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# PARMA Observer

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## Parma Heights Resilient After Fire

by Mike Byrne

The greatness of a community lies in its people. We, here in the City of Parma Heights, experienced just how true that statement is following the November, 2014, arson fire at City Hall. City department phones were operational almost immediately and, despite the challenging circumstances, the 2014 Christmas Tree Lighting at the Gazebo scheduled for just days after the fire went off

without a hitch and was the perfect start to the holiday season. In fact, I am proud to say that even with our departments dispersed to locations throughout the city, all services and events have continued without interruption. Residents and visitors alike have been patient and understanding; many have even called and emailed to express their support and we thank them for their concern. Please be reassured that all of us, department heads and staff members alike,

are working hard to keep any inconvenience to the public to a minimum.

### Fire Update

Although fire damage was confined to my office, the building suffered extensive smoke damage. My office was almost a total loss and I was able to salvage very little. Shortly after the fire, City Hall employees were given a few hours to go in and grab important items before the building was declared off-limits. All paper files had to be boxed and ionized to remove the acrid odor caused by the smoke. Computers, phones, copiers and printers had to be taken apart and cleaned before they could be used again. City offices were quickly relocated and Cuyahoga County loaned the city office furniture to fill these temporary spaces. Fortunately, the cost of the fire and the rental space is covered by insurance. In total, the fire caused damage and expenses that could reach up to \$1 million. We have been told the clean-up and the reconstruction



## Parma Budget Passed After Months Of Deliberation

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma City Council unanimously passed the city's 2015 \$47.4 million budget at its meeting on March 23. Although the voice vote took about a minute, this was not a quick or simple task; city officials have been meeting, discussing, and planning for this vote since last October.

Throughout 2014, city leaders have been discussing ways to has cut down on spending in this year's budget, and tough decisions were made. Though safety is the city's highest priority, Police and Fire ranks will not grow this year, and the Police Department will not buy new cruisers. Safety forces overtime has been cut,

but in ways that still allow consistent protection for residents. At City Hall, the administration will save \$698,985.87 this year through deferred hiring and attrition in all administrative departments.

This budget reflects significant drops in state funding, levy revenues, and projected income-tax collections, and focuses on the city's major priorities - protecting residents, maintaining critical infrastructure services, and ensuring a good, overall quality of life. In fact, the 2015 budget - \$47,437,951 - is less than the 2014 proposed budget, which was \$47,538,774.40.

All of this was necessary

continued on page 6



Congratulations to Judge Kenneth A. Rocco, who was honored by Parma City Council after his retirement from public service. Judge Rocco began his legal career in 1966 as a Prosecutor for the City of Parma, and recently retired from the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals. In between, he attained the highest rating of judicial service by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association in 1988, 1994, 1996, and 2008. In 2011, he was named Outstanding Jurist by the Ohio Association for Justice. The Judge is pictured here with Ward Seven Councilman Brian Brochetti, Mayor Tim DeGeeter, and Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck.

## One Step Closer To A Dog Park In Parma!

by Katie Liepold

Tuesday, March 24th, was an exciting step forward the Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA). We met with Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi. During our meeting, we discussed some of the main concerns of the city leaders regarding the development of a dog park in the city. Those concerns are liability, safety, cost, maintenance, and location. I feel that we have addressed these concerns and we all agree that we need to perform our due diligence with this endeavor to make it a success.

That being said, a city dog park is not a novel idea, at least outside of Parma. PADPA is not trying to reinvent the wheel and will be utilizing the knowledge of those who created dog parks before us, incorporating their successes



Working with Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter while acquainting him with the Parma Area Dog Park Association's business plan.

while avoiding the duplication of their failures. At our most recent meeting, we invited a special guest, Karen Karp, President of the Friends of Lakewood Dog Park, who provided facts and figures about the Lakewood Dog Park and was able to answer questions

tion of the building's interior will take at least several months. As of this writing, necessary demolition which included the removal of all ceiling tiles, flooring, as well as many interior walls, is nearly completed. Reconstruction has begun and

we hope to be back in City Hall by this summer.

As you may have heard, Matthew Janowski, a Parma Heights resident, set the fire to make a statement about the Michael Brown case in continued on page 6

about how their park is managed. The Lakewood Dog Park and the South Euclid Dog Park are both similarly run as a city park partnered with a nonprofit group. This is how PADPA would like to model our relationship with the City continued on page 7



# Community News

## The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

I have always held that the residents of Parma are a very faith-filled people. The plethora and diversity of places of worship in our community speak to this truth. This fact has moved me to begin a series this month I am titling Parma Places of Worship. I will begin this month with my own parish – St. Charles Borromeo located at 5891 Ridge Road.

“St. Charles’ history reflects the history of Parma,” said Father John Carlin, Pastor of St. Charles, when I met with him on a chilly day in early March. Father Carlin explained that the parish began with 13 families back in 1923, followed by a small school the next year. As Parma grew, so did the parish and on May 2, 1954 the cornerstone for the current “Spanish Mission” style church was laid. According to church records, “the general form...is the traditional basilica style, that is, the form of a cross.” Named in honor of St. Charles Borromeo, Cardinal-Archbishop of Milan, Italy who ministered to those suffering the scourges of the Black Death in the 1500s, the parish population skyrocketed throughout the 1950s and 60s to 5,600 families,



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

the result of Parma growing at a rate of about 100 new families a week. In fact, St. Charles Elementary School was the largest Catholic elementary school in the state of Ohio for several years. Today, the parish population holds steady at slightly less than 3,900 families and 10,000 souls.

