

SPORTING VIEWS

There is plenty to be thankful for

by JEFF BING

With Covid dominating the lives of many for the better part of the last two years, it can be difficult for us to be thankful now that Thanksgiving 2021 is here. But we *do* have some bright spots:

In sports, we finally have a football team worth talking about, after decades – yes, I said *decades* of horrid football.

Think about that: someone born right around the time Art Modell shuffled the Browns off to Baltimore – and then reincarnated them as the Ravens – would not have seen any stretch of decent NFL football unless they decided to root for another team. A solid quarter of a century of consistently putrid football is tough to do, but the Browns answered the call.

No city should have to go through that much suffering for that length of time. But the Cleveland Indians of the early '60s into the early '90s went a half-decade longer than the Browns. Outside of a couple of blips on the radar when the Tribe was competitive for a season or two, the Indians were, well, *awful*.

What I am truly thankful for is that the franchise never left Cleveland (although the rumors surfaced often as the losing seasons – as well as a typically huge debt load – mounted). I look back and it's hard to figure out how (or maybe even better, *why*) the Indians managed to remain in Cleveland.

▶ See THANKFUL page 2

DEMON DISPATCH

Integrity is highlighted in Westlake City Schools

by DR. SCOTT GOGGIN
Superintendent, Westlake City School District



Scott Goggin

Our Portrait of a Life-long Learner has been a guiding light as we navigate the waters of this school year. The traits we highlight in our Portrait continue to provide needed direction and ambitions as our teachers and staff strive to *Educate for Excellence*, while our students continue to *Learn with Purpose*.

As we continue into the month of

November, the trait I think of most is Integrity.

A Westlake student with Integrity develops “empathy, social awareness and accountability to understand how behaviors and actions impact others.” With all our stu-

dents have been through – not just in the last two years, but throughout the entirety of this generation's academic lifetime – the idea of understanding and empathy carries so much importance. I've seen students lift each other through

difficult times; I've experienced students demonstrate character beyond measure; I've observed our students' ability to reach out to each other and truly listen to their peers.

In short, I've witnessed our students' growing integrity.

November is a time when appreciation for where we are is highlighted. Yes, we celebrate Thanksgiving during this month – a time when many of us gather with our loved ones and reflect on all that we're thankful for. I hope this year you all will be able to reflect on the work our students have done to demonstrate to our community the importance of integrity in their daily lives.

But, November is also a time when we give thanks to those who have served our nation so bravely. On Nov. 11, we gave thanks to our nation's veterans for Veterans Day.

▶ See INTEGRITY page 2



The Westlake Demon Athletics Boosters placed flag tributes honoring local veterans in front of the high school.

COURTESY WESTLAKE DEMON ATHLETICS BOOSTERS

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Memorial wreaths to be placed this holiday season

by LYSA STANTON

For over 10 years, members of the Westlake Historical Society have remembered some of our city's historic families by placing holiday wreaths on their graves.

We believe placing a wreath on a grave is not only a symbol of remembrance, it is a sign of respect for that person, who they were and the contributions they made to our city. We would like to extend the opportunity for you, your family, organization or business to place a holiday wreath this year in memory of your loved ones or one of our pioneer families.

Volunteers from the Westlake Historical Society will be placing wreaths on graves in both Evergreen Cemetery and

Maple Ridge Cemetery until Dec. 10 for those individuals, families or businesses who would like to sponsor a wreath. You or your organization can sponsor a wreath from the historical society for a donation of \$25 per wreath, then we will place it at the grave site.

The Westlake Historical society would like to give special thanks to our dedicated wreath committee members and donors as we prepare to place almost 50 wreaths this year. Please call the society at 216-848-0680, email us



at westlakehistory@yahoo.com, or see our website at westlakeohiohistory.org to make arrangements to have your wreath placed. ♦

Bay Village holiday donation locations

by NANCY BROWN

Please support these Bay Village churches and organizations. They have kicked off their holiday campaigns to assist children, families and pets in Bay Village and Northeast Ohio. Some collect all year long.

- Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church, 28807 Wolf Road, is collecting for Fill This House, a non-profit that helps young adults aging out of the foster care system. The organization provides the young adults with the household needs to live in an apartment on their own for the first time. Visit fillthishouse.org/donatingitems or call 440-871-2276 with inquiries.

▶ See DONATIONS page 4



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of Westlake and Bay Village.

THANKFUL

from front page

Of course, anyone who watched the Ted Stepien era of NBA basketball (or so it was billed as) can rightfully argue that Stepien fit decades of suffering into only a few years as (hands-down) one of the worst owners of a professional sports franchise in history.

So what carried us through those painful years and decades? For me, it was (and still is) family. Let's start with my wife, Patty, who some might suggest married the Ted Stepien equivalent of husbands when she decided to marry me. The best thing to ever happen to this guy was the day I met her, and it will remain that way for as long as I live. But wait, there's more!

