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Nancy Tinsley New President Of UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals (UH) has appointed Nancy M. Tinsley, RN, MBA, FACHE, as President of UH Parma Medical Center. Ms. Tinsley is a seasoned executive with nearly 20 years of experience in health care operations, most recently serving as Vice President of Institute Clinical Operations at UH Case Medical Center. Her appointment as President is effective Aug. 25.

"Nancy is an accomplished leader in the health care arena. Her professional talents and open, personal style are ideally suited for guiding UH Parma Medical Center to a new level of high-quality health care in western Cuyahoga County," said Eric Bieber, MD, President, Community Hospitals, West Region, University Hospitals. "The new role provides an exceptional opportunity for Nancy and her team at UH Parma to focus on phy-



Nancy M. Tinsley, new President of UH Parma Medical Center.

sician recruitment, quality of care, patient engagement and employee and physician engagement."

Ms. Tinsley has a solid track record of driving innovation, enhancing the patient experience and achieving organizational success. During her tenure at UH, she has led initiatives to enhance clinical integration and hospital opera-

tions while attaining aggressive quality and financial goals. She also has developed and implemented an integrated systemwide clinical-institute model that is recognized as a national model by the University HealthSystems Consortium.

She joined UH Case Medical Center in 1999 as Director of the Quality Center. She spent three years as Pediatrics Administrator for Cleveland Clinic and returned to UH in 2004 as Administrative Director, Medical-Surgical Service Line Development. In 2006 she became Vice President of the UH Neurological Institute and was promoted to her most recent position in 2011.

In addition to earning a master's degree in Business Administration/Healthcare Administration from Cleveland State University and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Kent State, Ms. Tinsley is a graduate of UH's Leadership Academy. She has received numerous rec-

ognitions for her professional accomplishments, including the Athena Women in Business Finalist (2012) and The American College of Healthcare Executives Service Award (2012).

She is active in professional organizations including Healthcare Execu-

tives of Northeast Ohio and the American College of Healthcare Executives, in which she serves as Regent for the State of Ohio. A resident of Strongsville, she is also a volunteer leader for numerous community and nonprofit organizations.

Mayor's Town Center Task Force Moves Forward

by Brian Furda

Parma's Town Center Task Force had their second Public Input Forum this past month to show residents the progress they have made and to reveal parts of the action plan they are considering. A few items included on the action plan were: to create a comprehensive set of illustrated design guidelines, plans for transportation improvements, and to establish a Public Art Commission. After listening to the public's input, comment forms were handed out to each resi-



Glenn Coyne, facilitator of the Town Center Task Force, addresses the public forum.

dent in attendance and the Task Force was able to gauge what was most important to these residents. Many residents would really like to see Byer's Field and Stearns Homestead utilized for festivals and entertainment events. The Task Force will finalize their Action Plan shortly and hand it off to Mayor Tim DeGeeter and City Council. The Task Force will also be seeking grants and other funding options.

Parma City School District Welcomes New Principal To Ridge-Brook Elementary

by Erin Gadd

The Parma City School District welcomes Stacy Lambert-Johnson as the new principal of Ridge-Brook Elementary School. Lambert-Johnson joins the district after several years as an elementary principal, and prior to that, a teacher with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She replaces Principal Regina Ohlrogge, who retires this year.

"My philosophy is that we as educators must be advocates for children. This is the profession which makes all other professions possible. It was an elementary teacher who first taught our Doctors and Presidents how to read. I have the utmost respect for this profession and couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Originally from the Virgin Islands, Lambert-Johnson has also served in the mili-



Stacy Lambert-Johnson, Principal, Ridge-Brook Elementary School.

tary, where she was stationed in Panama. She has earned a BS in Social science from Florida State University, Masters in Social Science Education from Florida State University, Masters in Educational Administration from Cleveland State University, and EdS in Elementary Education from Florida State University.

Parma Citizen Of The Month



Tim Keck was honored as the Mayor's Citizen of the Month for August. Keck was nominated because he's an amazing neighbor who helps everybody he can without being asked. We celebrate that kind of neighbor and say congratulations to Tim.

A Compromise To Address The Problems At The VA

by Jim Renacci

Like many living in Ohio's 16th District, I was deeply troubled to learn of the widespread mismanagement within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). According to an audit released by the VA last month, nearly 60,000 veterans are still waiting for their initial appointment. The House of Representatives acted swiftly to address the systemic failures at the VA that led to the unacceptable treatment of veterans in Ohio and across the country.

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Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,

I have always been one who respects my elders and have a special admiration for members of what Tom Brokaw called the “greatest generation.” For these reasons, prior to my first run for city council, I sought the advice of former mayor John Petruska. Mayor Petruska was Parma’s mayor from 1967 to 1987. Happily, we have kept in touch over the years, despite the fact that he now lives in Dallas, close to his son Dave, daughter-in-law Sandra, and granddaughter Courtney of whom he is very proud. Often residents ask me how the former mayor is doing. So, I decided to contact him and ask if he was up for an interview over the phone. Not surprisingly, the jovial mayor said that it would be “swell.”

