

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month is my second installment of the series entitled Parma’s Places of Worship. Although I am Catholic, I have always been intrigued with other faiths. That is why one day last summer, after years of driving by, I decided to enter the drive at 7733 Ridge Road on my one of jogs through town to see up close the beautiful Greater Cleveland Shiva Vishnu Hindu Temple. I was taken by the grandeur of the building and surrounding grounds. Since then, I have longed to see the inside, which I figured was just as spectacular. Therefore, when my friend John Visionskas, founder of All Faiths Pantry, offered to arrange for me to meet with Temple Manager Ramaswamy Sharma, I enthusiastically consented. This column is the result of my two hour tour which left me in awe, full of new knowledge, and a thirst for more about the world’s oldest practicing religion and the religion of the majority of the people of India – 900 million worldwide.

My visit to Shiva Vishnu Temple made me aware of yet another reason to be proud of our community. The \$20 million, 32 acre facility, built in 1997, serves approximately 2,500 local families or 12,000 individuals and hosts over 30,000 visitors in all each year. In fact, people come from throughout Ohio and the nation on pilgrimage to worship at the Parma Temple. It is the largest Hindu temple in Ohio and has the largest membership and is served by six priests from different regions of India. According to its website the Temple “is open to ALL and serves ALL.” Based on how welcomed I felt by the kind greetings I received, this is clearly true.

Prior to my visit to Shiva Vishnu, my knowledge of Hinduism was very limited. It is a very philosophical religion and I am not going to pretend to purport that I am even close to being an expert following my short time at the Temple. Any attempt for me to educate my readers on the philosophy will not do it justice, especially in this small space. What’s more is the fact that, like Christianity, there is much diversity among Hindus and their beliefs. Further, although to



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

an outsider Hindu adherents might seem to be polytheistic, many claim to be monotheistic. In fact, most Hindus believe in a Supreme God (Brahma), who has manifested himself as Shiva and Vishnu in different forms throughout the ages. I compare this to the Christian belief in one God, but that God is manifest in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, although this is a very simplified comparison. The sacred text is known as the Veda and karma and samsara (reincarna-

tion) are core beliefs.

What makes Shiva Vishnu Temple special is nonsectarian in that it welcomes all Hindu believers and includes 18 shrines dedicated to the various believers. As I mentioned, Hindu beliefs are very diverse. For instance, I was told that you will not find a Shiva Vishnu temple in India. The reason being is that some worship Shiva, while others worship Vishnu. When I mentioned to Mr. Sharma how it would seemingly take a lifetime to learn all there is to know about Hinduism, he was quick to reply, “Several lifetimes.” At this we shared a laugh. I encourage you to read more about this fascinating faith.

Mr. Sharma states that “the Shiva Vishnu Temple encourages communication and educational, cultural, and religious exchanges between many communities in the Northeast Ohio region. We have qualified Temple Community members (working in the Educational Department) that are available to give lectures on Hindu Philosophy, Hindu Religion and Hindu values and way of life.”

Parma is now home to a growing population of Indian people and Hindu believers. Let me take this opportunity to say that I welcome

them as friends. To find out more about Shiva Vishnu Temple, visit their website at www.shivavishnutemple.org or call them at 440-888-9433. The website has a plethora of information about the Temple, including pictures and a virtual tour. The facility has a community hall of 5,000 square feet, which fits 350 people. In observance of Hindu beliefs, alcohol, meat, eggs, and fish are prohibited in the facility. Public tours of the Temple are available upon request.



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Parma Names New Fire Chief, Assistant Chief

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them well in retirement.” French was with the department since 1983, and Ryan since 1982.

Said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, who was also on the selection committee: “I am impressed by the caliber of the candidates who applied for these positions. I look forward to working with Chief Lasky and Assistant Chief Dalesio.”





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Health/Culture



Brian Butler, a retired UH nurse, hiked 200 tough miles of the Appalachian Trail before suspending the journey due to challenges presented by his Parkinson's disease. Butler raised \$10,000 for Parkinson's research at University Hospitals through his Appalachian Trail hike, which reached heights of over 6,000 feet.

