



PHOTO BY KELLI JUNKINS

Grant Junkins, left, is helped by Jessica Hanes, Anne Harris and Owen Welliver in planting a pollinator-friendly garden next to Clague Playhouse as part of his Eagle Scout project.

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

In November, the city of Westlake gained a new pollinator garden, thanks to Grant Junkins, a Westlake High School senior who has lived in Westlake for 10 years.

The “Clague Memorial Pollinator Garden” is located at the Clague Playhouse on Clague Road, south of Detroit. The entire project was planned, developed, and led by Grant as part of his quest to earn Eagle rank as a Boy Scout. Grant is currently a Life Rank Boy Scout and has been involved with scouting since he was in second grade. He is working toward his Eagle rank in Troop 225 of St. Bernadette’s Catholic Church.

Eagle is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve. To

earn Eagle, specific criteria must be met that includes the earning of merit badges as well as completing service hours. Only 4 percent of scouts earn their Eagle rank!

I had the pleasure of interviewing Grant about his project via email. When I heard about this garden, I knew it was something that all of Westlake and Bay Village should know about!

I asked Grant why he felt this particular type of garden is important to the community. He responded that he felt it was important to preserve local pollinators such as honeybees, hummingbirds, and butterflies, because they are crucial to the growth of fruits and vegetables. There has been an alarming decrease of pollinators nationally in

recent years, and Grant knows that providing local support for these types of animals is very important to their survival and preservation locally.

Pollinator gardens support and maintain local pollinators because the plants provide pollen and nectar that they use for food. Pollinator gardens ensure that pollinators stay in the local area because they have access to the plants they need, which then ensures continued support for local fruit and vegetable production and preservation of local biodiversity. Pollinator gardens contain plants that bloom at different times, providing ongoing support for the pollinators from spring to fall, and do not utilize pesticides.

► See SCOUT page 2

Bay Garden Club decorates for the holidays

by KARLA MUSSULIN

Normally at this time of year the Bay Village Garden Club would be busy preparing for our annual “Greening” workshops. We’d be sweeping up glitter from hundreds of bows we made and counting and recounting all the accessories for our Greening projects. But, as we all know, this is not a normal year. Although we were forced to cancel Greening many of our members are still very busy with holiday projects.

► See GARDEN CLUB page 2



The Bay Village Garden Club designed a welcoming front door for Cleveland Botanical Garden’s “Glow” display.

Westlake serves as \$53 million conduit insurer to senior living facility

by DIANA PI

On Nov. 19, 2020, the Westlake City Council authorized the City to serve as a conduit issuer in \$53 million healthcare revenue bonds in support of LEC-Concord Reserve Holding Co. LLC.

“As a conduit issuer,” Prashant Shah, the Westlake City Finance Director explained, “the City has no financial liability in this transaction. The City is ... merely lending its name to [LEC-Concord] to issue bonds primarily to access the City’s credit and thus obtain a low interest rate for the bonds.”

LEC-Concord Reserve, located at 2116 and 2154 Dover Center Road, Westlake, is an Ohio nonprofit senior care facility. It was founded as the Lutheran Home for the Aged in 1936. Later it was renamed as Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve after the vineyard the land was built on.

On Sept. 1, 2020, it became affiliated with Life Enrichment Communities (LEC), an Ohio

nonprofit corporation founded in 2001, which oversees two senior care campuses in the greater Cincinnati area, Twin Towers and Twin Lakes. LEC is affiliated with the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Twin Towers, which used to be Methodist Home for the Aged, also has a rich history dating back to 1899. The three campuses serve people of all faiths.

Jim Bowersox, LEC Vice President of Finance/CFO, said, “We needed the City of Westlake to agree to act as a conduit (i.e., Westlake has no financial responsibility for the debt) in order to refinance the debt in the tax-exempt municipal bond market and we are extremely grateful for their support of our efforts for this important step necessary to make Concord Reserve the premier senior living community in the Greater Cleveland area.”

The last time the City acted as a conduit issuer was in 2005, also for the then Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve in the amount of \$24.7 million. ●

SCOUT

from front page

Last spring, Grant met with the Westlake city service department and city engineers. Together, they discussed some possible projects that would impact the community positively. Clague Playhouse was mentioned as a nice location to provide some enhancement, which inspired Grant to consider and decide on the pollinator garden idea.

Cahoon Nursery aided Grant in choosing the perennials he would plant. Grant then himself planned and diagrammed how the plants would be planted to build not only a productive garden, but also an aesthetically pleasing garden. He also installed a rain barrel in the garden to conserve water that will be used to water the garden. The city donated leaf humus for soil enrichment as well as two yards of wood chips.

For more information about the garden and the types of insects and animals it attracts as well as the types of plants planted, visit: www.cityofwestlake.org/837/Pollinator-Garden-Project.

In addition to his planning and executing of this amazing project that is an environmental asset to Westlake, Grant has volunteered to help the Metroparks clear invasive plants, he has helped with beach clean-ups at Huntington, and he has volunteered to clear trash and debris from local waterways. He knows that a healthy environment is directly related to healthy communities. He plans to continue seeking opportunities to help the environment when he can.

I know that Grant is an inspiration to myself, and I hope he inspires you to go out and make a difference in the community! You might be wondering what you can do aside from a large-scale project that Grant did. Well, your individual actions can make a difference.

You can fill your home garden with diverse, native plant species that bloom at different times, and avoid pesticides. Doing this will ensure you're on your way to creating your own pollinator garden! Each of us can make a difference. ●



An information sign at the garden lists the types of insects and animals it attracts as well as the types of plants planted.

GARDEN CLUB

from front page

Each year the Cleveland Botanical Garden presents its holiday spectacular, "Glow." This year's theme is "Home for the Holidays." Instead of decorating a tree our club's assignment was to design a welcoming front door. The title of our display is "A Place at the Table."

Our Co-President Holly Collieran and Vice President Erika Mittermeier coordinated our 2020 Glow display. Erika conceived and constructed an exquisite wreath of vintage plates surrounded by greenery. Holly's unique silverware ornaments, accented with sparkling icicles, highlight the garland. Many accessories were added to express the joy of sharing a holiday meal.

Glow opened Nov. 21, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 3. Timed tickets can be purchased at cbgarden.org. Preregistration is required for your safety.

Closer to home, the Garden Club will again be decorating a tree at the Bay Village Post Office. It may not be as large as the Rockefeller Tree but it has the same color scheme. Soon, members will safely distance in Holly's barn to design small tray arrangements for the Village Project. Members are presently gathering greens and accessories to fill the containers on the city's welcome signs.

