

Clough addresses Westlake residents



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough gave an overview of the state of the city on May 12.

by TARA WENDELL

Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough shared a snapshot of each of the city's departments, its financials and upcoming projects in his annual State of the City address to residents at the Westlake Community Center on May 12. The event was sponsored by the Westlake | Bay Village Observer as part of our commitment to making news and information accessible to all in the community.

Clough offered a shortened version of the presentation he made in March to the West Shore Chamber of Commerce, in order to allow more time for audience questions.

In his 38th annual address, Mayor Clough again emphasized the city's focus on controlled growth and conservative fiscal policies, as well as his administration's commitment to maintaining Westlake's infrastructure.

► See MAYOR CLOUGH, page 2

Memorial Day events honor our veterans



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Bay Village Cub Scouts wave American flags during the 2015 Bay Village Memorial Day parade.

Kiwanis memorializes and honors Westlake heroes

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Memorial Day will soon be here. The Westlake Kiwanis Club hopes you will participate in our annual community parade and services that day, May 29.

Come out and line the

parade route along Hilliard Boulevard and enjoy the parade, which starts at 10 a.m. in front of Sts. Peter and George Coptic and Orthodox Church and ends in Clague Park at the Gazebo for the Memorial Day Tributes.

► See WESTLAKE, page 2

Army officer to address crowd at Bay ceremony

by JIM POTTER and GEOFF KEDZIERSKI

It is that time of the year when we start to think about summer and look forward to the Memorial Day weekend. While many think of this as a "Holiday" it is really

a "Remembrance" day. It is meant to remember all the men and women who have served our country and have passed away.

This year the Bay Village Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 29.

► See BAY VILLAGE page 2

Interurban Pedestrian Bridge installed over Cahoon Creek

by KATHRYN KERBER

The Interurban Pedestrian Bridge was set in place across Cahoon Creek on May 4. The bridge follows the route of the former Lake Shore Electric Interurban Railway and is 125 feet long and 12 feet wide.

The bridge was recommended in the Cahoon Park Connectivity Study completed by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) in 2016. It is expected to cost about \$700,000, \$475,000 of which will be paid for by two grants from NOACA. The bridge was also awarded state capital funding in 2020.

Trails to connect the eastern end of bridge to the Bay Village Branch Library and Dwyer Memorial Senior Center are in the planning stages. The West Interurban Connector Trail will connect the western end of the bridge to the Cahoon Basin Trail and is planned for construction in 2023.

The Lake Shore Electric, one of America's premier interurbans, ran 120 miles from Cleveland through Bay Village, Lorain, Vermilion, Huron, Sandusky, and Fremont to Toledo.

Plans for a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony are being finalized. Stay tuned for details. ●

► See more photos, page 8



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

The bridge is lifted to be placed across Cahoon Creek.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN KERBER

Concrete being poured on the bridge deck surface.



WESTLAKE

from front page

The parade and services will honor those civilians and military that sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms and protect our shores – many of those fallen were members of our Westlake community. If you participated in the parade or in the services in Clague Park in the past, the Westlake Kiwanis and the community appreciate your participation and hope you will take part again this year.

Please make sure to attend the services at the Gazebo; don't let those who gave so much be forgotten. Memorial Day not only memorializes those fallen heroes of various wars but also honors those who carried and are carrying the traumatic effects of those various incursions throughout their lifetime.

If you missed this fun and moving



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Flags representing Westlake veterans that have died in combat are displayed during a memorial ceremony at the pavilion in Clague Park.

event in the past, we hope you will join us this year. There is plenty of room for various groups of marchers and floats.

If you wish to participate in this year's parade and or service, call Rick Grane at 440-829-0974, rickgrane@aol.com. ●

BAY VILLAGE

from front page

The parade timetable is as follows:

- 8 a.m. Assemble in Huntington Beach parking lot on Lake Road
- 8:45 a.m. March west on Lake Road to Lakeside Cemetery
- 9:00 a.m. Ceremonies at Lakeside Cemetery
- 9:15 a.m. March east on Lake Road to Cahoon Park Gazebo
- 9:45 a.m. Ceremonies at Cahoon Park

The Parade Committee invites all Veterans and Blue and Gold Star Mothers to participate and march in the parade.

The Cahoon Park ceremonies will feature guest speaker Colonel Richard Gash. Col. Gash is the Vice Dean for Resources at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He is also an associate professor who teaches mechanics and design courses for the civil and mechanical engineering programs.

Col. Gash is married to his West Point classmate, Staci and they have five children: Abigail (USMA 2024), Richard (USMA 2026), Allison, Amelia and Alexandra.

Col. Gash graduated from Bay High in 1992 where he ran cross-country and played in the marching band. He was graduated from West Point in 1996 and was commissioned as an Engineering Officer in the U.S. Army. His military assignments

prior to returning as a member of the senior faculty include serving in the 1st Armored Division at Ft. Riley Kansas, the 555th Engineering Group at Ft. Lewis Washington, the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Hovey in the Republic of Korea and culminating as Director of Public Works for Camp AsSayliyah in Doha, Qatar. He served combat duties in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

American Legion Post 385 is the main organizer of the parade with assistance from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 249. Any questions regarding the parade can be addressed to Joe Cronin of the American Legion at joecronin@prodigy.net. ●



Col. Richard J.H. Gash, a Bay High graduate and currently Vice Dean at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point and his wife, Staci.



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

American Legion members march in the Bay Village Memorial Day ceremony.

MAYOR CLOUGH

from front page

Over the past three years, Westlake has spent \$36.6 million on infrastructure improvements, from the new Community Center, to water and sewer lines, to road resurfacing.

"We continue to reinvest in the city of Westlake," Clough said. "If you don't invest in your infrastructure, you're going to pay down the road. If you can maintain it and take care of it when it needs taking care of, you're going to save money."

A strong, diverse tax base and friendly business environment make those investments easier to manage. Westlake's total assessed valuation continues to climb, with a citywide real estate value in 2023

of nearly \$1.78 billion. The city also offers limited incentives for businesses looking to build, expand and/or create jobs.

