

# THE VILLAGER

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[www.TheVillagerNewspaper.com](http://www.TheVillagerNewspaper.com)

With God, all things are possible....

"Celebrate the Power  
of Community"

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University Hospitals  
St. John Medical Center  
A CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

see page 3



## Tim and Twyla White Named Mr. & Mrs. Westlake 2024

Tim and Tyla White have been named Mr. & Mrs. Westlake 2024 by the Westlake Town Criers.

The announcement came at the Westlake Tree Lighting Ceremony at Westlake City Hall in December.

The Whites have lived on Glenmore Drive since 1983 and have four children, Chris, Scott, Ashlee and Sam. They also have seven grandkids - ALL BOYS!

Tim worked in retail for 32 years and Twyla for 40, all the while devoting countless hours to civic organizations.

They were members of the Demons Club, Junior All Star Football, and Westlake Youth Baseball. Tim is an active member of the Westlake Town Criers and runs the annual fundraiser for the club held every March.

Tim is also an active volunteer at the Westlake Senior

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## The Real 007 Celebrates a Lifetime of 'Continuing Education' Through LCCC

Still proud of her antiquated student number "00007," Georgeane Sue Jaeger Poplar remembers the excitement of attending her first class at Lorain County Community College. It was 1964, before the college had its permanent campus on Abbe Road, and courses were held at Garford Elementary School in Elyria. Poplar's family couldn't afford to send her away to college, so she was grateful for the opportunity to earn an associate degree locally.

"It was a brick elementary building and it had three floors," Poplar recalls. "And I remember sitting in those classes and just

being really excited that I was in college, learning and meeting lots of people."

Poplar's enthusiasm for learning didn't come without worry though. And it took some supportive professors to instill confidence in the young Poplar. Professors she remembers to this day.

"Mr. Gallagher was my American history teacher, and he did a wonderful job," she says. "He told us he was going to teach his class like he would at one of those state universities. And he did."

After graduating, there was a teacher shortage in Lorain County, so Poplar

*continued on page 7*



You've heard of 007? Georgeane Sue is student 00007 at LCCC. Today, at 76, she is still working in education.



Georgeane's graduation day photo, 1966.

## Come One, Come All to the Cleveland Boat Show

When more than 45,000 visitors climb aboard 400-plus power and sailboats in the 2024 Progressive Cleveland Boat Show, presented by Toyota Tundra, they'll be offered special discount prices and free equipment packages during what's set to be a 4-day-only special boat sales event while the show is docked in the I-X Center, January 18-21.

"While the boat show is always designed to be a taste of summer fun for all," explains Michelle Burke, president of the Ohio Marine Trades Association, "behind the glamor and excitement it's serious business for all our exhibitors. They don't just come to show off their new boats and accessories. As businesses they need to make sales, especially in the off-season. And, to make that happen, all dealers will be participating in a special sales promotion during this year's show."

It's actually the first time in the show's 67-year history that every dealer has been called on to feature incentive packages that can include discounts on boats, special bonus accessory packages, reduced interest rates, free maintenance services, dockage and storage specials, and more.

"But there is a catch," explains Burke: "Each exhibitor will make their promotional deals available only during the 4-day show, essentially assuring buyers that they won't save more money than now, and their new boat will be ready for spring delivery."

Meanwhile, for those not ready to buy their new boat, the show is still designed to be a summer experience in January. When visitors take a break from checking out craft from paddleboards to motor yachts, this edition of Ohio's oldest and largest boating and fishing expo will still be loaded with family features, educational sessions, hands-on activities and musical entertainment.

"Boating is a family experience, and that's why our show is designed to be experiential," Burke promises. "From a full slate of expert fishing and boating seminars to paddleboarding or kayak demos on the Paddle



*continued on page 8*



## UH SJMC Celebrates New Auxiliary Board

The UH St. John Medical Center appointed its 2024 Board at its annual holiday brunch held at the Westlake Community Services Center the week before Christmas. Lisa Galaway - Treasurer, Janet Kershaw - Recording Secretary, Loretta D'Alessandro - Vice President, Jan Blankenburg - Corresponding Secretary, Terry McKendry - Co-President and Linda Whelan - Co-President,

The Auxiliary performs many important activities in support of the hospital and its programs through the Gift Shop and other fundraising activities throughout the year.

In 2023, the Auxiliary raised \$49,918.76 in support of hospital patients, services and programs.



## Tim and Twyla White Named Mr. & Mrs. Westlake 2024

*continued from page 1*

Center. He helps procure the candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the Westlake Recreation Center while Twyla was a member of the PTA and was active in all of her children's extracurricular activities.

The Whites were nominated for the honor for their active community involvement in the city of Westlake. Tim is a 1976 Westlake High School graduate. Twyla is a 1980 graduate of West Tech. Tim's parents are founding members of St. Ladislav and his grandfather, Sam, was a member of the Westlake service Department. His father, Thomas White, was a Lieutenant in the Westlake Police Department.

They are also active members in the Lakewood Elks Club #1350 here in Westlake.



WHS Chamber Orchestra gave their annual performance at the Mr. & Mrs. Westlake and Tree-Lighting Ceremony at Westlake City Hall. Opportunities like these for students to perform are very enriching for their musical education!

## Tri-C's Women in Transition Program Offers In-Person and Online Spring Sessions

*Register Now for No-Cost Six-Week Course*

The Women in Transition (WIT) program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) is hosting spring sessions of online and in-person classes to empower women pursuing education, training and careers.

Participants build confidence and skills through courses on personal development, career exploration and computer literacy. The courses are designed to help women through transitional periods, such as career changes or returning to the workforce.

Six-week sessions begin on the following dates, times and locations:

### In-person classes

- Jan. 23 – Feb. 29 | Tuesday through Thursday | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Eastern Campus
- Jan. 22 – Feb. 28 | Monday through Wednesday | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Westshore Campus
- Jan. 23 – Feb. 29 | Tuesday through Thursday | 6 – 8:30 p.m. | Western Campus

### Online classes (via Webex)

- Jan. 22 – Feb. 29 | Monday, Tuesday and Thursday | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23 – Feb. 29 | Tuesday through Thursday | 6 – 8:30 p.m.

This noncredit, no-cost program is open to the public. Visit the WIT webpage to learn more ([tri-c.edu/women-in-transition](http://tri-c.edu/women-in-transition)). The last day to register is Jan. 17.

Tri-C's WIT program debuted in 1978 and has contributed to thousands of success stories across Northeast Ohio over the past four decades.