We are lucky enough to have three wonderful children: Jason, Leah, and Nicole, and each child is blessed with a unique talent and drive that has made each quite successful in their life's choice(s). But wait, there's more!

Our children have given us the joy of seven (and the number will rise to eight in May) grandchildren, and we cherish the time we can spend with each other, as our kids and their families – unfortunately – all live out of state.

Thankfully, we will see them all over the Thanksgiving break, evoking a special joy that places sports – appropriately – in the rearview mirror.

Here's wishing you and yours the most special Thanksgiving ever! ●



Gobble. Gobble. Gobble.

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WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

'Alice in Wonderland' comes to Westlake



PHOTO COURTESY WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

The cast of "Alice in Wonderland" features Kaitlyn McCann (Alice), Ellen Babinski (Mad Hatter), Alyssa Brucchieri (Queen of Hearts), and Meghan Rogozinski (White Rabbit).

by JENNIFER BUTLER

The Westlake High School Demon Drama Club is performing "Alice in Wonderland," based on the classic Lewis Carroll story we all know and love. Alice is a young girl who, after falling down a rabbit hole, finds herself in the magical, and sometimes odd, "Wonderland." The show is directed by DM Warnke and is being performed by students in grades 9-12.

Pandemic protocols will be in place. Masks are required, social distancing between each seated party is recommended. The venue will be disinfected between shows and hand sanitizer will be available. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$7.

The show runs at the Westlake High School Performing Arts Center, 27830 Hilliard Blvd., Nov. 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. We hope to see you there! ●

INTEGRITY

from front page

You may have seen the Westlake Demon Athletics Boosters' flag tributes honoring our local veterans in front of the high school. Many in the community have relatives – moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings – who have sacrificed for our nation, and I know many of us are grateful for their service every day.

Our veterans and service members not only provide safety for our country, but they also provide a sterling example of what it means to have integrity. To call upon yourself to the service of your nation takes an incredible amount of character. We don't have to have a direct family member or friend in service to

be grateful for our nation's veterans, and acknowledging those who have served and continue to serve is part of recognizing the good in others.

Simply put, it takes integrity, and our students understand that. For this, I am grateful.

Every generation thinks to themselves, "I could never be a kid these days," and that is never truer than now. I so admire our students' resilience and fortitude. I am grateful for their ability to adapt, persevere and succeed in the face of difficult situations.

I, like my colleagues in the Westlake City School District, am honored to serve in the front lines with our students, and for our students. I've learned so much from them, but I know one of the things that I will carry with me for a long time is their collective display of integrity. ●

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One Veteran's Life: A mortician in Vietnam

by DENNY WENDELL

This is the second in a series of articles about one local veteran, Bay Village resident Anton (Tony) Dostal, who served as a mortician during the Vietnam War.

Tony Dostal arrived in Vietnam at the Air Force Base in Da Nang aboard a C-141 transport plane on Friday, Aug. 30, 1968. He arrived with 19 other soldiers, eight of whom were embalmers.

"We carried bullet clips in our pockets, but no weapons, because the rifle boxes were nailed shut in their shipping crates. We exited the tailgate of the aircraft in a secure area, so we were given the impression we would have nothing to worry about," Tony recalled.

"We loaded up our personal stuff and were driven to our barracks in the Army compound, which was about five miles away from the airport," he continued. "Because the eight embalmers were going into the embalming room the next night, the other 12 soldiers unpacked our bags and got our lockers together.

"As I'm walking to the barracks, someone yells 'Hey, Anton!'" And there was a friend of Tony's from Cleveland, Denny Lazuta, a dental technician that Tony had attended mortuary school with. You never know who you'll meet in the theater of war.

Tony started work in the mortuary the following night.

"We went to the mortuary to work the night shift, Saturday night, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. We worked the night shift because civilian embalmers worked the first shift. At midnight, we had breakfast, and then we came back to the mortuary and I went to my second body.

"At about 1:25 a.m. Sunday morning, I went out to the embalming fluid barrels to fill my bucket with embalming chemical and as I'm walking back soldiers are running out of the office toward the bunker yelling, 'Get the hell out of here!' So this E6 (a staff sergeant) hollers, 'Get down!' That was all it took. The compound was under a rocket attack, and shrapnel was flying. Whenever you heard that first explosion, you hit the ground. If you got up to run to the bunker, you could be cut down."

No one was injured, but this was Tony's introduction to the dangers of a war zone.

His work in the mortuary presented more evidence of the horrors of war as the bodies of soldiers were brought in from the battlefield. "They were wrapped in linen and put in a black body bag in the field and from there they went to the collection point. From the collection point they were then transported with an escort to the mortuary."

Upon receiving a body, the morticians used a detailed procedure for identifying remains.

"When the person was brought to the mortuary, in a jeep

or was helicoptered in from the field, the remains were taken out of the body bag and an inventory was done of everything that they had on. We would take their clothes and effects to join with the personal artifacts collected from their base," Tony explained.

