

THE CROCKER

Celebrate the Power of Community

APRIL 2 - 8, 2015

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 7

PRESS

Westlake Town Criers Easter Egg Hunt

Westlake Town Criers hosted the 2015 Westlake City Easter Egg Hunt and Candy Scramble at the Westlake Recreation Center Saturday, March 28.

There were two candy scrambles, the first at 1 p.m. for those ages 4 through 6, and the second at 1:30 for the 7-10 year olds. Kids scrambled for wrapped candy and also for special eggs redeemable for stuffed animals.

For those children age 3 and under, there was a non-competitive Easter Egg Hunt where the child simply hunts for eggs that are redeemed for candy and prizes.

Adding to the fun were two live, 6-foot Easter bunnies available for pictures, face-painting, raffles and refreshments.

This annual event is sponsored by the Westlake Town Criers, graciously assisted by the Westlake High School National Honor Society, with generous cooperation from the Westlake Giant Eagle and Westlake's Crocker Park. There was no charge and a great time was had by all.

www.TheVillagerNewspaper.com for more photos



Youth Challenge Receives Paralympic Sports Grant

Youth Challenge Director of Program Services, Chris Garr, helps participant Mickey Kimble of Rocky River get ready for a handcycle ride in the Metroparks. Assisting are volunteers Gaby Bova of Avon Lake and Katie Kimble of Rocky River.

Youth Challenge participants and volunteers are going to be better equipped to participate in Paralympic Sports like archery and handcycling thanks to a grant from Northern Ohio Golf Charities.

The World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational, and its partner, Northern Ohio Golf Charities, have named Youth Challenge as a recipient of 2014 tournament funds. Northern Ohio Golf Charities donates proceeds from Bridgestone Invitational ticket sales to various local charities; this year, \$1.2 million was dispersed from the 2014 tournament, with \$928,071 going to 43 Northeast Ohio nonprofits.

Mary Sue Tanis, Executive Director of Youth Challenge, which brings together physically disabled children and teen volunteers for adapted sports, said her program

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MEET CUYAHOGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ARMOND BUDISH "Governing Through Our Heads and Our Hearts"



"We don't have the same culture of venture capital as on the coast, but we are looking at ways we can attract some of that capital to northeast Ohio."

West Shore residents got to meet new Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish in Fairview Park City Council Chambers on March 19. He appeared as guest speaker at County Councilman Dave Greenspan's Town Hall Meeting.

"Cuyahoga County is on an upsurge. We've got momentum," said Budish. "We have lot of new projects, new building. With the Republican Convention coming to Cleveland (in 2016), we'll really be able to showcase our downtown."

Just two months into his administration, Budish is in the midst of solidifying his vision for Cuyahoga County.

"I like to say we are governing

through our heads and our hearts," said Budish. "We need to be thoughtful by doing things like creating jobs and growing business."

"We also need to govern with a heart."

"Social services and economic development are really one in the same," he continued. "They need to be together. Sometimes, to be a good employee, you also need social services."

Budish related the real-life story of an area employee who had a solid work record but had recently fallen in performance. Her employer found out she didn't have health care and was struggling to care for a sick child.

"Working with the County, she got benefits and continued to be a good employee," said Budish. "Sometimes you need these wrap-around services."

A goal of the County, said Budish, is to streamline access to benefits like Social Security, VA, Medicaid and food stamps that are currently 'silos' - separated in such a way that access is complicated. These social services need to be accessed more efficiently.

Creating solid foundations for both employees and employers is also key to sustaining a healthy county environment.

"The American Dream is not to have a Medicaid card. It is to have a good job," said Budish.

The County employment goal is twofold:

- to support a workforce that is looking for jobs, and
- to assist employers, especially small business with access to capital.

"We, as a County, need to be helpful in this area," he said. "We don't have the same culture of venture capital as on the coast, but we are looking at ways we can attract some of that capital to northeast Ohio."

Cuyahoga County is rife with potential for spin-off businesses related to

anchor institutions like Cleveland Clinic, UH, MetroHealth, NASA and even Lake Erie. "Did you know that Lake Erie, just as body of water, is a great asset with a value of \$1 trillion?" said Budish.