Father Carlin explained that throughout its history, St. Charles has remained a neighborhood parish, which has striven to minister to Parma’s residents changing needs. From

taking care of those returning from World Wars I and II to adapting to today’s changing world, the parish has a history of ministry to the diverse needs of its parishioners. “Our mission at St. Charles is to provide a strong Catholic education to our young people and to respond to the needs of each generation,” explained Father Carlin. In fact, the parish offers groups for small children, teens, singles, seniors, widows and widowers, alcoholics, those who have lost a loved one, mothers, among several others. “In the Catholic tradition, we are a community-centered, faith-filled parish that offers daily worship, education and service to others,” Father Carlin adds.

The church is very intriguing in large part due to the incredible amount of symbolism found throughout. For instance, inside the round arch near the top of the Ridge Road entrance are the two Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, denoting that God is the beginning and the end of all things. Entering the church one views 140 engraved tiles that include Christian symbols and biblical references, including fourteen marked with the Stations of the Cross. Inside you will also find twelve emblems behind the altar, including the crossed keys, which represent St. Peter to whom Jesus said “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” A multitude of other examples abound throughout the exterior and interior of the church.

St. Charles’ summer carnival has been a Parma staple for over 80 years. In fact, the 83rd Homecoming Carnival will take place from Wednesday, July 8 through Sunday, July 12, 2015. The carnival begins with a kickoff parade on Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm along Ridge Road from the Parma

Circle to the St. Charles campus. St. Charles offers weekday Masses at 7:00 am, 8:30 am and 7:00 pm, Saturday morning at 8:00 am, Saturday Vigil Masses at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, and Sunday at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:30 pm. “We welcome all to our Parish,” added Father Carlin. To find out more about St. Charles Borromeo Parish, visit their website at [stcharlesonline.org](http://stcharlesonline.org) or call them at 440-884-3030.

## The Taste of Seven Hills 2015

by Kathy Holland

Savor the best flavors in town as the City of Seven Hills hosts the 5th Annual Taste of Seven Hills on Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 6-9 p.m. at the Seven Hills Community Recreation Center, 7777 Summitview Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio. Tickets are just \$30 per person or \$240 for a table of 8. Giant Eagle is a participating Sponsor. The proceeds from the Taste of Seven Hills helps fund various programs in the City, including our ever popular Home Days.

Mix and mingle with neighbors, public officials and business owners while enjoying tasting samples from delicious hors d'oeuvres to delectable desserts from 22 restaurants, businesses and caterers, plus; beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages.

Restaurants from the surrounding communities are getting ready to showcase their specialties. Mike Dunlap, owner of Fresh Butcher Deli Café said, "I enjoy being a participating restaurant. This is a wonderful occasion for us to share our menu items with a great group of people from surrounding communities; all in the same location, all sampling our products. It is a fun event and a great business opportunity."

Tasting samples will be provided by: An Occasional Flavor, Catering by Wal-Tam's, Corleone's Ristorante, D'Agnese's American Bistro, Fresh Butcher Deli Café, George's Deli, Hibachi Japanese Steakhouse, J. Gumbo's, Jaipur Junction, La Bakery Boutique, The Brew Kettle, LongHorn Steakhouse, Marge Walter Catering, Pazzo's Grand Ballroom, Pizzeria Cerino's, Playmakers Sports Grille, Ridge Manor

Catering, Seven Hills Tavern, Si Senor, Tony's Restaurant, and Zoup!

Planning to attend this enjoyable event? Based on prior year's sales, tickets will soon sell out! Tickets are available for purchase at the Seven Hills Recreation Center or City Hall. For more information contact Tony Terry at 216.525.6230, or email [tterry@sevenhillsohio.org](mailto:tterry@sevenhillsohio.org). 21 and over, please.



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# Health/Culture



Angels In Disguise, Rock Against Dementia 2015

## Rock Against Dementia - Aftermath

by Wayne Mesker

Last month you got a bit of background on the Rock Against Dementia Project and our progress. This month after successful events here in Parma and in various locations in the United Kingdom and other countries, the Project has gained momentum enough to become a Movement with plans to hold a Global series of events on March 19, 2016 billed as The World Will Rock Against Dementia.

A Facebook page has been started for event holders to post information about their participation. <https://www.facebook.com/WorldGoneRAD>

Video clips of the performances from our Livestream can be viewed here as well.

Watch Robin Stone w/ Tommy Amato, Angels In Disguise, Falling Into Fire, and Outlaws I & I here: <http://www.livestream.com/musiciansclub>

If you were unable to attend our fundraiser, but still would like to donate, you can do so here:

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2015/OH-ClevelandArea?team\\_id=256101&pg=team&fr\\_id=7707](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2015/OH-ClevelandArea?team_id=256101&pg=team&fr_id=7707)

If you wish to donate I-Pods, I-Tunes Gift Cards, Accessories, etc. for Music & Memory you can contact me by phone or e-mail.

Phone: 216-316-2379

E-Mail: [Rockdementia@outlook.com](mailto:Rockdementia@outlook.com)

Stay tuned for more exciting developments!

