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A CATHOLIC HOSPITAL see page 3

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See Ad on Pg. 6 for details

Volume 27 Issue 7
January 7 - 13, 2021

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With God, all things are possible...

2020 Things to Remember from the Year to Forget
See inside for some of the top local stories from 2020

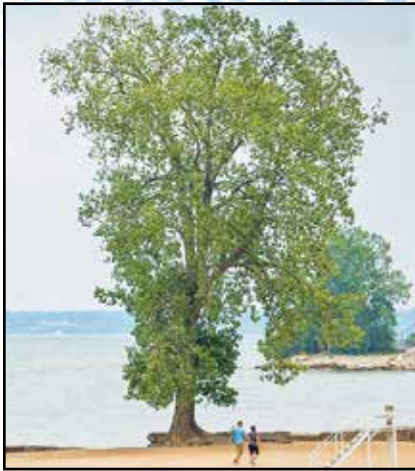
Iconic Huntington Metroparks Tree Comes Down

The landmark cottonwood tree that has been a hallmark of Huntington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks came down Dec. 29. Metroparks officials report that the tree, struck by lightning last year, was discovered to have substantial trunk damage, making it a risk to visitors.

"Earlier this year, the large cottonwood on Huntington Beach was struck by lightning," report Metroparks. "Certified Risk Assessment arborists investigated the tree, and while the lightning strike did not cause significant damage, arborists found significant rot at the base of the tree. The rot at the base, combined with the tree leaning towards the popular beach, and its susceptibility to high winds off the lake, posed a hazard to park visitors. Unfortunately our Forestry team had no choice but to remove the tree, which was a popular sight at Huntington Beach for park visitors and staff alike."



1970.....The man in the photo is the late Richard Allen, Bay resident 1956 - 2000. According to Wikipedia, Eastern Cottonwoods typically live 70-100 years. This photo was taken in 1970, suggesting the famed Huntington cottonwood was nearing the end of its natural life, especially considering the harsh conditions of its location on the lake. (Photo courtesy David Allen. Richard Allen is his late father).

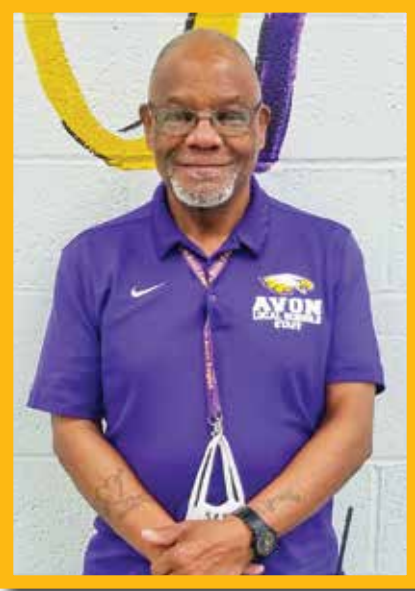


Huntington Reservation beach on August 31, 2016. (Kyle Lanzer/Cleveland Metroparks)



End of an Era....Crews take down the landmark Cottonwood Tree along the Lake Erie shoreline at Huntington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks on Dec. 29. (Photo courtesy Casey Martin).

Beloved Avon Schools Custodian Phil White Retires with Gala Send-Off



Avon Local Schools' beloved custodian, Phil White, 65, is retiring at the end of the year (Dec. 30).

White began working for the Avon Local Schools as a substitute custodian in April 2004. He was hired on as a night custodian at Avon High School at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. He transferred to Heritage South Elementary as a night custodian at the end of that school year.

He later went back to a day position at Avon High School in 2009. After a few years at the high school, he moved to a day position at Avon Heritage South Elementary School in 2015. A short time later, he ended up at the Avon Early Learning Center (AELC) in 2017 and has worked there ever since. The AELC houses the district's kindergartners and Soaring Little Eagles Preschool through the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

Prior to his employment with the school district, White, an Elyria resident, was working in the maintenance department at the formerly known EMH Center for Health & Fitness (now known as the Fitness Center at *continued on page 5*)

Westlake Fire Department Hosts Vaccine POD with Cuyahoga County Board of Health

by Robert Rozboril, City of Westlake

The Westlake Fire Department and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) worked together on Wednesday, Dec. 30, to distribute Moderna Covid-19 vaccines to upwards of 700 EMS personnel and first responders from multiple West Side suburbs at Westlake Fire Station #2 on Columbia Road.

It is was the third such POD (Point of Dispensing) site set up by the CCBH in the span of a week. The first two were held at fire stations in Shaker Heights and Independence. Officials estimate more than 300 first responders were vaccinated at each of those sites, making the Westlake POD the most ambitious of the three.

"...This vaccine is a great step to making sure that we can [return to normal]..."
- Mayor Glough

"Today, we have a very aggressive goal of vaccinating those 700 *continued on page 4*



Medical personnel prepare Covid-19 vaccines for distribution at Westlake Fire Station #2.

2020: Things to Remember from the Year to Forget

2020 may have been the year to forget, but here's a look back at some things definitely worth remembering!