Some bodies would be easier to identify than others, due to the severity of their injuries.

"The body would be examined for scars, wounds and identification markings. We also would do a dental exam and take fingerprints to match with F.B.I. records. If there were no fingerprints, we'd use military dental records. If the military records were insufficient, we would contact the Washington office of chief support services to go back and trace every base that victim was on in the States. In the meantime, we had to check every base or outpost he was at in Vietnam hoping to find dental records. This usually took about two weeks. If our search was not successful enough, the military would notify the family that we needed the person's private dentist records."

Tony admitted that was a difficult task. "It was with great reluctance and great embarrassment to have to go to the family and ask for the dental records, but we had to be 100 percent positive that the identification was correct."

He remembered one instance that stood out during his 12 months in Vietnam.

"There was a body that was on board forever labeled 'X3.' X3 had only the top part of the skull, with the upper teeth. The morticians were 99% sure who it was but they weren't 100% sure. The civilian ID specialist at the mortuary wouldn't sign off on the release because he only had upper dental records and that wasn't enough for him to be certain of the identification. The family wanted those remains so they went to their congressman. I got a call one night from Washington; someone took responsibility to sign off on releasing the remains to the family. So X3 finally went home before I left Vietnam."

In the next issue, Tony recounts some of the experiences he had during his tour of duty in Vietnam. ●

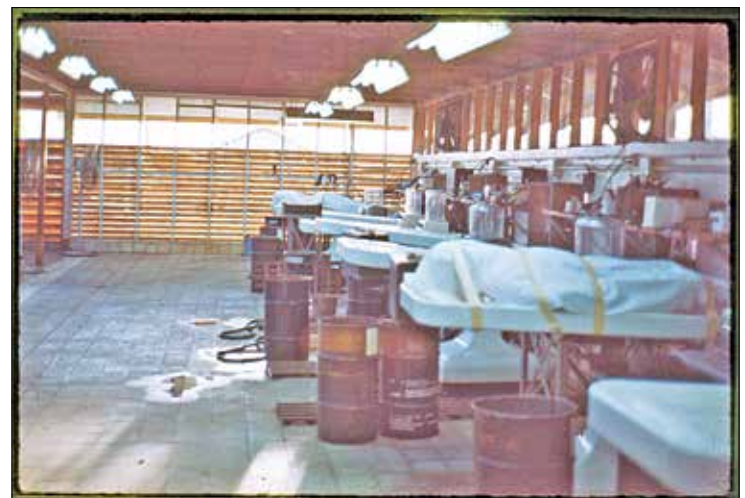


A soldier policing Tony's compound.

PHOTOS COURTESY TONY DOSTAL



Tony, right, and his friend Denny Lazuta having a picnic.



The inside of the mortuary building in Da Nang. The walls were slatted to keep the air moving due to the strong odor of the embalming fluid. Tony's mortuary table is pictured on the right.

9th annual Cahoon Christmas

★ Watch for Santa as he tours Bay Village in a city fire truck!

Sunday, Dec. 5 ★ 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bay Village Historical Society and the Bay Village Kiwanis are asking all Bay Village residents, young and old, to join them in welcoming Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus to Bay Village.

Santa Claus will leave the Bay Lodge on Bradley Road on a fire truck, accompanied by a police cruiser, at 2 p.m. and travel throughout the city, greeting young and old alike.

See the map for their route. Their ride will last about two hours.

Join Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus after the ride at the Cahoon Memorial Park gazebo where they will help light the city's holiday tree.

Bay Kiwanis Christmas Trees

at Cahoon Memorial Park

Weekends: Nov. 26 - Dec. 12
(Nov. 26 only: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Fridays: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sundays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Cash, checks & credit cards (with a \$2 user fee).

Prices starting at \$55 depending on type and height of the tree.
Sizes range from 6' to 11' with a large selection of 8' to 11' trees.
Deliveries in Bay are free (donations welcomed). \$10 fee for surrounding communities.

Questions? Email russbauknecht@gmail.com

THE GREEN REPORT

Meet local environmental steward: Derek Schafer

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

For my column this week, I interviewed the executive director of West Creek Conservancy, Derek Schafer. Derek lives in Bay Village and his organization is spearheading multiple conservation projects in and around Cleveland. West Creek Conservancy's mission is "to enrich the lives of all people in Northeast Ohio by conserving natural habitats, restoring the ecological value of our region's lands and waters, and expanding opportunities to connect people from all cultures to experience nature and discover our great outdoors."

I recently met Derek and was inspired by his work with West Creek Conservancy; I also think it's very important that the community learn about key local environmental work that is being done around us, because their work benefits each and every one of us.

Derek has been the executive director of West Creek since 2014 and has been with the organization since 2004. He grew up on a small farm outside of Columbus and spent his days fishing, playing in the fields and forests, and camping. Additionally, his parents had the same love of the outdoors and before he graduated from high school he had visited most of our national parks and forests, further cementing his love of nature and the critical importance of environmental conservation.