"On occasion we have to offer incentives for businesses to encourage them to come here because sometimes we're in a competitive nature with other cities," Clough said, explaining that such moves can help increase the city's tax base and keep residential taxes low. "We're not a big fan of offering the incentives, but if we feel that the business is right for Westlake and we want them to be here, we'll be competitive."

Hyland was one of the businesses receiving a tax credit, and their recently announced downsizing has drawn the city's attention. From a peak of 2,000 employees, Hyland is reducing its workforce to 200.

"We're going to have to watch our income tax to see how that's affecting us," said Clough, responding to a resident's question about the layoffs. "One good thing is that we have a reserve fund, but we're not happy about [the situation] either."

Another topic of interest to the audience is the future of city-owned Meadowood Golf Course. The mayor explained that they have received prices in the \$10-\$11 million range to upgrade the course and they are currently evaluating whether Westlake will see a return on that investment. A strong possibility is installing a driving range first, which Clough said definitely makes money.

To see a slideshow from the presentation, visit www.cityofwestlake.org/386/Mayors-Office. ●

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Bay Elementary School teacher Barb Woodburn retires after 51 years

by SCOTT POHLKAMP

Westerly fourth-grade teacher Barbara Woodburn is ending her accomplished Bay Village career, retiring May 31. Woodburn has proudly served students, parents, fellow teachers, staff and the school system since her starting in 1972 – 51 years ago.

“Not one day has ever felt like work,” Woodburn stated in reflecting on her time teaching in Bay. She credited the sheer joy of teaching children as the motivating factor for her extensive tenure. She also credited the “team” teaching concept, which she helped establish in Bay, allowing teachers to split teaching duties 50/50, rather than teaching full-time every day.

“I was truly blessed to have taught with two of the best teachers and friends with anyone you could hope for in Lu Laing

and Mary Jo Mahall,” explained Woodburn. Mahall is also retiring this year.

Woodburn has cheerfully zipped through the halls of Westerly for decades. Her “perma-grin” smile has been ever-present among students. While positively impacting the lives of over one thousand students, she has also been an innovator. She was instrumental in the success of the Ohio History Week program at Westerly. And her collaboration with other teachers resulting in the First / Fourth grade Key Chain company has been recognized as a program of excellence by the Harvard School of Business. This program paired first graders with fourth graders in designing, assembling and selling key chains to other students teaching basic business concepts.

Her efforts have also been recognized by parents and students. Woodburn was a regular

recipient of the Apple Award, given to teachers who have been identified by a student in either 8th grade or 12th grade as the instructor who made the most significant impact in their life. She also implemented numerous school programs to benefit children in Cleveland, such as the Shoebox Ministry.

While her students have been a major focus for many years, she has also been very active outside the classroom. She and her husband of 62 years, Ian Woodburn, have volunteered for and given generously to non-profits and causes including their church, needy families, school levy campaigns, school scholarships, foster children programs, the Village Foundation, adult literacy programs and many more.

Woodburn has lived her entire life in the area. She grew up in a home on Bradley Road in Dover (now Westlake) very close



Barb Woodburn, left, with teaching partner Lu Laing.

to the Bay border. After graduating as class valedictorian with a degree in Education from Ohio University, she and Ian bought a house in Bay Village and have called Bay their home since.

Barbara will continue to live in Bay Village and enjoy spending time with her family, including eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Congratulations to Barbara Woodburn for an outstanding teaching career and well-deserved retirement. ●



Always making learning fun, Barbara Woodburn is retiring after 51 years teaching in the Bay Schools.

WPPL Friends Programming Pavilion dedication set for June 4



The new Friends Programming Pavilion at Porter Public Library will be dedicated on June 4.

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library and the Friends of Porter Public Library will have a community dedication celebration for the Friends Programming Pavilion on Sunday, June 4, from 2-4 p.m. In addition to a

ribbon-cutting ceremony, there will be refreshments, including a Kona Ice truck, children’s activities, and music from CJ the DJ.

The Friends Programming Pavilion was created as an outdoor programming and activity space and named for the Friends in honor of their 50th Anniversary in 2022 and

their generous donation toward its construction. It will be used for library programs but can also be reserved by community groups. The library’s meeting room policies and procedures apply.

The dedication will take place weather permitting. In the case of rain it will be moved to Sunday, June 11. ●


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BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Bay Village named ‘Best Community for Music Education’ for 21st year

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

Standards for inclusion on the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education list have increased consistently over the last two decades, but the Bay Village City School District has once again been honored for its exemplary music program. First recognized with the distinction in 2003 – and each year since – Bay Village Schools is among just 830 districts nationwide, and 47 Ohio school districts, identified for this national honor by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for 2023.

The distinction takes on added significance again this year since music education – perhaps more than any other school subject – was affected by pandemic protocol that included masking and social distancing the last two years.

“I applaud the commitment of our music educators, who provide our students with not only a learning opportunity, but also a creative outlet to explore

and express their creativity and talent,” said Superintendent Scot Prebles. “I also know that without the support of our families and residents, including the Bay Music Boosters, this award would not be possible.”

Music instructors at the Bay Village City School District are: Darren Allen (Bay Middle School and Bay High School instrumental music); Mark Awad (Bay Middle School instrumental music); Dr. E. James Kotora Jr. (Normandy Elementary School music); Allison Turnbull (Westerly Elementary School music); Devon Gess (Bay High School vocal music); Dr. Ann Gilbert (Bay Middle School instrumental music); Andrew Novak (Bay Middle School vocal music); and Carrie Singler (Bay Middle School and Bay High School instrumental music).

Districts who wish to be evaluated and considered for the Best Communities for Music Education distinction

must complete a detailed survey about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, certification of instructors and other relevant factors about their music education programs. Examples

of how music teachers collaborate on lessons and activities with regular classroom teachers must also be provided. Responses are verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas. ●



PHOTOS COURTESY BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

The Bay High School Band, Choirs and Orchestra were all recently recognized at statewide contests, contributing to the district being named a “Best Community for Music Education.”



