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# WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE Observer

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## Bay Village to hold town hall meeting March 31

by Council President Paul Koomar

On Monday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m., the City of Bay Village will be holding a town hall meeting at the Dwyer Memorial Center, 300 Bryson Lane. The goal of the town hall meeting is to inform residents on issues and 2014 projects in our town.

Sewers, rates and Bay Village's portion of increasing costs associated with the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant will be a main topic of the evening. Bay Village service director Scott Thomas and Bob Greytak of CT Consultants, consulting engineer for Bay Village, will be present to provide an overview of the plant and answer questions from the public.



The format of the town hall meeting will be similar to the weekly council meeting structure and will include updates from the administration and council as well as comments from the audience.

All city council meetings are open to the public and are held on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in city hall. There is an audience portion for comments from residents on agenda items or any other issue that is important to them.

My sincere hope is that we see some new faces at city hall on Monday evenings. You are always welcome. Another way to stay involved is to access the city's website, [cityofbay-village.com](http://cityofbay-village.com). Agendas for upcoming council and committee meetings, minutes from past meetings and other pertinent documents are posted on the website under City Government, then click on City Council.

I look forward to seeing you on March 31. ◆

## WHS prom assembly promotes safety, shows styles



Westlake High senior girls are stunning in the latest gowns at the March 14 prom assembly. More photos, page 6

## WESTLAKE STATE OF THE CITY

## Development, tax base growth keeps Westlake rolling

by TARA WENDELL

For the 29th year, members of the local business community reserved their lunch hour to listen as Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough shared updates on the city's operations over the past 12 months. Always one of the most well-attended luncheons put on by the West Shore Chamber of Commerce, Clough's annual State of the City address on March 12 offered highlights of the activities of Westlake's various departments and an overview of its financials.

Last year the city's building department issued residential and commercial construction permits with a total value of nearly \$100 million. The planning department approved more than 63,000 square feet of residential and commercial development, more than half of which was for the automotive sector.

The Westlake Fire Department responded to 4,300 calls for service; the police department had 31,000 calls for service and made 4,800 arrests.

» See WESTLAKE page 9

## Westlake Porter Public Library honors top volunteer

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake resident Karen Alfred received the Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award from Westlake Porter Public Library during a March 9 event honoring the library's 241 volunteers.

Alfred served as a library board member for 16 years, recently completed two years as the president of the board of the Friends of Porter Public Library, and was the chair of the library's 2013 levy

campaign, which resulted in a 70 percent passage rate – the highest in library history.

In her post with the Friends of Porter Public Library, Alfred initiated an open house “meet-and-greet” in an effort to recruit new members, and helped with the organization's many events, such as the ice cream social and the annual book sale. She is an enthusiastic and tireless advocate of the library.

The Myrna Chelko Award is given annually to the library volunteer who exhibits the spirit of volunteerism and service to the library embodied by the late Myrna Chelko. Chelko was a member of the board of trust-

ees from 1977 to 1993, serving as secretary and vice president. She helped found the Porter Library Foundation and the Friends of Porter Public Library, for which she served as secretary for the first two years.

The library's volunteers donated 11,060 hours of time in 2013, doing tasks as varied as shelving materials, staffing the reception desk, running Portables and the Book Nook, and serving on the Teen Advisory Board and the board of trustees. Their time and efforts enable the library to provide services and programs it wouldn't be able to offer without them. ◆



## Bay High students raise \$20,000 for cancer research, get teacher to shave off longtime ponytail



PHOTO BY KAREN DERBY

Jim Sgro of the Village Barber shop grabs hold of art instructor Thomas Schemrich's ponytail as he shaves it off.

by KAREN DERBY

Bay High students have raised \$20,000, doubling their ambitious one-week goal of \$10,000, to help fund promising cures for childhood cancer through St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Contributions were collected in just one week (which included a snow day with no school) through cash, checks and online donations, and a top motivator was the promise of art instructor Thomas Schemrich to shave off his longtime ponytail hairstyle, which he says he has worn almost always since he was 15 years old.

Bay High's Youth Philanthropy Fellowship (YPF), along with Bay High's Student Council and Key Club, sponsored the fundraiser. The following students participated in the event by also having their heads shaved: Nick Best, Michael Clark, Tim Garner, Molly Harkness, Jared Hengst, Elyse Legeay, Andrew Majercek, Jack Rodman and Andrew Taylor.

» See FUNDRAISER page 6



PHOTO BY ELAINE WILLIS

Karen Alfred received the Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award from Westlake Porter Public Library at a March 9 ceremony.



RELAY FOR LIFE

# Relay for Life of Westshore welcomes Avon, Avon Lake

by AMY BREDIGER

Big news around town! Avon and Avon Lake have joined Westlake and Bay Village to complete the Relay for Life of Westshore. I was thrilled when Bay Village joined and now I am overwhelmed with the new addition of Avon and Avon Lake. I see a future of a more profitable Relay that will bring in more donations to help find a cure for cancer. It's a tremendous opportunity and we look forward to it!

We have come up with this year's theme: movies. It is a fun way to celebrate both new and old favorites. It is first-come, first-pick for your movie choice so sign your team up now to get your first pick. We already have five teams and are looking for several more. You can sign up your team today at [relayforlife.org/westlake](http://relayforlife.org/westlake).

It is great to see the high school kids back in action with the Relay. Not only do they bring fresh ideas, but they also bring excitement that some of us old-timers love to see. What a great group of kids we have had at our meetings – we are looking forward to getting to know them and hopefully seeing more students from these four cities come together for a common cause. Maybe even a bit of light competition? (Just for fun, of course.)

Fundraisers are starting to roll in. A bowling fundraiser is set up for May 18 at Mahall's in Lakewood. For more info please visit our website. It should be a great time. Make sure to keep checking our website for other fundraisers and additional information. We always have new and fun things going on.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 10, at the Westlake Rec Center at 6 p.m. We have seen a lot of new faces but would love to have many more people join us in the fight. Please attend this meeting to learn more about the cause and the Relay. Once again, the Relay is May 31-June 1 at Westlake High School. It is going to be a wonderful event.

We are also in search of more sponsorships from our local companies. We have many different levels to choose from. Please call me at 440-666-0662 for more information.

Spring is right around the corner and it reminds me of my dad getting his equipment ready to start a new season with his landscaping business. Along with that feeling comes sadness because I miss him, but also the season's promise of starting anew and making a difference; making things better and happier. Relay is my way of trying to make things better, to make cancer patients happier ... just like my dad did with new beautiful flowers and fresh-cut lawn. ●

# Rotary recognizes 15 outstanding West Shore Career-Tech students

by LYNN DONALDSON

West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Award recipients were honored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River at its March 10 luncheon at the Don Umerley Civic Center.

The 15 students, top performers in their Career-Technical programs, were chosen for their exemplary accomplishments in the classroom, school activities, clubs, athletics and service in the community. Each student exemplifies traits of leadership, dedication, responsibility, caring, community involvement and initiative.

"These West Shore students have achieved top results in the classroom and workplace," remarked Linda Thayer, West Shore Career-Technical District educational coordinator. "They have already started on their career path earning college credit, industry credentials and workplace experience through their West Shore experience. This sets them apart from their peers as they head out into the post-secondary and workplace world."

# Westlake community garden opening soon

The St. John Medical Center/City of Westlake Community Garden will be opening this spring! The garden will be located on the property of St. John Medical Center. Initially, there will be a limited number of gardening plots available to Westlake residents. For more information, contact Madeline Crandall at 440-899-3544 or [mcrandall@cityofwestlake.org](mailto:mcrandall@cityofwestlake.org).

WESTLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Society celebrates Women's History Month with upcoming visit

by LYSA STANTON

The Westlake Historical Society does not just concern themselves with only Westlake history, although it is our favorite! We enjoy visiting other historical places throughout the area, as well as the state. Each year, we plan at least four historically oriented field trips. We believe it is important to introduce many of the fascinating sites that are practically in our backyard.

Some of the interesting places we have already visited include the presidential homes of Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield and William H. Taft. The Ohio Historical Society has a large indoor museum as well as an outdoor village that is sure to offer something for everyone.

In addition to many other great attractions, The Palace Theater in downtown Cleveland runs a series of retro movies in the summer that are available for a small admission. If you have not seen the restored Palace lately, I hope you make time to see this historical treasure.

Touring famous cemeteries like Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery is also a fascinating way to spend some time and learn about those who came before us. Some of the famous people buried at Lake View include James Garfield (20th U.S. president), Edwin C. Higbee (founder of Higbee's department stores), Eliot Ness (famous detective), and Al Lerner (former Browns owner).

Since March is designated as Women's History Month, the Westlake Historical Society has arranged a group tour of the International Women's Air & Space Museum located at Burke Lakefront Airport. The tour is open to members, friends and guests. The tour will take place on Saturday, March 29. The group will meet at the Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Road, Westlake, at 9:45 a.m. and carpool to the museum. The tour begins at 11 a.m. and there is no charge for this outing. ●

Parents, employers, work supervisors and guests were among those in attendance. According to Rotarian Nancy Ralls, West Shore Career-Technical District career development coordinator, this is the 17th year the club has honored the Outstanding Student Award winners.

The Rotary club will present each student with a gift card and a plaque to honor their achievements at West Shore's annual Career Passport and Student Recognition Assembly on May 20. Each award recipient is automatically nominated to receive the "Career-Technical Student of the Year Award" which will be announced at the assembly.

West Shore districts are Bay Village, Westlake, Lakewood and Rocky River. This year West Shore is serving 510 students in its workforce development programs.

The 2013-14 Outstanding Student Award recipients are: Zachary Kulina, automotive technology; Neelab Abdullah, biotechnology; Dobrica Sucevic, business management; Miles Scavone, community-based training at Bonne Bell; Billal Yassen, community-based training at Rae Ann; Emmett O'Donnell, construction trades; Sahana Petras, culinary arts; Jessica Graber, early childhood education; Kyle Kasper, electronic technology; Molli Thach, health careers technology; Alexander Sierputowski, interactive media; Angel Dickson, medical office management; Matthew Kerrigan, networking/Cisco; Steven Cross, Project Lead the Way; and Sherine Doleh, service occupations training. ●



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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 citizen participation of 600+ community volunteers.

