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VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 1 | Community News Powered by the Citizens of Westlake and Bay Village | 17 JANUARY 2023

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

Nature has a friend in 5-year-old boy



PHOTO BY PHIL BATTERSHELL

Wade Battershell has taken the initiative to collect trash from Cahoon Creek while on walks with his granddad.

Wade is the son of Jeff and Jenny Battershell. Wade is also the grandson of Jill and Phil Battershell, residents of Bay Village for over 40 years. Fortunate to live on Porter Creek for over 30 of those years, Jill and Phil recently moved to the Bay Creek Development along Cahoon Creek. This is where this story begins.

Wade is soon to be 6 years old. He is an avid outdoors young man. Wade enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, boating, biking, swimming and literally any activity that takes him outside. He is also in the Cub Scouts and enjoys playing soccer.

Since Wade could walk, he enjoyed his "creek walks" with his family at his grandparents' home along Porter Creek. At age 4, he had the change of scenery to Cahoon Creek where upon his first hike with his granddad in December 2021, he realized and remarked that there was a fair amount of trash behind their home and along the creek.

▶ See WADE, page 2

Westlake Educational Foundation awards over \$30,000 in grants

by MARY ESSIG

At the Dec. 12 Westlake Board of Education meeting, the Westlake Educational Foundation awarded two staff grants totaling over \$30,000 to support creative and innovative learning experiences in the classroom. Both grants will provide opportunities for students to expand their STEM knowledge with hands-on projects and activities and expose students to various STEM careers.

The Westlake Educational Foundation awards grants to Westlake City School teachers and staff for projects that enhance the educational opportunities and learning experiences of students over and above the required curriculum, giving special consideration to proposals that demonstrate creativity and innovation in student learning. Grants are not made for those expenses normally covered within the school district's budget.

▶ See WEF GRANTS, page 4



Westlake Educational Foundation's Mary Essig presents Adam Purdy, Technology and Engineering teacher at Westlake HS, and Kip Primrose, Career Connections teacher at Lee Burneson MS, with grants awarded by the Foundation.

Bay Village Soup Cookoff is Jan. 27

by EMILY GOERS

Bay Village Senior Center is hosting the 13th annual Soup Cookoff on Friday, Jan. 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Participants have an opportunity to taste soup from up to 10 local vendors and cast their vote for the people's choice award.

This annual fundraiser helps raise money for new and existing senior activities put on by the Bay Village Community Services department.

The Bay Village Senior Center is located at 300 Bryson Lane. Tickets are \$10 per person and include admission to the event, the chance to win door prizes and all the soup, crackers and bread you can eat! You must buy a ticket in person at the senior center to reserve your spot. ♦



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

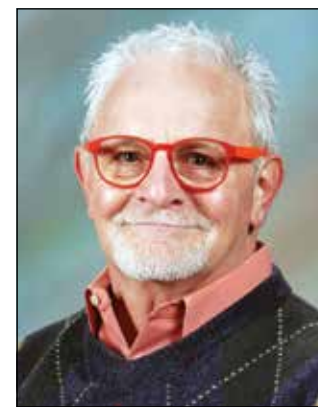
Emmy-award winning film screening at Westlake church

by MARTHA VIVONA

Westlake's Dover Congregational United Church of Christ is a congregation of amazingly talented people, including a six-time Emmy winning producer and director! Lucky for us, that Emmy winner, Michael Angelo DiLauro, will be sharing his celebrated documentary, "Prisoners Among Us: Italian American Identity and WWII," at our church this month.

The film, with commentary by Tom Brokaw, chronicles how Italian immigrants assimilated into American culture from the early 19th century through WWII.

▶ See DOVER UCC, page 2



Westlake resident Michael DiLauro will share his documentary at Dover UCC on Jan. 29.



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

WADE from front page

With this observation, Wade suggested to his granddad that they should begin picking up and removing the trash they find.

Since then Wade has made no less than five trips to the Cahoon Creek with his granddad and carried through with his commitment to not only keep the woods clean of trash and debris, but also along the creek and in the creek. To date he has hiked up to the waterfalls which are quite close to the new bridge being built across Cahoon Creek just north of Wolf Road.

Wade has an excellent understanding of the impact this type of work has on the environment. He not only is beautifying the community's natural resource of the woods and water, but is also making a significant impact on helping to not pollute the run off to Lake Erie. Because Wade is a hiker, he is able to also climb up the sides of the hills along the creek of which most are comprised of loose shale rock and has no problem navigating these sometimes difficult climbs in search of retrieving additional litter.