The Bay High School Rocket Marching Band is one of the reasons Bay Village Schools has again been named a “Best Community for Music Education.”

**51st ANNUAL
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**WESTLAKE
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Westlake Historical Society preparing for 51st Antique, Vintage, & Craft Show

by DAVE PFISTER

The picturesque Clague family home is the setting for the annual Antique, Vintage & Craft Show!

The grounds of the Clague House Museum will be the place to be on Sunday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., as the Westlake Historical Society welcomes visitors to the 51st annual Antique, Vintage and Craft Show.

This yearly event is put on by the members and friends of the Westlake

Historical Society and is their major fundraiser for the year. Funding from the show helps to support many of the society’s activities, events and youth programs as well as museum utility costs.

The show will feature over 40 booths to peruse for that perfect item or gift for someone special. The Clague House Museum will be open for tours during the show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The popular vintage 1930s fire engine will also be displayed on the lawn.

In addition to the great Antique Dealers and unique Craft Vendors, various community groups will also be present. Be sure to visit the snack tent for some cold drinks and tasty treats. Parking is free, and the show is pet friendly.

Your \$4 donation helps to support the ongoing work of the Westlake Historical Society and the Clague House Museum.

If you have any questions or would like to assist us, please call 216-848-0680. ●

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FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Dover UCC’s rainbow flag desecrated

by MICHAEL DILAURO

Dover Congregational United Church of Christ in Westlake is an open and affirming congregation. No matter who you are or where you are in your life’s journey, you are welcome here. We proudly fly the rainbow flag along with the American flag.

Someone wanted to make a statement regarding our stand and damaged the rainbow flag on Saturday, May 7. The following Sunday at the church service, Rev. Melinda Quellhorst stated, “A new flag will soon be flown and love will always prevail. Let’s pray for those who find hatred in their hearts.”

Sexual preference has been with us since the beginning of time. When I was in high school, many years ago, if you wore yellow clothing on Thursday you were labeled queer. Unfortunately, time has passed but attitudes and labels by some, toward people with alternative lifestyles, are consequential issues that



Dover UCC’s rainbow flag was vandalized earlier this month.

perpetuate divisiveness. The doctrine of love of God and Christ are the most important parts of our Christian lives. For Dover Congregational Church to fly the rainbow flag is an invitation to all to come join us in our celebration of love. ●

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

August election coming for constitutional amendment

by KATHY WOOLNER and NADIA ZAIEM

Hear ye, all citizens. There will be a “pop-up” election on Tuesday, Aug. 8, and you will need to be ready to vote (by absentee ballot or in person) beginning July 9, 2023. The Ohio Legislature voted 62-37 on Wednesday, May 10, to submit this proposal to the electorate this year, even though the same body had voted at the end of last year to eliminate August elections statewide.

This single-issue election will present voters with a proposed constitutional amendment that would change the requirements for citizen-led proposals for amendments. It would increase the percentage of valid voter signatures needed from the current 50%-plus-one of total registered voters to 60% and would also require that signatures be collected from all 88 counties. (The current requirement is for petition signatures to be submitted from at least 44 of

the 88 counties and be equal to at least 5 percent of the total vote cast for the office of governor in that county at the last gubernatorial election.)

The add-on election is estimated to cost an additional \$20 million in the current state budget. It also adds considerably to the workload of the Boards of Election statewide, since many municipalities (including Bay Village) will have primary elections only a month later, Sept. 12, 2023.

The rules and deadlines for becoming a registered voter changed earlier this year, requiring specific kinds of photo IDs for voting in person and tightening the deadlines for requesting and returning absentee ballots. Voters who prefer to vote absentee must personally request an absentee ballot as they will not be sent automatically to all registered voters. For complete details on voter registration rules, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov. ●

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THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Hi, about STD...

by DIANA PI, M.D.

A young man asked to get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STI or STD). He and his girlfriend are in their early 20s, healthy, and updated on vaccines – including human papilloma virus (HPV), hepatitis B. Recently, she saw her gynecologist, who did a pelvic exam and checked her for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HPV.

“It’s routine,” her gynecologist said. So, his girlfriend asked him to do the same.

I was touched by their strong sense of shared respon-

sibility, but I said, “We don’t routinely test men for STD.”

“Oh, she’s going to be mad,” he said.

I’ve been chewing on that comment for a while; I’d like to elaborate on this apparent double standard. For almost a decade, three STDs – chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis – have been rising at an alarming, unrelenting rate.

Most of us will contract some form of STD and just don’t know it. Take HPV alone – according to the CDC, “85% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime.” Most (90%) will clear HPV infection in years. But

many – both men and women – will develop genital warts, genital and throat cancers. About 70% of throat cancer is caused by HPV.

Another headache: chlamydia and gonorrhea infections often have no symptoms, especially in women. Yet these infections are a major cause of infertility and pregnancy complications. The thing about STD: not knowing isn’t the same as not gnawing.

But screening STD is different than treating STD. The purpose of screening is to check the population at large – who have no symptoms – to reduce the chance of future disease.

We screen sexually active, young women routinely for STD because the burden is high, and the consequences can be dire.

Men get a pass because:

1. Anatomy makes men’s infections more obvious than women’s. They call attention and can be caught in time.

2. If women are getting screened regularly, there is insufficient evidence to show screening men provides additional benefits.

The 2021 U.S. Preventive Services Task Force states that “the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea in men.” But keep in mind, this recommendation could change in the future. Most health providers recommend STD screening in certain high-risk groups such as men who have sex with men or have HIV or have anonymous sex, etc.

That day, with my young patient, instead of testing, we talked about other good ways to reduce STD transmission such as condoms and vaccinations.

As a clinician, I love STD discussions, prevention, and treatment. Science prevails. I can cure gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, and syphilis with readily available, affordable antibiotics. Whenever I think of Gardasil-9 – the highly effective HPV vaccine which can reduce our risk of pre-cancer infections, cancers and genital warts by 80 to 99% – I see rainbows, and I hear harps.