Budish shared that the County has about \$20 million available in workforce funds that are presently spread out but being evaluated for application. "We are doing a lot of evaluating," he said. "We still have a lot of people who are looking for work as well as a lot of business with job openings. They need to come together."



"I like to say we are governing through our heads and our hearts. We need to be thoughtful by doing things like creating jobs and growing business."

He also addressed a question on homelessness that asked for humanitarian support in this area of county-wide need.

"We have been in office for two months. We are trying to make sure all parts of county government are working with the other parts. We want to break down the silos between different programs," he said. The County role in resident life has grown greatly since the days when it administered only social services and the county jail.

"The County is trying to help as many people as we can, using both our head and our heart," he concluded.

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THE CROCKER PRESS
Celebrate the Power of Community

A Villager Newspaper Publication
Publisher: Robert Tuneberg

27016 Knickerbocker Rd., Suite #1 Bay Village, OH 44140
Phone: 440-899-9277 Fax: 440-899-1929
E-Mail: Villagerpaper@gmail.com • www.thevillagernewspaper.com

The Crocker Press is a newspaper of general circulation in Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, Avon Lake, Avon, Sheffield, North Ridgeville, Fairview Park, Lakewood & North Olmsted.

The Crocker Press is published monthly.
Send news items, classifieds, advertising and articles to:
THE VILLAGER NEWSPAPER
27016 Knickerbocker Rd., Suite #1, Bay Village, Ohio 44140
Call for deadline of publication. Opinions reflected in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the management. ©2015 The Villager. All rights reserved.

Youth Challenge Receives Paralympic Sports Grant

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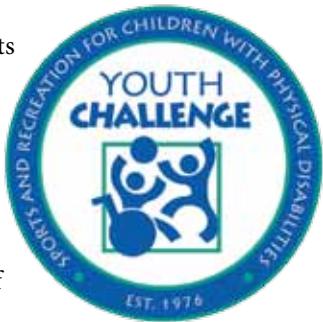
will use its \$11,400 grant to buy Paralympic Sports gear to establish programs in adapted archery and handcycling.

“As a Paralympic Sport Club, YC is committed to introducing children to new recreational and competitive sport opportunities,” Tanis said. “We’re grateful for the support of Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation to help us continue to introduce children with physical disabilities to a variety of Paralympic sports.”

Youth Challenge has helped children access adapted sports activities for 39 years. With a reputation for providing high quality athletic programming, the U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, designated YC as the “Paralympic Sport Cleveland”. As a Paralympic Sport Club, Youth Challenge continues to introduce adaptive sports to children with physical disabilities while also promoting athletics and teamwork.

The 2015 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational will be held August 5-9. To learn more about Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, Inc. visit nogcf.org.

For more about Youth Challenge, call 440-892-1001 or visit youthchallengesports.com.



Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake Students Named to Tri-C All-Ohio Academic Team

Seven students from Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C*) — including Nigmeh Abusbeih-Salti of Rocky River, Aswin Bikkani of Westlake and Hannah Kiraly of Lakewood — were named to the All-Ohio Community College Academic Team.

The All-Ohio Academic Team comprises top students at the state’s two-year schools and recognizes student excellence in academics, leadership and community service. Fifty-three students from across the state were selected for this year’s team on the basis of their outstanding records.

Tri-C had more students named All-Ohio than any other school.



Aswin Bikkani

Nigmeh Abusbeih-Salti

Hannah Kiraly

“The All-Ohio results are indicative of Tri-C’s focus on academic excellence and the caliber of students that walk through our doors,” said Craig Foltin, the College’s interim executive vice president of academic and learning success.

Abusbeih-Salti, who attends Tri-C’s Westshore Campus in Westlake, received third-team honors. She is pursuing her Associate of Arts degree at the College, and after graduation plans to transfer to Cleveland State University to pursue a career as a school psychologist. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and serves as a volunteer tutor in math, English, science, Arabic and Quran.

Bikkani, who received third-team honors, participated in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program at Tri-C’s Westshore Campus and received both his Associate of Arts and Associate of Science in December — six months prior to his high school graduation. He serves as president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Westshore. In the fall, Bikkani plans to attend a four-year college to pursue a career as a physician.