## Parkinson's Patient Embarks On 2,183-Mile Hike To Benefit Parkinson's Research

by CJ Sheppard

A University Hospital's nurse who retired March 20 is headed on a mission: a 2,183-mile thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail to raise money for Parkinson's research. Delivered a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2012, Brian Butler RN chose to retire from his job in the Electrophysiology Lab at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, and to fulfill his lifelong dream of completing a six-month trek along this scenic trail through 14 eastern U.S. states. He began on March 25 in Springer Mt., GA.

Along the way, Butler intends to demonstrate that exercise can slow the progression of this degenerative disorder of the central nervous system. His journey is raising money to support the research of Benjamin Walter, MD, Director of UH's Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Center, and Medical Director of the Deep Brain Stimulation Program, UH Case Medical Center, UH Neurological Institute.

"It's been proven that exercise stimulates the brain to release endorphins and helps build new nerve cells," said Butler, 66. "There are few dollars allocated to Parkinson's research. I want to reach the hearts and minds of one million people to support me with just one penny per mile: \$21.83."

A 39-year veteran of the U.S. Army, including two deployments to Iraq,



Brian Butler, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease three years ago, embarked on a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail after retiring from University Hospitals. He is raising money for Parkinson's research at UH.

Butler is well prepared for foreign terrain, carrying all his own supplies and long stretches away from his wife, Gail. But he is armed with a strong defense against loneliness, the main culprit that prevents 75 percent of AT hikers from finishing the trail: his 29-year-old daughter, Erin.

Butler has also been doing CrossFit workouts, and walking the treadmill with a 31-pound backpack. He hopes his efforts will fuel research into deep brain stimulation, a life-altering treatment reminiscent of the cardiac ablations he witnesses in the EP lab. He suspects he might need this treatment someday. In the meantime, he is focused on the horizon.

To support Butler's trek, go to [UHGiving.org/Walk4Parkinsons](http://UHGiving.org/Walk4Parkinsons).

## Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Seven Hills, Ohio

*Sponsored By: Western Reserve Hospital 'Proudly Physician Owned'*

Seven Hills, Ohio – Residents living in and around the Seven Hills, Ohio can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Seven Hills United Methodist Church will host

this community event on 4/8/2015. The site is located at 7593 Elmhurst Dr in Seven Hills.

**Screenings can check for:**

The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels  
Diabetes risk

Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis

Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available.

Packages start at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required

## Free Legal Services For Seniors April 11th

by Jeffrey Crossman

On Saturday, April 11, 2015, Parma Councilman, Jeffrey A. Crossman, will be hosting a free legal services clinic in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Councilman Crossman, along with other volunteer attorneys, will offer free legal advice to low income seniors that have legal questions.

Seniors are asked to limit their legal questions to civil (rather than criminal) matters and to bring any documents relevant to your legal question. The clinic will last from 9:30 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center located at 7001 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH 44129 (behind Parma City Hall). Councilman Crossman is an experienced civil attorney and is recruiting other experienced attorneys to provide



basic legal guidance and advice.

Any questions related to this event may be directed to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland at 216-861-5500 or Jeffrey A. Crossman at 216-373-6926.

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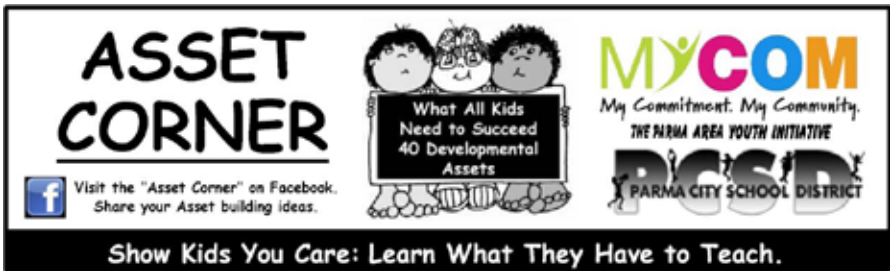
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Education



Asset Corner #64

by Gene Lovasy

April's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected. As a parent, you are already one of your child's key asset builders. Letting your kids be responsible for their own outcomes (even if they're not necessarily what you want) is challenging, but remember that empowerment is important.

This column's focus will be on.... Asset #10 – Safety

Combating fear, and growing up safe in an unsafe world

Young people who feel threatened, unsafe, or scared often spend a lot of time trapped in fear or in their attempts to protect themselves. They're less likely to venture forth and take some healthy risks. On the other hand, young people who feel safe are more likely to feel secure enough to try new things. That's why safety is an important part of feeling empowered. Fear, both imaginary and real, is a normal

part of growing up. The key is learning to overcome it.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who feel safe in their surroundings are more likely to make positive contributions. About 51 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they feel safe at home, at school, and in their neighborhood, according to Search Institute surveys. The key to safety is to create and maintain an environment that minimizes fear and maximizes opportunities to take healthy risks.

Tips for building this asset

Media reports fuel reality-based fears, such as crimes and accidents. You may inadvertently add to young people's insecurity by feeling anxious yourself and believing the world is dangerous. Young people pick up on adults' attitudes and beliefs even if they don't tell children how they're feeling. Be aware of your behavior, body language, and words—and those coming from others. When you talk to young people about particularly upsetting or

frightening events, remind them such occurrences aren't common. Point out the many ways people take care of one another to be safe.

Also try this

In your home and family: Discuss with your child suggestions for how to remain safe in certain circumstances, and role-play situations. For example, create—and practice—an escape plan in case of a fire in your home. Identify a neighbor your child can go to in an emergency.

In your neighborhood and community: Donate your time, materials, or other resources to a local community center where children can safely play. If there isn't a community center near you, work to establish one or create other safe activities for young people in your neighborhood.