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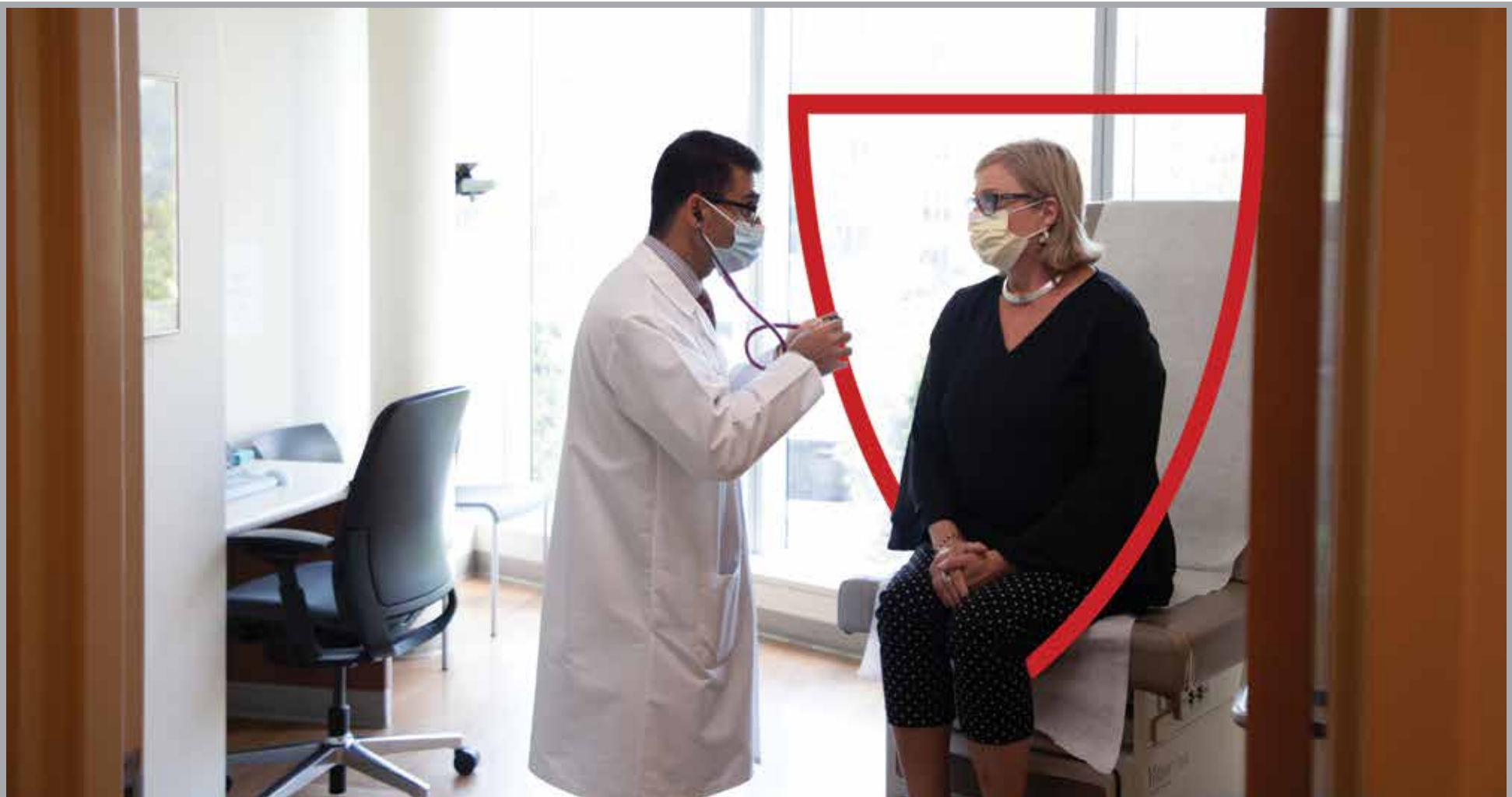
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Thomas W. Bethel founded Acoustik Musik, Ltd and Room with a View Productions in 1995 and has over fifty years of experience.

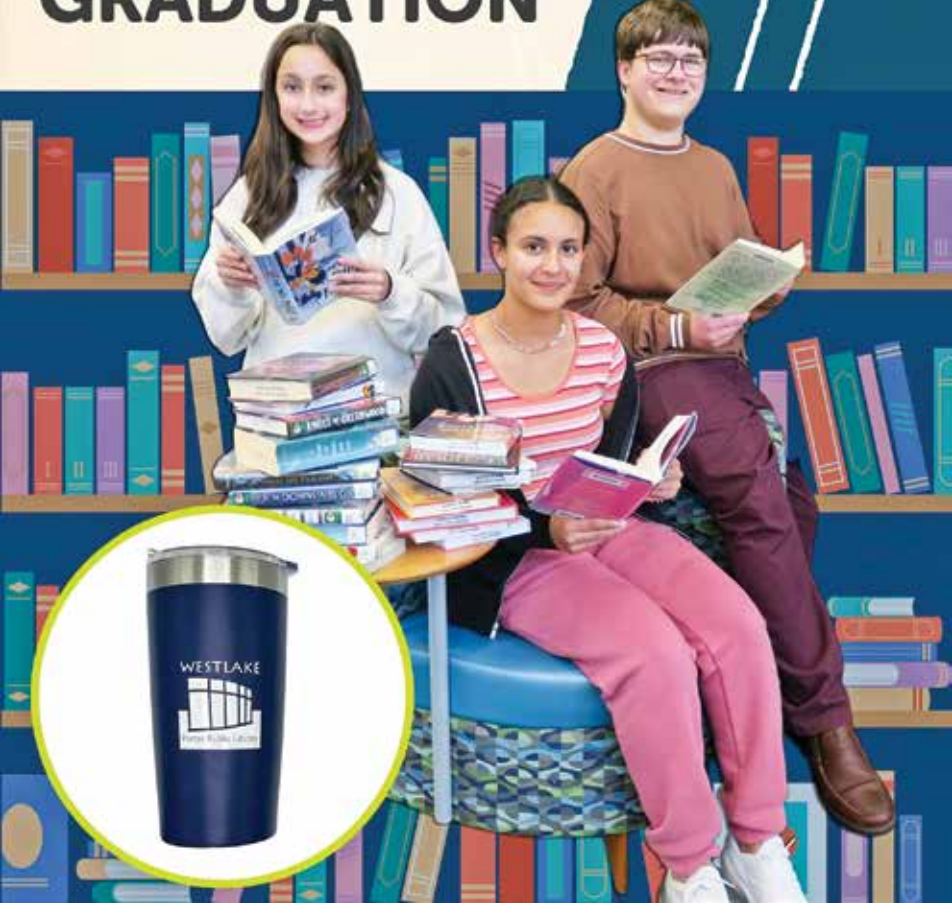
Acoustik Musik, Ltd. specializes in audio mastering that can take your music to the next level, transfer & restoration where your old cassettes, vinyl, reel-to-reel tapes, etc. can be cleaned up and converted to digital, and in-studio

vocal recording for commercials, audiobooks, and more. Acoustik Musik, Ltd. only uses state-of-the art equipment and has a specially designed mastering/restoration studio to achieve the best quality sound.

Room With a View Productions specializes in video production and editing. Music videos, commercials, promotional content, etc. are just some of the areas that RWAV does best. With the help of audio from Acoustik Musik, RWAV also does live on-location recording for performances, shows, and presentations. Will Palmison, the videographer for RWAV, has nearly ten years of videography experience and has completed numerous projects during his two years at RWAV.