Kiraly received first-team honors and was named Ohio’s New Century Scholar after posting the state’s top application score among nominees. She will graduate from Tri-C in May with an Associate of Arts and intends to continue her studies in sustainable agriculture at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Kiraly spent the past year as president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Western Campus in Parma and competed for the College’s cross country and track teams.

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WEST SHORE BLUES

Bay Police Nab 3 on Dover Commons Roof

On 03/21/2015, at 2120 hrs, a resident reported there was a group of three juveniles on the roof of Dover Commons.

Bay Village Police and Bay Fire responded to the scene and located three juveniles on the roof. They were all charged with Criminal Trespassing and will face charges at CCJC.



Vandalized

During the early morning hours on Sunday, March 29, 2015, a home and several cars were vandalized on the west side of Bay Village. Residents on Bassett, Osborn and West Oakland found serious damage to their vehicles and in one instance, the home was spray painted. The vehicles had the windows and lights smashed out, tires punctured and exteriors spray painted.

Two juvenile suspects from Bay Village have been developed and the investigation continues. The initial investigation shows the individual victims were targeted by the suspects. Damage estimates have not yet been provided. Charges are expected to be filed in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court by the end of the week.

River Police Use Narcan in Westshore Heroin Overdose Call

The PD received a phone call regarding a heroin overdose of a female on March 17 at 2249 hours on Sunnyhill Drive. Of-

ficers responded and Narcan was administered, bringing the female back. She was transported to the hospital. Other partygoers were present in-



cluding underage individuals. Parents were present in the home as well. An underage female was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. Other charges pending on the other individuals present at the residence.

Breaking and Entering

Officers responded to a residence on Telbir after the neighbor had reported that the residence next door had the back door standing open with a broken lock on March 19 a 1913hrs on Telbir Road. The home was in deplorable condition with animal feces and the odor of urine throughout as it was in foreclosure. The copper plumbing had been stolen from the residence.

Westlake Police Return Lost Tote Bag (Minus Pot Pipe)

If you lost your Nike tote bag on Hedgewood Ave. on March 17, it was turned in to Westlake Police. Too bad they had to destroy your pot pipes and the other drug paraphernalia inside it.



St. Patty's Day Brawl

Fighting in the parking lot of a Weymouth Cr. apartment complex led to the arrest of 2 intoxicated North Ridgeville men (20 and 21 years old) on that great Irish Saint's day at 6:07PM. Strong drink had been taken; both were arrested for DCI. The younger lout had a driver's license altered to make him seem older; thus, he was also charged with Underage Consumption and Certain Acts Prohibited.

Threat to Burn Down Bar

Threatening to burn down a Center Ridge Rd. bar got a 34-year-old North Olmsted man ejected from that establishment on March 19 at

1:20AM. He was found nearby and arrested for DCI and Agg. Menacing. It was discovered that he had also been kicked out of another saloon nearby before arriving at the second one.

Westlake Police Blotter Holy Week Edition

Westlake Police: Love Stories

Here's hoping that Holy Week offers an opportunity to turn some lives around.

A 51-year-old Westlake man picked up a 20-year-old homeless woman in Cleveland on the evening of March 20 and offered her food and a hotel room in exchange for sexual favors, report Westlake Police. Once they arrived at a Clemens Rd. hotel, they argued and started driving back to Cleveland in his van; the suspect hit her five times. After refusing to stop several times, he let her out on I90 near W. 117th St. Cleveland PD found her and brought her back to Westlake, where WPD was determined to have jurisdiction. The suspect returned to the hotel around 4:15AM on March 21 and was arrested for Assault, Agg. Menacing, and Abduction.

A 32-year-old Lorain man came to his pregnant (with his child) 31-year-old girlfriend's Clemens Rd. place of employment on March 25 at 11:25AM. They argued, he broke her cellphone; she tried to use a landline to call for help, but he disconnected the line twice. She then hit him with the handset. He was stopped nearby and stated that he woman hit him three times, and that he is the father of her other child too. He was arrested for DV and Disrupting Public Service (for disconnecting the woman's calls), and then given stitches at St. John Medical Center. A packet of suspected "spice" was seized from his clothing and will be tested; drug charges are pending.

