

Westlake teachers strive for innovation, creativity in the classroom



Developing a growth mindset at Westlake Elementary School.

by MARY ESSIG

How do you engage students who have missed out on a year of “normal” academic learning? How do you foster a mindset of perseverance amid challenges? In this current Covid-impacted environment, these are the questions facing teachers everywhere. And for a group of Westlake Elementary School teachers, bringing creative and innovative learning techniques into the classroom is their answer to these questions.

As students returned to in-person learning last year, Westlake Elementary School teachers noticed differences in how students dealt with being in a classroom with their peers and tackling daily educational assignments. When three of the teachers – Brandi Mattingly, Becky Kowalski, and Erin Vanek – heard about the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Westlake Educational Foundation, they applied and were ultimately awarded a grant to purchase KEVA Blocks.

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Podcast for older adults to launch this month

by CHERYL SHAVER

Podcasts are the new “talk radio.” The host and guest(s) have open discussion on topics from A-Z. A unique “video podcast” focused on topics for people 55+ will begin broadcasting this month from the theater at the Westlake Community Services Center, 28975 Hilliard Blvd. The series will begin with some prepared subjects, but the plan is to incorporate members and community to participate

in discussions making it their own.

The pilot episode will kick off on Friday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m., featuring the Virtual Brain Health Center. Learn the basics to understand how now is the time for brain health. Leave with practical tips and resources to support your optimal brain care. Dr. Krystal L. Culler, DBH, MA and LeAnne Stuver, M.Ed., BSN will take you on their journey to creating this virtual resource that is beneficial for all ages.

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Bay Village Community Council announces Citizen, Project of the Year



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay Village Historical Society president Cathy Flament examines an antique iron with volunteer Diane Pavan in the basement kitchen of the Rose Hill Museum. The historical society’s revitalization work was named Project of the Year.

by TARA WENDELL

Members of the Bay Village Community Council met on Jan. 24 to review nominations and select this year’s Citizen and Project of the Year. A committee of six people, themselves active volunteers in the community, unanimously voted to honor Patrick McGannon for his sustainability and bicycling safety efforts, and the Bay Village Historical Society’s revitalization project, “Shining a New Light on the Past.”

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Chances are, you know Patrick McGannon and may not even realize it.

If you’ve ridden your bicycle through Bay Village in the past decade, you know Patrick. If you’ve filled your water bottle at the Dwyer Center or one of the city’s parks, you know him. If you’re a member of the new composting collection site at Bay Lodge, if you’ve participated in a stream cleanup, if you fill your curbside recycling bin every week, Patrick’s volunteerism has affected you.

Patrick has spent most of his life in Bay Village, aside from four years earning a biology degree at John Carroll University and a few years working in Seattle. During the day, he is vice president of OneLink Technical Services, an IT firm in Westlake, but in his free time, Patrick devotes countless hours to volunteerism and advocacy.

His passion for sustainability and cycling fuels his efforts.

“I volunteer because I believe it is an important part of being in a community and it helps bring additional focus to critical issues



PHOTO BY LUKE REDMOND

Patrick McGannon, Bay Village Citizen of the Year.

that otherwise might not receive as much attention,” Patrick said. “If we don’t address the habits that brought humanity to this tipping point of significantly accelerated climatic change and the polluting of our air, water, and soil, then current and future generations will suffer due to our inaction. It is the loving thing to do to think of how our actions negatively affect others and to then take corrective actions, both personally and at the policy level.”

Patrick was a charter member of the Bay Village Green Team when it launched in 2008. Originally started as a bunch of volunteers assembled by former Mayor Debbie Sutherland, the group branched out to become a standalone nonprofit organization in 2015.

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TEACHERS

from front page

The Westlake Educational Foundation awards grants to Westlake City School teachers and staff for projects that enhance the educational opportunities and learning experiences of students over and above the required curriculum, giving special consideration to proposals that demonstrate creativity and innovation in student learning. Grants will not be made for those expenses normally covered within the school district's budget.

Upon receiving the KEVA Blocks, the teachers immediately began using them in their classrooms. Some of the KEVA Block challenges include: build the tallest tower with only one plank as the base and build the longest structure hanging off the edge of the table. Brandi Mattingly reports that students initially felt tasks were hard or

impossible or even unfair when other students were successful, and they were not. Working to change a student's mindset to one of growth, where they believe in their ability to grow and strengthen their intelligence and talent with hard work and practice, is the goal. As students continue to work with the KEVA Blocks, Mattingly has heard them say, "this was hard, but I am glad I tried more strategies," and "I am going to take a huge risk by trying this." Mattingly reports, "Overall, students are enjoying the process, resulting in greater risk-taking while designing and building." Enhancing educational opportunities and experiences of Westlake City Schools' students by offering grant opportunities is at the core of the Westlake Educational Foundation's mission. However, without adequate funding the Foundation cannot achieve its mission. While supporters may contribute directly to the Foundation on its website at www.wlake.org/about-us/

westlake-educational-foundation, they also have the opportunity to support the Foundation through its annual car raffle. In partnership with Serpentine Chevrolet of Westlake, the Foundation is currently holding its second annual car raffle. A 2022 Chevy Trax is the grand prize. Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters, Westlake Music Boosters, Westlake PTAs, and Westlake Alumni Association are also partnering with the Foundation and have donated prizes for the raffle. The drawing will be on Feb. 4 during the Westlake High School boys' varsity basketball game. Tickets are \$25 each and available online at wlake.org/about-us/westlake-educational-foundation until Jan. 31 or can be purchased in-person at the Westlake Board of Education, formerly Hilliard Elementary School, at 24365 Hilliard Blvd. and at Westlake High School athletic events until Feb. 4. Each ticket includes Serpentine Chevrolet oil change coupon valued at \$20. ●

