

New Bay Village Library Grand Opening on April 30



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL


by JESSICA BRESLIN

The ribbon cutting and grand opening festivities for the new Cuyahoga County Public Library-Bay Village Branch will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 2-5 p.m. at the state-of-the-art facility located at 27400 Wolf Road. We hope that community members will come out to help us celebrate this exciting occasion!

The event will feature demonstrations in the branch's new Innovation Center, musical performances from Bay High students, the Zygote Press mobile printing press for creating custom art and commemorative library cards. The Bay Village Historical Society will also be sharing the rich history of the library in Bay Village. The Thyme Traveler food truck and Hunny Bunny confections will be available for pur-

chasing tasty treats!

Please note that the current branch located at 502 Cahoon Road will be closed beginning Monday, April 25-Friday, April 29, for the move to the new building to take place. We will reopen at the new address on Saturday, April 30, from 2-5 p.m. After which, standard hours of operation will resume.

We look forward to seeing you at the new branch! 

SENIOR LIVING

Ella earns her badge

by JULIE FEAGLER with
GERRY STYLSKI

We love our loyal, steadfast, tail-wagging companion dogs. Of course dogs are also trained for more important work – to aid physically and mentally impaired individuals, support police, serve with military troops, and more.

We can appreciate their service as comfort therapy animals as well. For patients in assisted living and nursing facilities there is little to match a warm, gentle, friendly dog, eager to please. When one is unwell, feeling pain, or in distress, it might be the best medicine a

person will have all day.

It was my pleasure to meet a Certified Comfort Therapy Dog, and better yet, to tell you her story.

Ella had a rough start in life. The police found Ella and her five puppies in an abandoned house. She and her pups were taken to Friendship APL in Elyria. Animal foster volunteers Gerry and Dennis Stylski were asked to care for her until she was ready for surgery and adoption.

Within hours of meeting her, Gerry and Dennis knew Ella had found her “forever home” with them. Although she had been treated poorly, with love and patience Ella became a sweet, quiet, and loyal dog, ready to return the favor of comfort to others.

After retirement, Gerry and Dennis moved with Ella from their Bay Village home to Concord Reserve Independent Living in Westlake, a facility that features



Ella, who lives at Concord Reserve in Westlake, recently became a Certified Comfort Therapy Dog.

continuous care. The Concord Reserve facility, supports pastoral care, a benevolent fund which allows residents to stay even if they run out of personal funds, as well as an employee assistance fund.

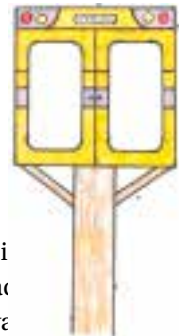
► See ELLA page 2

BVEF to fund 'little library' project

by LISA NAPOLI

The Bay Village Education Foundation recently selected the “School Bus Little Library Project” as recipient of a Maynard Bauer Leadership Fund (MBLF) Award. The project proposal, submitted on behalf of the Bay Village City School District Transportation Department, was inspired by Bay bus driver (and Bay alum) Sue Naso.

Transportation Department employees will work in conjunction with Bay High School Computer Assisted Design (CAD) students to design and construct a bus-



shaped little library which will be installed outside of the bus garage near the sidewalk to the high school. Once complete, the little library will be stocked with reading materials suitable for ages that promote literacy and bus safety. It is expected that the project will be completed by late spring 2022.

The MBLF award was established in 2011 to recognize the contributions of Maynard Bauer (superintendent of the Bay Village Public Schools from 1974 to 1989) and is administered by the Bay Village Education Foundation.

► See BVEF page 6

Bay Village's charter is under review

by TARA WENDELL

The city of Bay Village embarked on the decennial review of its charter last month with the establishment of a volunteer commission. Appointed by Mayor Paul Koomar, and confirmed by City Council, the Charter Review Commission includes nine electors – Bay Village residents who are registered voters and have lived in the city for more than one year – from various walks of life. Three of the members

have previously served on City Council; there are also local business owners, parents of students in the Bay Schools, retirees, and volunteers from civic organizations. Several also served on the 2012 Charter Review Commission.

The city is required by its charter to empanel a commission every 10 years to review the document and recommend to City Council any “alterations, revisions, and amendments” deemed desirable by the majority.

► See CHARTER page 2

'Compassion' comes to St. Ladislav

by MARY BETH
SCHNEIDLER

The cast and crew of “Compassion the Musical,” a story based on Scripture, would like to invite you to special performances at St. Ladislav Church in Westlake on March 25 and 26. The

shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

The cast and crew members are looking forward to presenting to you the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, set to contemporary music. The production is a wonderful way to devote time and prayer during the time of Lent.

► See COMPASSION page 2

ELLA *from front page*

Concord recognized the value Ella could give Assisted Living and Long Term residents, to bring them joy and brighten their days.

Ella's journey to become a therapy dog began with her first visit to the Elite K-911 Dog Training & Behavior facility in North Ridgeville. She had to be approved before she was accepted into the program. Ella went through an hourlong evaluation. Elite K-911 agreed Ella was suitable for training with Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog Inc., based in New Jersey, an organization authorized to certify therapy dogs.

Mike Falatach, an official contractor with Bright & Beautiful, was Ella's trainer, along with nine other dogs. Mike is a skillful and thoughtful coach. His job is to teach owners and their pets how to handle visitation to, and touching from, strangers, as well as to tolerate distracting noise and human traffic. These qualities are necessary in order to graduate from Bright & Beautiful's Certified Service Dog classes. After four weeks of intense training, nine dogs in Ella's class were ready

for their final exam.

Thanks to Concord's Kate Drummond, Event and Program Manager in the Health Center and Assisted Living, a nurse training area was made ready for a mock visit from residents and staff. The dogs must demonstrate that they can tolerate the attention and noise of busy health care hallways in order to complete their certification. Eight residents from Independent Living came over to role play, filling the corridors and rooms as patients in wheelchairs, with canes, on walkers, and confined to bed.

