

DAR donates pocket Constitutions to Bay Village eighth-graders

by DORIS GORGAS

The Observance of Constitution Week, September 17-23, was signed into law in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The lineage society, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution had successfully lobbied for this week in 1955. The local chapter, Martha Devotion Huntington, has provided poster and signage for this remembrance for many years.

This year, we obtained 100 pocket-size copies of the Constitution and all the amendments to be distributed to the eighth-grade social studies classes at Bay Middle School for the entire year.



Matt Kralik and Russell Payne, BMS teachers, hold pocket Constitutions donated to their students by the DAR chapter, represented by Doris Gorgas and Jenny McKeigue.

The presentation was made by co-chairmen of Constitution Week Doris Gorgas and Jenny McKeigue, both DAR members. The faculty members are Matt Kralik and Russell Payne, both social studies and history teachers. The presentation was arranged by Robert Koon, Director of Curriculum, and Diana Harrod, Admin Assistant.

The mayor's information site for Bay

Village has an excellent presentation on the celebration of Constitution Week.

We hope in future years to organize a bell ringing at 4 p.m. Sept. 17 to announce the signing of the Constitution.

For further information about the DAR, contact Registrar Nancy McGrew at mdhdar1776@gmail.com. ●

Porter Library announces building and grounds improvements

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library has announced a series of improvement projects in and around the library aimed at providing new services to the community as well as to enhance the visitor experience. The projects are a result of the strategic and space planning process the library completed in 2021, including feedback solicited from the community during public sessions and through surveys.

The projects include an outdoor programming pavilion, renovation of study and collaborative spaces in the Adult Services Department, including two new study rooms which can accommodate up to four people each.

Construction costs will be approximately \$900,000 with, to date, \$160,000 coming from donations. The project will be paid for from the library's Permanent Improvement Fund which are funds specifically set aside for projects such as these, as well as general building maintenance and upkeep.

► See PORTER page 2

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Red Barn Youth Theater holding auditions

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Clague Playhouse's Red Barn Youth Theater will be holding auditions on Monday, Oct. 3, and Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 4-6 p.m. for their holiday production of "Christmas Shorts" by Lucy Williams. The show will be directed by Dr. Greg Dziana.

There's something for everyone in this one-act holiday delight! You'll find everything here, from kids writing letters to Santa, to the big guy getting ready for Christmas himself, to a bunch of elves who accidentally rip Santa's gift bag at the last minute. (Don't worry, Mrs. Claus can fix it!)

There's a sports segment featuring the 845th annual Reindeer Games and a holiday quiz show featuring Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Ghost of Christmas Future. A soap opera, "As the North Pole Turns," a news segment from the

North Pole News, and some Christmas-themed commercials round out this fun seasonal comedy.

We're looking to cast 12-16 characters for ages 6-17 years old. Open auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. For the safety of all involved, those wishing to audition must be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. No appointment is necessary. Auditions will be held at Clague Playhouse, located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting on Tuesday, Oct. 11. The show dates are Friday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call the Clague Playhouse Box Office, 440-331-0403, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1-6 p.m. and leave a message for the director. ●

BAYarts to host new plein air festival

by NANCY HEATON

"En plein air" is a French expression meaning "in the open air" and refers to the act of painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view. Plein air artists capture the spirit and essence of a landscape or subject by incorporating natural light, color, and movement into their works.

Several years ago, BAYarts hosted the Ohio Watercolor Society Plein Air event which was such a success; they decided to create their own annual event based on the apt tagline "Artistic by Nature." Where better to paint outdoors in the fall than in the areas around Huntington Reservation and the Lake Erie shore?" said BAYarts Artistic Director (and a painter herself), Karen Petkovic.

To facilitate the event, BAYarts invited award-winning plein air artist Jeff Suntala, a professional plein air painter who can be seen painting around northeast Ohio various neighborhoods and along the shores of Lake Erie



throughout all kinds of weather, year round.

Suntala is a watercolor artist and art educator who belongs to the organized painting groups The Urban Sketchers and The Pretentious Cleveland Portrait Artists. His work has been awarded and displayed throughout Northeast Ohio and nationally.

