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WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE Observer

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Rotary Art Festival expands in second year



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

In its second year, the Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Art Festival saw an increase in attendance and the number of booths. The July 30 art festival, held on the grounds of Porter Library, included a diverse mixture of artwork, jewelry, crafts, and music, plus fun for youngsters. Above, Claire and Catherine Novak display face painting and balloon creations from the event.

► See ROTARY page 4

Wonderful work: Joan Kemper honored as Clerk of the Year

by TARA WENDELL

To those of us who interact with Bay Village City Council on a regular basis, Joan Kemper is the Clerk of Every Year. She is dedicated to her craft; eager to help others; incredibly kind, caring and thoughtful; the epitome of a public servant.

For the past 57 years, Joan has served the public in various roles. At age 82, she still works late into the evening and on weekends when the job calls for it, preparing packets of information for council members, conducting comparative research with other cities, responding to public requests and, of course, diligently transcribing the minutes of public meetings.

"Joan is admired by everyone with whom she connects," remarked City Council President Dwight Clark. "She is the ultimate City of Bay Village ambassador to our residents, colleagues, friends and acquaintances. She is the model of consistency and professionalism, one who represents the ideal qualities of a dedicated public servant. No employee with the City of Bay Village comes in earlier and stays later



Bay Village Clerk of Council Joan Kemper

than Clerk Kemper. She can make a pot of hot coffee and bring a smile to one's face, second to none."

Last month, Joan was recognized by her peers for her professionalism and dedication, receiving the prestigious 2022 Clerk of the Year award from the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association.

► See KEMPER page 2

WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

COFA = 4 weeks of art and artists

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

Works of art and artists demonstrating their techniques take center stage for four weeks as the Community of Fine Arts (COFA) returns for the first time since 2019. The Westlake-Westshore Arts Council presents its 21st edition of COFA, a juried art show, on display now through Aug. 27 at Westlake Porter Public Library.

The exhibit includes 68 pieces of art from 30 artists, amateur/semi-professional and professional, judged by professional artists.

The awards ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the library's Porter Room, is open to the public.

On Saturdays, Aug. 6, 13 and 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., the public is invited to demonstrations by professional artists in the Porter Library lobby.

Joyce Bolte, Sharlene Pearl Green and Stuart Pearl, judges of this year's show, have rich, diverse backgrounds.

Bolte, who lives in Grafton and has been painting in watercolors for over 40 years, points to the world of nature as her primary inspiration. A recipient of many awards, Bolte conducts workshops and demonstrations throughout the area.

Green, an Associate Professor of Art at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, works primarily with the human figure and with landscape, working in a variety of media. Green has written a book, "Simply Drawn to Life," available to students in her figure drawing classes.

Pearl is active in the art community as Board President of the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve (AAWR) and has been a lecturer and judge for numerous arts and photography groups in Northeast Ohio. His photographs are included in two books of the Cleveland Museum of Art as well as Landscape Architecture.



"Apples and Leaves" by Robert Parry, Watercolor



"Dove in Morning" by Kelly Berkheimer, Photography



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

KEMPER

from front page

“Joan is amazing and so worthy of this designation!” exclaimed Denise Rosenbaum, Westlake’s Clerk of Council.

Joan began her career in public service at the age of 24, following in her mother’s footsteps. She developed a passion for local government from an early age as she accompanied her mother to work as a bookkeeper for the City of Parma. Joan kicked off her own municipal career as a police dispatcher for the City of Brooklyn. A short time later she was hired as the mayor’s secretary, and served in many other capacities before retiring from Brooklyn in 1998 with over 33 years of service.

Not being one to slow down, Joan sought part-time work in her “retirement” and was hired by the City of Bay Village in 1999 as a receptionist and utility billing clerk. That brief respite lasted only two years; Joan resumed full-time work in 2001 when she was appointed Clerk of Council and Secretary to Boards and Commissions.

Joan is involved in the industry’s various organizations, earning her Certified Municipal Clerk certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2021. She regularly attends the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association’s meetings and learning opportunities.

She belongs to the Northeast Ohio Municipal Clerks’ Association, where she has served as past president; is a



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Joan Kemper has been named the 2022 Clerk of the Year by the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association.

Lifetime Honorary Member and past president of the Cuyahoga County Mayors’ Secretaries Association; and also serves as a Notary Public.

A lifelong learner, Joan passes those ideals along to her colleagues. Upon earning her CMC certification, she encouraged other clerks “to work toward his or her certification. The things you learn along the way are so helpful in your career. This municipal work is wonderful work. It is a pleasure and honor to serve my fellow citizens,

and a privilege to be able to learn from each other.”

