

Home of the Rockets breaks ground



BAY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Jodie Hausmann, Superintendent of Bay Village Schools; Matt Spellman, Athletic/Activity Director, Bay Village Schools; Jason Martin, Principal of Bay High School; Jon Ransom, Chairperson of the Home of the Rockets campaign; and Paul Vincent, Bay Village Board of Education Member, break ground for the Home of the Rockets capital campaign.

by KAREN UTHE
SEMANKIK

Despite a pandemic and without a large corporate sponsor, Home of the Rockets (HOTR) recently became a reality after a year of fundrais-

ing efforts led by chairperson Jon Ransom, with the support of Jay Sharpnak, Bob Reed and the entire Bay Rockets Association.

The \$1.6 million capital campaign dedicated to building a 4,000-square-foot, multifunctional building and fan plaza at the south

end of Bay High Stadium broke ground on May 3 and will include: home and visitor team rooms; coaches rooms; concession stand and storage area; spiritwear shop; fan plaza; restrooms; and additional storage and mechanical rooms.

► See ROCKETS page 2

Westlake celebrates residents age 90 and older

by ROBERT ROZBORIL

The City of Westlake was pleased to present special Over 90 Birthday Proclamations to residents who have lived on this Earth for more than nine decades on April 30, 2021.

Since the City was unable to host its usual Over 90 Birthday Luncheon due to the pandemic, Westlake Community Services Direc-

tor Lydia Gadd and Outreach Coordinator Donna Feorene personally delivered the proclamations, signed by Mayor Dennis Clough, to each recipient. The seniors also received gourmet cupcakes courtesy of Brookdale Senior Living.

It was the second year in a row the City brought these proclamations to residents' doorsteps in lieu of an in-person event. ♦



PHOTO BY ROBERT ROZBORIL

Brother and sister Fred Smith and Lois Durst received proclamations signed by Mayor Clough.

Village Project board thanks outgoing executive director, Barb Harrell

by DIANE FRYE

The board of directors of Village Project expresses its gratitude to Barb Harrell for the many years she has devoted to the organization and to the community.

If you know Barb Harrell, you know she is a woman with many talents, strong faith and unquenchable enthusiasm. Most notably, Barb has an entrepreneurial spirit with a passion to connect individuals of all ages and abilities to make a positive impact in the community.

While raising her children, Barb used her ever-present optimism and her

gift for getting the best out of those around her to benefit school, church and community causes throughout Bay Village.

With both her sons off to college in 2010, Barb became acquainted with the Ceres Community Project of Sebastopol, California. She was intrigued by Ceres Project's innovative concept of using local teenage cooks to prepare nutritious meals for people in their community who are experiencing health challenges. The most inspirational part of this to her was the idea of an organization that involved multi-generational volunteers, particularly youth, experiencing

the satisfaction of helping other people. She wanted to facilitate such an opportunity here in Northeast Ohio.

Barb founded Village Food Project, as it was known then, on Sept. 24, 2010, with the mission to come together as a community of all ages to provide nourishing meals and extended care and service to our neighbors experiencing cancer.

On Feb. 1, 2011, Village Food Project prepared its first, nutritious meals in the basement of Bay Presbyterian Church and delivered them to four families in Bay Village who were struggling with cancer.

► See HARRELL page 4



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Barb Harrell, bottom right in this photo from 2013, is stepping away from the Village Project, an organization she founded in 2010.

ROCKETS *from front page*

Ransom said the community rallied together with hundreds of donations in all sizes, with the majority of the funds raised coming from local families, civic groups and small businesses, with special gratitude to Bay Village Kiwanis, Bay Alumni Foundation, Bay Soccer Club, and Amy and

Tom Huntley. “This project is a triumph for our community and the spirit of One Rocket Nation,” Ransom said. “Thanks to this outpouring of generosity, our new facility will enhance the stadium experience for future Bay student-athletes and spectators for decades to come.” ●

Home of the Rockets by the numbers:

- 12 months of fundraising
- \$1.6M dollars raised
- 0 large corporate sponsors
- 75% private donations



A rendering of Home of the Rockets — a capital campaign dedicated to the construction of a 4,000-square-foot, multifunctional building and fan plaza at the south end of the Bay High stadium.