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

Observer Guidelines

Want to submit an article to the Observer? We'd love to hear from you! Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when writing for the Observer:

- Anyone who lives or works in Westlake or Bay Village is encouraged to contribute.
- Aim for 300-500 word articles.
- Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes in size.
- Submit original stories and photos. Don't copy others' work and remember to credit your sources.
- Review our Observer FAQs on our website at: [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com)
- Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process. Staff contact information is listed below.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at [wbvobserver.com/members](http://wbvobserver.com/members) to submit your stories, photos and events. All content should be submitted through the Member Center, not by email.

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

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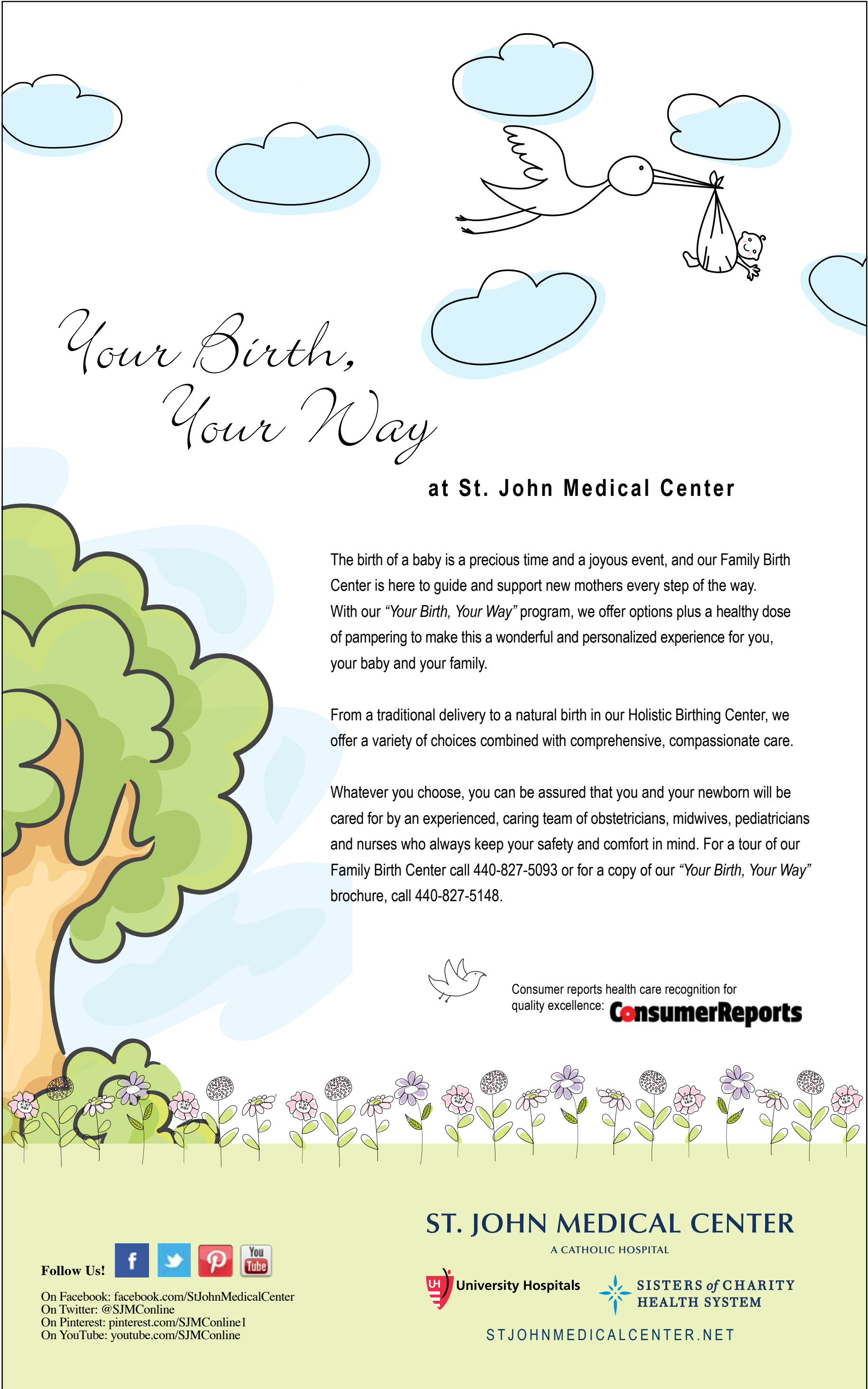
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# Green & White Revue

The 29th annual Green & White Revue showcased the student talent of 34 acts before sold-out audiences on March 15 and 16 at the Westlake Performing Arts Center. We wish we had the space to print photos of every performer, but all of the acts can be viewed on the Observer website at: [wbvobserver.com/photoblogs](http://wbvobserver.com/photoblogs).



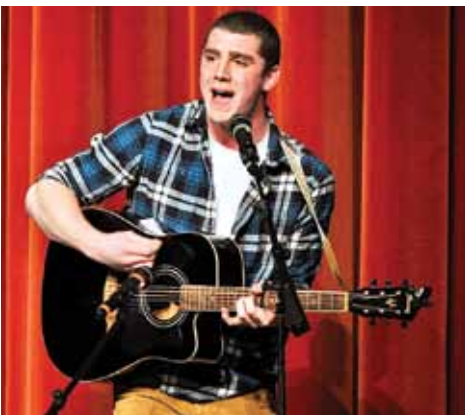
Ceremony masters Allyson Pesta, Evie Kennedy and Joe Knurek perform a skit.



Taylor Manway, Evie Kennedy, Sydney Bell, Caroline Kane and Nikki Radish perform "Wings."



Sagan Woolner plays piano.



Kevin Waitrovich plays "The Wild Hunt."



Jane Discenzo and Stephanie Nivellini perform a vocal duet.



Samantha Surber sings "Love is Blindness."



Westlake High students perform "Ring the Alarm."



The WHS senior guys do a dance skit.



Girls from LBMS, Parkside, St. Bernadette, St. Paul and surrounding districts perform a dance number.



The WHS Debonaires twirl their flags.

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**GREEN SCENE**

# Protect your children and pets through organic lawn care

by **BRENDA O'REILLY**

**W**ith the arrival of spring expected any day now, our lawns will need some attention. This is a great time of year to plan for an organic lawn solution. Pesticides and other lawn chemicals are more toxic than most people realize.

Beyond Pesticides is a nonprofit organization that works with organizations including cities, counties and schools to lead the transition to a world which is free of toxic pesticides. This is needed to protect the public health and the environment.

According to Barry Zucker, executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, many of the commonly used lawn pesticides and other chemicals are linked to serious health problems such as cancer, birth defects, liver or kidney damage, neurotoxicity, and/or disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system. Children are particularly susceptible to these toxins because they are growing rapidly and have a decreased ability to detoxify toxins.

A growing body of evidence shows that pesticide exposure can adversely affect a child's neurological, respiratory, immune and endocrine systems, even at low levels. When used on a lawn or playing field, these toxins can leach into drinking water sources and are frequently detected in ground water.

So what should you do if you'd like to transition to an organic lawn? This is a great time of year to begin planning the change. Fortunately, there are proven safe, effective and affordable ways to maintain attractive lawns and playable fields without the use of toxic pesticides and other chemicals.

Dan Norris, a Certified Turfgrass Professional with Good Nature Organic Lawn Care, recommends testing your soil to see what kind of nutrients are needed. Per Norris, it is also important to have good competitive grass types for your lawn conditions, whether it's shady or sunny. Over-seeding with a tall fescue is recommended.

In spring, Norris suggests using a fertilizer with a natural pre-emergent corn gluten meal. This will naturally fertilize your lawn and help to prevent crabgrass and other weeds.

Fall or late summer is a good time to apply an organic compost material to the lawn. The cities of Bay Village and Westlake share a compost facility on Ranney Parkway, where all leaves and brush picked up by city crews are composted into leaf humus or shredded into wood chips. Bay residents may purchase the leaf humus and wood chips by calling the Bay Service Garage at 440-871-1221. Westlake residents must first



PHOTO BY DAVE RENNEHAUSEN

**The Westlake-Bay yard waste recycling facility on Ranney Parkway turns leaves and brush into organic leaf humus and wood chips, available for sale to residents.**

purchase a receipt for material at City Hall, 27700 Hilliard Blvd. Leaf humus is a great thing to spread on the lawn to increase the organic matter and retain moisture.

It is important to make sure there is enough oxygen for the grass roots. This can be accomplished by aerating one to two times per year. Per Norris, you can aerate with either a liquid aeration or use core aeration to get more oxygen to the roots of the grass.

One of the most important things you can do, according to Norris, is to make sure to mow your grass high. Mowing high promotes more root growth. The taller the grass, the deeper the root, for a naturally healthier lawn. Tall grass also shades out other weeds and helps prevent them from germinating. The grass blades should be at least 3-4 inches long during the mowing season. You should also mulch your clippings. Many people feel that if you don't bag your clippings it will cause thatch – this is not the case but it is a common misconception. The last mowing of the year can be lower to reduce the possibility of snow mold. Mower blades should be kept sharpened to lessen likelihood of disease problems.

So, what are some of the newer trends? Norris observes that some homeowners over-seed their lawn with a micro clover to add a natural nitrogen fertilizer to the soil. The micro clover also stays green throughout the summer, needs minimal watering, and serves to discourage other broadleaf weeds from germinating.

Organic lawn care can cost a bit more initially, but usually saves costs over time since a healthy lawn will thrive naturally and needs less care. And, you can sleep well at night with the knowledge that your children and pets are not being exposed to potentially toxic chemicals when they play on the lawn. What price are you willing to pay for that? ●

**FAITH & SPIRITUALITY**

# Fire and spring

by **SHARON FEDOR**

**A**re you, by chance, feeling anything like I am about the snow, the cold and the ice? Want to throw your hands up in the air and say enough already?

Perhaps we should call on the Wicked Witch of the West from the land of Oz, and revive her line of menace, but turn it around for good – “How about a little fire, Scarecrow?”

The properties, characteristics and legends of fire are fascinating! Fire is commonly associated with the qualities of energy, assertion and passion. There are three astrological signs associated with fire – Aries, Leo and Sagittarius. In the practice of alchemy, fire is the prime method of conversion, it is the great transformer. Everything that fire touches is changed, rearranged. In one Greek myth, Prometheus stole fire from the gods to protect helpless humans. Yet today, humans have learned to harness fire and use it for good.