COY/POY

from front page

Patrick led the charge to acquire 501(c)(3) status and has served as the board president since then. During his 13-plus years with BVGT, Patrick has worked with other volunteers to put in place many sustainability initiatives ranging from clean air and water, to waste reduction, to recycling and composting. He created a monthly waterways cleanup program, obtained a grant from the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District for kits to test the water quality in Bay's creeks, worked with the City to

switch to an automated trash and recycling service, created a survey to poll residents about composting and worked hand-in-hand with Rust Belt Riders to bring a collection site to Bay Lodge. He also furthered the Green Team's goal to reduce plastic bottle waste by installing water bottle filling stations in public areas. Patrick researched various models and site locations, resulting in the donation of filling stations in the Dwyer Center, City Hall, Cahoon Park, Bradley Road Park and Huntington Beach. The public's embrace of these stations has encouraged the city to take the reins and continue outfitting public spaces with them. Patrick was also a founding member of the Village Bicycle Cooperative in 2011 after Jennifer Smilie presented her idea of a nonprofit bicycle cooperative at a Green Team meeting, and he continues to serve on the board of that organization. As a member of VBC, Patrick led the effort to donate and install "Share the Road" signs throughout the city to remind drivers that Ohio law affords bicycles the same rights to the road as motorized vehicles. He also spent a year doing a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work to help Bay Village City Council rewrite the city's bicycling ordinances to match the state's in 2014.

"Patrick is genuinely concerned about the environment and takes action in his personal life to foster a healthier living space for all of us," his nominator wrote. "He walks the talk, or should I say he rides the talk as he rides his bike rather than take his car, either going to work or buying groceries. He is an example for all of us."

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

The pandemic has reached into every corner of our lives, upending plans and requiring changes to standard procedures. Businesses, organizations and individuals have all had to adjust. Many have suffered, but some have found a silver lining in the new – and hopefully temporary – way of doing things. One such group is the Bay Village Historical Society. When covid-19 rules mandated the closure of Rose Hill Museum and the Reuben Osborn Learning Center, volunteers decided to get to work. In 2020, BVHS began a

complete inventory of the museum's massive collection, leading to the discovery of hidden treasures and a reorganization of the museum. Over the next year, more than 110 volunteer hours were logged every week. Some worked from home, others worked in pairs at Rose Hill – masked and socially distanced. By the end of 2021, more than 7,000 historical artifacts were entered into an archival software database, along with over 11,000 images of those items. "I am so proud and grateful for all the individuals who have stepped forward to help and donated so much of their time to make this project as successful as it has been so far," said Cathy Flament, Bay Village Historical Society president. "This has definitely been a group effort." Posters depicting the lineage of five early Bay Village (then Dover) families were installed. Accompanying the display are objects once owned by the Cahoons, Osborns, Saddlers, Aldriches and Wischmeyers. Pedestal signs were installed in various rooms in Rose Hill with background information and a QR code directing visitors to a website with more historical information and an audio recording. The recordings are available at bayhistorical.com for those wishing to relive Bay's past from the comfort of their homes. Additional signage throughout the museum educates visitors about the significance of various items, which has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response. Four life-size cutouts of the Cahoon sisters that were fading with age after 20 years were copied onto plywood and painstakingly painted in color by volunteer Pamela Ebert. The Cahoon Cabin in the Cahoon creek valley behind Rose Hill was finally reopened to the public in 2021 after being thoroughly cleaned, inventoried and reorganized.

The historical society's current endeavor to share Bay's past with present generations is a twice-monthly blog post highlighting an artifact from the collection and encouraging visitors to explore more. "Glimpse of the Past" can be viewed at bayhistorical.com/blog-entries. To see a slice of Bay Village history in person, visit Rose Hill Museum and the Reuben Osborn Learning Center on Sundays, 2-4:30 p.m., beginning this April. Tours are also available by appointment; phone 216-386-5997. ●

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Westlake City School District celebrated School Board Recognition Month

by KATHLEEN CROUSE

The Westlake City Schools District joined more than 700 school districts throughout Ohio to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

“Our school board members are citizen-servants who shoulder critical responsibilities and often make difficult choices for our district,” superintendent Scott Goggin said. “Their focus is always on the future success of the children in our district. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do.”

Serving as a link between the community and classroom, school board members are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for public schools.

Our school board members have been hard at work this school year sup-

porting our students and faculty. They worked diligently on restart plans and safety protocols to keep students and staff safe and in schools. Additionally, they supported Westlake students’ efforts in events such as the DIS pollinator garden opening, the WES pumpkin patch and their athletic and academic endeavors at all grade levels.

Our school board members also give back by offering an annual student scholarship and serving in various local organizations.

Current board members serving the Westlake City Schools District are Joe Kraft, John Finucane, Barbara Leszynski, Dr. Bob Stoll and Liz Pirnat.

For President Joe Kraft, preparing students for the future is a primary goal.

“[I want us to] create career paths for our future graduates,” said Kraft. “As our world moves faster and faster, let’s make certain to keep our students healthy in

mind, body and spirit as we prepare them for a bright future.”

As a school board member, Dr. Bob Stoll sees the importance of clear communication.

“I believe that a school board must be responsive and receptive to parents, staff, students and the community at large, encouraging an open dialogue,” said Stoll. “The board must take input from all groups and weigh all the facts before making a decision.”

Barbara Leszynski credits her 25-year career in public schools with showing her what students need to succeed.

“As an educator, I fully understand how schools educate students,” said Leszynski. “I pledge to continue my work as an advocate for strong schools with quality programs administered with fiscal prudence, so we ensure that our kids are successful no matter what career path they choose to pursue.”

