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Friends of Porter Public Library celebrating 50 years of service in 2022

by ELAINE WILLIS

The Friends of Westlake Porter Public Library is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding this year. To honor this milestone the group is planning a variety of activities throughout 2022. More details will be shared when available, in both the library and Friends newsletters, the Observer and social media.



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

The first Friends meeting was held on Oct. 18, 1972. At that time, there were 66 members. Today the group has a membership of over 200. The first offi-

cers of the organization were: Ruth Lesko, President; Wilson Caldwell, Vice President; Kenneth Crandall, Treasurer; and Myrna Chelko, Secretary. These

four individuals were instrumental in guiding the Friends of Porter Public Library into the organization it is today.

► See FRIENDS page 2

Westlake Garden Club increases accessibility

Some changes are in store for the Westlake Garden Club for 2022. When the club began in 1963 the membership was composed mostly of homemakers who came together to promote horticultural education

and encourage civic beauty and community conservation. The weekday morning meetings fit perfectly into their schedule since it was a time when the children were in school.

► See GARDEN CLUB page 4

Village Project will host Nourish on March 12

by DIANE FRYE

After two long years without an in-person event, Village Project (VP) is pleased to announce that its 7th annual Nourish fundraiser will be a chance to gather together with old and new friends in a new, warm, safe and comfortable environment. VP volunteers and staff have spent months planning and preparing for this phenomenal event. Everyone is invited to experience this uplifting evening to help Village Project reach its goal of raising \$100,000.

Since 2010, VP has served

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

Great Backyard Bird Count

by MARYANN FITZMAURICE

Looking for something to do during the February doldrums? Consider joining in the 25th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, coming up on Friday, Feb. 18, through Sunday, Feb. 21.

What is the Great Backyard Bird Count? It's citizen science. A few days when ordinary people around the world come together to watch and count birds and report their observations to the greater birding community. The bird counts made by these citizen scientists are entered into eBird, one of the world's largest nature databases. And used by the Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Birds Canada to learn about bird populations and determine how best to protect birds and their habitats, like the beaches and woodlands



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Downy Woodpecker at a suet feeder.

along the shore of Lake Erie here in Northeast Ohio.

To participate, all you need to do is spend 15 minutes bird watching and enter the type and number of birds you saw, as well as when and where you saw them, at birdcount.org. You can also share photos of the birds you see, or you and your birding buddies.

► See BIRD COUNT page 4



ACT

from front page

“I would like to thank all of my amazing teachers, especially Mrs. Heather Panter,” said Annabella. “I could not have gotten that score without her College Prep class!”

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each

scored on a scale of 1–36. A student’s composite score is the average of the four test scores. The score for ACT’s optional writing test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.

“Earning a top score on the ACT is a remarkable achievement,” said ACT CEO Janet Godwin. “A student’s exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or

university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead.”

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. Students who earn a 36 composite score have likely mastered all of the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas. ●



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FRIENDS

from front page

Over the past 50 years, the organization has given over \$1,000,000 to the library in donations and materials, and it all started with its first book sale in January 1974, which netted a profit of approximately \$975.

All funds raised by the Friends goes to the library to support programs and projects not included in

the library budget. The group does this through the annual book sale, the Book Nook (used book room), Portables Gift Shop (located in the lobby), membership dues, and special fundraising events.

All activities are conducted by dedicated volunteers.

To join Friends, pick up a membership brochure at the library or click on the Friends tab on the library website, westlakelibrary.org, to print a membership form. ●

NOURISH

from front page

The proceeds from this event allow VP to accomplish its mission: to come together as a community of all ages to provide nourishing meals and extended care and services to our neighbors experiencing cancer.

Guests can buy tickets for raffle baskets, make their pick from wine and gift card pulls, as well as bid on extraordinary silent auction items. Just a small sample includes: a month of VP dinners for four delivered to your door once a week, a relaxing, sunset cruise on Lake Erie and a custom-painted portrait of your pet by West Coast artist Roberta Helvey.

Nourish will be held on Saturday, March 12, from 6–10 p.m. at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 22909 Center Ridge Rd. in Rocky River. Tickets are \$125 and include dinner, beer and wine, music and entertainment. They must be purchased by Feb. 25. To learn more about Nourish, purchase event tickets, and bid on silent auction

items if you’re not able to attend in person, visit: ourvillageproject.com/nourish. For further information, call the Village Project at 440-348-9401.

New this year: Honor your loved ones with the purchase of a Hope Stone (\$10), which will be displayed at Nourish. In addition, the name of your loved one will be scrolled on a screen throughout the evening. Hope Stones will be available at the end of the evening to take home for guests who have purchased them.