Heroic Hiker Raises \$10,000 For Parkinson's Research

by CJ Sheppard

The retired nurse who embarked on a hike of the Appalachian Trail to raise awareness and research funds for Parkinson's disease completed 200 challenging miles and reached altitudes of more than 6,000 feet before suspending his trek due to complications from the disease.

Brian Butler, 66, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2012, retired in March from his job as a registered nurse at University Hospitals Case Medical Center. Just days later, he and his daughter, Erin, stepped onto the 2,183-mile Appalachian Trail. He asked donors to support his journey by pledging one penny per mile, or \$21.83.

His story grabbed headlines and drew many supporters. While Butler's hike did

not end as he had hoped, his extraordinary efforts were not wasted. To date, nearly \$10,000 has been raised. Donations will support the research of Butler's physician, Benjamin Walter, MD, Director of University Hospitals Neurological Institute's Movement Disorders Center.

"I am choosing to look upon this as a success," writes Butler, a U.S. Army veteran, in his trail journal. "I did make it 200 miles and to altitudes of 6000+ feet ... I have brought Parkinson's disease to the forefront, collecting dollars for research. I will continue to do anything I can to bring light and focus to this disease."

To read more of Butler's own words about his decision to end his hike, visit his journal: <http://www.trailjournals.com/cw5>

Parma Heights Food Pantry Needs Your Help!

by Ann George

The Parma Heights Food Pantry has been helping its residents since 2007. At that time, we served approximately 37 families per month. Each year the need for help has grown; in February 2015, we assisted over 300 families.

We are a non-profit organization funded ENTIRELY by financial donations from churches, businesses, and individuals. ALL of the funds we receive are used to purchase food for those in need and to meet our necessary overhead costs. Our entire staff consists of volunteers; there is no salary paid to anyone.

The Pantry is facing a financial

crisis. Due to the growing demand of residents needing our help, the decrease in financial support, and the cost of rising food prices, we are unable to meet our monthly operational costs. We are asking for your support so that we can continue to provide a service that is critical to many of our Parma Heights neighbors. Financial donations and food donations can be sent to The Parma Heights Food Pantry, 6369 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, OH 44130. If you would like to visit us and see the meaningful work we do, our hours are Monday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Wednesday 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and Thursday 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Stroke Screening, Neurologist Talk On May 14

by CJ Sheppard

Consistent, high-quality care of stroke patients earned University Hospitals Parma Medical Center the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Collaboration between EMS, the Emergency Department, and the multidisciplinary Stroke Team results in prompt diagnosis and effective treatment of stroke patients. UH Parma Medical Center's Medical Director of Neurology John Andrefsky, MD met with emergency services providers on all shifts in nine different communities to advise them of heightened stroke protocols that speed up care for patients.

Dr. Andrefsky will speak at a free stroke screening on May 14 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the UH Parma Health Education Center, 7300 State Road. Stroke Coordinator Noreen Chase RN will conduct a free screening covering signs, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of the leading cause of disability among Americans. Criteria for this award require a minimum of two community presentations on stroke per year, and UH Parma Medical Center conducts more than 10.

"At UH Parma Medical Center, we strive to provide care for stroke patients that not only meets but exceeds the benchmarks set by the American Heart

Association and American Stroke Association," said Dr. Andrefsky.

These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. They focus on appropriate use of guideline-based care for stroke patients, including aggressive use of medications such as clot-busting and anti-clotting drugs, blood thinners and cholesterol-reducing drugs, preventive action for deep vein thrombosis, and smoking cessation counseling.

"We are pleased to recognize UH Parma Medical Center for their commitment to stroke care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee and Executive Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. "Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce patients' length of stays and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparities in care."

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the number five cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Call 440-743-4900 to register for the May 14 stroke talk and screening.



John Andrefsky, MD, UH Parma Medical Center's Medical Director of Neurology Services, met with EMS in nine communities on all three shifts to inform them of heightened stroke protocols so patients would receive prompt treatment and remain at their community hospital for care.