As he grew up on his farm, the areas around where Derek lived started being developed and natural habitats were lost and destroyed. As an astute teenager with a love of the outdoors, the sprawl he witnessed did not include planned greenspace, stormwater control, or tree canopy cover. While he was unable to make a difference in the changes that were happening around him, it inspired him to take part in a unique vocational program offered in his

high school that focused on environmental science, ecology, biology, geology, and urban geography. He then went on to Bowling Green State University and graduated with an environmental degree.

I asked him about the work West Creek does in our area, and why it is so important.

"Our natural areas, greenspaces, parks and trails are not some sort of ancillary 'green' infrastructure, they are simply infrastructure in our communities," Derek said. "Having the Great Lakes at our doorstep is not only one of the greatest advantages of living here, but it's also one of our greatest responsibilities."

I love this: our greatest natural resource where we live – Lake Erie – is also our most important responsibility. This means each of us as individuals has a role in that responsibility. As we know, fresh, clean water is scarce in many areas – even within our own country. It is imperative that every waterway, from the tiny streams that start at an inch wide, to the whole of Lake Erie, to all of the five Great Lakes, must be cared for and protected.

Derek emphasizes that we are one with our natural surroundings, and while there are regulations implemented now that help us live and protect nature, we must still work to continue to synthesize our world with the natural world. West Creek's work consists of preserving greenspaces in areas such as small parks to massive wetland complexes and forests. Each of these areas are intertwined and provide greenways for people and wildlife, fresh water for us to drink, and clean air for us to breathe. Preserving greenspaces preserves our biodiversity, which I wrote about recently. Biodiversity is directly tied to our survival.

What can we do? We can each take part in protecting our waterways by picking up trash on our streets, our beaches, and in our parks. Trash



Derek Schafer

will eventually make its way into Lake Erie, so picking up litter is a simple action we can each take part in to protect our greatest resource.

Another thing we can do is support local nonprofits who are working everyday to protect our environment. Each of us benefits from their work.

West Creek Conservancy is a non-profit organization that conserves land in Greater Cleveland through acquiring land and conservation easements through purchase or donation. They have a strong focus on streams, rivers, and watershed protection and restoration. They work collaboratively to restore water quality and natural habitats in the environment, and reclaims/re-uses vacant urban land. They facilitate recreational trails and greenways, with the goal to connect humans with nature. They are involved with so many projects that I do not have enough space to list them! West Creek has a staff of only four people, and for each dollar donated, \$0.96 goes directly into land and water projects.

West Creek has volunteer opportunities, and a membership program. Please consider becoming a West Creek Conservancy member by going to westcreek.org/for-individuals. Your donation – of any amount – will make a difference in our community! ●

DONATIONS *from front page*

- Bay United Methodist Church, 29937 Lake Road, is collecting NEW children's boots for Child & Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County. They currently have 65 fosters that have a need. They need a variety of sizes from toddler to older teen, both boys and girls. Collections are Nov. 21-Dec. 12. Drop off at the office Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Bay UMC also works year-round with The Haven House which is an emergency overflow shelter for women and their children. They collect toiletries, laundry detergent and whatever their greatest need is. Visit thehavenhouse.org or call 440-871-2082 with questions.
- St Raphael Catholic Church, 525 Dover Center Road, is collecting non-perishable pantry items and also has a gift tree with specific requests for local families and the multiple organizations they interface with. Call 440-871-1100 with questions.
- Bay Presbyterian Church, 25415 Lake Road, serves as the designated Bay Village community food bank year-round. They have a weekly shopping list posted of current pantry needs and a donation bin for non-perishable items located at the main entrance off Columbia Road.
- Bay Village Community Services located at the Dwyer Center, 300 Bryson Lane, is always in need of gift cards to grocery stores, drugstores, gas stations and cash donations to help with utility bills for Bay Village residents. Contact Leslie Selig at 440-871-2200.
- The Village Project, 27378 W.Oviatt, provides support and nourishing meals for cancer patients and their family members. Visit ourvillageproject.com or call 440-348-9401 for specific current needs and visit their gift shop. Volunteers are also needed. This organization is in need all year long.
- Friends of The Bay Village Kennel request that tax-deductible monetary donations be given online at facebook.com/FOBVK or by mail to Renee Mahoney, City of Bay Village, 350 Dover Center Road, Bay Village, OH 44140 with a notation that the donation is for the use of the Kennel. Also donated pet items for the kennel and pet partners are accepted year-round and are greatly appreciated. Please leave at the police department.
- Bay Village Police request you follow them on Facebook or contact them at 440-871-1234 for updates on all of the causes they support throughout the year. Watch for the return of "Food for Fines," when BVPD-issued parking tickets can be paid with non-perishable food donation for the Bay Village Food Bank. Residents can leave donations in the lobby too. "Shop with Cops" will be selling raffle tickets to help youth with shopping and meals.
- Bay Village Fire Department requests you follow their Facebook page or contact them at 440-871-1214 for updates. Congratulations to BVFD for collecting \$3,325 for The Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Howard Hanna, 27115 Dover Center Road (next to CVS), is collecting brand new and softly used coats through Dec. 17.
- Tide Dry Cleaners Bay Village collects bedding and clothing all year long to donate to multiple shelters and agencies. Please consider this alternative as the bins behind Dairy Queen are always full and bags are left exposed to weather. There's also a yellow bin in the parking lot of Tire Auto Choice, 609 Dover Center Road.
- New toy collections: Westside Catholic Charities collecting until Dec. 14; call 216-631-4741. Toys For Tots collecting until Nov. 28; call 216-233-1464. ●