As someone who has raised his own family in Westlake, John Finucane views his school board position as a way to give back.

“The families of Westlake invest in their schools because they know it will continue to make their city a great place to live,” said Finucane. “I want to give

back to the community that is helping my wife and I raise our family.”

Board member Liz Pirnat is a Westlake parent and knows what community members want to hear from their school board.

“We must continue to strengthen our communication and outreach to our families and the community,” said Pirnat. “In a time of information overload, Westlake Schools needs to determine what is effective, and what is not, in its methods of communicating information.”

Even when their personal ideologies differ, our school board members keep their shared goals at the forefront of everything they do. They have a strong respect for one other and the community, which enables them to be understanding, focused and balanced.

“It’s more important than ever that communities support public education so that today’s students are prepared to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow,” Goggin said. “Please take a moment and tell school board members ‘thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community.’ Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.” ●

THE MEDICAL INSIDER Take another look at prediabetes

by DIANA PI, M.D.

Last week, I did a glucose test on a 57-year-old patient because of urinary symptoms. The elevated number suggested she had diabetes. She wasn’t surprised. All her paternal aunts have diabetes. Until then, she was hoping she’d taken after her mom’s side of the family.

Later, I reviewed her old blood tests. A thought gnawed. While her previous glucose levels had been “normal,” they’d crept up into the prediabetic range. Had I told her that she was a prediabetic, could it delay her developing diabetes?

A sobering fact: Almost one in two Americans over the age 18 are either diabetic or prediabetic. Prediabetics make up 70% of that group. By the way, I’m talking about type 2 diabetes, or adult-onset diabetes, which is 90 to 95% of all diabetics.

Becoming a diabetic is very compli-

cated. It’s genetic predisposition, inflammation (common causes are eating saturated fat, being overweight), and deconditioning (lack of exercise) – a gradual process that can take years to a decade.

At the end, organs, like the liver, become more resistant to insulin’s signals and the body can’t make enough insulin to keep up.

Parts of diabetes are irreversible. For example, insulin is made by specialized cells in our pancreas, an organ behind our stomach. For glucose to reach diabetic levels, over 60% of these cells would need to die.

Prediabetes is the 3- to 5-year window before a critical mass of these pancreatic cells are lost. I look at prediabetes not as a disease, but as a wakeup call. For some, a much-needed kick in the butt.

A big problem – and my apology to my patient – the CDC reports only 15% prediabetics were told by their

doctors of their condition.

Hence the current guideline: Because the biggest risk factor for developing diabetes is being overweight, experts recommend screening for diabetes and prediabetes in adults aged 35 to 70 who are overweight (BMI over 25).

And because two out of three Americans are overweight, other expert groups recommend screening everybody over 45, and at any age if you have additional risk factors. Check out the CDC’s website, www.cdc.gov/diabetes, for an online risk calculator and other information.

In the U.S., diabetes bares its fangs as the #1 cause of kidney failure and blindness, the 7th leading cause of death. It’s a major contributor to heart

diseases, strokes, fatty liver, among others.

Good news: Studies show simple lifestyle changes like better diet and exercise (150 minutes of moderate exercise per week) can prevent diabetes for 20% of people. You ask: Am I in the 20%? I don’t know – diabetes is complicated – but I do know you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Metformin, an inexpensive oral diabetic medication, works too, but it’s not FDA-approved for this purpose.

My patient is coming back for a repeat blood test. Because her blood glucose wasn’t really bad, I need two tests to confirm the diagnosis of diabetes. Seeing how positive and motivated she is to make lifestyle changes, I’m optimistic. Computer scientist Dr. Alan Kay once said: “The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” If I missed an opportunity years ago, she’s making it up today. ●

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THE GREEN REPORT

Bay Village compost service is off to great start

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

On Jan. 25, the Bay Village Green Team hosted their quarterly public meeting and reviewed 2021 accomplishments. Last year was a good year for the Green Team, offering the public many opportunities to learn about simple ways to live in a more environmentally friendly way.

The most impactful change that the Bay Village Green Team helped foster in 2021 was coordinating a drop-off compost service for Bay Village. In SEPTEMBER, Rust Belt Riders started its drop-off composting program for residents (or even non-residents who would like to drop their food waste off in Bay Village).

Between September and December, 3,901 pounds were diverted from landfill to compost in Bay Village's drop-off location alone. Fantastic work, Bay Village! We have 43 households signed up to use the drop-off location in the northeast corner of the Bay Lodge parking lot, on Bradley just south of Wolf. The location is accessible 24/7 and provides clean, secured bins for members for \$10/month.

The city and Green Team are aware that the Bradley location is not convenient for a large portion of Bay Village, and will consider another drop-off location on the eastern side of Bay if the current location gains 10-20 more household sign-ups – so please consider

signing up and trying it out for a few months. Also, if more residents sign up, Rust Belt Riders also has a home pick-up service they would start offering, but will not provide it until we have more households. If you would like to see the home pick-up service brought to Bay, please start by signing up for the drop-off location.

Curious about how households collect food waste to bring to the drop-off? Here is a typical scenario: Most people will keep a small container in their kitchen that they will pull out when cooking a meal, and then again when cleaning up, to put food waste in. They will then take this small container (when full) and empty it into a large, 5-gallon bucket (lined with a paper bag) that they keep in their garage. Then, they will transport this bucket over to the drop-off location about once a week.