Another unique thing about STD, I can treat my patients and their partners without seeing the latter. In the world of STD, I’m the Shel Silverstein’s tree that keeps giving. ●

Bay High Schools’ student-led mental health initiative

by NORAH SCHLEGEL

Bay High Senior, Norah Schlegel ‘23, co-started the BHS Mental Health Advisory Group alongside BHS grads, Annalise Johnson ‘21, Priya Goddard ‘21, Aliza Butchart ‘23, and BHS Principal Jason Martin. Currently the group is led by myself, Norah Schlegel ‘23, BHS Principal Jason Martin, and Athletic Director Matt Spellman, who also runs the Sources of Strength Group.

The Mental Health Advisory Group was started after the profound loss of fellow student, Sabrina DuPrey ‘22, in January 2021 and the swatting incident that occurred at Bay High School during the end of January 2021. Each year during Mental Health Awareness Month, which takes place in May, we host a variety of educational events and fundraisers to promote the advocacy and education of mental health in the Bay Village community.

Each day during the designated Mental Health Awareness Week, we pick a mental or neurological condition to recognize and wear the color of awareness for the day. Alongside, we share information about the condition and coping mechanisms that work for not only that condition, but could universally work for anything.

In the group’s first fundraiser in 2021, our group raised money for the Cleveland Clinic Children’s Art & Music Therapy Center in honor of BHS grad, Damon Bower ‘20, who passed away in June

2021 following a tremendous battle with cancer. The Cleveland Clinic Children’s Art & Music Therapy Center was one of Damon’s favorite coping mechanisms and distractions while being treated with chemo and radiation.

Bay High School PTSA provided the BHS Mental Health Advisory Group with funds to start The Reset Room. The Reset Room is a place with minimal lighting, sensory friendly seating, and fidget toys that allows students the opportunity to decompress and feel content as they head back to class. Very fortunately, our group was so successful that we were able to keep following our mission and returned in 2022 with similar events and a different organization to donate to.

For our group’s second go-around in May 2022, we decided to donate all of the money raised during the fundraiser to the Sabrina Noelle Foundation, which was started by the mom of Sabrina DuPrey, Kristen DuPrey. That year was even more successful and the group has had the opportunity to return for May of 2023.

This year, the group is going big and will be hosting a bake sale, health fair, fundraisers, and pep rallies with student vs. staff games. Our big fundraiser is our “Dunk A Teacher” fundraiser, that allows students to buy tickets to be entered into the raffle to dunk one of six staff members: Principal Jason Martin, School Resource Officer Ben Kitchen, Band Director Darren Allen, Interven-



Bay High senior Norah Schlegel stands inside the school’s Reset Room, which was created by the Mental Health Advisory Group.

tion Specialist Rick Manderine, Gym Teacher Ryan Gorius, and Security Office employee Brandon Jones.

The Mental Health Advisory Group will be donating all of their proceeds to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental

Illness) Chapter of Greater Cleveland. We would like to thank everyone in the community for all of their support in our efforts to increase the advocacy and education of mental health in our community. ●

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BAYarts breaks ground for playhouse auditorium

by BETH MILLI

The long-awaited project that will restore the theater of the former Huntington Playhouse – the centerpiece of the historic building – will begin this month with a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Saturday, May 24, at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join BAYarts and Cleveland Metroparks for a celebration of BAYarts’ continued growth and cultural offerings to the Westshore communities.

The first phase of the renovation was completed in 2021 and houses the Sally Otto Gallery, the former lobby of the old playhouse, and has

been a beautiful venue for classes, music, and community gatherings.

Due to unforeseen pandemic-related delays, renovation of the theater itself has been on hold. Now, thanks to funding from The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and individual funders, construction will continue throughout the summer with a goal of occupancy by BAYarts’ 75th Anniversary Moondance Jubilee on Sept. 9.

The renovated auditorium will retain the stage but not the seats. The space will be flexible for performances, classrooms, workshops, and events and will open to the beautiful back patio facing Porter Creek. ●

Bay Village Schools to host ‘Well-a-bration’ party for Thirst Project

by MARY CATHERINE MURTAUGH

Seven hundred eighty five million. There are many little kids in school right now learning how to count to 10 or 100. To them 785 million is probably the largest number in the world. Meanwhile there are children who are not able to go to school because they have to walk tons of miles to collect dirty water that will make them sick.

There are 785 million people in the world without access to clean drinking water. In most communities, women and children walk all day long to collect dirty water. These children grow up with no education and the women do not have the time to get a job.

These people get waterborne diseases from this dirty water which can cause them to get violently ill and possibly die. This cycle of life has been viciously attacking millions of people for years. The families and villages within Africa do not deserve to live this way.

There are organizations, like the Thirst Project, that can make a difference. The Thirst Project is a student-led organization that was founded in Southern California in 2008. The Thirst Project connects with many different clubs and committees at high schools all around the world to raise money for freshwater wells in Southern Africa and work to end the global water crisis. To help those struggling due to not having access to clean or safe drinking water, the Bay High Key Club partnered with the Thirst Project.

In the past six years Bay High has raised over \$75,000 and fully funded five freshwater wells. This year our goal is to raise \$12,000 to fully fund one freshwater well that will give a community fresh and safe drinking

water for life! Since the beginning of the year we have been contacting sponsors, holding fundraisers, and getting the word out about our fundraising page. Over the past year our Thirst Project committee has connected with many local businesses for sponsorships, held fundraisers like pizza bake-offs and gift card sales.

During the week of May 12-May 19, we will have a fundraising opportunity and the class that raises the most money via our fundraising page for each grade within the Bay Village City School District will win a pizza party! We have set up fundraising pages for all of the QRPs/classes/homerooms for all the schools.

In addition to the week-long fundraiser, we will finish off the week with having a Well-a-bration! On Friday, May 19, from 5-7 p.m., there will be three food trucks, games, activities, 3.75-mile walk, music, educational information about the Thirst Project, announcement of the pizza party winners, and updated announcement of how much money we raised. We want to celebrate with the community of Bay Village bringing fresh, clean water wells to others!