Wade continues to collect paper, plastic, Styrofoam packing material, ceramic plates (one of which was fully intact and not broken) glass bottles, broken glass, plastic bags, rebar, toys, ink pens, construction material, the grill off of an old refrigeration unit, plastic bottles, clothing, and part of a red plastic bumper to a car that he cannot dislodge and will need help retrieving. His most recent collection was on Christmas where he filled six bags of material of which all of it was recyclable.

Wade's parents encourage him all the time to enjoy being in the out of doors. They too are avid in their love for doing what Wade is learning to do. His

dad has a degree in Environmental Policy and Analysis and there is a history of Eagle Scouts in his family. Suffice to say, this is a lifelong passion he is learning.

Lastly, the other goal Wade has is to encourage others, young and old alike, to take time to help preserve the gifts we have from the natural beauty that surrounds us in northern Ohio and beyond.

Just imagine if we had a lot of like-minded Wades volunteering to keep our communities clean, what a significant impact we could make. Besides, the best part actually is the untold hours hiking and talking between a grandson and his granddad. ●



PHOTO BY JON LISKOVEC

Wade Battershell was recognized with a proclamation from Mayor Paul Koomar, right, and a certificate of appreciation from Bay Village Green Team members Patrick McGannon and Tara Wendell at the Jan. 9 City Council meeting.

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DOVER UCC

from front page

The film looks at America's "enemy alien" policies and the impact of that legislation upon unwitting immigrant families.

Through interviews, historical detail, photographs, archival footage, music and literature, DiLauro brings to life the travails and spirit of a proud people who ultimately emerged victorious. "Prisoners Among Us" is narrated by Tony Lo Bianco, actor and spokesperson

for Order of Sons of Italy in America.

Commentary is by Brokaw and Mary Ann Esposito, host of "Ciao Italia" on PBS. The film has received several awards, including: Best Documentary, New York International Film Festival; Best Documentary, Montreal Film Festival; and Emmy Awards for Directing and Musical Score.

Join us for this fascinating film, followed by pizza and a Q&A with producer/director DiLauro, on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 5:30 p.m. in Thomas Hall at Dover Congregational United Christ of Christ, 2239 Dover Center Road in Westlake. ●

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

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

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DEMON DISPATCH

Purpose drives success in life

by DR. SCOTT GOGGIN
Superintendent,
Westlake City School District

What motivates us to achieve success? What propels us to be our best selves? How can I reach my goals for the future? All of these questions trace their origin back to discovering a purpose. When you identify your purpose – it becomes easier to reach success and accomplish what you set out to do.

Purpose is a fundamental value of our Portrait of a Lifelong Learner, which Westlake students exemplify daily. A student with purpose at Westlake understands the importance of setting goals and persistently striving toward them. They demonstrate perseverance in every aspect of life and understand that academic success is only one element to becoming their ideal self. With purpose, they can make informed decisions that pave the way for personal fulfillment throughout school and beyond.

The start of the new year and second semester is the perfect time to establish a new purpose personally, academically, or athletically. I am excited to hit the ground running on this new semester – using our past accomplishments to fuel our future endeavors.

As we celebrate School Board Appreciation Month, I would like

to thank our hardworking Board of Education for their tireless commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for all students. Under the leadership of newly elected BOE President Liz Pirnat and Vice President Barb Leszynski, this dedicated team will be essential in steering our school district toward its ambitious goals.

By now, all Westlake families should have received the "Behind the W 2022-2023 Quality Profile." This document displays our resources and services that contribute to a Westlake education and its overall impact on our community. Our students are fortunate to have purpose-driven community support organizations like the PTA Council, Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters, Westlake School Music Boosters, Westlake Alumni Association, and Westlake Educational Foundation that provide additional funding and opportunities beyond the district's traditionally funded programs.

During the upcoming months, I am thrilled to see what new heights our students, staff, and community members can reach. As they work toward their goals, embrace challenges, and strive for success with an optimistic mindset; it is invigorating to witness their passion and tenacity every day. Moreover, these ambitious pursuits lead to individual growth and benefit everyone around them! ●

LAKE ROAD WALKING TOUR

The '1810' Bay Village stone smokehouse

This is the first in a series of articles to be published as a walking tour of Lake Road by the Bay Village Historical Society in 2025.

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

This small, shake-roof structure is currently located just south of Rose Hill at 27715 Lake Road and is currently utilized by the Herb Guild. It was probably moved from 492 Bradley Road in 1973 when the c. 1872 Italianate Alfred Wolf home was torn down.

The Wolf home had been used as a city senior center until it was replaced by

Bay Lodge.

