

Westlake Garden Club creates fun Grinch Christmas Tree



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

by JEAN SMITH

The Grinch has brought Christmas to the library! Since 2012, the Westlake Garden Club has decorated a holiday tree for the main lobby of Westlake Porter Public Library with a different theme every year.

Robert Pearl, chairman of the tree committee, decides on the theme and supplies all of the decorations. Robert has been collecting Christmas ornaments for many years and buys multiple pieces when he travels. He has ornaments of every color, size and type

including animals, fruits, florals, glass balls, stars, snowflakes, the Grinch and many more.

Garden club members Kathy Bruening, Maryann Coblentz and President Deb Dougherty assisted Robert with the decorating of this year's tree.

To learn more about the Westlake Garden Club, visit westlakegardenclub.org.

Stop in Porter Library this month and let the magic of the holiday season take you back to a different time, or maybe just put a smile on your face as you see the Grinch and his antics come alive on the tree. Happy Holidays! ◆

THE GREEN REPORT

You can green your holidays, here's how

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

This is a topic that I write about around this time every year because I think the message is so important.

It is estimated that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, household waste increases 25%. I want to share some easy ways to reduce waste, and help make your holidays earth-friendly!

Parties: If you are hosting a holiday meal or party at your home, please use real dishes, napkins, silverware and glasses. Your choice to use "real stuff" will not only drastically reduce the waste your party will generate, but guests will appreciate eating and drinking out of real items. In my opinion, eating Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner off of a plastic or paper plate with a plastic fork and knife is just not the same.

If you're thinking "but I don't have enough stuff for all of my guests!" I have an idea for you: head to a thrift store and pick up the extra items you need. Believe me, they do not need to match your existing sets and adding in items that don't match provides a trendy shabby chic style to your party, in my opinion.

➔ See HOLIDAYS, page 2

Bay Kiwanis cares

by WARREN REMEIN

Every year Kiwanis donates to the City of Bay Village's Holiday Caring & Sharing program to help Bay residents in need of a hand. This fund administered, by the Community Services Department, helps with utility payments, food and expenses a family cannot cover. We are proud to

donate each year to help.

Every service the Kiwanis Club of Bay Village performs or helps to pay for is to support community and children. Our tagline is "Improving the world one community and one child at a time."

Can you help? Please donate cash or check to the Holiday Caring & Sharing program. Donations may be dropped off before Dec.

15 at the Bay Village Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane. If you are in need of assistance or have any questions, please call the Senior Center at 440-899-3442.

Want to volunteer with Kiwanis? Contact rdcs4poh@gmail.com or patrick.mosier@sbcglobal.com. See us on Facebook and consider joining our mission. We do what we think we can't. Join us and thousands in Kiwanis International from all around the world. ◆



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

From left: Mayor Paul Koomar and Community Services Director Kathy Messeri accept a donation check from Kiwanians Warren Remein and Foster McMasters at the Bay Village Senior Center on Dec. 1.



PHOTO BY JULINA SABO

Westlake church to host live nativity

by LISA HALLMAN

The community is invited to attend Westlake United Methodist Church's highly popular live nativity celebration. Stop by after school for an opportunity to get up close with the live animals, all while enjoying story time,

crafts, Christmas cookies and cocoa.

The highlight is a life-size manger scene built by members of the congregation. The volunteer cast members are groups of families that share the holy birth story through live music and, of course, the live animals.

➔ See NATIVITY, page 6

See more Christmas events and services on pages 6-7



More stories, photos
and events online at
wbvobserver.com



The Observer – Dedicated to the ideal
that volunteers define a community.

Bay Village Women's Club contributes to Rose Hill

by CYNTHIA EAKIN

The Bay Village Women's Club donated \$5,000 to the Bay Village Historical Society to help refurbish the Victorian Parlor at Rose Hill Museum.

The Bay Village Women's Club purchased the wallpaper and draperies for the parlor more than 50 years ago and pledged to help finance the upcoming restoration project. The project will be completed over the winter months when the museum is closed to the public.

The Bay Village Women's Club was one of Bay Village's first civic organizations, meeting in February 1917 in the one-room school house near where Bay Presbyterian Church now stands. Its second meeting of 107 members was in a two-room school house on Lake Road. In September 1921, the group convened at the Library of Dover by the Lake, now Rose Hill Museum. ●



Bay Village Women's Club members (left to right) Sarah Urbancic, Nancy Trainer and Amy Margiotti present a check to Bay Village Historical Society President Cathy Flament (second from left).

HOLIDAYS

from front page

Last year for a party I was throwing I went to Savers and purchased a bunch of extra glasses. They ran me about \$1 a glass. I have them boxed up in the basement, so this year I'll just pull out the box and use them again! You can also buy inexpensive dishes and silverware at thrift stores.