This year may be different but it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. We wish all a safe holiday and a healthy new year. ●

BHS inducts 87 students into National Honor Society

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

On Nov. 9, the Bay High School Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 87 new members. The ceremony was broadcast on the Bay High Live YouTube Channel with parts pre-recorded so each student could safely be honored. Families were able to livestream the event, hosted by Bay High School principal Jason Martin. This event marked the 81st annual induction ceremony at Bay High School.

Membership in National Honor Society is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a high school student. It is the recognition of outstanding performance in both the classroom and the community.

"These students truly represent the principles of character, scholarship, leadership and service," said Kathryn McCarthy, Bay High School's National Honor Society advisor. "It is my privilege to serve with them as their advisor."

To view a list of all students inducted into the National Honor Society, please access this story at wbvobserver.com. ●



Bay High School National Honor Society President Reagan O'Leary greets the 87 students who were recently inducted into NHS. Due to COVID-19, the ceremony was streamed on the school's YouTube channel.

WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE
Observer
Community Powered News
1,192 Citizens participate in writing, editing, photographing and delivering this newspaper.

CELEBRATING 12 YEARS of CITIZEN JOURNALISM

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 1,100+ 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.

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

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PET CARE

Open enrollment for dog licenses is Dec. 1 to Jan. 31

by NANCY BROWN

“**H**aving a license for your dog isn't only a law, but it's also a lost dog's ticket home,” says Mindy Natichionni, director of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter. When your dog has its license attached to its collar, its assigned license number is all that is necessary for the shelter to identify the dog's owner. If you do not buy your dog's license during the open renewal period, Ohio law requires a late fee equal to the cost of the license.

Ohio Revised Code 955.91 states that all dog owners are required to purchase a license in the county in which the dog resides. A recent inquiry to local shelters and social media shows a growing number of dogs without any identification including a required license. This causes delays in safely reuniting pets with owners.

If a dog comes into a facility without a license the dog is held by law for three days and then can be adopted, relinquished to a rescue group or euthanized. If a dog has a current license state law requires a 10-day hold.

Licenses are available through the county shelter's website, cuyahogadogs.com, at Discount Drug Mart and at Pet Supplies Plus. The cost is \$20 for a one-year license, \$60 for three years, or \$200 for a permanent license. ●

WESTLAKE SENIOR & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Socialize and learn from the safety of your home

by LYDIA GADD

Feeling tired of being socially distant and isolated from fun? Please consider Zooming with us! The Westlake Community Services Department has been offering an array of Fifty-Plus opportunities via Zoom since May. We have exercise, discussion groups, Smithsonian tours, cooking classes, history classes, board games, book discussions and more!

The best part is that the classes are either facilitated or co-facilitated by our Westlake Community Services staff, so you'll get to know us and we'll get to know you. The experience is anything but impersonal. You'll also get to know other seniors in our community, as we host with a friendly and social environment.

New to Zoom? That's OK! If you have a tablet, computer or smart phone, you can do this. Call us up and we'll talk you through the steps. You won't believe how easy it is and you won't be sorry you tried it. You



Westlake Community Services program planners Jodi Rodriguez and Jennifer Yoo in our Zoom Room helping to facilitate a program.

might even win a prize at the end of the month. More about that later.

Here are just some of our December Zoom offerings. All are FREE with the exception of exercise. Call 440-899-3544 to register.

- Exercise (for seniors): every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. \$5.00/session
- Smithsonian: Experiencing America (The Great Courses): Mondays at 11 a.m.
- Holiday Smart Energy Living: Monday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.
- Aging Alone: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.
- News and Views: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.
- Laugh for the Health of It: Thursday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.
- Coffee and Conversation: Tuesday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.
- Holiday Book Discussion: Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m.
- Scavenger Hunt: Wednesday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
- Book Discussion: Monday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
- Podcast – Amusement Parks: Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1 p.m.

- TED Talk and Discussion: Tuesday, Dec. 23, 11 a.m.

Everyone who Zooms with us is entered into a Spin the Wheel Drawing at the end of the month. Your name is placed on the wheel for each program you attended.

Also, if you recruit someone new to Zoom, you receive an extra chance on the wheel! In the past month we gave away holiday gift baskets and Honey Baked Ham gift cards valued at \$50 each.

If you have any questions about these programs, how to register or how to Zoom please call us. The number again is 440-899-3544. View a more in-depth description in our monthly Pathways newsletter found at www.cityofwestlake.org/community-services.

Our Community Services department is dedicated to providing quality Fifty-Plus programs and activities. You do not need to be a Westlake resident to participate in our Zooms. Come join the fun and socialize in the safest way possible. ●

PHOTO BY LYDIA GADD

Help the homeless. Donate today.

Community West Foundation started the **SocksPLUS** initiative after learning that socks were, and still are, the number one requested item by the homeless.

A gift of just \$10 will help us purchase 10 pairs of socks. A larger donation provides socks **PLUS** gloves, hats, boots and other necessities that are so desperately needed.

Help keep the homeless men, women and children in greater Cleveland warmer this winter.

Visit
SocksPLUS.org
or text
SocksPlus
to **44321**



**Socks
PLUS**

Community
West
Foundation

Cleveland Angels has local roots

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

Cleveland Angels is a non-profit whose mission is to “walk alongside children in the foster care system, as well as their caretakers, by offering consistent support through intentional giving, relationship building, and mentorship.” Gretchen Dupps, a longtime Bay Village resident, is the founder of the Cleveland chapter and executive director.

Before agreeing to start and lead Cleveland Angels, Gretchen felt called to help support children in the foster care system because as a child her parents had been foster parents, so she has first-hand knowledge and insight into the best ways these families can be supported. When the opportunity arose a couple of years ago to begin the Cleveland chapter of the national Angels organization, she jumped on

it. She, along with many tireless volunteers, has made it the success it is today.

In Cuyahoga County, there are currently 2,927 children in either foster care or kinship care. Many families who foster have agreed to take in additional placements during this time, and children being placed with family or family friends in a kinship placement has greatly increased as well. These families have agreed to care for more children despite many times being in uncertain financial circumstances themselves.

Furthermore, many of these children are medically fragile requiring extra levels of care, and many families have faced job lay-offs. Cleveland Angels is dedicated to supporting these families so that they are able to continue to provide foster care, as well as continue to build relationships and provide stability and healing for

the children in their care.

While Cleveland Angels is a regional organization whose mission is to serve as many foster care families in Northeast Ohio as they can, their work impacts our local community directly. Currently, there is a family in Bay Village who has been matched with Cleveland Angels programs. The family is one in which the parents have biological children already in their adult years and decided to become licensed foster parents. The parents received their first placement, a 6 year old and 2 year old, just before the Covid shutdown.

As a parent, I can’t imagine being in the position with two new children to manage (online schooling, no daycare) on top of normal full-time work responsibilities during the shutdown, and this family did not have an easy time. The

family also continued to face adversity into the summer with balancing the costs of daycare and caring for the children.