"Bay Village: A Way of Life" states: "The old stone smoke house standing behind the [Wolf] homestead house was used as a jail prior to Horace's [Wolf] becoming mayor. It was used to lock up prisoners until the Marshal could take them into the county jail."

A. Horace Wolf served as the second mayor of Bay Village, from 1910 to 1915. He had inherited the property at 492 Bradley Road after his father, Alfred, was robbed and murdered in 1896. While this utilitarian structure may predate 1872 it is highly unlikely that it was built in 1810 when the first settlers in Dover Township arrived. ●



PHOTO BY WILLIAM KRAUSE

The stone smokehouse now sits behind Rose Hill in Cahoon Memorial Park.

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THE MEDICAL INSIDER

New Alzheimer's drugs are not perfect, but...

by DIANA PI, M.D.

Many things go wrong in Alzheimer's dementia. It's the 50-car pileup on I-90 last month - ice, high winds, the decision to drive in bad weather. Today, we might have a cure for one of these conditions.

We have three treatment approaches.

1. Traditionally, we use drugs like donepezil, (brand name Aricept), rivastigmine (Exelon), memantine (Namenda), etc. They adjust chemicals that promote neuron communication. For some, they temporarily improve memory, thinking, behavior. Like taking ibuprofen during a cold, we may get relief from fever and aches, but the cold will run its course, regardless.

2. For behavioral issues, we use medications - antipsychotics, antidepressants, etc. - to help with sleeping, agitation, delusion.

3. New drugs. For the first time, we may be able to slow Alzheimer's progression.

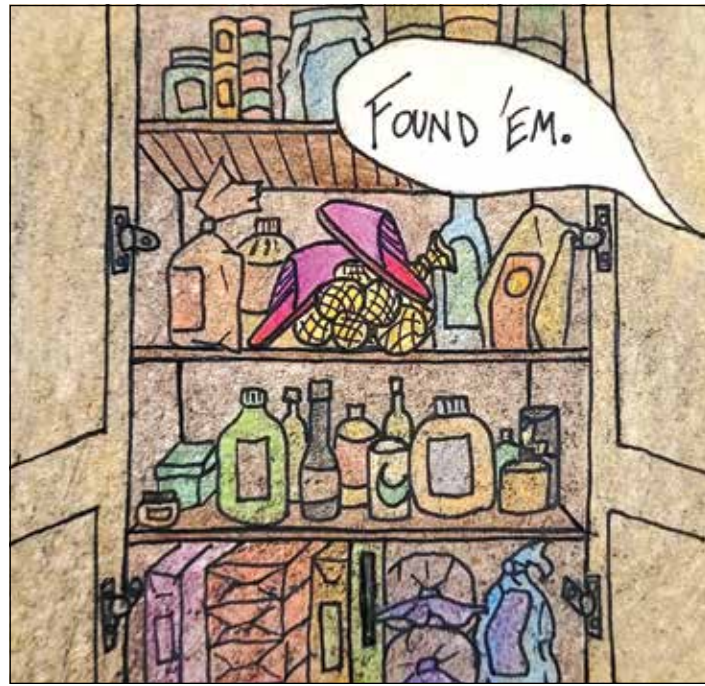
Amyloid is a natural occurring protein. When our brains make too much or fail to clear it, amyloid forms clumps in the brain. Neurons die.

The new drugs are antibodies that specifically target and remove amyloid - like a garbage collector.

In 2021, FDA approved aducanumab (Aduhelm), developed by Biogen (Cambridge, MA) and Eisai (Tokyo, Japan). It dramatically reduces amyloid clumps but doesn't demonstrably improve memory or reasoning.

Normally at this stage, experts would say: "Do more studies. We'll know more in 5 to 10 years." But the FDA's accelerated approval raised eyebrows - several FDA advisors quit in protest. An 18-month congressional investigation found the process "rife with irregularities."

Last December, the FDA approved a second drug by



CARTOON BY MEGAN STEWART

Biogen and Eisai, lecanemab (Leqembi). Based on a study of 1,800 people, lecanemab reduces amyloid clumps and improves cognition - albeit modestly.

First, let's ignore the price tags on these drugs (\$26,500 to \$28,000 per year) and look at the science.

Because the study only lasted 18 months, experts must estimate long-term benefits. Best case scenario: lecanemab might delay progression from mild/moderate to severe dementia by 2.5 years. It's progress but not a cure.

But they have some alarming side effects. I especially worry about brain swelling and bleeding.

During the study, test subjects developed temporary brain swelling (13%) and microbleeding (17%). But later, three subjects died of brain bleeding while taking blood thinners.

