

## Westlake Youth Football is a pioneer in safety for flag football

by CHAD HANOBIK

Leah Pettigrew's fourth-grade son lives for sports. "Every day, he has a ball in his hand," says the Westlake mother, who has seen her fair share of playful jabs during games and flat-out falls. "There is nothing worse than when a game stops for a kid who hit the ground with some sort of head trauma."

For this reason, their family has always played it safe and equipped their son with a protective hard-shell headband for playing flag football and other sports. Sure, tackle players are fully equipped, but usually flag football teammates do not wear helmets.

That's no longer the case for the Westlake Youth Football Association, whose president, Chad Hanobik, introduced soft shell helmets by Gamebreaker this season. He sourced 14 samples to test and ultimately partnered with Gamebreaker.

"The great thing about these helmets is they are rated in the Top 5 of all soft shells, they are machine washable and they lace up in the back," Hanobik says.

This is important because both boys and girls play flag football, and anyone with long hair (boy or girl) can easily sport a ponytail without sacrificing the soft shell's integrity or performance.

Why soft shells for flag football?



Westlake Youth Football player Danny Leslie sports a soft shell helmet.

## Bay Library starting a new chapter



Jessica Breslin, left, is leaving the Bay Village Branch library for a director position at Rocky River Public Library. Maryann Penzvalto, right, will take the reins as branch manager on Sept. 18.

by JESSICA BRESLIN

After almost 10 years as branch manager of the Bay Village Branch library and 20 years with the Cuyahoga County Public Library, I will be leaving my perch to start the next chapter of my career as the director of the Rocky River

Public Library.

It's been an amazing decade for me getting to know the fantastic Bay Village community filled with dedicated community leaders, families that encourage the love of learning, students looking to study and socialize afterschool, and active seniors attending our programming. It's

been a fulfilling and fun time and I have so many great memories and experiences I'll be taking with me from our BAYarts book discussions at the Fuller House, to Cahoon in June, Destination Bay, Teen Zones, One School One Book, and day-to-day conversations with library customers.

► See BAY LIBRARY, page 2

## BAYarts celebrates 75th anniversary with history exhibit

by ELIZABETH MILLI

BAYarts has achieved a significant milestone in the history of its organization. They are celebrating 75 years of providing creative arts programming to Northeast Ohio. To recognize this impressive achievement, BAYarts is hosting a history retrospective of the organization in the Sally J. Otto Gallery of the Huntington Playhouse. The show will open at Moondance, BAYarts' annual fundraiser, and run through the end of the year.

Baycrafters had its early beginnings in the spring of 1948 when a group of 10 Bay Village ladies were seeking an outlet for their creativity. Many of the original group liked crafts but couldn't get to classes in Cleveland because of transportation or babysitting issues.

► See BAYARTS, page 6



The Fuller House makes the half-mile journey to the Huntington Reservation in 1984.

## St. Ladislav welcomes Father Mark

by PETE DUBOIS

The St. Ladislav Parish community is thrilled to announce the arrival of our new spiritual leader, Father Mark Latcovich. With warm hearts, open arms and incredible memories, we bid farewell to Father Donald Snyder, who has led us with dedication and love for the past 26 years. We embrace the beginning of a new chapter under the guidance of Father Latcovich.



Father Mark Latcovich

Father Mark Latcovich comes to us with a wealth of experience, a compassionate spirit, and a deep commitment to serving God and our parishioners. Ordained in 1981, his journey as a priest has taken him to various corners of the world, including the last 11 years as the rector of Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries where he was also a professor. These experiences have given him a unique perspective that we are excited to integrate into our parish family.

► See ST. LADISLAV, page B



## BAY LIBRARY

from front page

The cherry on top of all of it was the opportunity to work collaboratively with our community and our awesome staff to bring this new building to life! It's been so rewarding to see our new space become the true community hub we hoped for with over 200,000 customer visits since we opened on April 30, 2022.

Thank you to everyone who has made my time here wonderful – especially the library staff and our customers. Please come and visit me as I settle into my new role at the Rocky River Public Library beginning Oct. 2. I'll also still be around town as a resident and forever Friend of the Library!

I am passing the baton to an equally enthusiastic branch manager colleague, Maryann Penzvalto, who will begin in the role on Sept. 18. Please join me in welcoming her!

Maryann is thrilled to be returning to the Bay Village Branch, where she was the Teen Services Librarian from 2016-2019. She grew up in Lakewood but spent every Sunday visiting her grandparents on Kenmore Drive in Bay Village.

Before coming to CCPL in 2015, Maryann worked at Ohio Wesleyan University's Beeghly Library, Dallas Community College's Brookhaven College, and Frisco Public Library in Frisco, TX. In addition to Bay Village, she has worked for CCPL at the Garfield Heights Branch where she loved exploring Innovation Center technology with library users. Most recently, she was the Branch Manager of the Gates Mills and Chagrin Falls branches, where she was committed to making the library the most welcoming place in town.

Maryann lives in Lakewood with her fiancé, Isaac, and their two dogs, Francisco "Frankie" Lindor and Blue Ivy. In their spare time, Maryann and Isaac enjoy renovating old houses, going to Guardians games, and riding bicycles and scooters all over Cleveland. Maryann loves games and trivia and has been a contestant on "Jeopardy!" (2-time champion) and "Wheel of Fortune" (2nd place finisher). She is also an avid audiobook listener, so make sure to ask her for a recommendation! ●

## FLAG FOOTBALL

from front page

"Kids are bigger, stronger and faster than ever," Hanobik says, adding that a flag football field is 33 yards wide and 40 yards long. "They are flying around, and we want to make it's as safe of an experience as possible."

This year, the association rolled out soft shells for grades 3 to 6.

All told, the association has 17 flag teams, kindergarten through sixth grades. There are also rookie tackle teams, a hybrid between flag and tackle – a bridge for players advancing in age and skill. Beginning in fifth grade, the association offers full 11-on-11 tackle football for players who choose to transition from flag completely to prepare for the Westlake 7th and 8th grade teams.

Since Hanobik became association president two years ago, he has helped grow the league from five teams to its current capacity. It is aligned with USA Football, which offers a training certification program for all coaches. Proudly, he notes that three teams are undefeated and the league, overall, wins more than 85 percent of games.

But no one wins when safety is at stake.

That's why Hanobik and coaches are taking the utmost precaution by introducing soft shells. They hope this addition to the custom uniforms will inspire other youth football associations



A soft shell helmet for Westlake flag football players.

and leagues to adopt the lightweight helmets. (They weigh 1 pound, 5 ounces.)

"When you have any collision, you want some energy absorption to protect the skull and prevent head injury," Hanobik explains, noting that the Game-breaker soft shells come with mouth guards. "The most vulnerable parts are the crown, the front and base of the skull. These helmets do a great job of having padding in those areas, and the material is breathable."