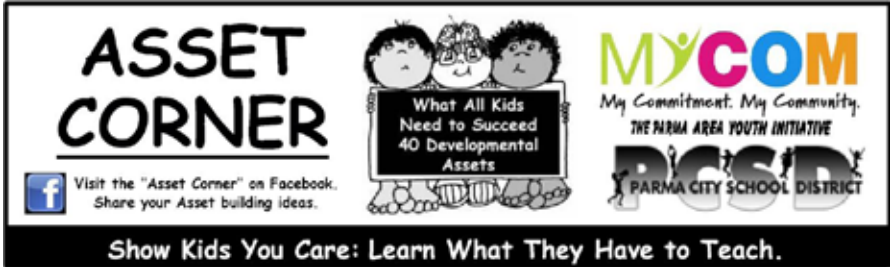
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Education



Asset Corner #65

by Gene Lovasy
May's Asset Category:
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Education has improved immensely in the past 20 years. Today, more young people are taking high-level courses, fewer of them are dropping out, math and science scores are on the rise, and more students are entering college after high school. But that doesn't mean a commitment to learning happens naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one's own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers.

This column's focus will be on.....
Asset #24 – Bonding to School

Finding a connection with school
Why do some kids drop out of school and others stay in and even excel? Experts say kids who don't like

school and choose not to attend are disinterested, bored, and feel unconnected. On the other hand, those who stay in school and do well have the opposite experience. They like it there. They have people who enjoy seeing them every day and who miss them when they're absent. They also have friends and family who are proud of what they do at school. These young people are stimulated and challenged, have fun, and enjoy learning at school.

Here are the facts
Research shows that young people who care about their school are less likely to be involved in violence or the use of alcohol and other drugs. They also are more likely to become good leaders, value diversity, and succeed in school. About 52 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they care about their schools, according to Search Institute surveys.

Tips for building this asset
Parents and others in the community can make a big difference in improving schools and making them

caring places for young people. If you know a young person who doesn't like school, ask her or him why. Remember that for students, part of bonding to school involves knowing someone in their school cares about them. Share your experiences from when you were in school—such as finding an adult or a peer who cared about you—with the young people you know who are struggling to fit in.

Also try this
In your home and family: Tell your child about one adult and one peer who cared about you when you were in school. Help your child identify which adults and friends at school he or she likes best and why.

In your neighborhood and community: Be an involved partner with the school. Volunteer to tutor in an after-school program or as an athletic coach. Use these opportunities to bond with students, helping them in turn to bond to school.

In your school or youth program: Identify young people who do not have an involved adult in their lives and find ways to help them connect to a caring, available adult.

ASSET RELATED NEWS
The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, May 14th. This plus a host of other programs/services are always in need of help particularly with their Summer Youth programming. If you're interested in volunteering, give the Collab a

call at (440) 887-4873.
All available slots have been filled and a waiting list has been started for the I Can Ride event taking place the week of June 22nd at the Ries Ice Rink on Forestwood Dr. Volunteers, however, are still needed to ensure 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. To register as a rider, a volunteer and/or to make a donation, email icanbike.cityofparma@gmail.com. For more information go to: www.icanshine.org.

May is National Foster Parent Month!!! There are approximately 1,600 children currently in Foster Care in Cuyahoga County and roughly 600 of those children are placed in foster homes outside of Cuyahoga County which means these children are unable to attend their same school, see their friends or participate in all of their extracurricular activities. To learn more about how you can help support one of these children in our community contact either Bryan Stanton at the Parma Area Family Collaborative at (440) 887-4881 or the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services Recruitment Department at (216) 881-5775.

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Inspiration



Cleveland Metroparks Improves Water Quality To Big Creek

by Mary Ellen Stasek

Cleveland Metroparks recently initiated construction of a new amenity to the Fern Hill Picnic Area in Big Creek Reservation – a stormwater wetland. This unique landscape feature will improve water quality to Big Creek, a tributary of the Cuyahoga River. Prior to project installation, during rain events or following a major snow melt, untreated stormwater from residences off Hauserman Rd. discharged directly into Big Creek, taking with it salt and vehicle residue (motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluid, etc.), which resulted in increased runoff volumes and degraded water quality.

Identified through a stormwater retrofit inventory led by Big Creek Connects, the project site provides a great opportunity for environmental benefit as well as public outreach and education. The stormwater wetland project includes intercepting a storm sewer and redirecting a portion of runoff through a series of pools in the newly excavated wetland to capture the runoff and its pollutants.

“The existing All-Purpose Trail through Big Creek Reservation offers

an excellent opportunity to inform park visitors about stormwater and the benefits of wetlands,” explained Jennifer Grieser, Senior Natural Resource Manager for Cleveland Metroparks.