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BAYarts' summer of fun returns



by NANCY HEATON

Beginning in June, BAYarts' summer events will resume after a year off. Join us for outdoor, family-friendly events on the Cleveland Metroparks campus. With safety in mind, CDC regulations for outdoor events will be observed. Kicking off the summer on June 10 is the Thursday Night Market, back to its evening hours (4-8 p.m.) through September. Many new vendors and artisans will join community groups, food trucks and live music. Something new will be Pass the Hat concerts, local musicians experimenting with new platforms, with no fee, but they'll *pass the hat!* The Summer Concert series resumes on Sunday nights thanks to a brand new stage made possible by Bay Village Kiwanis. This year's line-up

includes many favorites including a double header on Aug. 8. Concessions will be served by guests bartenders volunteering their time. New this year, BAYarts is excited to introduce Groundworks Dance Theater: a vibrant, nationally recognized troupe dedicated to enriching human experiences through the creation of original contemporary dance. They will perform two evenings; this is a ticketed event that will support this wonderful organization. BAYarts is thrilled to once again be one of the stops for the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, this year performing "Romeo and Juliet," a fun, accessible evening for all ages. For details, clip and save the ad in this issue and watch for updates on social media and at www.bayarts.net. It's good to be back! ●

Bethesda On The Bay will host ‘Homeless Jesus’ sculpture

by CHRISSY MORSCHER

Bethesda On The Bay Lutheran Church & Childcare Center is pleased to announce the hosting of the sculpture “Homeless Jesus” May 24 through June 28. Homeless Jesus is a life-size sculpture created by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz which depicts Jesus as a homeless person lying on a bench, shrouded in a blanket with wounds on the feet. This symbolic work of art is one of a series of inspiring sculptures crafted by Schmalz. This very powerful image of homelessness has traveled our community since October

of 2018. He has been giving inspiration to congregations and the public at 12 churches and one recovery home and one family shelter to date, and now at Bethesda on the Bay – a vibrant congregation and childcare center and member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Anyone may walk or drive by to view Homeless Jesus at the corner of 28607 Wolf Road and Beach Lane in Bay Village. Community West Foundation purchased the sculpture as a visual representation of the Gospel passage in Matthew 25:40 – “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least



“Homeless Jesus” is a life-size sculpture which depicts Jesus as a homeless person.

of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” During Homeless Jesus’ tenure at Bethesda, a collection of items for “Socks Plus,” one of Community West’s programs, will take place. Items most needed are new socks, new underwear, toiletries, winter hats and gloves, backpacks, sleeping bags and tents. Financial donations are also welcome. Please write checks payable to the Community West Foundation. ●

LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

What to look for in the sky this May

by MORGAN PASKERT

As the weather gets warmer and days grow longer, springtime continues to bring change in the Northern Hemisphere. Planetarium Specialist Katy Downing of the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center shares the visible planets and constellations to observe in May. **Jupiter and Saturn** Before sunrise, look for Jupiter and

Saturn shining brightly in the east. Jupiter will be toward the eastern sky and appear brighter than Saturn. Though not as bright, Saturn – the most distant planet in our solar system to be seen with the naked eye – will be brighter than the surrounding stars in the southeastern sky. Tip: By May 31, the sun is rising at 5:55 a.m. Wake up early to gaze at these two planets before they disappear in the morning light.

Mars

This month, look west during sunset to observe Mars. The Red Planet will be due west, high above the horizon. As its nickname suggests, Mars will be red in color and stand out among the surrounding stars.

After you spot Mars, remind yourself of Perseverance, the new robotic mission that landed in February to look for signs of past microbial life, cache rock and soil samples, and prepare for future human exploration.

Tip: Stars twinkle; planets usually don’t.

Arcturus and Spica

As the skies clear, constellations become more visible. Look high in the sky for Leo the Lion, resembling a backward question mark with a triangle to the east of it. To the east of Leo are two bright stars, Arcturus and Spica.

The Big Dipper will be high in the sky after sunset; look for the seven stars making the iconic dipper high and to the north. Follow the arc of the handle to the south and you will find Arcturus in the constellation Bootes the Herdsman.

South of Arcturus is where you will find Spica, the jewel of Virgo the Maiden.

Tip: Light pollution, or excess light in the night sky, affects our natural world – from migrating birds to visibility of stars in the night sky. While it is difficult to observe many stars in Northeast Ohio, Arcturus



The Big Dipper in Ursa Major

and Spica are incredibly bright and visible despite light pollution. The rest of the stars in their constellations? You may have to plan a road trip out of the city to see them.

Full Moon

This month’s full moon, appropriately called the Flower Moon, will illuminate the night sky on May 26.