BAYarts' painting weekend begins Friday, Sept. 23, and concludes Sunday, Sept. 25, with an awards ceremony and sale, followed by a free outdoor concert featuring China Grove, a Doobie Brothers cover band from 5-7 p.m. Participating painters can find details for the Artistic by Nature Annual Plein Air Paint Out and Sale at www.bayarts.net. ●



Willow needs a family

Willow - Female, 6-years-old.
If you're looking for a dog who is ready to fit into your family, she's it. At 6-years-old, Willow is good with cats and kids. Coming from a mill, she requires another confident dog, and a conventional fence.
If you'd like to seriously consider Willow, please follow the link below. Applicants outside of Ohio: Golden Retrievers are placed within the Ohio area, and in rare instances, in adjoining states, i.e., PA or MI. If applying from out of state, you must be willing to drive all the way to us (with your entire family and any dogs you currently have) to meet a new dog and all the way back with the dog, should the adoption not work out.
Please direct all inquiries to the website and please view the other dogs available for adoption.
Please fill out the online application at: goldentreasuresrescue.org.



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PORTER

from front page

The outdoor programming pavilion will provide additional space for all types of outdoor programming and events. It will be officially named for the Friends of Porter Public Library in honor of their 50th anniversary. The Friends have generously donated \$100,000 toward the project.
The former reference collection alcove in the Adult Services area will be renovated to create a cozier and more welcoming study space with new carpet, lighting, and furnishings while taking advantage of a lovely view from our large picture windows. The "Cozy Space" is made possible through a \$50,000 donation to honor a long-time patron who is the mother of our donors. The names of the donors and honoree will be released upon completion of the space.
Two small group study rooms will also be added in the Adult Services area. One of the study rooms will be named in honor of Janet and Ted Snider through a \$10,000 donation from their family.
Other projects the library is work-

ing on this fall include converting the former café into a makerspace and opening the second floor to the public. A dedicated makerspace will bring together the library's collection of maker resources, including the 3D printers and file transfer machines (VHS films and slides into digital format) as well as adding new services such as an A/V recording booth and equipment for craft cutting and making custom T-shirts.
Opening the second floor to the public will provide additional meeting room space for the community and additional seating on the mezzanine, allowing taxpayers more use of the building for which they pay.
"We are very excited about these upgrades and improvements to the library based on community feedback from our strategic and space planning projects," stated library Director Andrew Mangels. "We are proud to be your nationally recognized 5-Star Library and believe these projects will help us to provide even better service to this community."
Groundbreaking ceremonies will take place at the library on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 4:30 p.m., starting inside the library. ●

A night of comedy at Clague Playhouse

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Join us for a fun evening at Clague Playhouse with three local comedians!
Our emcee for the night, Rodney Bengston, is the most polite comedian you will ever run across! When he first started playing clubs, he would produce a note from his mom showing that he could stay out late to perform.
"Other comedians will talk about how edgy they are," Rodney said. "I am anything but edgy. I am the comic who was Born to Behave."
Award-winning comedian and actress Kathie Dice is our opening act. Kathie finds humor in the rational - and irrational - parts of everyday life. Interjecting humor into every aspect of life, from the mundane to the traumatic has become a specialty for Kathie.

"Life is too precious to be taken seriously" is her motto. She believes laughter can heal almost any situation and has dedicated her life to make sure you get your "medicine"!
Our headliner for the night is self-described as an overly seasoned, touring comedian - Mike Conley! With material that ranges from teenage life in the mid-'70s to middle age in the new millennium, everyone in the audience should find SOMETHING that strikes a familiar chord - as well as their funny bone!
The show will run for 2 hours and may contain adult language. Reserved seat tickets are \$25 and are available online or at the Box Office at 440-331-0403, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1-6 p.m.
Proceeds will be used toward the operating costs of Clague Playhouse for the 2022-23 season. ●



Rodney Bengston



Kathie Dice



Mike Conley

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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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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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DEMON DISPATCH

Gratitude guides the new Westlake school year

by DR. SCOTT GOGGIN
Superintendent,
Westlake City School District

At the beginning of every school year, excitement is in the air as students, teachers and staff prepare for another year of learning. As we are now treading heavily into the 2022-2023 school year, there is a different sense of eager anticipation that has trended toward gratefulness.

Grateful for the sense of “normalcy” this school year promises; grateful to be attending football games in the crisp autumn air as though we’ve never missed a game; grateful to be playing volleyball as though we’ve never missed a set; grateful to be sitting next to our friends in class as though we’ve never done it any other way.

Routines are healthy and can serve as a conduit to better mental and physical health. The routine of the school day is one that growing young students need to build structure, healthy behaviors and foundational habits. We’re already seeing such positivity among Westlake City Schools, and I think it’s the sense of comfort the routine of school brings.

Our teachers, administrators and staff worked very hard this summer to improve our learning environment and incorporate all we’ve learned in the last few years to better accommodate our students’ needs. The effects of those

efforts are seen and heard daily in our hallways, classrooms and fields of play.

