

Bay Sea Scouts seek national recognition with innovative project

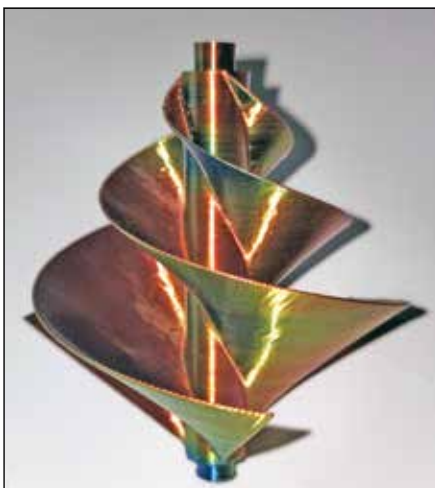
by BENJAMIN BROGAN, JOEY KARIM, BENNY KASCHUBE and HENRY MOODY

How often have you been out and about and found your cell phone battery dying? Or, in our case, as Bay Sea Scouts, out on a sailboat in the middle of Lake Erie. We have found a solution for you.

Our research has led us to develop an innovative, wind-driven phone charger. In our experiments, we found that a regular propeller in combination with our micro-generator did not provide, with a 10 mph wind, the voltage and amps needed to charge a phone.

Seeking answers online, we found that an Archimedes screw propeller is more efficient by anywhere from 10-20%. To obtain an Archimedes screw, we used the software CAD program Tinkercad, and 3D printed the screws at the Bay Village Library with Jean Cottrill.

At Westlake Porter Public Library, Mr.



A 3D-printed Archimedes screw for phone charging using a polylactic acid (PLA) filament, a type of polyester made from fermented plant starch.

Adrien Krajnick, MakerPlace associate, explained and assisted us through the steps from 3D CAD drawing to finished product. → See SCOUTS, page 2

WESTLAKE SENIOR & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Monthly community paramedic clinic in Westlake

by LYDIA GADD

High blood pressure is often termed the "silent killer" because it increases risk of death, without any symptoms. BP results provide crucial information about health in general. No wonder BP checks are standard procedure in all of your physician visits.

Depending on age and health status, it is also something many are advised to monitor more frequently; a single blood pressure reading does not provide enough information to evaluate your health status.

Home blood pressure monitoring equipment has become commonplace. Many retail establishments also have blood pressure machine kiosks.

While this is positive, there is something to be said about the importance of in-person blood pressure clinics staffed by medical personnel who are licensed to provide advice and referrals. Let's face it, sometimes we need the encouragement,



A Community Outreach nurse from UH SJMC provides a blood pressure screening.

or even a little "nudge" from an outsider when it is time to address a potential problem.

Drop-in blood pressure clinics can go a long way in preventing diseases, critical health events and hospitalizations.

At Westlake Community Services, we are excited to announce our new Community Paramedic Clinic, where blood pressure screenings are offered, plus much, much more.

→ See CLINIC, page 6

Westlake Ed. Foundation awards over \$21,000 in grants



Mary Essig presents grant check to Westlake City Schools staff: Thomas Major, Sandra Laurenty, Mary Essig, Brittany Hageman, Sue Peplin, Judy Buffington, Karen Kane, Shanti' Coaston.

by BAILEY MORRES and MARY ESSIG

The Westlake Educational Foundation is excited to award five grants totaling over \$21,000 to Westlake City Schools staff.

The grants awarded will foster creative learning opportunities and enrich student experiences.

To receive a grant, staff members are required to submit a grant application outlining the specifics of their project such as cost, number of students impact-

ed, goals and timeline for implementation. The Foundation's Board then reviews the applications and determines who will receive grant funds.

Prior to the start of the 2023-24 school year, Mary Essig, President of the Westlake Educational Foundation, spoke to the Westlake staff at convocation regarding the application process, fundraising initiatives, and how the Foundation was eager to receive new innovative project ideas as part of this year's grant application process. → See GRANTS page 2

A closer look at the controversy surrounding private school voucher access

by ELAINE KOSCO

This is Part 1 of a 2-part series about changes in public school funding in Ohio and the likely effects of these changes on suburban school districts like Bay Village. In Part 2, we'll hear from Superintendent of Bay Village City School District Scot Prebles and Bay Village School Treasurer Meghan Rhode to get their thoughts on the EdChoice Scholarship voucher expansion's impact on students and our community.

Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio's Statehouse legislators have changed the EdChoice Scholarship voucher program so that many more families, at much higher income brackets,

can opt to send their K-12th grade kids to private schools using taxpayer dollars.

This expansion has been a highly controversial move, and it's worth exploring the specific impacts these changes will have on students attending Bay Village Public Schools, their families, and our community at large.

How big are the changes? Pretty big. Initially, a family of four's household income could not exceed \$69,375 to qualify for vouchers - which is 250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Now, the limit has increased to 450% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. That means a family of four, with a combined income of \$135,000, is eligible to receive private school vouchers if they so choose.

→ See VOUCHER, page 6



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that volunteers define a community.

SCOUTS *from front page*

The Archimedes screw was effective in producing more power, but we thought we could go a step further. We learned about whale fin tubercles. The tubercles are little bumps on the whale fin's edge, increasing the water flow over the fins and making them more efficient.

Using this same principle, we applied dabs of hot glue to the leading edge of our 3D-printed screws. The results are most encouraging, and with a little more adjust-

ing, such as reducing the wobble on the spinning screw due to its longer axis, we will reach our goal of producing a charger to help people in the community maintain communication while away from conventional electrical power.