A lunar eclipse will occur over the Pacific Ocean that evening, when the moon moves into Earth’s shadow. Most of Australia will witness the entire lunar eclipse, and the west coast of the United States will see a partial lunar eclipse as the moon sets and the sun rises.

Though we will not see much of the lunar eclipse in Northeast Ohio, we will see a total lunar eclipse May 15-16, 2022.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is open for free general admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Planetarium programs are offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and require advance registration at www.lensc.org. ●



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HARRELL

from front page

Under the supervision of adult volunteer cooks, local high school students took responsibility for the major portion of meal preparation and packaging. Through this experience, local teens learned about nutrition, meal planning, cooking, and most importantly, the joy of serving others.

Over the next few years, Barb oversaw the expansion of the Village Project (VP) service area into other local communities, including eventually Avon, Avon Lake, Rocky River and Westlake. By late 2013, VP's exponential growth necessitated a move for its base of operations from the church basement to its own freestanding 3,500-square-foot facility in Bay Village.

As the need continued to grow in the area and the client base increased 600%, Barb spearheaded Project Pillar, VP's expansion funding initiative in 2018, incorporating the former Thomas & Thomas Photography Studio space and nearly doubling the size of the facility. Besides a commercial kitchen space, the building now offered meeting space, an activity area, office space, storage and a retail space that allowed Village Project to offer carry-out meals and its own in-house-made specialty products to the community.

Barb's philanthropic spirit and drive have made quite an impact on the local West Shore community and with every-

one she has come into contact. During 10+ years, over 600 volunteers from ages 2 to 90 have shared their efforts through Village Project and were able to experience that joy of serving others. More than 40,000 meals have been served to over 400 families in this time period. Additionally, countless supportive services have been performed to help lighten the load for VP clients. Those are big numbers indeed.

Village Project celebrated its 10-year anniversary in September 2020. Barb's intention was to step down at that time, but the coronavirus shutdown caused her to rethink those plans. Graciously, she decided to stay on and steer Village Project through the very challenging period. As board president Jason Klosterman explained, "After initially deciding to retire last year, Barb was willing to remain in her position to lead Village Project through the COVID-19 pandemic. She leaves the Village Project in an advantageous position to continue serving families who are battling cancer for another 10 years. The board of directors is incredibly thankful for her service."

So what is next for Barb? She shared that her short-term plan is to spend a relaxing summer with plenty of time for walks, bike riding, kayaking, working in her yard, enjoying morning coffee and dinner on the patio with her husband, Jeff, and reconnecting with family and friends. Long-term plans? She says, "Now that is a bit harder. The summer will also be a time of prayer and reflection. We'll see what wonderful plans God has in mind." ●

WDAB launches Demon Derby fundraiser



by MARTI BOWMAN

Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters (WDAB) is thrilled to launch the 2021 Demon Derby Online Raffle and Fundraiser. This one-of-a-kind fundraiser offers a huge range of prizes, including an ultimate tailgate party package, a backyard barbecue bounty, sports memorabilia, youth sports camp entries and much more. Minimum bids start as low as \$5.

All of the funds raised support

Westlake High School and Lee Burneson Middle School sports programs and student athletes. WDAB financially supports these athletics by providing uniforms, field maintenance, awards and trophies, equipment, scholarships and more.

The Demon Derby Online Raffle and Fundraiser runs May 1-19. Please note, some raffle prizes are for adults 21+. Don't miss the opportunity to bid on championship entries while supporting a very good cause. For more information, visit wdab.rallyup.com/wdab2021. ●

No Bay Village Memorial Day Parade this year

by JIM POTTER

The Bay Village American Legion has decided to cancel this year's parade due to the pandemic and the need for social distancing. There will be a small Memorial Day observance at the Lakeside Cemetery on Monday, May 31, at 9:30 a.m., where the names of those who gave their lives in service to our country will be read.

Those who attend are requested to wear face coverings and maintain Covid-19 protocol.

The parade has been an annual tradition here in Bay Village with many city organizations participating in it. This is only the second time the parade has been canceled, the first time was last year, for the same reason. Hopefully this special event will take place next year, when it is again safe to do so. ●

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Digital expo for seniors to be virtual again this year

by BRENDA SPICER

"Physically distant but not socially distant" is the theme of the free, virtual, fifth annual Living in the Digital World Senior Expo which will stream live on Thursday, May 27, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 pm. Seniors and their family members and caregivers are invited to join in this morning of friendly and fun digital learning.