We’re also grateful for the understanding that we can still be feeling the effects of the last few school years. With additional counselors and resource officers in every school, our students are confident that they will be taken care of should they fall into a sense of anxiety.

We often praise the support and encouragement we receive from our community, and for good reason. Our community has been there at every turn, helping us improve our facilities, volunteering to improve our students’ experiences and championing our efforts to be an inclusive district, open for all.

We also see this sense of kinship among our students, who support one another like never before, are more open with each other than ever before and are more in tune with their own well-being than ever before.

Years from now, we’re going to look back at the 2022-2023 school year as the year that laid the foundation our students and district used to build our greatest successes. You can feel it throughout our buildings and see it in the eyes of our students. That air of excitement isn’t just about starting another year, it’s about starting a year that changes everything. And that’s something to be grateful for. ●

Annual Blessing of the Pets at St. Raphael is Oct. 6

by ANNE STRAITIFF

Lions, tigers and bears are not welcome, but household animals and their families are invited to the 17th annual Blessing of the Pets on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 6:30–7:00 p.m. on the front lawn of St. Raphael Church in Bay Village.

Individual blessings will be given to each animal. Dog and cat treats and giveaways from Hot Diggity Dog Pet Sitting will be distributed and a garden statue of St. Francis will be given away. The event is free and all are welcome!

The event was first held in 2005 to commemorate the feast of St. Francis of

Assisi, patron saint of animals.

St. Raphael pastor, Fr. Tim Gareau, commented, “We welcome all our friends in the surrounding neighborhoods to join with us on this day, to give thanks for all God’s creatures – especially our faithful animal companions – and ask for his continued blessings on our families, our community, and on all living things entrusted to our care.”

St. Raphael is located at 525 Dover Center Road. Parking is behind the church.

Please note: Dogs should be on leashes; cats and other pets in carriers or cages. The event will be cancelled if it rains. ●



Jasmine was more interested than Aladdin, but both pugs and their owner, Andrea Brown, were blessed last year.

PHOTO BY DAN STRAITIFF





Now hiring Seasonal Employees

The Bay Village Service Department is hiring for Seasonal Employees.

These temporary positions are scheduled Monday through Friday 7:00am until 3:30pm with the potential for overtime.

Must be 18 years of age and have a valid State of Ohio driver’s license.

The starting rate of pay is \$15.00 per hour.

Apply online at www.cityofbayvillage.com



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

2022-2023 program registration is open and ongoing for ages 12 months to 6 years. View offerings at www.lensc.org/preschool-programs.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BAY VILLAGE, OHIO

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BAY VILLAGE:

Pursuant to Ordinances Nos. 22-85, 22-86, 22-87, 22-88, 22-89, passed by the Council of the City of Bay Village on August 22, 2022, the following proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Bay Village will be submitted to a vote of the electors at the general election to be held on November 8, 2022.

PREAMBLE

Language approved by the Charter Review Commission for change: (change shown in italics)

“We, the people of *Bay Village*, in the County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, in order to secure for ourselves the benefits of Municipal Home rule and exercise all the powers of local self government, *and to affirm the values of representative democracy, political leadership, citizen participation, sustainability, diversity and inclusiveness*, do adopt this Charter of our Municipality.

ARTICLE II - THE COUNCIL

Section 2.4 VACANCIES

Language approved by Charter Review Commission for change: (change shown in italics)

“Any vacancy in Council shall be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the remaining members of Council. Council may first select *one of its members to fill the vacancy. If no Council member is selected to fill the vacancy, Council shall fill by appointment from qualified applicants who are not current members of Council.* If the vacancy be not so filled within thirty (30) days, the Mayor shall fill it by appointment within thirty (30) days of expiration of Council’s time period for appointment. Such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member in whose office the vacancy occurs or until a successor is elected and qualified. A successor shall be elected at the next regular municipal election provided that:

- (1) Such election occurs more than two (2) years prior to the expiration of the unexpired term; and
- (2) The vacancy occurs more than seventy-five (75) days prior to such election.”

ARTICLE VI
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Language approved by the Charter Review Commission for change: (change shown in italics)

Section 6.3 CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICE (change shown in italics)

The civil service of the City is hereby divided into classified and unclassified service. The classified service shall include all sworn members of the police and fire departments, including Chief of Police Department and Chief of the Fire Department, and all full-time Police, Fire/EMS Dispatchers. The unclassified service shall include all directors other than classified members, elected officials, members of boards and commissions, and all employees not specifically included in the classified service.