'Black Hole Friday' at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

by MORGAN PASKERT

Join Lake Erie Nature & Science Center on Friday, Nov. 26, for Black Hole Friday. Each year after the Thanksgiving holiday, the Center dedicates its planetarium lineup to one of the most mysterious objects in the universe: black holes. Center planetarium specialists will share the latest data and research on these strange celestial objects in the following age-appropriate shows:

- 10:30 a.m. – Twinkle Tots
 - 11:00 a.m. – Stellar Stars
 - 11:30 a.m. – Mini Missions
 - 1:00 p.m. – Sky Tonight
 - 2:00 p.m. – Phantom Universe: The Hunt for Dark Matter
- Shows cost \$5/person. Children 6 months and under are free. Plan your visit at www.lensc.org/program-calendar. The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on Thanksgiving Day). ●

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

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This newspaper is offered **free** to the community, thanks to the civic-minded businesses and organizations that support the project through advertising and distribution.

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Is an aspirin a day right for you?

by DIANA PI, M.D.

Last year, my younger brother turned 56, gained a few pounds. His blood pressure was up. Diabetes runs in our family. He started taking a baby aspirin a day because he read somewhere it's good for his heart.

At the time, I thought nothing of it. What harm can a baby aspirin a day do? But after reading the draft of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's (USPSTF) new guidelines on aspirin, I'm having second thoughts.

For almost a century, cardiovascular disease, mostly heart attacks and strokes, has been the leading cause of deaths in the U.S. It accounts for one in three deaths.

Those who suffer one event are at high risk of having a second one. Study after study showed that aspirin can significantly reduce the chance of a *second* heart attack or stroke. Aspirin works by reducing inflammation and, more importantly, impairing blood clot formation. It's so effective that low-dose or baby aspirin (81 mg) works just fine.

In 2002, the American Heart Association began to endorse using low-dose aspirin to reduce first heart attacks and strokes for *at-risk* people (I'll explain later how doctors determine *risk*).

But they're problems in paradise; aspirin is very safe, but not risk-free. The big elephant is bleeding – especially brain and gastrointestinal track (e.g., stomach ulcers). Although rare, it can result in transfusion, hospitalization, and death.

Enteric-coated aspirin costs more but does not protect us from ulcers or bleeding. These side effects don't depend on how or where the pills are digested; they result from the actual chemical that circulates in the blood.

In the new USPSTF draft, what

stays the same? If you *don't* have cardiovascular diseases and are between the age of 40 and 60, you could discuss starting aspirin with your physician.

What's different? If you're over 60, the USPSTF experts are *against* using aspirin to prevent a first heart attack or stroke.

My takeaways:

1. If you have had cardiovascular disease or something that prompted your doctor to start you on aspirin, please stay on it. This guideline does not apply to you.
2. If you're between 40 and 60, your neighbor just had a five-vessel bypass, and now you're thinking about aspirin, talk to your doctor. To qualify, you need to have a high risk of developing heart disease and a low risk of bleeding. First, doctors will estimate your heart attack risk by using a validated calculator, then they'll determine your risk of bleeding. Only then will you have enough information to decide.
3. If you're over 60, aspirin is not a good choice. You're better off working with your doctor to optimize your cholesterol and blood pressure. Also quit smoking, eat better, exercise more, and – here's one thing we don't talk enough about – lower your stress.
4. Finally, most people don't know that aspirin is handled carefully before surgery. Because one dose can cripple proper clotting for days to a week, remember to disclose any aspirin intake to your dentist, surgeon, and anesthesiologist.

I called my brother. His calculated heart risk is low which precludes much benefit from aspirin. Great news. He said after taking aspirin for a few months, he stopped it anyway.

So much for free medical advice. ♦



Tree Lighting & Caroling

in the Courtyard

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 at 7:00 pm
Bay Presbyterian Church
Everyone's welcome!

This community-wide event will include singing carols, reading the Christmas story, and lighting a 15-foot tree in the courtyard - all while enjoying a holiday treat of hot chocolate and cookies.