Joan is active in the community and credits her stamina to her strong faith, healthy diet, and desire to help others. She is a devoted member of St. Raphael Parish. On the weekends, she is a water yoga/water aerobics instructor for University Hospitals, and she especially enjoys sharing these activities with older folks to help them stay healthy. She grows organic vegetables in the Bay Village Community Garden. Joan loves her family and is a proud mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

The warmth that

Joan radiates to others is reflected by the abundance of praise she has received upon receiving her Clerk of the Year award.

“Overall, Joan is a truly incredible woman, and her dedication and endurance in both her work life and personal life is an inspiration to us all,” wrote Julie Ogg, chair of the OMCA Clerk of the Year committee. “Her character is truly genuine and kind, and she embodies what a municipal clerk represents, the heart of the City.” ●

Bring the family to happy hour at BAYarts

There’s nothing like BAYarts in the summer with free events for all ages (and friendly dogs) including the Thursday Market and Sunday Concerts.

Thursday Market continues to shine as one of the west side’s favorite markets with dozens of food and art vendors, local food trucks, Chatty’s Pizzeria and live music on the gazebo. Add to that a new twist, especially for families and younger kids, Third Thursdays behind the gazebo invites parents to socialize with a beer or wine while kids enjoy meeting friends for crafts and games under their watchful eyes.

Family Happy Hour is the brainchild of BAYarts auxiliary board, Friends of BAYarts, whose mission is to promote family programming at BAYarts. Board president Emily Gambil and other members are parents of young children so bring a fresh outlook and energy to



the newly formed board. Beginning with the first Third Thursday event in June (there’s one more Aug. 18) they were inspired to make it weekly during BAYarts Thursday market with crafts and games for kids and libations for parents on the lawn behind the caboose.

Family Happy Hour continues from 5-7 p.m. every Thursday through summer. BAYarts summer events are free; a complete schedule can be picked up at BAYarts or www.bayarts.net. ●

Social Security and Elder Law Questions?



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PRODUCTION OFFICE

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Denny Wendell

Co-Publisher, Designer
denny@wbvobserver.com

Tara Wendell

Co-Publisher, Senior Editor
tara@wbvobserver.com

Advertising

Laura Gonzalez
laura@wbvobserver.com

Nancy Brown

nancy@wbvobserver.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jeff Bing, Cynthia Eakin, Jennifer Hartzell, Nancy Heaton, Isabel Hinojosa, Geoff Kedzierski, Karen Misciagna, Morgan Paskert, Jane Peer, Tak Sato, Louise Seeholzer, Eileen Vernon, Tara Wendell, Elaine Willis

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Denny Wendell

ALSO HELPING

Jon Mack, Denise Rosenbaum, Laurel Wendell

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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Observe the Perseid Meteor Shower at its peak, Aug. 11-12

by MORGAN PASKERT

The Perseid Meteor Shower, typically one of the most popular and impressive meteor showers of the year, will reach its peak Aug. 11 and 12. For this event, which is visible throughout Northeast Ohio, Planetarium Specialist Bill Reed of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center explains what a meteor shower is and provide tips for seeing “shooting stars” this summer.

What is a meteor shower and what causes them to occur?

Meteor showers are caused by

comets. Comets are large, icy objects which orbit the sun on regular, although eccentric orbits. As a comet approached the inner solar system and passes closer to the sun, its ice warms and begins to release particles of dust and rock into space, which can result in a glowing trail of vapor we see as a “tail.”

Meteor showers occur when meteoroids – the rocks and debris left behind by a comet – enter the Earth’s atmosphere. Meteoroids are almost always small enough to quickly burn up in our atmosphere, so there is little chance they will strike Earth’s surface.

Meteors, commonly known as “shooting stars,” are the streaks of light we see in the sky when a meteoroid burns up in the Earth’s atmosphere.

How can I observe the Perseid Meteor Shower?

Every year, Earth passes through the debris trail of Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle which results in the Perseids shower that peaks around early to mid-August.

Meteor showers are named after the location of their radiant. A radiant is the area of the sky in which the meteors appear to originate. To observe the Perseid Meteor Shower at its peak, look northeast toward the constellation Perseus the evening of Aug. 11 or the early morning of Aug. 12. Perseus will gradually rise in the night sky and reach optimal observing just before sunrise. Although it is difficult to forecast the intensity of the shower, on a good year, there could be as many as 150-200 per hour. Having said that, this year

may not be as spectacular due to a full moon brightening the sky.

Tips for seeing the Perseid Meteor Shower

Head to a dark, clear area with minimal light pollution (excessive or inappropriate use of outdoor artificial light). Avoid looking at your phone, as it takes about 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust to full darkness.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will host monthly Telescope Night programs this summer. Join Bill Reed for evenings under the stars, beginning with an overview of the constellations, planets, and current events in Schuele Planetarium. Weather permitting, telescope viewing will be available with the Center’s 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Upcoming program: Saturday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m. Fee: \$10/person.