In your school or youth program: Discuss with young people what it means to be safe at school or in your program. Encourage them to tell you—or other caring adults—if their safety ever feels threatened.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, April 9th. This plus a host of other programs/services are always in need of help. If you're interested in volunteering, give the Collab a call at 440.887.4873.

There are only a very few slots left for the I Can Ride event taking place the week of June 22nd at the Ries Ice

Rink on Forestwood Dr. Riders must be 8 years old by the start of camp, less than 220 lbs., and have a disability. Volunteers, however, are still needed to insure success of this great cause. You need to be at least 16, available for 90 minutes at the same time each of the 5 days of camp and able to do light jogging/running. Can't volunteer? Consider making a donation to cover the cost of feeding those volunteers working the entire event. Folks interested in registering as a rider, a volunteer and/or would like to make a donation should email icanbike.cityofparma@gmail.com. For more information go to: www.icanshine.org.

Registration for the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Summer Youth Employment program is currently underway and will remain open through May 1st. Interested teenagers, ages 14 – 18, can register at www.youthopportunities.org. Local businesses are also encouraged to support the program by registering at the aforementioned web site. For additional details about this great opportunity, go to www.familycollaborative.com.

Share Your Asset Building Ideas And/Or Thoughts About The Developmental Asset Concept By Visiting The "Asset Corner" Facebook Page. I'm Looking Forward To Hearing From You.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/character and www.search-institute.org/assets for more information.

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Inspiration

# I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A person who can laugh at himself or herself will never cease to be amused.  
All kids are gifted; some just open their packages earlier than others.  
Be willing to compromise but never compromise your principles.  
Character is much easier kept than recovered.  
EXPOSURE: Our character is molded by our surroundings.  
Few, if anyone, would disagree that our moral values are disintegrating.  
God can make a nobody somebody.  
God's Word is true. People do not realize that sin (wrong behavior) always destroys.  
Good things happen when families eat their meals together.  
Great character is developed in the crucible.  
If people were angels no laws would be necessary.  
Meekness often means to go against the flow.  
One-on-one relationships are top priority with God.  
Our thoughts are triggered by our surroundings, our memories, and our imagination.  
Sin (wrong) destroys our will power. It saps our will to live righteously (right).  
The deeper we stoop to God, the deeper we stoop to serve others.  
The longer we wait, the closer we get to receive promises.  
There are many paths up the mountain of God.  
Unselfish love (agape) sacrifices its own interests for the needs of others.  
We are who we allow ourselves to become.  
We rarely think about the things we think about.  
When we accept responsibility for our weaknesses, we are less likely to blame and criticize other people.  
When we do our own thing, our own thing does us.  
Wherever we go, we take ourselves with us.  
Whether people believe it or not, the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.  
Without kindness, life is like a suitcase with no handle.  
You never will know the worth of water until the well is dry.  
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?

# Parma Heights Resilient After Fire

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Ferguson, Missouri. With an arrest imminent, he turned himself in to police on December 10, 2014. Janowski pled guilty on February 18, 2015, to F-2 Aggravated Arson and F-3 Possession of Criminal Tools charges. Before his sentencing by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Brian Corrigan on March 18 of this year, a statement I submitted to the Court on behalf of the city was read into the record. My statement reminded the Court that:

"Matthew Janowski was one of our residents and he is a young man with his life ahead of him. For these reasons, we implore the Court, if possible, to impose a sentence that addresses not only his crime but his need for assistance. If a treatment program is available, we encourage the Court to provide him with this assistance so that someday, when his sentence has been served, he will be able to return to society as a stable, responsible citizen."

I also reminded the court that Mr. Janowski's actions impacted the city on numerous levels and that he "must be held accountable for his actions and accept the consequences."

Judge Corrigan imposed a four year prison sentence with the stipulation that Janowski will be eligible for judicial release after he receives treatment for alcohol and drug-related problems which contributed to his actions.

Where Can You Find Us?

My office, the offices of the City Council Clerk and of the Departments of Law, Community & Economic

Development, Recreation and Safety are all temporarily housed in The Heritage Building, 6500 Pearl Road, Suite 104B. We can be reached by calling 440-884-9600, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Tax Department and the Office of the Mayor's Court are located in the Greenbriar Plaza shopping strip right next to City Hall at 6277A Pearl Rd. They can be reached by calling: 440-884-9600 during regular business hours.

If you need to pay a ticket, waiver fines, handle a license forfeiture, secure the release of a vehicle, get information about a warrant block, or have any other business with the Court, please see them at this location between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Those with a summons from the Tax Department should report to the Tax Department before the date specified.

If, however, you have received a Mayor's Court summons for an offence other than tax-related offences, please report to the Cassidy Theatre located in the Greenbrier Commons on Pearl Road on the court date specified. Court will be held at the theatre until further notice.

The Building and Service Departments were not affected by the fire and are located as before in the lower level of the Cassidy Theatre. They can be reached by calling 440-884-9607 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Senior Center, located in the Educator Apartment building, was also unaffected and can be reached at 440-888-4416.

# Benefit For USO

by Richard Benz

On Friday, March 06, the Joseph J. Jacubic American Legion Post 572, State Rd., Parma, hosted a benefit to raise funds for the USO. Our original goal was \$1,000. Thanks to our generous members and supporters, we raised \$4,490.00. Many local businesses donated items for our raffle. Mr. Chicken, a lifetime supporter of active duty military and veterans, provided 100 dinners (\$500) to our cause. Thank you to all who participated, donated, and supported this event.