A 16-year-old Westlake girl was followed from a Crocker Pk. Blvd. business to the Rec. Center and to WPD on March 21 at 3:03PM. The victim drove to the police station while the suspect (36-year-old Sheffield Lake man) was stopped on Dover Center Rd. He claimed he was aimlessly joyriding, while the victim reported that he had spoken to her twice while both were on foot; she then drove away. The City Prosecutor will rule on a possible Stalking charge.

A Cleveland woman suspects that a male coworker (whose romantic advances she rebuffed) has scratched her 2009 Kia Rondo while it was parked at their Center Ridge Rd. job. Between March 3-21, various body panels have been "keyed."

A 36-year-old West Hedgewood Dr. woman and her 38-year-old husband argued over the care of their juvenile daughter on the morning of March 24. Father and daughter were gone when officers arrived. The female reported that the male hit her twice. The husband was contacted later and denied any violence took place. He claimed that his wife was mentally unstable; prosecutor to rule.

Twitter Alert Backfires

A party (heralded via Twitter) at a Salem Pkwy. home on March 28 at 11:23PM turned out badly for the 15-year-old female hostess. Neighbors complained about the noise and carryings-on; she was cited for keg law after numerous empty beer and liquor containers were found strewn about the home. Another 15-year-old Westlake girl had a pot pipe in her pants; she was summonsed for Drug Paraphernalia. Neither of the hostess's parents could be contacted, so her grandmother (from Lorain) took custody of her and was shown the condition of the home, which grandma owns.

On the Fence

A 20-year-old Cleveland man was stopped for speeding on March 24 at 2:45AM on Sperry Dr., then took off onto I90 eastbound. He stopped again near Sharon Dr. and ran, but got himself caught on the freeway fence. He was under the influence and was charged with Underage Consumption, Resisting Arrest, OVI, speed, DUS, Failure to Stop When Signaled, lane use violation,

disobeying traffic control device, and seatbelt.

Can Scam

A Clemens Rd. gas station reports that a regular male customer (unknown ID) has come in repeatedly to buy chewing tobacco March 9-24. He uses a credit card which is declined, then gives back an empty container or one filled with dirt and keeps the new can. Total loss is \$28.

BOLO Leads to Stolen Car

A motorist spotted a stolen Ford pickup on I90 eastbound in Lorain Co. at 6:07PM on March 28. How did she know it was stolen from Sheffield Lake? The victim's family posted a BOLO on their Facebook page. State Highway Patrol troopers and Avon PD officers followed it to First St. in Westlake, where WPD joined in the action. A 24-year-old Lorain man was arrested by WPD for GTA without incident. The NY owner of the truck came to the scene to recover it.

Miscellaneous Mayhem

An intoxicated male was arrested for DCI on March 27 at 2:40AM at the former Holiday Inn on Crocker Rd. His age and identity are uncertain; he may be from a Central American country. The Border Patrol took custody of him at 1PM after he sobered up.

A 16-year-old girl burned pages from her diary in her Stonehedge Dr. bedroom on March 29. After being caught by her parents, she kicked her mother and waved a knife at her father. He disarmed her, suffering a small cut on his thumb which did not require medical attention. She then fled the house at 1:51AM and went to a friend's Westlake home. She was arrested there for DV and taken to the Detention Home.

Centenarian Killed in Car Crash

101-year-old Alma FIGUSH of Cleveland died at 6:36PM on March 19 at Fairview Hospital as the result of injuries sustained in a crash that occurred at 2:33PM that day, report Westlake Police.

The accident occurred in the Detroit Rd-Clague Rd. intersection; the deceased was a passenger in a southbound car driven by her 65-year-old son of Cleveland. A second car being driven northbound by a 24-year-old Lakewood man turned left (westbound) in front of the first car.

No alcohol or drug use is suspected of either driver. All 3 persons were wearing safety belts. The deceased's son Donald FIGUSH was not injured; the other driver Saleh ALMAQBUL was transported to St. John Medical Center by Westlake FD for non-life-threatening injuries. On March 24, the City Prosecutor ruled that Almaqbul should be charged with Veh. Homicide. A warrant from the Rocky River Municipal Court was issued on March 27 and Almaqbul turned himself in to WPD that same day. He was also cited for Failure to Yield-Left Turn.

Almaqbul has turned in his passport.