Parma originally received a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of the Surface Water Improvement Fund and the USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The city then brought on Cleveland Metroparks to manage and implement the project. Originally slated for construction in 2014, the project was delayed by a lack of awardable bids. The Park District is committed to completing the grant funded project and has engaged its Site Construction crew to perform the earthwork. A contractor will acquire and install native plant material and volunteers will supplement these efforts in late May.

For more information: <http://big-creekconnects.org/FernHill>

Contact:

Jennifer Grieser, jmg2@cleveland-metroparks.com, 440-253-2163, or
Bob Gardin, bgardin@bigcreek-connects.org, 216-269-6472

Firefighter To Raise Funds To Fight ALS

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ever he needed. He made the promise to us that he would live every day that he had left to the absolute fullest.”

Phil’s fight has created a need for David’s family and friends to become supporters of efforts to raise money

to find a cure for this terrible disease. You may remember the Ice Bucket Challenge that swept the web last year with people around the world having water dumped on their heads. I know I do, as I was invited by the Valley Forge High School Marching Band to take the challenge with them! David says that the next few months were incredible with “people all over the world making videos to raise awareness and money for the exact cause that meant the most to me. With the phenomenon that was the ALC Ice Bucket Challenge inspiring everyone, our team raised over \$10,000.”

Buoyed by that outpouring of support, David decided to use his profession to help with his fundraising efforts. David’s goal is to double his funds and raise \$20,000 this year. I know that, with the support of his family, friends and our community, he is sure to reach is goal. To donate, go to: <http://webnoh.alsa.org/goto/davidkaszar>.

3rd Annual Maggie's Place Golf Scramble June 14 In Medina

by Tricia Kuivinen

Maggie’s Place Ohio will offer their 3rd Annual charitable Golf Scramble on Sunday, June 14 at 1 p.m at Shale Creek golf course in Medina, one of Ohio’s “Must-Play” public courses. The scramble will support the continued operation of The Zechariah House, a non-profit hospitality home for pregnant women in Parma. Fees for the scramble include 18 holes of golf with cart, a box lunch, beverages, and an All-American cook-out dinner for each registered player. Skill prizes and a Chinese raffle of unique packages will also be featured, along with “dinner-only” tickets for non-golfing guests of players or sponsors.

Maggie’s Place provides houses of hospitality in two states (OH & AZ) to help pregnant and parenting women in need reach their goals, and welcomes them into a community filled with love and dignity. Maggie’s Place provides a safe living environment, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, parenting preparation, employment readiness and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted, and may stay up to



six months after their child’s birth.

Maggie’s Place Ohio hopes the golf scramble will raise at least \$25,000 in operational support for The Zechariah House, which can house up to nine expectant women at a time. To learn more about Maggie’s Place Ohio, visit www.maggiesplace.org, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or call 440-866-2620 to arrange for a personal tour.

Fees for the 3rd Annual Golf Scramble are \$150 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome; “dinner-only” tickets are available for \$30 each. Golf hole and corporate sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 are also available. Golfers, guests or sponsors are invited to register for the scramble by calling 440-866-0137 or by credit card online: <http://mpoh-2015golfscramble.eventbrite.com>

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A parent’s responsibility includes viewing every child without showing partiality.

America evolved from a Biblical foundation. The majority of its residents have lost sight of this fact.

Any permanent progress in life begins on the inside and spreads to the outside.

Being in the majority can get us into a lot of trouble.

Communication is hearing what has not been said.

In the end, our choices shape our character and we receive what we give.

It is foolish to deny ourselves joy by wishing we were in a future or past time.

It is well to drop the old so that one may seize the new.

Keep our faces upturned to God as the flowers do to the sun. Look, and our souls shall love and grow.

Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Love others just the way they are.

Love should be in the center of our being and in all that we do.

Making fun of people never helps and always hurts.

Minimize looking back and looking forward and maximize the present.

No temptation has seized us except what is common to all.

One of the greatest steps in discovering who we are is discovering who God is.

Set our minds on things above, not earthly.

Since we are like no other human being ever created since the beginning of time, we are incomparable.

Some of the secrets of a happy life are continuous, small treats.