To learn more and register for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center programming, visit www.lensc.org.



A time exposure captures multiple meteors emanating from the Perseus constellation in the northeast sky.

All veterans invited to free picnic

by GEOFF KEDZIERSKI

American Legion Post 385 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 249 are sponsoring an All Veterans Picnic on Saturday, Aug. 20, noon to 4 p.m.

This free event is open to all veterans and their families at the American Legion Post 385, 695 Cahoon Road, Westlake.

Come join us for lunch or a mid-afternoon snack. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes and dessert. We would like to meet you so please stop by, if just to say hello. We will also have a representative from the VA to answer veteran-related questions.

Any questions regarding the picnic can be addressed to Loretta Krook of the American Legion at loretta.krook@yahoo.com.

Learn the true story of Johnny Appleseed

Learn the true story of Johnny Appleseed on Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Bay Village Historical Society’s Osborn Learning Center porch talk.

Many people think of

Johnny Appleseed as a fictional character. In fact, he was a pioneer on the Ohio frontier. Beryl Prusinoski will talk about Johnny Appleseed and the conditions our state’s

early settlers encountered.

The free porch talk begins at 2:15 p.m. Guests are asked to bring their own lawn chairs. Visit www.bayhistorical.com for additional information.

WESTLAKE DEMONS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Westlake community event to kick off school year

by JANE PEER

The Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters (WDAB) will host its annual Spirit Rally and Membership Drive on Wednesday, Aug. 10. The purpose of the community event is to celebrate the start of the school year, introduce coaches and student-athletes and raise critical dollars to support WHS and LBMS athletic teams.

Held at the UH St. John Stadium at Westlake High School, the Spirit Rally will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

All community members are invited to attend this free event. The event will feature the WHS cheerleaders, marching band and auxiliary teams, food trucks, games, a Dunk Tank and other activities.

Virnette House-Browning, WDAB President, says it is a great family-focused, community-wide event that brings everyone together in a fun way while encouraging membership in the athletics booster organization.

“It’s a free event for the community and we get a great turnout. When people come and see all that WDAB is doing to

support athletics in Westlake, they enthusiastically make the decision to become a member,” said House-Browning.

According to WDAB Vice President, Delicia Ostrowski, the Spirit Rally not only offers an opportunity for individuals to become WDAB members but also for community businesses to sign up to participate as corporate sponsors. “We have a number of sponsorships levels available for businesses that are great for connecting local people with local businesses,” said Ostrowski. It’s a win-win to collectively support our athletics programs and local businesses, while generating Demon pride for the Westlake community. Ostrowski added that businesses who are not able to attend can also reach out via email to wdabvp@gmail.com.

Spirit Rally Rain Date: Saturday, Aug. 13, 2-5 p.m.



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Rotary Art Festival

The annual Westlake-Bay Village Rotary Art Festival on July 30 grew to over 50 artists with original works displaying paintings, unique jewelry and “one of a kind” creative crafted pieces. The festival had live music performers, a beer and wine garden, balloons for kids, food trucks all day and plenty of free parking. “One of the interesting things about this Festival is each artist pays their way in, but each artist also gifts to Rotary a piece of their art to be raffled off. All the proceeds go to nonprofits that Westlake-Bay Village Rotary supports,” said Rotarian Joe Kraft. ●



Rotarians Michael O'Donnell, Joe Kraft and Andrew Mangels greet Mayor Dennis Clough (second from right).



A vendor displays his local raw honey.



Festival visitors sample a scent of cosmetics from a local vendor.



Nice summer weather drew a large crowd to the grounds of Porter Public Library for the festival.



Attendees view paintings of Festival Featured Artist Shaun Kinley (inset).



Handcrafted bird houses were among the many unique crafts at the festival.



Dawn to Dusk, one of the music acts, performs at the festival.

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OBSERVER FAVORITES

In a league of her own

Former Rockford Peach reminisces about the girls baseball league

This story was originally printed in the Sept. 5, 2012, issue about Bay Village resident Audrey Daniels and her time as a star pitcher in the women's baseball league. She passed away in 2021.

The Observer is reprinting some of our most popular features from past issues. Do you have a favorite story and/or photo? Drop us a line at staff@wbvobserver.com.

by EILEEN VERNON

Some of the most interesting stories are those that are unexpected. Such is the case with Audrey Daniels, a fellow Bay Village resident, whom I met in my water exercise class. As our group chatted over lunch after a recent class, Audrey, then 84, shared something that had us all leaning forward in our seats, eager to hear more: her name is in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Audrey was a star pitcher in the short-lived All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, made famous by

formed U.S. girls softball league that later became the first professional women's baseball league. The weekly pay was \$65, nearly double the average working man's salary at the time.