Nourish sponsorship opportunities are still available, including limited opportunities to reserve a table for you and your guests. Even if you’re not able to attend, there are other ways you can help the cause, including donating gift cards or wine valued at \$20 or higher as well as items or services for raffle baskets and the silent auction. You can also stop by the VP headquarters to sign up to sponsor a raffle basket. You bring in the items, and VP volunteers will assemble the baskets. More information about these opportunities can be found at ourvillageproject.com. ●



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DEMON DISPATCH

Balance is key for students in Westlake City Schools

by DR. SCOTT GOGGIN
Superintendent, Westlake City School District

Many of us experience a mood shift during the cold, dark days of winter. It's common to feel tired, withdrawn and simply less happy in response to more time spent indoors.

While it can be tempting to want to slow down this time of year, our Westlake students remain busy, juggling academics and extracurricular activities. Not only is it a challenge to accomplish all that needs to be done, it's even harder when motivation is in short supply. That's why it's important to remember the mind-body connection and stay **Balanced** both physically and mentally as we make the slow transition to spring.

A **Balanced** Westlake student expresses a connection between physical well-being and makes conscious decisions that lead to a healthy lifestyle. They establish and maintain positive relationships by being mindful of others. They retain the ability to organize and self-regulate the demands of daily life.

Finding time to devote to every obligation is no easy task; it takes great dedication and perseverance. Westlake students are tasked with

doing this every day as they balance their personal schedules along with their responsibilities both inside and outside of the classroom.

With so much going on in the world and in everyday life, it's a struggle to remain **Balanced**. But when students remain focused on both their physical and mental health, they can learn how to address their needs and the needs of others more effectively.

They can find ways to stay active and physically fit and practice techniques to quiet their minds. They can devote energy to their studies and extracurriculars, while also nurturing their personal relationships.

The skills our students develop now will prepare them for the future and provide them with the tools they need to effectively manage their time, collaborate with others, and make healthy choices, all while keeping their mental well-being at the forefront.

It's tempting to tune out and wait for warmer days ahead, but at Westlake, our students remain focused on their goals. I am inspired by them as they continue to support one another, stay positive and remain engaged. They balance their commitment to themselves with their commitment to their academic careers and maintain an equilibrium that keeps them on the path toward success. ●

Local D.A.R. chapter named for the 1st First Lady of the U.S.?

by MARY KAY WILSON

The Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, based here in Bay Village, was organized on Oct. 5, 1940. It was named to honor Martha Devotion, oldest daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Devotion and Martha Lathrop.

Martha Devotion was married, in 1761, to Samuel Huntington of Connecticut, who became a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Connecticut, and, in 1779, President of the 6th Continental Congress.

No children were born to Martha Huntington and her husband but they adopted two children of his brother, Rev. Joseph Huntington, who were carefully reared and educated. One of these children, Samuel Huntington, became Governor of Ohio, in 1810 and 1811. Martha Huntington died in 1794, in her 56th year and her distinguished husband, two years later, aged 65. Their remains rest side by side in the old burying ground in Norwich, Connecticut.

Why the DAR chapter's organizing committee came to choose to honor Martha is unknown. Did Martha or her husband, Samuel, even come to Ohio? Was it because her adopted son became Ohio's 3rd governor? Or was it some other reason?

By some accounts, her husband Samuel should be considered the first President of



Some consider Samuel Huntington (1731-1796) to be our country's first President.

the United States. Why? On March 1, 1781, during Samuel's term as President of Continental Congress, the Articles of Confederation became operative as the first Constitution of the United States. The first section of the Articles of Confederation designates our nation as the United States for the first time. Some argue that this makes Samuel Huntington the first president of the United States.

In 2015, Samuel Huntington (1731-1796) of Norwich, Connecticut, was officially recognized as the First President of the United States in Congress Assembled. The action was taken by The National Archives, The Smithsonian Institute, and The Library of Congress. So, Martha Devotion Huntington was the first First Lady of the United States in Congress Assembled!

The D.A.R., founded in 1890, is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join.

The Martha Devotion Huntington Chapter serves western Cleveland suburban residents and is welcoming new members. For more information, please email Doris Gorgas at lablady76@gmail.com or Mary Kay Wilson at MKW50@yahoo.com. ●



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Visit villagebicycle.org for updated shop hours and more information.

BIRD COUNT

from front page

And there is a live map you can watch online to see how the bird counts are going around the world.

You don't need to be an experienced birder. Anybody who loves birds can participate. And you don't have to go anywhere to do it. You can count birds in your own backyard! Just settle in on a comfy chair by a window with a hot cup of cocoa and enjoy the birds.

