

JOIN IN!
SUBMIT YOUR STORY FOR THE
PREMIER ISSUE BY AUG. 20

WESTLAKE | BAY VILLAGE

Observer

SAMPLE ISSUE

Citizen-based
community news
and views

Become an Observer—Visit Our Website: wbvobserver.com

WELCOME TO THE OBSERVER

Why citizen journalism?

By Denny Wendell

Do you know more about a local event than is being reported by the mainstream media? Have you read an article on a local issue that failed to mention important details that could shift the perception of that issue?

Throughout the U.S., questions like this are increasingly being addressed by citizen journalist outlets similar to the *Westlake | Bay Village Observer*. That is, news sources where the content is created by home town writers. This “hyperlocal” knowledge about the happenings in local communities has led to the explosive growth of citizen reporters in the last few years. Today, there are nearly 800 citizen media news sources in the United States. These websites contain content submitted by community members—people who report on news taking place in their towns.

The fact that local media coverage is diminishing has energized many people to write stories about things that have a direct impact on themselves and their cities. The growth of citizen journalism came from the desire of the volunteer writers of these websites/newspapers to report on stories that otherwise may have been missed or under-covered. It's also an unparalleled opportunity for civic leaders to more effectively interact with their constituents.

A common goal of citizen journalists is to recapture journalism as a truly democratic practice.

Community building is what it's all about

Citizen-generated *Observers* have begun to spring up in cities throughout the Cleveland area. Although the most immediate and obvious goal of these projects is to provide information about local news, people and events, the real drive is to build a strong community. Citizens can read about what's happening in their towns

through articles submitted by people “in the know”. The best way to learn about local news and events is to let the people in the story, tell the story. Volunteer writers are filling civic spaces where professional journalists usually shy away, unwilling to report such unabashed caring about community. It is through this sharing of ideas and information that a community can become informed, enlightened and energized.

You have a voice

The *Observer* concept is much like the gathering at a town meeting. Those in attendance share a common interest—they attend because they have a stake in their town and want to be informed and involved in their community. But unlike a town meeting, where participants hear the views of a few speakers, the *Observer* is unique, it's more like a town picnic...less formal and more friendly. A place where everyone brings something to share. Everyone has a voice, everyone has an opinion, everyone has a story. A place where ideas are expressed in a neighborly way. The goal of civic writers is to recapture journalism as a truly democratic practice. It's these stories, this tapestry of dialogue, that can be a catalyst for greater civic participation and provide a forum for all of us as members of our town. Citizen journalism empowers ordinary

people to do extraordinary things by telling a story with a little more enthusiasm and personal insight.

We welcome and encourage all residents of Westlake and Bay Village to take an active role in helping this hometown newspaper become a reality, and in the process enhance and learn more about our community.

To read more about the community-building advantages of the *Observer* framework, read the interview with one of the founders of the Lakewood Observer, in our Premier Issue, due out on August 25. ●

“A common goal of citizen journalists is to recapture journalism as a truly democratic practice.”



Dave Tadych, holding an illustration of the proposed Community House cupola restoration, and Carol Roske, president of the Bay Village Historical Society, stand in front of the board to be installed in the new structure.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

by Carole Roske

“When is Bay Village's Bicentennial and what is being planned?” The official date of Bay's Bicentennial is October 10, 2010. You will see it referred to as 10.10.10. Beginning in January 2010, and maybe a little before, you will see a special event planned for the public each month leading up to the bicentennial. That is at least 10 events - one each month of 2010!

Beginning in January 2010, residents will be asked to turn on their porch lights in the evening to create an awareness of the settling of Bay Village by the Cahoon family on October 10, 1810. All city groups, individuals, businesses and organizations from the Cubs, Brownies, Girl and Boy Scouts to senior and athletic groups to churches are invited to participate by sponsoring an event or becoming a part of an event during the first 10 months of 2010!

The big weekend of 10.10.10 will find Cahoon Memorial Park the center of attention: Contests, food, entertainers, concerts, dances, historic city tours, Lakeside Cemetery tours with re-enactment entertainers in both the park and cemetery and much, more are planned.

The Bicentennial parade will
» See BICENTENNIAL, PAGE 2

WESTLAKE

Jack Miner is major in Westlake history

by Denny Wendell

Lysa Stanton of the Society readily admits that “Jack Miner is my passion.” Why is Jack Miner so important to the history of Westlake? A memorial plaque on Dover Center Road says it best...“Jack Miner, noted conservationist and naturalist, achieved worldwide recognition for his pioneering studies of waterfowl migration. His work with migrating birds led to the establishment of a bird sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario, the publication of several books, and the formation of the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation.”