You're thinking, "But isn't that smelly and gross?" No, it isn't as bad as you think. If the container is open-air, the air circulation helps the food waste not smell. At the drop-off location, members will use a 4-digit code to open the bin and then dump the entire contents of the bucket (including the paper bag). Easy peasy! The bucket is ready to be filled again. To sign up for the service, visit www.bayvillagegreenteam.org and click on "Green Your Waste" on the left then "Drop-Off Food Waste Composting."

In the United States, 40% of all food

is sent to the landfill and only 6.3% is composted. Households account for 43% of this food waste, businesses 40% and farms 16%. Why is it important to compost and to keep food out of the landfill? Compost is a valuable resource so when it ends up in the landfill, it's being wasted. Second, it is in all our interest to keep as much as we can out of the landfill because we are literally filling land with waste – and eventually we will run out of that land. And third, when food breaks down in the landfill it creates methane gas, which accounts for 10% of greenhouse gases emitted in the U.S.

Waste in landfills breaks down anaerobically (without oxygen) which is why it produces methane gas. Methane gas is 25 times more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. Composting completes the cycle of food: it is grown from the earth and then is returned to the earth to enrich it.

So, you're thinking to yourself: "Great! I'll compost! But why do I need to pay for the service and drive it over to a special location?" Well, you CAN compost at home and use your compost for your garden and beds. When you add it to your garden, you are adding nutrients to your soil and improving your garden. Compost takes the place of chemical fertilizers and helps soil retain moisture, meaning you don't have to water as often!

Compost releases nutrients that are long-lasting, contrary to chemical fertilizers that provide a quick dump of nutrients which then wash away into our waterways, adding to the problem that causes the algae blooms in the lake. Composting at home is different than industrial composting, which is what Rust Belt

Riders offers for \$10 a month.

Residential composting is typically comprised of raw fruits and vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds, black and white newsprint, fireplace ashes, dryer lint, and yard waste (leaves, sticks, etc.). Adding meat, dairy, cooked food, and bones to residential composting will attract animals. Keeping those materials out of your home compost will ensure that animals are not attracted to it. I have been composting at home for years and have never had a problem with animals.

Industrial composting is beneficial because you can add ALL food scraps including cooked food, bones, meat, bread, and dairy. You can also add BPI-certified compostable products (disposable plates, forks, cups, etc. are available using this material) so if you are hosting a party and you use BPI-certified products, you can bring all of the party waste over to the new compost bins and guess what? You have a zero-waste party!

What is not accepted at the compost bins is pure oil or pure liquid. For more information, visit bayvillagegreenteam.org. You can also download the free Better Bin app for a complete list.

Whether you decide to compost at home or use the Rust Belt Riders drop-off, please know that you are making a difference. You are keeping a valuable resource out of the landfill, you are adding less to the landfill, and you are doing your part to create a more sustainable future for Bay Village and the earth. Each of our seemingly small acts add up to create a large impact – proven by the impressive amount Bay has already diverted from the landfill in just 4 short months! Imagine what we could do if more of us participated! ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD

How to smoke out a phishing email

by TAK SATO

In the last issue of 2021, to lessen the chance of becoming a "phishing" or "smishing" victim (email or text respectively), I suggested a New Year's resolution: to continue building good habits by ignoring unsolicited emails and text messages. I also wrote about a way to help you smoke out a phishing email after opening an unsolicited message. As always you can read that article and more at wbvobserver.com.

We're only one month into 2022 and I've already been asked several times for my opinion on whether a particular email is legit or not. To empower more people, I'm going to share an additional method I use, in conjunction with the first method, to try to smoke out a phishing attempt.

Windows and MacOS both have a feature where if you "hover" – don't "click" but just hover – your mouse pointer over an icon or a button, it will show you what clicking the icon will do or which website will be loaded upon clicking the button

or link in the email. Just like computers, smartphones/tablets also give out clues. For smartphones/tablets, "press & hold" – don't tap – your finger on the icon or button for the clue to appear.

Using a real example from today, the email in question was a purported message from AOL that was warning the recipient that he was using an old AOL email service and needed to convert to the newer AOL email service to keep his current AOL email address. The call-to-action was a big green button in the message body – click to start this conversion process.

Paul (not his real name) was very concerned about losing his current AOL email address if he didn't take action but as a practitioner of building good habits while traveling the digital world, he was conflicted even though the message came from a legit email

address ending in @aol.com.

Just like Paul, I was able to verify the sender's email address. However, I noted that it was a "personal" AOL email address (johnsmith@aol.com) instead of a typical departmental email address like support@aol.com.

With the above anomaly in mind, I proceeded to hover my mouse pointer to see the clue of where the big green button would take me to. I was expecting that clicking on the button would reveal a website address ending in aol.com. I guessed wrong as it was pointing to a website not even owned by AOL! With that clue, I smoked out a phishing attempt and told Paul to just delete the message.

Also it was sent from a personal email address and not a AOL departmental email address because Paul's friend's email account was compromised. I told Paul to not reply to the phishing email but instead use another communication medium like text or telephone to alert his friend to change the password ASAP so the nefarious cannot continue to send phishing emails from his friend's email account. ●



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Bay Village Schools announces Scholastic Writing Awards winners

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

Bay High School is proud to announce that 15 students received 22 awards in the 2022 Scholastic Writing Awards. Of these recognitions, three were Gold Key awards, four were Silver Key awards and 15 were Honorable Mentions. The Gold Key award is the highest honor of distinction in this competition.

Senior Carli Mendelow received a Gold Key in the Writing Portfolio category; Junior Sarina Poling received a Gold Key in the Personal Essay & Memoir category; and Emilia Ullom received a Gold Key in Poetry.

These submissions were entered into the competition by Bay High School English Department faculty members Erin Beirne and Dr. Kristen Srsen Kenney.