Of course, you can count for more than 15 minutes, on more than one day. And you don't have to count in your backyard. You can do a bird count anywhere there are birds. If you want to go out and explore, there are great bird watching hot spots nearby, like the Huntington Reservation, Cahoon Park and Rocky River Park.

You may not think a cold, snowy February day is a good time to see birds.

But you'd be wrong. There are lots of birds to see in all seasons. And you don't need to see anything exotic. Counts are needed for common backyard birds, like cardinals, blue jays and robins. And birds such as chickadees, juncos, tufted titmice and nuthatches that frequent backyard feeders more in winter than any other season. Raptors too, like red-tailed hawks, bald eagles and even snowy owls. And don't forget waterfowl, like Canada geese, gulls, ducks and mergansers, that can be seen in the open waters of Lake Erie – and sometimes even standing out on the lake ice!

To get you started there is a free Cornell Lab livestream webinar "Watching and Counting Birds is Fun: Tips for the Great Backyard Bird Count" on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 2-3 p.m. To register, go to dl.allaboutbirds.org/gbbc22-fb-livestream?.

So join in the fun, become a citizen scientist and participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count! ●



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

House Sparrows and a European Starling sitting on a fence.

GARDEN CLUB

from front page

But life has obviously changed dramatically since then. Gardening is now the number one hobby in the country but many garden enthusiasts, both men and women, work full time. As a result the club is adjusting to be more accessible to the community.

For the first time since the club's inception, regular meetings will now be held on the Saturdays. Many meetings are open to guests. The agenda for the year features field trips in addition to programs. Come sharing your love for plants with other gardeners and also learn how to garden more successfully.

The club's year starts with a meeting on Saturday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m.

at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road, with a presentation on how to get your newly purchased moth orchid off to a good start.

For many folks their enjoyment of a new moth orchid, the most commonly sold kind of orchid, is short lived. However, the fact is they may have been set up to fail before the plant even left the store. But it doesn't have to be that way. Westlake Garden Club president Carolyn Steigman will show you how to keep your orchid growing and blooming beautifully for many years to come. Now is the perfect time to buy a moth orchid since it fits within their normal blooming time.

For more information about the WGC check out the website www.westlakegardenclub.org. For membership information contact the membership chairwoman Lavinia Cozmin at lavidan@sbcglobal.net. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

Bengals' rapid rise to greatness: just plain wrong

by JEFF BING

It was only a scant six months ago that Ohio writers were calling them a "jugernaut," or "a dominant force for the next five or six years," or the "team of the twenties." Personally, I like the last one. Kinda just rolls off the tongue, much like the saliva of a rabid rottweiler, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, it was the Browns everyone was writing about. That's the worst thing about the Bengals meteoric ascension to greatness: *it was supposed to be our turn, remember?* What the heck happened on our cakewalk to the Super Bowl? Super Bowl? Geez, now we're not even the best pro football team in the stinkin' state of Ohio.

And please, spare me the "but we beat the Bengals twice" argument. Where would you rather be right now: playing in the Super Bowl for the title of "Best team in the NFL in 2021" or have bragging rights to beating the other team twice in an otherwise colossal disappointment of a football season? Actually, that "accomplishment" is about as monumental as the Browns playing the Detroit Lions every fall in a meaningless preseason game for the bragging rights to winning the (so-called "coveted") Lake Erie Cup. At least until everyone realized the players, fans, and in particular, the TV audience, couldn't give two hoots about garbage promoted as gold. We're dumb, but we're not stupid.

I have a lot of friends and relatives who

are Bengals and Ohio State Buckeyes fans who have yet to forgive Baker Mayfield for planting Oklahoma's flag on Ohio State's midfield logo in 2017 after upsetting the Buckeyes. Joe Burrow's two-year, almost fairytale-like sprint past Mayfield as a dominant quarterback has not helped the suddenly injury-prone Mayfield in his on-the-field struggles.

It hasn't exactly helped my argument which opines that Mayfield is capable of taking the Browns to the Super Bowl, either. Next season will be Baker's fifth in the NFL, ordinarily a time where the true greats of the game have firmly established themselves as – at the very least – talent with a "very high ceiling." It would be a stretch for me to say that Baker has done that. To be perfectly honest, right now Mayfield's "ceiling" is about the same height as any of my floating ribs. Ouch. That hurts to say.

The icing on the cake is that the Bengals owner and GM, Mike Brown, has always been regarded as a cheapskate, with two of the smallest coaching and scouting staffs in the NFL. Mike Brown will never be confused with his father, Paul, when it comes to football acumen. In fact, it had been 31 years since the Bengals won even a single playoff game, yet there they were in the Super Bowl.