Born in Cleveland, Mayor Petruska was an award-winning roller



Former Mayor Petruska presenting a proclamation to Parma Rotary President Thomas Martin in 1973.

skater and worked for Nickel Plate Railroad prior to serving in the army in World War II. While serving in England, he met Kate, the woman who would become his bride. He was later trained as an attorney and opened a law firm at Ridge and Snow Roads. A friend urged him to run for city council in 1961. He decided to run to serve his community and to build his new law practice. He served in an at-large council position and later as Presi-



Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

dent of Council. Then, in 1967, Mayor James Day resigned to take a position with Higbee’s, and Petruska became mayor, due to state law at the time. During the time that Mayor Petruska, now 94, and I spoke, the one thing that I kept hearing was his sincere love of serving the people. In fact, as he reflected on his time as mayor, Petruska stated, “I enjoyed doing the work and working for the people.” Giving up his law practice, he was proud of the fact that he was the first Parma mayor not to have an “outside job,” so he was “devoted full-time to serving the community.” “I loved helping people and know that during my time I did some good for Parma,” he stated. Some of the accomplishments he is most proud of involve protecting what he calls “open spaces” in Parma, including the Nike Site, Stearn’s Homestead and Ridgewood Golf Course, which was purchased during his tenure “to prevent it from being developed.” He also mentioned the building of fire stations, several sewer projects and “many other things that do not come to mind.” “Each year we put together a plan and worked hard to see it through,” he mentioned. “I have no regrets,” he added about his years of service to the community.

Seven Hills Among Best Places For Homeownership In Ohio

by Kathy Holland

NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy website, recently conducted a study to find the best places for homeownership in Ohio – analyzed the data for 183 communities and Seven Hills ranked among the top 20. As renting becomes less affordable, NerdWallet wanted to give potential homebuyers a look at the current housing market. NerdWallet based its rankings on the following criteria:

- Homeownership rate
- Selected monthly homeowner costs
- Monthly household income
- Population growth

NerdWallet ranked Seven Hills as the 13th best place in Ohio for homeownership. The area has a homeownership rate of 94.9%, the third highest rate of any place among the top 20. Seven Hills’ median monthly homeowner costs are \$1,505, and residents

spend 29.6% of their median household income on those homeowner expenses, which meets the standard of affordability set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Other cities that made the top 20 include Norton and Grove City. Read the full study online at www.nerdwallet.com/blog/cities/best-cities-homeownership-ohio/. About NerdWallet

NerdWallet is a consumer-friendly financial literacy website that helps consumers make better financial decisions and save money on CD rates, checking accounts, credit cards and more. NerdWallet has been featured in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Reuters; their products have been recommended by consumer advocates Liz Weston, Clark Howard, and Consumer Action. For more information about NerdWallet, visit nerdwallet.com/cities.



Former Mayors Dean DePiero and John Petruska shake hands at the opening of Petruska Park in 2005.

When I asked Mayor Petruska to describe Parma when he was in office, he quickly and simply stated, “Growing!” In fact, Parma had over 100,000 residents during his tenure. “It was a good and safe place to live, frankly,” he added. When I asked him what made it so good, he said “the people made it so.” One not so fond memory he shared was when he and his daughter attended opening night of the St Charles Parish carnival. “A woman hit me with her car – I still have marks. I survived it, though.” He fondly recalled the summer band concerts at Ridgewood Lake back when there was a bandstand at the location. Although he still has nieces and a nephew who live in the Medina area, Mayor Petruska does not plan to come back to Parma because, as he states, “It is tough getting around these days.” However, he does miss Parma, stating that “I miss being where I spent most of my life. Parma will always be home.” At the end of our interview, I asked Mayor Petruska’s advice to our current city leadership. He suggests, “Life is too short and the work too important, so work together – do not fight politically, like they are in Washington.” “Serve the people of the community and do what is necessary to help it grow and be the best it can be,” he added. “Finances were always an issue and I see that things have not changed,” he added. “From what I hear there is a pretty good team at City Hall. I am not sure what to suggest because I do not know enough about what is going on now, but keep working hard for the people and things will work out,” he added. A few months back, the Mayor was injured after a fall. Laughing, he said, “The doctors cannot tell me why I totally lost my balance. I felt like I was in that commercial where the person says, ‘I have fallen and I can’t get up.’ I never dreamed that would happen to me.” He spent one month at a rehabilitation center and has been rehabbing at home for about a month. “I gave my car away, so I hope to be able to leave the house with a walker in a few weeks,” he added. Prior to submitting this article for print, I sent a copy to Mayor Petruska for his approval. I could not get ahold

of him for days, which is unusual, as he normally returns his calls immediately – still a responsive public servant. I tracked him down at a local hospital where he is recovering from complications from his fall a few months back. As spirited as ever, he said he liked the article and plans to be back home soon. In closing, I want to personally thank Mayor John Petruska for agreeing to our interview and for his years of service to our fine community. Prayers for a fast and full recovery!



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Show Kids You Care: Answer Their Questions.