WESTLAKE  
Porter Public Library

100 BOOKS  
BEFORE  
GRADUATION



Westlake Porter Library Student Reading Challenge

Just as students return to school after the holiday break, Westlake Porter Public Library is unveiling a new reading challenge: 100 Books Before Graduation. Tailored for students in grades 5-12, the challenge asks them to read 100 books before they graduate. Students can log their reading at [westlakelibrary.beanstack.org](http://westlakelibrary.beanstack.org), where they can earn badges and entries into grand drawings pulled quarterly. Those who reach 100 books read will earn a WPPL coffee tumbler. The challenge began January 2.

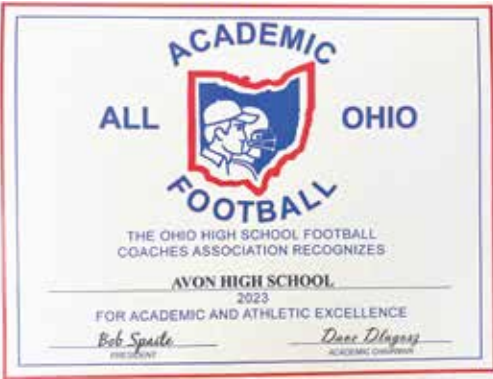
"Whether they move directly into jobs or continue their education, strong literacy skills will be the key to success for graduating students. This program is aimed at setting students up for success in their post school life," said Library Director Andrew Mangels.

For more information or to register for 100 Books Before Graduation, please visit [westlakelibrary.beanstack.org](http://westlakelibrary.beanstack.org) or call 440-871-2600.

Avon Football: Winners Off the Field, Too

The Avon High football team has added academic honors to its on-field success story.

"Our TEAM finished top 8 in the state for TEAM GPA and went 14-1 on the field," reports Coach Mike Elder. "Over 700 schools play 11 man football in OHIO. We are beyond proud of our student athletes. There is a direct correlation between academic and athletic success."



The Eagles really stepped up this holiday season. From toy drives, gift basket collections, food, and adopting families, the spirit of the holiday season was truly magical. Thank you to everyone who donated or volunteered in some way to make the season bright.

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*The Villager welcomes letters to the Editor as well as news items. Please send all information by e-mail or typed. You must include your name, address, phone number and signature for verification. All items should be sent to: The Villager, 27016 Knickerbocker Rd., Suite #1, Bay Village, OH 44140*

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Deadline for all items is the Friday before publication. Opinions reflected in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the management.  
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# The Season of Giving at O'Neill Healthcare

By: Amy Reinker

O'Neill Healthcare is embracing the season of giving by giving back to our surrounding communities in a variety of ways. Notably, our team at O'Neill Healthcare Middleburg Heights is giving back by volunteering their time at a local shelter and adopted a family with The Littlest Heroes Pediatric Cancer Foundation, while our other facilities combined to donate 350 pounds of food to five different local food banks. Grounded in the values of family, our six O'Neill Healthcare locations are dedicated to giving back to the neighborhoods we serve, especially during the holiday season.

O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood kicked off the season with a food drive starting in early November. Contributions were collected in Lakewood's lobby and all proceeds were donated to Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation. Over 50 pounds of food were collected and delivered to Lakewood Masonic Temple on November 17th. This contribution went towards feeding over 300 families for the Thanksgiving holiday! O'Neill Healthcare North Ridgeville held a food drive up until November 27th and they collected 300 pounds of food that was donated to the North Ridgeville Community Care food pantry. O'Neill Healthcare facilities in Fairview Park and North Olmsted both continue to take food donations into the month of December, ensuring an extended period of generosity. O'Neill Fairview Park will be donating their proceeds to The Fairview Park Hunger Center, while O'Neill North Olmsted is contributing to the Second Mile Food Pantry. Furthermore, O'Neill Healthcare Bay Village will be launching their food drive in December and will gather donations for the Amherst Food Pantry which is a member of the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

The vibrant spirit of giving at O'Neill Healthcare is embodied by our residents, who actively engage with our activities department to create crafts to donate throughout the community. This year, residents at our Lakewood facility played a crucial role in creating care packages for children in third-world countries, ensuring they receive Christmas gifts. Additionally, they crafted heartfelt Christmas cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas, spreading joy and gratitude during the holiday season. O'Neill Healthcare takes pride in contributing to the resources of the surrounding community, and



we express thanks to our community members, residents, and families for their thoughtful donations. All O'Neill healthcare facilities are active in their communities, and frequently host events open to the public. If you are interested in hearing more about our upcoming events, taking a tour of one of our 5-Star facilities, or becoming a volunteer, please call (440) 808-5500 or visit O'NeillHC.com.



# ROBERT E. GULLA

December 15, 1933 - January 5, 2024

ROBERT E. GULLA, age 90, beloved husband of 70 years to Vilma (nee DeAnna); loving father of Robert (Roberta), William (Catherine), David (Laura) and Andrew (Mary); proud Grandpa of eight and great-Grandpa of four; brother of the late Margie Elias (George) and Edward Gulla; dear friend of many. Passed away January 5, 2024. Funeral Mass Thursday, January 11, Our Lady of Angels Church (3644 Rocky River Dr.) at 11:30 A.M. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Monastery of the Poor Clares, 3501 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111.



(Ed. Note: So long, Bob, one of the most talented cabinet makers we have ever known. Missed will be the morning coffee klatches and trips to Amish Country and Hometown Buffet. Bob could start the day with a stack of 4 x 8's and turn them into a complete set of kitchen cabinets by the end of the day. How did he do it? "Hard work ain't easy," he would say. We will miss you, Bob.)

## Setting Goals for 2024

The start of a new year is the perfect time to set goals! First-graders from Mrs. Segul's class at Avon East elementary Schools haveshared some things they are eager to accomplish both personally and academically. Some goals included: Learn how to tie my shoes; Learn how to swim without my floaties; Learn magic tricks; Learn how to score a soccer goal; Learn phonics tricks.

Soar in 2024 Eagles!



## WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

**January 13 (2-3:30 p.m.) Winter Foraging Walk with Wildcrafted Tea** – Put on your warm clothes, pack your favorite mug, and join us for an afternoon walk! We will meet some plants, learn about winter foraging, and then enjoy a delicious wild tea made of locally gathered plants. This walk will be led by Lorain County Community College adjunct professor Alison McKim. Please dress appropriately, as this class will involve a walk outside. This class will also involve the optional consumption of wild plants which may contain allergens. Please register.

To register for any of the programs, please visit [westlakelibrary.org/events](http://westlakelibrary.org/events).

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# The History of Bradstreet’s Landing

One of Rocky River’s best attractions is Bradstreet’s Landing on the shores of Lake Erie just east of the Bay Village border. Its fishing pier has long been popular and was recently reopened after an extensive renovation.

