissioner Terry Allan spoke to the Mayors and Managers about accessing Covid statistics online. A wealth of information can be found at coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home. Cuyahoga County Covid information can also be found on the Board of Health website: ccbh.net/covid-19-information-and-resources.

Attorney General Yost spoke to the Mayors and Managers about recruiting and training police, including the possibility of licensing police. Currently, police are not licensed in Ohio, but maybe they should be. Firefighters are licensed. AG Yost also discussed working with police academies to create a more uniform curriculum.

The Mayors and Managers anticipate talking with legislators soon about Ohio school funding bill HB1.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Cuyahoga County has taken the lead on making Covid vaccinations available to the public. In general, the mayors have not been involved in tracking or providing vaccinations by or for their employees.

Not much progress has been made to celebrate the 50th anniversary of WCOG. Mayor Bobst will draft a press release.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The mayors anticipate that most summer celebrations will go forward in some form. Events should follow Covid guidelines, but they are, mostly, outdoors. Bay Village will do what it can for Memorial Day, but Bay Days will take place and there will be fireworks. Westlake will have a Memorial Day parade, have summer concerts in the park, and celebrate the Fourth of July. Rocky River will not have a Memorial Day parade but will do some kind of ceremony at the cemetery, and they expect to hold other summer events like concerts. Lakewood will have no July 4 parade but they will have fireworks, and they hope to have other events in July and August. Fairview Park expects most summer events to go forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. *The next WCOG meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gemini Center. All meetings are open to the public.* 

**SPORTING VIEWS** 

### The long ball in a long season

by JEFF BING

s I watched Franmil Reyes hit two monster shots against the Twins on April 27, shortly after the Tribe had been brutalized in 3 of 4 against the Yankees, it got me thinking about the home run and the psychological impact the "long bombs" have on the game – including its participants.

From a fan's perspective – let's use me as an example – I was pretty down after that Yankee series. Not *only* because we lost (although that was certainly a contributor), but the *way* we lost. It felt to me as if for about 90% of that series, we didn't deserve to even be on the same field as New York, and for me, that's a bitter pill to swallow.

But for some deep, perhaps dark, inexplicable reason, Franmil's two long homers made me feel better – *much* better. And during my psychological postmortem, I was left longing for the answer to one stupid, nagging question: "Why?"

I mean, a majestic homer – as nice as it may look – still only counts as one run. This isn't the NBA, where points are impacted by the distance the ball travels before it hits net. In baseball, whether the ball travels 550 feet or 320 feet, it still counts for only one run.

So, it has to be the psychological impact right? Does anyone remember when Manny Ramirez went deep on ex-Indian Dennis Eckersley at Jacobs Field a couple of decades or so ago? As I recall, it dented the Budweiser sign on the scoreboard. The replay showed Eckersley fol-

lowing the flight of the ball and then mouthing the word, "Wow!" Perhaps it was at that moment Eckersley decided he didn't have as much in the tank as he'd thought, and perhaps it was time to decide what he was going to do after his career was through.

I decided to take a look at the Indians all-time single-season team record-holders for home runs, and was surprised by the fact that I've seen most of these guys play – in person. Let's take a look:

- 1. Jim Thome, 2002: 52 dingers
- 2. Albert Belle, 1995: 50 homers
- 3. Jim Thome, 2001: 49 moon shots
- 4. Albert Belle, 1996: 48 launches
- 5. Manny Ramirez, 1998: 45 four-baggers
- 6. Manny Ramirez, 1999: 44 touch-em-alls
- 7. Al Rosen, 1953: 43 taters (Rosen's the first guy on the list I never saw play)
- 8. Rocky Colavito, 1959: 42
- 9. Travis Hafner, 2006: 42
- 10. Hal Trosky, 1936: 42 (And before you ask ... NO! I didn't see Trosky play!)
- 11. Rocky Colavito, 1958: 41
- 12. Jim Thome, 1997: 40

We'll cut it off at guys who hit 40 or more, or this column would become a cure for insomnia (if it hasn't *already*).

So, what is it about the home run that makes it so special, even in an era where it seems every team has at least a few guys who can change the complexion of a game with one swing of the bat?

I think that question is also the *answer* to the question for us.

## Bay Village Schools offers elementary STEM camp

by MARTHA FISHER

ay Schools Summer Virtual STEM Camp is available tuition free to ALL students in grades K-4. The camp will be held the weeks of June 14 and June 21. It will be held virtually on Zoom and Google Classroom. The K-2 daily Zoom will be from 9:00-9:50 a.m.; the daily Zoom for grades 3 and 4 will be from 10:00-10:50 a.m. Hands-on challenges will be provided online for students to problem solve, build and test at home, with guidance and feedback from camp staff.