Mike observed how the owners led their dogs through the noise and activity of a busy health care facility. The carefully trained dogs calmly and lovingly offered their gift of patience and warmth to each play-acting patient. It was a rewarding experience for all participants who contributed to the program. That goes especially for our dogs, who eagerly and willingly show us love, no matter how old, disabled, fragile, or grumpy we might be.

Ella is Concord Reserve's first dog resident and therapy dog. An American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, whose gentle manner has won the hearts of the resi-



Gerry & Dennis Stylski with Ella, a Certified Comfort Therapy Dog.

dents in Independent Living, Ella is now ready to bestow her loving grace on the entire Concord facility. ●

COMPASSION

from front page

"Compassion" takes place in the Holy Land and during the last days Jesus spent in Jerusalem. It focuses on the last three years of the ministry of Jesus including His death and resurrection and the compassion He shared with the people He encountered. The musical follows the Gospel of John with human elements from the gospel of Luke. The Beatitudes also come into play from St. Matthew. The story is told through the eyes of St. Peter, while in prison in Rome prior to his own execution, and how the compassionate Jesus changed his life.

This dynamic musical is a contemporary multi-media production with video, song, drama and dance. It is directed and produced by Christina DuPre. She was originally from France and came to the United States to earn degrees from The Ohio State University and The Cleveland Institute of Music. She originally performed in a Nashville Christian rock band. She previously was the music director at St. Mary's of the Falls and currently is the Worship

and Liturgy Coordinator at St. Joseph Church in Amherst. She has performed throughout the world, including several World Youth Days and three papal performances.

The extremely taxing role of Jesus is professionally and powerfully done by Ernesto Alcantara, the Worship Pastor at Crossroads Church in Mansfield. He recently has performed in three Christian films and released his first single, "Blown Away." His acting, singing and ability to convey the message of Jesus will leave you awestruck!

The cast and crew of 70 is primarily composed of people from the area with many being from the parishes of St. Ladislav in Westlake, St. Joseph in Amherst and St. Mary's of the Falls in Olmsted Falls.

The performances are free but those in attendance will be given the opportunity to give a free will offering.

It is the sincere hope of the participants that all who attend will come and be transported back in time by "Compassion the Musical" and will experience a deeper understanding of their faith, especially during the time of Lent.

St. Ladislav is located at 2345 Bassett Road. ●

CHARTER

from front page

Council must then place those proposed amendments on the November ballot.

Unlike the city's codified ordinances, which are a set of regulations that may be enacted and modified by City Council legislation, the charter entails broader procedures for governance. As Law Director Mark Barbour explained during the Commission's organizational meeting on Feb. 21, "the charter is our 'constitution,' establishing how the city is organized

and the procedures that the city is governed by." Changes to the charter must be approved by a majority vote of the electorate.

Members of City Council, the administration and the general public may propose suggestions for the Charter Review Commission to consider. Meetings are open to the public and are currently scheduled for the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall. The first meeting will be March 7.

The full text of the charter may be viewed by clicking on the Government tab on the city's website, cityof-bayvillage.com. ●

WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE
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The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community. The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through the participation of the 1,300+ community volunteers. All Westlake and Bay Village residents are invited to participate.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at wbvobserver.com/members to submit your stories, photos and events. (We don't share information)

All content should be submitted through the online Member Center, not by email.

Letters to the editor (max. 300 words) may be sent to tara@wbvobserver.com. Please include full contact information.

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QUESTIONS? Contact: staff@wbvobserver.com or 440-409-0114

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer staff.

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Cleveland's West Side grieving children need your help

by BECKY VERNER MCDERMOTT

Children and teens across the world are experiencing grief in ways that are more complicated and often more traumatic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Joel's Place for Children, a Cleveland-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, provides grief support to school-aged children and their families who have experienced the death of someone special in their lives. They are receiving more phone calls and emails than ever from caregivers needing grief support for their children.

The organization has been serving grieving families in Northeast Ohio since 2003. Non-denominational groups meet by age/developmental level at Bay Presbyterian Church in Bay Village twice-monthly for pizza dinner, community, expressive arts and emotional intelligence activities, and discussion. Families do not pay to attend Joel's Place; the organization is funded solely by donations. A Butterfly Release is also held every summer, where living butterflies are released in honor of those who have died, followed by a picnic lunch.



Our peer-to-peer grief support group participants share their experience and learn from the experiences of others. Age-appropriate discussions, craft projects, games, and books are selected to facilitate the expression of feelings.



Joel's Place for Children holds a Butterfly Release each summer to honor loved ones who have died and bring community to those who are grieving.

All Joel's Place programs depend on volunteers in order to be successful. Would you like to use your skills and life experiences to bring hope and help to others? Joel's Place has numerous ways people can participate in its mission. They are always in need of volunteer help for the following:

- Facilitators to conduct support groups
- Butterfly Release team members
- Volunteers to coordinate pre-meeting dinners for our families
- Committee members for various committees (Program, Marketing, Fund Development, Governance)
- Fundraising event assistance

No prior training or experience is required. All that is needed is the ability to listen and a compassionate heart. Please note all sessions are facilitated by two trained adults. Sessions are confidential. References and fingerprinting are required for all facilitators.

If you are interested in volunteering with Joel's Place for Children please call 440-248-4412 or email info@joelsplaceforchildren.org. You can learn more at joelsplaceforchildren.org.

Village Bicycle COOPERATIVE

Spring is around the corner!

Select an affordable repurposed bicycle for warm weather fun. We have adult and children's bicycles in most types and sizes.



In 2021, Village Bicycle Cooperative donated over 100 bicycles to needy charities, children, and adults.

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

Goodwill

bookstore & DONATION CENTER

Opening March 4!