Food: Please purchase local and/or organic food when possible. Locally grown and raised food reduces the carbon dioxide emissions from shipping foods in. Purchasing organic foods reduces the need for pesticides and toxic chemicals, and every time you do this, you "vote" for organic foods with your dollars. These chemicals, when used on conventionally grown items, are not only detrimental to your health, but they enter the soil, which eventually runs off into rivers and lakes.

This time of year it is not as easy to find locally raised produce, but it's still available. I have seen it at both Heinen's and Whole Foods in recent weeks.

Furthermore, purchasing food and other items in bulk when possible reduces packaging waste (reducing your waste) and also saves you money. Also, please remember to bring your reusable shopping bags when shopping for the holidays! This is a simple step you can take to drastically reduce your waste.

It is estimated that 28 billion pounds of edible food is wasted each year. This is equivalent to more than 100 pounds per person. If you are hosting holiday gatherings, it is important to estimate the correct amount of food to purchase so you don't end up with too much or too little. General guidelines are as follows per person you are serving: 1 lb. turkey, ¼ lb. stuffing, ¼ lb. green bean casserole, and 1/8 of a 9" pie.

Gifting: Consider giving experiences rather than things. For example, tickets to a show, gift card for a massage, family zoo membership, Cedar Point passes, gift cards for favorite local restaurants. Other environmentally friendly ideas are homemade, edible gifts such as cookies or cakes, specialty drinks (you can purchase empty glass bottles on Amazon and mix your favorite drink into them for

gifts), plants, or long-lasting household items.

When giving more personal gifts, please make sure you are buying quality items that will last a long time – one high-quality piece of clothing or jewelry is better than 10 cheap T-shirts or junk jewelry – these will end up in the landfill quickly.

What to avoid: anything that is super cheap, because it is and will end up in landfill; cheap plastic items for stockings (focus on candy/chocolate, useful items like a booklight, reusable straw and cup, locally made soap, candles).

Which brings me to another idea: shop local when you can! I love doing holiday shopping from local crafters and artists, there are many opportunities to shop this way, you can find a great list here: clevelandtraveler.com/cleveland-christmas-markets.

Travel: There are simple steps you can take to reduce your carbon footprint if you are going to be traveling for the holidays. The first would be to turn off lights in your home before you leave, and make sure your thermostat is turned down as well. It is also a good idea to have your car checked to ensure proper inflation of tires and that the air filter is clean; these actions will reduce carbon emissions if you are traveling by car.

Clean-Up: When cleaning your house either before or after a holiday gathering, consider using non-toxic cleaners. Vinegar and newspaper works extremely well for windows, and baking soda with water is a great tub and sink scrub. Simple, non-toxic cleaner recipes are very easy to find on the internet.

Disposing of Waste: If you compost, please continue to compost even during this busy time of year. And last, but certainly not least, please make sure you recycle everything you are able. Plastic bottles and jugs, beer cans and bottles, wine bottles, food cans, etc. are all recyclable. If you have a question about certain items, please go to cuyahogarecycles.org to find out how to properly get rid of them.

And please remember, if you follow even just a few of my suggestions, your individual actions will make a difference!

I wish you all a very green, healthy, and happy holiday season. ●

Two new trustees named to Porter Library's board

by ELAINE WILLIS

WestlakePorterPublicLibrary's board of trustees has named Westlake residents Lauren Golick and Peter Schindler to fill positions open due to a trustee's resignation and an expiring term.

Golick will step into the unexpired term, starting with the December board meeting. She will serve for three years. Schindler will fill the term that expires on Dec. 31, and will serve for seven years.

Golick is a Certified Public Accountant and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Cleveland State University. She is currently employed as the Assistant Controller for Affiliates at First Mutual Holding Company, and previously worked as a Tennis Pro at Beechmont Country Club and a Supervisor at Marcum LLP. She is also the treasurer of the board of trustees of Fostering Hope of Ohio.

Schindler is Senior Program Officer at the Community West Foundation, where he oversees the distribution of \$7 million in grants annually. He was previously employed as Chief Investigator for the City of Cleveland Civil Service Commission. Schindler also operates an online bookstore and received a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Psychology from Cleveland State University.

"Both Lauren and Peter have a passion for libraries and their vital role in the community," said Library Director Andrew Mangels. "That combined with their extensive finance and non-profit experience will make them valuable assets to the board." ●



1,465 Volunteers participate in writing, photographing, editing, and delivering this newspaper.

The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community. The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through the participation of the 1,400+ community volunteers. All Westlake and Bay Village residents are invited to participate.

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

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

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

Business promotional articles will not be published. Contact us for advertising rates.