Tired of the same old same old on Friday nights? If the bar and club scene has lost its appeal, try a Friday night fire circle. Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake offers a Friday Fire Circle that includes prayer, meditation and reflection. It runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in Unity Hall, every Friday. Bring a journal to record your experience. Releasing the unwanted through the cleansing properties of fire can feel exhilarating.

Anxious for spring? In the U.S., the first day of spring is when the sun crosses the celestial equator moving northward, usually March 21. This celestial movement is known as the Vernal Equinox, and day and night are approximately 12 hours each. Equinox comes from Latin, meaning equal nights.

Come celebrate and honor the changing seasons, and the changes happening inside of ourselves, in a Spring Equinox Ceremony, Potluck and Drumming gathering with Corky Larsen and Barb Clugh of Inner Harmony. There will be a Native American-style ceremony around fire to recognize its power, along with prayers, chants and drumming.

Drum circles are one of the fastest growing holistic health activities gaining popularity in this country. They allow for self expression, sharing and a sense of worthy contribution. The best part about it is you don't really have to be good at it, you can just listen to the beat with an open heart.

Bring your own drum, rattles or rain sticks. Bring a dish to share. Families are welcome. Slow down and become aware of the changes happening all around us: outside, inside, in the air, the water, the earth, the fire.

This celebration of change starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at Unity Spiritual Center of Westlake, 23855 Detroit Road. A love offering is suggested. Need more info? Go to [www.unityspiritualcenter.com](http://www.unityspiritualcenter.com). ●

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## FUNDRAISER

from front page

Staff members being head-shaved included teachers Joe Cheney, Billy Judge, Jared Shetzer, Scott Stelter and the school's principal and YPF adviser, Jason Martin.

The Village Barbershop in Bay Village supplied two barbers to do the work, and hairstylist Regina Warblock and an assistant cut the girls' hair, which will be donated to Locks of Love for cancer patients.

"Virtually all the fundraising was done by the students," said Principal Martin. "We had a couple side raffles for staff and parents which contributed some funds, but the overwhelming majority of the money comes directly from donations." He says he believes this was the most funds raised in one week in the history of the school.

The head shaving took place in the Bay High



Raucous students cheer on those having their heads shaved on March 14 in the Bay High West Gym.

West Gymnasium Friday afternoon, March 14, after the assembled students honored two-time Bay High state swimming champion, Trevor Lake, and the rest of the Bay High swim team. Teams from all the winter sports were also introduced and cheered for their achievements.

"Never forget you can make a difference," Martin told the student body. "And never forget the power of an idea. This whole event started when Emmy Korte, a senior, stopped by and said she had an idea for a spirit week that she thought would be a good fundraiser. Then Will Huntington and Kyle McPhillips said, 'We think Bay High School should become involved with St. Baldrick's.'"

Martin pointed out that all the stu-

dents who came forward to have their head shaved were demonstrating the courage to commit to something they are passionate about. "And Mr. Schemrich's challenge made us think bigger and stretch. If we hadn't done this, we would have fallen short of our full potential and the great difference we really could make."

He wrapped up Bay High's Spirit Week by adding, "Never underestimate the power, strength and beauty of a community coming together for one cause. This year we have adopted the 'One Rocket Nation' motto. This motto represents our pride, spirit and unity. All of these came together this week, and the end result was amazing!"



Posing with a \$20,000 check for the St. Baldrick's Foundation are l-to-r: Bay High student Kyle McPhillips, art teacher Tom Schemrich, students Will Huntington and Emmy Korte, and principal Jason Martin.



Bay High junior Tim Garner takes his turn in the barber's chair, and then reacts to his smooth, freshly shaved head.

## Getting ready for the prom

by LISA MURTHY

On March 14, Westlake High School hosted its annual Prom Assembly for the graduating seniors. The purpose of this event is to promote safe driving and responsible behavior during the many activities that take place during prom and graduation season. Principal Timothy Freeman, Westlake police officer Scott Fortkamp and members of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) addressed the class.

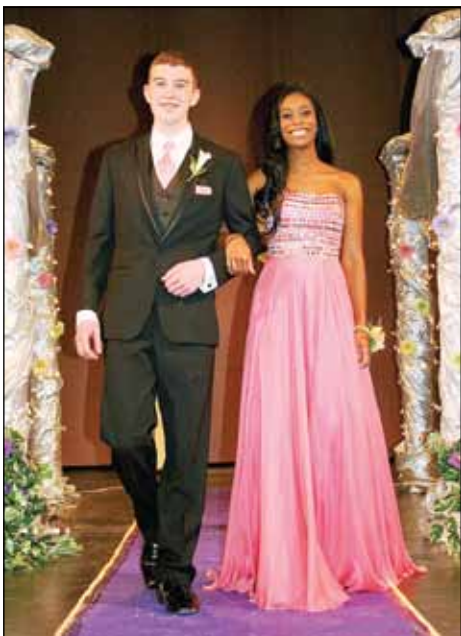
A fashion show featuring student models followed. For the first time in this event's history, Mr. Jim Egan and Mrs. Melissa Crist (educators

at the high school) modeled as well. Mademoiselle Trendy Apparel and Accessories provided a beautiful array of evening gowns from the designers Giovanni and Sherri Hill. American Commodore Tuxedo provided the tuxes and shoes for the male models. Silver Fox Florist donated the trendy floral corsages and boutonnieres to accent the apparel. Stylists from Bella Capelli Sanctuario and Charles Scott Salon and Spa applied make-up and styled the models' hair. Giant Eagle provided a breakfast for the models, committee members and stylists.

This great event is sponsored by the Westlake High School PTSA.



WHS senior girls model the latest fashions during the prom assembly.



Brian Anstead and Sierra Snow walk down the runway.



Special education assistant Mr. Jim Egan and biology teacher Mrs. Melissa Crist make history as the first educators to ever walk the runway at the WHS prom assembly.



WHS senior boys mug for the camera in their stylish prom apparel during the March 14 prom assembly at Westlake High School.

PHOTOS BY CAROL MAAT



# Report: Bay Village Planning Commission Meeting, March 5, 2014

by LWV OBSERVER CONDA BOYD

*This report, which contains observations and selected highlights, is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Official minutes will be posted on the city of Bay Village's website.*

The main agenda item was revisions to Chapter 1158, which governs attached residence (townhouse) developments.

Planning Commission chairman Bela Persanyi presented a new proposal that would define a per-unit acreage requirement, allowing smaller “pop-up” developments. For example, the previous working model allows 6-12 units per acre. Given the minimum acreage and maximum density, each townhouse development could have 15-18 units. The new model would allow roughly 6-10 units per acre, with developments of 10-15 units.

These smaller developments might be preferable because there would be less impact on the neighborhood and on infrastructure, such as sewers. There was discussion about the number of units required for a viable homeowners’ association, as well as the number of units that might attract developers. A developer in the audience noted that Tremont has successful developments as small as three to four units.

Considerable discussion ensued about whether voters would approve the rezoning necessary for smaller developments. In November 2013, a rezoning issue passed in the city and the ward, but it was defeated in the precinct. This implies that Bay citizens are in favor of townhouse developments, just “not in my backyard.” Size and quality aside, Councilmember Karen Lieske stated there might be opposition if townhouses are not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.

Planning Commission member Dave Maddux noted that small lots with high density do not fit the “stay in Bay” market defined in the 1999 Master Plan. A new survey of residents was discussed.

City Council has granted an extension for the Chapter 1158 review until April 8. Ms. Lieske invited Planning Commission members to the next meeting of Council’s Planning, Zoning, Public Buildings and Grounds Committee on March 24 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. The agenda will be to review the 1158.01 Intent section, the two acreage/density models, and Council’s expectations of the Planning Commission in revising 1158. ●

*The Bay Village Planning Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in City Hall Council Chambers.*

## History of words and phrases

Compiled by DAVE SCULLIN

**Put lipstick on a pig:** A term used to describe a weak attempt to deceive people by trying to make an ugly person or thing appear attractive.

**Rub salt into the wound:** To increase someone’s pain or shame. It came from the custom of errant sailors who were flogged on the bare back, and afterward salt was rubbed into the wounds.

**Blind alley:** A gate or opening in a wall at one time was called an “eye.” So an alley with no opening at the end was called “blind.”

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Bathroom-spa transformation has residents feeling pampered

by KATIE BOWEN

Several months ago, Life Care Center of Westlake, a skilled nursing facility, decided to transform their boring bathing room into a spa. We removed all the institutional dispensers from the wall and painted the room a deep beige color. Espresso-colored floating shelves, a toilet space-saver, mirrors and a memory-foam mat were added.

We then highlighted the room with floral oranges, greens and blues. We set up accents of live plants and battery-operated candles and added a towel warmer, Zen music, aro-

mathery and adjustable lighting. We even gave the whirlpool tub a beautiful brown swirly design that softened its stark whiteness. The Twigz-brand curtain, wastebasket and toilet paper holder, featuring a natural, plantlike design, gave the new spa its name.

Valentine’s Day was perfect for the grand opening. The wonderful and caring students of Brown Aveda Institute came and gave residents and associates hand and arm massages. Guests went through an experience at the spa, including some quiet time with dimmed lights, aromatherapy and spa music. Afterwards, they were treated to homemade chocolate-covered strawberries and received a gift basket to take with them the next time they visited the spa. “I’m going to use this tonight!” said resident Michael Greco.

Everyone loves Twigz Spa, and excitement for the transformation of the other bathing rooms is in the air. “I actually sat in the tub and experienced the ambiance,” said Amanda Stefaniak, social worker. “When finished, I was relaxed, comforted and rejuvenated.” ●

## THE DIGITAL WORLD

# Sidekick for the Super Mom

by TAK SATO

Sherlock Holmes has Doctor Watson. The Lone Ranger has Tonto. Batman has Robin. So how about a “sidekick” to call your own?

My story begins with a non-fiction “Super Mom,” my friend Mary (not her real name), who attends to the needs of her four children while tag-team parenting with her husband. As if parenting didn’t already consume all of the hours in her day, she is a thriving freelancer in the digital world. Perhaps many of you are saying “that’s my life!”

Mary walked into our meeting last year with an entourage of a laptop and what looked like pages from an over-sized magazine. As we started discussing our next collaboration project I found out what those pages really were: it was one of those calendars that is ubiquitously handed out at the beginning of each year to residents.