Our project is being entered into the national eCyberMission competition. If you have comments or additional ideas, please get in touch with Mr. Gash at skipper@seascoutship41.org. ●



Observing the 3D printer, from left, Mr. Adrién Krajník, Joey Karim, Henry Moody, Benjamin Brogan and Benny Kaschube.

BAY VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

Winter doesn't slow us down

by JULIE FEAGLER

Bay Village Garden Club members don't twiddle their thumbs over winter. Oh no. We keep busy planning the hanging baskets, bridge planters, welcome signs, and City Hall flower beds that beautify Bay Village.

And when not busy planning and planting flowers, Garden Club members continue to sow seeds of goodwill in our neighborhood. Each month we collect unopened toiletries, paper products, and cleaning supplies to donate to local food banks.

We also collect small vases for "Big

Hearted Blooms." This organization recycles fresh flowers gathered from events such as wedding and retirement celebrations. The blooms are arranged in the vases and delivered to bring joy to shut-ins and seniors in local nursing homes.

BVGC updates its Facebook page every day. Our mission is to encourage interest in gardening and nature, environmental news, recycling and composting guidelines, and more.

To learn about us, please "like" us at Bay Village Garden Club of Ohio. ●

GRANTS *from front page*

Two teams of teachers at Westlake Elementary School received grants. The first was awarded to Karen Kane and Judy Buffington who are Speech and Language Pathologists. Their project will increase communication access to allow for more communication opportunities for elementary students.

This project will fund two communication boards on both elementary school playgrounds to help foster inclusivity with verbal, non-verbal and English as a Second Language students. The communication boards will allow students to point to what they need or want to do while on the playground and will utilize the same communication tools used across the district.

Another grant was awarded to three Special Education Teachers (Cheryl Pikel, Sue Peplin, Brittany Hageman) and two Occupational Therapists (Emily Mellenthin, Tracy McGinty) at the elementary school. This grant will fund sensory tools and equipment within each of the elementary's moderate to intensive needs classrooms to provide opportunities for students to help self-regulate, promote sensory integration,

and access their sensory needs within the classroom.

Sandra Laurynty, Art Teacher at Dover Intermediate School, was awarded a grant to expand art programming by purchasing a potter's wheel and associated tools.

Mrs. Laurynty shared, "Students currently utilize three hand-building techniques (the coil, pinch, and slab) to construct clay structures. With the addition of a potter's wheel, our young artisans will be exposed to new clay construction skill sets that they would not have otherwise been exposed to and be able to further develop their problem-solving skills as artists advance in their art education. We can't thank the Westlake Educational Foundation enough for this amazing opportunity to provide our students with new and innovative ways to explore and expand their creativity and imagination and expose students to innovative techniques that they will use throughout life."

Two additional grants were awarded to two Westlake High School teachers. Shanti' Coaston, a Computer Science Teacher, received a grant to purchase a 3D printer for her classroom. Ms. Coaston's project will focus on providing students with opportunities to learn empathy and gain perspective on challenges that other students face, such as physical or learning

disabilities. Through the experience students will go through the Design Process to create a product using the 3D printer to assist those living with disabilities.

Thomas Major, an English Teacher at the high school, will use his grant to have students create their own Dominion game expansions based on texts they have read in class while making cross-curricular connections.

The Westlake Educational Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities and experiences of Westlake City Schools' students in the endeavor to Educate for Excellence. The Foundation is grateful for their community partners as the Foundation relies on money raised from donations and fundraisers to award staff grants.

The Foundation's primary fundraiser is their annual raffle of a car, handbag and other prizes.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased online at www.wlake.org or at the Westlake Board of Education office, 24365 Hilliard Blvd. You can purchase one ticket for \$25 or five tickets for \$100. Donations can also be made directly to the Foundation at the website listed above. The drawing will take place on Feb. 13, at halftime of the Westlake High School boys home basketball game. Winners need not be present to win. ●

BAYarts' winter concerts return

by NANCY HEATON

With the holidays behind us and the long winter months head, what better way to spend a Friday evening than out with friends and great local music?

BAYarts' popular series returns

with monthly Friday night concerts in the former Playhouse. Unlike BAYarts' summer outdoor concerts, capacity is limited which makes for an intimate, relaxed evening right in our own backyard. Now called the Sally J. Otto Gallery, the cozy venue is big enough to grab a drink at the bar, mingle and dance.

Weather permitting, enjoy a roaring bonfire under the winter sky on the back patio.

"I love these concerts because I can meet up with my friends and neighbors to hear great music right in my own backyard," says Bay resident Liz Murgans.

Kicking off the series on Jan. 19 is an audience favorite, Blues DeVille. On Feb. 23, back by popular demand, Cloud9 returns and on March 15, Bay Village's own

Beach Stav – a huge hit on the summer stage (remember summer?).

Concerts start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Cash bar. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at bayarts.net/concerts. As always, proceeds support BAYarts' mission to stimulate, encourage, and support professional and aspiring artists of all ages. Free parking on site. This event is 21 and over. Look forward to seeing you! ●



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LAKE ROAD WALKING TOUR

The John Huntington Estate

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

The 23rd-25th in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2026. The articles profile the oldest to the newest minimum-century-old artifacts.