Asset Corner #57

by Gene Lovasy

September's Asset Category: COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Commitment to learning assets reflects how connected young people are to their schools, how motivated they are to achieve and whether they express their curiosity and work ethic in homework and reading for fun. A love of learning will take them far. The more committed a child is to education and learning, the more likely it is that he or she will grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING Assets Include:

#21 Achievement Motivation – Young person is motivated to do well in school. (65%*)

#22 School Engagement – Young people is actively engaged in learning. (55%*)

#23 Homework – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day. (47%*)

#24 Bonding to School – Young person cares about her or his school. (52%*)

#25 Reading for Pleasure – Young person reads for pleasure 3 or more hours /week. (22%*)

(* The percent of youth who experience or have this asset in their lives. Data based on an aggregate Search Institute sample of 148,189 students surveyed in 2003. The sample included students in 202 cities in 27 states.)

This column's focus will be on.....

Asset #23 – Homework

Homework—an important part of reaching goals

Remember when you were a student and wished the teacher would say, "No homework today. Go home and have some fun!" You may have loved the lectures and the learning, but dreaded the tests and homework assignments. Well, you're not alone. Most young people would rather play with their video games than sit down

statistics. But any goal worth achieving takes hard work. Work that takes place in the classroom and at home. In addition to reaching academic goals, doing homework teaches young people to follow directions, manage their time, and work on their own.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who spend at least one hour on homework every weekday are more likely to grow up healthy, stay committed to learning, and achieve their goals. About 47 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report doing at least one hour of homework every school day, according to Search Institute.

Tips for building this asset

All you may hear about homework from young people is that they hate it, don't have any, or have too much the night before a test. Sometimes, young people actually lack essential homework skills. Once they get the hang of homework basics—organization, time management, and study skills—they can be more creative with their study strate-

gies. Encourage them to keep trying.

Also try this

In your home and family: Turn off the TV during study time and create a quiet area in your home for your child to do homework. Make yourself available if your child has questions or needs help.

In your neighborhood and community: Consider starting a "homework house" in your neighborhood. Each day a different home can provide space, encouragement, and help with young people's homework.

In your school or youth program: Make yourself accessible—through e-mail, a Web site, or the phone—so students and parents can contact you if they have questions about an assignment.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

The Collab's monthly Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, September 11th. Call the Collab at 440.887.4873 for information about this and other programs/services.

By this time the Backpacks/School Supplies For Kids program has come to a close. To all of those organizations and folks who have donated their time, talent and treasure, on behalf of our kids. THANK YOU!

If you or if you know of anyone having questions re: the federal health insurance program (Obamacare) or about Ohio Medicaid, visit Parma

Read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Now and then, it is good to distinguish between our needs and our wants. Needs are food, water, shelter, and clothing.

Once we realize we do not have to make ourselves wrong to deliver an apology, we will experience a new power.

Parents who do not allow their children to experience failure or sadness give them a false view of the world and do not prepare them for the harsh realities of the adult life.

Relationships have a good chance of improving when both partners are willing to look at themselves and make some adjustments or changes.

The frailty and brevity of human life can be represented by the twin metaphors of withering grass and fading flowers, but the Word of God stands forever.

The Godly have so many true riches to enjoy: glory, goodness, grace, knowledge, mercy, and wisdom. It is so sad when so many try so desperately to acquire the uncertain riches of this world.

The less people know, the more they think they know; the more people know, the less they think they know.

The prevailing spirit of today's society includes self-indulgence, lust, greed, materialism, excess, cheating, and pride. All are sinful and transgress God's law.

We must not be swayed by the perverse reasoning of the "politically correct world." We must allow God's Word to guide us.

Youngsters and the inexperienced (ignorant) would do well to seek the advice of older people; chances are they have been there.

Self-reflection is always a good exercise. What I believe is a work in progress, not limited to these statements and subject to change. What do YOU believe?

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Who Was Oscar Fitz Nicholas?

by Bob Stilwell

Oscar was the Toll Collector at the corner of Pearl and Old York Road from 1876-1907. He was born May 18, 1841 and died August 23, 1907. Oscar married Hannah Humphery on August 17, 1867. Hannah was born October 11, 1845 and died May 30, 1936. Oscar and Hannah had five children. Twins, Harry Levi and Hattie Lucina, were born February 18, 1868. Harry died January 10, 1930 and Hattie died November 18, 1954. Julia Lucinda was born March 17, 1870 and died June 8, 1954. Edward Oscar was born July 28, 1873 and died July 26, 1943. Alfred Charles was born August 8, 1879 and died September 5, 1911.

Oscar served during the Civil War. He was in the 67th Regiment Company G of the Ohio Infantry. He entered as a Corporal and was discharged as a First Sergeant. He was shot in the right arm during the battle of Fort Wagner, South Carolina. He was also shot in the right leg during the battle of Ware Bottom Church, Virginia. He was to be promoted to First Lieutenant, but because of his extensive wounds was discharged on December 12, 1865 by a surgeon.



Oscar and Hannah and their five children lived at the corner Pearl and Old York Road, where the Marathon gas station now stands. Oscar was the Toll Collector from 1876-1907 at the corner of Wooster Pike and York Street, now Pearl and Old York. The Road extended all the way to Wooster, Ohio, hence the name Wooster Pike. York was named after New York because many of the people that settled in the area were from New York. The money collected was used to maintain the Plank Road.