Being an opinionated geek I recommended to her that she should leave the over-sized calendar on her kitchen wall and instead make her smartphone her “sidekick” while being out and about. This drew a “what is this geek talking about?” look in her face. It wasn’t that the various productivity apps on her smartphone were foreign to her; she just didn’t know how they can help any better than a paper calendar with all of her family members’ events penciled in.

My own sidekick’s Spidey senses must’ve tingled as my smartphone started to vibrate, reminding me where I had to be next. Ah, a perfect example in explaining how the Calendar app on her smartphone can help her manage and remind her of commitments.

Way before the internet arrived there was a handheld technology called “personal digital assistant” (PDA for short). Palm Pilot and Windows CE may ring a bell of nostalgia.

But don’t let a simplistic app name like Calendar fool you, as it is a supercharged version of the PDA of yesteryear. For starters the calendar app can access multiple calendars, such as one for each family member, and synchronize entries/changes made by you and/or your family

in real-time (i.e. as entries/changes are made) so that all devices show the most up-to-date entries at any given time. My wife and I do this to manage our busy commitments in our personal and professional lives. But how? We do this by connecting our devices to our calendars that live in “the cloud” – aka the internet.

When Junior, for example, learns that he needs to be dropped off at the high school early next morning he enters an appointment in his calendar app on his smartphone and that entry instantly shows up on Mary’s smartphone. She knows not to schedule any of her freelance business meetings early in the morning.

Before I left for my next appointment I told her why not use your smartphone, just another “tool,” for more than talking and texting? Make it your sidekick! Needless to say the over-sized calendar stayed home the next time I saw Mary earlier this year!

Next issue’s topic: “Analogy to demystify technology.” ●

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DIGITAL WORLD

*After reading your articles on the impending demise of Windows XP, I wonder if Apple retires its older operating systems?*

Contrary to Microsoft’s straightforward cut-off date announcement, one has to be a little inquisitive to unearth what is happening with Apple’s support status for their older operating systems. Just last week Apple brought out their security updates for their operating systems and they covered OS X Lion (10.7), OS X Mountain Lion (10.8) and the latest, OS X Mavericks (10.9). This probably means the versions before Lion, i.e. OS X Snow Leopard (10.6) and anything earlier, is not supported anymore. Again without an official announcement we just have to deduce on our own. *Have a question for Tak about computers, software or other technology? Send it to editor@wbvobserver.com.*

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## BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

# Making the ordinary extraordinary

by SUE GRAME

It was almost 2 p.m. on a cold Saturday afternoon and anticipation hung heavy in the air. Seventh and eighth grade students entered the library meeting room in hushed tones as they hurried from piece to piece, seeing which items were declared the best. Area artists Pat Sandy, Marge Widmar and Sharon Aunchman had freely given of their time and expertise earlier in the week to judge the artwork.

The event was the Show Your Colors Art Exhibit Reception, annually held at the Bay Village Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library and generously funded by the Friends of the Bay Village Library. All students from the city that are in grades seven or eight are welcome to submit their pieces for the exhibit. It was really inspiring this year how the winners took ordinary items, looked at them with a different perspective and turned them into spectacular artwork.

The first-place winner was seventh-grader Claire from Bay Middle School, who took a photograph of pencils piled up randomly. We've all held these wooden objects innumerable times in our hands, never looking at them twice. With the simple shift in perspective from grabbing an everyday writing tool, to a powerful head-on view of color and purpose, this young artist gets right to the point. (Sorry, couldn't help that one!)

Alex, the top winner in eighth grade, submitted a photograph of an outside spiral wooden staircase. The striking thing about this fairly ordinary scene is the interplay between all the slats of wood and the shadows. It has so much contrast between the light and the shadows – the lines are an utter explosion of beauty.

The first-place winning entry in the 3-D category is a wind chime suspended from a piece of driftwood. Seventh-grader Amelia artistically combined twine tied in macramé with beads, feathers, little driftwood pieces, ceramic bells and ceramic slat pieces to make a striking visual piece. The clincher for the judges was when we removed it from the display case and held it up, as it was intended. When the pieces touched each other, what heavenly sounds came forth!

Seventh-grade photographer Claire's interesting perspective on pencils won first place in the Show Your Colors art exhibit at the Bay Village Branch Library.



The beauty of these and all of the rest of the original, clever pieces was enhanced at the March 8 reception by the performance of the Bay High School Honors Ensemble. Their time is much appreciated for providing such a beautiful, melodic backdrop to the reception honoring the student artists.

The creativity of all the artwork submitted in the exhibit is truly fabulous. I wish there were space to describe the beauty and uniqueness of each. If you were unable to attend the reception honoring these young artists, don't worry – you haven't yet missed out on the inspiration. All artwork will remain on display through the month of March in the display case and the Bay Village Library meeting room for perusal, when the room is not in use. Regular library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Stop in and experience the magic of ordinary turned extraordinary today! ●

## WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

# Family Game Night raises money for autism

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Westlake's Bassett Elementary School raised \$3,255.79 on Feb. 28 at its sixth annual Family Game Night for Autism Speaks, a science and advocacy organization dedicated to funding autism research and increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders.

Each year Family Game Night promotes quality family time and presents the school with an opportunity to educate the community about a special issue. In the past the event has raised dollars for Cystic Fibrosis, The Gathering Place, The First Foundation for Ichthyosis, Crohns & Colitis Association and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Westlake High School Leadership Challenge students also volunteer at the event.

At an all-school assembly, the school presented a check to Autism Speaks representatives Kris Lacrosse and Bill Fisher.

The \$10 cost per family covered games, raffles and food. Among the games families played that night were Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Hungry Hippos, Clue, Chess, Checkers, Jenga, Sorry, Trouble and more. ●

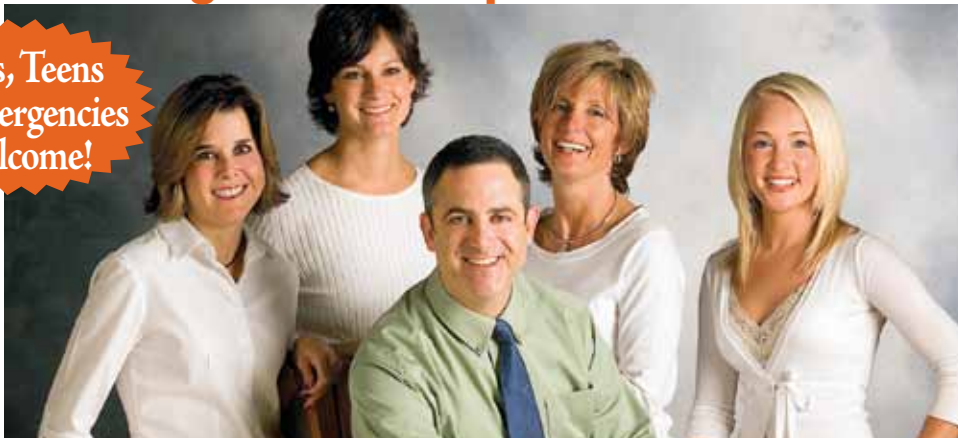


Kris Lacrosse and Bill Fisher representatives of Autism Speaks, accept a check from Bassett's Family Game Night.

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# WESTLAKE

from front page

The service department completed a sewer marathon, cleaning 26.2 miles of storm and sanitary sewers; they also swept 1,300 miles of roadway and sold 10,000 cubic yards of composted leaf humus and mulch.

Community Services gave away \$20,000 in emergency food distributions and offered activities and support for nearly 12,000 patrons. The Recreation Center boasts 13,500 members and the department plans to convert one course at Meadowood to a driving range.

## “The city of Westlake doesn’t stand still.”

– Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough

The city prides itself on being a business-friendly community with sound fiscal management, as well as an enjoyable place to live, play and raise a family. Headed by an accountant with nearly three decades of city leadership under his belt, Westlake’s administration remains focused on continued, manageable growth and maintaining its status as a premier destination for businesses and residents alike.

“The mission of the administration, city council and myself is to enhance the quality of life for all the residents in our community ... [and] provide the highest level of service in a very cost-effective

and efficient manner,” Mayor Clough said. “We want to make sure that we utilize the resources that we have responsibly, effectively and efficiently.”

Westlake’s main source of revenue is income tax receipts, followed by property taxes. While the income tax rate has remained at 1.5 percent, the city’s revenue collection continues to increase due to small business expansion, the relocation of corporations including Equity Trust and American Greetings, and community reinvestment by stalwarts St. John Medical Center and Hyland Software.

“The city of Westlake doesn’t stand still. We continue to have businesses that locate here, that expand here, that improve their operations here,” said Clough. “We’re very pleased that we can create that environment where [businesses] want to expand and ... [their] support continues to keep our taxes pretty low.”

In fact, the city’s growth has allowed for a steady reduction of the property tax rate since 1985, a decrease of nearly 3.5 mills over that span. Westlake’s residential and commercial property tax rates are among the lowest in Cuyahoga County.

Of course, no public address by the Westlake mayor would be complete these days without addressing the city’s water dispute. Clough touched on the issue when discussing Westlake’s infrastructure fund, in which a share of the income tax rate (three-eighths percent, as approved by voters in 1993 and again in 2006) is earmarked for infrastructure projects. Clough



PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL

Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough addresses the West Shore Chamber of Commerce during his March 11 State of the City address at LaCentre.

stressed the importance of an infrastructure fund that is separate from the general fund during an economic downturn, when the first expense cities often cut is investment in infrastructure.

“We have not [cut infrastructure spending], we do not think that’s a great idea and it’s actually one of the reasons why the city of Westlake has actively been looking for alternatives to our water supplier,” Clough said. “Many of the dollars have to go to replace water lines, yet we receive no money from selling water, because it all goes to the city of Cleveland.”

Cleveland Water is contractually obligated to patch and repair lines, but Clough stated that Westlake doesn’t favor the idea of putting in new roadways over patched water lines. Westlake uses its infrastructure funds – \$32 million since 1995 – to install new lines during road construction, money that the city would rather use on road and storm sewer projects. The dispute is cur-

rently in the court process.

Westlake was the first suburb in Ohio, Clough said, to achieve a triple-A bond rating, which it has carried for the past 13 years. The city’s revenues continue to outpace its expenditures. “We are pretty much a debt-free community at this point in time,” said Clough. “We’re not going to be leaving much debt, if any, to our sons, our daughters, our grandchildren. That’s the way we want to keep it.”