Water Tower, 28728 Lake Road, c. 1886

In 1881 John Huntington bought this property for construction of a summer home and

“gentleman’s farm”. Tax records indicate that it was in 1886 when this tower was constructed. Its purpose was to house tanks to hold water pumped up from the lake for irrigation of his orchards and vineyards.

John Huntington died in 1893 and his heirs sold the property to the Cleveland Metroparks in 1926. The base of the tower was used for a concession stand and a cupola was added to the roof in 1936 creating a profile that resembled a lighthouse.

The cupola was removed in the 1980s. More recently the pump house was removed from the beach and the old concession stand removed and rebuilt and the wood siding restored.

The tower was originally constructed by George Cooley, a Dover native who taught school in Dover in the 1880s and worked as a general contractor in the summers. George was from a prominent Dover pioneer family. He went on to become an innovative road builder, form the Ohio Farm Bureau, and found what later became Nationwide Insurance.

Huntington Mounting Block, 28728 Lake Road, c. 1886

John Huntington was a Cleveland businessman, inventor, politician and philanthropist. He emigrated directly to Cleveland from England in 1854. He joined an oil refining business in 1860 and patented many of his inventions for improving furnaces and methods of refining oil. His oil company merged

with others to form Standard Oil with John D. Rockefeller. He became part owner of a large fleet of lake vessels in 1886 and subsequently vice-president of Cleveland Stone Co.

Huntington was a member of Cleveland City Council from 1862 to 1875. In 1889 he established the John Huntington Benevolent Trust for the eventual benefit of 40 Cleveland charitable institutions. He left money to fund an advanced technical school as well as 70% of the funds used to construct and operate the Cleveland Museum of Art.

This sandstone mounting block was used as a stepping stone to enter and exit carriages. It would have been located near his mansion which was located west of the tower on the north side of Lake Road. The mansion was a mix of Queen Anne and Stick Styles, eventually destroyed by fire.

Gallery House, 28795 Lake Road, c. 1886

The Dianne Boldman Education Gallery, part of the BAYarts campus, occupies this structure from the John Huntington

estate. It is a charming building, an intriguing mix of Shingle and Arts and Crafts styles.

Tax records for the 101.66-acre estate show a tremendous jump in value in 1886 from \$3,580 to \$15,750. This most likely indicates the construction of the water tower and manor house on the north side of Lake Road and the carriage house/barn, and several houses and other ancillary structures on the south side of Lake Road.

“Bay Village: A Way of Life” states that the Warwicks, relatives of the Huntingtons, lived on this part of the estate with the caretaker, Charles Rahl, living in a home behind them. This suggests that this structure was the Warwicks’ house and a less elaborate structure behind it was the caretaker’s house.

The Gallery House’s style is very different from the manor house which may indicate that it was built later. It was first leased in 1967 from the Cleveland Metropolitan Park System by Baycrafters, a non-profit art organization, for art classes and shows.



Huntington Water Tower, c. 1886.



Huntington Mounting Block, c. 1886.



The Gallery House, an original structure from the Huntington Estate, c. 1886.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM KRAUSE

Bay Village City Council members sworn in



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

The new and returning members of Bay Village City Council were sworn in during a New Year’s Day ceremony at the Dwyer Memorial Senior Center. Rocky River Municipal Court Judge Brian Hagan gave the oath of office to Council President Dwight Clark, Council-at-Large Peter Winzig, Ward 2 Councilperson Lydia DeGeorge, Council-at-Large Sara Byrnes Maier, Ward 3 Councilperson Michael Greco, Ward 1 Councilperson Dave Long, and Ward 4 Councilperson Daniel Rettig.

Westlake Porter Public Library’s upcoming events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s late January 2024 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

Thursday, Jan. 18 (6:30-7 p.m.) **Music is My Jam** – Explore music with shakers, rhythm sticks and more! For children with disabilities, ages 2-7, with a caregiver; siblings are welcome. This program will encourage gross and fine motor movements while playing with instruments and moving to music. This program is led by a librarian, not a therapist and is not a substitute for music or other therapy.

Friday, Jan. 19 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Fun Science Friday** – Explore the science of snowflakes and other states of matter. Discover how water changes from a solid to a liquid and back again. 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, Jan. 20 (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) **SAT Practice Test** – Want to get some practice in before taking the SAT? Sylvan Learning will host a simulated version of the test to help students prepare. Computers will be provided. Bring your own calculator. Please register. Results session will take place on Saturday, Jan. 27, 10-11 a.m.

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 21 (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.

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

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

Monday, Jan. 22 (2-4 p.m.) **Remembering the Holocaust** – Jan. 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Join us as we screen the 2019 film “The Last Survivors,” which chronicles a year in the lives of four Holocaust survivors, who were all children during the Second World War, living in the UK, as they embark upon personal and profound journeys. Please register.

Monday, Jan. 22 (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. Please register.

Monday, Jan. 22 (7-8 p.m.) **Managing Financial and Tax Issues as Elder Caregiver** – Les Szarka will present “Managing Financial and Tax Issues when Caring for Elderly Loved Ones.” Please register.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 23 (2-3 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Rajiv Nagaich** – Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? – Start your New Year off right and learn how to avoid the hidden traps in retirement planning. Streamed live. Please register.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 (4:30-5:15 p.m.) **STEAM Club** – Come and explore the science of snowflakes and other states of matter. Discover how water changes from a solid to a liquid and back again! Discover scientific principles with

hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Grades 1-2. Please register.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 (6:30-8 p.m.) **Craft Supply Swap** – Do you have craft supplies you no longer use? Or are you looking to start a new hobby and looking for supplies? Bring your gently used or like-new craft supplies to the Makerspace to swap or donate. If you have any questions as to acceptable items, please email makerspace@westlakelibrary.org.