UH St. John Auxiliary Gift Makes a Difference

The \$10,000 gift of a rehab harness system from the St. John Medical Center Auxiliary is making a difference at the hospital's Outpatient Rehabilitation Services located at 26008 Detroit Road in Westlake. The harness was introduced last year. Matt, an outgoing 39-year old who was severely injured when his car went off a cliff in Colorado in May, 2018, demonstrated the device purchased from Mass Rehab, Inc.

3-5-20 Villager

United, Not Divided.

A man with a message was peacefully walking in the area of the Bay Village police department in May as nationwide BLM awareness bloomed. He was approached by Chief Spaetzel who talked to him, thanked him for coming out and offered him a water. Treating people fairly and courteously is a way of life here.

6-4-20 Villager



Our Happy Day!

- When Kara and Balint got married last April, social distancing meant no wedding reception. What a surprise it was when prospective wedding guests refused to let the shutdown rain on their parade. It was the beginning of many, many parades in 2020.

4-23-20 Villager



Cleveland Clinic Caregivers Travel to Henry Ford Health System

Cleveland Clinic caregivers traveled to Detroit's Henry Ford Health System to provide assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaving from Avon Hospital, the caregivers were given an enthusiastic send-off from Cleveland Clinic senior leadership as well as an outpouring of support from fellow employees and the community. The City of Avon responded with its safety service forces and the hook-and-ladder American flag that added an inspiring statement of encouragement.

5-7-20 Villager

Firefighter Finds Silver Lining Amid the Covid-19 Crisis



North Ridgeville firefighter and EMT-paramedic Steven Accord, an LCCC grad, said he and the entire fire house were adjusting to the COVID-19 crisis one day at a time last April. "I believe a silver lining has been the amount of time we are spending together as a family," Accord said. "I have always worked a lot and expressed wanting to spend more time at home. My son (Issac) gives me all the smiles I can handle, and my happiness is not going to be affected by this virus."

5-7-20 Villager

Bay Police Chief Mark Spaetzel Retires, Sgt. Kathy Leasure to Take Oath of Office

Police Chief Mark Spaetzel retires after 34 1/2 years with the City of Bay Village and Sergeant Kathy Leasure, who was sworn in on June 2.

6-4-20 Villager



Supporting Our Healthcare Workers

The City of Avon teamed with the Kevin Love Fund Friday morning, April 7, at The Tree House located at Olde Avon Village to support health care workers. The Kevin Love Fund donated lunches to the Cleveland Clinic Avon. Jenna welcomed Love to The Strip over her phone.

4-23-20 Villager

UH St. John Medical Center: A Call to Action

The healthcare team at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center stood ready to deliver the best in care as the pandemic ramped up last March. Pictured are Paul Forthofer, Community Outreach, Ashely Fiala, RN, Carla Costello, RN, Fadia Mustafa, RN, Elizabeth Bowles, Mark Kapalin, RN, and Lisa Murthy, RN, all part of the UH St. John Superhero team!



Heroes Night Celebrates Frontliners at Avon Hospital

Dozens of grateful community members traveled to Avon Hospital on April 28 at 7 p.m. to observe and take part in a moment of nation recognition for health-care workers. Heroes Night brought a generous outpouring of support, including signs, applause, cheers and a parade of police and fire vehicles from the City of Avon.

5-7-20 Villager



A Family on the Frontline

Rebecca Sullivan, a registered nurse in the emergency room at Mercy Health - Lorain Hospital, met her husband Matt, a North Ridgeville firefighter and paramedic, in Lorain County Community College's paramedic program. "We met in the LCCC program in 2009, got married in 2012, and had these crazy kids in 2015," Sullivan said. Those crazy kids are twins, Aidan and Harper. And to them, their frontline COVID-19 fighting parents are just doing their jobs. "They know daddy works on a fire truck and in an ambulance, and mommy works in an emergency room," she said.

5-7-20 Villager



Westlake Police Make His Day!

On the morning of April 23, Westlake PD along with Westlake Fire and Service Departments came together to wish a brave cancer survivor and Westlake resident Emmett a Happy 3rd Birthday.

5-7-20 Villager

continued on page 6



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My Front Tooth Just Broke In Half

by Jeffrey Gross, DDS, FAGD of *The Healthy Smile*

This statement was how I met my new patient. He was quite upset with the way his smile looked, and rightfully so. One of his large front teeth, which we call a central incisor, was broken halfway up the tooth. He experienced no pain, just aggravation. He could not understand what happened to his tooth. Front teeth, especially the central incisors, are often damaged due to trauma. Young children hurt themselves when falling off bikes or at the playground. Older individuals can fall and injure their teeth. I saw a woman today who just started to have seizures and falls. She knocked her front tooth loose. Although these are shocks when they happen, we can understand that a significant force will damage a tooth. Our question is why a tooth fractures in the absence of overt trauma.