Looking forward to the rest of 2014, the big news within the city will be the addition of American Greetings and the completion of Crocker Park, Canterbury Road intersection improvements, continued evaluation of an alternative water provider and the consideration of a consolidated Westshore fire district.

A video of the State of the City address will be broadcast on Westlake’s public access television channel and streamed online at [mediasite.cityofwestlake.org](http://mediasite.cityofwestlake.org). ●

## Rae-Ann facilities named to U.S. News list

Three skilled nursing facilities in the family-owned Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Facilities group have been named to the prestigious “America’s Best Nursing Homes” list for 2014 by U.S. News & World Report.

Two of the facilities are located in Westlake – Rae-Ann Suburban and Rae-Ann Westlake – and the third is in Geneva, Ohio. This is the fifth year in a row that Rae-Ann Suburban has earned this distinction and the second year in a row Rae-Ann Westlake has been named to the U.S. News list.

U.S. News’s evaluation of nursing homes, reported on its website at [health.usnews.com/senior-housing](http://health.usnews.com/senior-housing), is based on data from Nursing Home Compare, a consumer website run by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The government agency sets and enforces

standards for nursing homes (defined as facilities or portions of facilities enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid that provide 24-hour nursing care and other medical services). Homes earn an overall rating of one to five stars, as well as up to five stars in each of three underlying categories: health inspections, nurse staffing and quality of care.

All three Rae-Ann facilities earned five-star overall scores in the latest CMS evaluation. Only 10 percent of the nursing homes in Ohio earned the five-star designation.

“We are extremely proud that three of our facilities have received this important recognition from U.S. News,” stated John Griffiths and Sue Griffiths, owners. “Being named ‘America’s Best’ is a tribute to the exceptional quality of care our dedicated staff delivers to our residents every day.” ●

## LBMS student headed to state GeoBee

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Lee Burneson Middle School student Kyle Yu is heading to Columbus to defend his state Geographic Bee title and compete for the chance to represent Ohio at the National Geographic Bee next month in Washington, D.C.

School-level winners took a qualifying test and the top 100 scores were named semifinalists and eligible to compete at the state Bee. State qualifiers compete in an oral competition, to be held April 4 in Columbus. State winners will be invited to the National Geographic headquarters in late May to compete in the national finals for scholarships. ●



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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

**Wednesday, March 19 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET'S SING AND DANCE!** – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

**Wednesday, March 19 (5-5:45 p.m.) THE BOOK-A-HOLICS: TWEEN BOOK CLUB** – Join us for discussions about books, audio, apps and more. Grades 5-7. Please register.

**Wednesday, March 19 (6:30-8:45 p.m.) CUYAHOGA WEST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Wednesday, March 19 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) JOHN GREEN BOOK CLUB** – This is a group that reads and discusses the books of this popular author. Green fans, Nerdfighters and just plain book lovers are all welcome! The March book is “An Abundance of Katherines.” Please register starting one week before each session.

**Sunday, March 23 (2-3:30 p.m.) AMERICAN GIRL: REBECCA** – We'll talk about America's immigrants in 1914 New York City and learn about Old World traditions, including Rebecca's Jewish heritage. Ages 6-10. Registration begins March 16.

**Monday, March 24 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Monday, March 24 (7-8 p.m.) PAPER BEADS** – Make something beautiful and useful from recycled materials. Learn how to make paper beads and make some to take home with you. Grades 4-6. Please register starting March 17.

**Tuesday, March 25 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: WRITING TO EMPLOYERS** – Learn professional letter-writing techniques including how to write effective cover letters, marketing letters, follow-up letters and more. You'll also gain information on

preparing writing samples when employers request them.

**Wednesday, March 26 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET'S SING AND DANCE!** – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

**Wednesday, March 26 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – The March selection is “Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail” by Cheryl Strayed.

**Friday, March 28 (10 a.m.-noon) PORTER'S FIBER FANATICS** – Socialize, share, and solve problems while you work on your current project.

**Saturday, March 29 (10:30 a.m.-noon) GENEALOGY RESEARCH FROM HOME** – Discover free genealogy websites available to you from home including HeritageQuest and Fold3. Bring along names and dates for hands-on research. Please register.

**Saturday, March 29 (2-3 p.m.) JUNIOR BRICK BUILDERS!** – Let's build with Duplos! Bring your imagination and we'll provide the bricks. Ages 3-5 only. No registration.

**Monday, March 31 (4-5:45 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL's Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We've got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more!

**Monday, March 31 (7-8:30 p.m.) GETTING “FISCALLY” FIT** – Just in time for Financial Literacy Month (April) a Society for Financial Awareness (SOFA) speaker will discuss how to overcome financial challenges with goal setting and debt management. Please register.

**To register for any of the programs, please call 440-871-2600 or visit [westlakelibrary.org](http://westlakelibrary.org) 8080.** ●

# Westlake in Bloom is just around the corner

by JEAN SMITH

As I am writing this article today, the temperature has reached 50 degrees, the sun is shining and the ice is melting. There is actually a promise of spring in the air. Many of you gardeners have likely been perusing the seed and plant catalogs received in the mail and thinking and planning what to do with your gardens this year.

We hope your thinking and planning includes entering the Westlake in Bloom program again or maybe for the first time. Entry forms will be available mid-April at Cahoon Nursery, Dean's Greenhouse, Gale's Westlake Garden Center and Plant

Crafters, or at City Hall and on the city's website at [www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org).

The deadline for entering your garden is Friday, June 27, at 5 p.m. Gardens will be judged in July and awards presented at a ceremony on Aug. 13 at LaCentre. The City of Westlake is very proud of this unique community program and of our residents and businesses that are involved in and support the program.

So, put a reminder on your calendar to pick up an entry form and make sure to get it to City Hall by the deadline date. We look forward to seeing everyone at the awards ceremony in August. Happy gardening! ●

# Bay Men's Club collecting athletic gear



The Bay Men's Club is collecting used youth sports equipment as a fundraiser again this year. The equipment will be cleaned and offered for sale Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bay Middle School. Collection boxes have been placed at Bay Lanes, the Village Barbershop and Heinen's.

The club is seeking athletic shoes and cleats, shin guards, baseball and softball gloves and other equipment

that can be put to good use. Unsold equipment will be donated to those in need. Bay Men's Club adheres to the “good neighbor” policy; if there is a child in need of sporting equipment the club will work to find a solution.

For more information call Kelly Brewer at 440-829-6467. ●

BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

# Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by JOYCE SANDY

Whenever it's safe to put away the snow shovels and get out the gardening spades, the Bay Library has the resources you need to get started. Come in and check out some gardening books, home repair, and the perfect book or music to listen to while you get it done. Don't forget to stop in the children's area for spring books and to pick up a flyer detailing upcoming programs. We have a variety of programs for all ages to get everyone out of the house and having fun. Please plan on attending these programs and be sure to make the library a stop on your daily errands. We look forward to seeing you!

ADULT DEPARTMENT

**Wednesday, March 19 (7 p.m.) RETURN OF THE CAROUSEL** – What goes around come around. A representative from Cleveland's Euclid Beach Park Carousel Society will present a history of Euclid Beach Park and the return of the carousel in the specially built pavilion in University Circle.

**Tuesday, April 8 (10 a.m.) FAB FIFTIES, CLEVELAND STYLE** – Re-live 1954, the year the Indians, Browns and Barons are all in the championships, Marilyn Monroe is married and poodle skirts are all the rage. Join us as the Western Reserve Historical Society shares memories of Cleveland from 1954 with hands-on souvenirs.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

**Wednesday, March 26 (3:30 p.m.) CAKE DECORATING WORKSHOP** – For grades 6-12. Learn some basic skills in creative cake – and cookie – decorating! Get hands-on experience using frosting tips, a pastry bag and colored

frosting, plus take home decorated cookies! All supplies provided, but a parent or guardian must sign a release form before the program.

**Tuesday, April 1 (3:30 p.m.) KHATCH-ABOT CHALLENGE** – For grades 6-12. Program a robot to master challenges based on James Patterson's popular “Middle School” series and help troublemaker Rafe Khatchadorian chase after a record to break every single rule in the school code of conduct. Space is limited.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

**Thursday, March 27 (3:30 p.m.) JR. ENGINEERING CLUB** – For ages 8-12. Bring your ideas and imagination! Get together once a month with other students and have fun creating all kinds of structures.

**Tuesday, April 8 (4 p.m.) EXPLORATION STATION: ART** – For grades K-5. Budding artists can enjoy art-related books and then try various art activities at multiple stations.

MIXED AGES

**Thursday, March 20 (7 p.m.) FAMILIES READING TOGETHER** – For families with children ages 8-12. Discuss a good book, try a related activity and enjoy a treat. Books will be available three weeks before the program.

**Monday, April 7 (7 p.m.) BOOKTALK** – For grades 5-8 and an adult. Discuss good books, enjoy fun activities, snacks and fun time with a favorite family member. Books will be available one month in advance.

**Please register to attend these programs online at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), by calling 440-871-6392, or when you stop in to visit at 502 Cahoon Road.** ●

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**BAYARTS**

# Christopher Leeper's paintings chase the sun at BAYarts show

by **NANCY HEATON**

In this Cleveland winter, a reminder of the sun is never something to ignore. And with a title of "Chasing the Sun: Explorations in Plein Air," you know you're in for a mood-boosting art exhibition.

Artist Christopher Leeper shows a range of landscapes for this show, all done while he worked through different weather conditions. And with a variety of outdoor scenes, what these oil paintings all share is a particular focus on sunlight. Leeper says, "The light on a subject can often be the inspiration. Sometimes it is a tree or a field that has the perfect combination of light and shadow that gets me excited."

The expression of "en plein air" is a French one, which simply can mean to paint outside. But that simple term can create a wealth of inspiration. Just consider why Leeper chooses to paint in plein air: "It is the total sensory experience that makes painting outside so special. Not only are

you seeing the scene, but you smell, hear and feel (temperature) the environment. I've had some really wonderful moments of being alone and completely absorbed in the process and the environment. It can be a very singular, almost meditative experience."

Artists of any level can certainly feel inspired by stepping outside as they work with a paintbrush or pencil. Whatever your preferred medium, we recommend giving it a try.