We plan to return to the traditional K-2 STEM camp in the summer of 2022. It is our hope that our exciting virtual program this summer will provide your student with a variety of engaging, high-quality learning opportunities.

Students will complete challenges from materials that are readily available at home. A list of supplies will be provided once your student is registered. The STEM challenges are about making and doing.

We look forward to seeing everyone in June!

To register, visit forms.gle/Syf4QQFpB3QzDbqt6. For more information, contact STEM camp directors Martha Fisher at martha.fisher@bayschoolsohio. org, or Lindsey Harris at lindsey. harris@bayschoolsohio.org.

#### PET CARE

# Hot cars can leave pet owners in hot trouble!

by NANCY BROWN

Tith the weather warming up, it's important to remember the safety of our four-legged friends when going for a ride. Bay Village police will respond to calls to mitigate for the safety of animals locked in cars or those left in hot cars, even those with cracked windows on warm days. They request that they be contacted immediately if you see an animal in distress. Give a description and location of the vehicle. Stay if you can and they typically handle it as a lockout.

If you are the pet owner you can likely expect a strong warning and/or charges. With the animal laws and fines changing you might even face animal cruelty charges. Ohio animal cruelty laws are changing and we will always have Goddard's Law, amendments and new laws to be grateful for this.

In 2018 Governor Kasich signed into law Senate Bill 218. Under this law anyone who breaks into a car to save an animal in distress is immune from civil liability. The rescuer has to have a good faith, reasonable belief that the dog or other animal is actually in distress – and that there's no way to help them other than breaking into the car and getting them out.

They must also call 9-1-1, or make other attempts to reach law enforcement before breaking any windows. Otherwise they might be facing criminal activity charges.

Additionally, rescuers must stay with the animal until law enforcement or emergency responders arrive. A report will be made by law enforcement.

According to the American Kennel Club: "Most dog owners know that you can't leave a pet in a hot car. Temperatures can rise to dangerous levels in just minutes, putting your dog at risk of heat stroke. But what if you open a window a little bit? Does that make it safe to leave your dog in the car? The answer is simple: You should

NEVER leave a dog alone in the car, even with the windows cracked. In some states, it's even illegal. It doesn't have to be super hot outside for your car to heat up. The inside of a vehicle parked in 70-degree weather can reach 100 degrees in just 20 minutes. On very hot days, temperatures inside parked cars can climb to 140 degrees Fahrenheit in less than one hour. Even with the windows cracked."

According to an article published by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), studies have shown that cracking a window changes these figures very little. A parked car with the windows cracked heats up at almost the exact same rate as a car with the windows rolled up, putting pets in serious danger.

All dogs are susceptible to heat stroke. Heat intolerant brachycephalic breeds (dogs that have a relatively broad, short skull), such as pugs and bulldogs, however, could suffer negative effects sooner than other breeds. If you know you'll be on the road with your dog, make plans to travel with another adult who can remain in the vehicle with the pets while the air conditioner is running. This will keep pets safe, and it will also reduce the risk of your dog jumping out of an open window at a rest stop or in a parking lot.

Hundreds of pets die from car-related heat stroke each year. The issue is so important that 28 states, including Ohio, have laws restricting people from leaving their pets unattended in vehicles. Some laws ban the practice outright, while others protect law enforcement officers and citizens if they break into cars to rescue pets.

Teaching your dog to exit the car properly is also critical to his safety. After you exit the car, you can walk around to the door closest to your dog and give him a clear command when it is time for him to come out. Teaching the "wait" command can give you more control.

The Friends of the Bay Village Kennel will be

displaying yard signs at the shopping centers and park entrances to remind families to keep Fido safe!

Visit The Friends of the Bay Village Kennel's new Facebook page, facebook.com/FOBVK. Featured are safety tips and pets for adoption. Please watch for future fundraisers and how you can support the Kennel's fund for injured and lost pets.

# Koomar to seek re-election in Bay Village

Dear Residents:

It has been a great honor to serve as your Mayor the past five years. As you may know this is an election year and I have decided to seek re-election. I will be on the ballot Nov. 2 and hope that I have earned your support for another term.

I am excited about the prospect of having an opportunity to build upon our many successes. We have built an outstanding administrative team which has done a tremendous job managing city services while landing significant grants to improve livability for our residents. Here are a few highlights:

Secured over \$23 million in external funding for road and infrastructure projects, including the new Bay Village Library branch and the privately funded Bay Creek residences.