Miner, “The Father of Conservation”, was born in Dover Village in 1865 and did not attend school until he was twelve years old. Although he only attended school for three months his classroom became the creeks

and woods in and around the family home on Dover Center Road near where the present day Jenkins Funeral Home.

When his family moved to Gosfield South Township, Canada in 1878 his knowledge of wildlife enabled him to become an experienced hunter for profit. His fascination with the Canadian goose led him to take up the cause of conservation.

In 1904, Jack founded the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary in Kingsville, Ontario for the conservation of migrating Canada Geese and wild ducks. This was the origin of the waterfowl refuge management system.

Jack pioneered bird-banding in 1909 and would include bible verses on the bands that he attached to migrating geese

» See JACK MINER, page 4



Kirk Miner is congratulated by Mayor Clough after unveiling the rededicated historical marker commemorating his grandfather.

BAY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Continued from front page

take place on Sunday, 10.10.10 at 2 P.M. and end in Cahoon Memorial Park where folks can view the parade floats up close, enjoy a city-wide picnic, watch a celebrity-packed presentation about Bay's history and enjoy the city's birthday cake while watching the lighting of Bay's new cupola on top of the old Cahoon Barn (now the Community House). The cupola will be constructed on site in the weeks preceding the 10.10.10 lighting ceremony. Be sure you sign your name on the lumber being used in the construction of the cupola — it will be in different places during 2010 for you to become a part of history! All of this finalized by a fireworks display at dark on 10.10.10!

Become involved in this historic year by calling The Bay Village Historical Society with your event ideas at 440.871.7338 or Carole Roske 440.871.4797 and Dave Tadych 441.835.1815. We want to hear from you and/or your group. We need your help. ●

Carole Roske is the President of the Bay Village Historical Society.

The cupola on top of the old Cahoon Barn (below) and the present-day Community House (right). The cupola will be replaced with a structure to match the cupola on the original barn.



Photo courtesy of the Bay Village Historical Society.

Charity Golf Outing

by Rachel Sielski

Join us for the Family Haven Golf Outing to raise money for individuals with developmental disabilities. The "Have a Ball!" event is Friday July 31st at Bob-O-Link golf course on route 83 in Avon. Enjoy a continental breakfast and contests during registration beginning at 7am. The scramble-style tournament will begin with a 9am shotgun start and will be followed by a delicious western-style BBQ lunch provided



by Famous Dave's in North Olmsted. There will be great prizes for contests including longest drive and closest to the pin and a \$10,000 Hole-in-One Challenge courtesy of Nationwide of Lakewood. Pre-registration is not required. Visit www.familyhaven.org or call 440-250-2773 for more information. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES! ●

Bay Village Resident Begins Peace Corps Service in Kazakhstan

Marissa Eve Novak, 23, of Bay Village, Ohio has been accepted into the Peace Corps.

Novak will be departing for Kazakhstan on Aug. 19 to begin pre-service training as an education Peace Corps Volunteer. Upon graduation from Volunteer training in November, Novak will be teaching English at the university level.

Novak is the daughter of Jan and David Novak, and a graduate of Bay High School in Bay Village, Ohio. She then attended Tulane University in New Orleans, La., where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in history, graduating in 2007. She later attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she earned a master's degree in education.

"In Kazakhstan, I can share my skills as a teacher while gaining the many benefits that come from engaging fully in a culture different from my own," Novak said of her decision to become a Volunteer. "I look forward to developing a broader worldview, one that will help me to be a more compassionate, understanding citizen of the world."

During the first three months of her service, Novak will live with a host family in Kazakhstan to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. After acquiring the language and cultural skills necessary to assist her community, Novak will serve for two years in Kazakhstan, living in a manner similar to people in her host country. ●



Marissa Eve Novak

WESTLAKE

C.O.P.S. present checks for families of officers killed on duty

by Denny Wendell

Sgt. Mark Krumheuer of COPS Ride, Ohio C.O.P.S. President Sara Winfield, Ohio C.O.P.S. Regional Director Grace Leon, and WEB S.W.A.T. team member Pat Foye display the checks.

Two checks totaling \$25,000 were presented to members of Ohio C.O.P.S. at the Fraternal Order of Police Western Cuyahoga Lodge in Westlake on Monday, July 13th. The funds were raised on June 14 during two events in the Cleveland area.