Bay Presbyterian Church || 25415 Lake Road
Bay Village, OH 44140 || 440.871.3822 || baypres.org

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SocksPlus.org

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Supporting our military families

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

November is Military Family Month, dedicated to military families in Ohio and around the world. The annual observance recognizes the commitment, dedication and sacrifices Ohio's military families make for our military to remain organized and strong.

On Monday, Oct. 25, the Bay Village Board of Education passed a Resolution in Support of Military-connected Children and Families. The initiative, spearheaded by Interim Superintendent Char Shryock, realizes there are many military-connected families within Bay Village, and the goal is to provide them with the support and resources they need, to eventually become an official Purple Star school district, as recognized by the Ohio Department of Education.

"As Interim Superintendent, I have had the opportunity to personally meet our stakeholders, and I was surprised at the depth of experience we have within our many military-connected families, both active and retired," said Shryock. "With the help of Bay Village Schools parent Bernadette Power and her husband, Mike, a Lieutenant in the Coast Guard, I was able to assemble a Purple Star advisory group to get this initiative underway. I am grateful that the Board also realizes the importance of the goal to become a Purple Star District."

The Resolution, in its entirety, is shared below:

WHEREAS, our country and our community owes the daily freedoms to the members of the Armed Forces, our Veterans, their



PHOTO COURTESY BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

family members and the loved ones who share in their service and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges that military families in the fulfillment of their duties to our nation face unique challenges including frequent deployments, service in combat zones, and relocations; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education further acknowledges that the families of those serving in the National Guard and Military Reserve Forces, in fulfillment of their duties face unique challenges including participating in regular training, the possibility of deployment, and service that takes them away from their job, community and family; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to recognize the importance of supporting the Bay Village graduates who are now serving in the military, and their families in our community; and,

WHEREAS, we celebrate the exceptional service, strength and character of all military-connected students, families, and the veterans in the Bay Village City School District community; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to further improve the support, understanding, and outreach for the military-connected families attending our schools; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bay Village City School District affirms a commitment to support all of our military families and is dedicated to providing resources and programs, which could benefit students and families academically, socially, and emotionally; and, that the Bay Village City School District shall continue to develop programming to ease the burden of service for military families by both raising the level of understanding and support by the staff members of this district and continuing to celebrate military service in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are necessary to effectuate the terms and intent of this resolution.

"We know how important community support and resources are when entering a new area," said Bernadette Power, who moved to Bay Village last year as an active duty military family. "Our experience of

moving coast to coast (and back again) has made us so grateful to the many communities that welcomed and supported us over the years. I am very excited to help move the Purple Star initiative forward in our Bay Village community. The initiative was brought to me by Superintendent Shryock, who is spearheading this and working tirelessly to bring this resolution into fruition."

The Purple Star Committee consists of: Interim Superintendent Char Shryock; Board of Education member Dr. Scott Schulz; Mike and Bernadette Power; Dave Shah; Walter Topp; and April and Walter Harper.

"What better time to announce this Resolution than shortly before Veterans Day," said Dr. Scott Schulz. "Everyone in the community values the brave men and women who are currently serving or who have served our nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. To see Bay Village Schools recognize their sacrifice and commit to better supporting the needs of these families is a wonderful reminder and reflection of our shared values." ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD Cacophony inside Tak's head

by TAK SATO

As we head into Thanksgiving, I have a lot of things to be thankful for this year. I regained my hearing after being deaf for almost 18 months, thanks to the University Hospitals team led by Dr. Rivas who handled my cochlear implant surgery.

Our non-profit, Center for Aging in the Digital World, after five years has a permanent home to offer the "Discover Digital Literacy!" programs, thanks to the in-kind gift from Advent Episcopal Church in Westlake. By having the use of their facilities, the organization will continue to help seniors in our communities discover the 21st-century life skill of digital literacy in 2022 without worrying about finding a teaching space every quarter.

Despite getting ready to finish 2021 strongly, I have a personal conundrum that I probably should consult fellow WBVO columnist Mr. Jeff Bing as it pertains to professional sports. My buddy Dave already tried to help me with my quest to find an "affordable" streaming service that will enable me to stream one thing, and one thing only, at a reasonable price: Cleveland Cavaliers games.

Up until two seasons ago, I had this down pat. As the family geek-in-residence, I had chosen a cost effective streaming service years ago. Most importantly, the streaming service included multiple ESPN channels and the TNT channel to satiate my son's cravings for Cavs games and college football games.

What the streaming service didn't offer, i.e. Cleveland affiliates of network

channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, PBS), we received over-the-air (OTA) so we could watch some Guardians, err Indians back then, games and of course the Browns.

When I "cut the cord" more than a decade ago, it was mostly a financial decision as my family's lack of TV viewership didn't make any sense to have cable TV bundled with internet services; so we unbundled and kept only the internet service. Although I still believe that cutting the cord provides financial incentive for our family's limited entertainment budget, I have observed a worrisome trend over the last couple years where streaming package prices are creeping up. Only time will tell if streaming package pricing will rival that of cable TV!