Seniors are welcome to relax with a cup of coffee or tea and spend the morning at home discovering how they can embrace digital literacy as an enjoyable life skill while also learning some good habits of how to stay safe online.

This free morning for seniors and their partners in caregiving is being presented by Mely and Tak Sato, co-

founders of the nonprofit Center for Aging in the Digital World.

Their Living in the Digital World Senior Expo presentation schedule features:

- Why is digital literacy a "life skill" you need to start discovering?
- Good habits and practical tips to minimize being victimized while benefiting from what the digital world has to offer with current trends
- A round-table discussion of actual experiences of benefits
- Practical demonstrations of digital life skills

The virtual Living in the Digital World Senior Expo will stream live at EmpowerSeniors.org on May 27 beginning at 9 a.m. Visit the website for more information and to pre-register. ●

Bay Women's Club awards scholarships

by MARY KAY MCLEAN

The Bay Village Women's Club Foundation has awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to six graduating Bay High School seniors.

Kaylee Buehler will be preparing for a career in nursing at Kent State University. She served as captain of Bay Swim and Dive, as Editor-in-Chief of the Bay Tribune and as class officer. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Also attending Kent State University is Morgan Fischer. Her academic major will be architectural studies. She is president of the Student Council, a member of the Rockettes, a class officer and on the yearbook staff.

Priya Goddard will be a liberal arts student at Lorain County Community College to study agriculture. She is a participant in SAGA, Straight Alliance, Gay Alliance; WINGS women's support group; the Bay Mental Health Alliance; PALS and Treble Choir.

Another Kent State student will be Alexandra Jensen in the Exploratory program. Her activities are the Girl Scouts, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, cheerleading and the International Thespian Society. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Ryan McNamara will be attending Cleveland State University where he will be studying computer science. Ryan is a member of the Chamber Orchestra and the National Honor Society.

Chatham University in Pittsburgh is the choice of Kendall Sirignano. She will be majoring in PreK-4 education. She participates in both Girls Cross Country and Girls Track and is co-president of the Student Council. She is in the National Honor Society and YPF, Youth Philanthropy Fellowship Leadership. ●



Kaylee Buehler



Morgan Fischer



Priya Goddard



Alexandra Jensen



Ryan McNamara



Kendall Sirignano

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SPORTING VIEWS

LeBron’s ‘outburst’ not surprising

by JEFF BING

You probably heard about LeBron James’ now famous “You’re next” tweet from a couple of weeks ago. If you haven’t heard, it’s pretty clear you’ve been living under a rock or something (and I’m surprised I didn’t run into you down there).

For those of you not as media-savvy as the rest of us, it went something like this: Columbus, Ohio, police shot and killed a 16-year-old Black girl who was thought to be attacking other people with a knife.

Keeping in mind that this happened shortly after the Minnesota cop was convicted of murdering George Floyd, James sparked considerable outrage when he posted the photo of the Columbus cop who shot the 16-year-old with the caption of “YOU’RE NEXT #ACCOUNTABILITY” which also included an hourglass emoji, presumably implying that the “clock was ticking” on the Columbus cop getting the same fate as the guy who killed George Floyd.

James used the “#ACCOUNTABILITY” hashtag after the George Floyd verdict was handed down, so many people thought LeBron was extremely premature in his assumption of the Columbus officer’s guilt, while others felt his comments were more than appropriate.

At this point I should probably add that LeBron deleted his post soon after there was an incredibly high level of hate directed his way as a result of this tweet, and he explained his intent was not to incite a reaction such as that which occurred.

I should also make it clear that I know very little about the Columbus killing, so I am in no position to comment about the killing either way; I will leave that up to the courts to decide.

What I *do* know is that LeBron discovered a long, long time ago that every word he says, and everything he does, in public – and even some in private, is covered and reported by the media. It’s the price of being a celebrity, and of course, he isn’t the only one who has used the media as a vehicle to get his or her message out, and then subsequently had to quickly employ damage control when the response wasn’t as positive as anticipated. (Much like the response I get from my loyal reader(s) when I make an inflammatory statement or two, but we all know I *never* do that. Just ask the Dolans. Or Jimmy Haslam.)

LeBron reacted emotionally, much like we all do when surprised by something we see or hear, but the difference is that most of us *don’t* have a bazillion followers whose purpose in life appears to depend on every word we speak.