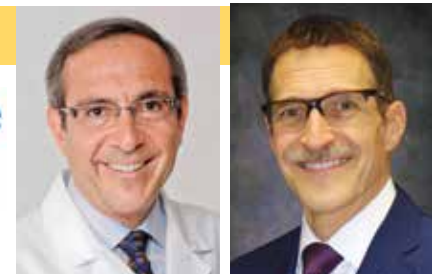
Part of the answer to this question comes from an observation made by the patient. He told me that he noticed that his teeth were getting very thin. He felt that he could almost see through them. The appearance of thinness is a phenomenon that we call translucency. Translucency develops when one of two things happens. The first cause of thinness in the front teeth is due to the reduction of the back teeth. The reduction can be in number or size. In number means that we are missing our back teeth. When back teeth are missing, the job of chewing switches to the front of the mouth. We have discussed in previous col-

umns that chewing is not the job of the front teeth. Yes, when they are called upon to chew, they rise to the occasion. However, chewing with your front teeth will result in no teeth in the front.

The other type of reduction, which leads to breakage in the front is due to wear. The wearing away of the tooth structure happens to some extent to all of us. When the back teeth wear, the front teeth come into play in the chewing department. Those patients who have many crowns in the back of their mouths will not experience this phenomenon. The crown will never wear down. Crowns on back teeth save the front teeth from excessive work.

The other reason for the thinning of the front teeth is closeness. What do I mean by closeness? The top and bottom front teeth are very close to each other. There is no way to chew at all without the top and bottom teeth grinding on each other. Spaces in a vertical and horizontal direction are crucial for the long term health of the front teeth. Creating space used to be challenging to create. I utilize tooth movement with removable devices to make this procedure very easy.

Let us get back to our patient with the fractured front tooth. I needed to fix him up as soon as possible because he had meetings and other business dealings. He never expected me to help that day. I told him that I could fix his



Dr. Louis Malcmacher Dr. Jeffrey Gross

problem in 30 minutes with the use of a crown. A crown would recreate the thickness of the tooth and look phenomenal. Using state of the art materials and digital scanning technology, I finished the procedure efficiently.

I want everyone to take a look in the mirror at their front teeth. If you see signs of chipping or wear, maybe it is time to visit your dentist. Proper evaluation and taking steps to prevent a fracture is the way to go. We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you fit into this category, please call us at 440-892-1810. I look forward to helping you.

Jeffrey Gross, DDS, FAGD is an Ohio licensed general dentist and is on the staff of Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine.

The Healthy Smile
27239 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140
440-892-1810 www.jeffreygrossdds.com

Westlake Fire Department Hosts Vaccine POD with Cuyahoga County Board of Health

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individuals,” Westlake Fire Chief Jim Hughes said. “We’re going to do that through a partnership with all the Westlake fire departments - Lakewood, Fairview Park, Rocky River and Bay Village - along with the Board of Health. And, of course, we couldn’t have done this at all without the support of the Westlake Police Department.”



The personnel administering the vaccines wore PPE, including M95 masks, and received vaccinations beforehand.

Westlake Mayor Dennis M. Clough expressed optimism about vaccine’s potential impact on day-to-day life.

“The vaccines will be very beneficial to making sure that our safety forces stay healthy while they’re responding to people throughout the year,” Mayor Clough said. “This vaccine is a great step to making sure that we can [return to normal] hopefully by the beginning of the summer.”

CCBH Communications Officer Kevin Brennan said similar drive-through PODs will be held in the months ahead.

“We do anticipate in the coming months that we will have public dispensation of the vaccine and we may be using the fire stations again,” Brennan said. “It likely will depend on the weather at that time. If it’s warmer weather, we’ll do our best to do it outside. But if it’s colder and raining, we may ask the fire stations for cooperation again.”

Brennan noted that “open air” distribution sites are preferable to indoor sites as they reduce the risk of transmission.



“We really appreciate the cooperation from the fire stations of the cities in letting us use the drive-through bays at the fire stations,” Brennan said. “Obviously, we can open the doors on either end. We can keep people in their cars so we can limit contact.”

Vaccine recipients were asked to park just outside the distribution site for 15-20 minutes in case they experienced common side effects such as mild fever or upset stomach.

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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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Beloved Avon Schools Custodian Phil White Retires with Gala Send-Off

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UH Avon Health Center). It was there that he met Jim Rietenbach, Avon Local Schools superintendent at that time. Rietenbach told White about an opening for substitute custodians in the schools and the rest is history.

When you meet White, you can't help but smile. His kind, caring friendly demeanor is loved by all students and staff in the district.

"I love what I do," said White. "I love seeing the kids and the staff. I take pride in my work. Seeing the kids and making them smile, makes me smile."

White is well-known for his "magic tricks," (what the students call them) although he refers to them as "balance tricks."

"The kids think I can do magic, but that's okay," he said. "The kids love it when I do things for them. I am going to miss that. The kids are all so polite and when they say 'hi' to me, well that just makes my day. You never know what someone might be going through and even something as simple as someone saying 'hi' can really make a person's day."



Soaring Little Eagles Preschool Director Brandie Rush, Phil White, and Avon Early Learning Center Principal Colleen Mudore



Phil White, in the Balmert's Family Tesla SUV that he loves, waves good-bye to students and staff at the Avon Early Learning Center

White plans to stay around the area for at least the next five years while his wife continues working as a file clerk manager with the Giant Eagle grocery store chain. The couple have family in Alabama and the ultimate goal is to move

to Alabama in a few years. The Whites have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

As for what he'd like to be remembered for after he leaves the Avon Local Schools, White replied, "A smiling face, kindness and caring."