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

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

PRODUCTION OFFICE
451 Queenswood Drive
Bay Village, Ohio 44140
440-409-0114

Copyright ©2023 The Westlake | Bay Village Observer. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

Denny Wendell
Co-Publisher, Designer
denny@wbvobserver.com

Tara Wendell
Co-Publisher, Senior Editor
tara@wbvobserver.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jeff Bing, Cynthia Eakin, Lisa Hallman, Jennifer Hartzell, William Krause, Karen Misciagna, Warren Remein, Jennie Sebrasky, Jean Smith, Elaine Willis, Michele Yamamoto

PHOTOGRAPHERS/ILLUSTRATORS
Julina Sabo, Denny Wendell, Tara Wendell

ALSO HELPING
Nancy Brown, Laura Gonzalez, Jon Mack, Laurel Wendell

ADVERTISING
Contact Denny Wendell or
Tara Wendell at: staff@wbvobserver.com
or 440-409-0114

Bay Village Resident
Jim's Handyman Services
Over 30+ years of Experience
216-287-4761
All Repairs
Renovations
Free Estimates

Financial Planning
Investment Strategy
Retirement Planning
Educational Planning
Estate & Trust Services

Michael A. Bentley
Vice President, Investments

JOHNSON | BENTLEY
WEALTH PARTNERS
OF
RAYMOND JAMES
440-801-1629
michael.bentley@raymondjames.com
johnsonbentley.com
159 Crocker Park Blvd. Suite 390
Westlake, OH 44145
Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Member New York Stock Exchange/ SIPC

Bay student takes the stage at Playhouse Square

Since 1989, the Great Lakes Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol" has become a holiday tradition for many Northeast Ohio families, and it has become a new tradition for 8-year-old Finn Haselswerdt, who is featured as "Tiny Tim" in the 2023 showing of this holiday classic.

"When I first heard I was in the play I was so excited because it's a really, really, really old classic," exclaimed Finn, a Westerly Elementary third-grader, "and then when I found out I was cast as Tiny Tim I could barely believe it!"

Among the youngest in the cast, Finn is actually double-cast in the dual roles of Master William and Tiny Tim because of the time commitment of more than 40 total performances through the holiday season. Despite the rigorous schedule, when asked what he enjoys most about the production, he says, "Everything! The singing, the dancing, the other actors ... it's just so much fun!"

Finn, who recently performed in Lakewood's Beck Center production of "The Most Perfect Christmas Pageant Event Ever" as Elmer, also performed this summer in the Clague Playhouse production of "The Birthday Party of Beatrix Rabbit" as Benjamin Bunny. All told, while "A Christmas Carol" marks Finn's fourth performance on the stage, it's his first time performing for Great Lakes in front of such a large audience.

"Acting in the Playhouse is a whole new experience for me," explained Finn, "there are so many people in the audience!" When asked about the rehearsals, Finn is quick to thank his fellow actors. "It's a lot of hard work



Finn Haselswerdt (front left), along with young cast members of "A Christmas Carol."

learning your lines and the songs and performing so many times but the other actors are so, so helpful. They're just really, really nice and I love watching them act, too."

"It's been a hectic few weeks," noted Finn's mother, Kimberly. "But thanks to excellent support Finn has received from his family, his classmates, and his teacher Mrs. Holinek at Westerly, he's having an amazing experience. Finn's older brother Logan helped him audition, his classmates are so excited for him and attending the play, and Mrs. Holinek and the entire administration at Westerly has been so supportive this entire time."

Aside from acting, Finn also enjoys basketball, cartooning classes, and playing his VR with his brothers and wants to thank his family for all their support



Eight-year-old Finn Haselswerdt, a third-grade Westerly student, is featured as Tiny Tim in the 2023 performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Mimi Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square.

during the play.

"People should come see 'A Christmas Carol,'" said Finn, "because it's a really good show, has really good actors, and has a really good lesson, and hear me say my favorite line - 'God bless us, everyone!'"

To see Finn in "A Christmas Carol" you may buy tickets at greatlakes theater.org. The play runs through Dec. 23 at the Mimi Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. ●

Cuyahoga Reads

Readers Win

CuyahogaReads.org

Cuyahoga Reads Report

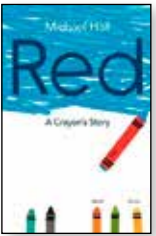
The Cuyahoga Reads initiative is a year-long reading challenge for children in Cuyahoga County. We want children to read, participate in literacy events at their local public library, and most importantly improve their literacy skills. To date, we have offered 70 programs to families in partnership with Making a Difference Consulting. To track reading, find a program, or learn more visit us online at cuyahogareads.org.