This fall, they were matched with the Cleveland Angels Love Box program and immediately the Love Box group and the family connected and became friends. The group has been able to support the family both emotionally as well as financially, enabling the children who have not had many “normal” experiences in their lives to have normal childhood experiences and things. Covid has not slowed down Cleveland Angels volunteers from fulfilling their mission, and they are having a real positive impact on these children living in Bay Village.

The nonprofit sector, including Cleveland Angels, has been hit hard financially during the pandemic mainly because fundraising events that account for large portions of budgets have not been able to happen. Cleveland Angels

has become more creative and has overcome many of these obstacles, but they need your help as 2020 comes to an end. Despite the financial toll that 2020 has taken, Cleveland Angels is proud to report that they are serving more children and families than ever before. This would not be possible without the support of the community and the tireless volunteers who have continued to show up for our families during this time of uncertainty.

Cleveland Angels is hosting their first “3 Day Angel Give-A-Thon” which will take place Dec. 1-3. Cleveland Angels is asking you, members of our community, to be a partner and support them in their goal of raising \$30,000 to continue to fulfill their mission supporting children and families in our community who are in need of care and help now. Please join us by visiting www.cleangels.org for ways you can help by volunteering and/or donating. ●

Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) Meeting, Nov. 18, 2020

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Westshore Council of Governments, and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters, nor does it represent the official minutes of the meeting, which are prepared by Mayor Koomar's office.

by LWV observer JUDITH WEISS

Present: Mayors Koomar, Bay Village; Bobst, Rocky River; Clough, Westlake; Cooney, Fairview Park; George, Lakewood. Guest: Chris Lyons, Bay Village Fire Chief

The meeting was held in the Bay Village Police Station community room. It was called to order at 2 p.m.

Executive Session: Meeting began

with a short executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Fiscal Officer's Report – Renee Mahoney: Budget will not exceed forecast. There will be a payment to a retiree, but there's a reserve to cover it.

RTA – Clough: Budget is in good shape due to \$11 million in federal funding; in fact it is in the best shape since Clough has been on the board. There will be no need for a ballot initiative for more taxing. Board is nearly finished with the redesign of the system, and is replacing rail cars. Ten million dollars have been earmarked for future capital needs.

NOACA – Bobst: Nothing new to report.

Land Bank – George: Progress is slow, but moving along.

County Planning Commission – Bobst: New director should be chosen by the end of the year.

County Mayors and Managers Association – Koomar: There is a question (at State level?) about whether or not cities can collect income taxes from people who work from home now, as opposed to their Cleveland workplaces.

New Business: Bay Village Fire Chief Chris Lyons explained the city's new fire alarm system, which has eliminated the third-party monitoring server that relayed alarms to the central dispatch device, saving about \$6,000. They have also replaced separate landline phones with a one-time investment in an I.P. system, that saves time in relaying alarms to the central WestCom ser-

vice, as well. Lyons offered to provide more information to other cities who are considering a similar switch. Both Fairview Park and Lakewood are looking into it.

There was discussion of the rescue boats deployed by Rocky River, Lakewood and Huntington Park. A new boat will be purchased for Lakewood, Rocky River and Bay Village, through a grant from the Metroparks (?). The role of the rescue boats has changed from writing tickets for safety infractions, but they can patrol the lakeshore and promote education. The boats and their crews aren't equipped nor specially trained for deep-water rescues; Rocky River's boat mainly has to rescue kayakers in the river. Further discussion among the cities will take place after Jan. 1. ●

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

10 tips for holiday portraits at home

by KATIE GARLOCK

As the holidays arrive, so does the opportunity to capture the magic of the season ... especially for those of us with children and grandchildren. If you are not having professional portraits made, I encourage you to take them yourself. Here are my top 10 ways to create the best holiday photos (no matter who takes them):

1. Location: Choose a favorite spot at home: the chair where you read to

your children, the fireplace or in front of the tree.

2. Timing: Young children are usually morning people, while teenagers prefer a slightly later time. For a successful session, allow plenty of time and work with their schedules.

3. Clothing: Keep it simple and fun! The choice is yours. You can dress up and go glam, since you may not get a chance to go anywhere fancy this season. Or snuggle up in pajamas, if that has been your uniform for most of this year.

4. Action: Give your children something to do and photograph them doing it. Hold hands, look out the window for Santa, tell each other secrets, wrap presents ... so many options.

5. Get in close: No need to include the whole room in every photo. Their happy faces should say it all.

6. Expressions: Genuine expressions, happy or gentle, are everything. Tell jokes, ask silly questions, or sing a song to get past the fake smile syndrome.

7. Include everyone: Yes, Moms and Dads, you should be in there too. Years from now, when your children look at the photos, they should see their parents having fun with them. This is espe-

cially important if one parent takes all the photos and never appears in them. (Yes, this is the voice of experience.)

8. Groups and individuals: You may not have extended family together this year, but try taking each child individually, the kids together, and with parents. The breakdowns often become the favorites.

9. Home for the holidays: On the big day, use a series to tell the story. Wide shots of decorated rooms remind of Christmas past. Then get in close to capture happy faces as gifts are opened and thank you



PHOTO BY KATIE GARLOCK

Unwrapping the wonder of the season.

hugs are given. (See Tip #7.) A sleeping child holding a favorite toy is the perfect way to end a holiday album.

10. Have fun! Don't worry about getting that “perfect” photo. You want a record of the way things really are, outtakes and

all. And don't just leave those pictures on the phone or in the cloud. Select your favorites and have them printed, so they can be enjoyed decades from now, when technology has changed and our discs and drives are outdated. ●

THE MEDICAL INSIDER

Going to a Christmas party? Calculate your own COVID-19 risk

by DIANA PI, M.D.

Should you go to a Christmas party, meet friends for a drink, continue your yoga or kick-boxing classes? There are online calculators, free and easy, that can estimate your COVID-19 risk.

For example, I swim at Lakewood High School with the O*H*I*O Masters Club. I'm trying to determine if it's safe to continue swimming given the recent acceleration in COVID-19 cases.

Question #1: What's my chance of encountering a COVID-19- infected person during my practice?

To determine that, I used an event risk assessment tool, designed by the Georgia Institute of Technology, at covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu.

I answered two questions: crowd size and location. Voilà, in seconds, I found that in a group of 15 people, the probability that at least one person is infected with COVID-19 is 39% (data obtained 11/26/2020). The risk is not trivial.

Question #2: What's my risk of contracting COVID-19 during a swim practice?