Jimmy Haslam, who has almost one coach for every player on the roster (I'm only kidding, folks, but not by a lot), has yet to reach the promised land.

It ain't fair, I tell you. ●

READER'S OPINION

Summer jobs: lessons learned

by FRANK PATTISON

Snow is still on the ground but spring is right around the corner and, believe it or not, summer will be here soon.

If you are a little older, thoughts of summer probably take you back to memories of hot weather, hanging out with your friends and your first summer job.

Maybe it was lifeguarding, landscaping or even working fast food. You either loved your summer job or you hated it. Either way, it taught you something about yourself.

A summer job can teach you all kinds of things. Handling rejection, dealing with embarrassment, the importance of being on time and it can also build confidence.

Most people will agree that it's better to learn these lessons at an early age, but it's hard to learn any of them by sitting

around the house all summer.

More than likely your parents made you get a summer job. How many of today's parents are doing the same?

I remember heading up to Westlake City Hall to fill out an application for my first summer job. The man at the desk handed me the application and said to fill it out. I politely told him that I didn't have a pen. He kindly said, "You should always have a pen with you." Lesson learned.

I'm now 51 years old and every time I leave the house, I still take a pen with me. There are probably 30 pens in my car right now just in case I need one.

It's almost spring and now might be the time to plant the seed and encourage your kids or your grandkids to start thinking about looking for their summer job.

It might be exactly what they need – to learn something about themselves. Or maybe how to deal with other people in a reasonable way and treat others the way they want to be treated.

So, encourage them to fill out an application for that summer job. Just make sure you tell them to take a pen!

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WESTLAKE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

'Ultra-amazing timing' for car raffle winners

by MARY ESSIG

The Westlake Educational Foundation is excited to announce Matthew Eck as the winner of a new 2022 Chevy Trax, donated by Serpentine Chevrolet of Westlake for the benefit of Westlake City Schools' students.

With the drawing scheduled for half-time of the Westlake boys' varsity basketball game on Friday, Feb. 4, the forecast did not bode well for an in-person event. Reminiscent of the Foundation's first car raffle drawing in February of 2021, which was impacted by Covid and a snow day, whether the 2022 drawing would be in front of a live crowd or not was becoming a game-day decision.

Heavy snow resulted in schools being closed on Thursday and Friday, meaning the basketball game may or may not be played as scheduled. The condition of the roads at mid-day would determine the game's fate. Fortunately, the snow stopped, and the city's crews were able to clear the roads. The basketball game was on, and the Foundation's car raffle drawing would occur at halftime as originally planned.

Craig Catanzarite, Foundation board member, emceed the drawing. A policeman providing security at the game was invited to draw the winning ticket for the Chevy Trax grand prize.

While Matthew Eck was out of town

for the weekend serving in the National Guard, he received a call from an unknown number. Later in the evening, listening to the voicemail informing him he won the vehicle, he initially thought it was someone playing a joke on him. Before getting excited about winning and informing his wife, he went online and watched the recording of the raffle drawing that had been live streamed during the game. Upon hearing his ticket number and name announced, he then realized he really had won the car.

The timing was perfect for the Eck family! They were in need of another car and had been researching different vehicles. With the new and used car markets struggling to meet demand, their search was at a standstill. Winning the Chevy Trax was a pleasant, unexpected surprise that delivered a new car to the Eck family when they needed it. Matt acknowledged, "It's always great timing to win a car, but this was ultra-amazing timing."

Matt, his wife Kara, and their two daughters are relatively new to Westlake, having moved from Cleveland less than 4 years ago.

"We feel very blessed to win this car," Matt said. "We feel even more blessed to live in this diverse community full of



Car raffle winners Matt & Kara Eck, center, receive the keys to their 2022 Chevy Trax from Westlake Superintendent Dr. Scott Goggin and WEF President Mary Essig.

PHOTO BY TODD HOPKINS

great supporting community members everywhere we go. I love the relationships my children have with other children of diverse backgrounds and the ability to learn different cultures. Connection to each other is needed now more than ever and Westlake represents what is right with our great country."

Matt and Kara's appreciation at winning the grand prize extends beyond their sincere thank-you. They decided to pay it forward with donations to the Westlake Educational Foundation and City Year Cleveland, which benefits young people in Cleveland. "We will continue to pay it forward as long as we can," said Matt.