After initial practices and moving into the season, Hanobik says, "It gives the kids more confidence that they can safely play flag football. It eases the concerns of parents, and the kids feel special and protected."

Pettigrew adds, "The kids are young, but they're growing and getting faster. Even though it's flag football, injuries can still occur. If you can reduce those and keep kids safer, why not?"

For more information about the Westlake Youth Football association, visit [www.wlakeyouthfootball.com](http://www.wlakeyouthfootball.com). ●



Westlake flag football players wearing soft shell helmets.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

# Time for voters to turn their attention to next election

by KATHY WOOLNER and NADIA ZAIEM, co-chairs, Westlake/North Olmsted Chapter, League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland

We commend the voters of Bay Village and Westlake for their careful attention to the complex issues surrounding the single-issue election held Aug. 8, 2023. The proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution (Issue 1) was defeated in every precinct in both cities and voter turnout was unusually high for a summer election, according to the unofficial reports of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Voters needed to do considerable homework to evaluate the actual ballot language and the perplexing advertising, while following several changes in Ohio's voting laws. Soon voters will have to go through these same steps to vote on other constitutional amendments, as well as candidates and local issues, on the ballot for the General Election, Nov. 7, 2023,

Your local League of Women Voters chapters (LWV) are ready to assist citizens with the basics of voter registration (due Oct. 10) and applications for vote-by-mail ballots (due Oct. 31). As we do for every election, we will urge can-

didates to describe their qualifications to voters and we will produce pros and cons about the issues for our Vote411.org website.

The Westlake-North Olmsted and Bay Village chapters will sponsor forums for candidates and about issues. We will announce dates and times for these events in the Observer and other media.

Young people who will turn 18 by Nov. 7, 2023, can register to vote now (and until Oct. 10) to be ready for their first voting experience. College students need to decide whether to vote using their campus address or with their home address as this determines how to complete a vote-by-mail application.

Democracy is not a spectator sport, so we welcome new members who would like to extend our ability to provide wide-ranging voter services and education. Membership details are at [www.lwvgreatercleveland.org](http://www.lwvgreatercleveland.org). ●

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# Westlake honors the 2023 Westlake in Bloom winners

by JIM BEDELL

Congratulations to the winning gardeners in this year’s Westlake in Bloom competition. Thank you for your hard work to make our community even more beautiful!

**Evergreen Cemetery Fence Gardens**

- First Place: “The Eberling Family”
- Second Place: “Thomas Seeholzer”
- Third Place: “In Memory of Col. Robert Franklyn Overmyer”

**Hilliard Boulevard Flower Box**

- First Place: “In Memory of Kathleen Ratcliffe”
- Second Place: “In Memory of Nick Massa”
- Third Place: “The Moran Family”

**Community Garden**

- First Place: Debbie McChrystal
- Second Place: Lee Ding
- Third Place: Mayuresh Dhond

**Multi-Family or Subdivision Entrance**

- First Place: Westown Garden Apartments, Westown Blvd.
- Second Place: Bay Landing Condominiums, Bay Landing Drive
- Third Place: Cornerstone Homeowners Garden Club, Cornerstone

**Business**

- First Place: The SpyGlass Group, 25777 Detroit Road
- Second Place: Crocker Park
- Third Place: OxyGo, 28825 Ranney Parkway

**Place of Worship/Institutional**

- First Place: Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Road
- Second Place: St. Ladislas Catholic Church, 2345 Bassett Road
- Third Place: Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road

**Pollinator Garden**

- First Place: Kristin Lee, 3180 Clark Parkway
- Second Place: Linda Tomkalski, 3341 Bradley Road
- Third Place: Allison Rigo, 1424 Beethoven Drive

**Patio and Abutting Garden**

- First Place: Bob and Maureen Stein, 1706 Coes Post Run
- Second Place: Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Ward, 25749 Westwood Road
- Third Place: Sharon L. Huelsman, 3063 Bay Landing Drive

**Vegetable Garden**

- First Place: Jim and Judy Beveridge, 2750 Canterbury
- Second Place: Robert Pietrarroia, 28560 Bassett Road
- Third Place: John Anstead, 2105 Bassett Road

**Window/Flower Boxes**

- First Place: Beverly Wilkinson, 25028 Tricia Drive
- Second Place: Michelle Walsh, 1524 Marview Drive
- Third Place: Karen S. Ludwig-Wong, 2365 Brigadoon Ct.

**Residential Landscaping – Shade Garden**

- First Place: Bill and Libby Miller, 2375 Chestnut Dr.
- Second Place: Kimberly Williams, 24525 Annie Lane
- Third Place: Joseph Priore Jr., 25443 Hilliard Blvd.

**Residential Landscaping – Front Yard, Small**

- First Place: Dr. Tony and Sandy Ellis , 1956 Sperrys Forge Trail
- Second Place: Mary Beth and Jack Bedell, 1874 Settlers Reserve Way
- Third Place: Tony and Lacy Grego, 1082 Fresno Dr.

**Residential Landscaping – Front Yard, Large**

- First Place: James and Jean Moran 1933 Reeds Court Trail
- Second Place: Elisa Amigo and John Slyman, 24493 Annie Lane
- Third Place: Dr. William & Anne Marie Farr, 26499 Primrose Lane

**Residential Landscaping – Rear Yard**

- First Place: Diane D. Morris and Family, 29547 Schwartz Road
- Second Place: Mayuresh Dhond, 27102 Courtland Meadows
- Third Place: Greg Shimko, 30217 Washington Way

**Residential Landscaping – Entire Yard, Small**

- First Place: Carl Sabo, 25749 Chaucer Dr.
- Second Place: Vicki and Dennis Wert, 1665 Allen Drive
- Third Place: Mitch Ma, 2330 Pebblebrook

**Residential Landscaping – Entire Yard, Large**

- First Place: Terry Monnolly, 29785 Devonshire Oval
- Second Place: Mark Harris, 29276 Rocky Pointe
- Third Place: The Schneider Family, 30910 Park Avenue

**Lu Walter “Best in Bloom” Award:**

- Bob and Maureen Stein, 1706 Coes Post Run



PHOTO BY JIM BEDELL

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BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Rolling out the new strategic plan:  
Q&A with Bay Schools Superintendent Scot Prebles

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

As Superintendent Scot T. Prebles starts his second year with Bay Village Schools, he and his team prepare to roll out the district's new Strategic Plan, just in time for the 2023-24 school year.

It's been a busy first year for this new Bay Village resident, so we sat down with him to find out how this year may be different, his goals for this school year, more about the new Strategic Plan and what he likes most about being a Bay Village resident.

Q. It's hard to believe you're already starting your second year with Bay Village Schools. How do you think this year will be different from last year?

A. For the last 15 months, I've made it a point to get to know this community; from the faculty and staff, to Mayor Koomar and his team; from the students and their parents, to the residents; and of course, the civic and spiritual leaders. I have listened and I have learned.