Oscar's mother, Lucina, was born in 1822. She was the daughter of Asa Emerson and the first child of what is now Parma Heights. She was a nurse during the Civil War from 1862-1865. She died at the age of 73. She had three marriages and outlived all three husbands, Charles Nicholas, Levi E. Meacham, and Joshua Whitney. Two of her sons were Civil War soldiers, Levi E. Meacham Jr. and Oscar Fitz Nicholas.

Oscar, Hannah, children, and many friends and relatives are buried in the Parma Heights Cemetery.

Marching, Marching, Marching On

by Ruth Revecky

Slowly marching in the sky is an unseen army.

They are the men and women who have died

For you and for me.

Have they suffered and died in vain?

They keep marching, marching, marching

On, an endless army in a never-ending sky.

Wars have been fought since the beginning of

Time; but they never seem to bring lasting peace.

We are told that we die but once, but the unseen

Army grows and grows like a moving cloud on

High.

Our young soldiers never grow older; their

Tender youth never matures.

I'm certain they wanted a future!

Is this the price of peace and war?

Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives

And offspring--all have lost loved ones on

Foreign soil.

And let's not forget the blood that has been

Shed fighting on our own homeland shores.

Will the army in the sky continue marching

Onward to another war?

Wars never seem to cease; they are part of the

Past and a ghost in our future.

Our unseen army in the tear-filled sky

Continues growing and growing, and marching,

Marching, marching on!

Will there ever be a lasting peace?



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Our Neighborhoods

Chalkin' It Up At The Local Tavern

by Kathryn Mabin

Sunday, August 17th, the day was overcast, showers hit in late morning, and I had concerns the weather would not improve in time for the 8th Annual Sidewalk Chalk Event. But I kept saying my prayers and watching the weather patterns in the hope that by 1:00 p.m. the showers would cease and the parking lot would dry up enough for the budding artists to enjoy the day.

Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) has been around now for over 50 years. Their mission is to bring art into the community for the enjoyment of its citizens. This is accomplished through free art shows, affordable art classes for children and adults, other artistic related events, and for 8 years now, an annual community chalk drawing event. This event has moved around to various locations over the years. This year PAFAC partnered with Polish Village.

Polish Village's mission is to facilitate the ongoing development of the Polish Village community by uniting and empowering residents and businesses to enhance the business climate and long term viability of the area. Polish Village brings you Flamingo Fever, Parma's very own brand of public art, and the very popular Treat & Greet, as well as other community based events.

Scott Fisher at The Local Tavern, located at 5513 Pearl Road, hosted the event in his parking lot. The Local Tavern is a newer establishment to the Parma area. They serve lunch, dinner, drinks and takeout, and can boast the largest outdoor patio in Parma. The food is fresh, tasty, and well prepared. They serve quality cocktails and have genuine, good service with reasonable prices. Their motto is "Tavern fresh" with a "rock-n-roll meets art gallery vibe." They believe in being involved in the local economy by employing local residents. They also support our local musicians by providing them a venue

at which to perform. Live music five times a week and best of all a family friendly atmosphere. The Local Tavern is fast becoming a Parma favorite and for good reason.

At 1:00 p.m. the registration tent was up, the signs were in place, the parking lot was roped off, the balloons were up, and the children started lining up, eager to "chalk it up" and show off their artistic talents. Each child received a bag with their own chalk, candy, and gum. Ice cold bottled water was on hand thanks to Local Tavern, along with wet wipes and paper towels for clean up afterward, and Mother Nature cooperated. Spotted in the crowd were Debbie Lime, Brian & Colleen Day, and Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter with his children who were very eager to participate. This year proved to be the most successful chalk drawing event ever, with over double the attendance of prior years.

At 2:45 p.m., Jane Zampedro, a Life Member of PAFAC, and Sean Mabin, Children's Art Instructor, began the judging process. They walked amongst the drawings several times, taking notes of the numbered drawings to determine the winners. Four prizes were awarded to very talented youngsters. In the 10 to 13 age category, First



Artist: Nathan Fisher.

Place went to Celiah Aker and Second Place to Nathan Fisher. For the 2 to 9 age category, First Place went to Lesya Stefaniuk and Second Place to Dylan Aker. A huge thank you to The Local Tavern for providing the prizes. I can attest to the fact that the winners were ecstatic with their Toys "R" Us Gift Certificates, as was evidenced by the smiles on their faces and the cheers that were heard. In addition to the younger children, we had teenag-

ers and an adult who did exceptional drawings. The 50/50 Raffle was won by Paula Werdentsch.

As a parent and grandparent I know how important it is for residents of the community to have safe, fun, and free events like this for our children. Events like this one play a big role in making Parma such a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Thank you to everyone that participated.

Ridgewood Garden Club Of Parma Community Involvement Projects

by Fay Maldari

Few people know that Parma has 19 parks located at different areas of the city. When Kathy Cancasci agreed to be the chairperson of the Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma Community Involvement Committee, she enthusiastically organized a group of members who assisted her in planting a variety of bulbs, annuals, and perennials at the park signs.