"I was ready to sign and get that contract into the mail, but I had one big problem, and that was my mother," Audrey recalled. "So I asked the player to come to my house to assure my mother that there was nothing to worry about. The player explained that the team was chaperoned and that they stayed at safe hotels. Finally, my mother agreed that I could go."

So off she went to Chicago, Ill., to train and to eventually join one of the four teams as a pitcher. The league gradually moved from softball to baseball and became the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), Audrey pitched for several teams, including the Rockford Peaches, the team that was the focus of Penny Marshall's film. Her nickname was Dimples.

Audrey told us of the long bus rides, staying in the best hotels after a game, then on to play the next game – sometimes going many days without much rest. "We played every day and double headers on Sundays. We averaged 206 miles by bus every three days" and she reminded us that buses had no air conditioning then.

Just as the movie depicted, each team had a chaperone and all of the girls attended charm classes during Spring Training. "The players made endless jokes about these classes," Audrey said, "and the media had a field day with them." They were taught the proper way to sit, walk, dress and apply makeup and instructed in table manners.

The players also had to abide by 15 rules of conduct during the season, or face fines and possible suspension from the league. Included were bans on liquor, obscene language and fraternizing with players on opposing teams (although "friendly discussions" in the hotel lobby were permissible).

Skirts were to be no shorter than six inches above the knee, long hair cuts were preferable to short, and "lipstick should always be on." Social engagements, living quarters, restaurants and curfews were all decided upon by the chaperone.

Audrey played in the league from 1944 to 1948, and again in 1951. She used a strong side-arm curve to pitch three no-hitters and had a winning record in five of her six seasons. She averaged a 3.50 ERA and struck out 493 batters in

167 games played.

"It was a sad day when we learned that the league was folding," she said. The league began in 1943 and ended in 1954. "We all went our separate ways. We tucked away the memories of our playing days."

Audrey married Austin "Bud"



Audrey Daniels shows a photo of her teammates in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL



Audrey in her Fort Wayne Daisies uniform.



Audrey's baseball card.

Daniels after the 1948 season, and give birth to the first of their six children. They have lived in Bay for 40 years, and she is proud to say that all six children graduated from Bay High School. Audrey still has her jacket and her glove, and the gleam in her eye when she talks about the

girls and her baseball playing days.

If you have a chance to watch the movie "A League of Their Own," you might see Audrey in various scenes as an extra, and then at the end, you will see her in the group picture of her team. In 1980, the team had a reunion in Chicago and over 100 players came. Since then they have had many reunions, and sometimes joined by the director of the film, Penny Marshall. In 2012 they met in Cooperstown, where the names of the 553 women who played in the league are listed in the "Women in Baseball" display on the second floor of the Baseball Hall of Fame. ●



Holiday magazine featured the "World's Prettiest Ballplayers" in 1950, including Audrey, center in magazine photo.

the 1992 film, "A League of Their Own."

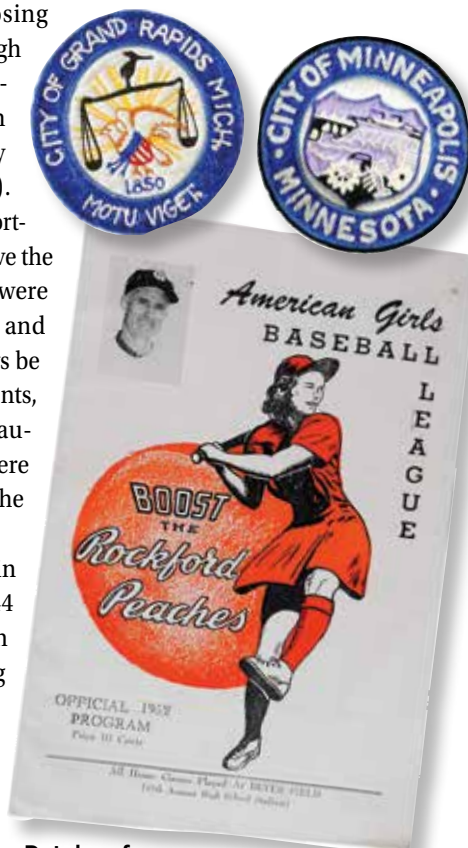
Her tale began in 1944 when then-16-year-old Audrey Haine was playing in a women's softball league in her hometown of Winnipeg, Canada.

She was unaware that a year earlier, Philip K. Wrigley, heir to the Wrigley Gum fortune and owner of the Chicago Cubs, founded the women's baseball league. It was during World War II and there was a shortage of young men. He sent scouts from the Cubs organization to recruit North America's most talented female players. A scout noticed Audrey playing softball and asked one of the girls already under contract to call Audrey, tell her about the league and to ask her to sign on.