I tried two calculators. The first, available at mycovidrisk.app, was developed by Brown University Alpert Medical School. More information was needed: location, setting, crowd size, nature of activities, and the percentage of people wearing masks. The estimated risk of me contracting COVID-19 after a one-hour swim practice is high (0.1 to 5%).

The calculator suggests mitigating factors: By wearing double-layered, tightly woven masks and



keeping social distancing to 6 feet, I brought my risk down to low. Pretty good.

Then I tried "19 and Me," developed by a Mathematica data scientist, at 19andme.covid19.mathematica.org. My estimated weekly risk of catching COVID-19 is 1.6% if I attend three swim practices vs. 0.14% if I skip them.

Needless to say, I had a boatload of fun. (Before you calculate my risk of turning into a certifiable geek, what fun things do *you* do on cold and rainy days?)

Now the real question: How seriously do I take these numbers?

I found the methodology sound, the numbers ballpark reasonable.

I learned important information. I was surprised how much my risk went up by going to swim practices – 10x. But I must admit I like Ohio's color-coded, county-wide alert system better. First, colors are easy. Cuyahoga County, red = bad; Franklin County, purple = worse.

Second, the system considers additional factors including our local hospital capacity.

More important than numbers and colors: Understand your own risk. If you (or your family, close contacts) are immunocompromised (see [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the complete listing), I would not just consider, but *do everything* in the CDC and state/county advisory.

I know wearing masks is an inconvenience, but it should not be a political grievance. It's like saying gravity is a choice.

Hard facts: SARS-CoV-2, a medium-size virus, can penetrate your cells in minutes after contact. One person – on average – infects two to three more people. With more than 260,000 deaths, it's currently the third leading cause of death in the U.S. (behind heart attacks and cancer of *all causes*), and that's 10 months in with winter ahead.

The bedrock of infectious disease control: Don't get it. Don't give it. ●

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Contribute to Christmas comebacks

by STACY WINDAHL

Bay Presbyterian Church (BPC) invites all Westshore families and community members to be a part of comeback stories at The City Mission by donating items to make Comeback Kits. BPC will be collecting items for the Mission's Comeback Kits. These kits are provided to guests of the organization's shelters and include immediate care, relief, and encouragement products like: shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, lotion, razors, shaving cream, new underwear and socks, women's hygiene products, Bibles (New Living Translation), stationary, pens, games.

Shop for any of the items requested and drop off your donation at BPC's main entrance (25415 Lake Road) anytime from Sunday, Nov. 29, through Sunday, Dec. 27.



Bus passes are an urgent need also, and they can be purchased at area Marc's, Giant Eagle, and Discount Drug Mart locations. On Dec. 17, students from the Westshore Young Leaders Network will gather at BPC to sort items collected as of that date.

The items requested may seem like a small contribution, but they are a significant part of providing practical help and restoring hope to men, women and children in need.

BPC has a long history of shared service with The City Mission. Pastor Mark Tumney said, "We appreciate that families in our west side communities may be looking for ways to celebrate the season with acts of generosity and service. COVID makes that difficult this year, but donating items for Comeback Kits can be an easy way to involve kids in providing meaningful gifts to people who may have little else."

Help write a comeback story by dropping off needed items at Bay Presbyterian Church through Dec. 27. Learn more at baypres.org. ●

Your gift helps enhance the quality of life in Bay Village, Ohio

The many community organizations in Bay Village form the foundation of our wonderful town. These groups provide unmatched benefits including comfort and nourishment to cancer patients, providing art accessibility to all, documenting our past, providing environmental education and support, and helping with bike repair and donations, among a few examples.

Foundation trustees are volunteers who serve to improve the quality of life in Bay by providing grants and scholarships from the donations received from you.



The Foundations's annual fund drive will be mailing out letters asking you help us help the community. Please consider making a donation by mail or visit bayvillagefoundation.com. Thank You.



Westlake Porter Public Library

Upcoming early December events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Effective Nov. 19, Westlake Porter Public Library is offering drive-up window services, telephone services, online programs and limited computer access ONLY. The physical library will be closed for browsing, but open for limited computer access by appointment only. The new, expanded WiFi can be accessed in the parking lot for those who need the Internet.

Customers may continue to request materials online by visiting westlakelibrary.org or by calling the library at 440-871-2600. Materials already on hold will be available for pick-up through the drive-up window during regular open hours. Limited computer access appointments can be requested by calling the library at 440-871-2600, ext. 2.

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early December 2020 calendar of events. All programs are subject to change. Please check the library's website or follow the library on Facebook and Twitter (@WestlakePorter) for the latest updates.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Cook with WPPL, Volume 1 (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube as we make Smoky Chipotle Chicken Chili for a chilly weekend.

Wednesdays, Dec. 2 and 16 (4-5 p.m.) **Teen Writers Group (Live)** – An online meet-up for teens in grades 7-12. This is an hour to just write, with the last 15 minutes reserved for any writer in need of some group brainstorming. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Horror Film Club: Online Edition** – The Club will meet online using the video sharing site Watch2Gether. New members are always welcome, but children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Please register. To participate, check the event on the library's website as early as 6 p.m. on the day of the program. There will be a link to take you to the site. You do not need an account with Watch2Gether to participate.

Dec. 3-10 – **Calling Crafters: Snowman Ornament Take-Home Kit** – Using glue and our take-home kit, create a Snowman Ornament. This is a fun, easy project to do at home. Please register. Kits may be picked up at the Drive-Up Window anytime from Dec. 3-10.

Thursday, Dec. 3 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Cup of Science (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube to learn about the science behind how leaves change color.

Thursday, Dec. 3 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Thursdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 (3:30-4:30 p.m.) **WPPL Roblox Club** – We have some private servers set up for tweens in grades 4-6 to hang out with their friends and enjoy some of the most popular games via Zoom. Please register.

Friday, Dec. 4 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Storytime (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a fun storytime!

Friday, Dec. 4 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) **Got Science? Supply Pick Up** – Learn about Newton's Law of Motion. Kits will be available at the Drive-Up Window begin-

ning Dec. 4. Grades 1-2. Please register. Registering for this event will also register you for the Zoom event on Dec. 11. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Saturday, Dec. 5 (2-2:45 p.m.) **STEAM Maker Lab: Toymaker (Live)** – Have you ever wondered who creates toys and how they do it? Join us on Zoom to answer those questions and more! Grades 3-5. You must register for the STEAM Maker Lab: Toymaker Supply Pick Up starting Nov. 21 to be registered for this program. Please provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Saturday, Dec. 5 (4-5:30 p.m.) **Intro to Belly Dance** – Join us on Zoom as Roxi DellaDonna leads a beginners belly dance class, teaching you how to add movement to your life and connect with your body. No experience is necessary. The lesson is suitable for all shapes, sizes and activity levels. Please register. You must provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Mondays, Dec. 7 and 14 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Teen Craft Pick Up** – Come to the Drive-Up Window to pick up a craft kit while supplies last. Grades 7-12.