Secured over \$2.1 million in grant funding for a variety of projects including the new Cahoon Basin trail, improvements to historical buildings, recreational enhancements, and equipment for the safety forces.

Demonstrated fiscal responsibility – produced balanced budgets and maintained Aal Bond Rating.

Completed the Cahoon Park lakefront master plan. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve resident access to Lake Erie, while controlling erosion and maintaining the park for future generations.

Bay Village is a special city made up of wonderful people, great parks, quality schools, and lake front beauty. We are fully committed to maintaining its integrity. Continued enhancement of the livability and special nature of our town through further investments in our parks, lakefront, infrastructure and business districts will be at the forefront for the future. It has become very clear during the pandemic that our residents enjoy our parks more than ever. Investment in our parks is an investment in our health and happiness.

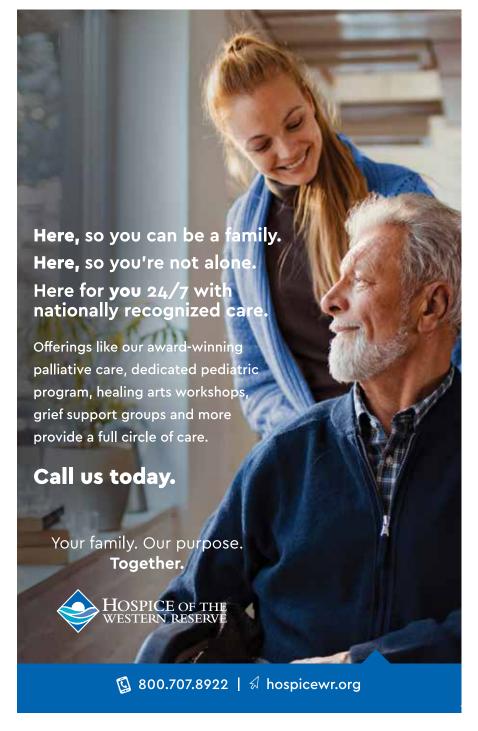
For more information about our vision for Bay Village, feel free to visit www.koomarformayor.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. The future looks very bright for our wonderful city.

Sincerely, Mayor Paul Koomar City of Bay Village







## **Westlake Porter Public Library's**

### early May calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early May 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.

Wednesday, May 5 (6-7 p.m.) Learning to Cube Supply Pick-Up and Program -Have you always wanted to solve the Rubik's Cube? Pick up your Learning to Cube supplies at the Youth Services desk then join us on Zoom to learn the basics of cubing. Ages 9-13. You will need a cube to participate in the program. Please register. Registration for the kit also registers you for the May 5 program. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

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

Thursdays, May 6 and 13 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **WPPL Roblox Club -** We have some private servers set up for Tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games via Zoom. Please register.

Friday, May 7 (4-4:30 p.m.) **Cup of Sci**ence (Live) - Join Miss Holly on Facebook or YouTube for a fun video on flowers and bees! Recommended for ages 4-6.

Saturday, May 8 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **STEAM** Maker Lab Supply Pick-Up - Register to learn more about the earth, plate tectonics, continents, oceans and landforms. Kits available in the Youth Services Department starting May 8. Grades 3-5. Please Note: Registration for the pick-up also registers you for the May 15 STEAM Maker program on Zoom. Please provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Saturday, May 8 (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. Please register and provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesdays, May 11 and 18 (11-11:30 a.m.) and Wednesdays, May 12 and 26 (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, May 11 (1-3 p.m.) Career Transition: Resumes and LinkedIn Buzz (Live) Should resumes be one page or two, what visit westlakelibrary.org/events.

are the latest "buzz" words, what is the best choice of verbs, formats, fonts, font sizes, or templates? What is new on LinkedIn in 2021? How important is your LinkedIn profile? The answers to these questions change regularly. top-notch resume and LinkedIn profile. Please register to receive an email containing instruc-

**Evening Book Discussion (Live) -** Join the WPPL Tuesday Evening Book Club on Zoom for a discussion of "The Death of Vivek Oji" by Akwaeke Emezi. Please register to receive a Zoom invitation and instructions. Participants without a computer, tablet or smartphone can join using a traditional phone.