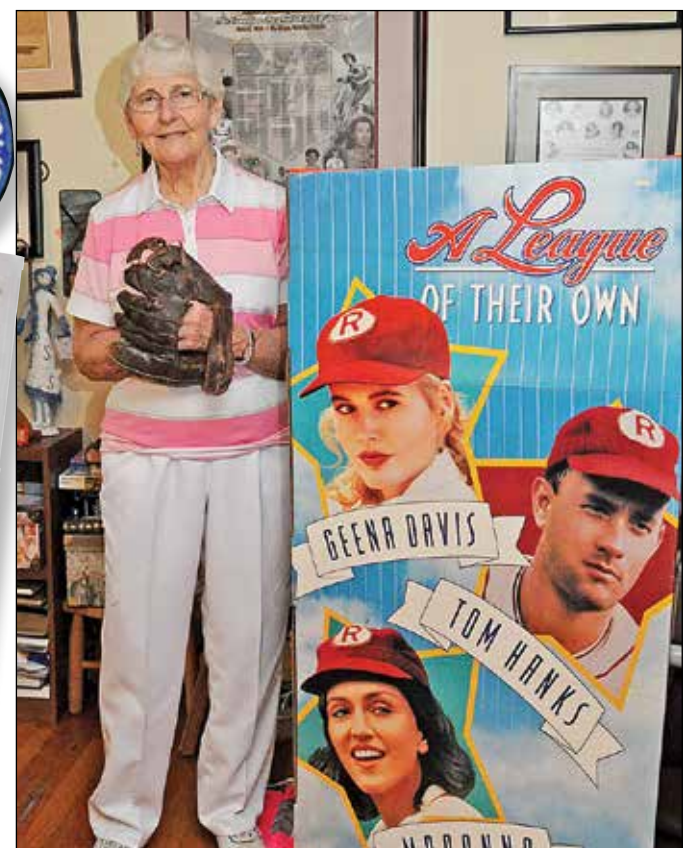
Audrey had never been more than 100 miles from home, she had never even eaten at a restaurant. It is hard to imagine now, but at the tender age of 16, Audrey took a chance and was offered a contract with the newly



Audrey shows her pitching form.



Patches from some of Audrey Daniels's teams and a Rockford Peaches program.



Audrey Daniels stands next to a movie poster wearing her original baseball glove, which cost \$35 in 1944.

Westlake Porter Public Library's early August calendar of events

Following is Westlake Porter Public Library's early August calendar of events. All programs are subject to change. Check westlakelibrary.org or follow the library on Facebook and Twitter (@WestlakePorter) for the latest updates.

Wednesday, Aug. 3 (2- 3 p.m.) Virtual **Author Talk: Dr. Marcia Chatelain** – Join us online for a conversation with Dr. Marcia Chatelain as she discusses her Pulitzer prize-winning book, “Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America.” Please register.

Wednesday, Aug. 3 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) **Horror Film Club** – Are you scared yet? Join us for another creepy classic from the Vault ... if you dare! Please register.

Thursday, Aug. 4 (1-7 p.m.) **American Red Cross Bloodmobile**

Friday, Aug. 5 (9:30-10 a.m.) **Summer Yoga with Ms. Jen** – Calm your body, mind and spirit in this yoga class taught by a certified yoga instructor. Wear comfy clothes and bring your own mat or towel. Ages 2-6, siblings welcome. Please register.

Saturday, Aug. 6 (10:30-11 a.m.) **Family Storytime** – Join us for rhymes, songs and play! Ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please register.

Saturday, Aug. 6 (1-2 p.m.) **Pokémon Fun!** – This will be a time to view and trade cards, do a craft (if desired), and play a Pokémon Bingo game. Feel free to bring your cards! Ages 6-11. Please register.

Saturday, Aug. 6 (2-3 p.m.) **My Garden of a Thousand Bees** – Join us for a screening of a new documentary, “My Garden of a Thousand Bees” (53 min.). Prior to and after the screening, take part in family friendly “pollinator” activities. Please register.

Sunday, Aug. 7 (2-4 p.m.) **Anime Club** – A great club for anime and manga lovers! All otaku and newbies welcome! Grades 7-adult. Please register.

Sunday, Aug. 7 (2-3 p.m.) **Brick Builders** – Do you love Legos? Bring your ideas and imagination to Brick Builders! Bricks provided. No registration required, but room capacity is limited. First come, first served. Ages 5-12.

Monday, Aug. 8 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **COSI Learning Lunchbox Pick-Up: Dinosaurs Kit** – With the COSI Connects Dinosaurs Kit, you will challenge yourself to make your own model fossils, excavate one of them, and even document a REAL fossil! Recommended grades 2-6. Please register.