Our goals this year are to raise \$12,000 to provide a water well for safe, clean water for a community in the country of eSwatini in South Africa, bring awareness of the global water crisis and its impact on education, poverty, hunger, and health by engaging 800 community members to join the Walk for Water, empower youth to make a difference in the world, and develop leadership skills among the membership of the K-Family.

Visit my.thirstproject.org/team/487167 to help us reach our goals and provide fresh, clean water to communities in need! ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD Yardstick, then and now

by TAK SATO

Before the advent of smartphones, cellular service providers invoiced us on how much we talked and texted; we had to pick a plan, aka “guess,” how many minutes we’ll be yapping and how many text messages we’ll be tapping out on our cell phones each month. When smartphones began to replace the traditional cell phones, yapping and tapping became free while providers still make us guess how much “mobile data” we think we’ll use while the smartphone is connected to the internet on mobile data.

The amount of mobile data we use on our smartphones, while not connected to Wi-Fi, became the new yardstick for your monthly charge. That yardstick can be either a finite or unlimited allotment of mobile data.

I often get asked about what constitutes mobile data usage? The simple way to look at it is anything except making a phone call and texting in a traditional manner. I threw in that adjective “traditional” to keep this answer simple, just like I’ve been saying the internet is synonymous to the cloud. Otherwise I will have to murk the waters by introducing various methodologies of making a “phone call” using video chatting apps like Google’s “Meet,” Apple’s “Facetime,” or the privacy-focused “Signal” app that use mobile data.

Some representative uses of mobile data usage include: checking email, using the Google Maps app for turn-by-turn navigation while driving, browsing, streaming music or video, attending a

video meeting or webinar, playing an online game, checking social media, and others that require receiving/sending from/to the internet.

If you have an unlimited data plan, connecting your smartphone to an available Wi-Fi network, “private” Wi-Fi like at your home (assuming you subscribe to internet services) or “public” Wi-Fi offered for free at libraries, cafes, restaurants, and many other establishments, may only become important if your smartphone seems sluggish in getting information from the internet.

On the other hand, you may want to consider connecting your smartphone to your private Wi-Fi at home if you have a metered - i.e. limited - mobile data plan. Why? When your smartphone is connected to a Wi-Fi network, data usage on the cellular network should be minuscule thus preserving your mobile data monthly allotment for when there is no Wi-Fi in reach. In other words, using a smartphone while connected to a Wi-Fi network doesn’t use your mobile data. PSA: when connected to a public Wi-Fi, my recommendation is to refrain from doing anything that risks revealing your PII (personally identifiable information) to nefarious actors.

I hope to see you at our 7th annual Living in the Digital World Senior Expo this Thursday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Rocky River Civic Center. We’ll have short educational presentations, senior-centric service/product exhibitors, and showcases on practical digital literacy usage. Plus an ice cream social if you have a sweet tooth! ●

The New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund



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Purchasing gift cards during fundraiser will not count towards donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

SPORTING VIEWS

Renaming the Guardians: It was a long time coming

by JEFF BING

So there I was, about to write a second column about some of the more colorful nicknames of some of Cleveland’s ballplayers from years gone by. Then I had an epiphany: Make nicknames for some of today’s Guardians, since nicknames seem to be going the way of the dodo bird (much like reader interest in my columns).

Then it really hit me: Just make new names for the players! I mean heck, if the Dolans can play switchola with the team’s name, why can’t I do the same with player names? So here’s what I did: I took a player, kept the same first name,

changed the last name so that from the new name, there should be a good hint for you to figure out to whom I am referring. Example:

Shane Ach Du Lieber (which means “oh my gosh” in English) Reason for the nickname: Bieber gets hurt often (Application: “Oh my gosh ... Bieber’s hurt again?”)

See, wasn’t that fun? Now let’s do some more, except I won’t tell you the real last names of those to whom I am referring. See if you can guess who I am talking about all by yourself. (You will be graded – or degraded – on this). Ready, set, go!

1. Eli “Captain” ? (Hint: Hitters need a shot of this after batting against him).

2. Trevor “Steven King” ? (Hint: His pitches can be downright scary).

3. Tanner “Ad Libee” ? (Hint: He changes his pitches without telling the catcher).

4. Cal “Quantify This” ? (Hint: No one has been able solve his nasty pitch formula).

5. James “Not a ‘Kare in’ the world, ‘jack’” ? (Hint: I’ve said plenty already).

6. Jose “Nofear-ez” (Hint: None. A second grader could solve this one).

7. Josh “Nailed-it” (Hint: Too easy. Even Homer Simpson got this in under a minute).

8. Josh “Isn’t answering the...” (Hint: Seriously. After Josh#1 above, how many other Joshes are there? Keep it up, and you’re headed to Columbus).

9. Emmanuel “Class A” (Hint: Where you’ll be headed if you don’t figure this out, like, pronto.)

10. Zach “Difficult to ‘please, act’ accordingly” (Hint: This is so easy it’s

making me ill – much like Zach’s ERA).

11. Aaron “If you don’t get at least 90% of these correct, I may file a “Civil-eh” suit against you.” (Hint: There’s plenty of room on the roster for you in Akron).

12. Steven “no ‘Kan’ do.” (Hint? Sorry, no “Kan” do. (Déjà vu.)

13. Myles “This is the last...” (Hint: And it will be if his batting average moves any closer to the Mendoza line than it already is.)

Okay, gang, pencils down. I mean NOW!

It’s not that we’re out of time, class. It’s just that my age-dilapidated brain doesn’t want to come up with any additional cleverer-than-Pulitzer-worthy clues.

(Geez, where’s Paul Harvey and a bottle of Citrical when you really need it?) We’ll pick up where we left off next issue.

Yeah, as if I’m going to remember that! ●

Interurban Pedestrian Bridge installed in Bay Village



The bridge is placed on the concrete foundations.



Cahoon Creek flows under the new Interurban Pedestrian Bridge.



The connected sections ready to be lifted in place, with the Community House in the background.