That's a problem. Blood thinners are used widely in heart diseases, strokes, and blood clots. Lecanemab now carries a black box warning about combining them. What bugs me more: Eisai has been less than forthcoming with

information.

The limited success of these antibodies reinforces an important lesson: Alzheimer's disease is a hodgepodge - heredity, injuries, lifestyle choices, heart diseases, depression, pollution, aging.

For example, many have significant amyloid clumps but don't have dementia. By age 70, a third of the population with normal cognition have amyloid clumps on scan. We have more question marks than periods.

But in the next few years, I expect to see more studies that can identify who - and when they - benefit from anti-amyloid drugs.

A funny thing. Days ago, I went wild looking for my fat and fluffy slippers. My husband found them on top of the onions in the cupboard. (I'm convinced he was a bloodhound in a previous life.) Me? I've got excuses.

For my fellow If-I-remember-where-I-saw-it-last-I-wouldn't-be-asking-you-ers, if I could offer one piece of brainy advice: *Get enough sleep.* During sleep, specialized brain cells clean up toxins and debris while happy neurons socialize and connect. It works. And it costs us - and Medicare - nothing. ●

WEF GRANTS

from front page

Mr. Adam Purdy, a Technology and Engineering teacher at Westlake High School, will use his \$27,120 grant to purchase a ShopBot CNC Cutter. This spindle cutting machine is used to cut materials like wood and plastic as part of the design and manufacturing process, and will be used in various classes, including Know Your Home (1 and 2), Computer Graphics, and Technical Drawing (Levels 1,2,3,4).

Purdy says, "Students using this industry-standard equipment will make real world connections in manufacturing while taking the design-to-build process to the next level. When prototypes and models are created, student designs will be cut to precise dimensions and specifications." Providing students this enhanced learning opportu-

nity expands their design skills, exposes them to different careers, and prepares them for the future of manufacturing and technology.

Mr. Kip Primrose, a Career Connections teacher at Lee Burneson Middle School, received a \$2,990 grant to purchase Ozobot kits to introduce students to programming by writing code. Primrose explained, "Students begin by using color combinations to move the Ozobot on a path from one location to another. This allows students to see how coding works by how the robot moves on the paper." The next step is drag-and-drop coding on Chromebooks. Throughout the process students get immediate feedback on whether their programming worked or not, and, if necessary, they then fix it to get it done correctly. Exposing middle school students to coding before they enter high school has the potential to spark an interest in taking programming

courses in high school and ultimately pursuing a STEM career.

The Westlake Educational Foundation, sanctioned by the Westlake City Schools Board of Education, was founded in 1987 as a community trust to meet the needs of education beyond the parameters of traditionally funded programs. The Foundation is an independent non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Enhancing educational opportunities and experiences of Westlake City Schools' students by offering grant opportunities is at the core of the Westlake Educational Foundation's mission. However, without adequate funding the Foundation cannot achieve its mission.

In partnership with Serpentine Chevrolet of Westlake, the Foundation is currently holding its third annual car raffle. A 2023 Chevy Malibu LS is the grand prize. Six additional prizes are being raffled, including a FOUNT Eloise

Tote bag donated by FOUNT at Crocker Park. Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters, Westlake Music Boosters, Westlake PTAs, and Westlake Alumni Association are also partnering with the Foundation and have donated additional prizes for the raffle.

The drawing will be held Jan. 31 during the Westlake High School boys varsity basketball game. Tickets are five for \$100 (or \$25 each) and available at the Foundation's website, www.wlake.org/about-us/westlake-educational-foundation, until Jan. 27 or can be purchased in-person at the Westlake Board of Education, formerly Hilliard Elementary School, at 24365 Hilliard Blvd. and at select Westlake High School athletic events until Jan. 27. Each ticket includes a Serpentine Chevrolet oil change coupon valued at \$20.

Supporters may also contribute directly to the Foundation at the above website. ●



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NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

Our drinking water & microplastics

by PAUL MOODY, JACOB ISAKOV,
THOMAS MALBASA and IAN BROIHIER

Our team, the Flocculators, did our STEM project this year on the chemistry of our drinking water. Studies have shown that Lake Erie microplastics, those tiny pieces of broken-up plastic debris, absorb pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and metals on their surface.

Fortunately, our source of drinking water from Lake Erie is far out in the lake and at a depth such that very few micro or nano plastics reach us.

To quote Scott Moegling, the Chief Water Quality Manager at Cleveland Water, "There is not much in the raw; very, very little in the finished water we drink. In fact, we have fewer microplastics than bottled water does."