Getting to know everyone a little better has truly helped me understand their wants and needs in a school district, and the expectations they have, which align beautifully with our new Strategic Plan. It has been a busy first year, but also a very rewarding one, and I wouldn't change one day. I continue to be overwhelmed by the support of this district.

Q. What are some of your goals for the 2023-24 school year?

A. Quite simply to successfully roll out the new Strategic Plan, so we can continue to move the district forward and expedite Bay Village Schools' path to greatness. The district has always been on the greatness path. Now we will meet expectations and achieve priorities through a strong, well-thought-out Strategic Plan.

Our hardworking Strategic Vision Advisory Committee (SVAC) laid the foundation, our Staff and Administrative Team filled in the framework and our Board of Education created the indicators of success.

Q. Can you give us the CliffsNotes version of the new Strategic Plan?

A. Absolutely! The Strategic Vision Advisory Committee (SVAC) signed off on its work in early July, the Board of Education approved the Strategic Plan last month and now the district will lean in to honor the plan's purpose, to Prepare Bay Graduates who are: Critical Thinkers; Creative Problem Solvers; Empathetic Communicators; Engaged Citizens; and Resilient Learners.

From this Purpose Statement, we developed Five Overarching Priorities that align with the statement: Learning, Culture, Instruction, Accountability and Community. Then our Board of Education went to work during Board work sessions to determine how to measure the success of the new Strategic Plan; each

titled "Indicators of Success."

These indicators range from ensuring each student graduates with a Personal Success Plan to sharing publicly that year-end expenditures are equal to or less than forecast projections. Some specific indicators that you might find interesting include: creation of a Northeast Ohio-based database for student internship and networking opportunities; reimagined model classrooms; reducing the district's environmental footprint; and consistent two-way communication with all district stakeholders.

Q. Where can Bay Village residents get a copy of this Strategic Plan booklet?

A. We are printing copies of the booklet, which will be available at each of our district buildings in the main offices. We will also have copies available at Bay Village City Hall; Bay Village Senior Center; Bay Library; Bay Provisions; Java Bay; and Mojo's. These booklets are scheduled to be in place by mid- to late-September.

Q. What if someone has a question about the Strategic Plan?

A. I am always available by phone, 440-617-7300, but I encourage families and residents to stop by one of our Coffee Chats this school year so I can answer questions in person. We have five Coffee Chats scheduled at different times and places throughout the city, and we may even add more. Treasurer Meghan Rohde and I will both be there, and we are happy to talk about the district and answer any questions.

Coffee Chats for the 2023-24 school year:

- Sept. 12: 7:30 a.m., Java Bay
- Nov. 2: 11:30 a.m., Bay Library
- Jan. 19, 2024: 7:30 a.m., Mojo's
- March 20, 2024: 6 p.m., Board of Education
- May 10, 2024: 10 a.m., Bay Provisions

Q. We hear you and your wife, Leah, found a house. What do you like best about being a Bay Villager?

A. We did! We moved in before summer break, and the best part is, the house is within walking distance to my office, and I am getting in a lot of steps walking back and forth. We love the neighborhood, and we really enjoy being close to the lake. We've been exploring all the different walking paths throughout the city. Everyone has been very welcoming, and we love our adopted hometown. We are truly proud to be in Bay! ●



Supt. Scot Prebles takes a selfie with members of Bay High Key Club working the Kiwanis curly fry booth at Bay Days this summer.

Upcoming programs at  
Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

CHILDREN

**Storytimes:** Caregivers and their children are invited to enjoy rhymes, songs, fingerplays, books and stories together. No registration is required.

Mondays (10 a.m.) Family Storytime – for all ages

Tuesdays (10 a.m.) Toddler Storytime – ages 19-35 months

Wednesdays (10 a.m.) Baby and Me Storytime – ages birth-18 months

Thursdays (10 a.m.) Preschool Storytime – ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten)

Saturday, Sept. 9 (10 a.m.)

**Kindergarten Countdown –**

Join us as we help your child build kindergarten readiness skills in a program aligned to Ohio's Early Childhood Standards. This session, we will focus on water. Registration is required.

**ADULTS**

Tuesday, Sept. 12 (6 p.m.)

**Library For All: Adapted Adult Program –**

Join us for fun, adapted programs featuring stories, art, music, and more, specifically designed for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Adults (18+) of all abilities are welcome.

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (6-8:30 p.m.)

**League of Women Voters Anniversary Celebration –**

The 19th amendment was passed in 1920, finally granting women the right to vote after a 200-year effort. The intensity of that struggle has largely been lost in the mists of time and we are left with an image of genteel ladies on horseback politely asking for the right to vote.

"Iron Jawed Angels" is a docu-

drama which takes us back to that time to see what really happened. We will start with a brief introduction to set the historical context and a hold a Q&A after the film. This program is a partnership with the League of Women Voters Bay Village Chapter. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (7 p.m.)

**"Breaking Through the Lines: The Marion Motley Story" –**

Marion Motley was recognized as one of the gridiron's most outstanding players for the Cleveland Browns when he was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1968 in his hometown of Canton.

His legacy off the field, as one of four Black players to reintegrate pro football in 1946, helped blaze a path for Black athletes in the highest echelons of professional sports, including baseball's Jackie Robinson. Yet the life of one of the sport's greatest and most impactful players remains unknown to most Americans.

David Lee Morgan Jr. will share some of the stories in his new book, "Breaking Through the Lines: The Story of Marion Motley," along with how he became co-producer of the 2022 Regional Emmy award-winning documentary "Lines Broken: The Story of Marion Motley," which aired on PBS Western Reserve and was distributed to PBS affiliates nationally by American Public Television. A Q&A session will follow and books will be available for sale.

**Please register to attend these programs online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), call us at 440-871-6392, or stop in to the library at 27400 Wolf Road and register with a librarian. ●**



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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Coexisting with your wild neighbors

by MORGAN PASKERT

You have new neighbors. They are messing up your lawn, raiding your garden and knocking over your trash cans. You wish you could ask them to stop, but you’re not sure they will listen.

It’s (hopefully!) not your human neighbors pulling these pranks, but wild ones. Wildlife can seem like a nuisance when they reside in your yard. While it may be tempting to evict the animals by trapping and moving them elsewhere, it is a bad option for several reasons.

1. It’s illegal to trap and relocate some species

Not only is relocation detrimental to animals, it may also be illegal. Ohio law states that it is illegal to relocate rabies-vector species, including raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes and bats. Other species can legally be relocated, but you must have the property owner’s permission to release an animal on their land. It is always illegal to relocate animals to a metro park, state park or any public land without permission.

2. The animal probably won’t survive

While it may seem humane to relocate an animal instead of euthanizing it, relocation can be harmful. Animals like chipmunks and squirrels spend all spring, summer and fall storing caches of food to survive the winter. It is critical for chipmunks in particular, as they remain in their burrows all winter and rely on their stored food until spring. Without access to these food caches, they will starve to death.