Congratulations Mr. White!



Avon Early Learning Center kindergartner, Owen Buckley, 6; Phil White; and Avon Early Learning Center kindergartner Clara Johnson, 6.



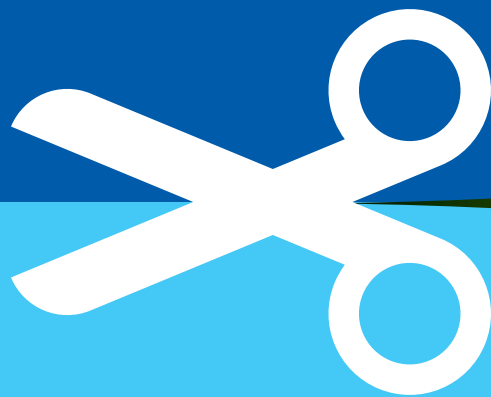
Chris Balmert greets Phil White as he prepares to drive him around Avon

Mr. White Day

It was Mr. White Day in the school district and students and staff in all buildings were encouraged to wear Avon purple and gold. At the Avon Early Learning Center, where he works, the staff wore "We heart Mr. White" T-shirts.

The kindergartners and preschool students lined up outside as Mr. White left the building. A Tesla SUV was waiting for him courtesy of the Balmert Family. Chris Balmert drove Mr. White around the parking lot to cheers and applause from the students/staff, a cruise around Avon also followed. Mr. White loves when the car comes to the school to drop-off or pick-up the Balmert children.

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2020: Things to Remember from the Year to Forget

2020 may have been the year to forget, but here's a look back at some things definitely worth remembering!

continued from page 2

Drellishak's Auto Shops Celebrate 75 Years

Trusted by generations of customers, Drellishak's Fairview Auto Care and Drellishak's Service in Rocky River celebrated 75 years in business. Rep. Dave Greenspan (center) presented Frank Costanzo, Drellishak's Fairview Auto Center and Jerry and Frank Drellishak, Drellishak's Service in Rocky River with Ohio House of Representatives proclamations noting the milestone occasion.

6-25-20 Villager



The City of Avon: "The Change We Seek"

The community of Avon came together in solidarity with "The Change We Seek" to make a powerful, peaceful statement the afternoon of Saturday, June 6. 6-25-20 Villager



The Great Avon Car Parade

The Great Avon Car Parade, featuring an escort by Avon's local police and fire departments, helped many celebrate Independence Day in Avon. Typically put on annually as a Bike Parade, the 2020 event pivoted to a Car Parade due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 7-9-20 Villager



Maltby's \$1.125 Million Gift Promotes Breast Health and Cancer Care at UH

Don and Nancy Maltby created the Nancy and Donald Maltby Master Clinician in Breast Health gift to UH St. John Medical Center. "With these gifts, Don and I are remembering our mothers and also endeavoring to help future breast cancer patients," shared Nancy Maltby, whose grandparents owned the Deeks Family Orchard which stood on the hospital grounds. 7-9-20 Villager

Westlake's Deeks Family Orchard: Still Bearing Fruit at UH St. John

Today, University Hospitals St. John Medical Center now stands on part of the former Deeks Orchard property and thanks to a recent gift by Don and Nancy Deeks Maltby, the Deeks Family Orchard will once again bear fruit at UH St. John. Eva, Walter and Arthur Deeks stand near the barn still seen adjacent to hospital property on Center Ridge Rd. 8-6-20 Villager



continued on page 8

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Bay Village Schools Announces Scholastic Art Awards Winners

Bay Village High School is proud to announce that 32 students were recently recognized in the 2021 Scholastic Art Awards. Of those students, seven received Gold Key awards, 11 received Silver Key awards and 14 received Honorable Mentions. The Gold Key award is the highest honor of distinction in this competition.

Senior Sarah Hardebeck received three Gold Keys in Photography; Sophomore Kristina Laraway received two Gold Keys in Photography; Senior Elizabeth Varis received a Gold Key in Painting; and Senior Kayla Poling received a Gold Key in Sculpture.

Submissions were entered into the competition by Bay High School Art Department Faculty Greg Hildebrandt, Grace Outcalt and Thomas Schemrich (Art Department Chair).

"The amount of talent within this group is exceptional," said Thomas Schemrich, Chairperson of the Bay High School Art Department. "I have no doubt that many of these students will go on to successfully pursue art careers in college and beyond."

Faculty from Cleveland Institute of Art served as judges for this annual competition. Below is a complete list of Bay High School's award-winning students.

PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSIONS: *Elizabeth Carney*, Junior, Honorable Mention; *Sarah Hardebeck*, Senior, Gold Key (2), Silver Key; *Kristina Laraway*, Sophomore, Gold Key (2), Silver Key; *Sarah Puterbaugh*, Senior, Silver Key, Honorable Mention; *Emma Spirollari*, Senior, Silver Key (2)

PAINTING SUBMISSIONS: *Brook Brewer*, Senior, Honorable Mention; *Emilia Gulley*, Sophomore, Silver Key; *Angelica Jameson*, Junior, Silver Key; *Anya Krumbine*, Senior, Silver Key; *Elizabeth Varis*, Senior, Gold Key, Honorable Mention (5); *Masha Waiss*, Senior, Honorable Mention

DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION SUBMISSIONS: *Elizabeth Carney*, Junior, Honorable Mention

DIGITAL ART SUBMISSIONS: *Anya Krumbine*, Senior, Silver Key; *Elizabeth Varis*, Senior, Silver Key, Honorable Mention

SCULPTURE SUBMISSIONS: *Kayla Poling*, Senior, Gold Key, Honorable Mention

ART PORTFOLIO SUBMISSIONS: *Elizabeth Varis*, Senior, Honorable Mention
Visit www.TheVillagerNewspaper.com to view more photos.