Do you know the history of Bradstreet’s Landing? Here it is, courtesy of the **Case Western Reserve University Encyclopedia of Cleveland History**:

**BRADSTREET’S DISASTER**, which occurred 1.7 miles west of Rocky River on October 18 and 19, 1764, is one of the most notable events in the presettlement history of Cleveland. In late summer 1764, British Colonel John Bradstreet, renowned as the hero of Fort Frontenac, proceeded from Fort Niagara to Fort Detroit with 2,300 British

regulars, American provincials, and Indians. Stopovers on this westward trek included the Cuyahoga and Rocky rivers on August 18 and 19. Initially part of a three-pronged assault to put down Pontiac’s Rebellion, after Indian quiescence the mission became one of reinforcement, exploration, retrieval of captives, challenge of hostile groups, and peacemaking. On the return to Ft. Niagara from an extended encampment at Sandusky, Bradstreet’s party found the otherwise safe shelter of Rocky River too treacherous for their 46-foot long bateaux to navigate because of darkness. Instead, on October 18 under a moonless sky, they rowed their 60 boats and 9 canoes, laden with 1,500 troops, to a swale near **ROCKY RIVER** (now the park,

Bradstreet’s Landing). When an unexpected surge wave suddenly struck, the small-ship fleet was inundated by high water. These waves effectively incapacitated 25 boats and severely damaged many others. Three days were required for repair before further travel could be undertaken, and the shortage of boats necessitated that a portion of the party proceed over land. Bad weather severely hampered the progress of the boats, while shortages of food and supplies caused much hardship for the overland party. Although rumors of marchers’ perishing exist, only a single fatality was confirmed in the struggle to return to Ft. Niagara.

Bradstreet’s Landing Park 22400 Lake Rd. Rocky River, Ohio 44116

(Ed. Note: This interesting piece of history was posted on the Secret Bay Village facebook site last week. Thanks!)



# Happy 102nd Lottie!

Happy Birthday, Lottie! 102 years old last week.

The Concord Reserve of Westlake residents loves cats and the color purple! Her favorite food is bananas and she also has a sweet tooth! She’s Catholic and her faith is very important to her.

They celebrated Lottie’s 102nd birthday on Sunday, Dec. 31 with a toast at lunch time; however her “big” party was Monday Jan 1 at 2pm with all her friends, as well as her son, Frank and granddaughter, Rachel. She’d already had two separate celebrations within the last week with various friends and family to honor her big day.

Lottie enjoys a variety of activities such as games, chair exercise, music/Music Therapy/entertainers, reading, spending time outdoors, watching tv/movies, socializing, parties/special events & keeping up with current events.

She needs a little help getting around these days and needs you to speak up but still engages with staff, family, peers daily.



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# The Real 007 Celebrates a Lifetime of ‘Continuing Education’ Through LCCC

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began teaching fifth grade in Amherst. At the age of 19, she was less than a decade older than her students.

“The first year of teaching is always very challenging, but I loved it,” she says. “Those students liked me a lot because I was young, and I had lots of energy. They had a lot of fun in my class. Way too much fun, probably.”

That first, memorable academic year began a lifelong career in education. Poplar spent many of her teaching years in Amherst, where she grew up. There she taught

kindergarten, third, fourth and fifth grades. She also spent time as a guidance counselor and intervention specialist.

Throughout the decades, Poplar has often been a student herself. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Kent State University and her master’s degree from The Ohio State University. Eventually, Poplar found her way back to LCCC, and her old “00007” student number, when she decided to earn a special education certificate through LCCC’s University Partnership with Ashland University. Poplar was thrilled to have bragging rights with the young-

er students and yet another avenue to boost an already successful and rewarding career.

Today, at 76, Poplar is still working in education. She’s an intervention specialist at Pathways to Success in Oberlin. She knows she’ll retire one day. But for now, she simply “can’t seem to let it go.” And she cherishes the place it all began.

“LCCC gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to get into education,” she says. “I am absolutely sure of that.”

LCCC classes begin January 16. Register and more at [www.lorainccc.edu/enroll](http://www.lorainccc.edu/enroll).

## Cadets Graduate from LCCC Police Academy

A group of newly trained police officers are prepared to serve local communities after graduating from the Lorain County Community College Police Academy during a ceremony on December 22.

The class of 11 graduates joins the 20-year history of the LCCC Police Academy. In total, more than 720 graduates have completed the program since the academy began in 2002. LCCC is the number one location for first responder training in Lorain County, including police officers. The academy is recognized statewide as a STAR Academy Training Center, the highest award for Ohio police academies who consistently exceed training standards.

The high standards of the academy lead to many cadets finding employment prior to completing the program. Eight cadets in the graduating class are already employed or have received conditional offers from local police departments. The remaining cadets are completing interviews with area law enforcement agencies.

Cadet Devontae Bowens, 24 from Lorain, has received a conditional employment offer from Lorain Police Department. For Bowens, the thought of serving his hometown makes the offer even more special.

“Becoming a police officer is something I’ve wanted to do since I was a kid,” Bowens said. “I’m glad I have the opportunity to give back to the community where I grew up.” To help fund his academy training, Bowens received the Benjamin G. and Sarah Jane Norton Police Academy Scholarship. Receiving scholarship support allowed him to focus on study-

ing and being successful in the academy, he said.

As Bowens and the rest of the cadets move to the next phase of their law enforcement pathways, LCCC Police Academy Commander Richard Thomas assured them they are well prepared after completing the 24-week academy.

“I charge you now to go forward to serve your communities with passion and honor, to be consummate lifelong learners, to value compassion as much as you do valor, and to always, stay safe,” Thomas said.

This is Thomas’ final class as commander of the academy. Duane Whitely, former chief of the Elyria Police Department, replaces Thomas as commander.

For more information about the LCCC Police Academy, visit [www.lorainccc.edu/police](http://www.lorainccc.edu/police). Applications are being accepted for academy training that begins in March.



## Ready for Spring? Here Comes the Eclipse!

Are you ready for spring yet? Then get ready for the big event of the spring - April’s total eclipse of the Sun!

“At 3:13 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024 Bay Village will be in the path of totality for a total solar eclipse,” writes Bay Mayor Paul Koomar in his Winter Newsletter.

“Residents will experience four minutes of total darkness, which is among the longest times in northern Ohio. The next total eclipse in Ohio won’t occur until 2099 so Bay Village (and surrounding communities) likely will have a large number of visitors, potentially doubling our population for the day. This estimate is based on information from past eclipses nationally.

“City buildings will be closed to the public and Cahoon Road in Cahoon Park will be closed, similar to closures at Bay Days. Bay Schools and St. Raphael’s have extended their spring breaks by a day and will be closed on April 8th. Stores, businesses, and streets will be very busy that day, so please plan ahead. It’s important to remember that viewing any part of the Sun directly or through a camera, binoculars, or a telescope lens without a special-purpose solar filter/glasses will cause severe eye injury. Approved solar filter/glasses must be used to protect your eyes. More information on the solar eclipse is available on the city website under ‘Community.’”

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

# I turned to LCCC



Thousands turn to Lorain County Community College to launch their careers in Healthcare, Cybersecurity, Public Safety, Manufacturing, Engineering and more. Our grads make Lorain County stronger.