The first event, the 3rd Annual WEB S.W.A.T. Run, raised \$10,000. The 5K Run and 1-mile Family Walk/Run took place in Westlake.

The annual event was coordinated by members of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau S.W.A.T. Team, on behalf of the Ohio chapter of the national organization Concerns of Police Survivors or C.O.P.S. Race coordinator Pat Foye, a Lakewood police officer and member of the WEB S.W.A.T. team, had hoped to raise \$7,000 this year to surpass last year's



Sgt. Mark Krumheuer of COPS Ride, Ohio C.O.P.S. President Sara Winfield, Ohio C.O.P.S. Regional Director Grace Leon, and WEB S.W.A.T. team member Pat Foye display the checks.

donations of \$6,000. The Observer family of citizen's media was a proud sponsor of the event.

The second event, the inaugural C.O.P.S. Ride, raised over \$16,000 through the donations of more than 900 motorcycle riders participating in a 50-mile motorcycle ride escorted by Cleveland police. The first C.O.P.S. Ride was organized by Westlake police officer Sgt. Mark Krumheuer.

The checks were presented to Ohio C.O.P.S. President Sara Winfield and regional director Grace Leon, widow of Cleveland police officer Wayne Leon.

Ohio C.O.P.S. assists the surviving families of officers killed in the line of duty by providing peer support to help them rebuild their shattered lives.

All funds raised during these events are earmarked for families of fallen officers. To learn more, visit the Ohio Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) website at <http://www.ohiocops.com/> To view photos and an aerial video of the C.O.P.S. Ride visit <http://www.copsride.com>. ●

Bay Men's Club Awards Scholarships

by Eric Eakin

Bay High seniors Carolyn Emmer and Michael Kuper have been named recipients of The Bay Village Men's Club scholarships.

Emmer, 18, is the daughter of Elizabeth and Richard Emmer. She will be attending Kent State University where she plans to major in both architecture and business. She was the vice president of the National Honor Society, president of HERO (a community outreach program); has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award (the organization's highest) and was on the honor roll all four years of high school.

Emmer also has been recognized for donating more than 200 hours of service to Fairview Hospital as a junior volunteer.

Kuper, 18, is the son of Marcia and Richard Kuper. He will attend The Ohio State University where he will pursue

a degree in engineering before progressing to medical school. Kuper is an advanced-placement scholar with honors; is the recipient of the Michelson Morely Science Award; is a member of the National Honor Society; was on the honor roll 15 consecutive quarters; earned the rank of Eagle Scout with six palms; marches in the band, is a nationally ranked marksman and has earned four skiing recognitions for racing, moguls, freestyle and SnoPro.

He is the third son of Marcia and Richard to attend college in five years. He began working at age nine to save money for college.

"We are happy to be able to award



Carolyn Emmer and Michael Kuper have been named recipients of The Bay Village Men's Club 2009 scholarships.

these scholarships to deserving high school seniors," Scholarship Committee Chairperson John D. Stanton said. "This is an investment in the future of our community, state and country, and we are gratified to know it will pay dividends in the future." ●

PART OF A TREND:
"Hyperlocal" knowledge about the happenings in local communities has led to the explosive growth of citizen reporters in the last few years. Today, there are nearly 800 citizen media news sources in the United States.

JOIN IN! SUBMIT YOUR STORY FOR THE PREMIER ISSUE BY AUG. 20

WRITE ABOUT YOUR BAY VILLAGE ABOUT YOUR WESTLAKE

Get up, get out and get active in your community!