Elizabeth Varis, Senior, Gold Key Painting "Vin"

3 Things You Can Clear Out of Your Kitchen Cabinets

Doing what you want to do when you want to do it, that's how retirement should be. At Concord Reserve, you can enhance the lifestyle you've worked hard for. By choosing a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), you can have peace of mind knowing you have access to care, services, and lifestyle options to support you in aging well.

If you are considering a move to a CCRC, you might want to start your journey to downsizing and decluttering and your kitchen is a great place to start!

1. Utensils and Gadgets

There are a lot of gadgets and utensils with specific uses. The question is which ones are you using and which ones never get picked up? Here's a test to see what you use: put 15 of your most used gadgets and utensils in your drawer or utensil holder. Take the others and put them in a bin in a different room. Throughout the month see which pieces you need to retrieve from the bin. This will give you a good idea of what you use regularly.

2. Small Appliance Inventory

Take stock of what appliances you have and what you're really using. If you have lots of appliances squirreled away for their one-time per year use, consider whether or not you really need to hang on to them.

3. Dishes and Glassware

Everyday Dishes vs. Good Dishes

There was a time when everyone had 'everyday' dishes and 'good' dishes. The

good dishes are usually china and were brought out during holidays and special occasions. If you find you're not using the good dishes anymore consider taking them to a consignment shop that specializes in fine china to sell them. Or check with www.replacements.com/ to see what patterns they are purchasing.

Glassware

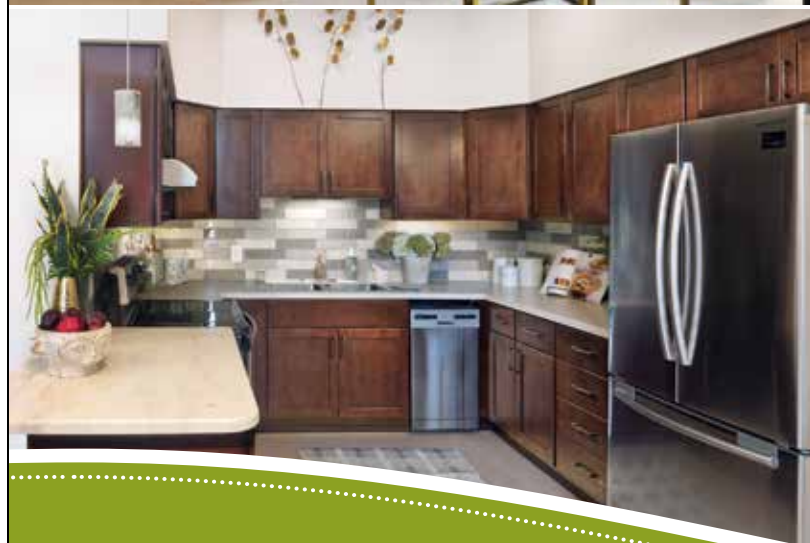
Glassware is the same as dishes. Think about what glasses you pull out and use every day, those are obviously the keepers. But if there are juice or beverage glasses that rarely get used consider moving them on. Remember to keep what you need for family gatherings, but donate or sell the rest. This goes for fine crystal as well.

It's a Process

Any downsizing and decluttering you do is a process. Tackle one area at a time and don't try to do it all in a day or you'll get overwhelmed and discouraged. Take it slow and remember to be honest with yourself about what you have and how you use it and you'll have the best results.

Start the new year off with some help from our guest expert. Join us for a 2 part virtual series- Downsizing and Real Estate Trends: What You Need to Know. Registration for this free event series can be done online by visiting concordreserve.org/events or by calling 440-961-3693.

Concord Reserve is a continuing care retirement community in Westlake, Ohio. For more information, call 440-871-0900 or visit us online at concordreserve.org.



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Concord Reserve, originally The Lutheran Home, is a Life Enriching Communities campus, affiliated with the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and welcomes people of all faiths.

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2020: Things to Remember from the Year to Forget

2020 may have been the year to forget, but here's a look back at some things definitely worth remembering!

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Inspiration & Celebration

A colorful mural project celebrating the Bay High Class of 2020 was organized by a group of Bay Senior Parents who worked with current inmates at the Grafton Correctional Institute to create this amazing piece of art that personalized a highlight from each senior's scholastic career.

8-6-20 Villager



Together We Stand!

The power of community was evidenced in a big way on Sunday, Aug. 9 as fire crews from nine West Shore communities responded to a horrific blaze at the Courtyard Condos on Detroit Road in Westlake. All 5 Westcom cities (Westlake, Bay Village, Rocky River, Fairview Park and North Ridgeville) along with crews from Avon, Avon Lake, Lakewood, and North Olmsted battled the 2 alarm fire.