All original appointments shall be for a probationary period of one (1) year, except for the Divisions of Fire and Police which shall be for two (2) years. All promotional appointments shall be for a probationary period of *twelve (12) months*. During the probationary period for original appointees, the employee may be dismissed, removed or reduced without restriction by the appointing authority. At the end of the probationary period for promotional appointees, the appointing authority shall transmit to the Civil Service Commission a record of the promoted employee’s service, and if such service is unsatisfactory the promoted employee may, with the approval of the Civil Service Commission, be reduced to the position previously held by such employee without restriction, but reduction or dismissal may be made during the promoted employee’s probationary period as is otherwise provided by law.

Section 6.4 DUTIES (change shown in italics)

Language approved by the Charter Review Commission for change:

The Commission shall provide by *rules of Civil Service Commission* for ascertainment of merit and fitness in the classified service of the *City, as required by the Constitution of the State of Ohio; for the basis and method for determination of eligibility, certification, appointment and promotion of candidates for the positions in the classified service; for the conduct of the affairs of the commission; and for appeals from the action of the Mayor in any case of transfer, reduction or removal, and the action of the Commission on any such appeal shall be final. The Commission shall keep a record of its proceedings and examinations, which shall be open to public inspection. The Commission shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with home rule which may differ from State law, to govern its proceedings and fulfill its duties hereunder, and in such event of a conflict with State law, rules adopted by the Commission shall supersede provisions of State law and be determinative and govern the Commission’s proceedings.*

Language approved by the Charter Review Commission for change:

Section 6.5 REMOVAL

The Mayor may at any time suspend any Commissioner for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office, incapacity or incompetency, provided however that such suspension shall not be effective without the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Councilmen provided for in this Charter, *and until such Commissioner shall have been notified in writing of the charge against him at least ten (10) days in advance of any hearing upon such charge, and he or his counsel has been given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, or examine any witness appearing in support of such charge.*

A majority affirmative vote on the proposed amendments are required for adoption.

This notice is being given pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and pursuant to Section 731.211 of the Ohio Revised Code.

By order of the Council.

The full transcript of Ordinances Nos. 22-85, 22-86, 22-87, 22-88, 22-89, and the proposed charter amendments are available on the City of Bay Village web site www.cityofbayvillage.com.

Joan T. Kemper, Clerk of Council
September 20, 2022
Westlake/Bay Village Observer

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWV chapter to discuss 'hidden government' issues

by JANICE PATTERSON

David S. Greenspan, President of Westlake City Council, will be the discussant at the Thursday, Sept. 22, meeting of the Westlake-North Olmsted chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. Guests are welcome to attend. The meeting will be at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road., at 7 p.m.

Attendees will engage Greenspan in commentary about the best (and worst) examples of how city, county and state governments work together to optimize living and working conditions for citizens, business owners, and employees.

Greenspan’s public service career has provided him with ample opportunities to observe and affect intergovernmental relationships. He first served on the city council in Sandy Springs, Georgia, and after moving to Westlake, held council committee positions prior to his election as President of Council in 2021.

Greenspan served as District 1 representative to Cuyahoga County Council from 2011 to 2016 and was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, District 16, from 2017 to 2021.

The program will be recorded for later viewing on the League of Women Voters’ YouTube site. For further information, contact westlake-northolmsted@lwvgreatercleveland.org. ●

Porter Library appoints Dan Keenan to board

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake resident Dan Keenan has been appointed to the Westlake Porter Public Library board of trustees. Keenan is filling the unexpired term of Kate Maver, who resigned to explore opportunities in another state. The term expires in December 2026.

Keenan is the Executive Director of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, former superintendent of the Westlake City Schools and former assistant superintendent of the Kenston Local Schools. During his years in Westlake he has been a member of various community service organizations, including the Westshore Chamber of Commerce.

“I believe libraries have tremendous potential to support communities in many ways, particularly to ensure equitable learning opportunities for individuals to grow, excel and thrive, to inspire wonder and significantly contribute to community building,”

said Keenan.

He shares the library’s passion for this, and feels his professional work aligns well with the library’s mission. Keenan also feels that his experience approaching this work from a different but also public service-related lens will add a varied perspective to the board.

“I am excited to be involved. I understand what it means to work as a team and believe almost anything done well as an individual can be greatly improved upon by the synergy of a strong team,” he stated.

In addition to Keenan’s appointment, Board President Jason Nolde was appointed to a second seven-year term ending in December 2029. ●



Westlake Porter Public Library Assistant Director CJ Lynce (right) swears in Westlake resident Dan Keenan (left) as a member of the Library’s board of trustees.