**ENROLL TODAY!**

[www.lorainccc.edu](http://www.lorainccc.edu)





# Come One, Come All to the Cleveland Boat Show

*continued from page 1*

Sports Center Pool, it will feel like summer. Add live Lake Erie Shores & Islands musical entertainment to an all-new Kids Zone starring the always popular ‘Twiggy the Water-Skiing Squirrel’ returns with two furry skiers, Twiggy and Twiglet, and it’s a great family day.”

## Fish Expo

And for all anglers, the popular Fish Expo Section will boast a fleet of fishing boats and tackle and equipment exhibits. Professional anglers will share tips and tactics daily on the Toyota Tundra Fishing Stage, and even more angling seminars will take place atop the amazing 5000-gallon Berkley Bass Aquarium sponsored by Vic’s Sports Center.

More hands-on features will range from racing sailboats aboard two simulators in the Sailing Section to an expanded “Great Lawn” with family games fronting the Main Show Stage. There, daily musical entertainment by groups like: Slow No Wake, Follow The Sun, and more will perform. And in the Put-in-Bay section, show goers will be sipping the popular Boardwalk’s Lobster Bisque brought in fresh daily.

Equally popular with all attendees are displays of

the latest boating accessories, yacht clubs and marinas, nautical clothing and gifts, electronics displays, service exhibits and more. Plus, many top boating organizations will be present, including the America’s Boating Club’s with its hands-on triple-screen Docking Simulator, and the Cleveland Amateur Boatbuilders Society (CABBS) that helps kids build a take-home power or sailboat.

Show hours will be: Thursday & Friday, January 18-19, 12 Noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday, January 20, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday, January 21, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



## Thank You WES PTA!

Thank you to the 240 attendees who joined in for PTA Bingo Night over Christmas Break! Together WES PTA was able to provide more than 300 cards and craft donations for Westlake Meals on Wheels to distribute to their recipients last month and to Westlake Community Services for their upcoming New Year’s luncheon.

## Ice Wine Festival



## Bus Trip

**Sat., March 9 \$149.00** per person

### Trip Includes:

- Debonne’ Vineyards - Snacks & Tasti
- Grand River Cellars - Tour & Tasting & Lunch
- Laurello Vineyards - Visit for Tasting
- Ferrante Winery- Tasting & Shopping
- CASK 307 - Tasting @ Newest Winery
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation

### DEPARTURES

AMHERST: Leavit Rd. Drug Mart AVON: Rt. 83 Transit Lot  
NORTH RIDGEVILLE; Senior Center INDEPENDENCE: Double Tree Inn  
Presented by:

## North Ridge Tours

5795 Tree Moss Lane North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
440-465-1578

Special thanks to Mr. Plantner for serving as emcee and bingo caller, and to members of Kiwanis Club of Westlake Ohio and Westlake High School Key Club for volunteering at the event. Congratulations to the PTA planning committee, led by community services co-chairs Jennifer Weinberg and Stacy VanBuskirk, on a successful event.



## 1000 Books!

Hip hip hooray! Isabelle finished 1000 Books Before Kindergarten! Congrats Isabelle!



## Congrats Officer Kenney!

Westlake Police Chief Chief Bielozer and Capt. Vogel had the recent honor of attending WPD Patrol Officer David Kenney’s pinning ceremony as he successfully completed BW University’s Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. A great and hard-earned accomplishment. Dave will continue to serve the citizens of Westlake as a Part-Time Officer while practicing his craft in the OR at Cleveland Clinic Main Campus. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the WPD where he regularly works to advance the medical and law enforcement operations of the PD. Another great example how the WPD looks to expertise from “outside the box” to best and most efficiently serve those who live, work and travel through Westlake. Congrats Dave!





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# Holiday Rewind at The Normandy

So much fun, even the Grinch was smiling! That's the way it was over the holidays at The Normandy Senior Living in Rocky River. Breakwater Apartments Resident Christmas Party was a huge success. "Santa and Mrs. Claus, pencil us in every year," said the revelers! "We are grateful considering their very full calendar. In fact, they spent the night and headed over to Lakeside Assisted Living for another party the same afternoon. Hope they had some caffeine in their cocoa."

Take a peek at the photos from the party! Cocktails, dinner and dancing, good times and lots of fun!

*Photos courtesy Nicole B Photography*



## Holiday Highlights



## One in a Minion!

Bay Middle School artists are One in a Minion! Please enjoy these Christmas-themed Minion drawings from 5-8 graders in Mrs. Fortunato's class. Their challenge? Draw themselves as Minions!

## Tree of Hope

Bay High Key Club collected more than 100 toys for The Salvation Army's Tree of Hope initiative. This is a 10-year tradition!



**TUESDAYS**  
**JAN 16 - FEB 6**  
10:30AM - 12:00PM

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Tournaments and  
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## Holiday Rewind Bay Village Schools

Mrs. Rezabeck's Normandy School first-graders enjoyed a Holidays Around the World Party before winter break. They learned about Diwali and Hanukkah, and also Christmas traditions from Mexico and Germany!



## Turning to the Tech Experts

Before Winter Break, Bay High Seniors in the Tech Club visited Knickerbocker residents to help them with their electronic devices. It was heartwarming to witness and listen to their exchanges



## Bay Village Schools Kick Off 2024

During its January 5, Organizational Board Meeting, Mrs. Debbie Callihan and Mr. James Goodman were sworn in by Bay Village Schools Treasurer Meghan Rohde. Callihan and Goodman were elected by the Bay Village community in November of 2023, succeeding retiring Board Members Mrs. Beth Lally and Mr. Paul Vincent, who chose not to run for their seats in the November general election.

Election of new officers for the 2024 calendar year saw Dr. Andrey Stojic named President and Mrs. Amy Huntley as Vice President.

"For the Board, 2024 brings change. We say goodbye and extend our thanks to Beth Lally and Paul Vincent for their hard work and dedication to our students and district. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Deb Callihan and James Goodman to the School Board. Both Deb and James are committed to putting our students first and to our shared value of academic excellence," said Stojic.

"The year will be important for our district. We have made a great start to implementing the district's 5-year strategic plan -- "Learn. Launch. Lead" -- and we look forward to continuing to phase in our vision to create the best educational experience for our students," said Stojic. "We will review our facilities audit and engage the community to determine the future goals for facilities, maintenance and improvement. As always, we will make sure our district maintains its commitment to meeting the needs of all students, and to give each child the best opportunity for academic and personal success."

President Stojic continued, "As I have said in the past, we are fortunate as a school district to have outstanding educators and staff, engaged parents and a generous community that recognizes the importance of a strong school system for our children. The Board's goal is simple -- to make the Bay Village City School District the best for our students. If we stay focused on our mission and values, we won't only be the best school district for our students, we will be the best school district in the State of Ohio."



Bay Village Schools welcome and congratulate new Board Members Mrs. Debbie Callihan and Mr. James Goodman, who were sworn in by Treasurer Meghan Rohde

## A Powerful, Affordable Solution for Homes and Businesses – Automatic Standby Generators

*"If you're the only business open during an outage then an obvious conclusion is that you may double or even triple your usual revenue per hour,"*

– Craig, Owner of Shepp Electric Company, Inc., the area's ONLY Family Owned and Operated Generac Dealer!