8-20-20 Villager



Sidewalk Art Inspires Hope and Spirits in Bay Village

In Bay Village near the corner of Ashton Lane, Bassett Road neighbors Lizzie Durny and Stacey Gepperth created messages of hope with sidewalk art all summer. An evolving montage of chalk art inspired passers-by for months and continues to this day.

9-24-20 Villager



Avon Honors Retiring Chief Emling & Avon Fire Promotions

Avon Fire Chief Mike Emling recently retired after a distinguished 35-year career of service to the community. Promotions soon followed for (pictured with Chief Frank Root, (from left) Assistant Chief Dave Swope, Captain Brett Bruehler and Lieutenant James Fischer.

8-20-20 & 9-3-20 Villager

The Power of Community: 60,000 Face Shields Distributed to Local Front-Line Heroes, Schools and Businesses

Rob David, President, UH St. John Medical Center, joins with Brent Burks, Vice President GEON Performance Solutions, John Sobolewski, Founder Power of MORE and Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough in accepting the 60,000 face shields donated by Westlake's GEON company.

9-24-20 Villager

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Westlake Welcomes New Recreation Director, Wishes Bob DeMinico Well in Retirement

by Robert Rozboril, City of Westlake

The City of Westlake welcomed Paula Horner as its new Recreation Director. Horner brings with her more than 20 years of experience, having served as the Rec Director for the City of Broadview Heights for the past 11 years and as the city's Recreation Manager before that.

Horner oversaw the development of the Broadview Heights Community and Recreation Center, which was completed in 2018. She was a charter member of two committees formed in support of a pair of bond issues necessary to fund the project. She also helped to secure grant funding to expand the community's recreation amenities.

Horner looks forward to being involved with the continuing development of a master plan for Meadowood Golf Course and collaborating with the Community Services Department on new joint programming initiatives.



Bob DeMinico Retires as Westlake Recreation Director

The City of Westlake recently gave Recreation Director Bob DeMinico a small, socially distanced sendoff at the Recreation Center, capping his nearly 16-year career with the city. DeMinico has overseen numerous development projects during his time at the helm of the Westlake Recreation Department, including many conceived as part of the 2015 Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Mayor Dennis M. Clough presented DeMinico a Proclamation declaring that Dec. 18, 2020, would be named in his honor. A handful of speakers said a few words about what DeMinico has meant to the City of Westlake and its recreational facilities, including Past Parks & Rec Commissioner Bud Tetzlaff, Westlake Engineering Director Bob Kelly and current Westlake Recreation Commissioner Dale Smith.



Some of the notable additions and enhancements to the city's recreation amenities during DeMinico's tenure include the Westlake Aquatic Center & Peterson Pool, the Clague Memorial Baseball Fields, \$6 million in upgrades and renovations to the Rec Center (roof repairs, HVAC, locker room, gymnasium and swimming pool enhancements), an 18,000-square-foot fitness room addition, a new pedestrian bridge in Clague Park and new pickleball courts at Tri City Park.

DeMinico initiated the Corporate Partnership Program and started the Corporate Challenge, which will be in its 14th year in 2021.

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Did you know that you can find resident interviews, cooking demonstrations, virtual tours, and more all in one place? **The Coffee Corner** is our go-to spot for learning about and staying connected to The Normandy.

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A huge thank you to our award winning Chef Matt for walking us through the process of preparing Shrimp Étouffée during our most recent cooking demonstration. It's great learning about what goes on behind the scenes in the kitchen!

Don't worry if you missed it, you can still watch by scrolling down on our Facebook page at The Normandy Senior Living.

A Real Christmas Story from Avon's 'What the Cupcakes'



"Everything we made, including donations and gift cards or toys we donated the night of the 23rd," reports Renee, who has personally endured family tragedy.

"I know what it is like to have an ill spouse and one who passed away. It is the worst struggle! My business is not good, but I just have to help regardless. Something is better than nothing"

Renee (along with Joe Pullen) is also founder of the Avon 'Blessing Box' (which supplies free food for those in need year-around).

Stop in her store, 'What the Cupcakes,' soon! Located at 36795 Detroit Rd., Avon. Their phone number is (440) 695-1098.

Business owner Renee Collins of the Avon-based 'What the Cupcakes' bakery has had a tough year like many other small business people.

But Renee decided to live up to the Christmas spirit this holiday season and devote her time to those in need!

Even though business at What the Cupcakes has been extremely difficult (no party or catering orders), Renee learned about two families that just would not have had Christmas without help.

In one family, the mom is battling stage 4 cancer. In the other, the dad is fighting stage 4 cancer.

Both families have children aged 4 through 12.

In response to their needs, Renee dedicated the hours of 11-3 on Dec. 22 & 23 to raising funds for these families' Christmas.



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2020: Things to Remember from the Year to Forget

2020 may have been the year to forget, but here's a look back at some things definitely worth remembering!

continued from page 6

Superheros Return to Avon

The non-profit group Superheros to Kids in Ohio made a special visit to Avon for outdoor movie night the evening of Sat., Sept. 12. It was a great way to celebrate the end of summer.