Saturday, Jan. 24 (10:30-11 a.m.) and Wednesday, Jan. 27 (7-7:30 p.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.

Wednesdays, Jan. 24 and 31 (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.

Thursday, Jan. 25 (1-2:30 p.m.) **Did You Know You Speak Latin?** – Examine English words and trace their Latin origins and derivations. No prior Latin knowledge required. This is the first in a series of six classes. Attend all or some. Please register.

Thursday, Jan. 25 (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. Registration begins Jan. 4.

Thursday, Jan. 25 (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, Jan. 26 (4-5 p.m.) **Brick Builders** – Do you love Legos? Bring your ideas and imagination to Brick

Builders! Bricks provided. No registration required, but room capacity is limited. First come, first served. Ages 5-12.

Sunday, Jan. 28 (2-3 p.m.) **Come Play With Me** – Open playtime for children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome.

Monday, Jan. 29 (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, Jan. 29 (7-8 p.m.) **Social Security Administration Informational Presentation** – Brandon Smith, Public Affairs Specialist at the Social Security Administration, will present on, and answer questions regarding Social Security.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 (10-11:30 a.m.) **iPhone and iPad User Group** – Do you own an iOS smartphone (iPhone) or tablet (iPad)? Bring it with your questions (or tips!) to this guided user group. Registration begins Jan. 23.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 (11-11:45 a.m.) **Adapted Art** – Adapted Art features fun, interactive, and easy art projects, for families with children ages 2-5 with disabilities. We may get messy, so dress accordingly!

Tuesday, Jan. 30 (2-3 p.m.) **Dr. Robert Lustig: Metabolic** – Dr. Lustig, is a neuroendocrinologist, with expertise in metabolism, obesity, and nutrition. He is one of the leaders of the current “anti-sugar” movement that is changing the food industry. Please register.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Discovery Box (Sign Up)** – Register for WPPL’s personalized subscription box service. For teens in grades 7-12. Pick up your Discovery Box starting Feb. 7.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 (7-8 p.m.) **Adult Creative Writing Group: Romance Edition** – Creativity is more than putting pen to paper. It’s about breaking away and trying something new! Please register.

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

Porter Library invites community to join annual Winter Reading Challenge

Westlake Porter Public Library is inviting the community to join its annual Winter Reading Challenge from Feb. 1-29. The program is open to all ages from birth to adult. Participants who read for 14 days will receive a completion prize of cozy socks for teens and adults or a fidget toy for children (while supplies last) and two tickets for the grand prize draw-

ing. Those who read for all 29 days will receive four tickets for the grand prize drawing.

Paper logs are available at the library, or you can track your progress on Beanstack at westlakelibrary.beanstack.org. If you already signed up for an account for previous challenges, just sign in to get started. For more information, call 440-871-2600. ●

Porter Library unveils new reading challenge for kids

Just as students return to school after the holiday break, Westlake Porter Public Library is unveiling a new reading challenge: 100 Books Before Graduation. Tailored for students in grades 5-12, the challenge asks them to read 100 books before they graduate.

Students can log their reading at westlakelibrary.beanstack.org, where they can earn badges and entries into grand drawings pulled quarterly. Those who reach 100 books read will earn a WPPL coffee

tumbler. The challenge began Jan. 2.

“Whether they move directly into jobs or continue their education, strong literacy skills will be the key to success for graduating students. This program is aimed at setting students up for success in their post-school life,” said Library Director Andrew Mangels.

For more information or to register for 100 Books Before Graduation, visit westlakelibrary.beanstack.org or call 440-871-2600. ●

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SPORTING VIEWS

Should he stay or should he go?

by JEFF BING

Now that the playoffs are underway (playoffs that include the Browns? – that’s crazy talk, dude!), it’s time to speculate on what will happen to several key members of the Browns organization when the Browns playoff run (I’m optimistically calling it a “run” since a “run” consists of multiple victories) comes to an end.

Note that without the magic of hindsight (this column was written before the playoff game with the Texans) the Brownies may still be alive with their Super Bowl ambitions, or they could

be in their all-too-familiar “wait until next year” mode. (While again raising the cost of season tickets.)

So, with the above in mind, who is the “he” to which the column refers?

As you might imagine that question can refer to several people in the Browns hierarchy. Let’s address the biggest and most visible one, shall we?

First and foremost, the annual argument of Head Coach Kevin Stefanski’s ability to coach a football team:

I don’t think Stefanski is as bad as many other fans do, although there have been times

when I’ve asked, “What was he thinking?” in terms of play calling (especially his stubborn insistence to sticking with a game plan when it clearly is not working) and/or clock management.

If the Browns lost their playoff game to Houston, that question may have already been answered, as he may have been shown the door before this issue even went to press.

If they beat Houston, Stefanski bought another week of job security, and a second play-off win might even secure his job for next year. However, the Browns are very much aware of the likelihood of defensive coor-

dinator Jim Schwartz moving on to greener pastures (i.e. accepting a head coaching job elsewhere) which may impact the Browns’ feelings about Kevin Stefanski.

My own take is that great success as a coordinator does not mean success as HC (as his 29-51 record with the Lions suggests). I like Schwartz as a coordinator, but replacing Stefanski with Schwartz – in my opinion – would amount to nothing more than a lateral move at best.