Other animals like woodchuck make elaborate burrows to hibernate in. If you relocate a woodchuck, they may not have enough time to dig a new one before they need to hibernate. Woodchuck will go into hibernation in winter regardless of whether or not they have burrow, and without one they will not survive the harsh conditions.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY SPICER

3. You will have new neighbors

In the end, relocating an animal will not solve your problem. Removing an animal will result in a different animal moving into your yard if it is still hospitable. Animals like chipmunks are highly unlikely to damage your property, though they do enjoy a free meal from your garden. Luckily, there are humane ways to keep them from your veggies, such as planting daffodils or allium, which chipmunks will avoid as they are bitter and toxic.

To deter unwanted guests like skunks, raccoons and opossums, secure trash carefully, take down bird feeders and do not feed outdoor cats. If you remove food sources, there is no reason for animals to hang around. You can also eliminate convenient hiding places such as wood piles or fence off open spaces under decks to prevent animals from taking residence.

There are many ways to coexist peacefully with wildlife, so think about steps you can take before you call an exterminator. There are also resources who can help! If you have questions about wildlife, or find an animal you



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

believe to be injured or ill, please contact the nonprofit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at 440-871-2900 or [wildlife@lensc.org](mailto:wildlife@lensc.org). ●

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer turns to fall at the Clague House Museum

by DAVE PFISTER

The Clague House Museum will be open for tours in the evening on Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 7-9 p.m. The museum is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake and admission is free of charge.

During the tour you will have the opportunity to learn about some of this area’s pioneer families, how they lived, and how the Clague gift to our community is still being enjoyed today.

If you cannot come to our open house on Sept. 13, please call us at 216-

848-0680 to schedule an appointment for a personal tour.

Please join us on Monday, Sept. 11, as members, friends, and family will gather at Evergreen Cemetery for a remembrance service for all who perished that day. We plan to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the grave of Christina Ryook, a Westlake resident who died in the Towers. The members of the Westlake Historical Society have been meeting each year on Sept. 11 since 2004 to remember those tragic events.

If you have any questions, please call us at 216-848-0680. ●



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

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# BAYARTS *from front page*

The group decided to form their own organization. In the beginning, they met in members' houses to work on projects. Later, they wanted others to know about their gathering and decided to hold an art show.

Baycrafters' "First Show" was held in the Bay Community House on June 4 and 5 of 1948. The show featured watercolor and oil paintings, jewelry, pottery, weaving and needlework, hats, and woodwork. Junior exhibits created by the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cubs, and local high school students were also included. They expected approximately 50 contributors and received over 200 entries.

The First Show was a big success in the community and later inspired the creation of the non-profit arts organization called Baycrafters.

Originally, Baycrafters was housed in two rooms in the basement of the Rose Hill Museum (at that time the Village of Bay Library). For years, officers of Baycrafters searched for a permanent location. The group even considered a barn on the Lawrence estate (where Cashelmara is now located), among other buildings.

It wasn't until 1962 that Baycrafters established a permanent home. They learned that the Bay Village Nickel Plate Station was closing. The Victorian-era train station, built in 1882 and located at the Dover Center Road crossing (near the present-day CVS in Bay), serviced local and long-distance travelers.

The Travelers Official Guild from 1893 showed eight passenger trains a day stopping at the station in Dover (the original name of Bay Village). Trains headed eastbound from this stop to Cleveland, Conneaut, and Buffalo, and westbound to Fort Wayne and Chicago. Many summer travelers stopped in Bay Village for idyllic fishing and bathing at the beach. Local businessmen caught the train to Cleveland and returned the same day.

As automobiles became popular, travel by rail decreased and the station became obsolete. Through the 1940s, the station remained in use to receive freight shipments but was eventually closed.

The decommissioned station was donated to the rapidly growing Baycrafters by the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad Company for \$1. The Cleveland Metropolitan Park District invited Baycrafters to move the station house to the Huntington Reservation. The railway station was loaded on a flatbed truck and moved to its current location in the park.

## The Huntington House

By the late '60s, Baycrafters had outgrown the space in the tiny station house



The train station being moved to the Baycrafters property in 1962.

and was looking to expand. The adjacent Huntington House became available and was the perfect solution for the growing arts organization.

According to the Cuyahoga County Auditor's records, the classic bungalow-style structure was built somewhere between 1900 and 1904. It is believed that the house was added to the estate after the untimely death of John Huntington, and was used as the caretaker's residence for Huntington Family Farms, owned by Huntington's second wife, Mariett Leek Huntington.

The Metropolitan Park District purchased the Huntington estate in 1925 and originally leased the caretaker's house to local families. The park later offered the lease the building to Baycrafters in 1968. The Gallery House, as it became known, started a new life as Baycrafters' main gallery and was also used for classrooms and administrative offices, with a fully functioning ceramics studio in the basement.

## The Caboose

Even before the Station House was moved to the park, trains played a prominent role in the history of the Huntington Reservation. For many years, the Lake Shore Electric Railway cut across the Huntington property on its path from Cleveland to Toledo. Large concrete supports for the trestle that spanned Porter Creek are still visible behind the BAYarts campus.

So it was no surprise when the leadership of Baycrafters accepted a donation of an authentic 1949 caboose from the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1969. The caboose came complete with original fixtures, a bed, and a bath. Baycrafters used the caboose for displays, demonstrations, and small events.

## The Fuller House

Baycrafters and BAYarts have had a long history of taking on big projects. But none have been so monumental as the iconic Fuller House Sail. The Fuller House was built in 1892 and originally sat on a high bluff above Lake Erie on the eastern end of Bay Village.

The Queen Anne-style home was a

wedding gift to Irene Lawrence Fuller from her father, industrialist, Washington H. Lawrence, who made his fortune as president of the National Carbon Company (now Union Carbide).

Years later, in 1948, Dr. Richard Sheppard of the Cleveland Osteopathic Association purchased the Lawrence mansion. The group moved from Cleveland to Bay Village and renovated the Lawrence mansion into Bay View Hospital, an 85-bed facility.

The Irene Lawrence Fuller House became the residence of Dr. Richard Sheppard and his wife. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Richard's son, Dr. Sam Sheppard, returned from California with his new wife, Marilyn, to join his father and brothers at Bay View Hospital.

In the early morning of July 4, 1954, Marilyn Sheppard was murdered in the bedroom of their Bay Village home located on Lake Road a few miles west of the hospital and the saga of the infamous murder case began. On Aug. 2, Dr. Sam Sheppard was arrested for the murder of his wife on the front porch of his parent's home – the Fuller House.

Bay View Hospital closed its doors in 1981 and developer Bob Corna purchased the hospital and surrounding property to create a condominium community named Cashelmara. Soon after the sale, the Fuller House was set to be demolished to make room for the new development. Baycrafters led a community effort to save the structure and move it to their campus.