The beautification of Parma is her

main objective and it has been accomplished as reflected in her following committee report:

Spring clean-up was conducted by weeding and adding plants to the State Road tree boxes from Snow Road to Tuxedo Road.

Another spring clean-up of weeding and adding plants from our plant sale to the 11 park signs locations and the Veterans Memorial was completed in May.

We relocated the plants from James Day 1 and 2 park signs (due to the widening of the Pleasant Valley Road) to the additional five park signs locations.

On April 29th, garden club mem-

bers planted herbs in starter pots with student council students and their advisor, Ms. Kim Karaffa, from Parma's Renwood Elementary School. The students were given herb description handouts, seed packets, certificates of appreciation, snacks, and drinks. A gift certificate from Giant Eagle at The Shoppes at Parma was used to purchase the snacks and drinks.

On May 31st, we planted at the last four park signs (John Petruska Park, Jerry Stano Park, Ries Youth Complex, and South Park). We were assisted by Scout Master Davetta Burk and Cub Scouts Pack 263. It was a learning experience.

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Perspective

Student Loan Debt Threatens Economic Future

by Lee Kamps

Recently, I had a conversation with my oldest daughter. She made the comment on her Facebook page that student loan debt was endangering the nation's economy. She said that many of her classmates from high school and her undergraduate years are unable to buy houses and have postponed starting families. My daughter graduated from high school twenty years ago and will turn 39 this fall. I asked about her student loan debt and she replied that she is still paying it off, thirteen years after she finished law school.

But her situation is much better than many of her contemporaries. She was able to get a full scholarship for her undergraduate education so she received her Bachelor's degree debt free. Her student loan debt is from law school. She also has a good job that pays very well and is still single. So she doesn't have the additional responsibilities of raising

a family and managing a career.

But many of her contemporaries do have that problem of raising a family and managing a career as they close in on forty years old. At a time when they should be saving for their children's college expenses, they are still paying for their own education. Not only that, but large amounts of student loan debt make it much more difficult to buy a house with the furniture and appliances that go along with home ownership. But when young adults are saddled with student loan debt, that stifles the creation of new households.

Two years ago I attended an alumni dinner at Kent State University where the speaker was the president of the university. In his talk he addressed the problem of increasing student loan debt. He said that back in the 1970s, the state of Ohio provided more than 80% of Kent State's operating budget. That was pretty much the same as other state sup-

ported universities in Ohio. But he said that in the latest academic year, the state of Ohio only provided about 18% of the university's operating budget. That state shortfall in funding has to be made up through tuition increases and increased donations from alumni. As a result, he said that more than 80% of the undergraduate students attending Kent State University in 2012 were dependent on some form of financial aid with most of that being student loans.

Recently, the amount of student loan debt has surpassed credit card and consumer debt. In addition, more student loan debt is in default as so many recent college graduates are unemployed or underemployed and unable to repay their student loan debt.

Because so many young adults are still paying off their student loan debt when they should be saving for their children's education, this threatens the upcoming generation that will be

attending college. This also discourages young adults from entering occupations like teaching or social work where a college degree is a requirement, but salaries are not very high. It also adds to the problem of income and wealth disparity as those college students from wealthy families that can afford to attend college without going into debt have a leg up when they begin their careers after graduation.

When I graduated from college in 1970, most of my fellow college graduates were debt free. If there was any student loan debt in 1970, it was quickly repaid, often in less than ten years after graduation. But the situation confronting young adults coming out of college today is radically different than it was forty-four years ago.

Something has to be done to help those saddled with student loan debt. Possibly there should be some kind of forgiveness program so young adults are not paying for their own education when they should be saving for their children's education. Perhaps there should be loan forgiveness programs for those entering occupations where there is a shortage or a demand for skilled professionals such as many health care fields.

But perhaps the best solution may be to return to the excellent system of state supported universities where a college education was affordable for most students. The state of Ohio spends almost twice as much of their revenue on prisons than it does on higher education. Somehow this doesn't seem right.

A college education should be within the reach of most families and anyone with the smarts and desire to obtain a college degree. Investing or spending money on higher education is an investment in the future that yields much higher returns than any other investment.

Driving Without Distractions

by Leo Lampeter

One of the great liberating experiences that I can think of is getting into a motorized vehicle and just driving down the road. It doesn't matter if it is in a car, truck, on a motorcycle, or any other vehicle. There is a feeling of freedom that can't be experienced in many other ways. There are some things to be kept in mind, however; the other guy. I say the other guy because you and I are perfect operators of vehicles and we are always courteous to other drivers.

The truth of the matter is that we all make errors behind the wheel. What is necessary to do, or not do, is to eliminate distractions. Now, I know that there are those that think they are always very

attentive, but just think for a moment. When you are stopped at a traffic light and you want to get a quick start, you edge up across the line for stopping and continue to edge up until you are in the crosswalk. You are not only in the crosswalk, but as soon as you cross the broad white line you are in the intersection. Why stop at all? You are creating an unsafe situation. What is worse is when there are no painted lines on the road and you don't use extra caution. Seems insignificant, doesn't it? What else are you doing by this insignificant error? You are creating an obstructed view for someone who may wish to make a right turn on red. What was of no consequence has now expanded to something more.