That is because aluminum sulfate is used as a coagulant to gather the few plastic particles and sediment into clus-

ters that can be easily filtered out. But by removing one health hazard, is not another being introduced? Many health agencies now recommend minimizing aluminum intake; we no longer cook with aluminum pots and pans in our homes.

Our project was to find an effective plant-based coagulant that could replace aluminum sulfate. We focused on plants that have mucilage and sticky secretions, such as aloe, prickly pear cactus, candelabra cactus, chia seeds, and okra.

After soaking in distilled water overnight to remove the mucilage, the chia seeds gave the most promising results. The mucilage from only one gram of seeds was mixed with 1,500 ml of water containing microplastics. After passing through a screen, only 2.1% of the particles remained. Further filtration through sand resulted in no plastics being visible in the water sample when



Team Flocculators coagulate with mucilage from chia seeds.

viewed under a microscope.

While further experimentation needs to be done, using a natural plant-based coagulant proved feasible, removing the need for aluminum sulfate.

Our team, sponsored by Bay Sea Scouts, is entering our project in the eCyberMission STEM competition sponsored by the U.S. Army Education Outreach Program. ●

SPORTING VIEWS

Jimmy's cracked up, and I don't care

by JEFF BING

You're probably familiar with the old saying that "if life gives you lemons, you make lemonade." Well, life (as it relates to the NFL) gave us a lemon when they allowed Jimmy Haslam to buy the Browns, but I doubt that all the shaking, stirring, or even voodoo that Clevelanders can employ would exorcise the sour taste Haslam's ownership of the Browns has manifested.

Of course, maybe we should try to make bubble tea instead. With the maniacal ever-shifting "direction" that Haslam has used in his decade-plus leadership of the Browns, Jimmy being placed firmly atop the bubble is exactly where he belongs. (Now, if only I had a pea-shooter to make that bubble burst ... I mean, Jimmy burst our Super Bowl dreams quite some time ago, didn't he?)

I will be forever miffed at the relative lack of significant backlash to Jimmy ineptitude in running the Browns (and make no mistake: Jimmy's the guy who drives the milk truck which delivers the spoiled product to Browns fans on a yearly basis).

Jimmy Haslam is the toilet paper stuck to the bottom of the shoe known as Cleveland. And, unless you're at a Charmin convention, toilet paper on the shoe is typically not a welcome sight – and Jimmy Haslam shouldn't be, either.

Maybe it's simply that he's NOT Art Modell (but I thought enough time had passed to bury that emotion). Or maybe it's that he's NOT Randy Lerner, who was guilty of the unpardonable sin of caring more for his soccer team than the Browns. (Although, in Randy's defense, his dad was the guy who wrote Randy into the will, not Randy.) The last pos-

sibility is that Cleveland fans, who have put up with a litany of lousy professional sports owners, give Jimmy a ton of bonus points for trying while ever-hoping that someday Jimmy will get it right.

Unfortunately, the reality for Clevelanders is that we are stuck with Jimmy and Dee for, well, as long as they want us to be stuck with them – which, from where I sit – already borders on eternity.

So, if we acknowledge that Jimmy will be here for some time, what can he do to get out from under this mess that he calls a football team – assuming he won't sell the team out of frustration? Here goes:

First, he has to reclaim as much of the future (otherwise known as draft picks) as he can. One way to do this is trade Myles Garrett for picks.

Not too many people complain

about Garrett, which is surprising. Don't get me wrong: Garrett is a good to very good player. But he's not a No. 1 draft choice (you know, the kind of guy whose mere presence on the field makes the team better). The Browns are always looking for someone, they claim, to "complement" Garrett. Directly translated, it means the guy needs help to be at his best. Again, not what we'd hoped for or expected.

Eerily similar to Jimmy. ●

READER'S OPINION

Failures are opportunities

by COLLEEN HARDING

I was talking with someone the other day and asked, "What do you think the secret is to prepare kids for the world today?" We discussed everything and how things had changed from when we were kids. There was pressure back then to be something and to find a path to purpose. However, we didn't have the pressure or anxieties present today.

After much discussion and laughter, he said, "I let my kids see me fail." I was surprised by this response and questioned further. He said, "I let my kids know that everything doesn't always go perfectly, but you have to get back out there and keep going."

My friend has been very successful

in his life, and he recognizes how he got to where he is. Some of life's best lessons come in failures and how your respond to disappointments. You have to get up and get back out there! You have to look for the lesson and consider what to take away from the experience when you fail.

I used to have a boss that encouraged me to make mistakes and mess things up. I thought she was nuts, but looking back, she was so right. She said, mess up, I will fix it, but at least I will know you made an effort and took some risks. She didn't want me playing it safe and just doing what I knew. She wanted me to learn, grow and thrive, but with these tasks, there would be an occasional mistake.