Corna agreed to donate the house to Baycrafters and helped to coordinate the move. On Aug. 29, 1984, the 120-ton Fuller House was transported by barge on Lake Erie from the Lawrence estate on the east end of Bay to the Huntington Reservation.

The three- and one-half-mile journey saw the house floated on the lake, brought up through the Bay Boat Club, loaded on a flatbed truck, and slowly transported down Lake Road to the park – an unconventional move that drew international attention.

The structure was then installed



The restored train station at Baycrafters in 1963.

on a new foundation on the Baycrafters campus, where the house sat vacant for many years while fundraising efforts were underway.

## Baycrafters becomes BAYarts

New management in 2006 brought a fresh, creative vibe to the campus. Baycrafters was rebranded as BAYarts and fundraising efforts began anew to bring much-needed renovations to the now-famous (and infamous) Fuller House.

In 2008, BAYarts was awarded a grant from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) for the renovation. That grant, combined with financial assistance from the Cleveland Metroparks and funds raised through a capital campaign, enabled BAYarts to begin construction in April 2009. The renovated building opened to the public in October 2010.

The Fuller House is now the centerpiece of the BAYarts campus. The Victorian gem has found a new purpose and is brimming with life. The building is home to classrooms, office space, and the esteemed Sullivan Family Gallery. Outside, the wraparound porch and surrounding gardens welcome patrons and visitors alike.

Expansion of the organization continues. BAYarts added a 2,500-square-foot state-of-the-art ceramics studio to the back of the Huntington House in 2015.

More recently, BAYarts assumed the lease on the Huntington Playhouse on the east end of its campus and is renovating the building in phases through contributions from generous donors and additional OFCC grant money.

Phase one was completed in January 2019 and included new electrical and fire safety systems along with renovations to the restrooms and hearth room.

Phase two is planned to begin this fall and will include the transformation of the theater and stage areas into a multi-use space to accommodate a wider range of cultural performances including concerts, movies, plays, speakers, music recitals, and more. When completed, this phase will also address the exterior of the building.

A capital campaign continues to renovate other areas of the building.

Now, with over 65,000 visitors each year, BAYarts has become a premier west-side cultural destination. Come celebrate this historic milestone with us at Moondance on Sept. 9, or stop by for a visit this fall. Go to [www.bayarts.net](http://www.bayarts.net) for more information. ●



The present-day Fuller House on the BAYarts campus.



WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

COFA juried art show a big success



The winners of this year’s Community of Fine Arts Juried Art Show at Porter Library.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Discover ‘The Lake Erie World of Henry Wischmeyer’

by CYNTHIA EAKIN

Ed Neal, executive director of the Cleveland Amateur Boatbuilding and Boaters Society, will address “The Lake Erie World of Henry Wischmeyer” at the next Bay Village Historical Society potluck dinner. The Thursday, Sept. 21, presenta-

tion, held at the Bay Lodge on Bradley Road, begins with a social at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. The main dish will be provided by the historical society. Attendees with last names beginning with A through J should bring an appetizer or dessert for 10 to share. Those with last names

beginning with K through Z should bring a side dish. All attendees should bring their own place setting and beverage. Alcohol is permitted at the lodge. There will be a \$10 charge at the door for non-members of the historical society. RSVP by Sept. 14 to htramba@sbcglobal.net or call 440-537-1581. ●

Westshore Enforcement Bureau to offer teen driver education scholarships

by NOREEN KYLE

Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) announces the availability of teen driver education scholarships courtesy of funding from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO). The grant will help teenagers in low-income households and/or families that are struggling financially to get access to free driver training. Attendance at one of the Westshore high schools in Bay Village, Westlake, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted or Rocky River is required. Financially eligible families with students (ages 15-½ to 17) with a valid temporary permit can be referred through their school’s guidance office for an application. Students who receive the OTSO “Drive to Succeed” scholarship will be able to select driver education training taught by 911 Driving School or Professional Driving School. The OTSO Drive to Succeed scholarship will cover the entire class fee (less \$25 deposit). Young drivers under age 24 are involved in 31% of all crashes in Ohio, but only make up about 13% of licensed Ohio drivers. With the proper education and training, 16-year-old license applicants perform best of all those licensed under age 25 on the on-road test, with a 78% pass rate – compared to a 63% pass rate at age 18. Since 1975, WEB has provided drug and alcohol prevention services through a broad range of community programs being heralded as a model Ohio Drug Task Force. The Westshore Young Leaders Network (WYLN) is comprised of middle and high school students from its six service communities. WYLN meets monthly during the school year to support young leaders and promote healthy, safe and substance-free lifestyle choices. ●

LAKE ROAD WALKING TOUR  
Henry B. Spencer House, 23924 Lake Road, c. 1872

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

The 15th in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2025. Henry Spencer bought a 41.5-acre parcel in this location in 1869 or earlier. The tax records are missing for 1870 and 1871 and by 1872 the value of the property more than doubled indicating that the existing Victorian Italianate style house was constructed c. 1872. W.H. Lawrence purchased the property and house after 1892, probably as a summer home for one of his seven daughters. Lawrence developed the Dover Bay Country Club east of Clague Road in 1890 and built

the mansion now known as Cashelmara in 1899. There is no evidence suggesting that W.H. Lawrence himself occupied the house. Lawrence died in 1900 but the property remained part of his estate until the late 1920s. It was surveyed into a smaller lakefront parcel in 1929 and purchased by a relative of the current owners in 1930. Bay’s 1939 Directory lists Mary and Leo Dewitt occupying the house with their 12 children. When Mary died in 1973 the property was deeded to her husband and surviving children. Through time the lot was reduced to about one-third acre. It transferred to the current owners in 1998. ●





## ST. LADISLAS *from front page*

As we welcome Father Latcovich, we are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul: "There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit." We believe that Father Latcovich's gifts will enrich our community in so many ways, fostering spiritual growth, unity, and compassion among our congregation and the community of Westlake.

During this time of transition, we keep Father Latcovich in our prayers as he takes on his new role here at St. Ladislas. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to Father Donald Snyder for his unwavering dedication and leadership, which have left an indelible mark on our parish.

In the words of Psalms 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." As we embark on this exciting new chapter with Father Mark Latcovich, we will continue to support one another, nurture our spiritual growth, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that define our cherished St. Ladislas Parish.

Welcome, Father Mark Latcovich! ●

## Dover UCC installs new pastor

by MICHAEL DILAURO

The community is invited to join in the Installation celebration of Reverend Melinda Quellhorst at Dover Congregational UCC in Westlake on Sept. 24. A pastor's Installation is a church service in which a new pastor is charged with duties and welcomed into the church family, marking the beginning with a sense of hope and possibility.

Those who called Reverend Quellhorst to serve believe in her unique gifts, vision, passion and talent. The service of Installation is a way of saying, "You belong here!"

The Installation will include a time for ministers and community members to welcome Pastor Mindy into this fellowship. In the UCC there

are promises by the larger church to support the minister in a covenantal relationship.