The focus on standby generators and their ability to keep homes and businesses operating is an understandable development since each year hundreds of thousands go without power and the numbers are climbing.

Backup power is now surprisingly affordable and is a wise business decision. Compared to the expense of lost revenue and inventory spoilage, an automatic standby genset is a bargain that will provide years of reliable service. **Many homeowners want the same protection, too:** "It's easy to see how quickly this investment will pay for itself. An average store may recoup the cost of a backup system during its first outage. Having standby power is the best way to stay in business. It is also one of the smartest investments for homes in northeastern Ohio and western PA. Compared to the cost of a flooded basement without the sump pump, no heat, frozen water pipes, no stove and no well water an automatic standby system can be a lifesaver."

In order to assist you with making the right standby power investment we strongly advise you to consult with the area's **Leading Generac® "Premier" and Industrial Warranty Service Dealer and Installer for 30 years, Shepp Electric Company, Inc.**, who will conduct a free site survey and electrical load analysis in order to recommend the best size and placement of the system. Whether for home or business, please feel free to call Christina, Michelle or Rachel at the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at **877-423-9010**, or visit their website at **www.generatorpros.com** to view

information about all their services and automatic standby generator systems by Generac Power Systems.

In addition, at **www.generatorpros.com**, you will find a wealth of information that is extremely helpful for your family and business about **disaster preparedness, proper use of portable generators and the immediate link to current power outages** along the entire North coast.

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## WEST SHORE BLUES: THE BEST OF THE BEATS

### Employee of the Year, NOT!

On 12/20/23 at approx. 7:20AM a manager at a business in the 24000 block of Sperry Dr called WPD to report a problem with an employee. The male had been suspended from work that morning for allegedly yelling and swearing at other workers. He was described as being physically aggressive in the business but was refusing to leave the property after being told to do so by management. The complainant described the man as violent with unknown weapons. Officers located the 41yo Cleveland male in the parking lot of the business. He was confrontational with the officers, would not leave the property and was non-compliant with direction. He was placed into custody and transported to the Westlake Jail where he was charged with trespass and obstructing official business.



### Stolen Car Swap

On 12/22/23 at about 9:15PM, WPD received a call about a stolen Kia. A customer of Dave and Busters returned to the parking lot to find a pile of glass where his Optima had been parked. Officers responded to investigate and found a Kia Soul parked next to where the Optima had been. The Soul had a peeled column and was missing half of the steering wheel but was not entered as stolen at that point. Just after midnight on 12/23, the stolen Optima was found abandoned in Cleveland after a crash. It was recovered by WPD officers at the intersection of Warner Rd and Broadway Ave. The owner of the Soul was located later as well. The Cleveland resident realized the vehicle had been stolen from their residence after speaking with WPD. Both Kias were processed and released to their owners.

### Post Office Break In/Fraud

On 10/07/2022, a Westlake resident came to WPD to report a fraud. The victim had written out a personal check for \$280 and sent it though the US Mail to pay for a bill. By the time the check was cashed it had been altered to be payable for over \$2400. Investigation revealed that the post office box where the check had been mailed, the West Park, Cleveland Post Office, had been broken into. Detectives followed up with the bank and after obtaining multiple court orders, received information on the person who deposited the altered check. The check had been cashed through a mobile application. After confirming that the man who owned the account was the same person who cashed the check, felony warrants for counterfeiting and possession of stolen property were obtained. On 12/15/23, the suspect, a 26yo Elyria resident, was finally tracked down. He was arrested without incident and his case bound over to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury.

### BB Spree

On 12/26/23 at approx. 11AM officers responded to Gales Garden Center on Center Ridge Rd for a criminal damaging report. 5 windows on the greenhouse had been shot out by what appeared to be a BB Gun. A red Kia Soul was captured on surveillance video and seemed to be the suspect vehicle. Later, on 12/26/23 at about 2PM, WPD received a report from a resident on Dover Center indicating that a window on a residential home had also been damaged by a BB type projectile. Finally on 12/27/23 at approx. 3PM, WPD received a call from a shopper at Crocker Park. They had returned to their vehicle in a parking garage to find that someone had shot their windshield. The damage appeared to come from a BB type projectile as well. Investigators are still attempting to gather video surveillance to develop a suspect.



### A 'Wanted' Guest

On 12/16/23 at about 1:45PM, officers on patrol at the West Spring Inn on Sperry Dr discovered that a man at the hotel had felony warrants out for his arrest. The officers found the man in a vehicle in the parking lot where he was detained. The agencies who were looking for him, Greater Cleveland RTA and Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, both confirmed their warrants. The 25yo Warrensville Hts man was transported to the county jail.

### Pistol Whipped

On 12/17/23 at approx. 6:30AM, WPD received a 911 call from a man reporting that he had been pistol whipped by a female. Officers tracked the complainant to the Shell Gas Station on Crocker Rd at CLEMENS. The victim, who had visible injuries, relayed that he had been

attacked by his ex-girlfriend as he was filling up his tires at the service station. It was later learned that suspect had deflated the victim's tires after finding him at a nearby hotel with a new girlfriend. While threatening to shoot him, the suspect allegedly struck the victim several times with a firearm. The suspect female had left the scene before officers arrived. The man did not require hospitalization. Officers followed up with the suspect later in the day. She admitted to striking the man after an argument but indicated it was not with a firearm. The 47yo Brooklyn, OH female was arrested and charged with felonious assault. She waived her preliminary hearing on the felony and was bound over to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury. She was later released on bond and was ordered to stay away from the victim.

### Dangerously Drunk

On 12/20/23 at about 2:30AM, an officer on patrol noticed a vehicle running but stopped in the roadway on Clague at Wonneta Pkwy. The man in the driver's seat was awake but appeared confused as the officer checked on him. He could not explain why he had stopped in the middle of the road. The 61yo Marion, OH man appeared to be intoxicated. Officers noted he stumbled as he was stepping out of his car and had difficulty maintaining balance. He did poorly on field sobriety tests and was placed into custody for OVI. His vehicle was impounded as he

was transported to the Westlake Jail. At the jail he took a breath test and was found to be over 2 and ½ times the legal limit of alcohol in his system. He was later released to a sober person with a citation to appear in Rocky River Municipal Court.

### Online Scam Victim

On 12/20/23 at approx. 11:30AM a resident came to WPD to report falling victim to an online scam. The man reported that he had received a pop up on his home computer indicating that his Microsoft account had a "Trojan Horse" virus. The man followed the instructions given to him and contacted the phone number on the message. The scammers talked themselves into being allowed access to the home computer and ultimately the victim's bank accounts. The scammers gained access to thousands of dollars via online banking and credit information. The man's accounts have been closed out and investigators were following up with the banks.

### Shoplifter Arrest

On 12/9/23 an alert patrol officer noticed a known shoplifter walking around Crocker Park at approx. 3PM. The man had been arrested by Westlake PD 7 times since 2022 so the officer knew he had been banned from even being in the shopping center. In addition, he had 11 outstanding warrants from WPD and other local departments due to stealing from retail establishments in the whole region. The 35yo Highland Hts resident was found hiding behind Burntwood Tavern and was taken into custody without further incident. He was charged (this time) with only criminal trespass as the officers discovered him before another shoplifting spree. Several other agencies are waiting in line to pick up the man to answer to charges in their jurisdictions.