Can you even *begin* to picture your life if every word you said was up for scrutiny?

Personally, I kind of enjoy living life in anonymity, where I can say what I want – when I want – and to whomever I want, without fear of getting someone ticked off at me. Besides, I never say anything stupid. Go ahead, ask anyone ...

Except for my wife. And my kids. And my grandkids. And my coworkers. And my loyal reader(s). ●

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Normandy students launch mask litter awareness project

by ELIZABETH SHIRY

Our kindergarten class at Normandy School in Bay Village noticed a problem, so we decided to do something about it. This spring, as we began to spend more time outside, we started noticing a lot of masks lying on the ground. It seemed like they were everywhere! We could not understand how people could just leave their masks on the ground, littering.

First, we did some research and learned that mask pollution is more prevalent than we thought. We see them on the ground, but animals are affected by the litter, too. We looked at pictures of birds with masks caught on their wings and feet. We saw sea turtles and fish caught in masks. We knew this was terrible! Mask litter spoils a walk through the neighborhood or the park. Mask litter can kill animals.

Next, we collected data. For 10 days, we kept track of how many masks we found and where we found them. We also took photos of the mask litter. Zoe Shumaker found one by a tree on the Whales playground. Logan Horn found a mask at Bradley Park. Ava and Gia Ferrando found several at the zoo. Esther Schearer saw and



Charlie Ligman and Lulu Andrews display the poster they made to increase awareness of mask litter.

picked up a mask at Huntington Beach Park.

It did not take long for us to see that mask litter is everywhere. Most often, we found disposable masks, but we also found lots of nice, reusable ones. We analyzed the data and found that, on average, we see two masks lying on the ground every day. Jaxson Burger commented, “I was very surprised!” We were all shocked. We knew we had to do more.

Based on our data, we learned that students were leaving masks on our Normandy playgrounds. We decided to make posters with messages, photos, and drawings to help everyone remember to bring the mask they wear outside back inside. Our



Mason Shihadeh picks up a mask on Normandy’s Eagles Playground.

posters are displayed at every entrance and exit at Normandy School.

Our Kindergarten Mask Litter Awareness Project has taught us some valuable life lessons. Levi Scattergood said, “We never want anyone to litter masks ever again.” Although our project is finished, some students, such as Cecily Weaver, are continuing to clean up our environment. She told her class, “I pick up masks with sticks and throw them away.” We even inspired Mrs. Shamaly, a Normandy staff member, to make reusable masks to donate to the homeless.

In kindergarten, we have learned to pick up after ourselves. If we can do it, so can you! Our Mask Litter Awareness Project showed us that it is our responsibility to keep our planet clean and keep the animals safe. We will do our part, won’t you? ●



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Researchers from the Center for Reducing Health Disparities in collaboration with The Gathering Place are currently recruiting participants for a study looking at the impact of massage on pain and mobility among women who have had breast cancer surgery in the last 24 months.

Eligible women will complete questionnaires and range of motion measurements throughout the project and receive one of two different types of manual therapy twice a week for 2 months by licensed massage therapists. Participants will be compensated for their time.

Please contact the study coordinator **MARY JO DAY at 216-778-8456** for more information.



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Westlake Porter Public Library’s late May calendar of events

by ELAINE WILLIS

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library’s late May 2021 calendar of events. All programs are subject to change. Please check westlakelibrary.org or follow the library on Facebook and Twitter (@WestlakePorter) for the latest updates.

May 12-22 – **Summer Art Walk Submissions** – What does summer look like to you? Artists in grades K-6 to be showcased throughout the month of June. Artists in grades 7-adult to be showcased throughout the month of July. Art must meet all guidelines and must be submitted with a submission form. Guidelines and form can be found at westlakelibrary.org.

Bring completed form and art piece to the Youth Services Desk no later than May 22. Need help? Contact Youth Services at 440-250-5471.

Wednesday, May 19 (2-3 p.m.) **Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion (Live)** – The Wednesday book discussion takes place on the THIRD Wednesday of the month. This month’s book is “This Tender Land” by William Kent Krueger. A limited number of books are available at the Circulation Desk. The discussion will be held via Zoom. Please register and provide an email to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, May 19 (7-8 p.m.) **Virtual Trivia Night at Porter (Live)** – Join us for a Vir-

tual Trivia Night all about your favorite movies! Play as a single player or family. Presented live via Zoom. Please register.