Besides, I can already envision the return of Bill Belichick as the new HC of the Browns should Stefanski go. Owner Jimmy Haslam would likely embrace the idea of a proven winner coaching the team to the next level, and I could see Uncle Bill and his ego (estimated by

some to be the size of Mount Rushmore), coming back to Cleveland to take care of some “unfinished business.”

Browns fans who endured the Belichick era with the man dubbed “Mr. Happy” during his first tenure in Cleveland, will not like the idea. However, Wild Bill will want to erase the memories of his last few years with New England while showing the NFL he still “has it,” and what better way to show the world you’re still the super-genius you think you are by guiding Cleveland (finally) to the first Super Bowl they played in?

However, in spite of his horrible record as owner of the Browns, Jimmy Haslam also has a gargantuan ego.

Could the two work together in harmony? ●

Westlake Schools Science Olympiad teams kicks off 2023-24 season

by THOMAS GILBERT

On Dec. 9, 2023, Westlake's Lee Burneson Middle School Science Olympiad team competed in their first invitational of the 2023-2024 school year. The team traveled to Sylvania, Ohio, to compete against 43 teams from Ohio and surrounding states.

The overall team rankings for the three Westlake teams were 11th, 15th and 28th. The teams ranked sixth or

higher in five different events.

This successful showing follows the Westlake High School Science Olympiad teams placing 18th and 39th out of the 54 teams competing in the Northview Tournament on Dec. 2. Like their middle school counterparts, the Westlake High School team finished in the top six in five different events.

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events in each divi-

sion (Division B is middle school; Division C is high school). Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology.

By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved in science related competitions.

This is the 16th consecutive year that Westlake has fielded both Division B and Division C Science Olympiad teams. Last year, the teams ranked 6th (Division B) and 8th (Division C) at the Ohio Science Olympiad state tournament out of 213 teams in each division.

This year's teams are led by Coaches Gabriela Shepard and Laura Lathem, faculty in the Westlake City School District.

Good luck to both divisions moving forward and Go Demons! ●

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CuyahogaReads.org

Cuyahoga Reads Report

Happy New Year! It’s that special time of the year for New Year’s resolutions, which may include new financial goals, health goals, and family goals. How about setting a reading goal? The nine libraries in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Heights Libraries, Lakewood Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library, and Westlake Porter Public Library) are here to help! Join Cuyahoga Reads, a year-long reading challenge for children and families in Cuyahoga County.

To track reading, find a literacy program, or to learn more, visit us online at CuyahogaReads.org.

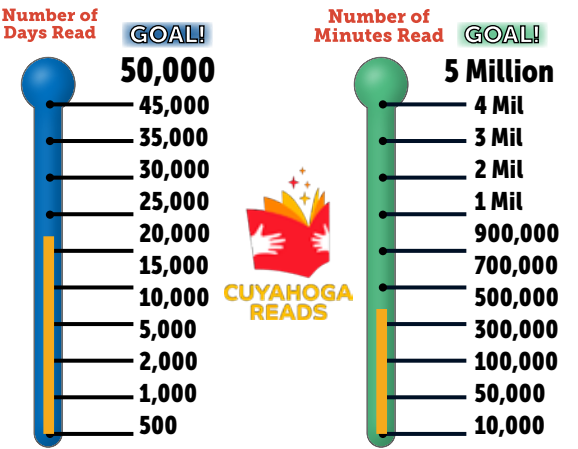
A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne

Happy New Year! Thank you for coming along on this important reading journey. On January 10, 2024, I will join students at Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s Charles Mooney School for an Ohio Department of Education spotlight video. We will share great stories and showcase the literacy programs throughout Cuyahoga County to help our students succeed.

Cuyahoga Reads now has 372,000 minutes read and 18,600 days completed. We need you to keep reading. What are you reading this month? I’m enjoying *Let the Trumpet Sound: A Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Stephen B. Oates.

Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

Overdrive, Inc. is a worldwide digital distributor of eBooks, audiobooks, online magazines, and streaming video titles. They are headquartered right here in Cuyahoga County and one of our key Cuyahoga Reads partners. Since launching the program, they have issued 4,506 new Instant Digital Cards, allowing residents instant access to millions of titles. This month, our literacy tip is to download the Libby app and start reading today. Through the Libby app, you can find guides for Kids, Teens, Magazines, Mystery & Thriller titles and more. Children can enjoy Read & Play books, traditional read-alongs, and foreign language books. While reading, take a picture and share it online using the hashtag #CuyahogaReads.



CLINIC *from front page*

This new clinic is available on the first Thursday of every month from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. It is a joint effort by UH St. John Medical Center and the Westlake Fire Department.

Adding firefighters to the clinic increases the community safety component of what is offered. Some of the special services they are able to promote first-hand include:

- **File of Life:** a magnetic red vinyl packet used to provide vital information to emergency personnel. EMS workers are trained to look for this information when responding to a medical emergency in the home.
- **Roper Box:** a box that the fire dept. would install on your door to give them access to a key. This enables EMS to gain entry into your home without having to damage a door. An especially good idea if you live alone and have some chronic health concerns.
- **Smoke and CO detector installations and battery changes.**
- **Fire and fall prevention for older adults.**
- **Advice on urgent care versus emergency care.**

According to Westlake Fire Chief, Matthew Moran, “Westlake Firefighters are here to serve the community in several capacities above and beyond responding to fires and medical emergencies. Many of our other services are geared toward improving the outcome or preventing the emergency altogether.”