If we could eliminate distractions, the road would be much safer. There are young drivers out there that are saying that this guy is full of it. I can be on my cell phone and I can text because I know what I am doing. I wonder if that attitude is what causes the young driver to have the highest insurance rates and the most incidents on the road? And I realize that the young aren't the only ones who drive distracted. I know the youngster has a feeling of invincibility; I was there myself. Not to pick on the young, however, as we all have our distractions, whether adjusting the radio or CD, or eating, or applying make-up, or a variety of other things.

If there is a message here it is caution and courtesy. You remember; that thing about doing unto others. Let the guy over from the other lane; you would want that courtesy. Put your lane changing signal on; no one knows where you are going unless you tell them with your signal and I don't mean the single finger salute. Leave a little earlier so you don't have to speed to your destination; we are traveling at great speed if only following the speed limit and if you don't believe me stand in front of your car and have someone drive into you at ten miles an hour. Make that call before you get into your vehicle.

One thing that we don't consider is that we are driving a death vehicle. More people die on the road than in war. Don't become a statistic. Harming yourself is your business, but when it comes to me, that is another story. Death or mutilation will affect many more people than just you. On the road, don't be sorry, be safe!

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Perspective

Book Review:

The Sixth Extinction

by Michelle E. Rice

The author Elizabeth Kolbert traveled all over the world with scientists from various backgrounds: Geology, Biology, Paleontology, and Archaeology among many others. The first chapter begins in Panama with a herpetologist in search of the golden frog, once easy to spot, now completely disappearing from several areas. Amphibians are an indicator species due to their skin being hypersensitive to changes in the environment. It is expected that one amphibian species would normally go extinct every thousand years.

What is alarming is that herpetologists have seen several species of frog go extinct in their lifetime. The sixth extinction of life on the planet has been coined the "Anthropocene," due to the accumulation of evidence that humans are causing it. We have altered the composition of the atmosphere through a combination of burning fossil fuels (carbon dioxide), deforestation (lack of oxygen) and factory farming (methane). The equilibrium of gas exchange between air and ocean continues to become imbalanced; the ocean is becoming acidic. Ocean life ideally needs a pH of 8.2 and once it reaches 7.8, ecosystems crash. It is currently at 8.1. She also discusses SAR, the "species-area relationship" equation that calculates biodiversity of species and the loss of, when an area is destroyed for farming, mining, construction, or pollution. All species require an amount of natural space to thrive.

As space becomes altered by humans we are seeing mass losses of biodiversity, which then becomes extinctions. In just the tropics, approximately 5,000 species go extinct each year, about 14 a day. Compared to the last extinction which wiped out the dinosaurs, the "Cretaceous extinction," the current extinction is occurring at a rate 10,000 times greater. The irony is that the human species believes they are superior to all other species, and what we call development and progress is actually destruction and extinction.



Parma Council Of PTAs Announces Annual "Kalahari" Fundraiser

by Erin Gadd

The Parma Council of PTAs is pleased to announce its annual "Parma Family Night & Fundraiser" at Kalahari will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015. There is no school scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2015.

Be part of the annual tradition while supporting the Parma Council of PTA. Have fun and get away without going too far from home to America's LARGEST indoor waterpark!

Enjoy special Winter rates for all Parma families, staff, and friends! Rooms are only \$119 and feature 2 Queen beds and INCLUDE waterpark passes! A portion from EACH room booked will benefit the Parma Council of PTA. Hope to see you there! Book early to avoid being shut out.

For Reservations: 1-877-KALAHARI (525-2427).

Limited number available. Ask for the "Parma Family Night Group Rate." Standard Rooms sleep 4-6, and include admission for 4 to the Waterpark! Up to 2 guests may be added for \$20 each. Rates prior to 11.5% tax.



Parma Businesses Team Up To Help Parma Family Collaborative With School Supplies



On 8/14 Officials from UAW Local 1005 in Parma, Drifter Sport & Travel Bags, and Axelrod Buick/GMC were at the Parma Family Collaborative in the James E. Hanna School Building to donate much needed school supplies in order to help children in need for this school year.

Fabulous Feathered Flock

by Kathryn Mabin

Scattered throughout the City of Parma you will find several entries from Flamingo Fever, Polish Village's Public Art Exhibition and Auction. These charming, humorous, one of a kind, table top sculptures can be spotted in establishments on Ridge, Pearl, State, W. Ridgewood and Snow Roads, Parma City Hall, and Smallwood Activities Center.

Creative individuals began with the traditional pink plastic lawn ornament to create these unique pieces. Some are artfully painted, others are decoupaged, some are dressed in clothing, and each one is as unique and individual as their creator. Approximately 25 flamingos have been entered. Lego Flamingo, can be spotted peaking out amongst the wedding cakes at Colozza's on Ridge Rd. Ghoulardi Flamingo is located at The Local Tavern. ChupaFlamenco with his red flashing eyes is on display at the Ridgewood Inn. Elvis is in the house at Parma Pit Stop, and Browns flamingo is nearby at JED Jewelers on Pearl. StashMingo-ski can be found at Key Bank on W. Ridgewood. The Polish Dancing Queen is at Perla Homemade Delights. Save The Parma Theater is at Rudy's. Glamingo at Another Miracle Salon. Feathered beauties such as Zofia at Palmiero Brothers, and Julietta at First Federal of Lakewood are truly amazing. Stop into any establishment that sponsors a flamingo to pick up your Match



The Flamingo Game entry form for a chance to win a grand prize.