Saturday, May 22 (11-11:30 a.m.) **Pokemon Fun (Live)** – We’ll play a “Guess that Pokemon” game and have time for show and tell. Feel free to bring a favorite Pokemon card or toy for show and tell! Registration begins one week before each program. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Monday, May 24 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Blood-mobile**

Monday, May 24 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Maker Monday: Geocaching (Live)** – Learn how to get out and about with geocach-

ing, a worldwide “treasure hunt” using your smartphone’s GPS! Please register.

Wednesday, May 26 (noon-12:45 p.m.) **Stuffy Nose Talk: MetroHealth (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for a discussion of the ear, nose and throat issues you shouldn’t ignore by Dr. David Stepnik from MetroHealth. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom information.

Wednesday, May 26 (4-5 p.m.) **Teen Writers Group (Live)** – An online Zoom meet up for writers in grades 7-12. This is a dedicated hour to just write. We’ll save the last 15 minutes for any writer in need of some group brainstorming. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, May 26 (7-7:30 p.m.) **Family Storytime (Live)** – Join us on Zoom for an interac-

tive storytime featuring books, rhymes, songs and movement. For families with children up to 2-6, siblings welcome. Please register. Participants must provide an email address to receive Zoom instructions.

Wednesday, May 26 (8-9 p.m.) **Discovery Box for Teens: Summer Edition Sign Up** – A personalized subscription box services for teens in grades 7-12. Each box will include a book, a paper craft, a mystery snack and a few other surprises! After signing up you’ll receive a survey to help us personalize your box to your taste. Registration begins May 26. Pick-up takes place June 2-4.

Sunday, May 30 and Monday, May 31 – **Library Closed in Observance of Memorial Day.**

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

READERS’ OPINIONS

Residents voice opposition to proposed Red Oak subdivision

by JOSEPH PTAK

I love living in Bay Village. It’s the people that make a community, first and foremost, but I also love Bay Village for its natural environment; its trees and its creeks, in particular. At a time when centenarian trees are being torn down and climate change presents increasing risk of flooding, I applaud our city government for taking notice and discussing ways to preserve the natural environment in our city.

For example, Bay Village has a Tree Commission that is, among other things, looking at ordinances passed by other cities to maintain their natural beauty and the environmental advantages afforded by a healthy tree canopy with an eye towards adopting similar ordinances in Bay Village.

It is perplexing to me, then, when the city government is not united in action to prevent development that threatens a wooded lot that also serves as a wetlands adjacent to a protected waterway. I am referring to a proposal that has come before the Bay Village City Council to create a new subdivision, Red Oak Woods 2, on Tuttle Creek.

The proposal would add two large homes to an existing single-family lot alongside the creek. According to the EPA’s classification of wetlands, the low-lying land adjacent to Tuttle Creek would be a “non-tidal marsh.” The EPA explains the importance of non-tidal marshes as follows: “Due to their high levels of nutrients,

freshwater marshes are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. They can sustain a vast array of plant communities that in turn support a wide variety of wildlife within this vital wetland ecosystem. As a result, marshes sustain a diversity of life that is disproportionate with their size. In addition to their considerable habitat value, non-tidal marshes serve to mitigate flood damage and filter excess nutrients from surface runoff.”

The proposed subdivision still requires approval from council before moving forward, however, which positions the mayor and members of council to be able to act to protect trees and wetlands from development. The matter has been referred to the Planning, Zoning, Public Buildings and Grounds Committee which first took up the proposal at their meeting on May 10.

At that meeting, it became clear that council was divided. This seems at odds with public statements of the city’s goals and values. For example, although the Bay Village Master Plan calls for “environmentally sustainable design practices when adding or replacing infrastructure,” the Red Oak Woods 2 Subdivision would extend a city street against the wishes of residents in the neighborhood and would result in the loss of dozens of established trees.

Similarly, the Master Plan also states, “The city will make a concerted effort to alleviate storm water management and flooding issues through innovative policies and green

infrastructure.” The proposed subdivision, however, would bury wetlands with landfill and hard surfaces which will drain directly into Tuttle Creek and, in turn, to Lake Erie.

Ward 1 in Bay Village, where the proposed subdivision is located, is already dealing with flooding issues and the existing infrastructure has been overwhelmed in recent storms in 2015, 2017, and 2020. The pace at which development in the ward is progressing will only exacerbate the existing storm water issues. In this particular instance, at least, it seems there is a difference between what the city government says and what, when the time comes for action, it may choose to do.