### More Shoplifters

On 12/11/23 at about 4PM, WPD received a call from loss prevention at Nordstrom Rack about 2 shoplifters who had fled the area. The security officer tried to have the suspects return the purses and wallets they stole but they did not stop and in fact almost struck the civilian with their car as they escaped. Officers put out a description of the suspect vehicle which was soon stopped by Rocky River officers on I-90 E/B. 2 females, both 18yo, were arrested. One listed a Cleveland address while the second lived in Maple Heights. Both were charged with various felonies including aggravated robbery, complicity and theft. 17 items totaling almost \$2000 were returned to the store.

### Shoplifters with Cargo Space!

On 12/12/23 at approx. 1:45PM, the manager at the Carhartt Store at Crocker Park called to report that 2 females had been in the store with an empty baby stroller in tow. They left without buying any merchandise but with a baby stroller "piled with clothing." The suspects were gone upon the arrival of officers. The store is taking an inventory and gathering video surveillance for follow-up on the shoplifting complaint.

### Pit Stop Gone Wrong

On 12/13/23 at about midnight, WPD received a call from an employee of a nursing home on Center Ridge Rd. The employee had just arrived for work and noticed that a male in a black SUV had followed her down the street and into the parking lot. The complainant thought that the suspicious male seemed intoxicated. Officers arrived to investigate and noticed that the described man had urinated on himself and smelled of an alcoholic beverage. He said he was just going home to Parma and was coming from Cleveland. It did not appear he was intentionally following anyone but there was reasonable cause to believe he had been driving while heavily intoxicated. The 53yo Parma man did not do well on field sobriety tests and was placed into custody for OVI. He was transported to the Westlake Jail where he refused a breath test. His license was immediately suspended. The driver was charged with OVI and was later released to a sober relative.

### Car in Retention Basin

On 12/5/23 at approx. 6:15PM, officers responded to a report of a vehicle that drove through a fence and into a retention basin in the 26000 block of Center Ridge Rd. Officers arrived to find that the driver, a 64 year old female, was



out of the car and on the phone trying to get a tow for her vehicle. She said that she had turned in the wrong parking lot on Center Ridge and was just trying to turn around when she accidentally hit the fence. Investigators noticed signs of impairment and initiated field sobriety testing on the Rocky River resident. The driver was arrested for OVI and transported to the Westlake Jail where she refused to cooperate with chemical testing. She was processed and released to a sober ride with a court date to appear in Rocky River Municipal Court.

### Loose Load Leads to Flat Tires

On 12/6/23 at about 8AM, WPD received calls about debris on I90 W/B in the area of Crocker. The large piece of metal caused a problem for several motorists who struck it and flattened their tires.

*continued on page 13*



# Imagine

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WEST SHORE BLUES: THE BEST OF THE BEATS

continued from page 12

In all, 7 known vehicles were damaged. A semi-truck, carrying a large piece of construction equipment, also stopped. It turns out that a piece of the equipment fell off the truck and ultimately caused all the damage. The driver of the truck, a 60yo Utica, OH male, was cited with having a loose load.

Backseat Sleeper

On 12/8/23 at approx. 8:30AM, officers on patrol noticed a male sleeping in the backseat of a vehicle parked in the lot of the Double Tree Hotel on Crocker Rd. They checked to make sure he was OK and discovered that, not only did he not have a driver's license, he was wanted out of several agencies including WPD. The 50yo Westlake resident was wanted for various past traffic offenses as well as felony probation violation out of Cuyahoga County. He was arrested and transported to the Westlake Jail.

FLOCK Spots Wanted Man

On 12/28/23 at approx. 9:45AM, WPD officers received a Flock License Plate Reader (LPR) alert on a vehicle that entered the Promenade at Crocker Park. The alert notified that the owner of the car had an active warrant out of Walton Hills PD. The vehicle was located in the lot and stopped. The driver was not the owner of the vehicle but the passenger appeared to be the wanted person. The man gave the officers false information that actually belonged to a female. He was arrested for misidentifying himself. Eventually, the officers discovered that he was a 44yo Cleveland man with outstanding warrants from Westlake (probation violation due to past drug possessions), Cleveland PD, North Olmsted PD and Fairview Park PD. He was placed into custody. The actual owner of the car was not on scene. In addition to Obstruction, the man was charged with possession of a meth pipe that he had in his pocket.

Over the Curb

On 12/30/23 at about 1AM an officer on patrol noticed a vehicle traveling on Clemens Rd after its brake lights kept flashing on and off while it drove. As the officer followed, the Nissan drove over the lane lines then failed to negotiate a turn and drove over a curb onto a tree lawn. After stopping the vehicle, the officer noted that the 56yo Lakewood man appeared intoxicated. The driver could not figure out how to roll the correct window down and allowed the vehicle to roll forward accidentally as the officer was speaking with him. After performing poorly on field sobriety testing, the man was placed into custody for OVI.

Mad Boyfriend

On 1/2/24 at approx. 10PM, WPD responded to a report of a disturbance on Winchester Dr. The caller was alarmed because her sister's ex-boyfriend was banging on the door. Apparently he had been looking for the sister at other locations that day but was not welcome around the family. Officers spoke with the 27yo Elyria male and discovered that he had a felony warrant out of Elyria PD for men-

acing by stalking. He was arrested, trespassed from the Westlake property and turned over to Elyria PD.

I-90 Car Crash

On 1/4/24 at about 3PM, officers responded to the report of a 1 car crash on I90 w/b at Dover Center. A Ford 4 door vehicle had smashed into the median wall. The driver, a 35yo Cleveland woman, indicated that she had been driving on the highway when she was cut off by another vehicle thereby causing her to lose control into the wall. The other vehicle had apparently left the scene and there were no witnesses who came forward. The adult, along with her 2 juvenile daughters, were transported to Fairview Hospital for treatment of their injuries. At the hospital, it was discovered that the driver had a firearm along with a cut straw with powder residue and a small amount of illicit pills in her possession. The 35yo was charged with misdemeanor possession of drugs as well as failure to control her vehicle. She was released at the hospital.



Hit-Skip on Sperry's Forge

On 1/4/24 at approx. 6:30PM, WPD received a call about a hit-skip motor vehicle crash on Sperry's Forge Trail. An unoccupied pickup that was parked on the street was struck by another pickup. The driver of the at-fault vehicle fled the scene. Evidence showed it drove over several tree lawns and struck a mailbox on the street as well. While an officer spoke with the owner of the parked truck, other officers found the suspect vehicle parked in a driveway on Settlers Reserve Way. The male, who admitted to operating the company vehicle, was located and interviewed. Officers noted signs of impairment on the 46yo Olmsted Falls man. He was field tested and arrested for OVI. The driver was charged with OVI and failure to control. Further charges are pending additional lab results.