The bridge in place, connecting the east and west sides of Cahoon Park.

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Solar Eclipses: What to expect and how to safely observe them

by KATY DOWNING

Northeast Ohio will be treated to not one, but two solar eclipse events over the next year: a partial solar eclipse on Oct. 14, 2023 and a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

What is a solar eclipse? Well, the moon orbits Earth approximately every 27 days. A solar eclipse is the cosmic coincidence when the moon passes exactly between the Earth and the sun, thereby casting a shadow onto Earth and blocking our view of the sun.

For the partial annular eclipse this October, we will see about 33% of the sun covered by the moon. In April 2024, the path of totality will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. In Northeast Ohio, we will see the moon completely cover the sun, revealing the Sun's outer atmosphere otherwise known as the solar corona.

You will notice the sky become quite dark and other stars and planets will be visible. Animals will behave as if it were dusk. Deer will be active, birds will head toward the trees for shelter, and nighttime insects will begin to make noise. The experience

of totality will be all around you, so make sure to take it all in.

Here are a few ways to view the partial and total solar eclipses:

Eclipse glasses

Eye protection is extremely important when viewing a partial or total solar eclipse. To safely observe an eclipse, you must wear eclipse glasses or number 14 welder's glass.

Do not look at the sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses – the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.

A common myth: You do not need to wear eclipse glasses all day. Only wear them when you are looking directly at the sun.

Pinhole projectors

Another way to view an eclipse is to use a pinhole projector, which has a small opening (for example, a hole punched in an index card) and projects an image of the Sun onto a nearby surface. With the Sun at your back, you can then safely view the projected image.

Colander

Take your kitchen colander outdoors and observe its shadows on the ground. The circular holes of your

colander will project crescent shapes onto the ground during the partial phases of a solar eclipse.

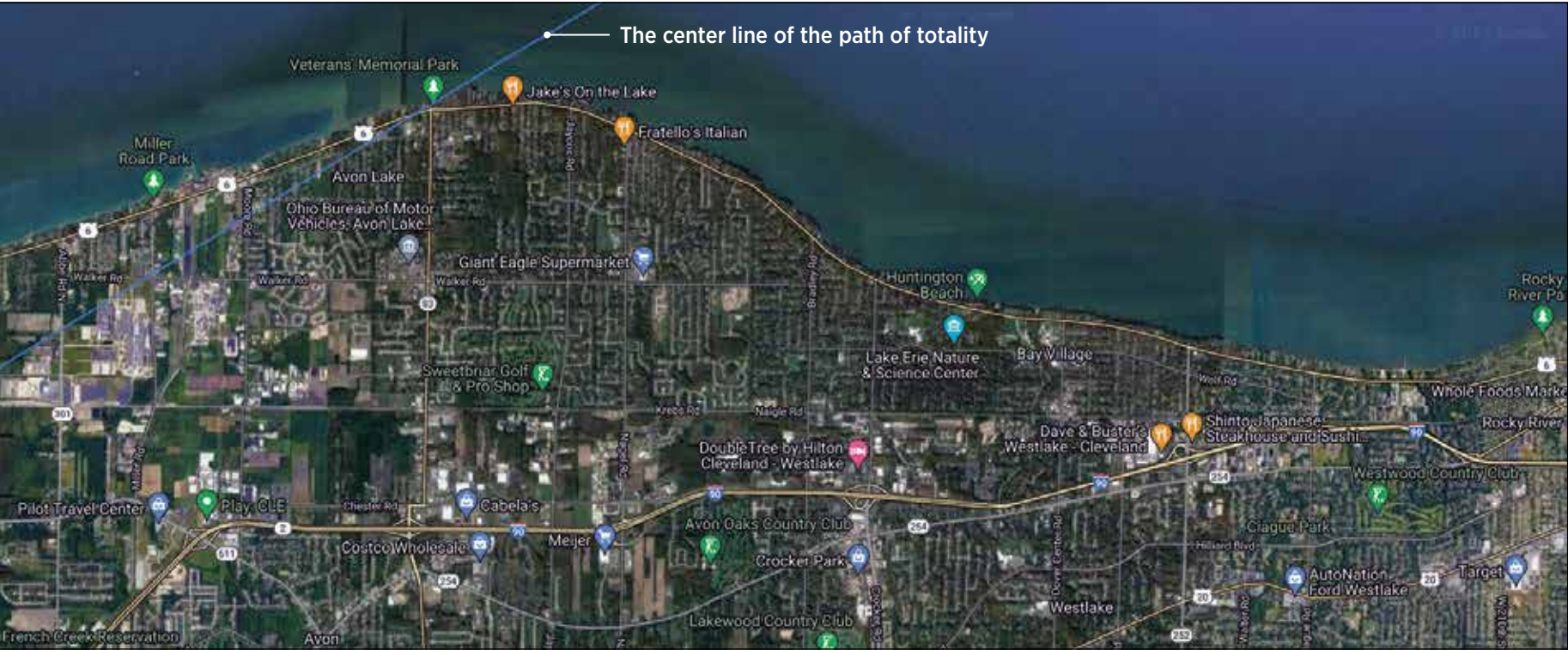
As one of two public-access planetariums in Cuyahoga County, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, will offer educational programs in preparation for the partial and total eclipses. Stay tuned for more information at lensc.org/planetarium. The Center is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Solar eclipse Aug. 23, 2017, near Nashville, Tenn.



Path of the solar eclipse across the U.S. on April 8, 2024.



All of Westlake and Bay Village will be in the path of the totality of the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.



Duration of the solar eclipse will be 2 hours, 29 minutes, 45 seconds, with totality lasting 3 minutes, 53 seconds on April 8, 2024, in Westlake and Bay Village. This day historically was cloudy 62% of the time since 2000.

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Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming calendar of events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's May 2023 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, May 17 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** – This month's title is "Vanderbilt" by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe. A limited number of books are available for checkout at the Circulation Desk.