In the spirit of fairness and transparency, the mayor and several members of council have visited the site and spoken to neighbors. Not all support the proposed subdivision but it is unclear whether there will be enough votes to stop the development.

If you are a Bay Village resident, please consider taking a moment to go to the Bay Village website to get the email address for your council person and the mayor to respectfully let your feelings about this project be known.

There is another meeting of the Planning, Zoning, Public Buildings and Grounds Committee scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, May 24, to further discuss the proposed subdivision. More information on the meeting can also be found on the city’s website. ●

Please don’t ask our children to call you by your first name

by COLLEEN HARDING

When we were young, our parents would introduce us to adults and say, “this is Mr. _____, or this is Miss _____ or Mrs. _____,” and we would say, “hello Mrs. _____.” It was how we showed respect for an adult – someone older than us and had earned the right to be respected. We never thought about calling them by their first names. It would be rude and disrespectful, and our parents would be mortified. The idea of doing this wasn’t even on the radar.

Recently someone asked our children to call them by their first name. I know they didn’t think anything of it and meant no harm because it has become common. We are raising our children to respect the hierarchy, the chain of command. With a hierarchy, everyone pays their dues and reaps the benefits of respecting, working hard, and experiencing.

Some may disagree and think we should all be at the same level, but we are not. Respect is earned. Promotions are earned. Friendship is earned. Scholarships are earned. Rewards are earned. When you ask a child (under the age of 18) to call you by your first name, you rob them of the opportunity to respect the hierarchy. You put them at your level, and now YOU will find yourself trying to earn-

ing their respect. You will find yourself making all the effort. It’s backwards.

Showing our young people the importance of the hierarchy has nothing to do with making anyone feel old; on the contrary, it’s quite the opposite. It is about showing our young how to respect others and be respected themselves. It is how we establish their expectations for the world ahead of them. Life is not fair, and everything is not equal. Life is hard. These steps will help to prepare them for times when things are not warranted or equal.

If someone introduces you by your first name to someone under the appropriate age, it is perfectly acceptable to say, “please call me Mrs. or Mr. or Miss.” It shows that you want to be respected.

Senior football players rarely ask incoming freshman what play to run. Executives rarely ask the intern how to run the business. Generals rarely ask privates what the next move should be. Teachers don’t ask students what lessons to teach. Parents don’t ask children what time they should go to bed.

The next time you are being introduced to a young person, please don’t rob them of the opportunity to respect you. You’re helping them to prepare for what is coming and how to handle it. ●

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DIGGING DOVER – WESTLAKE

You’ve Come a Long Way, Westlake

by WILLIAM KRAUSE

In 1993 the Westlake Historical Society published a book titled “You’ve Come a Long Way, Westlake . . . and You’ve Got a Long Way To Go” by William M. Robishaw. Mr. Robishaw, known as “Bill,” served as the president of the Westlake Historical Society for 14 years, in 1981 editing and overseeing the publishing of “A History and Civics of Dover Village,” from a manuscript written in 1930 by a Dover High School social studies teacher and one of his students.

The teacher, Reign S. Hadsell, taught civics in Dover from 1926 until 1930. Hazel Rutherford was one of his students who graduated from Dover High School in 1931. While Hadsell was the primary author of the manuscript, he credits Rutherford in the foreword with writing a number of the chapters. Mr. Robishaw, Dover High School class of 1939, took the rough manuscript and turned it into a book which was published with financial help of the Friends of Porter Library and the Westlake Historical Society.

Both of these books combined form

the “bible” of Westlake history. The Hadsell and Rutherford volume covers pre-history until 1930 and the Robishaw volume the period from 1930 until 1993. The Robishaw book has been out of print for a number of years. Andrew Mangels, the director of Porter Public Library, is spearheading the efforts of a team of Westlake residents and Porter’s local history librarian, Chad Statler, to lightly edit the book and add content for the period from 1990 until today, and get it back into print. The team includes one former resident, Dr. Donna Conlon, Bill Robishaw’s daughter.

Mr. Robishaw wrote much of the second book from Florida, where he retired after a 28 year career in the Westlake schools, including nine years as the prin-



Photo from William M. Robishaw’s obituary in 2012 accessed from Roberson Funeral Home website, Port Charlotte, Florida.

cipal of Holly Lane and 12 as the principal of Bassett Elementary. At 500 pages it is a very comprehensive book. It was written in the midst of the incredible growth that was occurring in Westlake, when Westlake was the fastest growing community in Cuyahoga County in residential, commercial and industrial construction.