A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne



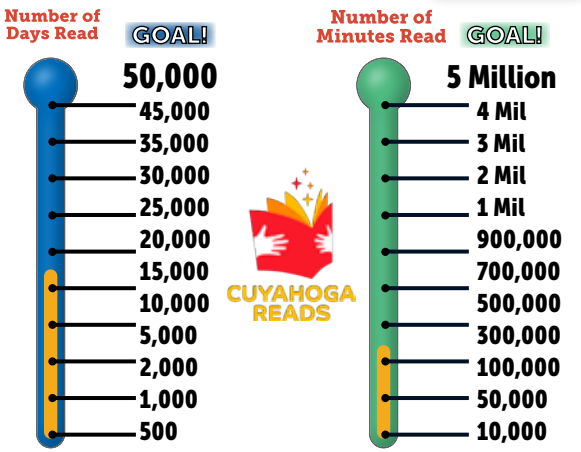
I recently visited a local Cuyahoga County elementary school to read a book with students. While reading "Red: A Crayon's Story" by Michael Hall to first graders at Caledonia Elementary in East Cleveland, I was reminded that taking just a few minutes out of our busy days to read with a child can make such a meaningful difference! *Red: A Crayon's Story* is an empowering story about being true to your inner self. During the school visit, the students learned new words, such as brilliance, prediction, and identity. They also created a craft, received a free copy of the book, and were encouraged to keep reading at school, at home, and in the community. Cuyahoga Reads now has 241,360 minutes read and 12,068 days completed. Remember, we want to reach the goal of 5,000,000 minutes read. Your local library has millions of books for you to choose from. Check out a book or download a copy from the Libby app today!



Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

The winter season can be busy, especially with holiday shopping and special visits with family and friends. Here's a tip, check out a cookbook! Finding a great recipe, shopping for the meal, and eating together is a great way to reinforce literacy skills.

Together, you can write out or copy the recipe, children can then look for the ingredients at one of our local Cuyahoga County stores, and then they can follow the directions to prepare the meal. While eating, talk about what you learned and take a picture and share it online using the hashtag #CuyahogaReads.



Westlake Porter Public Library’s upcoming events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s early December 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, Dec. 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.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 (7-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, December 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 to the Wednesday evening session! Ages 2-6 with a caregiver.

Thursday, Dec. 7 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Microsoft Word** – Learn the basics of Microsoft Word and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Please register.

Thursday, Dec. 7 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Thursday, Dec. 7 (1:30-3:30 p.m.) **Holiday Necklace & Earrings** – Look festive during the holidays by making a crystal ball holiday pendant necklace with matching earrings. Please register.

Friday, Dec. 8 (4-5 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 17 (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.

Saturday, Dec. 9 (10-11 a.m.) **Body Rhythm** – Develop gross & fine motor skills, creative expression & thinking, social interaction, problem solving, cooperative play, rhythm, and rhyming skills by exploring sound through percussive instruments. Ages 3-9. Please

register each child attending, beginning one week before each session.

Saturday, Dec. 9 (2-4 p.m.) **Afternoon Art** – Stop by the Youth Services Department to create art for our Free Little Art Gallery. All supplies provided. All ages.

Monday, Dec. 11 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Maker Monday: Squishy Clause Circuits (On Demand)** – Create holiday play-dough squishy circuits with this on-demand webinar. Instructions for materials pick-up will be emailed a few days before the program. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 (1-1:45 p.m.) **Stretches and Smiles** – Let’s stretch together! Learn some fun ways to calm active bodies and minds, leading to smiles all around. Ages 3 and up with disabilities and typical peers. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 (2-3 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Stephanie Land** – You’re invited to an afternoon chat with the New York Times bestselling author about her new memoir, "Class: Motherhood, Hunger and Higher Education." Streamed live. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 (4-5 p.m.) **Make Your Own Snow Globe** – Drop in and make your own snow globe! For grades 3-6.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Club (In Person AND Virtual)** – Join us to discuss "This Time Tomorrow" by Emma Straub. 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.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 (7-8:30 p.m.) **British Royal Christmas** – How do the British royals spend Christmas? Julie Koenig, an avid royal watcher, shows how their full schedules take on more events as they prepare for the Christmas season. Please register.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 (4:30-6:30

p.m.) **Light Up the Holidays** – Drop in and create festive crafts to learn and share about the cultural traditions of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice. Pre K-2nd grade.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 (6-7 p.m.) **Coding4Kids** – Explore the basic steps to coding using technology, bots, and more! Grades 4-6. Please register.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 (7-8 p.m.) **A History of Christmas Music** – Come celebrate the season with some holiday favorites! Dr. Joel Keller a.k.a. “The Doc of Rock,” returns for another fascinating presentation on music history! Come learn about Christmas music, from its earliest beginnings in chants, litanies, and hymns to the carols we’ve all come to know and love! Please register.

Thursday, Dec. 13 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Internet and Email Basics** – Learn the basics of the Internet, using email, and how to access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Registration begins Dec. 7.

Thursday, Dec. 14 (1-2 p.m.) **Cookbook Club-Vegan Holiday** – Celebrate the season vegan-style! Bring a vegan dish to share and some vegan desserts to exchange! Pick a cookbook from our shelves, make one dish to be shared with a group of 10-12. Bring your dish and your book to the meeting and we’ll discuss and eat! Ingredients of dishes may include tree nuts, soy or other allergens. Please register.