Having the fire department join forces with the hospital helps us provide this innovative program to assist community members in taking control of their health AND home safety.

In addition to this monthly clinic, we are hosting a Health & Screening Fitness Day on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m.-noon, where UH St. John Medical Center will once again be on hand to provide a wide array of health screenings including: cholesterol, glucose, depression, balance and, of course, blood pressure. Call 440-899-3544 to make your appointment. All services are free.

Westlake Community Services is located at 28975 Hilliard Blvd. (on the campus of the Westlake Recreation Department). Most of our activities and programs are geared for the 50+ population. You do not have to be a resident to partake. Call 440-899-3544 for more information, or check our newsletter on the city's website: www.cityofwestlake.org/community-services. ●

VOUCHERS *from front page*

For many, the controversy is not about supplying private school vouchers to students in low-income communities trapped in under-performing public schools. Vouchers often help these students gain access to better quality educational options.

Also, most citizens at all income levels value the contributions of high-performing private schools to their students and communities. Finally, even the most staunch supporters of Ohio's public schools system are aware and eager to overcome its ongoing challenges.

The controversy is about whether or not Ohio legislators are prioritizing private school funding over adequate public school funding, thus crippling public school administrators' ability to provide the high levels of education students deserve and taxpayers expect.

Skeptics also do not think that taxpayers with kids enrolled in public schools should have to subsidize private school education for students not only from wealthier families, but often already enrolled in private schools prior to the EdChoice voucher expansion.

Many also believe the nearly \$2 billion cost of the expanded voucher program over two years is unsustainable, unconstitutional, and to the detriment of the vast majority of students, communities, and taxpayers in a variety of ways.

Proponents of the expanded EdChoice Scholarship program, with Governor DeWine and Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman at the helm, do not agree. They say additional vouchers will not hurt public school funding, will save taxpayers' money, and give parents more choice in how and where they want their kids to be educated.

In fact, these lawmakers and others are working hard to give all Ohio families, regardless of income, universal access to private school vouchers on a sliding scale.

In his Jan. 1, 2023, State of the State Address to the Ohio Legislature, Governor DeWine stated, “Now, children have unique needs, so we want families to have the opportunity to send their children to a school that best meets those needs. That is why our budget proposal includes an historic investment in the EdChoice scholarship program by expanding eligibility to at or below 400% of the poverty level. This investment will allow more families than ever to take advantage of the scholarship and find the best school for their children.”

Voucher expansion advocates are angry and frustrated with what they believe to be the public school system's lack of accountability, transparency, performance

and efficiency. They are disenchanted with public school students' marked academic decline during COVID, and what they view as teacher unions prioritizing political “wokeness” over academics.

Some advocates believe that students would be better served in taxpayer-funded religious private schools than they are attending taxpayer-funded secular public schools.

Echoing Governor DeWine's sentiments, Aaron Churchill, Ohio Research Director of the conservative education policy non-profit, The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, said, “Under former policy, the program was quite limited. Now, all families will have access to financial assistance that allows them to find a school that meets their kids' needs. That's a big step forward in terms of putting parents in the drivers' seat in directing their kids' education. It will also put more healthy pressure on traditional districts to improve, which haven't faced much competition in the past.”

Opponents of the expanded voucher program say it does the exact opposite of what supporters predict. They believe that a large increase in private school vouchers, along with other unexpected legislative challenges, will eventually become a disaster for the approximately 80-89% of kids who attend public schools.

Anti-voucher advocates contend that private schools are not required to be nearly as transparent, accountable, or equitable as public schools (which are required by law to accept and properly educate every student in their district for free – regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, income level, disability, etc.) while accounting for every dollar spent. Private schools can choose which students with vouchers to accept, choose which students to dismiss, and choose the amount of tuition to charge enrolling students.

Vouchers Hurt Ohio is a coalition of 130 school districts (out of 611) involved in a lawsuit against the state for the EdChoice Scholarship expansion. They argue that the Ohio Constitution requires the state legislature to provide for “a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state” and that this cannot happen if private school funding takes precedence over that of public schools via the EdChoice voucher expansion.

In other words, each dollar spent on vouchers is one less dollar available to public schools. They say expanded vouchers also violate the Ohio Constitution by blurring the lines between church and state.

On their website, vouchershurto-hio.com, the organization states that the expanded voucher program “has now become a refund and rebate program to reimburse families already committed to placing their children in private schools. The drain on public schools and children has been extremely harmful, growing from \$42 million a year in 2008, to \$350 million this year.”

Policy Matters Ohio is a non-profit policy research institute that also opposes voucher expansion. Group members are working hard to overcome what they say is Ohio's long-term legacy of inequitable, inadequate public school funding. They say that, along with COVID learning setbacks, is undermining the very important role public schools play in society as a foundational public institution. Diverting revenue from public to private schools hurts the large majority of students, especially those living in Ohio's 11 rural school districts that

have no private schools whatsoever. ●

Rather than expanding private school voucher access to even wealthy families that don't need it, Policy Matters Ohio, and other public school advocate groups, want to see state funding focused first on upholding the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP).

They say, “After decades of non-compliance with Ohio Supreme Court rulings, the legislature is on the brink of finally meeting its constitutional responsibility to fully fund Ohio's public schools.”

Furthermore, “When fully implemented, the six-year FSFP will correct the over-reliance on local property taxes, eliminate funding caps on districts, and base funding on per-pupil cost estimates that more accurately reflect what it takes to educate a diverse student.”