"The Scholastic Awards are a wonderful tribute to the creativity and effort of our talented students," said Dr. Beatriz Bishop, chairperson of the Bay High School English Department. "We are proud of our students and teachers for their hard work."

Faculty from Cleveland Institute of Art served as judges for this annual competition. Below is a complete list of Bay High School's award-winning students.

Gold Keys

Carli Mendelow: "Through My Words"; Writing Portfolio
Emilia Ullom: "to the ends of the earth"; Poetry
Sarina Poling: "Eulogy for Snails"; Personal Essay & Memoir



Scholastic Writing Awards winners, from left: (back row) Elise Kelley, Lauren Cseh, Miya DeBolt, Larson Toil; (front row) Hadley Stevenson, F. Beatty, Evelyn Ray, Charlotte Reising. Not pictured: Evelyn LaPolla, Annie Davenport, Rachel Rankin, Matthew Rosler.

Silver Keys

Lauren Cseh: "Surviving Quaranteen"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Elise Kelley: "My Creator and Me"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Evelyn Lapolla: "Continue?"; Poetry
Hadley Stevenson: "Joining the New Girl Order"; Personal Essay & Memoir

Honorable Mentions

F. Beatty: "Perfect Blue"; Short Story
F. Beatty: "Perennial World"; Poetry
Annie Davenport: "How Will I Ever Escape This Vivarium?"; Poetry
Miya DeBolt: "Society's Shackles"; Short Story



PHOTOS BY ERIN BEIRNE, BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Gold Key winners Carli Mendelow (left) and Sarina Poling (right) removed their masks for a photo. Gold Key winner Emi Ullom is not pictured.

Elise Kelley: "A Mother's Musings for her Toddler with a Lighter"; Poetry
Carli Mendelow: "Life's Bite"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Carli Mendelow: "The Dining Room Table"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Rachel Rankin: "Mia's Grip"; Poetry
Evelyn Ray: "Out of My Head"; Short Story
Charlotte Reising: "Unlucky"; Science Fiction & Fantasy
Matthew Rosler: "A Haunted Teenager"; Poetry
Hadley Stevenson: "Breaking Out"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Hadley Stevenson: "Storms"; Personal Essay & Memoir
Hadley Stevenson: "Sprout, Blossom, Flourish"; Writing Portfolio
Larson Toil: "old lake town"; Poetry

The Bay Village Foundation announces project funding

by ELIZABETH MILLI

Trustees of The Bay Village Foundation announced that the foundation is accepting grant requests for specific projects of local civic and non-profit organizations. Applications are due the last day of February 2022. Awards will be announced in April 2022 and may range from \$500-\$5,000.

The Bay Village Foundation is primarily interested in supporting capital projects that improve the quality of life in the city of Bay Village. Projects must be responsive to community needs. The Foundation will also consider requests for support of programs that benefit the citizens of the Bay Village.

To be eligible, an organization must be located in or provide services to residents within the City of Bay Village. Funding will only be awarded to tax-exempt organizations classified as 501(c)(3) charities by the Internal Revenue Service, or programs that have a tax-exempt fiscal agent.

If you have questions, please contact Larry Hull at the email below.

Grants totaling \$23,967 were awarded in 2021 to the following recipients: Village Project, Bay Rockets Association, Youth Challenge, Bay Village Library, BAYarts, Lake Erie Nature Center, Bay Village Historical Society, League of Women Voters and Normandy PTA.

The grant application, additional required documentation and filing instructions are available on The Bay Village Foundation website at www.thebayvillagefoundation.org. Mail the completed application and attachments to Mr. Larry Hull, Grant Committee Chairman, The Bay Village Foundation, P.O. Box 40122, Bay Village, Ohio 44140 or send by email to lhull@baycorp.com.



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Bay Village scout pack celebrates 80 years

by RANDY RISCH

Bay Village Cub Scout Pack 39 is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2022. The Scouts most recently attended the Cleveland Monsters hockey game on Jan. 22, serving as Color Guard for the opening ceremonies.

The community is invited to an anniversary celebration

on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 6-8 p.m. at Bay Middle School. Bring your own Pinewood Derby car for a ride on a classic wooden track, or build one from plastic blocks provided. Light refreshments will be served. Please wear masks while indoors. The address is 27725 Wolf Road.

Visit tinyurl.com/bvpack39 to learn more about the Pack. ●



Bay Village Cub Scout Pack 39 at the Cleveland Monsters hockey game on Jan. 22.

Westlake Porter Public Library's early February calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early February 2022 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.

Tuesday, Feb. 1 (7-8:45 p.m.) World at War Forum (Virtual) – The World at War Forum is a group of local people interested in the history of the first 50 years of the 20th century and the cataclysmic World Wars and associated events that helped shape our current world. The February program will be "Three Presidents Go to War." Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge William F.B. Vodrey will discuss presidents William McKinley, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt, all of whom grappled with the responsibility of sending U.S. service members to war. Please register for Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, Feb. 2 (6:30-8 p.m.) Horror Film Club (Virtual) – Join us for another creepy classic! New members are welcome, but children under 13 must be with an adult. The February film will be virtual only – we will stream on Watch2Gether.com. The link will be posted at 6 p.m. the day of the program.

Wednesdays, Feb. 2 and 9 (7-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, Feb. 12 (10-10:30 a.m.) Family Storytime – Join us for rhymes, songs and play! For families with children ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome. Registration begins one week before each session.