Armed Robbery on Lorain Road Bridge

A resident from a Lorain Road apartment complex was walking home on the Lorain Bridge after taking the bus to Kamms Corner at 0207 hours on March 24 when he was approached by two males from the west end of the bridge and one of them pulled out a handgun, report Fairview Park Police. His backpack and wallet were taken, containing money, a cell phone, ID and keys. The males then fled w/b to a parked dark colored Jeep Cherokee and took off northbound on Story Rd.

Police responded after the victim was able to get to a phone and call 9-1-1. The area was checked, but the vehicle/suspects were not located. Some of the victim's property was located on Story Rd by officers and Rocky River PD located some of it on Wooster Rd north of Hilliard. All items recovered were processed by an evidence technician. Detectives will be following up on the case.



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The Orchards of Westlake Hosts 'Heart Healthy' Program

Heart attack is the leading cause of death among women. It outpaces breast cancer, lung cancer and stroke combined.



Kelli Meadows, Administrator, The Orchards of Westlake, welcomed SJMC cardiologist Atal Hulyalkar, MD, to a Heart Health Breakfast hosted by the Crocker Road Living and Rehab Center.

And yet, the lifestyle decisions you make every day can influence your chances of having a heart attack.

That is the message shared by St. John Medical Center cardiologist Atal Hulyalkar, MD, at a 'Heart Healthy' breakfast program hosted at The Orchards of Westlake on March 19.

A heart attack may seem to come out of nowhere. But, "Your heart health depends in large part on the decisions you make every day," said Dr. Hulyalkar. "Heart disease doesn't happen overnight. But as many women die of heart disease each year as live in the city of Miami - 455,000 women every year."

His slide-show presentation touched on useful facts that can lead to improved heart health:

- **Get 150 minutes** of exercise each week. "That sounds like a lot, but it is really just 20-30 minutes, five days a week. Even walking at 2-3 miles per hour makes a difference," he said.

- **Heart disease kills more women** than breast cancer, lung cancer and stroke combined. And the incidence of heart disease in women aged 35-44 is on the increase.

- **Risk factors** associate with heart disease include hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, tobacco use, obesity and sedentary lifestyle. All these factors can be addressed through personal choices. Only the risk factors of age and family history are out of patient control.

Early Detection using Calcium Scoring for the Treatment and Elimination of Coronary Artery Disease (EDUCATE) is one of the strategies offered at St. John Medical Center in the battle against heart attack, added Dr. Hulyalkar. SJMC is recognized for cardiovascular excellence. It is named one of the nation's 50 top hospitals by Truven Analytics, and is the first hospital in Cuyahoga County to receive accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers (2006). SJMC also holds the American Heart Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Cardiology Data Registry Platinum Performance Award.



"Your heart health depends in large part on the decisions you make every day."

- Dr. Atal Hulyalkar

Westlake Students Take Library of Congress Letter Honors

A Lee Burneson Middle School (LBMS) student's letter was named among the top 20 percent in Ohio to be a finalist in the Library of Congress' Letters About Literature 2015 Contest.

Ameen Zayad, an eighth grader at LBMS, had his letter chosen from among 165 semi-finalist letters from across the state as a finalist in the Letters About Literature Contest. In December, Deb Schrembeck's eighth grade Language Arts students, and Katie Beachler and Jessica Dye's sixth grade classes at Dover Intermediate School, entered the writing contest, which asks students in grades four to 12 to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author about how the book affected them personally. In Ohio, 1,784 letters were received. The top 20 percent were selected as state finalists. Nationally, about 8,000 letters make it to state-level judging.

LBMS state semi-finalists are Sami Brizes, Isabella DiGiulio, Camille Feorene, Brian Knott, Amelia Martens, Akhilesh Reddy, Meghana Tandon, Rachel Wagner and Ameen Zayad. DIS semi-finalists are Maddie Shaver, Zach Regas, Chloe Howlett, Alex Daoud, Gigi Redinger, Matthew Sadd, Lila Williams and Angela Yu.

Only first-place state winners advance to national competition. Judges include authors, publishers, librarians and educators from all 50 states. All of the state finalist letters will be forwarded to living authors in hopes of a personal reply. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter the Letters About Literature contest each year. National winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in May.