The Second Annual Flamingo Fever Banquet & Auction will be held this year at St. Charles Parish Hall, on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Doors open at 6:30. There will be a delicious dinner with desert, soft and adult beverages, raffle, and Chinese Auction, in addition to the auction of the 2014 Fabulous Flamingo Flock. This year there will also be a People's Choice Award for the Flock Favorite. Attendees will be able to vote for their favorite, and the creator will win a cash prize. Tickets are \$25 a person, and advance sale tickets can be obtained now, by calling (440-843-6474), or by email to kathrynabin@att.net. It is a great way to spend an enjoyable evening with neighbors, family and friends. The net proceeds from this event are earmarked for the development of the pocket park on Ridge Rd, next to Palmiero Brothers, and when completed the mini park will be a beautiful green addition to the business district that the whole community can enjoy.

For more information on Flamingo Fever, or any of the other Polish Village sponsored events, please visit the web page, www.polishvillage-parma.com, or follow Polish Village on Facebook.

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Citizen Viewpoint

Caregiver's Kitchen - Seasons Of Life

by *Patty Knox*

Folk musician Pete Seeger wrote a song, "Turn, Turn, Turn" popularized by the British rock band The Byrds which was based on Bible verse Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." And so it is.

Should you be called upon to be a caregiver for a family member, know that it is only for a season. Your loved one needs you now. There is no better care than home care, unless the ailing person's medical needs are such that require constant 24/7 monitoring and medical machinery pertinent to their condition that cannot be replicated at home. Nurse aides can be brought in to help or provide respite care. Hospice workers can aid family members for loved ones who wish to spend their final days at home. It is not easy, but it is actually more affordable. The cost of institutionalized care, even with medical insurance and benefits, is more daunting than most people realize—until they are in a position where they are forced to evaluate their options in the midst of a crisis.

It was my honor and privilege to care for my father in his last years of life, until medically his care was out of my depth. He was at home, where he wanted to be, where he wanted to live out the rest of his life. For as long as

possible, that's what we children did, to honor his wishes. For a number of years, we made it work. Dad was only comfortable at home, where he was King of his Castle.

Then, we no longer had a choice. Dad's condition was beyond our ability to meet his medical needs. It is a different life, once institutionalized, one in which a person showers or is showered when it fits the schedule of the nurse aides; eats when everyone else does; rises and retires according to a schedule; sleeps when it's convenient for the staff. Socializing and group activities are part of the schedule, even for people who don't want to be cajoled into interacting with other residents. For an extremely private person like my father, it was very uncomfortable for him to be coerced into institutional life during what was only supposed to be a ten day stay for rehabilitation, and turned into a nightmare.

Granted, some love life in senior residential facilities, enjoy the interactions, appreciate the abundance of activities and crafts, find interesting new friends who share the same stage in life and provide companionable company.

So, there are two sides to the coin. Know that. Weigh the advantages and the disadvantages. Institutional living is not for everyone.

For the family member who is the caregiver, home care is exhausting, but rewarding; frustrating, but satisfying; costly, but not as costly as an institution; and hard, but worth every effort for your loved one.

I have come to a crossroads where

it is time for me to take a step back from the subject of caregiving. It became too personal, too painful in my grief; and in order to be objective, I must let some

Read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com

Ridgewood Garden Club Of Parma Community Involvement Projects

continued from page 7

rience for the scouts who were given instructions and who planted side by side with garden club members. They were given handouts with descriptions of the deer resistant and drought tolerant plants that were used for the planting. They were also given certificates of appreciation, seed packets, snacks, and drinks. A gift certificate from Giant Eagle at the Shoppes at Parma was used to purchase the snacks and drinks. Petitti Garden Center donated a \$25.00 gift certificate for plants and the City of Parma paid for additional plants.

On June 2nd, the garden club members meet to plant a butterfly garden at the Parma Animal Shelter. We planted in pots by the entry door and made a butterfly garden to the right of the entrance. The Kurtz Brothers donated the soil, The Home Depot on

Brookpark Road donated gift certificates used for plants, \$10.00 from Lori Hilfer of the Animal Shelter, pots and fencing from the Cancasci's, and plants from Linda Gattiker and from the garden club plant sale.

On June 11th, our members planted the herb pots and flowers that the students from Renwood grew along with marigolds and additional herbs that were purchased by the Parma City Parks department. After the planting, our members and spouses enjoyed a pot luck supper in the Pavilion. (Special thanks for the Parma City Parks Department for erecting a permanent sign that reads: "Planted by the Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma" at the Hollywood Park.)

On July 16th, Stearns Farm received delivery of a garden bench which we ordered from Holmes Crafted Furniture. The bench was donated by the garden club members through collection of loose change at our monthly club meetings.