The days and the years inevitably turn the pages and open a new chapter in our life.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

The only thing that we take with us when we die is our character.

There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.

There is something in every season to celebrate with thanksgiving.

To be carnally (immorally) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life with peace.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

We can grow, learn, and trust just as much or more presently than we ever did in the past.

We do not remember days, we remember moments. Make moments worth remembering.

We know that we have come to know God if we obey His commandments.

We should resist allowing others to compromise our moral values.

Who we believe we are is what will play out in the long run.

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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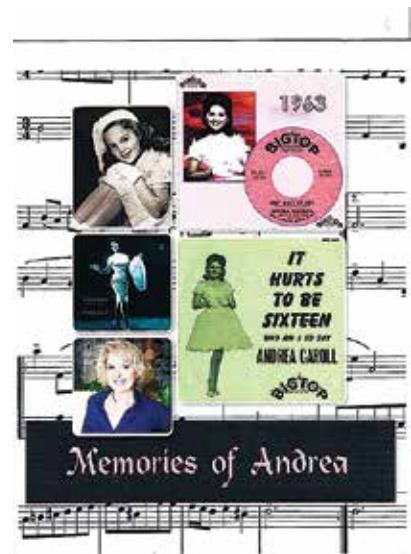
Our Local History

"Please Don't Talk To The Lifeguard"

by Bob Stilwell

This was the very popular song that Andrea Carroll sang in the early 1960s. Andrea first got into performing at the age of 3 when she appeared on Cleveland's Gene Carroll show in 1949. It was her first of what became a regular gig for her through the 1960s, which included Gene as her manager. She took the surname of Carroll (they were not related) from Gene. Her birth name was Andrea Decapite. After more than 10 years of singing and performing locally, she got a record deal with Epic Records through Gene Carroll and Gene Goodman of Regent Music and started her recording career. As it was with most of the early 1960's teen acts, Andrea was pretty much told what and when to record, but the material she was given worked well for her. Her first recording was "Young and Lonely" and the other side was originally called "I've got a date with Elvis," but that was changed from Elvis to Frankie (Avalon) before the record was released. It is assumed that someone objected and forced the name change. In the mid-60s she had the exceptional experience of touring nationally with such stars as Elvis Presley, Stevie Wonder, and Bob Hope.

Her 2nd 45 was her big hit in Cleveland, Please Don't talk to the Lifeguard, while recording for Epic she continued to perform on the Gene Carroll show and became a very polished performer by the time she was in her mid teens. She went to High School at Valley Forge in Parma Heights, and sometimes appeared with Ray Saporita, who was also a Valley Forge student. She also sang numerous other songs with various record companies, including RCA. By the time her United Artist contract was up, she started College at Baldwin Wallace, earning her



BA degree, then going to Kent State and getting her Masters. While at Kent she produced a daily campus TV program.

In 1973 she returned to do a special Gene Carroll tribute. Gene had passed away the year before and former Upbeat host, Don Webster was his replacement (The Show ended in 1977).

Many local fans, including my wife and I have wondered what Andrea is currently doing. Andrea Hill, PH.D., MFT, along with her husband, former television producer Lyle B. Hill, own the nationally renowned acting school Weist-Baron-Hill located in Burbank, California. Andrea is also a licensed clinical therapist with a specialty working with people in the entertainment industry from beginners to movie stars. What an extraordinary woman. No wonder after so many years away from Cleveland that she is remembered by so many people. Gene Carroll and Andrea's parents helped her become a star performer in life as well as an entertainer. We wish her the very best.

A lot of the early songs by Andrea and many other artists can be heard on the internet. It is called Tunedex Memories, owned by Chuck Benjamin. You will enjoy the music as it will rekindle past memories.