# The Curtilage

by Ray Rosenberger

The poorest man may, in his cottage, bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail; its roof may shake; the wind may blow through it; the storm may enter; the rain may enter; but the King of England may not enter; all his force dare not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement. — William Pitt, in the House of Commons, 1766.

The word is "CURTILAGE" – The curtilage is an important legal term to define the land immediately surrounding a house or dwelling, including any closely

associated buildings and structures, but excluding any associated 'open fields beyond.' It defines the boundary within which a home owner can have a reasonable expectation of privacy and where 'intimate home activities' take place.

The Supreme Court holds that the Fourth Amendment protects homes and their curtilage from unreasonable searches without a warrant. The question that needs to be answered is, do wireless utility meters constitute an illegal breaching of the curtilage?

# Parma Budget Passed

continued from page 1

because of several factors: Since 2008, Parma has received about \$13.4 million less revenue because of cuts in the local government fund, the repeal of the estate tax, and other changes. These changes resulted in about \$4.2 million less revenue just this year alone as compared to 2008. Additionally, projected income tax collections are \$433,000 less than last year, and the city had to absorb a major loss created by GrafTech's decision to move its corporate headquarters out of Parma.

This dire formula backed city leaders into a tough corner. One of the most difficult decisions was closing the city's public pools this summer. "This was an extremely difficult decision not taken lightly by the administration or Parma City Council," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

In the end, the decision was made because closing the pools, which would be open only 10 weeks out of the year, will save about \$200,000 this year. That savings prevented the elimination of other recreation programs that serve more residents, or worst yet, even more cuts to safety forces or to essential services to residents.

"Given these choices, our decision was made after careful consideration of the city's major priorities, such as protecting residents, maintaining critical services, and ensuring a good, overall quality of life," DeGeeter said.

DeGeeter said he understands residents' frustrations about the decision

to close pools, but that the decision was absolutely necessary. "All of us take pride in Parma's recreation programs, and we all want to preserve what we have here in Parma," he said. "We do have a lot of great recreational programs offerings available to residents and things like disc golf and miniature golf at State Road Park. We hope our pools will re-open in 2016, and we will work hard to try and make that a reality."

# Cuyahoga County During The Civil War

by Bob Stilwell

1861-1865 The total population of Cuyahoga County at the start of the Civil War in 1861 was around 80,000 people. There were about 9,000 men and women that served in the Civil War from Cuyahoga County between 1861-1865. This demonstrates the loyalty and dedication to the War efforts. There are many living relatives still in Cuyahoga County that may not know that a lot of the men that served in the Civil War are listed on the Walls of the Soldiers and Sailors monument in downtown Cleveland. If visiting the monument is not possible, you can view the names by looking at the Soldiers and Sailors website. It is a very beautiful and serene monument that was built in 1894.

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Our Local History

# Best

by *Leo Lampeter*

We often see contests and businesses with advertisements “The Best.” This often has been puzzling to me because there were thoughts as to how this was determined, who determined it, and when it was determined. If it concerned food, for example, was it voted on by the entire area, city, state, country, or world? Was it a result of the most populated establishment getting the vote out or the establishment with the most relatives or simply the establishment with the most tech savvy individual to submit the vote electronically? Were there allowances for the different taste buds? As you search your memory, back in school wasn’t there a division between tasters and non-tasters? The “Best” advice is to let your taste buds decide for you.

This “The Best” thing can get more complicated as you go forward. Who conducted the test is also confusing. Just look at the confusion regarding coffee. Research says that it is unhealthy for you, then, conversely, research says it is beneficial for an individual, then research says that in certain quantities it is beneficial. Salt, chocolate, sugar, and other foods enter the category of multiple evaluations. These researchers just confuse a person. Who is the one who can accurately determine what is and is not beneficial? Can anyone who does not have an interest in the outcome be honest about the research? Look at the tobacco companies. For decades, they professed that not only is tobacco not harmful to you, it is even healthy. Then there was a revelation that for decades they not only knew smoking was unhealthy, it could be deadly. This was their own research. But they didn’t reveal it

because they wouldn’t be able to draw as many people into smoking if they knew it was deadly, which shows you to what lengths some people will go to get the almighty dollar. They would rather people risk their life, rather than their own income, to avoid the risk having to go into another line of work. Is there such little consideration for the other person that we are willing to risk someone else’s life for our own benefit? They would also compare cigarette quality; one had a filter, the other had a special filter, another had Turkish tobacco, and so on.

Just a suggestion; whatever you choose, do your own testing. Don’t rely on advertising to make your mind up. There are millions, perhaps billions of dollars spent each and every year to convince you to do things in a way other than what may be logical to you. Just look at Willie Soon, who was a scientist, who claimed through his research, the petroleum industry had little if anything to do with global warming, which later was reported that the petroleum companies paid him \$1.2 million. Go with your instincts and believe half of what you see and none of what you hear. Remember this when you are selecting leaders at any level of government. Look at the billions of dollars that are spent to get someone elected to an office that pays, in salary, a fraction of the money that was spent on advertising. Why do you think that this is the case? It is becoming more common that the “Best” qualified person for a particular position isn’t going to run for the post because of lack of financial backing. The one with the backing quite often has to repay the backers. Remember this when you are selecting leaders.