Monday, Dec. 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Calling Crafters: Holiday Swag** – Decorate a beautiful holiday swag using poinsettias and assorted trimmings. Please register. Pick up supplies Dec. 7-12.

Monday, Dec. 7 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Tween Craft Pick-Up** – Come to the Drive-Up Window starting Dec. 7 for a tween craft kit. Grades 4-6. While supplies last.

Monday, Dec. 7 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Pictionary! (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a game of Pictionary!

Tuesday, Dec. 8 (11-11:30 a.m.) and Wednesday, Dec. 9 (6:30-7 p.m.) **Family Storytime (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for an interactive storytime featuring books, rhymes, songs and movement. For families with children up to 2-6, siblings welcome. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 (1-3 p.m.) **Career Transition: Glassdoor for Job Search (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for a look at Glassdoor, a career website where current and former employees anonymously review companies where they've worked. You can search for specific companies and gather information on company culture and values, career growth opportunities, salary and compensation, and more. Please register. Participants must provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 (7-8:45 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Discussion (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for a discussion of "The Music Shop" by Rachel Joyce. Please register to receive a Zoom invitation and instructions. Participants without a computer, tablet or smartphone can join using a traditional phone.

Friday, Dec. 11 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Got Science? (Live)** – Join us on Zoom where we'll be experimenting with

electricity! Grades 1-2. Registration for the Dec. 4 supply pick-up will register you for this program as well. Participants will need to provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Saturday, Dec. 12 (All Day) **Mystery STEAM Bag Challenge Supply Pick Up** – Pick up your Mystery STEAM Bag supplies at the Drive-Up Window on or after Dec. 12. Each bag contains mystery craft materials and a challenge card. Use the materials to complete the design challenge and share with us on social media! Grades 1 and 2. Registration begins Dec. 5.

Saturday, Dec. 12 (9 a.m.- 6 p.m.) **Holiday Craft Pick Up** – Celebrate the season! Come to the Drive-Up Window beginning Dec. 12 to receive a bag filled with festive holiday crafts! While supplies last. No registration required.

Saturday, Dec. 12 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Pokemon Fun! (Live)** – Join Miss Rachel for a Pokemon Zoom meeting! We'll play a guess that Pokemon game and have time for show and tell. Feel free to bring a favorite Pokemon card or toy for show and tell! Registration begins Dec. 5.

Sunday, Dec. 13 (1-5 p.m.) **American Girl Doll Club Pick-Up** – A Winter Fun supply kit will be available at the Drive-Up Window beginning Dec. 13. Ages 6-10. Registration begins Dec. 6. Registering for this will also register you for the Zoom event on Dec. 20 from 2-2:30 p.m. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions. You will need this kit to participate in the program.

Monday, Dec. 14 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Maker Monday: Squishy Claus Circuits Pick-Up (On Demand)** – Create holiday

play-dough squishy circuits with an on-demand webinar to watch whenever you'd like! Suitable for adults, teens and kids! Instructions for materials pick-up and webinar access will be sent a few days before the program. Registration begins Dec. 7.

Tuesday, Dec. 15 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Stories and Signs (Live)** – Join us on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter and enjoy a storytime while learning a few words in sign language! Ages 0-3.

Tuesday, Dec. 15 (7-8 p.m.) **Currently Reading (Live)** – Bring a book to rave about or find your next favorite! An open discussion for teens in grades 7-12 who love to read. Registration begins one week before each session. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, Dec. 16 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion (Live)** – This month's title is "The Immortalists" by Chloe Benjamin. Please register to receive Zoom instructions.


Wednesday, Dec. 16 (7-8 p.m.) **Alfred Hitchcock: His Greatest Films (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for a fascinating presentation on the Master of Suspense! Alfred Hitchcock was a master director of mystery movies with surprise endings in the early and middle 20th century. He was also a very active anti-fascist as some of his movies confirm. This presentation will offer information on many of his greatest films. Please register. Participants must provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

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

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Appropriateness while technology shopping

by TAK SATO

I've talked before about "appropriateness" when shopping for technology devices. Although price will always be a limiting factor, appropriateness of the device's features should be aligned to how you will use them ... regardless of how big your piggy bank may be.

Here are two examples you may ponder this holiday season:

- iPhone 12 Pro at \$999+ or iPhone SE at \$399+?
- Entry level Windows 10 laptop at \$350+ or Chromebook at \$150+?

With the iPhone, a smartphone from Apple, for many with typical usage like voice calls, texts, emails, video chats, useful apps, and web surfing, the cost-conscious iPhone SE introduced this spring fits the bill (and saves some bills too). Just because it's cheaper doesn't mean you forgo the Apple premium quality.

Rather, iPhone SE uses the same "brain" as 2019's top-of-the-line iPhone 11 Pro. Its screen is smaller but some may even like how you can hold it in your palm. Apple must have heard that bigger is not always better as they also introduced the iPhone 12 Mini this fall.

On the other hand, if you are a hobbyist of photography/videography, the multiple lenses on iPhone 12 Pro (two wide angles and one telephoto) may be a welcome feature to up your game. Or the bigger screen that shows finer details (geek talk: pixels per inch or "ppi") may be what you desire.

A week before Thanksgiving, I bought our family's second Chromebook at a sale price of \$149 before taxes. Our first Chromebook, procured in

2014 for \$120 had "expired." All Chromebooks have an expiration date, similar to Microsoft's Windows or Apple's MacOS, and stops getting automatic updates. This new Chromebook has an expiration date in 2026.

For my everyday tasks like emailing, web browsing, and attending video meetings, all activities performed with Chromebook connected to the internet, aka the cloud, via Wi-Fi, Chromebooks do them well. I grab my Windows computer instead if I have to host video meetings, conduct webinars, teach classes for our nonprofit, or use applications only available on traditional computers.

The point is, unless one needs to do heavy lifting tasks, Chromebooks – in my opinion – are more appropriately aligned and a good investment to boot. Unfortunately, many still misperceive the utility of a Chromebook, perhaps because it came up through the education sector and only recently gained popularity in the consumer sector. Competition in the technology marketplace, which may already be intimidating for many, can also exacerbate the misinformation.

The Chromebook user experience is very similar to using the Chrome browser from Google, hence the operating system is called ChromeOS. Most recent Chromebooks can run Android apps, especially useful on a touch-screen Chromebook, thanks to smartphones and tablets since app usage is ubiquitous.