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WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

Concert welcomes the return of autumn

by JEAN SMITH

Even though fall was still a week away, strains of music associated with fall and harvest were enjoyed at Westlake Porter Public Library on Sept. 18 as the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council (W-WAC) presented their fall program.

The program, Harvest Home, was performed by Sunday in the Park, a husband and wife duo. Karen Ellicott, clarinet and voice, and Christopher Ellicott, guitar and voice, are both accomplished musicians and teachers from Baldwin Wallace University.

The Ellicotts began the program with "We Gather Together," a 16th-century Dutch melody, followed by "Simple Gifts," a 19th-century Shaker

hymn. The titles may not have been familiar, but the melodies were immediately recognizable.

Four lively tunes, mostly for fiddle but adapted to clarinet and guitar, immediately followed. Then two 19th-century traditional tunes, "Oh Shenandoah" and "Wayfaring Stranger," were followed by a rousing sing-along of five tunes including "Oh Susanna" and "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain."

The program closed with a lively rendition of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." Karen gave the history of each piece, adding informational and humorous anecdotes. Many of these "folk" songs have been taught in elementary school so they brought back memories to many audience members, and it was an added gift to learn their history. ●



Karen and Christopher Ellicott performed at Porter Library on Sept. 18.

PHOTO BY JEAN SMITH

Standing on its long, storied history, FYI: Opera returns

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

On Oct. 10, FYI: Opera, a premier program sponsored by the Westlake-Westshore Arts Council since 1990, returns after a COVID driven absence of more than two years. Oberlin Opera Theater presents the October program at Westlake Porter Public Library at 7:30 p.m. These programs are offered free to the public by the WWAC.

Jonathan Field, Director of Oberlin Opera Theater, will introduce the music performed by three Oberlin voice students: Clara Dahmer, soprano; Chris Leimgruber, tenor; Alan Rendzak, baritone. Oberlin Music Director Kyung-Eun Na will accompany the singers on the piano. These gifted students will perform arias and a trio from "L'Occasione fa il Ladro," one of Rossini's early one-act farces, which will also be part of Oberlin's November opera presentation.

The nearly three decade history of WWAC's FYI: Opera program reflects an interesting period of opera history in the Cleveland area. In 1990, two WWAC members, Jane Mueller and Jean Povi-nelli initiated FYI: Opera.

One of the contacts they made was with David Bamberger, who along with his wife Carola and John D. Heavenrich, incorporated Cleveland Opera in March 1976. This company was credited with being a major factor in the revitalization of Cleveland's historic theater district, as Cleveland



A 1904 opera poster advertising "Madama Butterfly" created by Adolf Hohenstein

Opera became the resident opera company at the State Theater by 1984.

When Bamberger was approached by the WWAC members regarding FYI: Opera, he readily supported the program and presented entertaining and

enlightening programs about opera, its composers, performers and more.

Bamberger stepped down as Cleveland Opera manager in 2004 and subsequently directed the opera department of the Cleveland Institute of Music. He then presented FYI: Opera programs that included talented young CIM singers, who performed arias from operas, whose stories were entertainingly explained by Bamberger.

In addition to the Cleveland Opera and Cleveland Institute of Music, FYI: Opera has had the cooperation and talents of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Baldwin Wallace University, area music writers and teachers. And prior to the COVID suspension of programs, FYI: Opera earned a loyal and appreciative audience.

WWAC encourages young and old alike to enjoy a captivating trip through the countless facets of opera beautifully, humorously, and lovingly revealed by those who devote their energy to keeping it alive. Attend FYI: Opera on Monday, Oct. 10, at Westlake Porter Public Library. ●

Be Proud to be Bay!

We're proud of Wendy Fortunato '83

- Bay Village Schools Art Teacher for 10 years
- Proud mom to 3 Bay High Alumni
- Proud daughter of John & Carol Balch, residents for 50 years. (Mr. Balch was a Bay School Board member from 1977-1981)

"As an alumna, mom of three Bay High grads and teacher in this amazing district, I am so proud to be Bay! My dad served on the Bay Board of Education, and instilled in me how important education and community truly are."

Wendy Fortunato, Bay High School '83

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September is

NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

westlakelibrary.org

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Can a polio vaccine give you polio?

by DIANA PI, M.D.

THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG

In July, hell broke loose with the discovery of one locally acquired case of paralytic polio in a 25-year-old healthy but unvaccinated man in New York. So how can a single case of polio roil the public health sector – similar to or worse than 22,000 cases of monkeypox?

BACKGROUND STORY

With an aggressive vaccine program, the U.S. eliminated polio in 1979. (Yup, I drew the graph.)