Wednesday, May 12 (2-3 p.m.) **Aging in** Place (Live) - For several reasons, people want to stay in their home and their community as they age instead of moving to a retirement community or other type of facility. Join us on Zoom to learn strategies to help older adults remain in their homes for as long as possible. Presented by LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential). Registration is required to receive

Wednesday, May 12 (4-5 p.m.) Teen Writers Group (Live) - An online Zoom meet up for writers in grades 7-12. This is a dedicated hour to just write. We'll save the last 15 minutes for any writer in need of some group brainstorming. Registration begins May 5. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Thursday, May 13 (7-7:45 p.m.) **Metro-Health Mental Health Talk (Live) - May is** mental health awareness month. Please join us on Zoom for a talk on mental health with a provider from MetroHealth. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Friday, May 14 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **Got Sci**ence? Supply Pick-Up and Program - Join us as we make a DIY compass! You will need a kit to participate in the Zoom program at 4 p.m. on May 21. Grades 1 & 2. Please register. Registering for the supply pick-up will also register you for the program. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom

Monday, May 17 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) Teen **Craft Pick-Up -** Come to the Youth Services Department to pick up a craft kit. Grades 7-12. Registration begins one week before each pick-up.

To register for any of the programs,

Let's discuss how you can get noticed with a

tions for joining us via Zoom. Tuesday, May 11 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday** 

an email with Zoom instructions.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

## **Live Caption for Chrome web** browser helps HoH community

by TAK SATO

Part two of a two-part series on how technology can help the hardof-hearing community.

Thether you are: checking email, shopping online, googling (yes, it's a word in the Oxford Dictionary) for a widget, watching YouTube videos, paying bills, registering for a COVID-19 vaccine, or streaming a movie from Westlake Porter Public Library or Cuyahoga County Public Library in Bay Village, one ubiquitous tool that you will need is a "web browser." Firefox from Mozilla Foundation, Chrome from Google, Edge from Microsoft, or Safari from Apple all do the same thing: pull up a website so you can benefit from all of the above and other things in the cloud, aka the internet.

Previously, we discussed an app and a feature that fall under the "accessibility" category. Accessibility settings make handheld devices such as smartphones and tablets more comfortable to use while compensating for physical disabilities. Through personal experience, I've been relying on the above every day for over a year.

The big news is that the latest version of Google's web browser, Chrome version 90, has the "Live Caption" feature baked into it! Anything that has audio playing inside the browser can have closed captions.

If you are hard of hearing (HoH), no more sadness when the selected YouTube video does not have a closed captioning button; talk with confidence when you call someone using VoIP services like "Google Voice" that enables you to make/answer calls to/from any

10-digit phone number anywhere in the continental U.S. for free; participate in a video meeting even when the selected service doesn't offer closed captioning.

Unlike the exclusive Live Caption feature available for select Android-based smartphones and Live Transcribe app that is also limited to Android-based handheld devices, Live Caption in the Chrome web browser cuts across Windows, MacOS, and ChromeOS. If you use a web browser other than Chrome, go ahead and download it to kick the tires as you can have multiple web browsers installed.

By default, Live Caption in Chrome is turned off so do the following if you want closed caption:

- 1. Click on the "three vertical dots" on the upper right hand of the Chrome browser:
- 2. Click on "Settings" from the menu that appears;
- 3. Click on "Advanced" on the left hand side of the screen;
- 4. Click on "Accessibility" on the left side of the screen:
- 5. Click on the first item on the right hand side of the screen under the "Accessibility" header with the text "Automatically creates captions for English. Audio and captions never leave your device" and make sure the switch turns blue (gray means turned off) at the far right of that first item.

Live Caption is also available for Chromebook users. This feature, typical of Google, is enabled in stages (i.e not everyone gets it simultaneously). Unless you are a "geek" that understands what it means to "switch to BETA channel," patience is warranted. It won't be long and is worth the wait, especially if you are HoH like me!

### Westlake residents clean up for Earth Day



by MICHAEL DILAURO

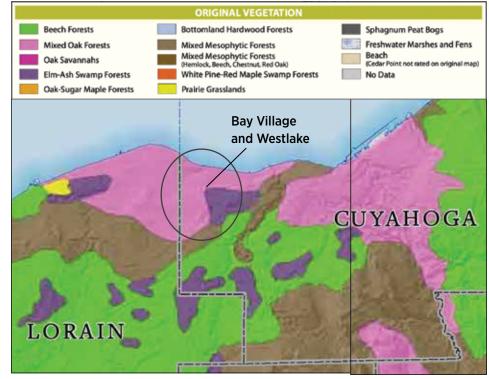
any neighbors in the area Mof Forest Park and Berkeley Estates in Westlake - Katy Boscia, Judy Fabec, Michael DiLauro, Mary

Step and the Strawbridges - did their part in picking up litter. This was our first event to commemorate Earth Day 2021. As you can see, we gathered quite a pile of trash in and around our neighborhood.