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Perspective

For Profit Colleges Abusing The System And Hurting Students

by Lee Kamps

A number of years ago I was asked by a business associate to teach a course in Basics of Insurance at a local business college. He told me that the class met for three hours a week over a thirteen week semester with a final exam in the 14th week. I felt that this would be a nice challenge as well as an opportunity to earn some extra money so I accepted this offer. In addition my undergraduate degree is in education and I have taught insurance courses at

Cleveland State University previously. Like myself, almost all the instructors and faculty were part time employees. Many were retired and others were like myself, doing this as a secondary job. In fact the only full time faculty were the deans and department heads. This business college employed more full time “student recruiters” than full time instructors. “Student recruiter” is a euphemism for commissioned sales person. They were paid commissions when a student

was enrolled and the tuition was paid. They had quotas to meet if they wanted to keep their job. They were taught how to navigate the ways to get a prospective student federally guaranteed student loans for the tuition. They looked for prospective students in low income areas and at local food pantries where poor people go for free food. Their marketing was targeted to those mostly young adults on welfare or working at low wage dead end jobs. Their “pitch” was to “sell the dream” of a better life if they only had more education that could lead to a higher paying job or career. Once they got the young adult sold, they had to get them formally enrolled. Then the recruiter had to guide the new student through the process of securing a student loan to pay for the tuition. Once the tuition was paid, the “student recruiter” was paid their commission.

What I learned once I was in the classroom was that most of those students were ill prepared for the level of course work at the college level. Most had very poor reading skills and had problems with the text and study guide. When I gave weekly quizzes right out of the instructor’s manual, less than half received a passing score. The mid term exam had the same result with less than half passing. By the mid term, about half of the enrolled students were attending class on a regular basis. Over half the students failed the course.

What I learned later was that only about a third of students who enrolled in this for profit college had actually completed their chosen source of study. Most dropped out after one or two semesters. Probably those who dropped out went back or remained on welfare of those dead end low wage jobs. But they still had those student loans hanging over them. Unlike consumer debt, student loans cannot be discharged in bankruptcy and a default on a student loan hangs over them for the rest of their life. In addition, should they decide later to pursue a higher education, a record of a defaulted student loan disqualifies those people from getting another student loan in the future. What I couldn’t understand was why those students who attended this

for profit business college were not attending the local community college. I learned the answer when I spoke to a friend who worked at CCC. She told me that many of those students recruited by the for profit colleges lack the skills to handle college level work. But the community college does offer non credit remedial courses to bring a student up to speed at the college level. So a community college education would take longer because those students deficient in reading, comprehension or math skills would have to take remedial courses first.

However the local community colleges are publicly supported and their tuition is much cheaper than a for profit college. But the student loans and the promise of a faster path to completion of the program have a great appeal for someone in desperate straits. In addition community colleges offer many student services to keep students on track with their education.

Not every for profit college abuses the system in the manner I witnessed. But so many have a poor record of students actually finishing their program of study. There needs to be much more oversight and regulation to ensure that every college that receives government guaranteed student loan money should have a much higher percentage of students actually finishing their program of study.

President Obama proposed in his State of the Union address last winter that we should make a two year community college education free to those who have the desire and ability. This is a great idea whose time has come. This is government money being spent in the right manner. It is an investment for the future of our nation and any cost will be more than repaid by the increased productivity and earnings of those who benefit from a free community college education.

Addendum: This morning (April 27), it was reported that the for profit Corinthian Colleges have closed its doors suddenly and turning 16,000 students out of their classes. Corinthian College is primarily located in California and other western states. It had been losing money and decided to close, leaving those students hanging.

Sorry

by Leo Lampeter

By definition: sorry means to have sorrow or regret. This is mentioned because it is not infrequent that this word is directed toward me. For those of you who rarely walk anymore, or never did, walking is the movement of one foot in front of the other and traveling to a specific destination either out of necessity or for the pleasure of the movement. In my instance, most days the car doesn’t leave the driveway. That must startle many of you who are reading this. For the most part, for most of us, should there be errands to run or another destination in mind, the first reaction is to get the car keys and get into the car and go. The habit of using the car was a habit that was used by me, for many years. Now walking is my main mode of transportation. The habit was borne out of a report of high blood pressure and supplemented by the price of gas when it was close to \$4 a gallon. Walking was never foreign to me, but increased with these influencing factors. A concerted effort was made to walk a certain distance on a daily basis. It would be pleasurable to see more walkers, for you get to greet

and perhaps chat with those you may encounter. Driving does not possess that possibility, unless giving hand signals is considered chat. Chat does enter into driving, however. You see many drivers chatting on their cell phones and/or texting on a regular basis when you walk. The reason you notice them talking or texting is because you readily can notice the errors they make while operating their vehicles. Such errors include not stopping behind the stop sign and thus blocking the crosswalk and not stopping by the wide white stripe (or where logic dictate one should be) at intersections, usually those with traffic signals.