Most people who are infected have no symptoms. Some suffer a few days of stomach flu-like illness. Only 1 in 200 to 2,000 develops paralysis. Experts estimate that for each case of paralysis, hundreds to thousands have been infected and just don't know.

For example, albino tigers are rare, occurring 1 in 10,000 births in the wild. To spot a white tiger in the wild, you can safely bet there are over 9,000 orange ones running around somewhere.

A confirmation is wastewater testing. Polio virus has been detected in wastewater samples not only in Rockland County, where the first known victim resides, but also in neighboring Orange County, Sullivan County, New York City, and Long

Island. The first positive sample dates to April.

THE CULPRIT: A POLIO VACCINE?

Before you cancel your trip to NYC, or I-told-you-so tongue-lash me for my unwavering vaccine-worship, allow me to get one point across.

ABOUT THE POLIO VACCINES

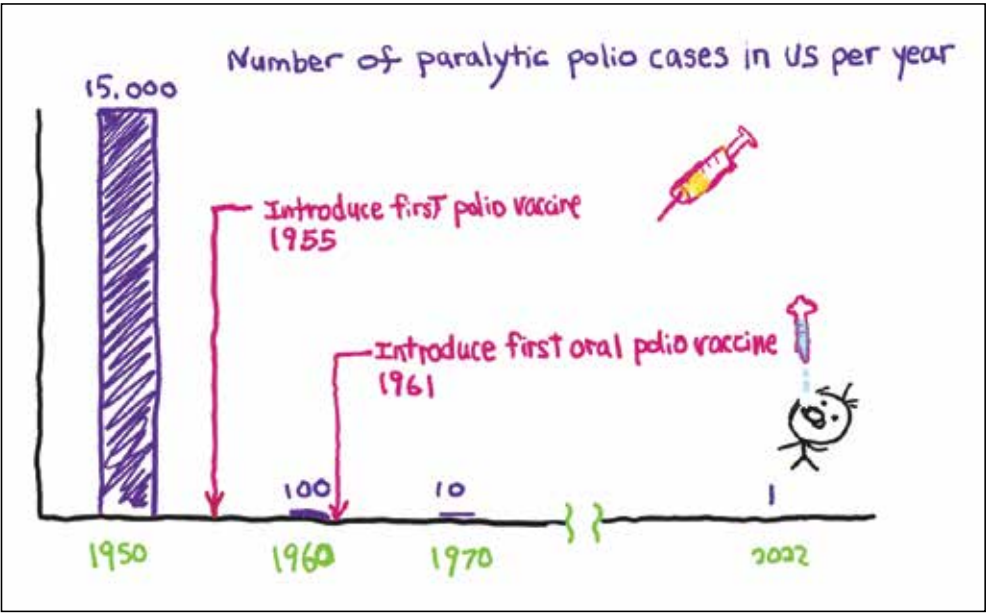
We have two different kinds. One is a dead virus. Given as a shot, it provides 99% lasting protection against the worst outcome of polio – paralysis. It's the only vaccine we've used in the U.S. since 2000.

The second one is a live-attenuated virus. Like a biter with no teeth, it cannot give us polio. Given orally as drops, it replicates in the guts. In one to two months, our guts develop a robust anti-polio immune system and rids the virus completely.

HOW DOES A VACCINE THAT PROTECTS YOU FROM POLIO GIVE YOU POLIO?

The live vaccine has many advantages over the dead one, which I won't dwell on. But it's a saint with a small devil detail.

Rarely, rarely, as in 1 in 10 million



DATA FROM CDC. DRAWN BY DIANA PI

One decade after the introduction of vaccine, the average yearly paralytic polio cases in the U.S. dropped from 15,000 to 100.

vaccinations, the harmless vaccine virus can mutate to a virulent form – and cause polio in an unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated person. But that's not the only problem. An outbreak needs a critical mass of vulnerable (unvaccinated) population to sustain the transmission. These are communities that are way behind in vaccinations.

CAN CLEVELAND BE THE NEXT ROCKLAND?

Not today. For a highly contagious

disease like polio, a 90% vaccination rate is adequate to protect our community. In Cleveland, our vaccination rate is 89%. In comparison, the rate in Rockland County and surrounding areas is 60%.

Here's the big picture. It won't be long before polio will be eliminated, like smallpox. I can see the finish line. The vaccines are that good. But so long as there's one case of polio, nobody is safe. This crisis only reinforces my one message: Get vaccinated. ●

Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming calendar of events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming 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.