Thursday, Feb. 3 (1-7 p.m.) American Red Cross Bloodmobile

Thursday, Feb. 3 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) Teen Craft: Handmade Jewelry – Need a Valentine's Day gift for someone? Just want to learn the basics of handmade jewelry? Join us for this afterschool craft session. Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 3 (4-5 p.m.) Stories in Shadow – Watch Jacqueline Woodson's book, "The Other Side," performed with shadow puppets, then learn how to make shadow puppets of your own to help tell your own stories. Grades 2-5. Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 3 (7-8 p.m.) Harry Potter Book Night (Virtual) – Join us on Zoom to enjoy games, crafts, contests

and other wizarding activities. Supply kits will be available in the Youth Services Department beginning Jan. 27. Please register to reserve a kit (required to participate). All ages. Participants must provide a valid email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Friday, Feb. 4 (4-4:45 p.m.) Fun Science Friday: Animals in Winter – Join Mrs. K to explore the science of animals in winter! Do they hibernate, migrate or adapt? Ages 4-6, up to Kindergarten. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 5 (10:30 a.m.-noon) Medicare Ins and Outs (Virtual) – Do you need accurate, unbiased information about Medicare? Attend a presentation via Zoom by OSHIIP, Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, to learn the "ins and outs" of Medicare. OSHIIP volunteer counselor Jim Langan will discuss your Medicare coverage options. Once registered you will receive an email containing Zoom instructions.

Saturday, Feb. 5 (11-11:30 a.m.) and Thursday, Feb. 10 (6:30-7 p.m.) Adapted Storytime (Virtual) – 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. Registration begins one week before each session.

Saturday, Feb. 5 (3-4 p.m.) Illustration Creation – Learn about a featured illustrator and then create a project inspired by their art. Grades 1-3. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 5 (4-5 p.m.) World Hijab Day Celebration – Join us for an informative program celebrating World Hijab Day presented by the Westside Cleveland Muslim Association (WCMA). World Hijab Day is an annual event founded by Nazma Khan in 2013, held each year in over 140 countries. Come learn about the historical and cultural significance and purposes of the hijab; a Q&A session will follow the presentation. All ages. Please register.

Sunday, Feb. 6 (2-3 p.m.) Art Smarts – Explore works of a well-known artist and then use what you've seen to create an art piece of your own! Grades 3-6. Please register.

Monday, Feb. 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) Valentine Fun Craft Kit Pick-Up – Get ready for Valentine's Day with some fun crafts! Please register.

Monday, Feb. 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) Little Learners Box – Join a community of lifelong learners; it's never too early to start! A Little Learners Box contains a book for you to add to your home library and a few themed activities. Grades K-2. Please register.

Monday, Feb. 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) Teen Craft Pick-Up – Teens in grades 7-12: Stop by the Youth Services Department to pick up a craft kit. Grades 7-12. Please register.

Monday, Feb. 7 (10-10:30 a.m.) Music Monday – Develop pre-reading skills with music, movement and rhythm through stories, songs and rhymes. Ages 2-6. Please register.

Mondays, Feb. 7, 14 and 28 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) Teen Lounge – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge for video games, board games and more! Grades 7-12.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 (4-4:45 p.m.) Ready, Set, Kindergarten! – Children ages 4 and 5 are invited to rotate through skill stations in preparation for making the leap into Kindergarten. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 (7-8:30 p.m.) Tuesday Evening Book Club (In Person & Virtual) – Join us to discuss "Rust: A Memoir of Steel & Grit" by Eliese Colette Goldbach. The discussion will be held in person and on Zoom simultaneously. Please register. If you register for the Zoom option you will receive a Zoom invitation and instructions by email.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) NBA All-Star Game in Cleveland – Cleveland will host the NBA All-Star game on Feb. 20 for the first time in 25 years! It's an event certainly worth celebrating! Join Cleveland sports history educator and enthusiast Gerry Nemeth for this exciting program. Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 10 (2-3:30 p.m. OR 6:30-8 p.m.) Flannel Heart Sachet – Create a scented sachet to freshen up a drawer or closet. Item will require hand-stitching. Registration begins Feb. 3. Sign up for one session only.

Thursday, Feb. 10 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) Roblox Arcade (Virtual) – Love Roblox? 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. Registration begins Feb. 3.

Friday, Feb. 11 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) Jewelry Junction: Valentine's Day Earrings Pick-Up Kit – Celebrate Valentine's Day in style by making a pair of beautiful red crystal hoop earrings. Pick up kits at the Drive-Up window. Registration begins Feb. 4.

Friday, Feb. 11 (4-5 p.m.) and

Sunday, Feb. 20 (2-3 p.m.) Brick Builders – Do you love Legos? Then bring your ideas and imagination to Brick Builders! Bricks provided. No registration required, but room capacity is limited. First come, first served. Ages 5-12.

Saturday, Feb. 12 (10-11 a.m.) Thursday Night Book Discussion – This discussion of "Friends and Strangers" by J. Courtney Sullivan was rescheduled from Jan. 13. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 12 (2-3:30 p.m.) Hand Sewing for Literacy – Learn basic sewing skills and create a sewn project while listening to a story with sewing as its central theme. Hand sewing helps kids develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, self-confidence, patience and focus – skills used in reading and writing. Caregivers are encouraged to stay for the program to learn the sewing techniques and assist their child(ren). Grades 3-5. Younger siblings are welcome and a simple stitching project will be available for them. Registration begins Feb. 5.

Monday, Feb. 14 (7-8:30 p.m.) Maker Monday: Smart Home Devices (Virtual) – Learn about Amazon Echo, Google Home and Nest, plus other smart home devices in this Zoom meeting! Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 (10-10:30 a.m.) Black History Month – Celebrate Black History Month with a fun and educational storytime! Learn about African-American trailblazers through books, songs and fingerplays. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 (7-8:30 p.m.) Author Visit with Lou Masterson – April 1975: the American war in Vietnam is rapidly approaching its end. However, the CIA has one final mission to accomplish – smuggling out the head of South Vietnamese intelligence. Please register.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 (9:30-9:55 a.m.) Stories and Signs – Enjoy interactive stories, songs and movement activities while learning a few words in sign language. Siblings are welcome! Ages birth-3. Registration begins Feb. 9.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 (2-3 p.m.) Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion – This month's title is "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck. Please register.