FREE GIFT to first 50 customers & donors

Shop & donate at Goodwill's newest location! Opening, Friday, March 4, a used bookstore and a donation center. Shop thousands of books for a fraction of retail prices. And, donate clothing and housewares at the convenient drive up donation center. Located at 30655 Detroit Road in Westlake. Open daily, 10am-6pm.

SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE A LIFE FOR GOOD.



GOODWILLGOODSKILLS.ORG

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Privacy in the digital world

by TAK SATO

This is the first in a series of articles on privacy in the digital world.

When it comes to the digital world – aka the internet or the cloud – your "right to privacy" is a hot-button subject that will always be highly debated.

I ponder if the same principles of the right to privacy in the real world are even applicable to the digital world. To be honest, I don't have a real good answer to that question and may never will. At least not definitively, not like it is guaranteed that the sun will rise from

the east every morning.

My opinion has always been that our "information" is highly valued by the companies that offer products and services through the digital world. This information I speak of can be anything and everything from what we are "googling" to where we have been in the real world. Many make their bottom line by brokering our information to the highest bidder or sell other products.

Also, the evolution of how we use the internet has changed the landscape of how easy it has become to amass our information. Regulations exist, albeit not as numerous and/or powerful in my opinion, to protect our privacy in the dig-

ital world. However, similar to the idea of "six degrees of separation," by correlating information collected that is allowed by law, it may be enough for the companies to profit from.

In my mind, though, the key to maintaining my right to privacy in the digital world is partly up to me. In other words, the "degree" of privacy I can maintain correlates with how I conduct myself in the digital world.

I always preach the importance of building "good habits" to minimize the risk of becoming victimized in the digital world since it affects your real-world assets, including your identity. At the same time, we need to be cognizant that some things are not in our control – like when the nefarious break into corporations/organizations that are safekeeping our PII (Personally Identifiable Information).

The intended goal of this upcoming

series of articles will be to cover things in our control that can affect the degree of privacy. Sometimes that degree of privacy that is theoretically attainable may require compromises affecting your efficiency and/or the level of benefits you utilize in the digital world. Bottom line, there are things you can do in the hopes of trying to increase your degree of privacy in the digital world.

Specifically, I plan to cover common "settings" in our devices' (computers, smartphones, tablets, etc.) operating systems, representative settings in our "apps" (smartphones/tablets), and also settings in the various services in the cloud – both free and paid – that together can affect the degree of privacy we can achieve.

Again, nothing definitive and very subjective as technology is used to amass our information but good habits nonetheless. Stay tuned! ●



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

The "By Nature, Creative" sculpture at BAYarts in 2013.

BAYARTS

Preserving a creative sculpture

by NANCY HEATON

This is the story of how an abandoned tree trunk turned into the awe-inspiring sculpture installed on the BAYarts campus.

Once upon a time, Bay High art instructor Tom Schemrich, who would pass through the campus with his students to draw, noted that a particular campus garden was in need of a sculpture. The garden in question sits in front of the iconic red caboose in a circular lavender bed sponsored by Bay residents Ralph and Ginny Cascarilla. Now, anyone who knows "Mr. Schemrich" knows he took this as a serious creative challenge, a challenge his students would have an integral part in: conceiving, creating, installing and maintaining the work.

Under his direction, the students submitted several ideas to BAYarts in the form of small clay models. After selecting the design of winding hands reaching upward, the students got to work.

There just so happened to be this massive trunk of a fallen fir tree that Schemrich had in mind. So in the confines of the Bay High School art classroom, between classes, on weekends and throughout the summer, the students got to work. One year and many, many, many hours, days and months later, their vision became a reality. The title: "By Nature, Creative" was inspired by BAYarts tagline: "Artistic by Nature."

The sculpture was installed by the students and received a great reception by Bay residents and park visitors. Over the years

it has become a favorite photo op for park visitors and wedding guests and a source of inspiration for hundreds of artists.

That was nine years ago. The students who created the sculpture have graduated and moved on. But the sculpture has to be maintained – remember it's a tree trunk, not iron or bronze (though it's hard to tell). Last fall, discovering cracks and damage done by pecking birds, Schemrich single-handedly spent his after school hours making the repairs. Looking to the future, we hope to pass this care to the next generation and preserve this wonderful monument to passionate collaboration, a BAYarts theme.

To help fund the preservation of "By Nature, Creative," please contact me at nancy@bayarts.net. ●

Bay High School grad part of Super Bowl championship team

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

Congratulations to Bay High School alumnus and Super Bowl champion, Ted Monago, the assistant director of college scouting for the Los Angeles Rams. This 1987 Bay High School graduate got his football start right here in Bay Village, playing for the Rockets. He then went on to play football for Arizona State University as a walk-on athlete.

Monago, who comes from a family of seven children (six of whom graduated from Bay High School), says he was "an average athlete and normal student," but it was the community and school district that prepared him for success.

"We call it the 'Bay Bubble' because it's a unique community," Monago said. "Quality teachers, dedicated coaches and active parents were always around us,

guiding us to become who we are today."

After graduating from ASU, Monago received his master's degree in educational administration from University of Idaho, and went on to coach at the College of William and Mary.

He then joined the Chicago Bears as an area scout and executive scout, and was with that organization for more than 12 years. In 2013, this former Little League umpire joined the St. Louis Rams as a national scout. Three years later, the team became the Los Angeles Rams, and in 2017, the former Rocket was promoted to his current position.

"Going to Bay, you always knew you'd be prepared for college and be further ahead than most," Monago said. "I still keep in touch with so many of my classmates, and stop by and visit the football team when I'm in town. Once a Rocket, always a Rocket!" ●



PHOTO COURTESY TED MONAGO

Bay High School alumnus Ted Monago celebrates after his Los Angeles Rams won the Super Bowl. Monago is a college scout for the team.