The pastor promises to support the denomination and other ministers. The minister also promises to be in covenant; a relationship of mutual trust and working together with the people of the congregation, preaching and teaching and caring for them.

Reverend Quellhorst believes, "Leading with the gifts that God has given me, I am blessed by my call from God."

Please join us at the Dover Congregational United Church of Christ, 2239 Dover Center Road, on Sunday, Sept. 24, at 4 p.m.

A reception will follow the Installation. For more information, call 440-871-1050. ●



Reverend Melinda Quellhorst will be installed as the new pastor at Dover UCC on Sept. 24.

## Westlake launches fall session of Community Police Academy

The inaugural session of the Community Police Academy commenced on Aug. 30 with an atmosphere of camaraderie and purpose. Eager participants gathered to introduce themselves, setting the stage for a journey of collaboration and understanding.

The room was filled with anticipation as Mayor Dennis Clough addressed the attendees, emphasizing the significance of unity between law enforcement and the community. Police Chief Kevin Bielozer followed suit, sharing his commitment to fostering transparency and trust through

proactive engagement.

As introductions unfolded, a sense of shared responsibility and enthusiasm permeated the room, laying the foundation for a transformative learning experience that would bridge the gap between the police force and the community they serve.

Students in the 12-week program will learn a variety of police-related activities such as crime scene analysis, self-defense, firearms training, K-9 operations, S.W.A.T. tactics, O.V.I. apprehension, law enforcement technology, drone operations, and detective work. ●



Westlake Police Chief Kevin Bielozer welcomes students to the Community Police Academy.



Students tour the Westlake Police Station.

## Porter Library receives clean audit

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library has passed its recent audit, which means auditors found no weaknesses or deficiencies in the library's financial management and record-keeping.

In addition, the library was found to be in compliance with the laws, regulations, contracts and other agreements it is required to meet. This continues the library's longstanding record of successful audits.

"Our Finance Department works very hard to make sure the library is a good steward of the funds entrusted to us by the com-

munity, and the rest of the staff do a great job following the fiscal procedures Finance has put in place," said Library Director Andrew Mangels. "So this result does not surprise me at all."

This year's audit took place in late spring and covered the year 2022.

Auditors from the Ohio Auditor of State's office performed audit procedures agreed upon by the Board of Trustees, Library management and the State Auditor. The procedures were conducted in accordance with the Comptroller General of the United States "Government Auditing Standards." All records were found to comply with the standards. ●

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Bay LWV to host council candidate event Sept. 19

by KARI ECKEL

The Bay Village Chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV) will be holding a Face2Face candidate event for residents of Wards 1 and 4 at the Bay Middle School library on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to meet the candidates for the two contested city council races this year.

From Ward 1, running for re-election is Dave Tadych with challenger Dave Long. Ward 4 has two new candidates: David Florez and Daniel Rettig.

The Face2Face format includes an oppor-

tunity for each candidate to briefly introduce themselves to everyone attending, and then the audience will break into small groups where they can ask questions of their own candidates in an informal, roundtable format.

Join the LWV on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Bay Middle School library, 27725 Wolf Road, for information, answers, and conversation with your Ward 1 and 4 candidates.

If you're not sure which ward you're in, you can find out at [www.vote411.org/check-registration](http://www.vote411.org/check-registration) or [boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/get-your-voting-information](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/get-your-voting-information). ●



# Westlake Porter Public Library's upcoming events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early September 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

Wednesdays, Sept. 6 and 13 (7-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, Sept. 16 (10:30-11 a.m.) **Family Storytime** - Join us for rhymes, songs and play! Children are welcome to wear their pajamas and bring along a stuffed animal for Wednesday evening storytime! Ages 2-6 with a caregiver.

Wednesdays, Sept. 6 and 13 (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. Dogs will stay for 10 minutes past the last registered reader or 1-1/2 hours, whichever comes first. Recommended for Grades K-4.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 (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.

Thursday, Sept. 7 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Computer Basics & Introduction to Northstar** - Learn how to turn on a computer, use a mouse, go online and access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Please register.

Thursday, Sept. 7 and Monday, Thursday, Sept. 7 (7-8 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Lidia Bastianich** - You're invited to an intimate evening with award-winning television host and bestselling author Lidia Bastianich as she talks about her memoir "My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food." Streamed live. Please register.

Friday, Sept. 8 (11:15-11:45 a.m.) **Yoga with Ms. Jen!** - Calm your body, mind, and spirit in this yoga class taught by a certified yoga instructor! Wear comfy clothes and bring your own mat or towel. Ages 2-6, siblings welcome. Please register.

Friday, Sept. 8 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday** - What is the difference between an insect and a spider? Explore the world of creepy critters by counting, sorting and observing these tiny creatures. Discoveries will be made with hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. For ages 4-6, up to kindergarten. Please register.

Saturday, Sept. 9 (2-4 p.m.) **Make It, Take It!** - Stop by Youth Services to complete a featured craft. While supplies last. PreK-Grade 2.

Saturday, Sept. 9 (3-4 p.m.) **Illustration Creation** - Learn about a featured illustrator then create a project inspired by their art. For children with disabilities and their typical peers. Grades 1-3. Please register.

Sunday, Sept. 10 (2-3 p.m.) **Art Smarts** - Explore some works of a well-known artist and then use what you've seen to create an art piece of your own. Grades 4-6. Please register.

Sunday, Sept. 10 (2:30-3:15 p.m.) **Adapted Storytime** - Join us for this storytime designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime.

Content is geared toward ages 3-7. Registration begins one week before each session.

Monday, Sept. 11 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **9/11 Remembrance** - Visit Christina's Corner in the Youth Services Department to decorate and add a dove, a symbol of peace, to commemorate those who lost their lives in 9/11. Supplies provided and open to all ages.

Monday, Sept. 11 (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, Sept. 11 (3-5 p.m.) **Teen Lounge** - Need a place to hang after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons. Video games, board games, snacks and more!

Monday, Sept. 11 (4:30-5 p.m.) **Multilingual Storytime** - Have fun learning stories, rhymes, and movements in many languages and formats. All ages welcome.

Tuesday, Sept. 12 (4:30-5:15 p.m.) **STEAM Club** - What is the difference between an insect and a spider? Explore the world of creepy critters by counting, sorting and observing these tiny creatures. Discover scientific principles with hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Grades 1-2. Please register.

Tuesday, Sept. 12 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Club** - Join the WPPL Tuesday Evening Book Club to discuss "The 39 Steps" by John Buchan. The discussion will be held in person and on Zoom simultaneously. Please register. If you register for the Zoom option, you will receive a Zoom invitation and instructions by email.

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (5:30-6:30 p.m.) **STEAM Lab: States of Matter** - Learn about different states of matter - from solids, to liquids, to gases, and everything in between - and make Oobleck! Grades 3-4. Registration begins Sept. 6.