Although rife with warning language that ends with "your PC will no longer be supported and won't be entitled to receive updates" if you install Windows 11 on a computer that doesn't meet minimum requirements, Microsoft has recently outlined alternative installation methods to do just that. Popular media, especially in the digital world, have been quick to spawn articles that, if not read in its entirety, can give a false impression that minimum requirements can be circumvented. My recommendation is to wait for Windows Update to tell you yea/nay or install the "PC Health CheckUp" application from microsoft.com.

As for me, I'm sticking with Windows 10 on my aging laptop until the planned demise on Oct. 14, 2025. After all, it's not like Windows 11 will do my windows (pun intended) and it's too early to tell if it's a must-have or a turkey! ●

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Westlake Porter Public Library's late November calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's late November 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, Nov. 19 (9:30-10 a.m.) **Yoga with Ms. Jen!** – Calm your body, mind, and spirit in this yoga class taught by Ms. Jen, certified yoga instructor! Wear comfy clothes and bring your own mat or towel. Ages 2-6. Masks are required for anyone ages 2 and up. Please register.

Friday, Nov. 19 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday: Volcanoes** – Some volcanoes erupt slowly and others are fast. Let's explore volcanoes by making some of our own pretend lava eruptions. Ages 4-6, up to kindergarten. Please register.

Saturday, Nov. 20 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Adapted Storytime** – Join us for this storytime designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime. Content is geared toward ages 3-7 years. Please register.

Saturday, Nov. 20 (3-3:34 p.m.) **Pre-Cooking Skills for Kids** – Get ready to cook by learning important skills you will use in the kitchen! Ages 8-12 No food will be consumed or prepared during this program. No sharp knives or heat will be used. It is led by a librarian, not a chef or

occupational therapist. Please register. Monday, Nov. 22 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Monday, Nov. 22 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Alternatives to Cable TV (Live)** – Frustrated with cable? Let us help you sort through the alternatives available. Learn about digital media players, streaming services, and additional options. Please register to receive the Zoom link.

Wednesday, Nov. 24 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) **Discovery Box Sign-Up** – Teens in grades 7-12: You'll receive a survey to fill out, and we'll use your responses to create a custom Discovery Box! Register beginning Nov. 17. Pick-Up your box on Dec. 1 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24 – **Thanksgiving Eve: Library closes at 5 p.m.**

Thursday, Nov. 25 – **Thanksgiving Day: Library Closed**

Sunday, Nov. 28 (2-3 p.m.) **American Girl Doll Club: Luciana Vega, 2018 Girl of the Year** – Luciana is a girl with a head for science and heart set on exploring Mars. We will talk about space, play games, and do a theme-related craft. Ages 6-10. Registration begins Nov. 21.

Monday, Nov. 29 (6:30-10 p.m.) **Indoor Movie Night** – Join us for a family-friendly movie! Please call for the title. Please register.

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

Westlake firefighter/paramedic retires after 30 years of service

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The City of Westlake held a retirement ceremony honoring longtime firefighter/paramedic Craig Goodwin on Wednesday at Fire Station No. 1 on Crocker Road.

Goodwin is an Air Force veteran, as well as a 30-year veteran of the Westlake Fire Department. In fact, it was the Air Force that gave him his start fighting fires before coming to work for the City of Westlake in April 1991.

Westlake Fire Chief Jim Hughes presented Goodwin a personalized plaque and his helmet and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Freeman read an official proclamation detailing his life and career with Westlake, as well as his plans for retirement. ●



Craig Goodwin

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Bay BOE Nov. 8 meeting overview

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of the Nov. 8 meeting of the Bay Village Board of Education. It is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters, nor does it represent the official minutes of the meeting.

by LWV observer CYNTHIA WHITE

The regular meeting of the Bay Village Board of Education was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by board president Lisa Priemer in the middle school cafeteria. Board members in attendance were Beth Lally, Scott Schulz, Dave Vegh and Lisa Priemer. Paul Vincent was absent.

Donation: The first order of business was the acceptance of a donation for the Carlene H. Bonds English as a Second Language scholarship for the Bay Village City School District by Devon Gess, choir director.

Staff recognition: William (Bill) Mears, Glenview was recognized on his retirement.

Board policies: First reading of several proposed revised Board policies occurred. These can be found at go.boarddocs.com/oh/bvcsd/Board.nsf/Public.

Consent items:

- Certified Personnel – activity contracts for extended day at Normandy were approved
- Special project contract – homebound instruction and mentor teachers contracts were approved
- Service contract of English language tutor at Normandy was approved
- FMLA for two individuals was approved
- Supplemental contract for ski club advisor was approved

Classified personnel: A variety of personnel changes were approved.