## American Legion Oratorical Contest

by *Richard Benz*

On Sunday, March 15, the Joseph J. Jacubic American Legion Post 572 hosted The American Legion 13th District (Cuyahoga County) Oratorical Speech Contest. Contestants gave speeches on the Constitution and what are the responsibilities of American citizens to the Constitution. The winning oration was won by Abhishek Bhatt, senior, Strongsville H.S. Runners up were Soren Gran,

junior, St. Edward H.S., and Kirsten Pomales, junior, Brecksville-Broadview Heights H.S. Abhishek will compete in Columbus on March 22. The winner from Columbus will compete in Nationals in Indianapolis in April. The top prize is an \$18,000 scholarship.

All Cuyahoga County high school students (9-12) are eligible and encouraged to enter. If interested, call me.

Richard Benz, 440-885-0781

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# Historical Parma Heights

by *Bob Stilwell*

The Parma Heights Historical Society is looking for living relatives of the early settlers of what is now Parma Heights. **The family names of interest are the following:** Asa Emerson, Jesse Nicholas, Amos Hodgman, Joseph Small, William Steele

All of these people and there families arrived in this area in 1821 along Pearl Road. All of these families were originally from Bowdoin, Maine.

In 1825, the next family to arrive was Samuel Freeman, from Sturbridge, Massachusetts. They came by way of the newly opened Erie Canal. Samuel Freeman was the first school teacher and first Postmaster. In 1826, Abner Beals and his family arrived from Royalton. One of their four children, Julia Ann, had been the first child born in Royalton. She eventually married Robert Hodgman - son of Amos – Hodgman and became the mother of Mrs Alice Stroud, whose daughters, Winifred and

Ruth, lived on Pearl Road near the cemetery land that had been purchased by her great-grandfather, Amos Hodgman, from the Connecticut Land Company. The community honors both of these families with a Hodgman Drive, Stroud Park, and a Stroud Elementary School.

It would be very helpful to the Parma Heights Historical Society to hear from anyone who is related or has any information about these families. Joe Reeves is the President of the Historical Society. He can be contacted at 216-870-4864.

## One Step Closer To A Dog Park In Parma!

**continued from page 1**

of Parma. Liability will be addressed by the city's Law Department and we will learn what steps need to be taken to protect all involved while creating a safe environment for all park goers.

To address the issues of cost and maintenance, PADPA is offering to partner with the City of Parma in this endeavor with PADPA providing ALL DEVELOPMENTAL FUNDS through fund raising, donations, and grants. Let me state that again that NO ADDITIONAL TAX PAYER FUNDS would be used to establish this park. There are many options that PADPA can pursue to develop a dog park that would not involve tax dollars or take money away from the needs of the city. Once we get the city’s approval, there are even contests and grants that PADPA can apply for. As we are a nonprofit 501c3, any donations would be tax deductible and we are also seeking corporate sponsorships. We have an extensive business plan developed as well. It is PADPA’s goal to offer the community another recreational activity to enhance the City of Parma. As PADPA begins fundraising for the development of the dog park, we encourage the community to come out to support our endeavor.

We are willing to work together with the city to find the best location for a dog park. PADPA’s first choice is an empty lot within Veterans Memorial Park, a centrally located park in Parma. If this location is selected, we would like to dedicate it to our nation's Veter-

ans and the dogs of war who deserve to be honored for their military services. The lot is actually located between (but set back from) the Veterans Memorial and the playground and pavilion. The lot is surrounded by trees and hills to insulate the noise from the dog park and contains ample parking. We have determined that there are no homes within 3000 ft of the location. We are aware that no one wants a dog park in their backyard and by finding an ideal location we can make sure the park is a success in this way. However, we are open to other possible locations.

PADPA wants to make this a reality for our community and only by working hand-in-hand with the city can we do so. We also need community support. We’re always looking for active volunteers to help with fundraising events. Our next event will be at the Parma Safety Fair on April 25th, so please stop by and say hi, sign our petition, and ask any questions you may have. You can also email us at [parmadogpark@yahoo.com](mailto:parmadogpark@yahoo.com). Check out our website at [ParmaDogPark.wix.com/main](http://ParmaDogPark.wix.com/main) to learn more and follow us on [Facebook.com/ParmaDogPark](https://www.facebook.com/ParmaDogPark) and [Twitter.com/ParmaDogPark](https://twitter.com/ParmaDogPark) to keep up with the latest developments.

Join our team - let’s make a Parma Dog Park a reality and keep moving Parma forward!

Katie Liepold  
Parma Area Dog Park Association President



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Perspective

# After Five Years, The ACA Is Working Fine

by Lee Kamps

It was on March 23, 2010, that President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, into law. Since that date, just about all the provisions of the act have taken effect. The act has survived a Supreme Court challenge and the court upheld the act as constitutional. It has survived repeated attempts, 56 at the last count, to repeal it in congress. So after five years, how is the act working? Here is a five year report card on the ACA or Obamacare.

Some provisions became effective on September 23, 2010, six months following its signing into law by the president. Because of the ACA:

No one can have their health insurance pulled out from under them because they have filed claims on the policy. This is known as rescission and it is forbidden under the act.

No one can be denied coverage for health insurance because of their health history and all pre-existing conditions must be covered.

No one can be charged a higher premium because of a pre-existing condition or because of their health history. The only thing that can result in someone being charged a higher

premium for their health insurance is tobacco use.

Lifetime caps on coverage have been removed.