She wanted me to push myself to see if I was capable. She also wanted to

see how I would respond when I failed. That's when you know who a person is. Shannon is still, to this day, my favorite boss.

It's hard to let our kids fail. It crushes us, and we want to fix things. We moms or mama bears tend to want to protect our kids. We measure how good we are based on how well we fix things and protect our children. Sometimes it is not a good thing.

With life come failures. We don't get relationships, job opportunities or promotions or homes, etc. Life comes with disappointments and losses, but each time one arrives, it's an opportunity to heal and get stronger.

Teaching our kids how to handle failure and showing them that disappointments are inevitable are great life lessons. After all, successful people will tell you their journey was not without ups and down. Yes, the ups feel the best, but the life lessons are found in the downs. ●

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THE GREEN REPORT

More plastic in the ocean than fish

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

There is more plastic in the ocean than fish. Yes, you read that correctly. By the year 2050, it is estimated that there will be more waste plastic (by weight) in the ocean than fish. As of 2021, there are at least 363,762,732,605 pounds of plastic pollution in the world's oceans.

Worldwide, every minute of every day, one refuse truck's worth of waste plastic is dumped into the sea. With an estimated 3% of all the plastic produced worldwide ending up in the ocean, this is arguably the number one environmental catastrophe facing our world today for many reasons.

The oceans are made up of five gyres. A gyre is network of currents that creates slow, rotating whirlpools. Plastics that end up in the ocean become caught in the gyres, creating what are known as "garbage patches." You may have heard of the

A fish eating a plastic straw and a bag in the ocean. Microplastics pollute the sea and can contaminate seafood.

"Great Pacific Garbage Patch," which is estimated to be approximately twice the size of the continental U.S. However, not all garbage patches are visible to the eye. Water and sunlight break down plastic in the ocean into tiny particles. Make no mistake – the plastic never goes away, it just gets smaller and smaller.

Plastic in the ocean is a threat to sea life, as fish, turtles, and other marine life mistake plastic for food. Plastic particles also absorb toxins in the water like a sponge. One plastic particle in the ocean can be more than one million times more toxic than the water around it. When these particles are eaten by fish, the toxins make their way into the human food chain.

Over 1 million marine organisms are killed each year due to plastic pollution, and animals that eat plastic often starve because the plastic prevents them from swallowing food properly.

Currently, plastic production accounts for about 5% of all oil production. Within 35 years, it is estimated that new plastic production will consume 20% of all oil production worldwide. Currently, only about 5% of plastic is recycled effectively: about 40% goes into landfills, and the rest is found in the ecosystem, mainly our waterways such as oceans and lakes (yes, Lake Erie has lots of plastic in it). Because of the world's demand for more and more single use plastics, it is estimated that if we continue "as is," plastic production is expected to double in the next 20 years and quadruple by 2050.

Whew, that's a lot of bad news! What can you do as an individual to help this problem? You can start to phase out single-use plastics in your life. As I've said before in this column, bring your own travel coffee cup to fill at coffee shops, and bring your own bags to the grocery store.

Choose cans of soda instead of plastic bottles. Refuse plastic straws every chance you get. Don't buy water in plastic. Bring your own, refillable water bottle with you so you don't end up purchasing one. (This also saves you money!) Buy some reusable produce bags to use at the grocery store instead of plastic.

To be even more proactive, look around your home at your plastic use. Can you switch out your plastic soap dispensers for bars of soap? Instead of using plastic bags and baggies to store food, try reusable containers. Glass jars work well for this, so start saving them when you finish a jar of jam or something else.

When you see plastic on the street, pick it up! If you don't, it will most likely make its way into Lake Erie. Think about everything disposable you are using, and I bet it's made of plastic. Each of our collective actions add up to a much bigger effect, so yes, you CAN make a difference.

Now you also may be saying to yourself: "but something more must be done, this responsibility can't lie only on us, the consumers. What about the companies producing all of this plastic and not taking responsibility for it later?" Why, that's a really great question, and yes, you can be a part of this solution as well.

Natural gas and oil companies have tax subsidies that incentivize them to produce more and more plastic. Fossil fuel subsidies MUST stop, and we need to use legislation to put an end to single use plastics. We need to hold companies responsible for cleaning up the waste they create.