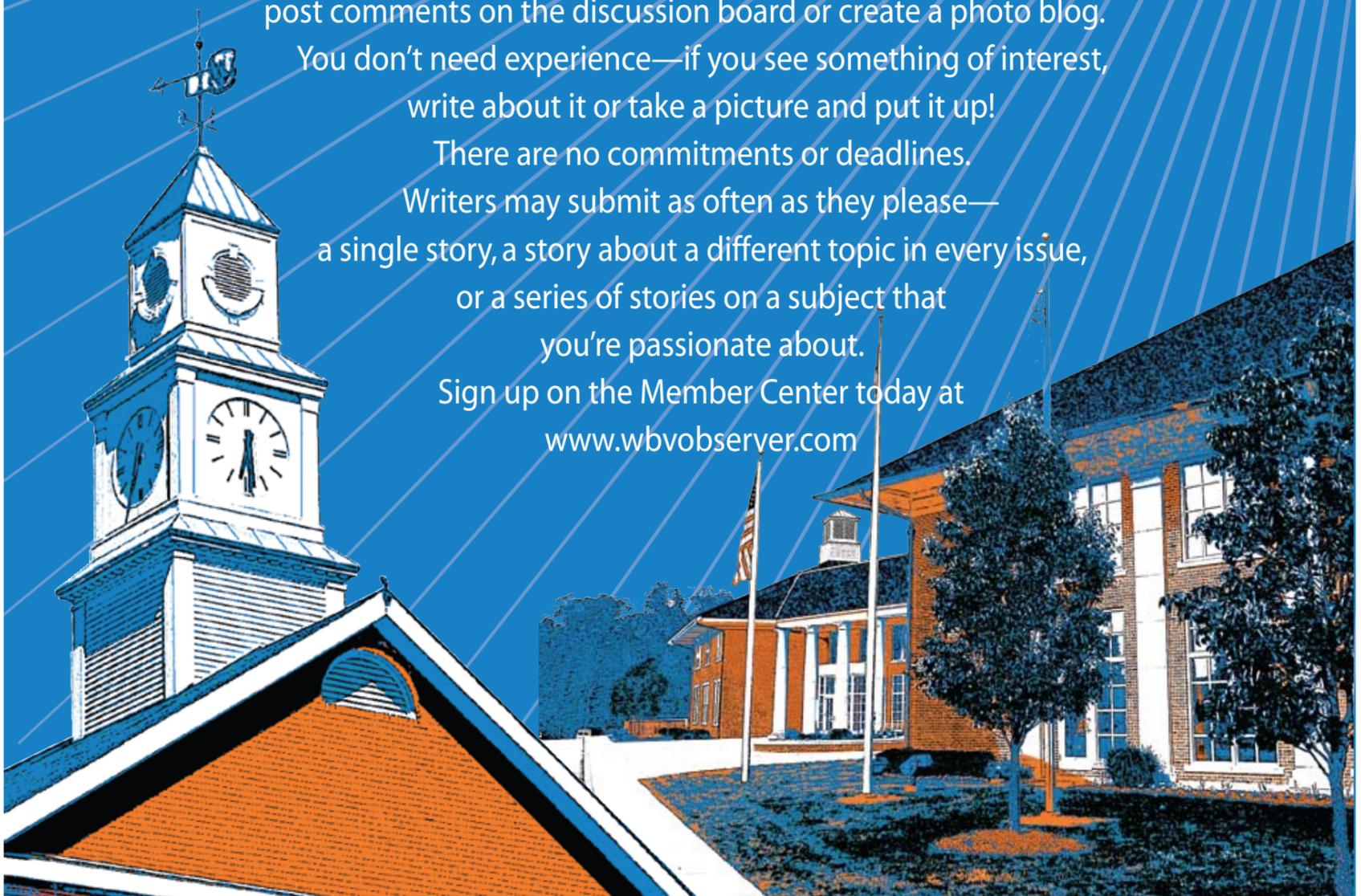
We're calling for news and information from our neighborhoods, schools, churches, civic groups, rec leagues and more in Westlake and Bay Village. Write stories, announce events, post comments on the discussion board or create a photo blog.

You don't need experience—if you see something of interest, write about it or take a picture and put it up!

There are no commitments or deadlines.

Writers may submit as often as they please—a single story, a story about a different topic in every issue, or a series of stories on a subject that you're passionate about.

Sign up on the Member Center today at www.wbvobserver.com



Bay Village Board of Ed Puts Levy on Hold

by Karen Derby

Careful spending, conservative financial forecasting and a dismal economy all played a part in the Bay Village Board of Education's decision to defer a planned levy request until next year.

Now that the Ohio legislature has passed a biennial budget that, for the most part, preserves revenue going to local school districts, the Bay Village Board of Education has concluded that the district can defer a tax levy request, originally planned for November of 2009, for one additional year.

"We know that economic times are tough for our residents," said Michael Boeckman, president of the board. "Because we have used conservative revenue projections and have typically scrutinized spending, we have a carryover that, if we're careful, can see us through another year."

The district has gone back to voters on a three-year levy cycle since 2000 in order to keep each tax request as low as possible. The last levy was approved by

voters in November, 2006. The school board held discussions about a November, 2009 levy with various groups of parents, employees and community members this past spring. It also conducted a formal community survey at the end of June. While generally supportive of the schools, most feedback included concerns about asking voters for a levy approval during a difficult economy.