DIS Letters for Literature semi-finalists Madelin Shaver, Julia Bongers, Lila Williams, Alex Daoud, Gigi Redinger, Zachary Regas, Chloe Howlett, Angela Yu and Matthew Sadd



LBMS Letters for Literature semi-finalists (left to right) Ameen Zayed (finalist), Meghana Tandon, Sami Brizes, Isabella DiGiulio, Brian Knott, Rachel Wagner, Akhilesh Reddy, Camille Feorene, Amelia Martens, Language Arts teacher Deb Schrembeck

GENEALOGISTS TO MEET

Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society meets Wednesday, April 15th in the Porter room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd. Program, "Genealogical Show and Tell," begins at 7 p.m. Bring a photo, heirloom, family tree, brick wall, success story, eureka! moment or tale of serendipity to share with the group or just come to listen and learn about what others are doing. Social time for guests and members is from 6:30-7 p.m. The public is invited at no cost. For questions or additional information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcwogs or e-mail: cuyahogawest@gmail.com.

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WEST SHORE BLUES

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Thefts from Autos

Several residents of W 226 and W 227 St south of Lorain reported their unlocked vehicles gone through overnight March 24. Loose change and small items from inside the vehicles were taken. No suspects at time of reports. Some items from Fairview Park thefts recovered upon North Olmsted PD's arrest of a subject in their city for the same type of offense.

Petty Theft

Police were called to the Fairview Park Giant Eagle on a report of a male stealing beer on March 26. Officers were advised that a male in his 40's had a cart full of beer and walked out the door without paying. A clerk had an employee run out and see if the male had a receipt. The male was in the process of loading up his car. He fled, leaving 3 of the cases of beer behind. The employee was able to get a license plate and detectives are following up on the case.

Criminal Mischief

An Eastwood Ave resident reported his

house was hit with paintballs and the yard was toilet papered overnight March 27. He stated a similar incident had occurred the week previous. No vehicle seen, no suspects at this time. Later, a resident a couple doors down reported their house also hit with paintballs.

Receiving Stolen Property - Vehicle

An officer working a traffic detail on I 480 heard on the police radio that North Olmsted PD was looking for a vehicle that had just been stolen March 27. Monitoring traffic, the FPPD officer saw a vehicle matching the description of NOPD's stolen car. He began following and stopped the car on Puritas Ave when other units arrived. The male was taken into custody and admitted to stealing the car after having been released from N Olmsted PD's jail. He was turned over to North Olmsted officers at the scene and the vehicle recovered for them.

Criminal Damage/Vandalism

Management of Fairview Village Apartments called to report damage/vandalism in three of the four apartment buildings in the complex March 27. Profanities and lewd drawings were spray painted on the walls, a flag, in the elevators, over control boxes, and on doors. One of the entry keypads was rendered inoperable due to the amount of paint sprayed into the workings of the device. Management is offering a \$5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. Officers are working with management and will see if any viable video footage was obtained. Incident occurred between 1:30 am and 8:30 am.

Physical Control of Vehicle While Intoxicated

Police were called to the parking lot of Fairview Village Apts March 29 on a report of an intoxicated male, who after falling, got into a car in a handicapped spot and had started the car. Officers located him in the car, and upon talking to him, observed obvious signs of intoxication. The 56 year old male admitted to 12 beers and stated he had been drinking all day. He was given sobriety tests, which he failed. He was placed under arrest for Physical Control of a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated. Officers had the paramedics treat the minor wounds he sustained from his fall, then returned him to the station where he was given a breath test. He tested .296, almost 4 times the prohibited alcohol level in the State. He was released to a sober responsible adult pending his appearance in Rocky River Municipal Court.

Navy Ensign Joseph Lillie, of Lakewood, Serves Aboard USS Laboon (DDG 58)



MEDITERRANEAN SEA (March 23, 2015) Ensign Joseph Lillie from Lakewood, Ohio stands officer of the deck watch at the radar console aboard USS Laboon (DDG 58) March 23, 2015. Laboon, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, homeported in Norfolk, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Desmond Parks)

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MJ Hair Studio: New in Bay

New in Bay Village Square is MJ Hair Studio. The trendy and welcoming salon is just next door to Bay Barber Shop in the Wolf Road shopping center.