Public school administrators will no longer have to reserve a portion of levy funds from their own school district levy funds for private and charter school vouchers. That financial responsibility will instead fall on the state.

Also, the new formula used by the FSFP takes into account what it actually costs to educate a student in each district when determining state funding assistance. Bay Village, for example, spends \$14,100/year per K-12 pupil.

Despite this legislative victory, anti-voucher expansion advocates are deeply concerned that the Ohio legislature is more interested in promoting private school access than meeting its promise to fully fund public schools within six years. ●

Part 2 of this article series will take a closer look at how the EdChoice Scholarship voucher expansion impacts our Bay Village City School District, and why it matters.

Calling all birders

by DENNY WENDELL

I've heard an owl at night in eastern Bay Village lately. I mention this because a few years ago, I photographed some juvenile Great Horned owls at Clague Park in Westlake.

If you're a birder, the Observer would be interested in printing your bird experiences in Westlake & Bay. Sign on to our member center: wbvobserver.com/members, to submit articles and photos. (It's free and we don't share your info.) ●



Juvenile Great Horned Owls at Clague Park in April 2022.

PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL


Community Organizations:

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For Bay Village Foundation Community Grants

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DUE FEBRUARY 28TH
Download application from thebayvillagefoundation.org and for more information.

The Bay Village Foundation supports projects that improve the quality of life in the City of Bay Village. Projects must be responsive to community needs. The Foundation will also consider requests for support of programs that benefit the citizens of the City of Bay Village. To be eligible, an organization must be a non-profit located in or provide services to residents within the City of Bay Village.



BAY VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Zip and loc it

by TAK SATO

To many Japanese, including this old geek who grew up in Japan, nothing is more relaxing than soaking in a bath. Mind you, not your typical tub full of bubbled lukewarm water but, for yours truly, the best kind often referred to as hot springs. The typical temperature of hot springs in Japan is around 106 degrees Fahrenheit.

I like how my go-to Wikipedia describes "onsen," a Japanese word for hot springs: "In Japan, onsen (温泉) are hot springs and the bathing facilities and traditional inns around them. There are approximately 25,000 hot spring sources throughout Japan, and approximately 3,000 onsen establishments use naturally hot water from these geothermally heated springs."

As a comparison, Japan is a little smaller than California in land area and the same source states that there are 3,112 Starbucks locations in the state of California as of New Year's Day 2024. You know Starbucks is popular so you can imagine the popularity of onsen over there!

Recently, as I was about to enjoy my daily improvised onsen (sans health-benefit-carrying-minerals often found in natural hot springs), an urgent text message came in needing my reply.

I had the choice of having my hot

water turn lukewarm while I replied to the text message or reply to the text message while soaking in hot water. Yes, the latter is a risk, just like how I used to not have any drinks near my keyboard.

If you search online stores like Amazon, you will probably find a waterproof case for your smartphone/tablet or a waterproof pouch that you can put the device in when near water. But since this old geek never, even remotely, thought of taking my device into my relaxation sanctuary, aka improvised onsen, I don't have a waterproof case or pouch on hand. Imagine the angel sitting on one side and a devil on the other side of my shoulder ... what should I do?

I decided to try a Ziploc – the reusable, resealable plastic bags. Did you know that the taps and swipes you make with your fingers on your device's touchscreen work even when your device is in the Ziploc bag?

On my way to the awaiting hot bath, I plucked a Ziploc freezer bag from the pantry and put my device in it. I still would not submerge it as it is only an insurance from dropping my device into the hot water. I also made sure that the bag was tightly closed with no chance of water seeping in.

Needless to say, I replied to the urgent text message while soaking in my improvised onsen for my daily relaxation ritual. You are welcome to try it too. Even though I know putting the device in a Ziploc bag protects the device while using it around water, I take no responsibility! ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Westlake pizza maker retires

After a lifetime of serving up high-quality pizza and other menu delights at Pizza by Robert, I have decided to retire and pass on our recipes and traditions to new owners, MNST Consulting.

While attending The Ohio State University, I found a niche making delicious pies in my dorm community kitchen for a fundraiser for the floor. That segued into a part-time job delivering pizzas for a campus area pizzeria.

With a loan from my parents, I partnered with family in 1981 to purchase a shop in Lakewood. In 1993, I left to open Pizza by Robert in Westlake, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The challenges of opening and sustaining a business in the food service industry are daunting. I turned to my wife, Kathy, and son, Robbie, to help build what became a west side favorite. I am grateful for the employees who provided years of dedication and kindness to help make Pizza by Robert a success.

During pandemic years, when so

many restaurants permanently shuttered and carry-out food became the norm, we remained open and committed to providing safe, essential food service and continued employment for our staff.

With a desire and commitment to support my community, I donated pizza regularly to area organizations and have been involved in my church as a lector and Eucharist minister, and in the West Shore Chamber of Commerce serving as president and on the board of trustees.

Entering retirement will provide time for me to begin a new chapter in my life filled with hobbies, projects, and travel.

I'm forever grateful for customers that supported Pizza by Robert over the years and made all of the hard work worthwhile. It has been an honor to bring the best pizza from our family to yours. Thank you for so many great memories.

– Robert Kess

Quirky comedy continues Clague Playhouse's 96th season

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

"The Language Archive" by Julia Cho is a quirky, comic drama about communication – its potential and its limits – in this romantic parable for our times. It features a linguist at a loss for words, especially the vocabulary of the heart.