Students go bald to support childhood cancer research



In 2020 cancer survivor Jackson Janosek braves the buzz in solidarity with kids facing cancer.



Shavees get fresh haircuts from local volunteer barbers and stylists.

by LAUREN DEFAZIO

On Friday, March 25, students of St. Bernadette School in Westlake are standing up against childhood cancers. St. Baldrick’s Foundation, the largest non-government funder of childhood cancer research grants, will host one of its signature head-shaving events at the school. Many students will shave their heads at Brave the Buzz 5 to raise money for the foundation.

It can be an emotional event for participants, but it’s also a celebration of and a tribute to everyday heroes.

Brave the Buzz 5 brings the greater community together to show solidarity with kids fighting cancer. There will be speakers, music and entertainment. Students learn that small acts – such as shaving their

head or donating their hair – can have a powerful impact on others.

Spearheading the event is Mary Sue Anders, a long-time teacher at St. Bernadette School. Miss Anders had a special bond with St. Bernadette School’s own angel, Michael Orbany, who passed away in 2014 from medulloblastoma at the young age of 9. Each time the event is held, Michael is honored and his legacy lives on.

This spring, Michael would have been graduating from high school. In honor of Michael and all of the heroes who continue to battle childhood cancers, St. Bernadette School intends to raise \$60,000. To learn more about the event and to donate, please visit www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/11143/2022 or call the school at 440-734-7717. ●



Second-grader Maggie Chambers proudly holds her dad’s hand as the last of her hair is shaved. She earned the honor of Top Fundraiser in 2020.

PHOTOS BY KATIE COUSINEAU

Westlake welcomes three new firefighters

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The City of Westlake welcomed three new full-time firefighters on Feb. 15 at Westlake City Hall. Mayor Dennis Clough administered the oath of office to Jeremy DiBell and Matthew Kritzer and Stipe Miocic during a swearing in ceremony in front of friends, family and city employees.

Mayor Clough noted that the City does not often have the chance to hire three firefighters simultaneously, making

the event fairly “historic” and necessary given that the department had seven open positions to fill.

“We’ve been very fortunate over the years that we have had very, very good people in the Fire Department,” Mayor Clough said. “And I don’t mind saying that I’m proud of these guys every single day because of the skills they bring, the positive attitude they bring and the passion that they have for the career that they’ve chosen as a firefighter/paramedic in the City of Westlake.”

Westlake Fire Chief Jim Hughes noted that the screening process for new hires is particularly rigorous to ensure that the City always brings in the best candidates.

Firefighter DiBell previously worked for fire departments in Ashtabula, Conneaut and Geneva, the same community where he attended high school. He also worked as a paramedic for the UH Geneva Medical Center.

Firefighter Kritzer comes to Westlake from the Chagrin Falls Fire Department where he worked for more than four

years. Kritzer also served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves from December 2013 to December 2021. He is a graduate of Mayfield High School.

Firefighter Miocic previously worked as a part-time firefighter/paramedic in Valley View and Oakwood. Miocic is well-known for his career as a boxer and mixed martial arts athlete who has won two UFC Heavyweight Championships. He attended Eastlake High School and completed his paramedic training at Cuyahoga Community College.



Westlake firefighter Matthew Kritzer gets sworn in by Mayor Dennis Clough at Westlake City Hall.



Westlake firefighter Jeremy DiBell signs paperwork making him an official member of the Westlake Fire Department.



Westlake firefighter Stipe Miocic and his wife, Ryan Marie Miocic.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

BVEF *from front page*

This project was chosen for funding with a MBLF award as it inspires creativity and innovation, fosters real world work skills, and promotes cross disciplinary communication and cooperation.

The Bay Village Education Foundation was established in 1986 to support, promote and fund programs created by students, faculty and staff in the Bay Village schools through competitive grants. To date, the Foundation Awarded more than \$250,000 in grants and funded more than 250 separate projects including the BHS Production Studio, BMS Maker Space, Westerly Lu Interactive Playground and Normandy Library Renovation. Visit www.bayedfoundation.org to learn more about and to support the Bay Village Education Foundation. ●

Tai Chi group continues to meet at Knickerbocker

by GEORGE RYAN

With the continued long-term leadership of Patricia Heinke, our group of 15-20 people, including a couple of people who live at the Knickerbocker Apartments in Bay Village, perform these beneficial exercises as they have done for up to 25 years. The group includes all ages, up to 89 years young; some have been regulars for all these years.

The group from Bay and other nearby cities meet at 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and enter Knickerbocker through the main doorway. The Knickerbocker is very welcoming. We start with the traditional Chi Gong exercises and do three sets of the Tai Chi short form. There is no payment for participation. Some stay for the long form. We are there about one hour.

Many look forward to May and the warming weather to do the exercises at Huntington Park on Lake Road in Bay Village. ●

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrate Women's History Month with 'These Shining Lives' at Clague Playhouse

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Clague Playhouse presents "These Shining Lives" by Melanie Marnich in honor of Women's History Month.

The story chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance. Catherine and her friends are dying, it's true; but theirs is a story of survival in its most transcendent sense, as they refuse to allow the company that stole their health to kill their spirits – or endanger the lives of those who come after them.

The play is directed by Anne

McEvoy and featured in our cast are Sarah Blubaugh, Emmy Cohen, Keith Myers, Eliza Rodriguez, Chris Ross, and Tiffany Trapnell.

The play runs Friday, March 11, through Sunday, April 3, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$17 for seniors (60+), and \$10 for students (any age with a valid ID) and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 440-331-0403 Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. or visiting www.clagueplayhouse.org. Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake.

Limited free student tickets (high school and college) are available by

calling the Box Office at 440-331-0403 to reserve for any Clague Playhouse Thursday performance, and showing a student ID at the time of ticket pickup. No online reservations can be taken for these free tickets. Free Student Ticket Thursdays are subject to availability and must be picked up by 7:30 p.m. the night of the performance or will be released.