There is a presumption here that those behind the wheel of a motorized vehicle studied for the driving test. The idea of the test is not to study and then forget what was in the booklet, it is to put into practice that which the booklet contains. On occasion we all err, even when we are attentive, but to be distracted for a frivolous purpose is the height of stupidity. You are operating a two ton killing machine. The sad portion of this is that we are so selfish we are only thinking of ourselves and not attentive to our surroundings.

Speaking as one who has been almost struck by an inattentive driver with some frequency, and yes there may be a concerted effort to do so, go back to your booklet and read and practice what is written; stop first behind the stop sign, stop before the wide white line at intersections, stop at the sidewalk first, then stop again at the curb, before pulling into the street from your driveway. These instructions are in the manual. After you stop and look, then proceed, whether it be to turn right on red or to go through an intersection on green, and no creeping into the intersection and into the crosswalk before the appropriate time. When you are turning right, don’t just look to the left for oncoming traffic, look to the right for walking pedestrians (this is the one most frequently targeting the walker). There have been instances where catching myself and making sure no one is walking to the right has been almost forgotten. We are creatures of habit; I drive this way every day many times and there are never any problems, so being careful is a waste of time.

This is a daily occurrence seen by myself, and if you don’t pay attention and you injure or even kill someone, what will you say then? Sorry?

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Best Of Parma

The Truth About Guns, Safety, And Government Collusion To Keep The \$ Rolling In

by Lucy McKernan

It has been said that absolute power corrupts absolutely. The litmus test for this caliber of sleaze can be found in the half-lies regularly spun by the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW). Always one step ahead of its critics, while conning the public at large, our state wildlife agency's officials take whole truths and twists them to suit their murder for profit agenda.

Perfect example: The Public Trust Doctrine clearly states "wildlife belongs to everyone." But ODOW's darling director, Zehringer, who recently rebutted North Royalton Mayor Stefanik's claim that the state is responsible for deer management because ODOW de facto owns deer, now routinely bastardizes the spirit and essence of the Doctrine. Zehringer says that the Public Trust means individuals can do whatever they want with animals on their land. Yet, in reality, private hunters, who comprise only six percent of the population, cannot be considered a Public Trust majority. And it is funds in the form of hunting licenses that keep the ODOW in operation. This, in combination with national and metro parks slaughters pressuring herds to seek refuge in suburban areas and the deliberate maintenance of large herds profit since 1950, has created a monster the ODOW cannot contain. And the old model of "hunting as conservation/hunting as control" is not working, but actually backfiring on

the majority and Ohio's deer.

Follow the money.

Look no further than the Division's own publication, Wild Ohio Magazine, in which the following appears: "The Ohio Division of Wildlife is still funded by annual hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales . . . Additional funding for conservation also comes into Ohio in the form of federal aid reimbursement from an excise tax on hunting . . . This excise tax [Pittman-Robertson Act] has been in place for 75 years, and is based on a user pay, public benefit concept." Really? When 94% of the population doesn't hunt, or doesn't like it, how does that benefit the public?

If THE PUBLIC were to truly benefit, the state would: educate THE PUBLIC to encourage large-scale browsing and natural landscaping that international biologists now recognize as beneficial for ecosystems, rather than pretending to "manage" large herds for profit in suburban and PUBLIC settings; promote PUBLIC wildlife viewing and photography/art rather than killing; incorporate systematic birth control where viable in PUBLIC and park areas; reduce vehicle-deer collisions (DVCs) by eliminating hunting near PUBLIC roads since the largest insurance carriers' data still show the highest number of DVCs occur on the first day of hunting because frightened deer run into PUBLIC roadways; work with individuals and PUBLIC-INTEREST groups and diverse



Mike Hadl surrounded by Cavs cheerleaders.