The appropriateness of the device you choose, plus being cognizant that technology gadgets have a built-in obsolescence (my current rule of thumb is 3 to 4 years), goes a long way in enjoying your technology investment. ●

Visitor brings cheer to hospice staff

Hoping to add a little joy to the infirmed, their families, caregivers and staff, Bob Votruba and his dog, Bogart, visited the Hospice of the Western Reserve on Thanksgiving Eve. Many of the staff stood in the windows of the Ames Family Hospice House, expressing their appreciation from inside.

"It was a nice way to help the staff know that they are appreciated" said Frank Kukula, Facilities Manager Team Leader.

This time of year is especially hard for everyone and with COVID-19, it has added additional challenges for everyone who care so much for our loved ones. A big debt of gratitude is owed to these angels of comfort. ●



Bob Votruba and his dog, Bogart, at the Ames Family Hospice House.



PHOTOS COURTESY BOB VOTRUBA

Bay Men's Club members assist neighbors

by ERIC EAKIN

Members of the Bay Men's Club, masked for everyone's safety, recently raked and cleaned the yards of 16 Bay Village residents who could use a hand this time of year. "Bay Men's Club mem-

bers have volunteered their efforts over the years for the betterment of the community, and this is just another way we can give back to our community," President Matt Williams said. "Our guys had a great time helping others. That's what it's all about." ●



PHOTOS BY ERIC EAKIN

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SPORTING VIEWS

Thankful during the Covid Era? You're darn right I am

by JEFF BING

This has been one of the rougher holiday seasons for our family; in fact, my wife and I – after 43 and a half years of marriage – experienced our first Thanksgiving of no family get-togethers. No kids. No grandkids. No other relatives, either. And Christmas looks about as promising as Thanksgiving. Seriously, let's break open a new case of Kleenex, and let it all out, shall we?

And while you're at it, you might want to stock up on the toilet paper. (You remember what happened about eight months ago, and keep in mind that we are

supposed to learn valuable lessons from past experiences.) Don't be caught having to use some of those leaves you never got around to raking last month. And yes, the neighbors will know *exactly* what you are using those leaves for – don't try to play “innocent” because they're not as dumb as they look.

So, we could sit here and feel sorry for ourselves (and make no mistake, I take great pride in my ability to mope at a moment's notice), but *au contraire, mon ami*. In this “new normal” of social distancing, face masks, and near-lethal doses of hand sanitizer, we have somehow found alternate means to communicate

with family and friends.

FaceTime. Zoom. Texting like there's no tomorrow. Emailing as if it were free (oh wait, it is). Snail-mailing something just to catch someone off-guard (do it while you can, folks, the post office – as we know it – may be going the way of the Yugo before *you* know it). Drive-bys are becoming more common. Yes, we are channeling road rage into “nice” rage. Who says Americans have trouble adapting? Darn right.

But, since this is supposed to be a sports-related column, let us shift our gaze to the Browns. Yes, the *Browns*. The very same Browns who boast a couple of underperforming first-round draft choices (Baker Mayfield and Myles Garrett), lousy special teams, a very lousy defense, and a schizophrenic offense. And oh, yes, we would be remiss were we to forget rookie head coach Kevin Stefanski, who some have compared to last year's exercise in futility, Freddie Kitchens (who

we really *are* trying to forget).

But as much as I love to moan and groan about these guys – and I believe they really should be *much* better than they have shown so far – the fact is, these guys might still win 10 or 11 games.

Think about it: 10 or 11 victories? That usually takes any team named the *Browns* four or five years to accumulate. And I'm sittin' here complaining? What in the name of Brady Quinn am I complaining about?

I have a brother-in-law (who is slightly younger than me, BTW) who has spent the better part of the last year recovering from a heart attack he had a week before Christmas 2019. He's a battler, and last week took his first steps (actually walking) since being hospitalized. It's obviously been an uphill battle, but lesser people (raise your hand, Jeff) undoubtedly would not have persevered to the extent he has.

So ... what again was it I was *not* thankful for? ●

BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Bay Village second-graders work with children's author to create books

by KAREN UTHE SEMANCIK

Budding authors in Kelsy Hoy's second-grade class at Normandy Elementary School in Bay Village had the rare opportunity to confer with children and young adult author Rachel Vail late last month via Zoom. The award-winning author joined the class for a brainstorming session and discussed Vail's “Elizabeth” book series, about a second-grader and her experiences growing up.

Hoy said there are a lot of

things in school that aren't normal right now, so she welcomed the opportunity to have her students work on a unique project. “I thought having these discussions would be fun and engaging for our students and would really make these books come alive,” Hoy said.

Students worked on their ideas with Vail, and will turn them into book covers that they'll present to Vail before Thanksgiving break. Then the 16

students will write their stories for their books. Vail said she may even consider using one or more of the student ideas as the basis for her next storyline.

Vail began her virtual book

discussions because she missed meeting children and connecting with them through her work. Bay Village Schools is only the second group of students she has spoken with. Hoy got the

idea while scrolling through the author's website.

Hoy hopes this project will spark her students' creativity and have a lasting impact on how they read and write. ●



Second-graders in Kelsy Hoy's class at Normandy Elementary School in Bay Village are working with award-winning children's author Rachel Vail in creating their own stories and books.

8th annual

Cahoon Christmas

★ Watch for Santa as he tours Bay Village in a 1929 fire truck!
Sunday, Dec. 6 ★ 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bay Village Historical Society and the Bay Village Kiwanis are asking all Bay Village residents, young and old, to join them in welcoming Santa Claus to Bay Village.

Santa Claus will leave the Bay Lodge on Bradley Road on a fire truck, accompanied by a police cruiser, at 2 p.m. and travel throughout the city, greeting young and old alike.

See the map for his route and approximate times. His ride will last about two hours.

Come out and greet Santa Claus as he makes his rounds through our city Dec. 6!

Bay Kiwanis Christmas Trees

at Cahoon Memorial Park

Weekends: Nov. 27 - Dec. 13

Fridays 4-7 pm,
Saturdays 10 am - 7 pm,
Sundays 10 am - 7 pm.

We are selling Fraser Firs, Canaan Firs, Balsam Firs, Douglas Firs, and Colorado Spruce. Cash, checks and credit cards with a \$2 user fee. The prices range from \$55 to \$125 depending on type and height of the tree. Sizes range from 6 foot to 10 foot. We will have a larger selection of 8 to 9 foot trees this year. Deliveries made in Bay are free, but donations welcomed. \$10 out of town fee.

Questions? email baykiwanis@gmail.com



WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.

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4:00 pm
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on *both* days is exactly the same)

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Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Please join our Advent Family as
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Would like to your church to be listed in the Dec. 15 issue? Contact the Observer at 440-409-0114 or staff@wbvobserver.com

DIGGING DOVER - WESTLAKE

A Westlake buried treasure map

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

In 2015, Case Western Reserve University professor Gary Previts emailed the mayor of Rocky River with a fascinating story. He explained that in the 1920s, boy relatives of his were out playing and discovered some muskets and scabbards/swords and brought them home. The mother of the house immediately threw their finds down the water well.