The book quotes an article from the period that laments the fact that Westlake did not have a “town center,” a focal point, something that

has changed since, with the construction of Crocker Park and the creation of the Recreation Center and park – both new focal points in the city. Now, in 2021, the city is nearly built out and has brilliantly completed that “Long Way To Go.” Mr. Robishaw was able to witness this in 2010 when he came for a visit to Westlake with

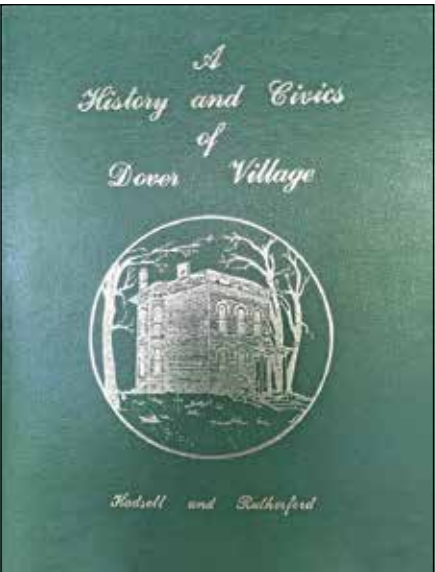


PHOTO BY WILL KRAUSE

Cover of the book that Mr. Robishaw edited and published in 1981 from a 1930 manuscript by Reign Hadsell and Hazel Rutherford.

his wife Jean. She died on their trip back to Florida and he died in 2012.

We will let Observer readers know when the book is back in print. Meanwhile, Porter Library is open again for browsing and you might just pick up a circulating copy of either the Hadsell and Rutherford or Robishaw books. Digging Dover columns are merely an appetizer to the veritable feast that these two books are for Westlake local history fans. ●

THE GREEN REPORT

Jane Goodall, still making a difference at 87

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

On a recent road trip, I was listening to one of my favorite podcasts, “Armchair Expert with Dax Shepard,” and Jane Goodall was the guest. If you are not aware of who Jane Goodall is, she studied the social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees for 60 years. She is currently 87 years young and is still considered to be the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees. If you get a chance to listen to her in an interview or otherwise, please do it. She is amazing and continues to make big impacts on the world in the areas of conservation and animal welfare.

In 1977, Jane Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) with the mission to protect the chimpanzees she studied in Gombe, Tanzania, from habitat destruc-

tion and illegal trafficking, as well as expand efforts on conservation and environmental education. In 1991, Jane was working with students in Tanzania and discussed how and what young people can do to better the world, and her program “Roots & Shoots” was born. Learning about “Roots & Shoots” was what inspired me to write about Jane and her mission in my column this week.

Roots & Shoots started as a group of 12 Tanzanian students and has grown to become a global movement that has active chapters in over 60 countries. The Roots & Shoots website, rootsandshoots.org, is amazing. It has resources and ideas for youth, educators, and families. There are opportunities to participate in global change through one-click actions or projects that are world-wide. There are resources and guides that help guide groups

through starting a community project, with themes that run from climate change, to preserving biodiversity, to projects about equality, equity, and inclusion.

You can search the theme, age group, and group-type to find projects that you are interested in. If you do not find something, they give you all the tools to start your own! You can recruit friends and neighbors to join your project. This website is also a great resource for scouts or faith-based youth groups looking to start a community project.

The website is fantastic resource for teachers seeking to design projects for their students that will create a lasting impact on our community. Roots & Shoots provides a simple and flexible program model. The website provides lesson plans for all grades and for both in and out of the classroom.

Youth who participate in programs feel empowered because they are making a difference in their community while simultaneously developing their leadership and decision-making skills and preserving their compassion and value of community service. A free

online course is also offered for educators who want to learn more about how to identify and implement a local service-learning campaign.

Please go online and explore rootsandshoots.org. Talk to the young people and teachers in your lives about this wonderful resource. Let’s empower our youth to begin making a difference today! ●

Rally in support of Palestine held in Westlake



Protesters brought flags, signs and banners to a pro-Palestine rally on Crocker Road in Westlake on Friday, May 14. The rally was one of many being held across the country as tensions escalate between Israeli defense forces and Hamas. A pro-Israel rally was held in Beachwood several days prior.

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Questions? Email staff@wbvobserver.com

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