Thursday, Dec. 14 (4-5 p.m.) **Roblox Arcade (Virtual)** – We have private servers set up for tweens in grades 4-6 to enjoy some of the most popular games. Registration begins Dec. 7.

Thursday, Dec. 14 (6:30-7:15 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.

Friday, Dec. 15 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Cookie Decorating** – Engage your

child’s senses and encourage messy play while delighting in the fun and wonder of the season. No baking or decorating experience necessary. For children with disabilities ages 3-7. If you have an allergy or special diet concerns, please contact the Youth Services Department for a list of ingredients. Registration begins Dec. 8.

Sunday, Dec. 17 (2-4 p.m.) **Anime Club** – A great club for anime and manga lovers! All otaku and newbies welcome! Grades 7-adult.

Monday, Dec. 18 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Holiday Fun Craft Kit Pick Up Begins** – Celebrate the season with some jolly holiday crafts. Kits are available for pick up until Dec. 23.

Monday, Dec. 18 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Spice It Up! Take Home Kit: Cinnamon** – Sign up for a kit that will contain a sample of the featured spice, a hand-out with background on the spice and suggested uses, and a couple of recipes! Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 (9:30-9:50 a.m.) **Stories and Signs** – Enjoy an interactive storytime while learning a few words in sign language! Ages 0-3. Siblings welcome.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Android Smartphone and Tablet User Group** – Do you own an Android smartphone or tablet? Bring it with your questions (or tips!) to this guided user group. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 (6-8:30 p.m.) **Heartsaver CPR/AED** – Get certified for adult, child, and infant CPR and AED. Email account required. Class led by certified instructors from UH St. John Medical Center. Register at [uhems.org/ event-search](https://uhems.org/event-search).

Tuesday, Dec. 19 (7-8 p.m.) **College Prep Series #4: Supplemental Essays II (Virtual)** – Learn some tips and tricks for writing a great supplemental essay to go with your college application. Registration begins Dec. 12. Program presented Via Zoom.

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

LAKE ROAD WALKING TOUR

Cahoon Barn/Community House, 303 Cahoon Road c. 1881

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

The 21st in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2026.

The 21st in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2026. The tax value of the 128-acre Joel Cahoon



property jumped in 1881, a year before his death and then remained the same when it passed to five of his unmarried children in 1884. This indicates 1881 as the most likely year of its construction.

Joel accompanied his parents and siblings in 1810 as the first settlers of Bay Village. He served in the War of 1812, and worked as a contractor building canals and railroads out of state.

He married Margaret Van Allen in 1831 and they moved back to Dover in 1842 with their six children into the vacant family homestead. They had five additional children here. He died in 1882 after a series of strokes. Margaret died in 1894. Their sons were local farmers and businessmen and their daughters, teachers.

In 1917, the last remaining daughter died and this barn along with the rest of the property was willed to Bay Village. It was remodeled in 1933 into a Community House by the WPA. The cupola was restored to its original design in 2010 as part of the village’s bicentennial. ●

More stories, photos and events online at www.wbvobserver.com

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-Month

5.35% APY*

9-Month

5.30% APY*

1-Year

5.20% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today



Edward D Trela
Financial Advisor

578 Dover Center Rd
Bay Village, OH 44140
440-808-0139

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 11/30/23. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867M-A AECSPAD 20680392

SPORTING VIEWS

At the end of the Day, maybe it's time for Urban renewal

by JEFF BING

I wasn't always a Buckeyes fan; Ohio State was sort of the default go-to whenever the Browns were having a rough season.

Go ahead, do the math, and as you can see, the numbers will suggest I've been a Buckeyes fan for quite some time now. A long, long time.

So long, in fact, I fear we are on the verge of witnessing history repeat itself.

Ryan Day has been the full-time coach of the Buckeyes since 2019, assuming Urban Meyer's job after Meyer expressed

the desire to (wink-wink) "retire." (Translation: Urb gets antsy quickly, and when you couple that with an ego the size of Ohio Stadium, the urge to move on is difficult for Urban to resist. So, he does.)

But back to Ryan Day. Day beat Michigan in his first year with what was mostly Urban Meyer's team. Since then, zip. Zero. Zilch. Dark Days at OSU. People will point to Ryan Day's regular season coaching record (56-7) as proof of his impeccable coaching acumen.

Your honor, I object! Put Day's lone victory over Michigan (in 2019) with his unimpressive Bowl/College Football Play-

off record (2-3) and help yourself to a big bowl of mediocrity, which brings me back to my comment about history repeating itself.

Back at the end of the previous century (1988-2000), OSU had a coach by the name of John Cooper. This guy was, without question, one of the better evaluators of talent you'll ever find and was a fantastic recruiter. Cooper recruited a laundry list of talented players who not only excelled at the collegiate level but also had lengthy NFL careers as well.