Our productions are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our board of directors requires the wearing of masks while within our building. The theater will open a half hour before the performance for seating access. Masks will be made available to those who need one. ●

Connecting for Kids names Westlake business owners 'Professionals of the Year'

by LORILYNN WOLF

Connecting for Kids has recognized Jeremy Meduri, Director of Clinical Services, and Sara Rausch, Director of Education, both of Insight Academy in Westlake with its 2022 Board Awards.

These awards are given to those that exemplify the mission of Connecting for Kids to provide education and support to families concerned about their child.

During the pandemic, Meduri, a resident of Avon Lake, and Rausch, a resident of Westlake, saw an urgent need in the disabilities community with parents and caregivers having nowhere to turn. They watched schools closed and therapy center wait lists grow. They also watched families reach their breaking points.

In September 2020, Meduri and

Rausch opened Insight Academy in Westlake. They welcomed all disabilities and grew so fast that they had to rent out the rest of their building. They saw the need and filled it at a record pace.



Westlake resident, Sara Rausch, M.A., named a Connecting for Kids 2022 Professional of the Year. She works at Insight Academy in Westlake.

Their nomination written by a local parent states, "They have helped so many families in our community in such a short time, I cannot think of another duo more worthy of this award." ●



Jeremy Meduri, BCBA, of Insight Academy in Westlake has been named a Connecting for Kids 2022 Professional of the Year.

'Suite Antique' concert features new harpsichord

by DOROTHY RICHARDS

Classical music lovers will delight in a special performance of composer John Rutter's "Suite Antique" on Sunday, March 13, at 4 p.m. in the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the public. Masks are required.

The Suite is part of the church's B. Neill Davis Concert series, featuring high-profile talented musicians for the public's enjoyment. Beth Elardo returns to West Shore on flute joined by the Amethyst String Ensemble under the guidance of Mary Beth Ions.

David Blazer will play a special harpsichord, donated to the church by member Sherry Cica in honor of her beloved husband, Dan, a 34-year church member who

died in 2011.

"This concert will be the inauguration of the Dan Cica Harpsichord," said David Blazer, Director of Music. According to Blazer, Dan built this harpsichord himself from a harpsichord kit from the Zuckermann Harpsichord Company in New York. It is a single manual Italian style instrument. The church owns another smaller instrument which is one of the first "kits" the Zuckermann company designed and was called a "Z box."

Blazer explained that the kit concept became so successful that Zuckermann expanded to offer kits for a variety of sizes and styles of harpsichords. "So, I guess you could say that our 'Z box' instrument is the grandfather, and the new Dan Cica instrument is one of the grandchildren," remarked Blazer.

Contemporary composer John Rutter is a much-respected English composer, choral conductor, arranger and editor. Born in London in 1945, he was educated at Highgate School, then studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. Rutter, who still lives near Cambridge, continues to conduct choirs and orchestras world-wide. The Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in 1996 in recognition of his contribution to church music.

According to Blazer, Rutter's Antique

Suite is made up of six movements ranging from a "Bach-like Aria" to a "Richard Rodgers style Waltz."

"Rutter's own style comes forth most strongly in the final 'Rondeau' with its characteristically forward-driving rhythms and beautiful melodic lines. Evoking an 'antique' spirit, each movement is based on a Baroque or Classical style," said Blazer.

For more information, contact the church office at 440-333-2255. West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 20401 Hilliard Blvd in Rocky River. ●

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Dedicated to Serving Seniors

Redefine aging at Westlake Community Services

by LYDIA GADD

Everyday we age. This excites us when we are young. We cross milestones such as double digits, Sweet 16 and legal age with enthusiasm.

Once we hit 30, the enthusiasm begins to wane. Black balloons make their appearance. By the time we hit 40 or 50 we are pronounced "over the hill," as if this is a bad thing.

But is it really so bad? After all, if you think about it, wouldn't you rather run down a hill than up it? And how about a rollercoaster ride? Isn't the drop the most thrilling part? Framing it this way makes "over the hill" is a cause for celebration.

Yet we don't approach aging with celebration. We focus much more on the decline rather than the blossoming.

One dictionary definition I found called aging "a condition" with symptoms and causes. Ugh. No wonder the artwork created by local elementary school children for our Westlake Community Center patrons (in honor of National Senior Day) included heartfelt messages to "get well soon."

Certainly, aging is associated with some decline, but this does not paint the whole picture. In fact, this uni-focus on the negative is why it is perfectly acceptable in our society to label products as "anti-aging." Think about it. Are we really anti-aging? Maybe we are just anti-declining?

The other side of this coin is that after 50, most adults actually report feeling happier. Better yet, this increased happiness continues on an upward trajectory through the years. In general, it is the middle-aged years that are usually the most stressful, so "going



The watercolor class takes a lunch break in the cafe at the Westlake Community Services Center.



Coffee with a Vet meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9-11 a.m.

PHOTOS BY LYDIA GADD

over the hill" is actually a relief.

With less stress, older adults generally have less conflict with others and are not as quick to anger. We tend to focus more on what we like, and spend more time doing it. Moreover, we share an increased experience of gratitude, compassion and engagement with others.

It would seem this is the key as to why, despite the negative part of aging, there is a U-shaped curve of happiness. The journey of happiness doesn't have to decline! In fact, it does just the opposite. This is great news for all of us.

So if you are in the Fifty-Plus age range and are looking for ways to engage and spend more time doing what you like, check out your local community and senior centers.

I represent the Westlake Community Services department, where we offer hundreds of unique programs and classes each year. Check out www.cityofwestlake.org/community-services. You can also feel free to stop by Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Take a guided tour and see firsthand what is available.