Thursday, May 18 (11 a.m.-noon) **Fundraising for Your Nonprofit Presented by Candid** – Are you new to non-profits or just want to brush up on your fundraising skills? Join Davod Holmes for a series of informative workshops on the grantseeking process. Please register.

Friday, May 19 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday: Pollination** – Join Mrs. K as we investigate the life cycle of butterflies and bees, along with their important job of pollination! Discoveries will be made through hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Ages 4-6, up to Kindergarten. Registration begins May 12.

Saturday, May 20 (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. Please register.

Saturday, May 20 (2-3 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Courtney Summers, I'm the Girl** – Spend an hour with the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of several bestselling Young Adult novels. Please register.

Saturday, May 20 (2-4 p.m.) **Make It, Take It!** – Stop by the Youth Services Department to complete a featured craft. Grades PreK-2. While supplies last.

Saturday, May 20 (3-4 p.m.) **Illustration Creation** – Learn about a featured illustrator and then create a project inspired by their art. Grades 1-3. Please

register.

Sunday, May 21 (3-3:30 p.m.) **Paint Play** – We will explore ways to play with paint. Please wear clothes that can get messy! If weather permits, we will paint outside! Ages 3-8. This program is for children with disabilities and their typical peers.

Monday, May 22 (10-10:30 a.m.) **Music Monday** – Develop pre-reading skills with music, movement and rhythm through stories, songs and rhymes. Ages 2-6.

Monday, May 22 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Monday, May 22 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Maker Monday: Making Music with Technology** – Are you a musician who's into computers? Learn what you can use to find sheet music online, practice, record yourself, mix songs, play with MIDI, and perform live. Please register.

Tuesday, May 23 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Microsoft Excel & Introduction to Northstar** – Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Please register.

Tuesday, May 23 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Adult Storytime in the Garden** – Join us in the reading garden for stories, songs, and fun! For adults with developmental disabilities. In the event of poor weather, this event will be held in the storytime room. Please register.

Tuesday, May 23 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Battle Fatigue: Finding Your Way Back to Freedom** – Occupational therapist Andrea Patrick describes her journey from battle fatigue to freedom again, after serving two tours in Iraq. Please register.

Wednesday, May 24 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Discovery Box (Sign-Up)** – Register for WPPL's personalized subscription box service. For teens in grades 7-12. Registration begins on May 24 and must be done by May 31. Pick-up is June 7-10.

Wednesday, May 24 (6-8:30 p.m.) **HeartSaver CPR/AED** – Get certified for adult, child, and infant CPR and AED. Class led by certified instructors from UH St. John Medical Center. Please visit

uhems.org/event-search to register. Email account required. Participants under the age of 14 must have a parent or legal guardian in class. If any questions, contact the instructors at uh4cpr@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 25 (10-11:30 a.m.) **iPhone & iPad User Group** – Do you own an iPhone or tablet? Bring it with your questions (or tips!) to this guided user group. Please register.

Thursday, May 25 (4-5 p.m.) **Roblox Arcade (Virtual)** – Join us in the Roblox Arcade! We have some private servers set up for Tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games via Zoom. Registration begins May 4. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Friday, May 26 (4-5 p.m.) **Brick Builders** – Do you love Legos? Bring your ideas and imagination to Brick Builders! Bricks provided. Room capacity is limited. First come, first served. Ages 5-12.

Saturday, May 27 (10:30-11 a.m.) **Family Storytime** – Join us for rhymes, songs and play! For families with children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Siblings are welcome.

Sunday, May 28 and Monday, May 29 – **Library Closed in Observance of Memorial Day**

Wednesday, May 31 (7-8 p.m.) **Adult Creative Writing Group: Summer Edition** – 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, June 1 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Friday, June 2 (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.

Saturday, June 3 (10:30-11 a.m.) Wednesday, June 7 (7-7:30 p.m.) **Family Storytime** – Join us for rhymes, songs and play! For families with children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Siblings welcome.

Saturday, June 3 (1-2 p.m.) **Pokémon Fun!** – View and trade cards, do a craft (if desired), and play a Pokémon Bingo game. Feel free to bring your cards! Ages 6-11.

Sunday, June 4 (2-4 p.m.) **Anime**

Club – For anime and manga lovers! All otaku and newbies welcome. Grades 7-adult.

Sunday, June 4 (2-3 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.

Monday, June 5 (11 a.m.-noon) **Spread Kindness** – Spread kindness by helping others! Adults with disabilities will make sandwiches for those less fortunate to be donated. In turn, they'll have a fun hour of socializing and learning new tasks and skills that will help them and others in daily life, such as service, food preparation, working together, and giving back. Registration begins May 28.

Monday, June 5 (7-8 p.m.) **Planning for LGBTQ+ Families and Individuals** – Learn about the key areas of LGBTQ+ financial planning. Presented by Katy Bryan of Skylight Financial Group. Please register.

Tuesday, June 6 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Microsoft Word & Introduction to Northstar** – Learn the basics of Microsoft Word and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Registration begins May 30.

Tuesday, June 6 (7-8:30 p.m.) **World at War Forum: Prisoners of War** – John Zylstra was a young child when invading Japanese forces took his family captive. Join John as he relates his first-hand experiences as a captive. Please register.

Wednesday, June 7 (4-5 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Mike Rucker, PhD** – Join us for an author visit with Dr. Mike Rucker as he talks about his book, "The Fun Habit," an inspiring and motivational guidebook that you will want to share with everyone in your life. Streamed live. Please register.

Wednesday, June 7 (4:30-6 p.m.) **Bow Wow Books** – Stop by Youth Services to sign up for a 10-minute reading time with a reading therapy dog. Sign up starts at 4 p.m. Recommended for Grades K-4.

Wednesday, June 7 (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. Please register.

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

Summer Reading Challenge begins June 1

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library challenges all ages to find their next adventure by reading or listening to books each day this summer! The library's annual Summer Library Challenge begins June 1 and continues through Aug. 1. This year's

theme is "All Together Now" which is about spreading kindness, friendship, and unity. In addition to reading for 40 days, participants are asked to perform two acts of kindness. There will be activity rewards and the library will also offer a variety of special programs, including the annual STEAM WEEK (July 9-15).