Cooper did have one little itsy-bitsy issue with a couple of things, though. He couldn't beat Michigan to save his life (or ultimately, his job, either), compiling an uninspiring 2-10-1 record with some of the best talent found at the collegiate level.

The other little issue Cooper had was with bowl games. Cooper was every bit as bad against the rest of the football world

in GTM (Games That Mattered) as he was against "that team up north."

When John Cooper and Ohio State finally parted ways after the 2000 season, "Coop" was second only to Woody Hayes (you may have heard of him) in OSU coaching victories. But the only thing most Buckeyes fans recall is Cooper's ineptitude in games that counted.

Which is the perfect segue back to Mr. 56-7, Ryan Day, who apparently never got the "beat Michigan" memo. And he apparently misplaced the "and a national championship wouldn't hurt either" message as well. I don't want to give Day 13 seasons to show he can't do the job.

Meyer has been gone 5 years now, and the current OSU coaching scenario means Urb would receive a hero's welcome if he returned.

The ultimate in "Urban renewal," no? ●

Bay Village Schools athletics director honored

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

In March, Bay Village Schools' Athletic and Activities Director Matt Spellman received the Northeast Ohio Athletic Director of the Year award from the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NEOIAAA), and recently, he was named

an Ohio Athletic Director of the Year recipient by the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA).

Spellman is one of only 12 individuals across the state to be recognized for this prestigious honor.

"The fact that more than 80 percent of our students participate in a sport and/

or an activity illustrates how dedicated Matt is to our student body," said Bay Village Schools Supt. Scot Prebles.

The OIAAA award honors "those doing exemplary work with the young people, coaches and communities of Ohio."

"This award is more about the student athletes and families that I serve and the coaches I work for every

day," said Spellman. "The athletes and coaches work hard every day. They strive to be the best at their sport and represent their sport, school and community in a positive manner."

Spellman, who has been with Bay Village Schools for 12 years, was recognized at the annual OIAAA Conference last month in Columbus. ●

FINALLY
healthcare
that fits your lifestyle



"They're always in a rush." This is the repeated mantra of patients who participate in the traditional healthcare system. Why? Because instead of doctors dictating the time spent and type of care, the insurance companies are setting the rules.



Meet the Doctor

"We are changing the landscape of women's healthcare," said Dr. Alexa Fiffick, a board-certified physician and founder of Concierge Medicine of Westlake. "Our mission is to provide exceptional personalized healthcare where women are heard and given quality time to address their healthcare needs, concerns and overall well-being."

At Ms.Medicine, we are taking a stand for better healthcare. We know that healthcare shouldn't be one size fits all. As membership-based concierge practices, we get to truly focus on the patient experience.



Dr. Alexa Fiffick,

Ready to take the next step?
Take control of your health-care today and schedule a call with a Patient Advocate.



Concierge **Medicine**
OF WESTLAKE
a Ms.Medicine practice

28885 Center Ridge Road, Suite 202, Westlake, Ohio 44145 (440-797-1871)

BAYarts

Holiday

Kids Santa Shop
December 9 | 10 AM-5 PM
December 10 | 12-3 PM

Sunday Painters Sale
November 18 - December 24

Holiday Trunk Show
December 14 | 6-9 PM

Our expanded Holiday Shop is now open 7 days a week until Christmas.

BAYarts
Gift Cards make great gifts!

Learn more!

BAYarts | 28795 Lake Rd | bayarts.net

Renovate your homeowners policy.

Candice Stryker-Irlbacher, CLU, Agent
24549 Detroit Road, Suite 1
Westlake, OH 44145
Bus: 440-871-3747
candice@candicestryker.com

Great insurance. Low rates.
Remodeling your home can increase its value. Protect it by taking a new look at your homeowners insurance policy. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
CALL ME TODAY.

WORSHIP
TOGETHER THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

SUNDAY - CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

3pm Contemporary*
5pm Contemporary & Traditional*
7pm Traditional
11pm Traditional*

MONDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Traditional*



St. Paul Westlake Lutheran Church + School
27993 Detroit Rd. Westlake, OH 44145
440-835-3050
*Live stream on stpaulwestlake.org

Bay United Methodist Church

All are Welcome

Sun. Dec. 10 10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir "Gloria" Cantata

Thurs. Dec. 21 7:00 p.m.
Longest Night Service
(For those grieving at Christmas)

Sat. Dec. 24 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Morning Worship

Sat. Dec. 24 8:00 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
(Featuring Children's Pageant)



29931 Lake Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
440-871-2082
www.bayumc.org

Christmas at Church of the Redeemer
United Church of Christ



Messy Church: Journey to Bethlehem
Dec. 10, 4-6 p.m.
Begin the season at our reimagined Journey to Bethlehem, for all ages!

Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
An intimate, reflective Taizé service.

Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
*Fourth Sunday of Advent service, 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve service, 7:30 p.m.; pre-service music, 7:15.*



23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake; 440-331-0834; corucc.org
*Just Peace. Open and Affirming.
All are Welcome.*

St. Raphael Catholic Church

525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm Church/PAC
8:00 pm Church
*10:00 pm Church

Christmas Day:

8:00 am Church
*10:00 am Church
12:00 pm Church

*live-streamed

440-871-1100
saintraphaelparish.com/164



NATIVITY from front page

If you listen closely, you just might hear donkeys braying, sheep and goats bleating, and lowing steers ... just like in the classic Christmas lullaby, "Away in the Manger." The majestic camels tend to be on the quiet side, but they will be happy to pose for a photo.

Pastor Abby Caseman said that feedback from the community shows this annual event has become a very meaningful part of their holiday season. One person commented, "For a moment I was transported to Bethlehem! Hearing the story and songs really put me in the Christmas spirit!"

Westlake UMC is located across from Westlake Elementary School at 27650 Center Ridge Road. Stop by to meet the animals between 3:30 and 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. The Live Nativity will be held at 6:30 and 7:30. All events are free. Additional information can be found at westlakeumc.org.



Members of Westlake United Methodist Church stage the Nativity scene.



Celebrate Christ's birth at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Children's Christmas Program

10 a.m. | Sunday, Dec. 17

Family Christmas Eve Worship

5:30 p.m. | Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

10 p.m. | Sunday, Dec. 24



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

Bethesda's regular Sunday service is at 10 a.m.

28607 Wolf Road, Bay Village • 440.871.2276 • www.bethesdaonthebay.org.

**A
CHRISTMAS
ADVENT-URE**

Reclaiming The Heart of The Holiday

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 am

Sunday Worship Service

2:00 pm

**A Very Special Christmas Adventure
(brought to you by the Special Needs Ministry)**

4:00 pm

Children & Family Service

6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service

(details at baypres.org)

BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25415 Lake Road, Bay Village, OH 44140 || 440.871.3822

***Celebrate
the birth of
Christ within
each of us.***

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve

11:00 a.m.

Candlelight service 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve

11:00 a.m.

Burning Bowl

www.uscwestlake.org

unity
Spiritual Center
Westlake

23855 Detroit Rd., Westlake, OH 44145



Come Let Us Adore Him! LIVE NATIVITY
December 17th | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Start a New Tradition! Come and Behold: Live Animals, Angels and, of course ... The Holy Family!
Metro 45 Café food truck will be on site.

28607 Wolf Road, Bay Village • 440.871.2276 • www.bethesdaonthebay.org.

Christmas happenings at Bay Methodist

by JENNIE SEBRASKY

Bay United Methodist will be celebrating Christmas by offering many opportunities for the community to enjoy this very special and sacred season. On Sunday, Dec. 10, during the 10 a.m. worship service, the Bay United Methodist Chancel Choir will perform their annual Christmas Cantata. The performance, "Gloria," is Antonio Vivaldi's most famous work, and centers on the traditional, original arrangement from the Latin Mass. The upbeat melodies make this piece incredibly memorable and appealing to audiences.

Believed to have been written around 1725, this rendition was first performed in modern times in Siena, Italy, in September of 1939 and has become one of the most popular Baroque works for orchestra and chorus. Ron Muth directs the choir's mixed choral ensemble in four-part harmony, which will be accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra. A "Longest Night" worship service takes place on Thursday, Dec. 21, the evening of the winter solstice, in the Bay United Methodist church sanctuary. It is an ecumenical service offered by the Faith Leaders of Bay. Sometimes referred to as "Blue

Christmas," this reflective service of carols and scriptures offers healing and hope for those going through dark times during the holidays. All are welcome in this sacred time and space if you are grieving, struggling with relationships, or addressing health or employment issues. On Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, join us at Bay United Methodist for our 10 a.m. Sunday service and again at 8 p.m. for the traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, which includes a children's Christmas pageant. All are welcome to these special Christmas worship services. For more information, visit www.bayumc.org.



**Thanks to all of our
advertisers.**
***You keep us
humming along!***

You, too, can help!

The Observer offers you a UNIQUE opportunity to reach customers on a more personal and POSITIVE level, and to become part of this COMMUNITY project by participating as an advertising partner.

Call us today at 440-409-0114 or
email staff@wbvobserver.com.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1800s sleigh at Rose Hill Museum

by MICHELE YAMAMOTO

The Bay Village Historical Society usually asks that visitors do not sit upon any of their antique collections. This month there will be an exception. An 1800s sleigh will be available for picture taking with Santa Claus during the Cahoon Christmas event days. It is unclear where and exactly when the two-seater sleigh was built. We do know that it was most likely made sometime in the 1800s.