Owner Maxine Josie, master barber and stylist, says, "At MJ Hair Studio, our mission is to always value our clients as individuals who are respected and greeted with a warm inviting atmosphere. We build relationships with our clients so we can educate you on the latest styles and products always keeping the integrity of your hair."

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Aswin Bikkani Takes First in Rotary District Speech Competition

Aswin Bikkani earned first place and will represent Westlake at the Rotary District #6630 Test Speech competition on April 11 at Aurora High School.

Bikkani is one of four Westlake High School seniors who placed in the Rotary Club of Westlake/Bay Village 4-Way Test Speech Competition.

Laura McDiarmid, Julia Button and Caroline Hazapis placed second, third and fourth, respectively.

Prizes were awarded for first through third places and were sponsored by First Federal of Lakewood and presented by Marie Marrali.

Judges for the event were Cuyahoga Community College Westshore Campus President Dr. Terri Pope, Westlake Porter Public Library Director Andrew Mangels and Jenny Galati, Career Development and Transition Specialist at Tri-C Corporate College in Westlake.

WHS Assistant Principal Ned Lauver and WHS English teacher Mindy Clark worked to select and prepare students for the competition.

Aswin also was chosen to be a member of the World Debate team from the North Coast District. Aswin will join students from Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Gilmour and Solon high schools in attending the National Speech & Debate Tournament in Dallas, Texas, in June.



Rotary Speech Contest winner Aswin Bikkani with fellow contestants Julia Button and Caroline Hazapis. Not pictured: Laura McDiarmid

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Protect Seniors from Financial Abuse

It's unfortunate but true: The elderly population is targeted for financial abuse. If you have elderly parents, how can you help protect them from being victimized?

For one thing, urge them to never give personal information over the phone or in response to emails.

Also, talk with your parents to see if they are willing to let you go over their insurance, banking and investment statements. This review can enable you to look for irregularities or suspicious activities, such as significant changes in their spending patterns, unusual cash withdrawals or sudden transfers of assets to a relative or someone outside the family.

You might also want to ask your parents to establish a durable power of attorney, which will enable you or another trusted family member to handle their finances if they can't.

Discussing any of these issues with your parents may not be easy — but it's certainly important. By doing whatever you can to help protect your parents from threats to their financial security, you'll help pay them back for all that they've done for you.

Dana Banyasz, is your Edward Jones financial advisor located at 574 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village.

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MERCY'S ED OLEY NAMED ONE OF REGION'S 'MOST INFLUENTIAL' FOR 2015

Edwin M. Oley, president and CEO of Mercy, has been named for the fifth consecutive year as one of the most influential people in Northeast Ohio by Inside Business magazine. Citing Oley's long-standing dedication to improving health in the community and his business acumen, the magazine mentioned his many accomplishments since he has been head of the health system.

Oley joins an esteemed list of recipients from Northeast Ohio, selected among the many CEOs, politicians and civic leaders who are considered the region's critical thinkers and innovators. Citing a newfound confidence in the economy, Inside Business noted that these leaders have made concise business decisions that are fueling a positive feeling in the region.

Oley is known for his abilities as a highly effective and visionary leader. In 2014 he assured Mercy's organizational and financial strength, furthered its ability to thrive in a changing healthcare environment and extended healthcare access for the region's residents. During the first two months of 2014, hospitals across the nation suffered substantial financial shortfalls due to historically low patient volumes. With Oley's leadership, Mercy transitioned from an \$8 million budget deficit to a \$5 million positive margin by year's end, allowing Mercy to invest in:

- expanding its clinically integrated network of primary and specialty care physicians—an important step in supporting the changing healthcare environment
- two care delivery sites in Avon, ensuring area residents have even more convenient access to medical care
- continuing to grow Mercy's service lines, including Behavioral Health, which helps address a critically unmet need facing Ohio communities

Active in the community, Oley serves as the Chair of the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce and on the boards of Team Lorain County, CommStar Credit Union, and the Lorain County Community College Foundation.



Our Quality is Showing!

St. Mary of the Woods has been recognized as a 2014 recipient of the **Bronze - Commitment to Quality National Quality Award** presented by the American Health Care Association.



The National Quality Award Program is based on the core values and criteria of the **Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program**.

St. Mary of the Woods is one of only 29 centers in Ohio to receive this recognition.

Congratulations to all involved in our commitment to excellence!



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