This problem is not "ours" as consumers. We have been led to believe that it IS our problem, that we can solve it by recycling. Avoiding single use plastics in our individual lives absolutely has a place, and recycling is also important – but these actions will not solve the plastics problem. What can you do? Let your local, state, and national representatives know your concern. Call and email them. Send them letters. This is not a problem we will be able to ever recycle our way out of. ●



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HISTORY

Passenger ships on the Great Lakes

by GEORGE RYAN

Some of the first immigrants to the Great Lakes were Irish men who came without families. They built railroads and canals, and they sent for their families once they earned enough money. Scandinavians came with families to settle and purchase land. Others came to work the copper mines and for lumber companies.

Immigrants entering the Great Lakes via Canada landed at Quebec or Montreal. Many immigrants came by canal boats. The American route through New York City and the Erie canal would take them to Oswego, Rochester or Buffalo where they would book passage on a ship west.

By the 1840s settlement was along the shores of the Great Lakes except for Lake Superior where west of the Sault they still had primarily trading posts. After copper and iron ore were discovered, more immigrants from Europe moved to Canada and America in droves, as political upheaval or crop failures occurred throughout Europe.

There were famous passengers who sailed on Great Lakes ships. Charles Dickens crossed the Atlantic in Cunard's ship the SS Britannia, and sailed on the Great Lakes on the SS Constitution. When Dickens sailed on the paddle wheeler Britannia, he was always sea sick.

Mark Twain sailed on the SS North Land bound for Mackinac Island and Duluth. Thomas Alva Edison sailed on the SS Ruby. Ernest Hemingway was often a passenger on Great Lakes steamers. In 1959 Queen Elizabeth II and President Eisenhower were

together to celebrate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Before the building of the canals around the Lachine Rapids in the St. Lawrence River, about 1820, passenger and freight ships could "shoot the rapids"! That made for an exciting passage! The first person to design a ship capable of shooting the rapids was shipbuilder and carpenter John McQuade from Ireland who settled in Kingston, Ontario, with his family.

A tidbit of early history about a passenger ship was in 1864 when Confederate raiders seized the Philo Parsons and the Island Queen to attempt to rescue Confederate prisoners on Johnson's Island.

The whaleback Christopher Columbus was built in 1892 for the World's Columbian Exposition, a World's Fair. She could carry 5,000 passengers. A whaleback was a type of cargo steamship of unusual design, with a hull that continuously curved above the waterline from vertical to horizontal. When fully loaded, only the rounded portion of the hull of the "whaleback" could be seen above the waterline. With sides curved in towards the ends, it had a spoon bow and a very convex upper deck.

The zenith of the Great Lakes passenger ship era was the 1850s to the 1950s. In Detroit, Michigan, in 1905, eight million passengers crossed Detroit docks. The ships carried freight as well as passengers.

The largest of the ships were the Greater Detroit and Greater Buffalo. They were 550

feet long and had 1,500 berths. The City of Cleveland III was built in 1907 and was an overnight sidewheeler between Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. It had magnificent murals, common rooms and accommodations.

The SS Aquarama, previously the Marine Star, became a WWII troop ship for the U.S. Navy. It had made only one trip across the Atlantic before hostilities ceased.

The Greater Buffalo, an aircraft carrier, was renamed the USS Sable; together with the Wolverine, they helped train 17,820 pilots in 116,000 carrier landings. One of the pilots

who qualified on Sable was the 20-year-old Lt.(jg) future President George H.W. Bush in 1944.

Unfortunately, there were too many disasters on the Great Lakes. Six ships had fatalities, about 4,900 people died in seven disasters.

One of the worst was when The Eastland, based in Chicago and used for tours as well as passengers, rolled over alongside the dock when the passengers all moved to one side, unweighting the opposite side. About 848 passengers and crew were killed in what was the largest loss of life from a single shipwreck on the Great Lakes.

After the Eastland was salvaged, it was sold to the US Navy. Following restorations and modifications, the Eastland was designated a gunboat and

renamed USS Wilmette.

The era of the passenger ship ended for several reasons. These include the depression of the 1930s, ease of railroad travel, popularity of the automobile, and the desire of many to travel by aircraft. Fortunately, today there are new opportunities for people to see the lakes for short trips on small excursion boats from several Great Lakes cities. In Cleveland it is on board the Goodtime III.

In conclusion, for those fortunate to have the money and time to travel, there will be several ships and companies from which they can choose. In 2023 there will be several passenger ships on the Great Lakes. They are Viking expeditions, Hapag Lloyd cruises, Pearl Seas cruises, and several others. ●

BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

Kindergarten registration underway

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

If you live in Bay Village and have a student attending Kindergarten next fall, please plan to attend Normandy Elementary School's Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Normandy Cafeteria. Members of the Class of 2036 must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1.