A Compromise To Address The Problems At The VA

continued from page 1

Last month, the House passed the Veteran Access to Care Act with unanimous support. This bipartisan legislation was the first step toward implementing much needed reforms at the VA. It included provisions to allow veterans to receive private care outside of the VA if they have experienced extensive wait times or if they live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility.

Additionally, the House passed the Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, a bill that empowers the Veterans Affairs Secretary to demote or remove senior officials who are not doing their jobs. Veterans who depend on the VA have an expectation that senior leaders within the agency are accountable to them. However, it has become apparent that senior officials who presided over negligence and mismanagement linked to preventable deaths, patient safety incidents, and backlog increases received a bonus or impressive performance review. This is

unacceptable.

The United States Senate followed the House's lead and passed similar legislation to reform the VA. This past week, the House voted on a package that was the product of a compromise between House and Senate leaders to reach an agreement on how to best address the problems at the VA.

The Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act is a bipartisan, bicameral package of bills that will bring more accountability and provide meaningful reforms to the VA. Highlights from this legislation include providing \$10 billion for veterans to seek private care at hospitals and clinics outside the VA, and \$5 billion to allow the department to hire more doctors, nurses, and medical staff. It provides \$1.5 billion to be spent on leases to use other medical facilities at 27 sites around the country. It makes it easier for the VA Secretary to fire staff at a department where officials covered up long wait times and prevents the

VA from awarding bonuses to employees for the next two years. Lastly, it requires public colleges to provide in-state tuition to veterans and eligible dependents.

Passage of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act is evidence that when the House and Senate work together, much can be accomplished. This legislation will not only bring accountability to the VA, it will also enhance veterans' access to care as well as the quality of care that they receive. I look forward to the President signing this important legislation into law.

If you need any additional information, please visit my website at renacci.house.gov or call my Washington office: (202) 225-3876, Wadsworth office: (330) 334-0040, or Parma office: (440) 882-6779. I also encourage you to subscribe to my Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages to get updates on my work in Washington and the 16th District.

A memory book of our two year Parma Beautification Project was put together from Shutterfly and given to Mickey Vittardi, Parma Parks Director, in appreciation for all his efforts in helping the garden club to complete the projects.

A community garden was planted at PCSD Family Collaborative Center on Snow Road the first week of June. The four square plots contain a variety of vegetables and some annuals and perennials. Our first harvest of a basket of lettuce was donated to the Collab's kitchen a couple of weeks ago.

We have two future projects to complete this year. We are planning to help plant at the Parma Senior Center and a 1,000 daffodil bulb planting this September.

The Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma was organized in 1951 and its current theme is "Bloom Where You're Planted." Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the Cuyahoga Public Library Parma-Snow Branch on 2121 Snow Road at 1:00 p.m. If you're interested in joining, call 440-842-4313.



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The Parma Art Scene

Artist Of The Month

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma is home to a great many talented individuals, artists, and craftsmen, both professional and amateur, who specialize in variety of mediums. This article is the third in a series which will showcase a Parma area artist and introduce you to many of your talented neighbors.

Emery Bogardy

Emery Bogardy loves working with watercolors. He began his appreciation for art in his native land of Hungary. His personal interest in painting was fostered by his uncle, who was an accomplished Hungarian artist. He also gained valuable artistic knowledge through a family friend, who had the largest private painting collection in Hungary. In 1956, he migrated to the U.S. and began his career in mechanical engineering.

In the 1960's he reconnected to his love of art by completing a correspondence course with Famous Artists School. He joined Parma Area Fine Arts Council, in 1971, and studied watercolor with Betty Clark, and Robert Backstone. In 1997, he studied under Bob Moyan at Baycrafters. After retiring in 1998 from his career in mechanical engineering, he studied with world renowned water-colorist



Watercolor Class at PAFAC.

Zoltan Szabo in Pittsburgh.

Emery's first public one man show was in 1999 with Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Since then, he has exhibited in numerous shows and won numerous awards for his watercolors. His work was also featured at the Hungarian Association's Conference in Cleveland. He continues to expand his watercolor knowledge by attending workshops with such noted and worldwide well

known artists as Frederick C. Graft, Dave Cordas, Barney Cole, Layne E. Kendig, Mel Stabin, and Ron Ranson.

Emery strives to create realistic paintings in his own unique style. His range of subjects includes still life, landscapes, florals, animals & birds, and memories from Hungary. He paints every day. He has his own web site and samples of his paintings can be viewed at www.bogardyard.com.

In the fall of 1999, he made the transition from student to teacher with his popular, ongoing, two hour, beginning watercolor classes at Parma Area Fine Arts Council. He teaches a morning class on Monday's and an evening class on Wednesday's at the Smallwood Activities Center. Emery teaches the basics, and use of various tools, then encourages his students to find their own style. Each artist sees things differently and puts a bit of themselves into the painting. His classes are relaxed, enjoyable, fun, and very inexpensive. He believes in holding the cost down so everyone can afford to attend. For information on classes contact Parma Area Fine Arts Council at 440-888-4514, or visit the web page at www.parmafinearts.org.

If you are an amateur or professional artist, living in the Parma area, or know of someone who is, and would like to be featured as an artist of the month, please contact me by email at kathrynmabin@att.net.

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