We have podcasts, TED Talk discussions and classes ... lots of class-

es. In the months ahead you can learn about Mayan Civilizations, Crimes of the Century and the life of Billy Joel. You can come for movies, cards games, tai chi, yoga, line dance, chair volleyball and more. Take an art class and enjoy homemade soup at our cafe, which is open Tuesday through Friday. You can also just come with a book, have a seat and enjoy a cup of coffee. If you are a veteran, join our monthly Coffee with a Vet group.

There are many pathways to engage here. In fact, I have heard our members describe the center as a "college campus" for older adults. There are so many ways to engage and have fun, minus the high tuition fees, grades and exams. Sound fun, doesn't it? It is.

Call 440-899-3544 for more information. The Westlake Community Services Center is located at 28975 Hilliard Blvd., next to the Recreation Center. ●

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Dedicated to Serving Seniors

'Good Neighbor' volunteers help Bay seniors stay in their homes

by LESLIE SELIG

Living in Bay Village means living in a community that takes care of one another. When Bay Village Community Services began developing a program to assist older residents who need help with home maintenance that they can no longer do themselves, it seemed like a natural fit to call on the community to fill that need. The Good Neighbor program was born, and officially launched in January.

Good Neighbor volunteers help with small maintenance needs, such as:

- Taking out and bringing in trash cans
- Light landscaping and yard care
- Snow removal
- Minor outdoor home repair

Ideally, when a resident asks for assistance, a neighbor or someone who lives close by will be called on to complete the task. For those requests that are outside the scope of a volunteer, professional services will be referred.

If you would like to be a Good

Neighbor volunteer, please fill out the volunteer form on the City's web site at www.cityofbayvillage.com/492/Good-Neighbor-Volunteer.

If you are a resident over age 60 who

needs assistance with their home, you may fill out an assistance application on the City's web site at www.cityofbayvillage.com/482/Aging-in-Place-Assistance, or call Leslie Selig at 440-899-3409. ●



Scan the QR code above for a link to the Good Neighbor volunteer application.



Scan the QR code above for a link to the city's Aging in Place assistance webpage.

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Bay Village Senior Center is back in action!

by LESLIE SELIG

After two years of closures and pared-down activities due to the pandemic, the Bay Village Senior Center is back in March with so many activities that it feels, dare I say it, almost “normal.” We have learned to enjoy the months when COVID numbers are low, and to pull back for safety when they are high. Right now we are enjoying the moment with low COVID numbers, and



certainly hope these moments continue. March is always fun because of St. Patrick’s Day, but this year is also the Guard-

ians home opener, a Pasta Fundraiser for the senior center, a cheese tasting class and National Craft Month, among our regularly scheduled activities. It’s enough to make a leprechaun tired! So you don’t miss out on the fun, here are dates of some of our activities:

- **Cheese N Chatter Cheese Tasting:** Wednesday, March 16, 11 a.m.
- **St. Patty’s Party:** Thursday, March 17,

- 11:30 a.m.
 - **Pasta Party Fundraiser:** Friday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. (tickets are \$8)
 - **Guardians Watch Party:** Thursday, March 31, 4 p.m.
 - **New! Cardio Drumming Class:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m., starting March 8
 - **New! Use It or Lose It:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m., starting March 8
- You can view the senior center’s monthly newsletter on the City’s website at www.cityofbayvillage.com/186/Newsletters. To register for any events, please call 440-835-6565. The Dwyer Senior Center is located at 300 Bryson Lane. ●

Calling all active ‘seniors’: Join in the BV60+ fun!

by LESLIE SELIG

BV60+ is a group created by Bay Village Community Services for younger, more active people age 60+. Some in the group are retired, while others still work. We plan monthly activities specifically for this group, and it’s a great way to connect with others in the community.

New Members Meet and Greet will be held Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at the Bay Village Senior Center. This is a great way to meet other new members before joining the larger group for activities. We want everyone to feel comfortable. Singles are encouraged to join; participating in BV60+ is a great way to meet new friends. BV60+ Activities for March include:

- **New Member Meet & Greet:** Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m. at the Bay Village Senior Center
- **BV60+ Happy Hour:** Tuesday, March 15, 4-6 p.m. at Burntwood Tavern, Rocky River
- **Alex Bevan & Austin Walkin’ Cane:** Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m. at Music Box Supper Club

- **Guardians Home Opener Watch Party:** Thursday, March 31, 4 p.m. at Bay Village Senior Center
- To see all activities, you can view the BV60+ newsletter on the City’s web site at www.cityofbayvillage.com/186/Newsletters. Contact Leslie Selig at lselig@cityofbayvillage.com or 440-899-3409 with any questions. ●



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Concord Reserve, originally The Lutheran Home, is a Life Enriching Communities campus, affiliated with the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and welcomes people of all faiths.



Westlake Porter Public Library’s early March calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s early March 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, March 1 (7-8:45 p.m.) **World at War Forum** – 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 March program will be "Recent Books in World War II History." Join Local History Librarian Chad Statler as he discusses some of his favorite recently published works on the Second World War. Titles covering the European and Pacific theaters will be covered. Please register.

Wednesdays, March 2 and 16 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **Teen Writers Workshop: Screenwriting 101** – Join us to learn the basics of screenplay writing: developing your idea, character development and plot structure. Grades 7-12. Registration begins one week before each session.

Wednesday, March 2 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Horror Film Club** – Join us for another creepy classic from the Vault! New members are welcome, but children under 13 must be with an adult. The March film will be presented as a hybrid format – you can meet with us in person or stream on Watch2Gether.com. The link will be posted at 6 p.m. the day of the program.

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 and 16 (7-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, March 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, March 3 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **Teen Craft: Handmade Jewelry** –

In this afterschool craft session we’ll be making hand-made earrings. Please register.

Friday, March 4 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday: Wild Weather** – Join Mrs. K to explore the science of wild weather! Spring can be anything from wind, ice and snow to tornadoes. Ages 4-6, up to kindergarten. Please register.