Monday, Aug. 8 (6-8:30 p.m.) **Heartsaver CPR/AED** – Get certified for adult, child, and infant CPR and AED. Email account required. Class led by

certified instructors from UH St. John Medical Center. Please register.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 (10-11:30 a.m.) **Computer Basics & Introduction to Northstar** – Learn how to turn on a computer, use a mouse, go online, and access Northstar Digital Literacy for self-paced online learning. Please register.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Tuesday Evening Book Club** (IN PERSON & ON ZOOM) – We will discuss “The Lost Manuscript” by Cathy Bonidan in person and on Zoom. Those unable to attend in person, can join us via Zoom simultaneously. Please register.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 (9-10 p.m.) **Virtual Author Talk: Liz Moore** – Join us online for an evening with New York Times Bestselling author Liz Moore as she discusses her international best-seller, “Long Bright River,” and her other works. Streamed live. Please register.

Thursday, Aug. 11 (4-4:45 p.m.) **Ready, Set, Kindergarten!** – Children ages 4 and 5 are invited to rotate through skill stations in preparation for making the leap into Kindergarten. Registration opens Aug. 4.

Thursday, Aug. 11 (6:30-7:15 p.m.) **Adapted Storytime** – This 30-minute storytime followed by a time for socialization is designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime experience. Content is geared toward ages 3 to 7 years. Registration opens Aug. 4.

Saturday, Aug. 13 (10:30-11 a.m.) **Family Storytime** – Join us for rhymes, songs and play! Ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Please register.

Saturday, Aug. 13 (1-2 p.m.) **Author Visit: Matt Harry** (IN PERSON & ON ZOOM) – Those unable to attend in person can join us via Zoom simultaneously. Registration opens Aug. 6.

Monday, Aug. 15 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) **Crafty Adults Kit Pick Up** – Feeling crafty? Make a craft project of your own with this simple, pick-up kit. For adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Registration opens Aug. 8.

Monday, Aug. 15 (7-8:30 p.m.) **Maker Monday: Making Music with Technology** – Are you a musician who's into computers? Learn what you can use to find sheet music online, practice, record yourself, mix songs, play with MIDI, and perform live. Please register.

Tuesday, Aug. 16 (7-8 p.m.) **Young Adult Book Club** (IN PERSON & ON ZOOM) – We will discuss “Legend” by Marie Lu. Those unable to attend in person, can join us via Zoom simultaneously. Registration opens Aug. 9.

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

Come meet new Bay Superintendent Scot Prebles

by KAREN MISCIAGNA

Bay Village City School District invites the community to attend a welcome reception for incoming Superintendent Scot Prebles from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Bay Middle School. The event will be held in the school's library/media center area.

Come say hello and meet Bay Village Schools' next leader in person. Light refreshments will be served.

Prebles officially started with the district on Aug. 1.



THE DIGITAL WORLD Attending Zoom meetings is trivial

by TAK SATO

Our nonprofit just held our second annual “Gathering in the Park” where attendees spanned from our first graduating class in 2016 to current students graduating in two weeks. What I realized was that the physical distance mandates of the past two years really made me miss “seeing” and talking to some of the alums who couldn’t attend our “standing by the watercooler” Zoom meetings.

Although I truly believe that COVID-19 is entering the endemic stage, unlike the flu whose season recurs only once a year, the COVID-19 endemic seems to have multiple flare-ups during the year. To avoid postponing or having to cancel our 16-class “Discover Digital Literacy!” program in progress when public health officials declare physical distancing mandates again, last fall I adjusted our program’s curriculum to cover “How to Zoom” earlier than later.

It is trivial to “zoom” – and yes, I’m using it as a verb like “google it”; it has entered our digital world lexicon, similar to saying “xerox it” instead of “make a photocopy” in the real world. As noted earlier in the year, you just need a device to attend a Zoom meeting – that’s how trivial it is.

To “see,” on top of talking and listening in a virtual meeting, you want a device that already has a selfie camera; usually a standard feature for smartphones, tab-

lets, or most laptop computers including the very affordable Chromebooks. If your device is a desktop computer, you would want to invest in a “webcam” unless your desktop is an “all-in-one” device where the monitor and computer are one piece instead of two separate components or your monitor component has an embedded camera.

On the app/software side requirement, the device you use only needs a “browser” (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari) installed. The good news is that one of the enumerated browsers above is pre-installed by the factory – how cool is that!

The only other ingredient is a Zoom invite that the meeting host sends through email, text, or a messaging app/software. Although the Zoom invite may contain a lot of information that can intimidate some, just simply scan for the words “Join Zoom Meeting” and a “link” – usually in blue color – that you can tap/click. Doing so will automatically start your browser. Also churches, for example, who may continue to offer in-person and virtual worship services even when COVID-19 becomes an endemic, may post the Zoom meeting link on their website.