9-24-20 Villager



Community West Foundation's Homeless Jesus Sculpture Goes Viral

Community West Foundation's 'Homeless Jesus' sculpture went viral in September when a concerned resident call police out of concern for the realistic statue placed at Bay's St. Barnabas to raise awareness for the homeless. Pictured are Marty Uhle, Community West Foundation, and Fr. Alex Martin.

10-22-20 Villager



20 Churches Team in Westlake Food Distribution

Westlake's Ascent Church at 3550 Crocker Road was the hub church for a massive food distribution last week. Over 50 volunteers distributed over 44,000 pounds of food the morning of Wed., Oct. 28 in less than two hours.

11-5-20 Villager



Remembering Amy

Amy Mihaljevic disappeared on Oct. 27, 1989 from the Bay Village Square shopping Center. The 31st anniversary of the tragedy was marked near Bay Village City Hall as members of the community gathered in cold rain to remember Amy Mihaljevic. Mark Kevesdy, Bay Middle School teacher, organized the Amy Mihaljevic memorial.

11-5-20 Villager



Thankfulness....

A dad planted the seeds of gratitude, honor and patriotism in his young son with a visit to the Avon Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day.

11-19-20 Villager



Here Comes Santa Claus!

An annual Bay Village holiday highlight is Santa's fire truck ride through the community. This year's event was greeted by hundreds of kids who came out to see Santa ride by on Sunday, Dec. 6

12-10-20 Villager

O'Neill Healthcare Locations Begin Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccines

O'Neill Healthcare is pleased to announce that on-site vaccination began Dec. 21 at O'Neill Healthcare Bay Village.

By December 28th, all five of O'Neill Healthcare facilities (Bay Village, North Ridgville, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Lakewood) will have received the first of two shots. All residents and staff, including physicians and nurse practitioners, have the opportunity to get the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine with all of the attending physicians opting for the vaccine at O'Neill Healthcare.

"We are honored to be among the first in Ohio to have access to the vaccine so we can protect our staff and residents as we look towards a healthier future when we can be together again. We'd like to thank the Walgreens team for administering the shots and helping us create a safe environment for our staff and residents."



Dr. John Wolf receives his vaccine at O'Neill Healthcare Bay Village.

Westlake Porter Library Events

Friday, January 15 (4-4:30 p.m.) *Cup of Science (Live)* – Join Miss Holly on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube for a fun video on Snowy Science!

Saturday, January 16 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.) *Dragon Appreciation Day Craft Pick Up* – Stop by the Drive-Up Window to pick up a craft kit to celebrate Dragon Appreciation Day! While supplies last.

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

Westlake Porter Public Library Invites Community to Join the Annual Winter Reading Challenge

Westlake Porter Public Library is inviting the community to Chill with a Good Book during the annual Winter Reading Challenge January 3-31. The program is open to children ages birth-grade 4, teens and tweens grades 5-12 and adults age 18+. Every book participants read while the challenge runs earns them a chance to win prizes weekly for adults or one end-of-the-month prize drawing each for both of the youth age categories. Paper logs for youth readers are available to print out at home or pick up at the library.

Ebooks, audiobooks, large print, graphic novels and traditional books all count. To sign up simply visit westlakelibrary.beanstack.org. If you already signed up for an account during the Summer Library Challenge, just sign in to get started.

The Real Meaning of Christmas

The nativity scene lovingly place at the front of the Knickerbocker Senior Apartments in Bay captured the real meaning of the Christmas season once again this year.





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Christmas Gift for Homeless Jesus Sculpture

After many years of exposure to the elements, Community West Foundation's **Homeless Jesus** sculpture has been refurbished – thanks to the talented Shannon Marie Timura, an area sculptor who has taught at local arts schools and been commissioned by Proctor & Gamble for public art.

Community West Foundation has been displaying the piece at various locales to bring attention to the plight of the homeless since 2018.

“It was in pretty bad shape,” said Shannon Marie. “I had to repair some of the cracks and pits and match the paint. I sanded it all down and repainted it and sanded it all down again.”

“I had about three weeks to do it, so that was good because matching the paint was tricky. I worked with FinishMaster, Inc., an automotive company on Brookpark Road. They are fantastic. They matched the right color and mixed the right color.”

Shannon Marie also spoke with the offices of creator Timothy Schmalz of Canada, who created the world-renowned piece.

Homeless Jesus came to the area when Community West Foundation purchased a replica of the Homeless Jesus sculpture as a visual representation of the Gospel passage in Matthew 25:40 – “*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*”

Shannon Marie can attest to the impact of seeing the sculpture up close. “It is just stunning in person,” she said. “Instead of just seeing it on a website or on TV, to walk up to it in person, it really takes your breath away. It was interesting to have it in my studio and walk out to it every morning. It was an honor to work on.”

Shannon Marie has been a teacher at Beck Center and the Olmsted Center for Performing Arts. Three of her pieces are on display at the Proctor & Gamble Olay location in Cincinnati and she has been featured in Oprah's O Magazine.

Visit her Etsy Shop at Shannon Marie Makes.



Happy Retirement Mary Calucchia!