Treasurer Deborah Putnam reported that the school district had a general fund balance of about \$6 million at the end of the 2009 fiscal year, June 30. She projects a \$3.9 million carryover at the end of June, 2010. Projections do not include recently allocated stimulus funds that are earmarked for special education, almost half of which must be spent on new investments that might otherwise not have been budgeted. Projections also assume that stimulus money supporting general fund revenue will simply supplant dollars previously guaranteed by the state.

"We believe we can stretch the previous levy an additional year and still have the carryover that will keep a 2010 levy

request within the size our community has consistently supported in the past," said Clint Keener, superintendent.

Board member Dan Sweeney noted that careful spending had been key to the district's ability to stretch the last levy a year longer than originally planned. "We as a board have to look at every single item or position that comes before us for approval and question whether it is necessary, or if the need can be met in another way without spending more. We have done this and will continue to make these tough decisions, especially in light of the current economic conditions."

Keener puts the carryover balances in perspective by converting them to "True Days of Cash." The district's budget for the upcoming year is \$28,594,429, or \$78,734 per day. The 2009 fund balance gives the district 83 days of cash for operations before tax collections for the following year are received.

"We use 50 days of cash as our benchmark because that gives us enough cash flow to meet payroll and other expenses without borrowing money before the local tax collections are received from

the county auditor's office," said Keener. He said that, even if a levy failed, 50 days of cash would provide a small cushion at the start of deficit spending and a little time to make adjustments to deal with a deficit situation.

The treasurer's projection of \$3.9 million in carryover funds at the end of June, 2010, would give the district 50 days of cash. The last time the district went to the voters in November of 2006, the district had a carryover of 49 days of cash.

Putnam stressed that at the point where projected district expenditures are greater than projected revenues, the district must either pass a levy or make substantial budget cuts in order to avoid being put into "fiscal watch" by the State of Ohio.

"The urgency just isn't there right now," said board member Amy Huntley. "But next year, it will be an extremely urgent situation."

The district's budget, five-year forecast and community survey results can be found on the district web site at www.bayvillageschools.com.

The citizen-written Westlake | Bay Village Observer community newspaper is coming! And we'd like you to be a part of the Premier Issue!

We're going to press with our first issue and newspapers will be available at local establishments beginning August 25.

The free, full-color newspaper is your chance to speak directly to the community — announce events and programs, discuss local topics, or write about items of interest that you'd like your neighbors to know about.

Simply visit our website at <http://www.wbvobserver.com>, sign-up in the Member Center and submit your story and photos — we'll take care of the rest!

We invite all residents of Westlake & Bay Village to join in and submit stories (and photos) to share by Thursday, August 20th.

If you'd like to learn more about the Observer, stop by Mojo's Coffee and More, 600 Dover Center Road, on Tuesday, August 11 or August 18 at 7pm to find out how this new local media source can help inform, energize and strengthen our community! Or you can email me at denny@wbvobserver.com or give me a call anytime at 440-409-0114.

— Denny Wendell and the WBV Observer staff

Want to join in?

Here are some story topics to get you going!

- Arts & Theater
- Nature & Environment
- Sports Teams
- School Events
- Library Programs
- "Green" Topics
- Senior Citizens
- Fundraising Events
- City Topics
- Local History
- Entertainment
- Pets & Care
- Health & Fitness
- Home & Garden
- Cooking

Save The Date

BAYarts
Annual Fall Benefit
Light Up the Night
September 26
6-11pm

Experience samplings from some of Cleveland's finest restaurants, dance under the stars & participate in unbeatable auctions.

For ticket info go to www.bayarts.net or call 440-871-6543

JACK MINER

Continued from front page

and ducks. He banded his first duck with a hand-stamped aluminum band, which was recovered five months later in Anderson, South Carolina, constituting the first complete banding record.

Jack was also an lecturer and author his first book, "Jack Miner and the Birds," was published in 1923. He had been presented with the Order of the British Empire by King George VI in 1943 "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire." He banded over 50,000 wild ducks and 40,000 Canada geese in his lifetime, a process that led to the Migratory Bird Treaty between the United States and Canada. Several U.S. newspapers rated him among the best-known men on the continent, among Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh and Eddie Rickenbacker. In 1947, Canada's National Wildlife Week Act passed unanimously to be observed the week of Jack Miner's birth, April 10th each year, but his legacy started in his birth place of Dover Village.

For more information about the Westlake Historical Society, visit their website at <http://www.westlakeohio-history.org>.