The exhibition is on display at BAYarts through March 29, in The Sullivan Family Gallery. Leeper is also offering an instructive painting workshop on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See bayarts.net for class details. ●



"Patriot Barn" by Christopher Leeper

# Two local women debut jewelry book at BAYarts

by **JESSICA STOCKDALE**



Eva Sherman and Beth Martin

Beth Martin and Eva Sherman are two Northeastern Ohio jewelry artists who have just published their first book. It is titled "Organic Wire and Metal Jewelry: Stunning Pieces Made with Sea Glass, Stones, and Crystals."

Longtime friends who first met at Sherman's Lakewood store, Grand River Bead Studio, the pair knew that they wanted their book to talk about sea glass.

"Originally our concept was to write a book about the history of sea glass from Lake Erie, but after a few discussions, we thought there was a need for a book about sea glass as a jewelry design component."

Martin says organic wire techniques came into play because it complimented the sea glass well, as well as being "a creative style that appealed to [us]." Both artists bring different design aesthetics and approaches to their shared work. While Martin favors simple wire work with pearls and crystals, Eva brings in the layers of metal and torches.

The duo will be available at a book signing at BAYarts on Friday, March 21, from 6-9 p.m. There will also be an adjoining trunk show to view the work in person. As for why they decided to debut their book at the BAYarts campus, Martin says it was a no-brainer.

"BAYarts is a unique creative arts center, and the various classes offered from preschool on up, are a perfect complement to a how to book on designing jewelry."

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble. Check bayarts.net for details on upcoming workshops taught by Martin and Sherman. ●

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## Raffle prizes to aid Bay Days fireworks

by **ERIC EAKIN**

**T**he volunteers raising money for the Bay Days fireworks celebration will soon be raffling off two very exciting prizes: a suite at an Indians game in August, and a one-year membership in the Freedom Boat Club, which offers unlimited use of boats in the Rocky River and reciprocal use at 75 other locations.

The Indians package includes 16 tickets and four parking passes for the Friday, Aug. 22, game and fireworks show versus the Houston Astros. Four people from the group will be able to view the fireworks from the visiting team dugout. Food and soft drinks are included.

The Freedom Boat Club prize, offered by Bay Village native Robert Massey, is a 12-month membership in the club, an \$8,000 value. The winner will have unlimited use of a fleet of boats at club locations, which includes the Rocky River, Sandusky and Catawba. The membership also includes reciprocal use of boats at any of the club's 75 other locations nationwide. The club takes care of all maintenance and fueling. For more information visit [www.freedomboatclub.com](http://www.freedomboatclub.com).

Raffle tickets for both prizes will be \$25 each or five for \$100. They will go on sale shortly at [www.bayfireworks.org](http://www.bayfireworks.org) and throughout the city.

The winner of the Indians raffle prize will be drawn July 4 at Bay Days. The winner of the Freedom Boat Club prize will be drawn on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

For more information call 216-386-5997 or see [www.bayfireworks.org](http://www.bayfireworks.org). ●

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# FEATURED STUDENT: Maddie Gentzel

by KIM BONVISSUTO

An art class project led Holly Lane Elementary School fourth-grader Maddie Gentzel to create a company that makes and sells cupcakes to help kids with cancer.

“Cupcakes for Cancer” started out last fall after Maddie and her classmates were tasked by Holly Lane art teacher Staci Peltz with creating a poster about a shop or a place. She came up with the name “Cupcakes for Cancer” and started thinking about how she could actually turn her love of cupcakes into a plan to help children with the disease.

“I love cupcakes, and I like to bake them,” Maddie said. “So I thought why not do something I love to help someone else. A cupcake always brightens a person’s day.”

After talking it over with her mother, Lori Gentzel, fourth-grade teacher Hun Piazza and Holly Lane Principal Mimi Verdone, Maddie set a goal of raising \$500 through the sale of her homemade cupcakes to donate to Prayers from Maria – Children’s Glioma Cancer Foundation based in Bay Village. The foundation was started by Ed and Megan McNamara, who lost their seven-year-old daughter, Maria, in 2007 to a brain tumor. The foundation is dedicated to funding global research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for childhood brain tumors, known as gliomas.

“I chose the Prayers from Maria foundation because we know Maria’s family, and I want to help them in trying to help children with brain tumors,” Maddie said.

The fourth-grader also plans to funnel some of her earnings to Miracles for Michael, a group supporting nine-year-old Michael Orbany and his fight against metastatic medulloblastoma, a form of cancer that affects his brain and spine. The Gentzels know of Michael’s story through their parish, St. Bernadette in Westlake.

Maddie started Cupcakes for Cancer by handing out flyers to her classmates, which netted a series of orders over the holidays from friends and family members. She charges \$1 per cupcake. A



Maddie and her mom, Lori Gentzel, with a box of the homemade cupcakes Maddie sells to raise money for childhood cancer research.

recent order from the Westlake City School District for 300 cupcakes pushed Maddie’s profits up to around \$800. International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years program coordinators Colleen Mudore and Deb Wadden hired Maddie to deliver the cupcakes at a weekend IB/Westlake Workshop. Maddie presented at the IB Action workshop, where she was asked what teachers need to do to encourage their students to take action. Her response: “You just need to inspire them.”

“Maddie and her family donate all of the supplies to make the cupcakes,” Mudore

said. “This is what IB is all about – kids taking action and making a positive difference.”

Maddie has readjusted her goal in hopes of helping even more children.

“I think \$1,000 or more would be awesome,” she said. “I want to keep it going. The sky’s the limit! Why stop a good thing?”

Lori Gentzel described her daughter as entrepreneurial. Maddie leads Cupcakes for Cancer meetings on occasion at school where anywhere from six to 15 classmates make posters and talk about how to improve the business.

“She’s a natural leader,” Gentzel said. “I just keep trying to help steer her toward leading something good.”

Maddie said funding cancer research is important to her because her grandfather, uncle and dog passed away after cancer diagnoses, and her family has been personally touched by other families who are struggling with caring for a child with cancer.

“It makes me feel so good when I am doing this because I know I just helped a child in need,” Maddie said.

Right now Maddie sells basic chocolate or vanilla cupcakes with buttercream frosting, but Gentzel said her daughter printed out several more elaborate recipes she found online.

“I have lots of ideas for cupcakes!” Maddie said. “Some have a cancer symbol on it; some have a rose, stars and hearts. I want to make red velvet, lemon and tie-dye. The ideas never stop.” ●

## HUMOR

# Boot boots, shoo shoes ... hello, sandals!

by KATHY LUENGO

Since March roared in like a lion, it’s supposed to go out like a lamb. Here’s a word to the wise: before swapping shoes for sandals, one must first boot the boots!

The thought of treating one’s tootsies to sunlight and fresh air is uplifting. The challenge of removing crusty salt from trusty boots is daunting. Cleaning leather boots is a chore; restoring suede boots requires superior effort. Regardless of whether rock salt was abundantly applied until supplies ran short, or conserved for later in the season, the trade-off for traction is tolerating salt’s mess!

Here’s an idea for a new personal service: boot cleaning stations, perfect for short-term storefront leases. Whenever snowplow drivers perform loads of extra duty, a bumper crop of boot-cleaners could follow!

Otherwise, we’re left to our own devices. An office assistant once advised a co-worker sporting salt-stained leather shoes that dabbing coffee on affected areas would eliminate the salty outlines. (As long as no cream or sugar was added first; lattes are definitely out!)

Sacrificing sips from a comforting cup of coffee that warms hands and nourishes souls is never easy. After her desire to maintain a professional appearance prevailed, the coworker gave it a try. To her amazement, the dabs of coffee quickly dissolved the sodium chloride residue!

Reluctant to relinquish any more coffee that winter, she resolved to double-check each morning’s forecast before heading out and to keep spare boots in her car should the forecast fail.

That was a close call appearance-wise, but what about the women who routinely defy winter hazards by shunning mukluks and traipsing through snow in designer pumps or, worse yet, stiletto shoes?

Aspiring to project a sense of *haute couture*, these fashionistas overlook the possibility that others may view them as having little sense – fashion or otherwise! Before sporting footwear unfit for snow and ice, they might first consider the style statement of a cast extending to the knee or beyond, and a frumpy shoe on the other foot to balance the load!

It is plausible that well-crafted stiletto boots with steel-shafted heels might function as ice picks, though, providing a unique form of traction for those who dare.

Not all women are smitten with stilettos. They wear like instruments of torture. It’s surprising that they don’t come with warning labels. They should be shooed because they’re unsafe. Informed accounts advise that they’re neither good for feet, legs, nor posture. The first skirmish in the proverbial battle of the sexes could have easily been instigated by this foot-cruel design!

Before saying “shoo” to shoes and slipping on summer sandals, sure-footed folk will don rain boots for sloshing through puddles resulting from spring showers and significant snow melt. Remnants of parking lot snow piles could last until Mother’s Day!

Thankfully, practical vinyl-coated rubber galoshes come in a variety of colorful, fashionable designs and rain-cleansed sidewalks eliminate the need to share precious coffee with one’s shoes! Now that’s a comforting thought! ●

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# Bay High presents ‘Cinderella’ March 20-22

by KAREN DERBY

Bay High students will present Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical, “Cinderella,” Thursday through Saturday, March 20, 21 and 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Bay High Auditorium.

“The story is the fairytale we all love,” said the production’s director, Maryann Nagel. “But the dialogue and lyrics are a little more up to date. It is great fun to watch.”

Cinderella, played by Kaitie Foley, is treated badly by her stepmother, played by Katie Randazzo, and stepsisters, played by Maisie Kuh and Kerry O’Brien. With the help of her Fairy Godmother (Jessica Cusimano), Cinderella is transformed into a princess in time to impress her prince (Peter Kotowski) and his parents, King Maximillian (Edward Hughes) and Queen Constantina (Colleen Kowalski). After the ball, the prince, with his trusted herald Lionel (Evan Kelly), work together to find the princess he loves.

Many Bay High students add to the music and fun. Playing villagers, merchants, maidens and palace guests are Alyse Arko, Alaina Banal, Katelyn Bleisath, Andrea Bliscik, Rachel Brumagin, Sarah Brumagin, Carlie Buettner, Lily Conover, Abbie Donovan, Reilly Gorby, Mandy Hoskins, Stephanie Jordan, Jocelyn Joseph, Paul Kotowski, Nick Loufman, Shannon Mann, Christina McGovern, Moira Meehan, Gavin Price, Megan Ramella, Shannon Robinson, Miranda Ruehl, Salem Stacey, Lilly Stradtman, Emily Taylor and Julia Thomas.