The raffle presented the Foundation with the opportunity to partner with other organizations within the school district who support various aspects of Westlake student life. By promoting the raffle, Westlake Demons Athletic Boost-

ers, Westlake Music Boosters, Westlake PTAs, and Westlake Alumni Association shared in the ticket sales proceeds. With their involvement and support, the Foundation's second car raffle approached almost \$27,000 in ticket sales proceeds. These proceeds will help the Foundation and its partner organizations support their respective missions, ultimately enhancing the curricular and extra-curricular activities of Westlake City Schools' students.

Each of the Westlake partner organizations donated prizes for the raffle. Ingrid Adkins won the Westlake Demons Athletics Boosters' Horns Up!! Basket. Shelly Benhaddouche won the Westlake PTAs' "W" Car Wash Bucket. Leigh Luzar and Connecting for Kids each won \$250 from the Westlake Alumni Association. Rachel Musser won the Westlake Music Boosters' \$200 Learning Express gift card. ●

Special Black History Month concert at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

by DOROTHY RICHARDS

On Sunday, Feb. 27, at 4 p.m., you are invited to attend a special concert in honor of Black History Month to be held in the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary, located at 20401 Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River. The concert is free and open to the public. Masks are required to be worn in the church at all times.

The concert features Oberlin Conservatory's Associate Dean Christopher Jenkins on viola with soloist, accompanist and educator Dianna White-Gould on piano. The music will focus on African-American composers, particularly those with significant relations to Cleveland and Ohio.

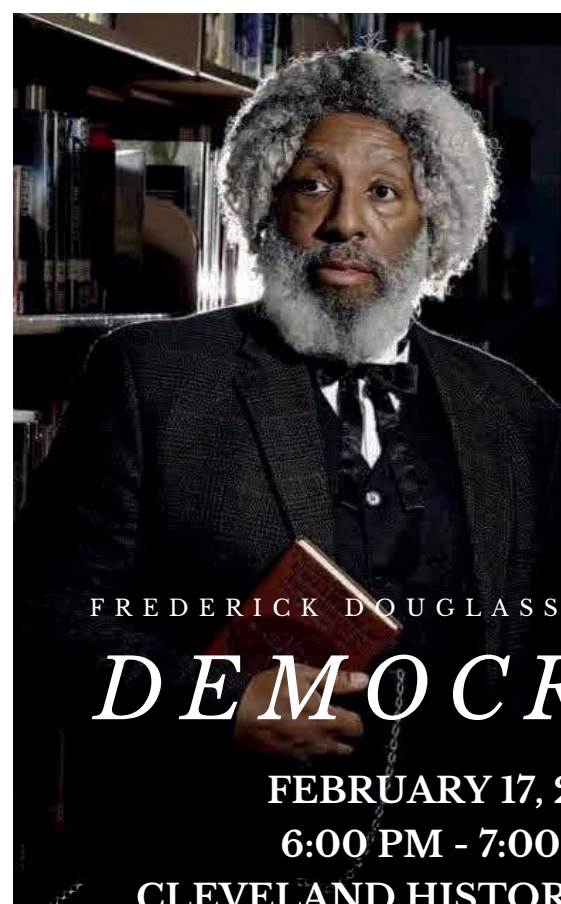
According to David Blazer, West Shore's Director of Music, the concert is being paid for through a grant by the Music Settlement, located in University Circle, that offers a wide variety of music instruction. "This special concert marks the return of a long-standing pre-Covid era collaboration between West Shore and The Music Settlement, which is underwriting the cost of the concert."

Founded in 1912, The Music Settlement is a centuries-old community music school forged out of the Settlement Movement as a way to welcome immigrants to Cleveland and unite them through the common language of music.

Violist Christopher Jenkins is the Associate Dean for Academic Support at Oberlin Conservatory. He is currently earning a DMA in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a Ph.D. in musicology from Case Western Reserve University, where his performance and research focuses on the music of African-American composers.

Dianna White-Gould is an active soloist, accompanist and educator. She graduated from Oberlin College Conservatory. She later received a Master's in Piano Performance from Cleveland State University. She attended L'Ecole de Fontainebleau in France as a student of Gaby Casadesus. She is on faculty at the Cleveland Music Settlement and the Dike School of the Arts, where she directs the Choir and Keyboard program.

For more information, contact the church office at 440-333-2255. ●



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THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Biden’s ‘Moonshot’ – in the dark or reality?

by DIANA PI, M.D.

On Feb. 2, 2022, President Biden “reignited” the Cancer Moonshot, a program he started in 2016, one year after he lost his son, Beau, to an aggressive brain tumor. The goal: Halve cancer deaths in 25 years. Is he, or the science, grounded in reality?

Maybe, but you and I need to lend a hand.