Women can no longer be charged a higher premium because they were born female.

Everyone can receive preventative medical care at no cost to them. This includes an annual "wellness visit" from your primary care doctor, certain cancer and other screening tests and immunizations.

Health insurance companies must spend at least 80% of their premium revenue on actually paying claims or on patient services, not overhead or administrative costs. Amounts less than 80% must be rebated back to the people insured by the company.

Young adults can be covered under their parent's health insurance until age 26, even if they are married and even if they are not living with their parents.

Older adults cannot be charged more than three times the premium as the youngest cohort of adults.

The part D coverage gap or the "donut hole" for Medicare beneficiaries is gradually being closed. It will be completely closed in 2020.

Since the health insurance

exchanges and Medicaid expansion have become effective on January 1, 2014:

The number of uninsured Americans has dropped from an estimated 41 million in 2013 to an estimated 30 million in 2015. This is the lowest number of uninsured Americans since the 1990s.

More than 11 million people have enrolled through the federal and state exchanges as of March 1 2015.

About 87% of those who enrolled for health insurance through the federal and state exchanges are receiving premium subsidies to make their health insurance more affordable.

Premiums for health insurance through the federal and state exchanges have not increased as much as initially feared and are lower than the increases for health insurance plans before the exchanges became effective.

More than 1.5 million Americans have been covered under the Medicaid expansion in those states that have accepted the Medicaid expansion. This includes more than 450,000 people in Ohio who have enrolled in the expanded Medicaid in Ohio. There are an estimated 8.4 million people throughout the United States that could be eligible for Medicaid if all

states accepted the expanded Medicaid and they enrolled in the program.

Hospitals have saved more than 2 billion dollars in uncompensated medical care because of the decrease in the number of uninsured patients.

So far the gloom and doom predictions of the opponents of the ACA have not materialized. If anyone remembers all those predictions that health insurance premiums would go through the roof and well into the sky, that people would not be able to keep their doctors, that doctors will refuse to see patients or close their medical practice, and of course the creation of "death panels." None of that has happened. There have been no "death panels" created. Premiums have remained relatively stable.

While the ACA is far from perfect and there are some major flaws in the Act; most of the provisions in the Act that affect the most people have worked and more people are covered than previously. Over time, more uninsured will be enrolled either in the Medicaid expansion or through the health insurance exchanges. This will further reduce the number of uninsured Americans.

But does anyone want to go back to what health insurance was before the ACA was signed into law?

# Is Parma Really Moving Forward?

by Denise Geschwender

As we approach the City of Parma elections, it's time to reflect upon the State of the City. Recently, Mayor DeGeeter addressed a roomful of citizens with his State of the City Address, which he discussed the city budget. I'm amazed when I hear a Mayor cutting safety forces to balance the budget. The Mayor's salary, plus total

compensation, equals \$147,422 (one of the highest paid Mayors in our area). Parma has 9 City Council members and a Council President, combined salaries of \$205,400. Does Parma need 10 people on City Council? Eliminate 4-5 Council members' and the President's positions, a savings of approximately \$134,982. Council President doesn't even have the ability to vote on issues unless there is a tie. We have 9 Council Members. Do the math.

During Mayor DeGeeter's speech, he recognizes the hard work of our Parma Police, yet decides to not hire anymore police or firemen to replace retirees and overtime will be cut. When there's an emergency, it's my first reaction to call 911 and ask for help from the police or fire. I never find myself calling 911 for the Mayor or City Council. Why is it that City Council members make almost 1/2 of what police officers earn?

All I read about are The Shoppes at Parma. If people are continuing to leave Parma, whose going to shop there? With property values continuing to decline, Parma needs more than some stores to invite new families to move into Parma. If I were a young couple, looking to settle down and purchase a house, would I find Parma inviting? Parma is the 7th largest city in Ohio, yet doesn't have their own Recreational Center. Our public pools will now be closed. Our police and fire employees are decreasing, making response times longer. Doesn't sound very inviting to purchase a house, except the ever declining property values. However, the Mayor believes that the city-owned, Ridgewood Golf Course, should

remain open. The golf course has lost money each year since 2007. Last year, the golf course lost \$122,000.

As we head to the ballots, we will not find many choices. If you're not part of the Good Ole Boys Club, you barely have a chance at winning a seat. Notice the amount of years some of our City Council members have held office. This city is run and ruled by the public officials and their parties. DeGeeter, Celebrezze, and Crossman all shared a law office. Attend a City Council meeting. The voters only have 3 minutes to speak on a subject. Mayor and City Council are not required to respond to you. But we must listen to what they all did over the weekend.

It's time the voters of Parma took a stand! Show them that we won't tol-

erate a dictatorship. Require them to balance the budget in priority. We need our police and fire more than we need 10 city council members. Require them to remove the stigma of discrimination that Parma has been known for. Require them to step up and actively make intelligent choices with our tax money as opposed to squandering it on their own pleasures! Require them to listen and respond to their constituents, even when it's a topic that they don't agree with. (We aren't paying them to only take action on what "they" believe, we pay them to represent ALL of Parma). Encourage new people to run for office. To continue with the same group of like-minded individuals making all the decisions, this city will never change and will continue to sink.

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Best Of Parma



Nicholas Kundrat receives the Citizen of the Month Award at Parma City Hall.