Playing woodland creatures are Charlie Adams, Claire Caskey, Carly Elliott, Jane Finley, Brian Hippler, CJ Hyland, Annalise Johnson, Olivia Langer, Mia Mager, James McDermott, Molly Mullahy, Christina Randazzo, Matthew Rising, Lauren Schwartz, Caroline Sirignano, Kendall Sirignano and Arabelle Skelly.

The Bay High pit orchestra provides instrumental accompaniment. The director is Maryann Nagel, an accom-



Cinderella cast members, clockwise, starting upper left: Katie Randazzo (stepmother), Maisie Kuh (stepsister), Jessica Cusimano (Fairy Godmother), Kerry O’Brien (stepsister); Kaitie Foley (Cinderella); and Peter Kotowski (Christopher, the handsome prince).

plished stage and screen actress and director, and the assistant director is Bay Village teacher and drama club adviser, Eileen Meehan.

Reserve seats are \$10, general admission is \$5. Reserve tickets can be purchased at the Bay High cafeteria Monday through Wednesday, March 17-19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by emailing Eileen.Meehan@bayschoolsohio.org. General admission tickets will be available at the box office from 6:30 p.m. until curtain time or until the house is sold out. ●

# Try your luck at Westlake Women’s Club’s spring fundraiser

by SARAH PECHAITIS

Westlake Women’s Club’s annual spring fundraiser, “Game Night Out,” will be held Saturday, April 5, from 7-10 p.m. at LaCentre, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake. The cost for the event is \$25 per person for hors d’oeuvres, dessert, as well as game chips to get you started. Come try your luck at Bingo, Blackjack, Texas Hold’em and more for a chance to win some fabulous baskets and other raffles.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Westlake Women’s Club, a non-profit community service organization that supports local and regional non-profit organizations and provides scholarships to local high school seniors. Over the past years, some of the various organizations the Westlake Women’s Club has supported include, but are not limited to: the Far West Center, Matthew’s Lending Library, Meals on Wheels-Westlake, North Coast Ministry, Providence House, Relay for Life, Westlake Service and Assistance Center, Youth Challenge, Lakeshore Day Camp, Westlake police and fire departments, Safety Town, Parent Connection, Westlake Porter Public Library and more.

For tickets or more information, please email westlakewomensclub@gmail.com or call 440-250-5561. Tickets should be reserved by March 22. ●



The Accident: Recent Work by Nicky Nodjoumi

Dinner by Design: Art of the Table

Two exhibitions open March 28: the politically charged work of Iranian-born artist Nicky Nodjoumi; and an exploration of how we dine by students in the ceramics, glass, and jewelry+metals departments at CIA.

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Nicky Nodjoumi courtesy of Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York

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# Westlake Girl Scouts celebrate World Friendship Day

by BRIDGET DEMONICA

On March 1, Girl Scouts in the Westlake Service Unit gathered at Parkside School to celebrate World Friendship Day. World Friendship Day is a fun day in which Girl Scouts learn about other countries around the world. Each participating troop picks a country to represent. They research, create a skit, make crafts and food, and gather pictures and facts to share about their chosen country. This year 10 countries were represented at this fun and educational event.

The event began with a flag ceremony, followed by the "Show of Countries" where each troop performed skits on their country. The skits included dances, mock news casts, game shows and stories all depicting things they learned from their country. After the show the girls shopped in the "International Marketplace" where the troops set up individual booths with crafts and food items from their country. Money earned during the event was donated to the Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Fund. ●



Fourth-grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 7140 of Westlake with their display of Madagascar.

## Kiwanis pancake breakfasts served April 6

### Westlake Kiwanis

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis will hold their spring pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 6. The breakfast will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Westlake High School cafeteria, 27830 Hilliard Blvd.

Breakfast includes all the pancakes you can eat! Plus sausage, orange juice, milk, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$6. Children six and under

eat for free. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to Emily's Rainbow Fund benefiting pediatric cancer research at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

The rest of the proceeds will go to promote various causes through-



Westlake Kiwanians Len Lieber and Mayor Dennis Clough serve up orange juice at last year's pancake breakfast.

out the Westlake community such as holiday food baskets for the disadvantaged, student scholarships, Westlake Relays, "Salute to Excellence" – a student recognition program, the Westlake High School Key Club, Builders Club, and Relay for Life. ●

### Bay Village Kiwanis

Bay Village Kiwanians and Bay High Key Clubbers will hold their annual spring pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 6, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Road.

The breakfast includes pancakes, syrup, link sausages, milk, juice and coffee for \$5 per person (\$6 at the door). Children under six eat for free. Advance tickets are available from your favorite Kiwanian, or by contacting Russ Bauknecht at 440-871-9162 or baykiwanis@gmail.com. This year's tickets are sponsored by McGorray-Hanna Funeral Homes.

"The Kiwanis Club of Bay Village, along with the Bay High Key Club, team up for the annual spring pancake breakfast to welcome warm weather back to Bay. Come on out and enjoy a hot breakfast on a sunny spring morning, while supporting two hometown service organizations," says Rhonda Schneider of the Kiwanis Club of Bay Village.

The meal is a community tradition, popular with students and families. Pro-

ceeds from the event benefit the Bay High School Scholarship Fund, as well as projects and organizations such as: Reese Park renovations, Village Project, BAYarts, Bay Historical Society, Rachel's Challenge at Bay Middle School and Bay High School, Bay Middle School 5th Grade Technology Club, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, and "Kiwi Bags" for Cuyahoga County Children's Services (a backpack given to children who are removed from their homes, which includes toiletries, socks, underwear, a blanket, coloring book and crayons).

Kiwanis volunteers have cooked and served pancakes for community causes in Bay Village for over half a century. The organization holds two pancake breakfasts a year to support community projects and scholarships. The next one will be in the fall over Homecoming weekend.

Visit the Bay Village Kiwanis website at bayvillagekiwanis.com and look for them on Facebook for more information about the organization. ●



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# Huntington Playhouse seeking volunteers

by TOM MEYROSE

Huntington Playhouse is looking for volunteers to help out during the 2014 season. There are several volunteer opportunities for ushering, box office and backstage work.

Ushers are needed for our Friday and Saturday evening shows and the occasional Sunday matinee. Duties include taking tickets, passing out programs, and helping with the concession stand. Box office volunteers are needed on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Backstage duties vary depending on the types of shows and include stage crew, running lights and props. No experience is needed for any of these jobs as we will show you the ropes.

Huntington Playhouse is located at 28601 Lake Road in Bay Village and is an affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks. ●

## READER'S OPINION

# Discover exceptional talent in our community

by NATHAN CONOVER

Thursday, March 20, through Saturday, March 22, the Bay High School drama department will be putting on their production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." The shows will be performed each evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.

If you have not been to a production at Bay High School, you are in for a wonderful experience. I have attended quite a few of the high school's shows and I can tell you one thing for sure: there is a real treasure being staged at your local high school. It doesn't take a lot of money to see a terrific show; whether it be a play, a musical, the jazz band or the orchestra. And the money (for the plays and musicals; the jazz and

orchestra are *free!*) helps to support the school and the arts.

They both deserve our support. The talent that is displayed at these productions is amazing. I go to these shows with high expectations and the students never disappoint. Most times, in fact, I leave feeling like an underachiever (in a good way, of course!).

It's not just at Bay High School either. Go out into our community, whether at the Clague or Huntington playhouses, BAYarts, or even a coffee shop's open mike night to discover art being created in the most wonderful of ways. Find these hidden treasures and give them your support. They'll bless you with an amazing performance as much as you bless them with your support. ●

# Let the sun shine in!

March 16-22 is Sunshine Week, an annual nationwide discussion about the importance of access to public information and what it means to each of us and to our communities. It is a time to remember the important role that we all have in keeping our towns healthy, vibrant and strong.

We all have the right to know what our government is doing – both its successes and failures. Exercising our right to know gives power to us, the public. It allows us to hold elected officials accountable on Election Day and beyond.

For decades, members of the League of Women Voters have acted as government watchdogs at the federal, state and local levels. We monitor our cities' budgets, attend local government meetings, publish observer notes, register voters, offer forums to inform voters, and work to get out the vote.

In short, we work to ensure that all voices are heard as decisions are made about our common future. We invite all of you to join us in celebrating Sunshine Week – and if you believe in Making Democracy Work, join the League at [lwcuyahogaarea.org](http://lwcuyahogaarea.org)!

Sincerely,  
League of Women Voters - Cuyahoga Area  
Carole Koscielnny, Westlake/North Olmsted co-chair  
Mary Worthington, Westlake/North Olmsted co-chair  
Conda Boyd, Bay Village chair

*The State of Ohio Attorney General's Office will hold an Open Government Seminar, covering public records, open meetings and record retention, in the council chambers of Bay Village City Hall, 350 Dover Center Road, on Monday, June 23, from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. There is no charge for the seminar. Registration will be available on the Ohio Auditor's website, [ohioauditor.gov/open/trainings.html](http://ohioauditor.gov/open/trainings.html), beginning March 23, or by contacting Joan Kemper, clerk of council, at 440-899-3406 or [jkemper@cityofbayvillage.com](mailto:jkemper@cityofbayvillage.com).*

## SPORTING VIEWS

# It's Tribe Time Now

by JEFF BING

It seems whenever this time of year rolls around, many of us get all teary-eyed and emotional in anticipation of the return of professional baseball. Often, we've been forced to settle for the Indians' brand instead. In fact, often times, it hasn't exactly been a pretty sight to behold.

Maybe it's because this winter has been so brutal. I mean, take your pick: snow, cold, Miley Cyrus – it's been nasty no matter which way you turn. And, as anyone who has read my column on a regular basis is well aware, I'm usually somewhat cynical when it comes to Cleveland sports teams. But, my need for intense psychotherapy aside, I'm really quite pumped about the upcoming baseball season.

Last year, the Tribe needed many things to go right for them to make the playoffs, including a soft September schedule, and everything went almost perfectly. Well, until the playoff game. But the point is, we *made* the playoffs, and there are a number of reasons to optimistically think we can do the same thing – only better – in 2014.