Here’s the current cancer landscape in the U.S.: About half of us (40%) will develop cancer in our lifetimes; of those diagnosed, half (20%) will die from it.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., behind heart disease.

If we look closer at the data: the No. 1 killer is lung cancer, followed by colon, breast, prostate. In 20 years, things will change. Experts predict lung cancer will remain the No. 1 killer, followed by pancreatic cancer, liver/bile duct cancer, and colon cancer.

Paradoxically, cancer deaths have dropped by 27% in the 20 years between 1996 and 2016. It’s half a Moonshot without calling it.

How did we do it? We had a successful anti-tobacco campaign, better cancer screening, and treatments.

Today we have effective screening tests for lung, breast, prostate, colon, and cervical cancers. Screening tests are en route to eliminate some cancers com-

pletely. For example, in the early 1900s, cervical cancer was the No. 1 cancer killer for women. Today, we have a few thousand cervical cancer deaths each year – if properly screened, all those deaths are likely preventable.

We have vaccines for cancers. The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine reduces cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, throat cancers. The Hepatitis B vaccine reduces liver cancer. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, which, since the old days, has been used to boost TB immunity, now is used to fight early-stage bladder cancer. Guess what: The billions of dollars the government and private industry have poured into developing the COVID-19 mRNA vac-

cine technology is going to pay off big in our cancer fights.

In addition, the Moonshot wants to tackle uncommon cancers (like childhood cancer), improve immunotherapy, and fancy 3D genetic maps.

From what I can see, the bigger worry of Moonshot experts is not the lofty goals, but financing.

I believe in the Moonshot. I believe our government should put serious money into research – and fix health care disparities. But I also believe we – you and I – need to do our part.

The American Cancer Society concludes that 42% of all cancers are preventable. Half of these cancers are preventable by stopping smoking, the other half by living healthier like increasing fresh fruits and vegetables in our diet, exercising, losing weight, moderating drinking. That is, to best dodge the cancer bullet, start the treadmill. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library’s late February calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s late 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.

Thursday, Feb. 17 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Windows 10 Introduction** – Learn how to work with the basic features of Windows 10: the Start Menu, Tiles, Access Settings, Task View, Action Center, and Microsoft Edge. This class is in person. Capacity is limited. Please register.

Thursday, Feb. 17 (12:30-2:30 p.m. OR 3-5 p.m.) **Jewelry Junction: Earrings Using Precious Stones** – Design and make a pair of earrings using precious stones, and learn the benefits of precious stones. Please register.

Friday, Feb. 18 (4-4:30 p.m.) **Read It, Make It @ the Library** – Make a craft based on a story that is read aloud. Grades PreK-1, siblings are welcome. Please register.

Saturday, Feb. 19 (1-2 p.m.) **Pokemon Fun** – Join Miss Rachel for Pokemon fun! This will be a time to view and trade cards, do a craft (if desired), and play a Pokemon bingo game. Feel free to bring

your cards! Ages 6-11. Please register.

Saturdays, Feb. 19 and 26 (10:30-11 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.

Saturday, Feb. 19 (1-2 p.m.) **Can the Right Headshot Make You Money?** – You need to look your best for your business publicity shot or your LinkedIn profile. Learn the difference between portraits, headshots, and branding photography and which will be most beneficial for you and your business. Presented by professional photographers Christina Bock and Katie Garlock. Please bring your smartphone as Christina and Katie will teach you to take better selfies! Please register.

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.

Sunday, Feb. 20 (2-4 p.m.) **Anime Club** – A great club for anime and manga lovers! All otaku and newbies welcome! Grades 7-adult. Please register. Room capacity is limited, but walk-ins are welcome if space allows!

Monday, Feb. 21 (11 a.m.-noon)

Amazing Adults – Enjoy crafts, songs, simple fitness, and more fun in each session! This program is for adults with special needs. Please register.

Monday, Feb. 21 (7-8:45 p.m.) **Investors’ Interest Group: Long Term Care Planning** – According to the federal government, a majority of people over the age of 65 will need long-term care, with a significant number of people needing extended care in a nursing home. Learn your options. Presented by Dave Herwerden with