The sleigh was owned most recently by Bill and Grace Anderson Sebesta of Bay Village. Their niece, Bernardette

E. Novy Enochian, donated it to the Bay Village Historical Society in 2019.

It was restored soon after and painted red and black for the holiday season. The sleigh made its makeover debut for Cahoon Christmas 2022, during which Santa and Mrs. Claus joined the festivities and posed for pictures with visitors at Rose Hill Museum.

Have your family (even the dog!) photographed with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus aboard the refurbished wooden sleigh on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A donation of \$20 is requested, cash or check payable to the Bay Village Historical Society, collected at the event. Photos will be emailed to you.

While you are at Rose Hill on Dec. 10, enjoy a performance by the Bay Middle School orchestra at 2:30 p.m., as well as a reading of “The Night Before Christmas.”

Visit www.bayhistorical.com to see a full schedule of holiday events. ●



The Yamamoto family poses with Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves during Cahoon Christmas 2022.

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

Wednesday, Dec 6, 7:30-8:30 a.m. WESTLAKE-BAY VILLAGE ROTARY CLUB WEEKLY MEETING

Discover the power of community at our weekly Rotary meeting! Join us for an hour of inspiring connections and impactful discussions. Embrace the opportunity to network with fellow professionals, share your expertise, and collaborate on projects that create positive change locally and globally. Our engaging sessions feature dynamic speakers, thought-provoking topics, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. For more information, contact Bob Maver at maverb@westlake.k12.oh.us, or Amy Kubacki at afkubacki82@live.com. Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. BAY VILLAGE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

The annual Yuletide Celebration features the Band’s rendition of the sounds of the season. The public is invited to attend this family friendly concert free of charge. Bay High School, 29230 Wolf Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, noon-3 p.m. KIDS SANTA SHOP

Bring your children in to pick out special gifts for the whole family with the help of our personal shoppers. We’ll have gift wrapping and special treats, and Santa will be visiting on Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. BAYarts Hearth Room (former Playhouse), 28795 Lake Rd.

Sunday, Dec. 10. 4-6 p.m. MESSY CHURCH: JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Messy Church is a regular program at Church of the Redeemer UCC that is free for all ages and family-friendly. Activities, worship, and a meal are served at each Messy Church. In December, participants will experience the Christmas story first-hand via a Journey to Bethlehem. The church is LGBTQIA+ affirming and accessible. Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ, 23500 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m. ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRUNK SHOW

Sip and shop at our annual Trunk Show featuring a curated selection of local

fine artists and makers. Enjoy drinks and light snacks as you check items off your holiday gift list. Free admission. BAYarts Fuller House, 28795 Lake Rd.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5-7 p.m. LIVE NATIVITY

Sahara the Camel, Mini Moo the cow, and other animal friends will be joining the cast and visitors to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with the display of the live nativity again this year! We will also have a food truck from Metro45 Cafe. Guests are encouraged to make a donation in support of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, a local faith-based organization dedicated to caring for the oppressed, forgotten, and hurting. Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church, 29607 Wolf Rd., Bay Village

HOT DIGGITY DOG
Personal In-Home Pet Care

Busy Work or Personal Schedule?

In-home visits tailored to your pets’ special needs:

- Reasonable prices for all services
- Meals, walks, medication
- Plus personal play time / special requests
- All in the surroundings of your home

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
hotdiggitydogusa.com
440-823-9159
Visit our blog: OhioPetExpert.com

Owner Nancy Brown and Sunshine

The Westside’s #1 choice for interior and exterior painting

Neubert PAINTING

Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT’S ALL WE DO!

Call us at **216-529-0360** for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com

Bay Village Resident
Jim’s Handyman Services

Over 30+ years of Experience
216-287-4761
All Repairs
Renovations
Free Estimates

Jim Sgro’s Village Barber Shop
ALL HAIRCUTS \$20

Stop in anytime,
or call for an appointment
440-871-0899
620 Dover Center Rd.
Open Mon-Fri: 8-6, Sat: 8-5. Closed Sun.

We need your help

Since 2009 the Observer has strived to fulfill our founding mission – to strengthen our community by informing and engaging Westlake and Bay Village residents. If you are able to help us continue to provide a free medium where the community can share news, share stories and share laughs, please send a cash or check donation along with the form. Donations may also be made by credit card at wbvobserver.com. To provide a sustaining financial gift, recurring monthly donations in any amount may be arranged at wbvobserver.com.

Thank you to the donors who contributed to this issue:
William Black, Michael & Diane Ferry,
Joan Kemper, Anonymous

I’d like to help support the Observer!

First Name Last Name

☐ Check this box if you **do not** want your name included in a list of donors.

Donation Amount:

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other: \$

Please make checks payable to WBV Observer and
MAIL TO: 451 Queenswood Drive, Bay Village, OH 44140

The Observer is an independent, community owned publication.
Please note that charitable contributions are gratefully accepted but not tax-deductible.
For questions about donating or more information on how to get involved, contact publishers
Denny Wendell or Tara Wendell at 440-409-0114, staff@wbvobserver.com.