Wednesdays, Feb. 16, March 16 and April 29 (7-8 p.m.) Women's Financial Planning Series – Join us for this three-part series exploring financial planning topics for women. Presented by Connie Costanzo with Association of Financial Educators. This month's topic is "Financial Planning Basics for Women." Please register.

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

BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Bay Village groups announce plans for new year

by BETH ZELLERS

Members of the Bay Village Community Council met via Zoom on Jan. 24 to share news and notes from their civic organizations. Prior to the regular meeting, a six-person selection committee reviewed nominations for Citizen and Project of the Year and unanimously agreed to honor Patrick McGannon and the Bay Village Historical Society's revitalization efforts.

Following is a condensed report of the groups' activities:

The **Bay Village Branch Library** reports that the new building is on target to be completed by the end of April. The Friends of the Library book sale continues with lots of materials for all ages. A bag of books is \$2, with proceeds supporting library programming. Visit cuyahogalibrary.org to view upcoming programs.

Bay Village Kiwanis sold over 300 Christmas trees between Nov. 27 and Dec. 10. The proceeds will benefit community service programs. The Club is reworking outside display standards for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center and working on projects for BAYarts.

The **Friends of the Bay Village Kennel's** Facebook page has replaced its website. The page publicizes lost and found animals, encourages rescue animal adoption, supports animal rescue organizations, disseminates useful information about animals and animal care, and helps lost and stray community cats through trap/neuter/release. FOBVK responds to neighborhood calls and assists by furnishing material support for lost, stray or injured companion animals, usually cats. The Bay Village Police Department cares for lost or stray dogs by sending them to the Cuyahoga County kennel if their owner is not located within 24 hours.

The **Bay Village Historical Society** will host a Feb. 17 potluck at Bay Lodge on "Matters of the Heart," with the featured speaker talking about courtship practices of the past. Attendees are encouraged to wear red. The main entrée of three soup choices will be provided. Those with a last name beginning with A through L are asked to bring an appetizer to share, while attendees with a last name beginning with M through Z are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. The meeting begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the speaker at 7 p.m. The cost is free for historical society members and \$10 at the door for non-members. RSVP to blinglady17@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is open for free general admission seven

days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free wildlife services are also available seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 440-871-2900, ext. 204 or email wildlife@lensc.org with wildlife questions and concerns. Visit lensc.org for information about upcoming programs.

Village Bicycle Cooperative's Fix It Forward program had a record year in 2021, donating 141 bikes to various charitable organizations. In addition, 180 refurbished bicycles were sold at very reasonable prices to the community. Bike donations will be accepted during volunteer shop hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5 p.m. Check villagebicycle.org for updates.

The **Bay Village City School District** is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bay High School. The annual BHS Talent Show is Feb. 26, 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins Feb. 2. Upcoming Board of Education meetings will be Feb. 7 and Feb. 22. (There are some Tuesday night Board meetings this year. They have traditionally only been on Mondays.) The Board meetings continue to be held at the Bay Middle School cafeteria to allow for more social distancing and more attendees.

The **Bay Village League of Women Voters** is making plans to offer the League's Voter Girl curriculum to local Girl Scout troops. This is a fun and age-appropriate civics curriculum designed for each level of scouting to teach the foundations of democracy.

The **Bay Village Garden Club** adapted to the pandemic by decorating wreaths, centerpieces and boxwood trees to sell for their annual "Greening of Bay" fundraiser, rather than hosting the typical DIY workshops.

The **Bay Village Women's Club's** annual Antique & Vintage Show returns to Bay High Feb. 26 and 27. The Club is looking for volunteers and anyone who might be interested in being the food vendor; i.e. preparing food and selling it at the event.

The **Bay Village Foundation** is accepting requests for funds to be donated for specific projects of local civic and non-profit organizations. Awards may range from \$500-\$5,000. Submission deadline is Feb. 28.

Village Project is hosting their annual Nourish fundraiser on March 12. Visit ourvillageproject.org for tickets. The Project Shoppe will be open on Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Bay Village Community Council will meet again in March. Membership is open to all nonprofit organizations in Bay Village. Contact Tara Wendell, tara@wbvob-server.com, for more information.

SPORTING VIEWS

Players/owners widen MLB strike zone

by JEFF BING

I remember the very first work stoppage in Major League Baseball history, during the spring of 1972. If I'm not mistaken, that means we are a few weeks shy of the golden anniversary of the first one. So, by all means, break open the champagne. Or better still, maestro, "strike" up the band.

Seriously, what better way to take away all the global concern over COVID and other worries in the world than with another baseball strike? As I always say, "strike" while the iron is hot.

The first one, believe it or not, in '72 wasn't that much of a downer, at least for me, anyway. Since there hadn't been a strike ever in the history of baseball, I looked at it more with mild curiosity than disdain.

Salaries, while escalating, were nowhere near the levels of today, even after adjusting for inflation. So, there wasn't that dismissive rolling of the eyes when discussing the strike with other fans. (Not to worry; there'd be plenty of that later in future decades.)

In '72 the start of the season was delayed by a couple of weeks, if memory serves, and when a settlement was reached, it was agreed between the owners and players that none of the games lost due to the strike would be rescheduled. I remember joking with other friends at the time that one or more teams would regret the inconsistent number of games played at the end of the season.