After 29 years of administrative service to the Westlake Fire Department, Mary Calucchia celebrated her retirement on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Fire Station #1 on Crocker Road. Mayor Dennis M. Clough read a Proclamation recognizing her for her time with the city and Fire Chief Jim Hughes presented her a plaque. Mary said she looks forward to having more time to spend with her family and doing anything she pleases in retirement.

Information courtesy of the City of Westlake,
www.facebook.com/cityofwestlakeohio



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Avon Honors Nancy McGhee with Community Service Award

Avon Mayor Bryan Jensen has chosen life-long resident, Nancy McGhee, to receive the final Community Service Award from the City of Avon for 2020.

Nancy has spent years showing her dedication to the City through her work with the Avon Historical Society, the Avon Senior Center and St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception where Nancy dedicated much of her time to the boosters, fish fries and the annual Oktoberfest event. Nancy also spent several years working with Tom's Country Place, and anyone who knows Tom's Country Place knows the dedication they have to the City.

"It only seemed fitting with the ending of 2020 to recognize someone who, through all of life's struggles, has still managed to fight and have a smile on her face. Her hugs make my day!" Mayor Jensen said.

Congratulations to Nancy for all you do for the City of Avon!



Bay High's James Bish Wins 2020 Congressional App Challenge



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), announced the winner of the Ohio 9th Congressional District's second annual Congressional App Challenge. **James Bish of Bay High School in Bay Village, Ohio** has been selected by a panel of judges as the winner of this year's competition. Rep. Kaptur looks forward to a discussion with James to learn first-hand of the skills and expertise that went into the creation of his application. Bish's app, "Anonymous FRQ Grading," is an impressive tool for teachers and students to submit responses to essay questions free of bias in evaluation.

"James' wonderful application received strong scores in each phase of the judging process, from concept, to design, to the skill shown to produce it," said Rep. Kaptur. "We had strong submissions and participation from across the district. Developing STEM education must be a priority not only within our community, but across our nation as well, and the Congressional App Challenge is an opportunity to foster critical skills. I offer my sincerest congratulations to James Bish on his win and thank him for the impressive and important work that went into creating his app."

The Congressional App Challenge is a district-level competition for high school students to foster coding skills and inspire students to pursue careers in computer science. James' application comes at the direction of teacher Rob Grossman at Bay High. Additional standout applications came from Toledo St. Francis High School at the direction of teacher Mike Blochowski.

Rep. Kaptur received a total of nine app submissions from students across Ohio's 9th Congressional District in her second year hosting the competition. The judges for this year's competition included computer science professionals and scholars from across the district such as Max Herzog from the Cleveland Water Alliance and Kelly Zelesnik from Lorain Community College.

Winners of the 2020 Congressional App Challenge will be eligible to attend a virtual #HouseOfCode Capitol Hill Reception in Washington, D.C., where their app will be featured in the United States Capitol Building. Prize announcements are still to come, but past winners have received flight credits and Amazon gift credits.

Community West Foundation Grants \$589,800 to Local Nonprofit Agencies

The Community West Foundation Board of Directors approved \$589,800 in fourth quarter grants to nonprofit agencies that provide basic needs services to the community in Cleveland, Western Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. This year Community West awarded grants to the largest number of organizations ever in their history: 70 total.

Community West Foundation is known for having long-standing relationships with their grantees and many of them have received funding for decades. This year Community West has expanded the criteria for grantmaking to include all six of the areas called out in The Gospel of Matthew 25:35-40. In addition, they are increasing their presence in Lorain County by awarding grants to organizations

that align with their mission. Board of Directors Grants Committee Chairman, Bill Oatey, commented, "We are well aware of the landscape right now in terms of increased need. We want to ensure we are doing everything we can to support the community." In 2020, Community West funded 16 agencies for the first time.

Several of the agencies awarded this quarter are new to the Foundation including Blossom Hill, an organization that has provided compassionate care to individuals with profound physical and mental disabilities for more than fifty years. Blossom Hill operates four residences on the west side of Greater Cleveland including one in Westlake, two in North Royalton and one in Parma. The organization serves more than 100 individuals receiving long-term residential and short-term respite care as well as in-home supported living services.

Another agency new to Community West is Lorain County Safe Harbor, also known as Genesis House, the only domestic violence shelter in Lorain County. It is a social service and social change agency, providing emergency confidential shelter and a wide variety of community-based intervention and prevention services throughout Lorain County. Their programs include a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal advocacy, education groups, men's anti-violence program and more.

The receiving organizations for fourth quarter grants include: Blossom Hill • Church of the Open Door • Cleveland Christian Home • Cleveland Furniture Bank • Connecting for Kids • Denison Avenue UCC • Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland • Lakewood Community Services Center • LifeAct • Lorain County Safe Harbor • Love, Inc. • Malachi House • Neighborhood Family Practice • Rocky River Meals on Wheels Program • Seeds of Literacy • Stella Maris • The Metanoia Project • Village Project • West Side Catholic Center

The mission of Community West Foundation is to advance the health and well being of our community. The staff and Board of Directors are guided by the words in Matthew 25:35-40: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

For more information, contact Community West Foundation at 440-360-7370 or visit communitywestfoundation.org.

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