Association of Financial Educators. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Excel 1: Introduction** – Practice entering and formatting text and numbers within cells. Insert, delete, and modify columns and rows. Begin working with basic formulas. Please register. Room capacity is limited.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 (4-4:45 p.m.) **The Science of Magic Tree House: Polar Bears Past Bedtime** – Together we will learn that animals can either adapt to cold weather, hibernate or migrate. Discoveries will be made through hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Grades 1-2. Please register.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 (6-8:30 p.m.) **Heart-saver CPR/AED** – Get certified for adult, child, and infant CPR and AED. Email required for certification. Participants under the age of 14 must have a parent or legal guardian with them in class. Instruction provided by certified instructors from UH St. John Medical Center. If any questions, contact the instructors at uh4cpr@gmail.com. Please register at uhems.org/event-search.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 (9 a.m.-9 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! Registration begins Feb. 16. Box pick-up takes place March 2-6.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 (4-5 p.m.) **Family Puzzle and Game Time** – Put together a puzzle or enjoy a game at the library! You can bring your own or use one of ours! Ages 5-9. Families can gather together and have fun in an understanding and empathetic environment. This program is for children with special needs and their family. Registration begins Feb. 16.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 (7-8 p.m.) **Creative Writing Workshop: African American History Month (Virtual)** – Join us on Zoom for an hour of creative writing prompts to inspire you to start and keep writing. This meeting will include exercises inspired by African-American poets and the themes of their works. Please register and provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Thursday, Feb. 24 (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. Please register.

Friday, Feb. 25 (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. Registration begins Feb. 18.

Saturday, Feb. 26 (1-2 p.m. for Grades 4-6; 3-4 p.m. for Grades 7-12) **VR Gaming @ WPPL** – Curious about VR gaming? Join us to try out a variety of PS4 VR games. Grades 4-6. Registration begins Feb. 19.

Saturday, Feb. 26 (3:30-4:30 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. Registration begins Feb. 19.

Sunday, Feb. 27 (2-3 p.m.) **Teen Craftapalooza** – Calling all crafters! Join us in Youth Services for a variety of craft projects. While supplies last. Masks required during program for all patrons. Grades 7-12. Registration begins Feb. 20.

Sunday, Feb. 27 (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 K-2. Younger siblings are welcome and a simple stitching project will be available for them. Registration begins Feb. 20.

Mondays, Feb. 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.

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

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By WARREN REMEIN

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DIGGING DOVER – BAY VILLAGE

Wirt and Elvie Dodd House, 28729 Osborn Road, c. 1904

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

Last summer (6/15/21) we discussed Wirt Dodd's business partner, Clifton Aldrich's c. 1914 home which still stands at 28905 Osborn Road.

Wirt and Clifton were next door neighbors on the south side of Osborn Road in the early 1900s. Both owned approximately 20-acre parcels which extended south from Osborn Road to the railroad tracks. Wirt and his wife, Elvie, had purchased their parcel from the estate of David Osborn in 1904 and constructed the subject home and barn that year. They are simple vernacular gabled structures.

Wirt and Clifton formed the Dodd Aldrich Realty Co. which developed an approximately 50-acre subdivision east of Dodd's property called Forest Park, in the 1920s. They built many handsome homes on or near Osborn Road but the Great Depression led to their retirement as developers. Houses attributed to the carpentry skills of Wirt Dodd include 28210, 28327 and 28505 Osborn Road.

The book "Bay Village: A Way of Life" has lots of information about Wirt and Elvie Dodd and their families, some of which is excerpted below.

It was April 1868 when Charles and Annie Dodd with their three oldest children left Peel, Isle of Man, to migrate to America. They came to northeast Ohio because friends and relatives were already here.

Wirt Wallace Dodd was born to them in 1868 on Little Mountain in Concord Township south of Painesville. The family moved to Warrensville in 1869 and then to Avon. The 1870 U.S. Census has the Dodds living in Avon in June of that year.

A traveling tailor overheard when making clothes for the Osborns that they needed help on their fishing boats, he told the Dodds. Charles went to work as a fisherman for Sherman Osborn and the family moved to Dover.

Wirt Dodd, reminiscing of when he lived at the Sherman Osborn house on Lake Road in 1872, recalled hearing the schoolchildren chanting "Grant for President" in the nearby schoolhouse. Wirt's younger brother Ashton was born in Dover in 1874.

There is a picture of the family stand-



1927 Hopkins Plat Book showing the Dodd and Aldrich farm parcels and Forest Park subdivision that the Dodd Aldrich Realty Co. developed.



Saddler Twine house with Wirt Dodd and his parents and siblings. They most likely occupied it in the late 1800s. Picture is hanging in Martin's Deli across the street from its current location at 335 Bassett Road.

ing in front of the Saddler twine house which they most likely later occupied. It was a very humble structure at the time of the picture, probably built for storing twine used in making fish nets. The 1880 Census has Wirt's father listed as a farmer with their nearest neighbors as David Sites and William Aldrich which would place them on Bassett Road.