Saturday, March 5 and Friday, March 25 (11-11:30 a.m.) and Thursday, March 17 (6:30-7 p.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 one week before each session.

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

Sunday, March 6 (3:30-4 p.m.) **Paint Play** – We will explore many ways to play with paint. Please wear clothes that can get messy! Ages 3-8. This program is for children with disabilities and their typical peers. Please register.

Monday, March 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, March 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Spring Crafts Kit Pick-Up** – Celebrate Spring with some fun crafts! For babies, toddlers, and preschool age children. Please register.

Monday, March 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, March 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, March 7 and 28 (1-7 p.m.)

American Red Cross Bloodmobile
Mondays, March 7, 14 and 21 (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, March 8 (2-4 p.m.) **Jewelry Junction: Choker Using Precious Stones and Lava Rocks** – Learn to make a choker necklace using precious stone chips and lava rock. Place drops of essential oils on the Lava Rock. Bring reading glasses. Please register.

Tuesday, March 8 (6-8 p.m.) **Immigration Issues: What You Need to Know** – Learn about immigration reforms, laws and immigrants’ economic and cultural impact from a professor of Immigration Issues and Cultural Competency. Please register.

Tuesday, March 8 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Club (In Person AND Virtual)** – Join the WPPL Tuesday Evening Book Club in person or on Zoom to discuss "The Lost Apothecary" by Sarah Penner. 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.

Thursday, March 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. Please register.

Thursday, March 10 (7-8 p.m.) **Thursday Night Book Discussion** – This month’s title is "A Nearly Normal Family" by M.T. Edvardsson. Please register.

Friday, March 11 (4-5 p.m.) and Sunday, March 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, March 12 (2-3 p.m.) **Tapstry Weaving** – Learn the basics of weaving while experimenting with color and texture. Each student will get a loom made from recycled materials to keep. Weaving helps kids develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, self-

confidence, patience and focus – skills used in reading and writing. Grades 3-5. Registration begins March 5.

Monday, March 14 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Tween Craft Kit Pick-Up** – Stop by Youth Services for a tween craft kit! Grades 4-6. Registration begins March 7.

Monday, March 14 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Transfer Memories to Digital at Home (Virtual)** – Join us on Zoom to learn what you can check out from WPPL’s Non-Traditional Materials Collection to transfer your VHS tapes to DVD, cassettes to MP3, records to mp3, and more! Please register. Participants must provide a valid email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, March 15 (4-5 p.m.) **Comics 101: An Introduction to the Art of Comics** – Do you love comic books, graphic novels, newspaper comic strips, or manga? Join us as we learn about the creation of comics and make a comic of your own! Grades 4-6. From lifelong comic fans to curious newcomers, everyone is welcome! No experience necessary. Registration begins on March 8.

Tuesday, March 15 (6-8:30 p.m.) **Heartsaver 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. Register at uhems.org/event-search.

Wednesday, March 16 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – This month’s title is "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please register.

Wednesday, March 16 (7-8 p.m.) **Women’s Financial Planning Series (Part 2)** – Join us for the second of this three-part series exploring financial planning topics for women. Presented by Connie Costanzo with Association of Financial Educators. This month’s topic is "Retirement Savings Challenges for Women." Please register.

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

READER’S OPINION

It used to take work

by FRANK PATTISON

This might sound a little old school, but it wasn’t long ago when work used to take work. I remember my dad leaving early in the morning to walk to the bus stop, take the bus downtown and then walk from wherever the bus dropped him off to his office. It was work just to get to work.

My father-in-law tells stories of how the Japanese businessmen he dealt with would have him fly halfway around the world just because they wanted to shake his hand and sign the contract in person at the airport. They wanted to see how much he was willing to work for their business.

Today, with pajamas on, we open our laptops, join a Zoom chat and we are in Japan doing the same thing. And it doesn’t take a 38-hour flight.

Now you might be saying we’ve learned how to work smarter, not harder. You might be right, but are we better off?

All too often I hear: “I can’t find a good plumber,” “I can’t find a good painter,” “I can’t find a good electrician.”

Where did they all go? Work takes work. Maybe they’ve seen how easy it is to work these days and they’ve taken the easy way out.

You can’t really blame them. It would take too much work. ●

Bay Family Services is supported and sponsored by City of Bay Village

by JANA GOOTS

Bay Family Services is a program sponsored by the City of Bay Village for all Bay residents. In our 12th year now, we provide mental health assessments, consultations, counseling and referral services, as well as community resources. The caring and compassionate team of mental health professionals works in a private and confidential setting and is implemented by the McKeon Education Group.

We can:

- Provide initial assessment and consultation during a time of crisis.
- Implement social emotional programs on topics such as mental wellness, social skills, assertiveness, student leadership, and character development.

- Consult with Bay Village Police Department and the Westshore Enforcement Bureau on student safety, substance abuse concerns and other legal matters regarding minors.
- Serve as the community liaison to the Westshore Young Leaders Network, a regional student leadership program that includes Bay Village and five other districts.
- Coordinate an adopt-a-family program during the holidays to connect lower income families with gift donors.

For more information or to initiate services, please contact Jana Goots by email, jbiery@megincorp.com, or by phone, 440-871-3691.

To learn more about Bay Family Services, visit cityofbayvillage.com/101/services. ●

DIGGING DOVER – WESTLAKE

Does Westlake have a structure from 1803?

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

We were asked to prepare a list of Westlake’s oldest structures in 2011 for Westlake’s bicentennial. When using available databases prepared by a firm that specialized in that type of information back then, we were surprised to see that the oldest structure on the list was supposedly built in 1803! Could it be true?