Here's what needs to go right for the Indians in 2014:

1. Stay healthy. The most promising of seasons can go down in flames if some key personnel get hurt. As is the case with most teams, the Indians aren't deep enough to take many hits to the roster.
2. Danny Salazar needs to be a No. 1 starter. The Indians may finally have that Justin Verlander-type guy who is dominant all the time. He has the capability; he needs to *do* it.
3. Justin Masterson is playing for a

free-agent contract this year; chances are he won't be here in 2015. Regardless, I expect him to put up some big numbers. Players don't like to hear it, but the fact is that many perform at their best when playing for their next contract, and then once they do sign it, well ... let's just say it's generally not good.

4. Speaking of which, Michael Bourn and Nick Swisher signed big contracts with the Indians last winter and had sub-par seasons after joining the Tribe. Assuming their currency-induced hangovers have passed, just getting "average" years out of them will be a big boost.
5. Carlos Santana makes the switch – successfully – to third base. Sorry, I just don't see it in Lonnie Chisenhall.
6. The bullpen they assemble is at least competent. Almost everything they did with the bullpen went wrong last year, and the good news is that most of the culprits from last year's mess are gone. The bullpen, by default, almost *has* to be better.

I don't expect the Tigers to be as good this year, but that doesn't necessarily mean we'll leap-frog past them. Yes, we only finished a game behind them, but remember, they owned us last year, so the first thing we have to do this year when we play them is to change the mentality. In other words, we have to push them around a bit if we expect to pass them.

On the other hand, I expect Kansas City to give the Indians all they can handle this year. Barring injuries, I expect Kansas City to be a playoff team, and I wouldn't be surprised if three teams from our division made it to the post-season.

Regardless, it should make for a fun year. As I said, it's Tribe time now! ●

## ONE SENIOR'S OPINION

# The joy of a good book

by DIANNE BOROWSKI

One activity which helped me get through this long winter is reading. I must admit I'm hooked on books. My first introduction to reading came from my family. Every Christmas and birthday I was given at least two books. I had quite a collection for my age. I remember Golden Books, a Raggedy Ann and Andy series, Lassie Come Home and Bambi. I met Dick, Jane and Spot at school as our first readers were the Dick and Jane series. Reading was my favorite activity of the school day.

Reading has filled my life with adventure and entertainment. Where in the world can you meet intriguing people, visit exotic places and be entertained without having to leave your home? As a parent and grandparent I believe books make great gifts. One of the best gifts you can give a child is reading to them until they are old enough to read to you.

I recommend reading as a serious hobby. If you can't find a certain book, visit or call your local library. It's free and they can help you find any book imaginable. When the weather warms up, take a book or e-reader to a quiet place outside. Just relax, enjoy the sunshine and the company of a good book. You won't regret it. Happy reading. ●

## READER'S OPINION

# Garden of life

by CHUCK MCKEE

My enjoyment of gardening comes from a passion for life. I look at gardening as I look at life. I start with all of the good that God gives me and, just like my garden, I use good soil, nourish my life with family, friendships, kindness and joy, and work diligently keeping the weeds of negative thinking out. I then plant the seeds of kindness and happiness that continue to grow and give life.

If I become careless and the seed does not fall on good ground, it will die. Since I want my garden and my life to flourish and grow, I tend to my garden faithfully. I enjoy spending my time in the garden. I know that what I grow well will feed many people and will be life giving.

My goal is to produce a garden and a life that I am proud of and will help others on their own journey through the garden of life. My thought for this day is all good things grow in God's garden. ●



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

**Wednesday, March 19**  
**CANCELLED: Music We'd Rather Play Indoors**  
The Bay Village Community Band concert originally scheduled for March 19, 7:30 p.m., at Bay Middle School has been cancelled. The next concert is scheduled for April 30.

**Wednesday, March 19, 6:30-8:45 p.m.**  
**Cuyahoga West Chapter meeting**  
Ohio Genealogical Society, Cuyahoga West chapter president Jim Denham and treasurer/webmaster John Noble will be visiting some old and new favorite genealogical websites. Their annual online demonstration is always a popular program. The public is invited free of charge. Social time, with refreshments, is from 6:30-7 p.m. *Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Thursday, March 20, 6-8 p.m.**  
**Define Beauty: A Creative Writing Workshop**  
In celebration of Women's History Month, this hands-on creative writing workshop engages the topic of "beauty" in a broad socio-cultural sense. How do you define beauty? Where do you find it? Please bring an original poem that you have written, a favorite poem that celebrates a phenomenal woman in your life, or a poem that captures the essence of your own fabulousness. The workshop is free and open to the public. Reserve your space by calling 216-987-5843 or emailing [Ashlee.Brand@tri-c.edu](mailto:Ashlee.Brand@tri-c.edu). *Tri-C Corporate College West, Room 317, 25425 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Meet & Greet with Therapists, Programs & Camps**  
Attendees can browse tables and visit with more than 70 representatives from west side therapists, providers of after-school programs and summer camps to discuss services, explore program options and find out how their child's development can be further enhanced. The event is designed especially for parents of children with special needs and developmental delays that need to look beyond the traditional sport and day camp programs. For more information, visit [www.connectingforkids.org](http://www.connectingforkids.org) or call 440-250-5563. *Rocky River Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd.*

**Friday, March 21, 6-9 p.m.**  
**'Organic Metal and Wire Jewelry' Book Signing & Trunk Show**  
Instructors, artists and friends Eva Sherman and Beth Martin will debut and sign their new release, "Organic Wire & Metal Jewelry." Join us to meet the authors and artists, purchase their book, have it signed and look through the many designs that they have created. Bring your friends and join us for an exciting night! Free to attend. *BAYarts, 28795 Lake Rd.*

**Friday, March 21, 6:30-10:30 p.m.**  
**NCAA Basketball Tournament – Student Party**  
The Westshore Young Leaders Network would like to invite ALL middle and high school students from surrounding districts to join us for an NCAA basketball tournament watch party! Admission is \$5 and includes food, beverages, candy and desserts, entry to squares game, and unlimited participation in games and contests. There will be prizes! Parent permission is required. You may print the permission form from Facebook, or have parent stop in at the event to sign their permission. Questions? Call Noreen Kyle, School Prevention Specialist, at 440-336-2371. *FOP Hall, 26145 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

**Sunday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Presentation on the Ukraine**  
A reflection on the current situation in the Ukraine will be offered by Harlen and Madeline Rife, who returned to the US last year after serving 2 years with the Peace Corps in the Ukraine. They will share their insight based upon their experience of living and working with the Ukrainian people. The presentation is free and open to the public and will be held in the church's lower level fellowship hall which is handicap accessible through the Christian Education wing entrance in the back of the building. Ukrainian delicacies will be available to enjoy! Call 440-871-3088 with any questions. *Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Wednesday, March 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Free Community Meal**  
Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and dinner is served continuously from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Come for great

food and good company. The dinner is served in the lower level Fellowship Hall which is handicap accessible through the Christian Education wing entrance in the back of the building. Call 440-871-3088 with any questions. *Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Friday, March 28, 5-8 p.m.**  
**NEW LOCATION: Bay Village Lacrosse Association Fish Fry**  
Dinner prices are \$14 for a fish dinner of fried perch or shrimp, fries, coleslaw, roll and a drink; or \$5 for a pizza dinner of 2 slices of pizza, a cookie and a drink. Baked goods also will be offered for purchase. Dine-in or carry out is available. Proceeds will support Bay Village boys' and girls' lacrosse programs. Tickets available at the door or in advance by calling 440-570-4263. Due to a scheduling conflict the fish fry will now take place at Bay Lodge. *Bay Lodge, 492 Bradley Road*

**Friday, March 28, 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 29, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Use of the Spiritual Gifts in Healing**  
The Rev. Don Cray, who was an officer San Diego City Police Department and the California State Park System, will be the keynote speaker at a conference sponsored by the Westshore chapter of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician. Don's gift areas are in teaching, preaching, counseling, healing, deliverance and worship music. In addition, there will be four workshops on aspects of Christian healing: "Discerning and Using My Spiritual Gifts," "Listening as a Healing Gift," "The Gift of Creation" and "The Spiritual Gift of Faith in Healing." For more information, visit [WestshoreOSL.org](http://WestshoreOSL.org) or call 440-327-5523. *Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, 32340 Electric Blvd.*

**Saturday, March 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**Bay Village League of Women Voters Meeting**  
Paul Koomar, Bay Village City Council President, will speak about current issues, followed by Q&A. We will also vote on our next major project. Bring your ideas and a beverage – we'll bring the cookies! The public are always invited and encouraged to attend. *Bay Village Library meeting room, 502 Cahoon Rd.*

**Saturday, March 29, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
**Free Community Meal**  
Please join us for fellowship and good food! Free to everyone, the church is accessible to the physically challenged. No carry outs. *Clague Road UCC, 3650 Clague Rd., North Olmsted*

**Monday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Bay Village Town Hall Meeting**  
Hear updates from the city administration and council, and interact with your elected officials. An overview will be provided of the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant and Bay's sewer rates. *Dwyer Memorial Center, 300 Bryson Lane*

**Tuesday, April 1, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Group for Young Women with Breast Cancer**  
A monthly support group that provides a safe space to discuss and receive support for all aspects of the cancer journey. Participants in this group are those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer prior to menopause. Call 216-595-9546 or visit [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org) to learn more. *The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Wednesday, April 2, 1-2:30 p.m.**  
**Free Family History Research Help Session**  
If you need help getting started or have come to a "road block" in your path to finding your ancestors, members of Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will volunteer their time and talent to assist you, at the computer terminals. Please bring a copy of your pedigree chart and/or relevant family records. *Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Thursday, April 3, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Westshore Democratic Clubs' Candidates Night**  
The event will feature invited candidates running for Cuyahoga County executive: Armond Budish, Bob Reid and Shirley Smith; along with candidates for various judicial races, and Democratic write-in candidate for the Cuyahoga County Council from District 1, Mark Szabo. Also, speakers from both sides of the Sin Tax Issue 7 have been invited. For more information, visit [www.fairviewparkdems.org](http://www.fairviewparkdems.org), or email [fairviewdems@gmail.com](mailto:fairviewdems@gmail.com). *Fairview Park City Hall, Dunson Room, 20777 Lorain Rd. (parking and entrance in rear of building)*

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