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (6-7 p.m.) **Wild Edibles: Learn How to Mindfully Forage** - Join Lorain County Community College adjunct professor Alison McKim in foraging wild edibles from your own back yard. Learn how to positively identify local wild plants using multi-sensory methods, as well as the significance of foraging to other cultures. The presentation will be followed by a trip outside to seek out some of these plants in our own surroundings! Please register.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Microsoft Excel with Introduction to Northstar** - Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Registration begins Sept. 7.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (1-2 p.m.) **Cookbook Club: Talk About Your Favorite Recipe!** - Pick a cookbook from our library shelves and bring a dish to share! This meeting will focus on vegan dishes. Please register.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (4-5 p.m.) **Make Your Own Fidget Bracelet** - Drop in and design your own fidget bracelet! For grades 3-6.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (4-5 p.m.) **Roblox Arcade (Virtual)** - Join us in the Roblox Arcade! We have private servers set up for tweens in grades 4-6 to

enjoy some of the most popular games.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (4:30-5:30 p.m.) **Teddy Bear Picnic** - You and your favorite stuffed animal are invited to a Teddy Bear Picnic! Join us for stories, songs, craft, and a snack. Bring a blanket, we'll bring the fun! Ages 3-8. In case of inclement weather, the event will be indoors. Registration begins Sept. 7.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) **Kids in the Kitchen** - Children with disabilities will learn some important cooking skills while making 2 or 3 world recipes. Tasting is not required. Previous kitchen experience isn't necessary. Ages 8-12. Please call the Youth Services Desk at 440-250-5471 if you have any concerns about allergens or other dietary issues. Some previous kitchen experience is great, but it isn't necessary. Typical peers or siblings welcome. Registration begins Sept. 7.

Thursday, Sept. 14 (7-8 p.m.) **Thursday Night Book Discussion** - "The People We Keep" by Allison Larkin. Participants will need to obtain their own copies of the title.

Friday, Sept. 15 (4-5 p.m.) **Brick Builders** - Do you love Legos? Then bring your ideas and imagination to Brick Builders! Bricks provided. Room capacity is limited; first come, first served. Ages 5-12.

Saturday, Sept. 16 (1-2 p.m.) **Around the World Adventures with Author Lindsay Bonilla** - Author and storyteller Lindsay Bonilla opens our Community Welcome Fair with folktales from various countries and cultures. All ages welcome. This interactive program will actively involve the audience through kinesthetic movement, sound effects and more. Be prepared to laugh, learn and become part of the story. Lindsay will have copies of her books available for purchase and signing after this event.

Saturday, Sept. 16 (2-4 p.m.) **Community Welcome Fair** - Welcoming Week culminates with this Fair, bringing together neighbors of all backgrounds and building strong connections and community. A variety of local cultural groups and businesses will be here to share their stories, traditions, and food.

Sunday, Sept. 17 (2-3 p.m.) **Come Play With Me** - Open playtime for children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome!

Monday, Sept. 18 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Space is the Place Craft Pick-Up** - Blast off and create some out-of-this-world crafts. Registration begins Sept. 11.

Monday, Sept. 18 (1-2:30 p.m.) **True Crime Book Club** - "Deliberate Cruelty: Truman Capote, the Millionaire's Wife, and the Murder of the Century" by Roseanne Montillo. Please register.

Monday, Sept. 18 (6-7 p.m.) **Family Literacy Night** - Use games, music and art in this interactive family activity incorporating tips you can use at home to boost your child(ren)'s literacy skills. For families with children in grades K-8. Registration begins Sept. 11.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 (1-4 p.m.) **Jewelry Junction** - Make a beautiful 3-strand crocheted and braided necklace using wire, pearls and crystals. Registration begins Sept. 12.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 (2-3 p.m.)

**Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion** - This month's title is "The 39 Steps" by John Buchan. A limited number of books are available for check-out at the Circulation Desk.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 (2-3 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Adam Alter** - Join us as we chat with New York Times best-selling author Adam Alter about his new book, "Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most." Streamed live. Please register.


Wednesdays, Sept. 20 and 27 (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. Dogs will stay for 10 minutes past the last registered reader or 1-1/2 hours, whichever comes first. Recommended for Grades K-4.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 (7-8 p.m.) **Adult Creative Writing Group: Fall 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! This meeting will focus on poetry in celebration of Fall. Please register.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 (7-8 p.m.) **Alfred Hitchcock: His Greatest Films** - Join us for a spine-chilling presentation on director Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock was a master director of mystery movies with surprise endings in the early and middle parts of the 20th Century. Please register.

Wednesdays, Sept. 20 and 27 (7-7:30 p.m.) and Saturdays, Sept. 23 and 30 (10:30-11 a.m.) **Family Storytime** - Join us for rhymes, songs and play! Children are welcome to wear their pajamas and bring along a stuffed animal for Wednesday evening storytime! Ages 2-6 with a caregiver.

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



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Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com)





The community-wide effort to raise funds for the New Bay Village Dog Kennel Fund culminated with the Bark in the Park event at BAYarts on Aug. 19. The event featured vendors, a variety of rescues and services, a costumed pooch parade and live music. Proceeds went to the creation of a new kennel in Bay Village and to BAYarts' community programming.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

# Overcoming technology intimidation

by TAK SATO

A week before I start a new “Discover Digital Literacy!” program, I meet with each incoming student for an one-on-one assessment. My goals are to potentially find a common denominator among the students so I can customize and tailor the 16-class curriculum. Even when there are no common denominators identified, I’ll have an opportunity to know them better and analyze the collected data appropriately.

Although there are at least three different definitions to what “digital divide” means, “society’s lack of knowledge on how to make use of the information and communication tools once they exist within a community” (Wikipedia) is what I hear often. The good news is that when I meet with the students again before graduation, that perceived lack of knowledge or intimidation has all but dissipated from their attitude toward the information and communication tools of the digital world. Their attitude is more curious about technology than being intimidated by it.

Contrary to the theorems that one should have mastered after taking a calculus class, digital literacy does not have such quantifiable or measurable objectives. We can’t evaluate someone as possessing baseline knowledge on

how to make use of the information and communication tools, aka digital literacy, just because the individual tweets on the social media platform “X” (formerly Twitter) or attends a Zoom meeting. The knowledge of how to utilize any single video conferencing platform, for example, is a transferable skill whether using Zoom, WebEx, or Meet is used.

I often use the example of domestic and foreign cars to bring this point across during the program. The four tires, steering wheel, gas, and brake pedals are in the same location regardless of the car’s make or model. What’s different are things like controls for the entertainment system and other “nonessentials” that don’t interfere with the proven utility of a car. If you drive a Ford Taurus at home but while on vacation your rental is a Toyota Camry, even though you may be unfamiliar at first as to which button to push to turn on the air conditioning, I reckon you will drive off the Hertz parking lot at the airport sooner than later.