Although you can zoom with no preparation other than the aforementioned prerequisites, Zoom does have its own app (smartphone, tablets) or software (Windows, Mac). As you tap/click the link and the browser opens the Zoom website, Zoom services will check to see if the app/software is installed. If not, it will step you through installing it the very first time.

Zoom away without intimidation or worries and be prepared for any physical distancing mandates without socially distancing!



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SPORTING VIEWS

Leading the good life ... in prison

by JEFF BING

He hasn't played a down in a game that counts. He may not play at all this year.

Yet, we hear or read his name daily, and that is not likely going to end anytime soon.

In fact, you may hear Deshaun Watson's name for several years regardless of whether his career as an on-the-field contributor for the Cleveland Browns lasts 10 years or 10 weeks.

Personally, I'm already sick of it, and not simply because of the charges against Watson – but that's certainly a part of it I cannot ignore. As many of my faithful reader(s) are aware, I'm sick because

Jimmy Haslam has done a real number on the Browns' future with his handling of the whole Watson "deal", his bungling of Baker Mayfield's trade value, and, well, Jimmy just being Jimmy.

But not to fret, Jimmy. Take comfort in the fact that there have been other idiots who have excelled in sports only to discover that lots of money doesn't always make them play nice off the field, either.

I got to thinking about other athletes who had the world by the tail but couldn't leave well enough alone. Here are a few that come to mind:

O.J. Simpson. Here's a guy who was on top of the world, but that didn't stop him from committing murder. And for the longest time, I couldn't accept his guilt. I

mean, how could a guy who was so funny in the "Naked Gun" movie series possibly be a killer? Made no sense. But then, most of his decisions after football were pretty dumb.

Ray Lewis. Here's a guy who kept his keister out of jail by testifying against two of the participants in the murder of two people Lewis also participated in. Whatever it takes, right, Ray?

This is particularly interesting to Cleveland fans, because I would always ask Browns fans what they thought about Ray Lewis during his playing career, and the answer invariably was along the lines of "Hate him ... he's a murderer."

People often forget that the Browns – soon to be Ravens – drafted Lewis just before they moved to Baltimore.

Who out there thinks that Lewis, had the team stayed in Cleveland and he'd played as a Brown, would have been viewed a little more forgivingly had the same murder scenario played out? Don't

be shy ... raise your hand!

Just as I thought: 100% agreement! (It's all perspective, ain't it?)

You know, I just realized that if I'd included Jim Brown, who has a history of sometimes questionable behavior – assuming that tossing women off balconies qualifies as questionable – and Mel Hall, a former Indians player whose sexual shenanigans were not discovered until after his career ended, I could have done an all-Cleveland column.

The crème de la crème is, without question, Trevor Bauer, who was suspended by MLB for 324 games not too long ago, for alleged sexual situations he put women in, without their consent.

Makes Deshaun look like a choir boy. If Trevor still pitched for Cleveland, the outcry would be, well-Deshaun-like. But since he plays for another team, well, no biggie.

Ya just gotta love consistency with sports fans. ●

Meet the recipients of Village Project's scholarships

by ISABEL HINOJOSA

This year, Village Project (VP) was able to award three graduates from Bay Village High School each with a \$1,000 scholarship. These student volunteers were chosen based on merit, past experiences at VP, and their essay responses describing the importance of VP to the community and to them personally. The scholarships were awarded to Jennie Koomar, Aden Bergstresser and Emily Terrell.

The Harrell Family Scholarship was awarded to Jennie, one of VP's long-standing volunteers. She's been involved with VP since third grade after her girl scout troop began a card-making competition at Westerly, which led her to start making cards regularly. Because Jennie started so young, she commented that the multi-generational aspect is a highlight of working at VP. "No matter what age or ability you have, there's always a place for you here. In third grade, I would come after school and walk Ernie," she recalled. "I've also worked with someone in the kitchen who has special needs."

"When I was deciding what to do for my Eagle Scout project, I knew I wanted to do something that meant a lot to me and I immediately thought of VP," Jennie wrote. "I reached out and found that they needed a compost bin. So, I researched how to build one and set my plan into action."

Jennie says that her drive to give back came from working at VP. "It's just such a loving place," she remarked. "You walk in, and there's so many people to talk to. It's just its own little family in there. Overall, it's just such a positive place to be and I love it here."

The environment and learning experiences that VP has created is truly like no other. Aden, our second scholarship recipient, concurs.

"My time at VP has taught me that the most meaningful work is that which benefits others, and I hope to continue this legacy of service into my adult life," Aden wrote.

Aden began volunteering at VP in his junior year, after his grandfather had passed away from cancer. "He lived out in Huron so he didn't get VP's meals, but some of his friends here were using it, so I did it to honor him," he said.