At the Information Night, the Kindergarten registration procedure will be reviewed, and an overview of Kindergarten and Kindergarten readiness will be provided, as well as information regarding daycare, speech therapy, early entrance, transportation and volunteer opportunities. For those who cannot attend the meeting, the event will be recorded and the link will be shared, however, you are encouraged to attend in-person, if possible.

If you would like to get a jumpstart on Kindergarten registration, you can view that information via bit.ly/NormKinderReg23-24 or via the district's website..

Located at 26920 Normandy Road, Normandy is Bay Village City School District's grades K-2 building, 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 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.

For more information, visit www.bayk12.org or call Normandy at 440-617-7350. ●



Kindergarten students in front of Normandy Elementary School.

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Learn the history of the American Ship Building Company

by CYNTHIA EAKIN

Learn the history of the American Ship Building Company of Lorain, presented by local historian Matthew Weisman at the Feb. 16 Bay Village Historical Society potluck and program. Weisman will discuss the early formation of the company and its connection to the Steinbrenner family.

The Thursday, Feb. 16, presentation, held at the Bay Lodge on Bradley Road, begins with a social at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

and program at 7 p.m.

The main dish will be provided by the historical society. Attendees with last names beginning with A through J should bring an appetizer or dessert for 10 to share. Those with last names beginning with K through Z should bring a side dish. All attendees should bring their own place setting and beverage. Alcohol is permitted at the lodge. There will be a \$10 charge at the door for non-members of the historical society. RSVP by Feb. 9 to htramba@sbcglobal.net or call 440-537-1581. ●

Bay band director recognized in national magazine

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

Bay Village Schools Band Director Darren Allen has been selected as one of SBO+ (School Band Orchestra) Magazine's 23rd Annual "50 Directors Who Make a Difference." Allen was nominated and recognized for his work in making a difference every day for Bay Village Schools students.

Allen is one of only 50 music directors nationwide – and the only one in Ohio – to receive this distinction. He said he is humbled to represent the

state of Ohio, especially "when there are so many great music educators in the state."

He has been with the Bay Village City School District for about 18 years, and travels between the middle and high schools. Darren also directs the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, in which many Bay High and Westshore students participate. ●



Darren Allen

Romantic comedy continues Clague Playhouse's 95th season



PHOTO BY TERRY SCHORDOCK

Anne McEvoy as Eleanor Bannister and Molly Cornwell as Grace Bodell.

by KIMBERLY MITSCHKE

Clague Playhouse presents the romantic comedy "Fireflies" by Matthew Barber, from the novel "Eleanor and Abel" by Annette Sanford, to continue their 95th season.

Retired schoolteacher Eleanor Bannister lives a quiet life alone in tiny Groverdell, Texas, set in her routines and secure in her position as the town's most respected woman - until a hole in her roof draws the attention of Abel Brown, a smooth-talking drifter intent on renovating Eleanor's house, and possibly her life. Can the unexpected sparks of late-life romance be trusted, or is there truth in the gossip that Abel isn't all that he seems to be? Either way, the whole town's talking.

Directed by Fred Sternfeld, our cast features Molly Cornwell as Grace Bodell, Jeremy

Jenkins as Eugene Claymire, Joseph Kerata as Abel Brown, and Anne McEvoy as Eleanor Bannister.

The play runs Friday, Jan. 20, through Sunday, Feb. 12, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Admission is \$21 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60+), and \$13 for students (any age with a valid ID) and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 440-331-0403 Wednesday through Saturday from 1-6 p.m. or visiting www.clagueplayhouse.org. 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 to reserve for any Clague Playhouse Thursday performance, and showing a student ID at the time of ticket pickup. ●

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Saturday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

HOLISTIC FAIR

Shop holistic, metaphysical, and spiritual vendors, visit healers and physic readers, attend activities and workshops. \$5 admission. For details, visit www.harmonicjourneys.net/holistic-fair-showcase. West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

BAY VILLAGE GREEN TEAM MEETING

Please join us for a quarterly Green Team meeting. We will share updates on some current projects and brainstorm future initiatives. All are welcome to join! Bay Village Police Station Community Room, 28000 Wolf Rd.

Monday, Jan. 30, 6-7:30 p.m.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER'S SEMINAR

Local real estate professional Julee Alexy and industry experts will share with you all you need to know from pre-approvals to closings. You will hear about available lender programs to fit your needs, home insurance and what it covers, what the purpose of a home

inspection is, how appraisals are an important part of the process and much more. All attendees will be registered to win a free appraisal fee. Text 440-667-5097 to register.

Bay Village Library, 27400 Wolf Rd.

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