When conducting research to buy your first smartphone/tablet, you typically find article after article purporting to why you should buy into the Apple ecosystem by buying an iPhone/iPad or nudging you to buy Samsung Galaxy/Tab or Google Pixel/Pixel Tablet that orbit within Google’s eco-

system. But the truth is, many popular apps exist in both ecosystems and the functionality of those apps are similar/same once an app is opened in either ecosystem.

Getting a smartphone/tablet that is appropriate for you based on your needs and wants – such as size, price, and other essential features – should be your priority rather than belonging to a certain team. When apps you use are standardized whether it’s an iPhone/iPad or Android smartphone/tablet, and the nonessentials are obviously different, you’ll get used to doing things on the device of your choice in no time flat. ●

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Interested? Send us an email at: [staff@wbvobserver.com](mailto:staff@wbvobserver.com)

# Porter Library invites residents to Community Welcome Fair

Westlake Porter Public Library invites local residents to get to know their neighbors at a Community Welcome Fair on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 1-4 p.m. The Fair is a way for neighbors of all backgrounds to come together and build strong connections with the community.

A variety of local cultural groups and businesses will be on hand to share their stories, traditions and food, including Horizon ATA and Karate, JK Kang Taekwondo, The Almutairi Family – Learn About Saudi Arabia, Westlake Chinese School, the West Cleveland Muslim Association, Council on Islamic Relations, The Hope Center for Refugees and Immigrants, the Nut Shop and the International Community Council/Worldwide Intercultural Network.

The Fair will kick off with author and storyteller Lindsay Bonilla, who will share folktales from various countries and cultures. The program begins at 1 p.m. and is suitable for all ages.

The Community Welcome Fair is the culmination of Welcoming Week, which will include special programs, such as Multilingual Storytime on Sept. 11 and a Kids in the Kitchen program featuring world recipes on Sept. 14, as well as special blog entries throughout the week.

To learn more or to register for programs, visit [westlakelibrary.org/welcoming-week](http://westlakelibrary.org/welcoming-week). ●

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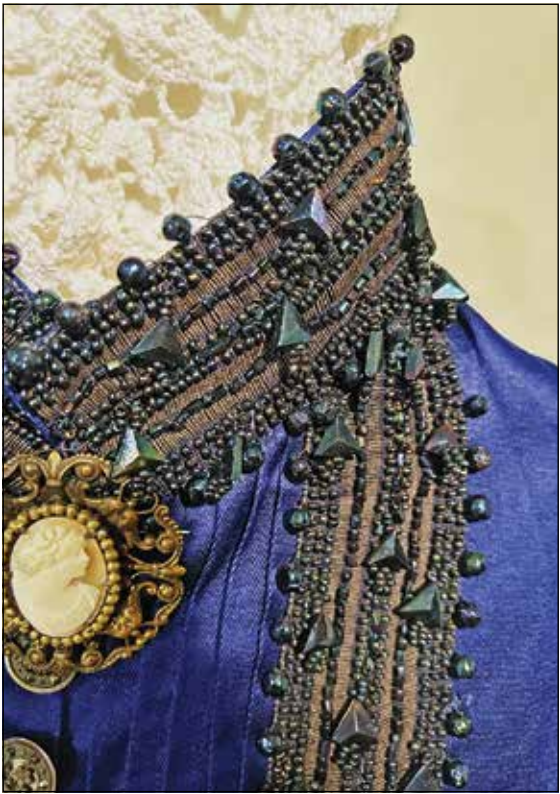


**BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# Clothing featuring ornamental beadwork at Rose Hill Museum



Floral design beaded appliqué.



Detail of black jet beads on an 1860s blue dress.



Early 1900s beaded and sequined dress with square neckline.



1940s Campfire Girls costume.

## Eagle Scout candidate refreshes landscaping



Bay Village Troop 41 Eagle Scout candidate, Drew McMaken, led a team of fellow Scouts Gerry, Max, Connor, Rhett, and Everett to rework landscaping outside of the Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church office. His Eagle service project included removal of bushes, excavation, and weed prevention. The area now features a pebble walkway and seating area. Troop 41 meets on Thursday evenings at the church. Learn more about Scouts BSA at [beascout.org](https://beascout.org).

PHOTO BY RANDY RISCH

September is  
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Post your group's free community events online at [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com)

Saturday, Sept. 9, noon-3 p.m.  
**BAY VILLAGE TOUCH A TRUCK**  
Join us for a day full of family fun! Meet our team of Firefighters, Police Officers, and Service Employees who keep Bay Village safe and beautiful. Lots of new equipment for the kids to tour and touch. Turn on police car emergency lights, climb on firetrucks, sit in the Service Department trucks, and watch the Lifelight helicopter land!  
*Bay Village Fire/Police Station parking lots, 28000 Wolf Rd.*

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m.  
**HERB GUILD GARDEN CLUB MEETING**  
The meeting will start at 10:30. After a brief lunch at noon, the club will have a presentation by master organizer Betty Hickle who owns a small business decluttering and organiz-

ing peoples' lives. Betty is a retired nursing home administrator and will also touch on the subject of choosing a nursing home. New members and guests are always welcome. For more information, call 440-382-5840 or visit [theherbguild.org](http://theherbguild.org).  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

Thursday, Sept. 14, 12:30 p.m.  
**ARE YOU A SEMI-HOARDER?**  
Learn more about hoarding, semi-hoarding and tips and tricks on how to sort through our "stuff" and lighten our load! Amy Margiotti will help you reduce your possessions with this guidance. Free and open to the public. For questions, call Nancy at 440-334-7539. Sponsored by the Bay Village Women's Club.  
*Bay Village Howard Hanna Meeting Room, 27115 Knickerbocker Rd.*

Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m.  
**FIRST ANNUAL WESTLAKE COMMUNITY RUN**  
Winding through the city of Westlake, this event offers participants the opportunity to run or walk while enjoying the vibrant community spirit. The event includes a timed 5K Run and Speed Walking Division, as well as an untimed 1-Mile Walk. Following the race, participants can enjoy refreshments, snacks, and an awards ceremony.  
*Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.*

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**WESTLAKE WELLNESS AND SAFETY DAY**  
This free community celebration offers family-friendly activities – plus wellness screenings, safety tips and educational materials that promote

healthy lifestyles for people of all ages. Activities include a bouncy house, Touch a Truck, free bike helmets for kids, and walk-up health screenings – balance, glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol, hearing, skin cancer, stroke risk.  
*Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.*

Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.  
**S'MORES & STARS**  
Eat s'mores & learn about the stars and Scouts. This free event is hosted by Bay Village BSA Troop 729. This event is geared toward boys and girls in grades K-5, but everyone is welcome to join us. Residents of all local areas welcome to attend. For more information call 440-655-4385.  
*Field across from Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd.*

WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE

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Since 2009 the Observer has strived to fulfill our founding mission – to strengthen our community by informing and engaging Westlake and Bay Village residents.

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Thank you to the donors who contributed to this issue:  
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