For every 10 days of reading kids can stop by the library for a sticker. Participants can earn a halfway prize and a grand prize raffle ticket by reading for 20 days and doing an additional kindness activity. Reading for 40 days and completing one more kindness activity will earn participants a final prize plus more tickets for the grand prize drawing.

Reading and activities can be tracked on logs available at the library or on Beanstack – to register for the program or access a log look for the app or visit westlakelibrary.beanstack.org.

For gameboards and more information about the Summer Library Challenge visit westlakelibrary.org/summer. ●

Porter Library parking lot to be closed May 28 and 29

Westlake Porter Public Library's parking lot will be closed for resealing and striping from 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, through 6 a.m. on

Tuesday, May 30. There will be no access to the drive-up book drops while the parking lot is closed. The library will be closed on May 28 and 29 in observance of

Memorial Day, making it an ideal time for performing the annual maintenance. The re-sealing and re-striping will be done weather-permitting. ●



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New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund announces \$10,000 match

by NANCY BROWN

Bay Village citizens once again rose to the challenge and donated to the New Dog Kennel Fund to meet the \$5,000 Matching Fund presented just a few weeks ago.

Just as we are a little past our goal's halfway mark, we are thrilled to announce that another Bay family has challenged the community to meet their \$10,000 matching fund donation! That's right - we can raise the roof on the exist-

ing kennel and add \$20,000 toward meeting our goal.

Please help us maximize this opportunity and donate by mailing a donation to The New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund, PO Box 40163 Bay Village, Ohio 44140. The New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your donation to the Fund is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Be sure to join our Facebook page so your two- and four-legged family members can enjoy our fundraisers. ●

Bay Village Proud!

by NANCY BROWN

Be proud Bay Village neighbors! We have a new generation of civic minded citizens, caring and determined to help their city, attending Westerly School: the K-Club Kids! As president of the New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund I had the pleasure of being presented a check for \$1,252.10 to be used to upgrade our dog kennel.

Not only were the Westerly K-Kids able to raise \$552.10, they encouraged the Westerly PTA to give \$350 and the Bay Kiwanis also contributed \$350! That's what matching funds are all about!



Westerly School Kiwanis K-Club donated a check for the new bay Village Kennel Fund.

Our sincerest thanks to the Westerly School K Club - you should be so proud of your accomplishments in supporting your community. ●

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Failure: A Love Story' concludes Clague Playhouse's 95th season

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Follow Mortimer Mortimer as he falls in love with the three Fail sisters - Nelly, the youngest, Jenny June, the middle, and Gerty, the eldest - as they live out their lives above the family clock repair shop near the Chicago River, before their time unexpectedly runs out. Tuneful songs and a whimsical chorus follow this magical, musical farce where, in the end, the power of love is far greater than any individual's successes or failures.

Our production of "Failure: A Love Story" by Philip Dawkins is directed by Ron Newell our cast includes Patrick Carroll, Kierstan Kathleen Conway, Jon Fancher, Beth Gaertner, Assad Khaishgi, Noah Pekari, Eliza Rodriguez, Persis Sosiak and Lou Will.

The play runs through Sunday, June

4, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission is \$21 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60+), and \$13 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 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. ●



PHOTO BY TERRY SCHOROCK

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this is a 501(c)(3) charity, your donation to the fund is tax deductible to the full extent of the law

GET READY.



SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE

June 1 – August 1

Preregister between May 1 and May 31 for extra prize entries toward large prizes!



westlakelibrary.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Wednesday, May 17, 6:45-8:30 p.m.
CUYAHOGA WEST CHAPTER, OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS President, Rosey Kellner presents the story of noted barnstormer Ralph Wensinger who crashed his biplane while entertaining 10,000 spectators at Chippewa Lake Park in 1933.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Thursday, May 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LIVING IN THE DIGITAL WORLD SENIOR EXPO
Free, fun and educational, there will be presentations, senior-centric vendor tables, digital literacy showcase tables led by graduates of our free program – Discover Digital Literacy! – on practical topics such as streaming, digital couponing, YouTube, Zoom, Maps, & more that they themselves use.
Rocky River Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd.

Friday, May 20, 2-5 p.m.
O’NEILL HEALTHCARE BAY VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION
O’Neill Healthcare Bay Village is celebrating

their 60th year providing the highest quality healthcare services to the Bay Village community by inviting all residents and business to an open house celebration. Come join us as we showcase our newly renovated facility with fun games, live music, prizes, and food! No RSVP required but RSVP preferred to 440-348-5418.
605 Bradley Road, Bay Village

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.
INTRODUCTION TO KAYAKING AND WATER SAFETY
Bill Ferry and Jeff Burdick from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Stephanie and Robb Koscho from LoCo Yaks in Lorain, will bring a properly outfitted kayak and literature to demonstrate the basics of kayaking. They will talk about the fun of kayaking, as well as safety and equipment. Please register by emailing twendell@cityofbayvillage.com.
Bay Village Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane

Friday, May 26, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY
Hatfield’s and Smooth Rider trucks will be set up behind City Hall.
Bay Village City Hall, 350 Dover Center Rd.

Monday, May 29, 9 a.m.
BAY VILLAGE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND SERVICES
The ceremonies will begin at Lakeside Cemetery at 9 a.m., followed by a parade down Lake Road to the Cahoon Park Gazebo, where Col. Richard Gash will be the guest speaker.
Cahoon Memorial Park, Bay Village

Monday, May 29, 10 a.m.
WESTLAKE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND SERVICES
Parade begins in front of St. Peter and St. George Coptic Orthodox Church, 25800 Hilliard Blvd. The parade will step off at promptly 10 a.m. and proceed eastbound to the Clague Park Gazebo where services and festivities will take place, including music, speeches, gun salute and placing of flags and wreaths.
Clague Park, Westlake

Friday, June 2, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY
Manna and CLE Cookie Dough Co. trucks will be set up behind City Hall.
Bay Village City Hall, 350 Dover Center Rd.

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