One of the things that made his experience so special was being able to cook in the kitchen with his younger brother. "He and I started at about the same

time," he said. "We never cooked together at home, so it was nice to spend time with him." Aden also remarked that VP was by far his favorite volunteering position, "It was really fulfilling, it felt like I was actually making a difference."

One of VP's greatest powers is that it spreads the volunteering bug. Emily can attest to this, as she says she has never been in a volunteering position quite like hers at VP. "(VP) helped me get into volunteering," she said. "I did some other



Jennie Koomar

stuff before that, but once I started volunteering at VP, I wanted to do more."

Emily began volunteering in the garden four years ago. The crew there is VP's most tight-knit crew for the summer, and she is at the heart of it. "I knew about the garden because my mom was always at the garden. My neighbor would always volunteer there too, so I decided to do it with her."

Emily has gotten many unique learning experiences in her time at VP. "I've learned so much about so many different things that I feel like I couldn't learn anywhere else," she said. "I know so much about gardening and plants now."

She inherited her love of gardening from her grandmother, who she's gardened with her whole life. "I really had a lot of fun being in the garden, especially



Aden Bergstresser



Emily Terrell

when we saw animals," she said. "A couple of times we saw baby bunnies in the garden."

The work done in the garden is very important to VP to be able to provide our clients with fresh and healthy meals.

"We usually start by watering, and then harvesting vegetables, picking flowers, deadheading plants, and weeding," Emily explained. The flowers grown in the garden are also given to our clients in hand-painted vases to brighten their days.

Emily cherishes this about VP. "I feel that VP is an organization that has truly brought joy to those struggling and I am so grateful to be able to be a part of something that makes a difference. Knowing that the flowers that I cut or the beans that I pick will go to a patient in need warms my heart."

Being able to give back to our graduating volunteers is something that warms our hearts, and we could not be prouder of them. VP is so grateful for all the help they have given us over their busy high school years and we are so excited for their bright futures.

Jennie will be attending Ohio University and studying communications sciences and disorders for speech therapy in hopes to be a speech therapist. "I definitely want to get involved in CREW, a Christian organization there, some intramural sports, and maybe choir," she said.

Aden will be attending the University of Michigan School of Engineering for engineering physics. "I'm going to try to work on the Electric Racing Bike Team at Michigan," he said.

Emily will be attending Fordham University and is currently undecided as to what her major will be. "In college, I really want to do some sort of volunteering," she said. "I would love to be in a club that has something to do with the Earth, nature, or climate change."

However, as Jennie put best in her application, "Most of all my plan for after graduation is to find myself." Whoever our wonderful volunteers become, they always have a place at VP! ●

14th Annual Cops Ride

Police escorted a processional ride honoring 10 Ohio fallen police officers on July 31. The 500 riders departed from the Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial at West 3rd and Lakeside, riding through westside suburbs including Bay Village and Westlake on their way to Rock-N-Roll City Harley-Davidson on West 150th Street.



A line of 500 motorcycles in the Cops Ride proceed down Lake Road on July 31.



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THE GREEN REPORT Fix it, Cleveland!

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

Do you have something that is broken and you wish you could fix it? Look no further, there is a workshop for you! On the second Saturday and the fourth Monday of the month, Circular Cleveland, Think-Box and the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste district have partnered to host Fix-It workshops to help people repair broken items.

Why is this important? Because when people repair things rather than discarding them and purchasing new, we are keeping items out of the landfill. I have written many, many times about simple steps each of us can take to live more sustainably. It is not sustainable behavior for our culture to encourage buying new, new, new all the time. We must shift our behavior to first of all really thinking about purchases and ensuring we need the item, and secondly researching to make sure the item is high quality and will last a long time.

Once we own items, it becomes our individual responsibility to make sure it has a long, useful life. This is the reason it is important that we are able to repair items as they wear out and break. Repairing and restoring keeps things out of the landfill and

it also will save you money!

I realize that for some of us, repairing things is natural and fun; for others it is a bit more daunting. I urge you to please give repairing items a shot before buying new!

If you feel you need extra assistance – good news! Help is here. Repair workshops will be held twice a month at two locations. The workshops are a fantastic opportunity to learn how to repair different things, learn new tips and tricks, or share the knowledge you already have. Bonus: you will realize the value of the items you already have as well as meet other people in our community with similar interests!

Fix-It workshops are free of charge! Workshops held on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. will be at the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District, 4750 E. 131st Street in Garfield Heights. Workshops held on the fourth Monday of the month from 3-7 p.m. will be held at Case Western Reserve ThinkBox at 11201 Cedar Road in Cleveland.

Visit sites.google.com/view/fixitcle/home for more information. This website also provides a way for you to sign up as an “expert” in an area if you have a repair expertise. What a wonderful way for the public to be able to contribute to the greater good. ●

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