Knickerbocker A comfortable home in Bay Villag AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING 7100 Knickerbocker Road, Bay Village 62 & Older Pet Friendly Efficiencies & 1 Bedrooms Senior Transportation Available Independent Living Resident Activities Affordable Shopping Nearby On-Site Eliza Jennings Health Clinic Rent Includes: All Utilities & Senior Cable は血 24 Hour Emergency Service Live-In Manager

#### WESTSHORE WANDERS

### **Native Tree Cover**



Portion of ODNR map of pre-settlement vegetation (circa 1800) in the 2018 Third Edition of the Ohio Coastal Atlas.



The Westshore restaurant aptly named White Oaks was constructed in 1928 within a stand of white oak and other oak species overlooking Cahoon Creek.

## St. Raphael students win Brain Brawl

by DOUG DEVOR

The St. Raphael School Academic Team won the 10th annual St. Ignatius Brain Brawl on April 17, becoming the only team in the history of the tournament to win back-to-back titles.

The Brain Brawl, hosted by St. Ignatius High School, is an annual academic competition for junior high school students from private schools across the Cleveland metropolitan area. The competition is an all-day event in which schools compete against one another by answering game-show style questions that range from music and math to baseball and board games.

St. Raphael School in

Bay Village sends teams to the tournament each year. The St. Raphael team that won the competition consists of Ryan Corrigan, Aidan Knapp, Kevin Lloyd, Conall McMahon, Kyle Miller, and JP Zorc. The team staged an epic comeback against St. Barnabas (Northfield) in the championship game to win it all.

This marks the first time that a team from any school has won the tournament in back-toback years. Knapp and Zorc were members of last year's team and played significant roles in leading the team to victory both years. The "Father Ober Cup of Knowledge," the tournament's trophy, will remain at St. Raphael for another year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

## New owner seeks to continue Greenisland's charm

by LAUREN HILL

fter years of managing an IT company, Bob **L** Weishampel decided to pursue his passion for the restaurant industry by purchasing Greenisland from longtime owners, Connie and Sean McConnell. With his heart set on bringing fantastic food and an inviting pub environment to the residents of Bay Village, Weishampel re-opened the popular Irish restaurant in October 2020.

Weishampel's staff interviewed residents about what they missed most about Greenisland, which had closed months earlier due to the pandemic, to ensure he brought back customers' longtime favorites. The No. 1 item resi-

dents looked forward to were the ever-so-popular Irish Nachos and the neighborhood friendly Irish pub atmosphere.

The corned beef is now brined in-house, and the pastrami is both brined, and smoked in-house. All sauces and dressings are made from scratch.

Weishampel and his staff are offering lunch on Fridays starting at 11:00 a.m., and hoping to open for lunch daily soon. Tuesdays feature \$2 kids meals (with purchase), all day long.

Guests receive 20% off their entire check during happy hour, Monday to Friday from 2-5 p.m. Greenisland is located at 25517 Eaton Way, just off Columbia in Bay Village.

## **Drug collection** drive continues to be huge success

by JEFF CAPRETTO, Enforcement Agent

The Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) Drug Task Force gratefully acknowledges the citizens of our six western suburbs for actively participating in the semi-annual collection event on Saturday, April 24, with 421 pounds of outdated and unwanted medications collected for safe disposal.

In addition, our WEB communities' citizens were responsible for properly disposing of medications via the use of the 365/24/7 drop boxes located within each of the six police departments lobbies to the tune of 3,022 pounds for the calendar year 2020.

I urge our citizens to continue to make use of the drop boxes whenever the need arises to dispose of those expired or unwanted medications for the purpose of protecting the environment and to prevent the diversion of the pharmaceuticals to illegal activities.

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

## Observer Bayvillage

The citizen-powered newspaper

## **Share Your News, Photos & Events in Westlake & Bay Village**

Join with 1,200+ community members of all ages who have shared their stories, photos and community events in our community's favorite newspaper and website.

The Observer is open to all Bay Village and Westlake residents who want to participate in sharing positive news. It's fun, easy and free to become an Observer.

Visit our website at **wbvobserver.com** and click on Member Center to sign up and be a part of this growing community project! (We don't share your info with anyone.)

Questions? Email staff@wbvobserver.com

## 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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## We need your help

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.

If you'd like to keep the Observer serving the community, please send a cash or check donation along with the form below. Donations may also be made by credit card at wbvobserver.com. All supporters will be recognized in future editions of the Observer.

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