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesday, Sept. 21 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – This month's title is "Raft of Stars" by Andrew J. Graff. A limited number of books are available for checkout at the Circulation Desk. Please register.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 (7-8 p.m.) **Adult Creative Writing Group** – Join us for an hour of creative writing prompts to inspire you to start and keep writing. Creativity is more than putting pen to paper. It's about breaking away and trying something new! Please register.

Thursday, Sept. 22 (6:30-7:15 p.m.) and Friday, Sept. 30 (11-11:45 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. Registration begins one week before each session.

Friday, Sept. 23 (4-5 p.m.) **Brick Builders** – Do you love Legos? 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, Sept. 24 (10:30 a.m.-noon) **Medicare: Open Enrollment Information** – Medicare Open Enrollment is Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Join us for a presentation on Medicare with OSHIIP, Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, to learn the ins and outs of Medicare. OSHIIP volunteer counselor Jim Langan will discuss your Medicare coverage options. Please register.

Saturday, Sept. 24 (2-3:30 p.m.) **3D Printing Orientation** – In order to use

the library's 3D printer, you'll need to take this orientation first. Learn library policies about using it, how to download a 3D-printable object, and how to prepare it for a great print. Registration begins Sept. 17.

Sunday, Sept. 25 (2-3 p.m.) **Come Play With Me** – An open playtime for children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome! No registration required but room capacity is limited. First come, first served.

Monday, Sept. 26 (6-8 p.m.) **How to Overcome Depression Naturally** – Learn from a Certified Herbalist how to shine a positive light on depression by applying self-care techniques with herbal and nutritional supplements. Registration begins Sept. 19.

Tuesday, Sept. 27 (4- p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Hernan Diaz** – Join us online for an afternoon with Pulitzer Prize finalist and PEN/Faulkner Award winner Hernan Diaz, author of "In the Distance" and "Trust." Streamed live. Please register.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Discovery Box Sign-Up** – For Teens in grades 7-12. Register for WPPL's personalized subscription box service by Sept. 28. Here's how it works: 1. register; 2. fill out

a brief survey; 3. based on your answers, we'll prepare a personalized Discovery Box that is catered to your specific taste; 4. pick up your Discovery Box starting Oct. 5.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 (2-3:30 p.m.) OR Thursday, Sept. 29 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Hello Fall Sign Craft** – Welcome the season with a rustic wooden sign featuring a felt leaf wreath. This project requires painting, wire wrapping and using a glue gun. Please choose one session. Registration begins one week before each.

Friday, Sept. 30 (1-3 p.m.) **Art Walk Reception** – Come and experience the nature photography featured in our gallery space and meet the artists! During the summer, persons with disabilities had the opportunity to explore nature and share their perspective of the world through photography as part of a series of Art Walk programs. The photography on display in the library the entire month of September is the outcome of our Art Walk programs.

Friday, Sept. 30 (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. Registration begins one week before each session.

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

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Questions? Email staff@wbvobserver.com

Bay animal kennel advocates change group's name

by SUSAN MURNANE

Friends of the Bay Village Kennel (FOBVK) has changed its name to Friends of Bay Village Community Cats. We have contemplated the name change for a long time.

FOBVK was incorporated in 2010 to help provide shelter and veterinary care for homeless pets until permanent homes were found, promote spay/neutering and TNR (trap neuter return), and support animal rescue. At that time, the Bay Village kennel temporarily sheltered both cats and dogs, and FOBVK supported the kennel as a means to helping Bay Village's lost, stray and homeless pets.

However, in August 2011, Bay Village changed its animal control policies: generally, dogs were kept in the kennel no longer than overnight before transfer to the Cuyahoga County Kennel and cats were on their own. These policies continue.

Over time, our involvement with the kennel steadily decreased but the need to provide services on behalf of lost, stray, and community cats increased. Since FOBVK reorganized in February 2021, we have responded to calls from more than 60 households involving more than 100 cats.



Friends of Bay Village Community Cats is looking for volunteers to foster kittens.

Sometimes, all a resident needed was the loan of a humane trap to recover a lost pet. Often the problem was more complicated: community cats turning up in backyards, sometimes with kittens. Friends of Bay Village Community Cats is not a rescue organization, although we can help residents locate a rescue organization and care for a friendly cat until the rescue has space to take the cat.

Community cats live among us but do not have "owners." They may be lost, stray, or unsocialized homeless cats, but unless they are neutered their population will increase rapidly. Most shelters are full, and adult cats especially have a very hard time being adopted even if friendly. Unsocialized cats are unadoptable.

Friends of Bay Village Community Cats helps residents TNR cats on their property. When a cat is neutered as part of a TNR program its left ear is tipped to let others know the cat has been neutered. For more information on TNR, visit clevelandapl.org and click on Programs, Services & Resources.