Field trip: A single-day, out-of-state field trip for eighth-graders to Pittsburgh on May 23, 2022, was approved.

Workers Compensation third party service agreement: An agreement with Kaderavek LP was approved for services as continuous for one year (11/1/2021-11/1/2022) then subject to termination with 60 days written notice.

Purchase of Chromebooks:

Approved authorization for purchase of 800 Chromebooks not to exceed \$249,000 and to be reimbursed fully through the Emergency Connectivity Fund federal grant.

Superintendent report:

Interim superintendent Char Shryock reported there will be a job fair at the BOE on Nov. 16 – multiple jobs of various types available throughout the school system. Mrs. Shryock is holding “Talk Soup” chats in various areas of the community such as Mojo's, a football game, trunk-or-treat event at Glenview. She plans to continue to hold these in the future and looks forward to meeting many community members. Leaf rakeout held again this year – the school system is glad to be able to provide this valuable service to the community.

Purple star update: a single point of contact has been identified at each school for military families to have their questions answered.

In person performances: a musical concert and play (“Blithe Spirit”) have been held and all involved were happy to be in person again.

Bay Village Education Foundation has purchased Clever Touch boards for several classrooms – great improvement over white boards.

Blue Ribbon Award Ceremony – Mrs. Shryock attended the National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Blue Ribbon Award for exemplary high performance was presented to Westerly School. There are over 130,000 K-12 school systems in the U.S. and only 325 received these awards. She created a slide show to show the students at Westerly the awards ceremony and some sights in Washington, D.C.

Student achievements – Cara Radcliffe received the Girl Scout Gold Award for creating a musical garden behind Westerly School in memory of Carey Englebrecht, longtime Westerly music teacher.

Norah Hamil and Jennifer Koomar were recognized for becoming the first Eagle Scouts from BSA Troop 40.

Treasurer report: Meghan Rohde is preparing the five-year forecast to present to the board at the next meeting.

Other Business: Paul Vincent will be the President Pro Tem at the Jan. 10 meeting.

Public Participation: Time was allowed for public participation but no one requested time to speak.

Executive session: The public meeting was adjourned for executive session.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be Monday, Nov. 22. ●

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Post your group’s free community events online at wbvobserver.com

Thursday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: FUEL THE MIND & IMAGINATION
Join the staff of the Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation for Brain Health with a series of arts enrichment sessions. Enjoy the rhythm and tempo of music through a variety of songs and instruments showcasing different decades. Registration required: 440-871-6885. Please bring a brown bag lunch.
West Shore YMCA, 1575 Columbia Rd., Westlake

Saturday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
GRATITUDE HOLISTIC FAIR
Free admission with a non-perishable food item. Psychic readers, tarot card readers, healers, vendors, speakers, and community. Visit harmonicjourneys.net for more information.
Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd., Westlake

Monday, Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
'CARE & SHARE' TABLETOP HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
In this hands-on meeting, Bay Village Garden Club members will create unique table decorations for seniors and cancer patients in our community. Due to Covid rules, meetings are limited to members only. It is easy to become a member and enjoy the company of others who are interested in nature and plants. Contact Sharen at 440-871-9098 or rjsvec@sbcglobal.net. Learn more at bayvillagegardenclub.com.
Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 26 to Sunday, Dec. 12
BAY KIWANIS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
Bay Kiwanis is selling a variety of cut and bundled Christmas trees. Prices start at \$55. Delivery is free within Bay Village (\$10 fee for surrounding

communities). Special hours on Nov. 26: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Regular hours: Fridays, 4-7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
West Shore YMCA, 1575 Columbia Rd., Westlake

Saturday, Nov. 27, 4:30 p.m.
FREE GRAB 'N' GO MEAL
Hosted by Redeemer Church, Westlake, and Clague Road Church. Free to all.
Clague Road UCC, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted

Thursday, Dec. 2, 5-9 p.m.
HOLIDAY SHOPPE AT VILLAGE PROJECT
Shop and visit with local vendors featuring a variety of unique, specialty food and gift items. Check out our selection of locally-sourced products as well as items made right in the Village Project kitchen. Cost: Free with suggested donation of one or more items

from our list at ourvillageproject.com/ways-to-give.
Village Project, 27378 W. Oviatt Rd., Bay Village

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2-3 p.m.
AUTHOR MEET & GREET AND BOOK SIGNING
USA Today bestselling author, Amanda Flower, will discuss her new novel, "Farm to Trouble: An Organic Cozy Mystery." Call 440-871-6885 with questions.
West Shore YMCA, 1575 Columbia Rd., Westlake

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2-4 p.m.
CAHOON CHRISTMAS
Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will tour Bay Village aboard a fire truck, departing Bay Lodge at 2 p.m. See page 3 for the route. After their ride, Mr. & Mrs. Claus will greet families at Cahoon Park Gazebo and will help light the city's holiday tree.
Cahoon Park Gazebo, Bay Village

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