The structure in question is located at 27060 Center Ridge Road. It is a modest vernacular gable-wing farmhouse currently located on a rise between Dover Creek and “The Rusty Barrel” bar. From the outside it didn’t look like it could be that old but the then-owner Dominic Chillemi (since deceased) shared that the basement joists were logs that still had bark on them. This indicates that most likely the structure predates the close of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, milled lumber dropped in price because it could be shipped by railroad. Prior to this time locally sourced lumber was relatively expensive and if a builder could save some money using un-milled logs as joists it was something that was often done.

The year 1803 is a long way from 1865 though.

In 1803 the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River still had not been surveyed. The house looked nothing like a French trader’s outpost or cabin that could possibly pre-date the survey. All other sources give 1810 as the year the first non-Native Americans settled in Dover – the Cahoons and the Porters – and they each built log cabins along Lake Erie.

The fact that our subject house was on a rise next to a source of water suggested that it could be early because these are characteristics which the settlers favored for their home sites. However, the earliest maps available for Dover – 1852 and 1858 – do not show a structure at that location. A copy of an 1860 tax map does show an “H” in the approximate location of the subject house and the owner of a 3 & 80/100 acre property listed as “L.G.P.”.

The source of the 1803 date was found to be a building card prepared by the office of the County Auditor from the 1950s and 1960s currently housed at the County Archives. On it, the date written for “year built” is 1803. Another building card for the same property, used by the

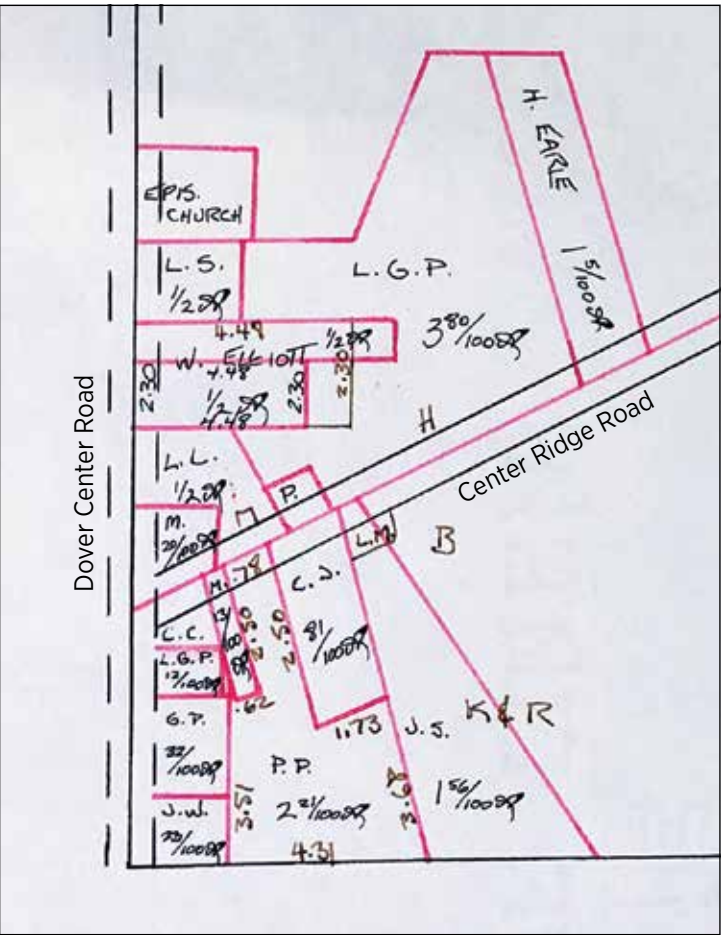
County Auditor in the 1940s lists the “year built” as 1864.

Our understanding of the source of these dates is often just what was given verbally by the owner of the property at the time of the inspection for the tax assessment. The property had sold between the creation of the two building cards which explains the different dates for the year of construction on each of the cards. The 1950s/1960s building card includes a photograph confirming that we are talking about the same structure.

The land under the subject house was once part of a 100-acre parcel owned by Sylvanus Smith along the north side of Center Ridge Road east of Dover Center Road. He sold over three acres on the corner with a barn to Lowel L. Adams in the fall of 1832. This may have included the land which is now under the subject house. Lowel Adams may have been an agent for or owner of the first industrial business in Dover.

“A History and Civics of Dover Township” by Hadsell and Rutherford states that between 1830 and 1835 the Dover Blast Furnace was built (near this corner). It burned down in 1844. Its location is still shown on an 1852 map as the “iron furnace” and is depicted as north of the future location of the subject house.

The blast furnace was located in the floodplain



Copy of an 1860 tax map in the Cuyahoga County Archives possibly showing subject house as “H” on the north side of Center Ridge, east of Dover Center Road.

near the east bank of Cahoon Creek near the southeast corner of the parcel fronting on Dover Center Road that contains an old gray concrete block structure at 2555 Dover Center Road which is behind a gray Victorian style house at 2569 Dover Center Road.

The former location of the blast furnace is evident by what looks like chunks of obsidian on the ground. These are either the results of the final destruction of the blast furnace by fire or are the impurities that were burned

off the bog iron as it was melted to make pig iron which was then delivered to the Cleveland flats for further processing. Bog iron was created by a geologic process along former beach ridges and found in low spots on either side of Center Ridge Road.

All of this early activity near the subject house has made it difficult to sort out its ownership and history but it is clear that unless it was moved from another location, it was not built until after 1858 and before 1874. ●



Circa 1960 photograph of 27060 Center Ridge Road attached to 1950s era building card in the Cuyahoga County Archives



2021 photograph of 27060 Center Ridge Road

PHOTO BY WILLIAM KRAUSE



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Observed in the community

LEFT: It may look like hills of sand, but only a thin layer of sand covers the ice pack extending off the shore of Huntington Reservation in this wintry beach scene captured by Carol Maat.

ABOVE: A female Northern Cardinal enjoys her lunch in the shrubs in Deborah Arcaro's Bay Village backyard.

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