Sure enough, I can remember the Boston Red Sox crying like babies when they finished a half-game out of first place when the season ended. I don't even remember who won the

division that year (but we all know for sure it wasn't Cleveland).

From then until 1994, there were lockouts and other assorted work stoppages; most of which were greeted in Cleveland with indifference, since the quality of baseball on the field had most fans looking at a work stoppage as "Divine Intervention."

In 1994 everything changed, however, as the (finally) contending Indians dropped a game behind the White Sox the day before the strike began. Little did anyone suspect at the time that the season - with almost 1,000 games yet to be played - was toast. (As was Cleveland's dream of a championship).

Over the years, the rhetoric between the players and owners has been - at various times - somewhere between mildly ludicrous and downright unfathomable. Each side will accuse the other of unparalleled greed (and each side, of course, is right). And each side will once again claim to be "only trying to hold on to what we have" (and each side, of course, is lying).

On the fan side of things, the news will show people canceling their season tickets, or taking up cricket as their new pastime. Statistically, the truth is that most of those same folks will be back in the stands sooner rather than later.

Personally, I'm not sure I want to go through another MLB work stoppage. It's the game I love the most, but I find the timing of this particular impasse especially difficult to endure. Baseball is wasting a great opportunity to ride in like a white night and save our sanity.

If the impasse is resolved very soon, no harm done.

If not, then cricket, anyone? ●

PODCAST

from front page

There will be limited seats available in the theater, but you can also watch the live video stream on a YouTube channel as it happens. Both live and remote audiences can ask questions of the guest speaker. The live stream will have a "chat feature" where you can type questions.

Access this article at wbvob-server.com for a link to the video

stream. No reason to miss out, if you are not available for the live presentation, the video will be available to watch on demand long after the event.

Covid protocols will permit a limited audience and masks are mandatory (stay connected to the Community Services Department as protocols can always change). To secure a reservation for a seat at this event, please contact the Westlake Community Services Center at 440-899-3544. ●

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BAY VILLAGE WOMEN’S CLUB FOUNDATION

Winter Antique & Vintage Show in Bay

by BETSY LEYEN

The Bay Village Women’s Club Foundation is excited to announce our 52nd Antique and Vintage Show to be held at Bay High School on Saturday, Feb. 26 and Sunday, Feb. 27.

This annual event is the Women’s

Club’s major fundraiser for scholarship monies made available to Bay High seniors. Since 1936, the Club has given over \$552,000 to 379 deserving seniors. Our first scholarship in 1936 was for \$50! In 2021 we awarded 6 scholarship of \$2,500 each. We are currently reviewing seniors’ applications to be announced

in April 2022. The Women’s Club criteria evaluates financial need, academic achievement, leadership experience and character traits.

The Antique and Vintage Show will be open on Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 donation, with children under 12 free. Each ticket holder is eligible for great door prizes donated by our local businesses.

Interested in values on your possessions? Each attendee is entitled to one free

estimate. Vivid Diamonds & Designs will value jewelry on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Various dealers will evaluate antiques on Sunday from 1-3 p.m.

Multiple vendors will present an array of merchandise, including jewelry, unique furniture, toys, vintage home décor, old radios, classic trains, and much more.

Mark your calendars for this great winter event. The Show and Bay High School require face masks and will spread out exhibits for better social distancing. ●

BAY VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club Greenery

by JULIE FEAGLER

Old man winter gets a speck in his wizened old eye when he swirls around Bay Village. At each entrance to our city he is greeted by a splash of color, thanks to Bay Village Garden Club’s evergreen foliage tucked into our Welcome planters.

Placed in late fall to welcome the holidays, the greenery brings life throughout our notoriously grim winter months. When spring starts to wake up, Club members pull the pine and boxwood from the planters, and fill them with brightly colored living flowers and vines that thrive through the summer.

The Welcome planters are just one of the service projects the Club offers. From Christmas wreathes placed on public building doors at Christmas, to cleaning

and planting annual beds around City Hall and our Gazebo in spring, and contributing to summertime hanging baskets, and providing cheerful holiday mini-bouquets for cancer patients and shut-ins – these and other Club service projects are designed to enhance life in our city. ●



Bay Village Garden Club co-president Eileen Ernst with a Welcome planter.

READER’S OPINION

Life in the bike lane

A cyclist never knows what kind of ride they’ll have as they suit up, throw on their helmet and roll off. It might be a ride where you get a flat tire. It might be a ride where you get caught in an unexpected downpour. Maybe it’s even a ride where you find a wallet or cell phone and begin your own detective work to find the rightful owner or try to find the closest police station to turn it in.

Unfortunately, a cyclist can also find themselves on a ride where they are honked at, yelled at, swerved at and maybe even hit.

Too often rides become cars vs. cyclist.

Drivers are in a hurry. Drivers are angry. Drivers can’t understand

why a cyclist is on the road. But for the most part, motorists don’t seem to know the law. A cyclist has the right to be in the road. A cyclist has the right to an entire lane of traffic if they deem it necessary. Two cyclists can ride next to each other unless there is a sign indicating they can’t on that particular road.

In my opinion, it just becomes a driver’s mentality that gets in the way. Think about it, an autonomous driving car wouldn’t see a cyclist as a cyclist. It would only see a bike as another vehicle of the road. It wouldn’t honk. It wouldn’t yell. And it wouldn’t pass as closely as possible just to prove a point.

Honestly, 99 percent of motorists pass you with plenty of room and go about their day. That’s the best ride a cyclist can have. But it takes just one person who’s having a bad day, wants to yell or just isn’t paying attention. And that’s the worst ride a cyclist can have.

– Frank Patterson, Westlake

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