Balanced delightfully between affection and adversity, it is the whimsical, life-affirming chronicle of a brilliant scientist who fights to preserve the dying languages of far-flung cultures, only to neglect the promise and passion of his own.

Craig Joseph directs our cast featuring Nicole Coury as Emma, Anne McEvoy as Alta, Maggie Rhodes as

Mary, Doug Sutherland as George, and Richard Worswick as Resten.

The show runs Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Feb. 11, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$21 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60+), and \$13 for students (any age with a valid ID) and are available online at bit.ly/ClaguePlayhouseTickets or by calling 440-331-0403 or visiting our Box Office Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. Clague Playhouse is located at 1371 Clague Road in Westlake.

Limited free student tickets (high school and college) are available by calling the Box Office at 440-331-0403 and are available for any Thursday performance. ●

Kindergarten registration underway in Bay Village

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

The Bay Village Schools Kindergarten registration process for the 2024-25 school year began online Jan. 3 at www.bayk12.org. To enroll, the child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2024.

Bay Village parents and legal guardians of incoming Kindergarteners are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information Night event on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Normandy Elementary School Cafeteria, 26920 Normandy Road. For those who are unable to attend, the event will be recorded and linked to the district's Kindergarten information page.

The Kindergarten registration procedure will be reviewed at this meeting, as well as an overview of Kindergarten and Kindergarten readiness, and information regarding daycare, speech therapy, early entrance, transportation and volunteer opportunities.

Once registered for Kindergarten, families are encouraged to sign up for an optional Playdate this summer to meet Principal Dan Sebring and other new Normandy families. More information is available online and at the Information Night.

Normandy Elementary School is located on a tree-lined street in residential Bay Village, and serves Kindergarten through second grade, providing full-day Kindergarten for all students at no cost to families. Normandy's mascot is Norman Bee, and its colors are blue and yellow.

The Bay Village Schools Kindergarten program is designed to support high-quality learning while giving every child the opportunity to learn in the way that is best suited to their strengths and needs. The goal is to help students reach their full potential through a program of learning that is consistent, relevant and age appropriate.

Normandy recognizes the importance of helping children feel connected to the curriculum, to see themselves in what is taught, how it is taught and how it applies to the world around them. The staff recognizes that the needs of learners are diverse, and strives to help all students develop the knowledge, skills and perspectives they will need to become informed, productive, caring, responsible, healthy and active citizens in their own communities and in the world.

Learning is a continuous and reciprocal process, and a partnership with parents is essential to the success of Normandy students. ●

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent on Jan. 19

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

Bay Village City School District invites all residents to stop by Mojo's, 600 Dover Center Road in Bay Village, on Friday, Jan. 19, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. for an informal Coffee Chat with Superintendent Scot Prebles and

Treasurer Meghan Rohde. If you have a question about the district or just want to meet the district's leadership team, please stop by.

The next Coffee Chat is Wednesday, March 20, from 6-7 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, 377 Dover Center Road. ●

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

Friday, Jan. 19, 7-10 p.m.
BAYARTS WINTER CONCERT
Join us for a special indoor concert featuring Blues DeVille. The concert will take place in the Sally Otto Gallery (formerly the Playhouse) and will feature a cash bar. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.
BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd.

Friday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m.
GREEN & WHITE REVUE
Come enjoy this annual Westlake tradition! The Green & White

Revue is our district-wide talent show featuring performers from Westlake High School, Lee Burneson Middle School, Dover Intermediate School, and Westlake Elementary School! The emcees for the show are Helen Willmer, Kareem Mchaourab, Caleb McCann, and Mirabella Zingales. The event is Westlake High School PTSA's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds benefit PTSA-sponsored programs, activities, scholarships, and more at Westlake High School. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Children under 5

admitted free.
Westlake Performing Arts Center, 27830 Hilliard Blvd.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 5-6:30 p.m.
SOUP SUPPER
The United Women in Faith (UWF) of Bay United Methodist Church invite the public to enjoy our annual Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$12 for ages 11 and up; \$5 for ages 10 and under. Questions may be directed to JoAnn Post: jpoh_2000@yahoo.com or you may call the church office at 440-871-2082.
Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.

Friday, Feb. 2, 6-8 p.m.
FATHER AND DAUGHTER DANCE
Register by Jan. 23 to enjoy dinner and dancing with your little princess. You will be provided with dinner and a photo souvenir to commemorate the evening. Cost is \$18 for Rec Center members; \$28 for non-members.
Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.

Community Council seeks nominations for annual Bay Village honors

by TARA WENDELL

The Bay Village Community Council has opened the nomination period for the 2024 Citizen and Project of the Year honors. The deadline for submissions is Friday, Jan. 19, 2024.

Download a nomination form at wbvobserver.com, or pick up a hard copy from City Hall, the Bay Village Branch Library or the Dwyer Memorial Senior Center. Completed forms may be submitted via email to tara@wbvobserver.com or mailed to Bay Village Community Council, 350 Dover Center Road, Bay Village, OH 44140.

Citizen of the Year nominees, either individual or couple, must be Bay Village residents that have provided significant community service without monetary reward. Special projects will be considered for Project of the Year based on community impact and the involvement of volunteers and organizations.

For more information about the Bay Village Community Council or the Citizen of the Year/Project of the Year awards, please email BVCC president Tara Wendell at tara@wbvobserver.com.

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