Attached to the professor's email was a hand-drawn map with the location of the well, marked with an "X". The professor wondered if there could be any connection between what they found and Bradstreet's Disaster which occurred in 1764 in what is now Rocky River?

Because the well was located on a farm on Center Ridge in Dover (now Westlake), just over the city line from Rocky River (east of today's Berry-McGreevey Funeral Home in Westlake), the mayor of Rocky River, Pam Bobst, contacted the mayor of Westlake, Dennis Clough. Mayor Clough, knowing about my interest in history, forwarded the email to me and asked me to investigate.



**Bradstreet's Disaster historic plaque
at Bradstreet's Landing Park in
Rocky River.**

At first, I was skeptical because Center Ridge Road is miles from Lake Erie and the beach where Colonel Bradstreet had his difficulties. My understanding was that after many of Bradstreet's boats were destroyed in a fierce storm the 500 men who could not be accommodated in the remaining boats walked back to Fort Niagara on an Indian trail where Detroit Road



The former Nosko farm site at 22994 Center Ridge Road is now a vacant wooded lot.



Spencer Creek west of River Plaza Shopping Plaza.

is now located, not Center Ridge Road.

The professor's relatives were named Nosko and the farm and the buildings on the property as per a 1927 plat book matched up just as depicted on the hand drawing, done by memory by his relative years ago. Further examination of a 1920 plat book showed that Spencer Creek that empties into Lake Erie at Bradstreet's Landing meandered through Lakewood Park Cemetery after passing under Center Ridge Road in a deep ravine (which still exists west of the River Plaza shopping center on the north side of Center Ridge in River).

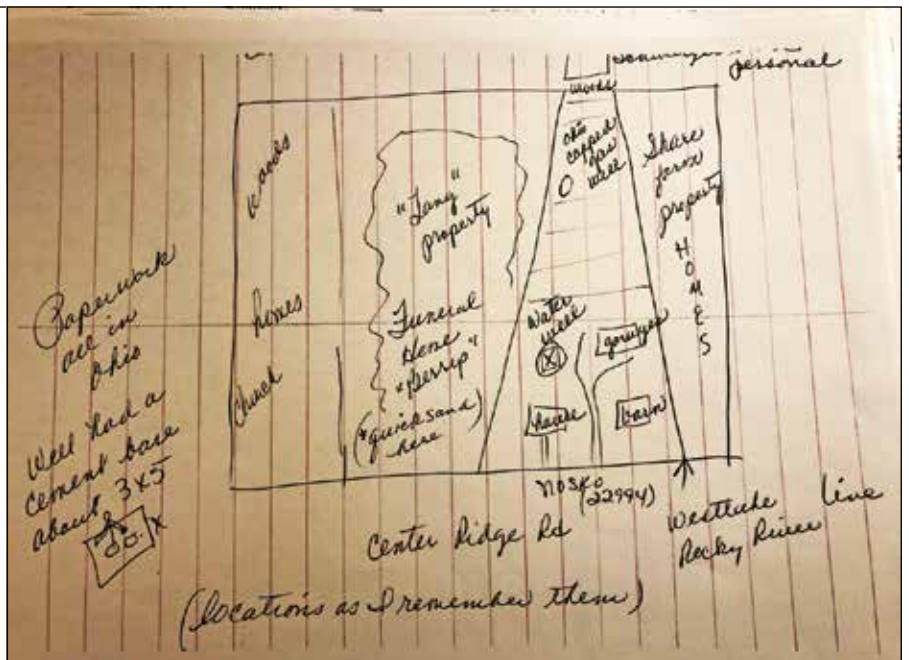
If the boys were playing in the ravine half a mile east of their home or on future Westwood Country Club land, suddenly the story seemed plausible.

Over the last couple hundred years, early 18th century coins, engraved silverware, muskets, swords, cannon balls and bayonets stuck into trees and encased by subsequent bark growth have been found in Rocky River. Either on the beach or on the high ground nearby. The assumption is that the artifacts represent items lost when the boats were swamped by the waves or are items weary British soldiers and provincials ditched when they began their long march back to Fort Niagara in the New York colony.

Why would the mother throw the items down a water well? It is probably the 1920s version of “you are going to shoot your eye out with that thing.” Unless it was sheer panic, one assumption might be that the well the weapons were thrown down was an abandoned well, because who would want to foul their source of water? On the other hand, abandoned wells were often used as trash pits on farmsteads. If the well had dried up and been abandoned then there is hope that the artifacts might still be intact today rather than rusted into oblivion.

The Nosko family owned the property from 1919 to 1985, then it was sold to Fairland builders who developed Hunter's Point Lane, south off of Hilliard Boulevard, on it. Except for an emergency access drive for this cul-de-sac, the frontage along Center Ridge Road remained undeveloped.

After doing the research my next task was to contact the current land owner to see if they would be open to some exploratory digging on what is today a wooded site. Fortunately, their offices are in Westlake and after they reviewed copies of the research with their attorney,



The “Treasure Map” drawn from memory by Nancy Nosko.



1927 Hopkins Plat book showing the 10.2 acre Nosko (misspelled Neske) farm site with farm buildings.



The former Nosko farm site is just west of The Harbor Court Assisted Living.

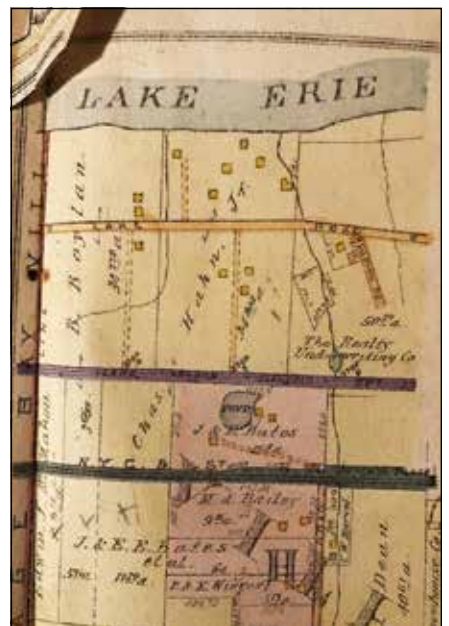
they seemed amenable.

Members of an Ohio bottle club were contacted. They explained that wells are difficult to dig because they are often stone lined and narrow so that it is difficult for a hand digger to maneuver their shoulders to remove the materials from the bottom of the well. They said they would be willing to assist in locating the well and offering advice on how to retrieve the artifacts. The project stalled when neither city was willing to dedicate city staff and equipment to do any digging.