Al Osborn bought the twine house from the Saddlers for \$100 and moved it from Lake Road to Bassett Road. This was probably around 1896 when the Interurban was constructed where Electric Drive is now. The twine house, converted to a snug single-family home, still stands at 335 Bassett Road.

Wirt married Elvie Powell Stevens in 1900. It was her second marriage; on

the marriage record he is listed as a carpenter, she a dressmaker. They had two children, Charles Perry and Sarah Eleanor. Ashton married Clara Brooks and had one son, they lived at 30513 Link Road (now called "Ashton Lane"). He was a carpenter and worked with Wirt.

Elvie Dodd was the daughter of Perry and Sarah Powell. Perry Powell was the son of Thomas and Sophia Powell. Sophia Powell was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Saddler. Elvie grew up with her parents and siblings in the house her grandparents Thomas and Sophia Powell built which still stands, beautifully maintained, at 576 Bradley Road. Perry Drive is presumably named for her father, Perry, and Clinton Drive and Brooks Road for other relatives.

The Wirt Dodd family were members of the Bay Methodist church and in 1909 Wirt was hired as contractor for their new brick sanctuary. The 1910 Census finds the family living on Osborn Road. Members of the household include Elvie's father and a servant. Wirt's occupations is listed as farmer.

In 1916 W. Dodd was an officer in the administration of the new mayor Jesse L. Saddler. In 1917 Elvie was one of five women present at the first meeting of the Bay Village Women's Club. The barn at 600 Bradley Road (now a home) was built by Wirt in 1918.

In the 1920 Census Wirt's occupation is listed as fruit farmer; in 1930 Census,

a builder. Daughter Sara is 21 and living at home with her parents at the subject property. She married later that year. Tragically her husband died in 1932 several months before their daughter Patricia's birth.

Wirt was living with son Charles and his family during the 1940 Census. Elvie with daughter Sara and granddaughter Patricia. Wirt and Elvie sold the subject property to Charles in 1942.

Wirt died in 1950 in Henrietta, Ohio, after living most of his life in Bay Village. Elvie died in 1954. ●



Elvie Powell Stevens Dodd and her parents and siblings as pictured in "Bay Village: A Way of Life," written by the Bay Village Historical Society.



House attributed to Wirt Dodd at 28210 Osborn Road as pictured in a video produced by the Bay Historical Society and available for viewing at the Reuben Osborn Learning Center.



28729 Osborn Road, Wirt and Elvie Dodd house, c. 1904.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Sunday, Feb. 20, 4 p.m.
‘PETER PAN’ SCREENING
Come view the 1924 original silent film adaptation of J.M. Barrie’s 1904 stage play “Peter Pan” accompanied by Dave Blazer on our Holtkamp pipe organ! It’s a family event: parents are invited to bring their children. Everyone ages 3 and over are required to wear masks while in the building. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 440-333-2255. *West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River*

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.
TED TALK: THE RISE OF PREDATORY SCAMS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM
Elder abuse takes many forms. As technology becomes more sophisticated, susceptibility to tricks and scams will increase, regardless of age or intellect. Attorney Jane Walsh spotlights the rise of this predatory crime, and how you can protect you or your loved ones’ kindness, dignity and self-respect from being manipulated. We’ll watch this TED talk together followed by a discussion led by Community Services Director Lydia Gadd. Call 440-899-3544 to register. *Westlake Community Services Center, 28975 Hilliard Blvd.*

Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
ANTIQUES & VINTAGE SHOW
Shop for antiques and mid century with vintage jewelry, shabby chic furniture, home décor, toys, and much more. Find the funky for your home, rec room and garden. Free jewelry appraisals Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Free antique valuations Sunday from 1-3 p.m. \$5 donation. Children under age 12 free. Face masks required. Sponsored by The Bay Village Women’s Club. *Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Rd.*

Monday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
ORCHIDS FOR EVERYONE
The Bay Village Garden Club welcomes Beth Murphy, Master Gardener, to explain how to successfully grow five of the easiest types for beginning orchid enthusiasts. Due to Covid rules, meetings are limited to members only. It is easy to become a member: contact Sharen at 440-871-9098 or rjsvec@sbcglobal.net, or email bvgardenclubohio@gmail.com. *Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.*

Monday, Feb. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
ROCKY RIVER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT
Clarinetist and educator from Oberlin College Conservatory, Richard Hawkins, will be setting the scene for the evening. He and faculty friends from Oberlin will showcase the contrasting styles of wind music with piano and strings. The 6 musicians will perform the shorter works of Franz Schreker and Valerie Coleman, and the longer work, Sextet in C major, by Hungarian composer Ernő Dohnányi. No admission fee; masks required. Visit rrcms.org for more info. *West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River*

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