Bad Driving Habits

On 12/25/2023, at 1304 hrs, a motorist reported a possible impaired driver on Lake Rd. near Park Lane. The suspect vehicle was all over the road, made several U turns, and nearly struck the caller before pulling into a driveway. Responding officers located the vehicle and spoke with the male driver. No impairment was detected. The driver believed the caller had been following him and "playing games". The driver was advised on his driving habits.



Nap Time

On 12/29/2023, at 0041 hrs, an officer located a vehicle parked

Thank You, Elks!

Huge thanks to the Lakewood Elks who gave out over \$70,000 to local charities this holiday season! Connecting for Kids and Carolyn L Farrell Foundation, each received \$10,000!! Great night for our community.



in Cahoon Park near the Bay Boat Club entrance with the driver sleeping. A check of the driver revealed he was tired, and had stopped to take a nap. He was advised of park curfew hours and sent on his way.

Just Waiting

On 12/29/2023, at 0807 hrs, a Nantucket Row resident called to report a vehicle with 4 occupants had been parked in front of his house for the last 20 minutes. After speaking with the occupants, it was determined they were waiting for their boss to show up so they could start an electrical job in the area.

House Egged

On 12/30/2023, at 1203 hrs, a Forestview resident reported his house had been egged overnight. He cleaned up the mess and just wanted the incident documented.

DUI

On 12/31/2024, at 2347 hrs, a BVPD officer stopped a vehicle on Lake Rd. near Elmwood for a traffic violation. After speaking with the female driver, the officer suspected the driver had been drinking. Field sobriety tests were administered, and as a result, the driver was arrested for OVI. The 47-yoa Broadview Hts. resident will face charges at RRMCC.

Car Alarm

On 01/02/2024, at 0357 hrs, a Provincetown Lane resident reported he was woken to the sound of his car alarm going off, and when he looked outside, he witnessed a vehicle drive off at a high rate of speed. The victim's car was entered, but nothing was taken. Police are investigating.

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# Weber Automotive is NAPA Shop of the Year

Weber Automotive in North Olmsted has been named Napa AutoCare Shop of the Year, taking the honor over 420 automotive service and repair shops in the Ohio area.

Eric Midura, Regional Wholesale Manager for Napa Auto Parts, presented Bryan Weber with the award during a luncheon thrown in their honor.



Bryan Weber and Eric Midura, Regional Wholesale Manager Napa Auto Parts.

Now in their 29th year in business, Weber Automotive has grown to become one of the top-rated, most technologically advanced automotive shops in the area, even performing ADAS calibrations and E-check testing on site as well. They service all makes and model vehicles, providing unmatched customer service and value to the community.

A second automotive shop will be breaking ground on the property in 2024. It will double the size of the existing building, providing service and repairs for Euro, hybrid and Electric vehicles. The \$2.2 million, 12,000 square foot building will bring in nearly a dozen new high-skilled jobs to the area.

There will be climate-controlled storage for classic and specialty vehicles as well. Clients can store their classic vehicles during the Winter and have them serviced so they are ready to go in the Spring. The new service center will include updating suspension, brakes and drivetrain components to more modern and efficient components. They are looking towards updating older vehicles with electric power trains. This will bring a broad range of services unlike any other shop in the area, providing even more valuable service to the surrounding communities.

The new building will be energy efficient as it will be heated and cooled using geothermal technology. The existing building is being fitted with solar power panels as well. “Our goal is to be a one-stop business for all automotive needs for owners of collector and daily-driven vehicles,”reports Bryan Weber. “We intend to do this in an environmentally responsible manner, and we will continue to lean forward towards upcoming automotive trends.”



The Weber Automotive team: Foula Filippis, Debbie Brasse, Jon Rechsteiner, Bryan Weber, Zach Hoyt, Tony Brzozowski, Adam Weber, Tony Zingale, Ralph James, Mary Kellick

## Thank You

Thanks to Bay Village Police Officer Melissa Marzan for representing the Bay Village Police Department at the annual Cops, Kids and Christmas Event supporting the Ronald McDonald House. This party is a labor of love for the Cleveland Police Department and the Cleveland Police Foundation.



## Thank You, Avon School Board

January is School Board Recognition Month. Please join in thanking the Board of Education members for their commitment to students, schools and community.

Tara Tatman - President, John Weigman - Vice President, Alissa Gault, Dennis Kramer, Christine Libeg.





**WEBER AUTOMOTIVE**

**ADVANTAGE**

28820 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH  
**(440) 734-1413**  
[www.WeberAutomotive.com](http://www.WeberAutomotive.com)

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We are partnering with Castrol to use their oil products so we can offer our clients a 500,000 mile engine warranty against oil-related mechanical failure.

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- Valet Parking



# MIRACLE METHOD HELPS YOU AGE IN PLACE

The term “aging in place” has been getting a lot of news coverage lately, and for good reason. With an aging population, the ever-growing number of Northeast Ohioans that will need housing options are getting squeezed. The number of residents that will need to transition to assisted living will far outpace the number of units currently available according to statistical data gathered by the most recent census. On top of the limited number of rooms, you have a spike in the cost of that housing due to general inflation and demand. This is causing an increase in “aging in place” products and services.

One of the biggest concerns for both seniors and their caretakers is bathroom safety. Research shows that the overwhelming majority of falls happen in the bathroom. “There are two big reasons for falls in the bathroom setting,” states Andrew Gorski from Miracle Method. “A lack of grab bars and

getting in and out of the bathtub seem to be the most common culprit,” Gorski explains. Miracle Method has been offering customers “age in place” products for the last 16 years.

According to Gorski, cost is a big reason why people don’t update their bathroom to include a new walk-in shower and grab bars. For a complete remodel that includes tearing out the old bathtub and replacing it with a better option, customers can expect to pay a king’s ransom. Big, jetted, walk-in bathtubs can cost tens of thousands of dollars to be installed. Walk-in shower installations are not much less. When you factor in the downtime and construction hassle, many seniors simply give up and deal with climbing over their bathtub.

Miracle Method has a much better option. The Easy Step tub to shower conversion is a one-day bathtub to shower

kit that uses your existing bathtub. Miracle Method can cut an opening into the existing bathtub and install a prefabricated unit that allows an opening in the tub. “Customers are looking for affordable safety options,” states Gorski. With the Easy Step, overall height of the bathtub goes from about 16” to 5” depending on the bathtub. “This product gets installed in a day or less and can save residents thousands” says Gorski. When you add grab bars and a slip resistant surface to the bottom of the bathtub, your chances of falling are drastically reduced. Gorski also explained that the product is completely reversible. At some point people sell the home. As long as they keep what Miracle Method cuts out, they can return the unit to its original bathtub for the new homeowner.

For more information on the Easy Step



Easy Step Before



Easy Step After

and all of Miracle Methods aging in place options, or for a free home safety inspection, contact Miracle Method Surface Refinishing of Cleveland today at (440) 201-4248. You can also stop out their beautiful showroom in North Olmsted, Ohio or go to [www.miraclemethod.com/walk-in-tub](http://www.miraclemethod.com/walk-in-tub).

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