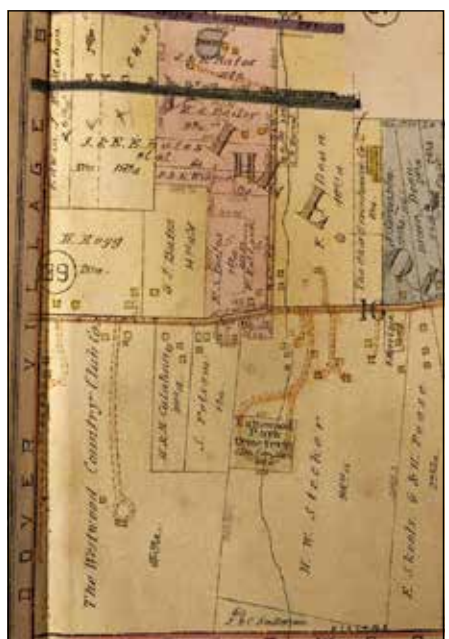
The professor first contacted Rocky River back in 2015 because he was con-



1920 Hopkins Plat book showing the
L. & A. Nosko farm site.



Spencer Creek is the center stream depicted in the 1920 Hopkins Plat Book, emptying into Lake Erie at Bradstreet's Landing.



Spencer Creek bisecting Lakewood Park Cemetery in the 1920 Hopkins Plat Book; Nosko farm is southwest of Westwood Country Club.

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

6 ways for children and families to enjoy nature this winter

by MORGAN PASKERT

Winter is on the horizon, but your outdoor fun doesn't need to come to an end. There is a beautiful winter world awaiting for those who seek refreshment and energy from the outdoors. Below are six ways you and your family can enjoy nature this winter, despite the chilly temperatures.

Go stargazing

Winter skies can be the clearest of the year and the richest in stars. In addition to winter constellations such as Orion, Canis Major and the bright star Sirius, Canis Minor and Gemini the Twins, this season you can observe The Great Conjunction between Saturn and Jupiter.

Go outside and look toward the south/southwest, where you will see two objects shining brighter than any surrounding stars. The brighter one is Jupiter

and the dimmer one is Saturn.

These two planets are 400 million miles apart, but currently in the same part of the sky (this conjunction happens only once every 20 years).

Over the next few weeks, Jupiter and Saturn will become closer together. On Dec. 21, they will be 0.1 degree apart – there is no correlation to the winter solstice, only a happy coincidence.

Make an ice sun catcher

Get outside and decorate! National Geographic Kids offers instructions on how to create a natural ice sun catcher to display in your yard. All you need for this simple craft is a Bundt pan, bits of nature (pine needles, berries, colorful leaves) and a ribbon. Just like a snowflake, no two sun catchers are alike. Visit kids.national-geographic.com and search for "sun catcher."

Take a nature walk

Bundle up on a cold day

and head to your favorite hiking trail, where a whole new ecosystem is waiting to be explored.

Scavenger hunts are a great way to keep your little ones motivated on nature walks. Create a simple list of things to look for – a pinecone, an animal track, a feather – and offer a treat once it's complete.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center offers printable nature scavenger hunts at www.lensc.org.

Read a story around the fire

We tend to associate outdoor fires with summertime and s'mores, but this can be a perfect winter activity on the right night (with correct safety precautions taken, of course!).

Gather around the fire with blankets and hot chocolate, and read a seasonal story such as "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner or "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson.

Go birding

Looking and listening for birds in winter offers the benefit of trees not having leaves, making it easier to spot birds. Some birds may have migrated south for the season, but those that have stayed offer much to see and hear.

If you prefer to watch birds



LORI EPSTEIN | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Making a homemade ice sun catcher is a fun winter project.

from indoors, you can attract them to your yard with a classic bird feeder recipe: a pinecone, peanut butter, birdseed and a string.

Take an indoor break

Need a break from the cold to explore nature indoors? Register for free general admission

at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center by visiting www.lensc.org. Among the indoor and outdoor live animal exhibits, natural history displays, state-of-the-art planetarium and nearby hiking trails, the center offers plenty to discover during the winter season. ●

Bay UMC offers pandemic-friendly worship options

by DAVE JOHNSON

Through its "Step In, Drive In, Listen In" campaign, Bay United Methodist Church (29931 Lake Road) is offering multiple worship options for anyone and everyone in the area during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each Sunday at 10 a.m., Bay UMC, led by Pastor Jonathan McCleery, provides a traditional worship service with Pastor's message, a music leader (singing is not allowed in the sanctuary due to COVID), Scripture lessons, prayer, and special music, including the Bay UMC Bell Choir.

The 10 a.m. service provides an in-person worship option with social distancing in the sanctuary along with a drive-in option in the parking lot (corner of Lake Road and Bassett Road) for families wishing to worship in their car with a live localized radio feed at 87.9 FM.

A third at-home option for worshippers is available via a livestream of the service by visiting the church's website at www.bayumc.org.

The church membership is also staying connected via Zoom and Facebook with weekly Bible studies, mid-week meditations, and Sunday School and Confirmation. Join us!

For more information, visit the church website, Bay UMC Facebook page, or call 440-871-2082. ●

VILLAGE PROJECT

Shop local and be safe this holiday season

by DIANE FRYE

So, it is here—holiday season 2020! We welcome the joy and beauty of this time of year, even as we hunker down in our homes to stay healthy and well.

Shopping this holiday season certainly is going to be a bit more challenging. Village Project's Project Shoppe is doing its part to make it

easier and safer to choose a special gift for your friends and family. Home for the Holidays is running from Nov. 30-Dec. 22 and allows you to select from Project Shoppe's thoughtfully-curated, unique and locally-sourced gifts from the comfort and safety of your home, then conveniently pick up your order curbside on Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their Bay

Village location. To make your inner elf even happier, use the code HOLIDAY2020 at check out to save 10% on your entire order.

In addition to holiday gifts, Project Shoppe features Village Project favorites such as homemade granola, herbed salts, DIY cocoa cluster kits and a variety of Village Project merchandise. The boutique also carries popular brands like Furbish & Fire candles, Tootsweet Soap Shack lotions and scrubs, Firehouse Gourmet Salsa, The Home Pantry Jams, NOSH Butters and much more.

Visit Project Shoppe

online at shoppe.ourvillage-project.com to browse all their products and place your order. In the spirit of the season, all store proceeds support Village Project's mission of coming together as a community of all ages to provide nourishing meals and extended care to our neighbors experiencing cancer.

We are all doing our best to socially distance this holiday season and keep our loved ones safe from COVID-19, but it's good to know that the fun of finding that special gift for everyone on your list is still possible. Have a blessed and healthy holiday season! ●

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