Successful TNR requires planning, patience, and luck, especially when kittens are involved. Residents need to feed cats and kittens at a specific time and place for a while because the trapper needs to know where the cats will be, and the cats need to be looking for food, for trapping to be successful.

If kittens are involved, they need to be taken care of and there are many possibilities, but the momcat needs to be neutered in any circumstance. If kittens are at the right age and a foster is available, they can be removed, socialized, and placed with a rescue organization for adoption into a forever home.

If the kittens are too young to be separated from the momcat, the best plan is waiting until the kittens are a little older. If the kittens are too old to



Four foster kittens play together in their temporary home.

be easily socialized, they are probably big enough to be TNR'd. A kitten may be TNR'd when it is at least 8 weeks old and weighs 2 pounds.

We are a small, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, and we rely on your support. We could really use volunteers: to help with TNR, to maintain our Facebook page and help us communicate better with the community, and to foster kittens. We are limited in how many kittens we can rescue primarily by the shortage of kitten fosters.

Please contact us if you know of cats in need. Maybe we can help. Message us through Facebook, facebook.com/FriendsBVCC, or call 216-925-0534 and leave a message. ●

Bay Village Schools librarian honored

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

The Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA), Ohio's preeminent professional association for highly effective school librarians and libraries, recently announced that Melissa Wolf, Library Media Specialist at Bay Middle School, is the recipient of the Rosen Publishing Ohio School Librarian of the Month Award for September 2022.

The Rosen Publishing Ohio School Librarian of the Month award recognizes a school librarian who designs, develops and implements a collaborative lesson plan and/or programming that empowers student learning. This award spotlights the importance of both the school library community and librarian, and the pivotal role each plays in transforming learning throughout students' K-12 education.

OELMA partners with Rosen Pub-



Melissa Wolf, Library Media Specialist at Bay Middle School, was named Ohio School Librarian of the Month for September.

lishing for this award. Since its establishment in 1950, Rosen has offered print and digital books on a wide range of topics that are aligned with curriculum. Rosen is also known for its databases and interactive e-books.

As the recipient of this award, Wolf will have the opportunity to select a free set of books for the school library. She will also be recognized at the annual OELMA Conference. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

'Fly Me to the Moon' on Oct. 9

by MORGAN PASKERT

The Women's Board of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will host "Fly Me to the Moon," a benefit event, on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. in Schuele Planetarium (28728 Wolf Road).

Planetarium and Program Coordinator Katy Downing will present a timely program honoring the past and future of human space flight. Learn about NASA's

21st-century Artemis program as the next step in our mission of exploring the universe. Following the program, the Women's Board will host a social with refreshments.

Tickets cost \$25 per person. For information about purchasing tickets, please call 440-871-2900. Proceeds will benefit the astronomy internship program at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. ●



IMAGE BY DENNY WENDEL

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

- Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.
CUYAHOGA WEST CHAPTER OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Mary Jamba presents: "What is New in DNA." The Genetic Genealogy companies continually announce new features and tools. These tips may help you in filling in your family tree.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.
- Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.
COLLEGE CLUB WEST GENERAL MEETING
Reconnect with friends. Join interest groups – book clubs, cooking, exercise, investment, music, language, lend a hand, bridge and more.
Rocky River Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd.
- Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
SPECTACULAR SPERRY HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW
Fun for the whole family! In addition to product samples and exhibits, there will be home furnishings, plants and landscape displays, as well as food trucks, talented artists and other attractions.
Window & Bath Depot, 24510 Sperry Dr., Westlake
- Saturday, Sept. 24, 4:30 p.m.
GRAB 'N' GO MEAL
Come to the rear door of Clague Road Church and we will bring you a great meal! Our hosts are Church of the Redeemer, Westlake, and Clague Road United Church of Christ.
Clague Road UCC, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted

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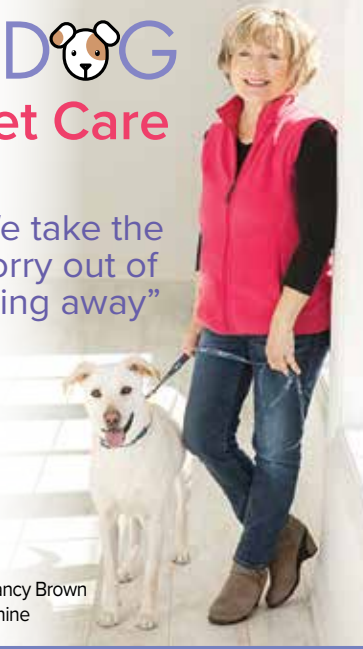
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