Parma Mayor Honors Gustave Julian Jewelers And Nicholas Kundrat

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma High senior Nicholas Kundrat is getting used to being recognized for his excellence. And why not? Nick has received appointments to the United States Air Force Academy, West Point, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. For the record, he's chosen to attend the Air Force Academy. Mayor DeGeeter is proud of the young man, too, and so he chose to make Nick the March Citizen of the Month. Nick is also a decorated swimmer and a volunteer at St. Leo. His parents, Mark and Tina, joined him as he was honored at the Parma City Council meeting. Also honored that evening was Gustave Julian Jewelers for being named the Mayor's Business of the Month for March. The business, located at the corner of West Pleasant Valley and State Road, has been in business in Parma for 65 years. Gustave Julian Jewelers was originally started



Jim Julian accepts the Business of the Month Award for Gustave Julian Jewelers.

by Gustave Julian at then-Parmatown Mall, and now is managed by his sons, Gus and Jim. Pictured here are Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis and Mayor DeGeeter with Jim Julian.



END-OF-LIFE CARE SHOULDN'T BE A LAST MINUTE DECISION.

April 16 is **National Healthcare Decisions Day**. You may have never heard of it, but it's just as important as the tax deadline that comes the day before. It's a day devoted to educating and empowering you to make your healthcare choices known should you become unable to speak for yourself. By making these choices now, you're giving your loved ones the gift of peace of mind.

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# Parma Observer

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# The Parma Art Scene

## Artist Of The Month Katie Harroff

by Kathryn Mabin

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

### Katie Harroff

Katie Harroff is a young area artist with multiple ties to the Parma area. She attended Parma Park Elementary School, has worked at the Parma-South Library for over 10 years, and is also employed at Shiloh Middle School.

As with most artists, her love of creating art began early at age five. Katie was later diagnosed with being on the autism spectrum. Many individuals with autism display special abilities in the areas of art and music, and have the ability to focus intensely on an area of interest. Although she is experienced with oils and other mediums, her favorite medium is acrylic paint.

Katie received her Bachelors of Arts degree in 2013 from Baldwin Wal-



lace. Her work has been on display at several locations throughout Northeast Ohio. "Empty," an oil painting, won Best in Show in the Baldwin Wallace Student Art Show in 2012. "Spaces" won Best of Show in the Independence Show in 2014. "Pancake Dreams" was featured on the front page of the Chagrin Sun News.

At age 15, Katie became a big fan of David Bowie. She found that he was not only a musician but also an artist as well. Her favorite Bowie quote is "I'm just an individual who doesn't feel that I need to have anyone qualify my work in any particular way I'm just working for me." Katie said she can relate, "When I paint, I simply paint for the love of it. There may not always be a deep meaning behind it but what's important is that it strikes a chord with me. It's the journey and process of painting that I love and if you enjoy the process of it there's a good chance that you will be content with the outcome."

In addition to Bowie she is inspired



by Andy Warhol and Jean-Michael Basquiat. She loves Warhol's colors, repetition and subject matter. Warhol once said, "You need to let little things that would ordinarily bore you, suddenly thrill you." Katie likes the challenge of taking mundane items and giving them life. Jean-Michael Basquiat also used bold vibrant colors to evoke energy. He once said, "The more I paint, the more I like everything."

Katie said before she sketches out her painting she looks for a composition that intrigues her before she begins her process. Sometimes it's a miss and

other-times it's a success. She looks for the beauty in everyday life. Painting gives her great pleasure and she finds happiness in sharing that with others. Some of Katie's paintings are currently on display at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in the display case in the lobby. Stop in and experience her paintings first hand.

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](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net).

## Dr. Randolph P. Laycock Conducts Dvorak and Humperdinck May 1

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert on Sunday, May 1, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights.

Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will conduct Dvorak's Symphony No. 6 in D major, Op. 60 and Engelbert Humperdinck's Overture "Hansel and Gretel."

The orchestra, in its 46th season, consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City



Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will conduct the Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert May 1 at Valley Forge HS Auditorium 3:00 p.m.

Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, on the website at [www.parmasympphony.org](http://www.parmasympphony.org), or by calling Business Manager Joe Germana at 440-882-2012.

## Attention! Creative Individuals!

by Kathryn Mabin

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council is accepting applications for their annual Medley of Arts Show & Sale to be held on Saturday, May 16th. No residency requirement. Professionals and amateurs are welcomed. Cash and ribbon prizes, in 5 categories will be awarded. Categories include: Painting (acrylic, watercolor, and oil), Graphics (computer art, pen & ink, pencil, and wood burning), Photography, 3-D (sculpture, clay, ceramics, pottery, and wood-carving), and Jewelry (any medium). Deadline for entry is May 9th. For more information or to download the application visit [www.parmafinearts.org](http://www.parmafinearts.org), or call (440) 888-4514.

Old World Parma/Polish Village is now accepting applications for Flamingo

Fever. Flamingo Fever is a public art event. Creative individuals use pink plastic lawn ornaments to create unique table top character sculptures which will be displayed in local businesses throughout Parma, and auctioned off at a banquet in the fall. Proceeds benefit Polish Village Community Development Corporation. Deadline for entry is April 18th. For more information or to download the application visit [www.polishvillageparma.com](http://www.polishvillageparma.com), email [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net), or call (440) 843-6474.

Mr. B's Irish Pub & Eatery, in Parma Heights, is gearing up for another popup mini art show and sale. Contact Georgia Buresti at Mr. B's (440) 884-3211, for information on how to participate. All artists and craftspeople are welcome.

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