Cavs' Cheerleaders Develop New Fans At Greenbrier Senior Living

by Jill Gillmeister

Greenbrier resident Mike Hadl, long-time announcer for the Cleveland Lumberjacks, college and high school sports, and substitute announcer for the Cavs, was treated to a visit from some of his friends from the Cavs and a number of the team's cheerleaders. The Cavs' cheerleaders and members of their dance team, the Scream Team, met with Mike and a number of other Greenbrier residents on March 31st. The cheerleaders performed some of their new playoff run cheers for the

residents and brought signed basketballs, bobbleheads, hats, shirts, and other gifts for residents of the facility. The team also updated the residents on the Cavs' plans as they get ready for the playoffs and hopefully go for the NBA championship! The visit brought tremendous pride to Mike and also so many residents loved seeing the cheerleaders perform and having the chance to meet them. Greenbrier's team loved being able to work with the Cavs team to set this up and make a big difference in our resident's lives.

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stakeholders to explore biological (not cultural or subjective/perceived) carrying capacity instead of the outdated, self-serving "hunting as conservation" model in urban AND PUBLIC areas; an ODOW board of directors representing majority PUBLIC stakeholders, and diverse funding sources instead of hunter-funding; and total PUBLIC transparency and oversight.

Regarding this penultimate point, the ODOW board of directors currently consists of hunters, so members should be replaced with PUBLIC-MINDED, accountable officials who seek non-lethal deer and other wildlife management best practices.

If reform doesn't happen, then, as the Ohio Wild Magazine states, "Federal funding for Ohio's fish and wildlife [will continue to be] apportioned, in part, based on how many fishing and hunting licenses are purchased. The more licenses that are purchased, the more money comes back to Ohio."

According to Peter Mueller's article "Time for a New Look at the Distribution of the Excise Tax on Guns and Ammunition," published in C.A.S.H. (Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting) Courier, Mueller writes, "We should realize that over

time an activity can change from meriting encouragement from our society-at-large to needing discouragement . . . Let us instead consider the diversion of these funds away from compensating the victims for injuries sustained [resulting from the purchase of weapons] from the use of firearms and ammunition."

Mueller goes on to cite the number of homicides, accidents, and suicides resulting from firearms, adding, "The monies derived from firearms and ammunition that went into the dedicated Pittman-Robertson fund amounted to about \$400,000,000 in 2010 . . . Had that money been used to compensate the victims of the use of firearms[,] each victim would have received \$4,695 . . . That amount will barely pay for the funeral expense . . . It seems only fair . . . that the federal excise collected be used to partially compensate the victims of firearms use instead of promoting the expansion."

We see it every night on the evening news. Someone, somewhere, is shot and killed. But why should it be any other way, when people kill millions of wild beings every year for "sport?"

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Parma Observer

Walk On Wednesdays Through June 3

by CJ Sheppard

Get off the couch and out on the trail with Walk on Wednesdays, a series of informal fitness walks sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center at James Day Park in Parma from April 29 – June 3.

Fitness Coordinator Amanda Pasela will lead the walks, which start at 7 p.m. near the swimming pool at James Day Park, 11828 W Pleasant Valley Road. Walkers can do as many laps as they choose, but two laps of the walking path is equivalent to one mile. Each walk will be preceded by a brief discussion, starting at 6:45 p.m., of health, fitness or safety by a health care professional affiliated with UH Parma Medical Center.

Walkers can also take advantage of a series of outdoor fitness equipment along the walking path. UH Parma Medical Center purchased the new equipment through a collaboration with the City of Parma to

encourage fitness among residents. When the equipment was unveiled in 2013, Mayor Tim DeGeeter encouraged use of the walking path as part of the administration's emphasis on enhanced quality-of-life for residents.

"We want to get people up and moving on spring and summer nights," said Ms. Pasela, who manages WellFit, UH Parma Medical Center's onsite employee fitness center. "This way, you can get in the groove of exercising without going to a gym. UH Parma Medical Center is committed to improving the health and wellness of our community beyond the walls of the hospital."

Registration is suggested but not necessary. Call 440-743-2751. For information on a wide array of fitness classes, personal wellness opportunities, health screenings, and support groups, go to www.uhhospitals.org/parma.

Pierogi Palooza In Parma On May 31



by Dale Powell

Sure signs of Spring are robins, daffodils, and the Pierogi Palooza held at Broadview Multi-Care Center at 5520 Broadview Rd. in Parma, Ohio. This annual event is a lot of fun, and a portion of all proceeds benefit the local food bank. There are local food vendors, live entertainment, informational booths,

and the best pierogi will be judged. For more information or to participate- call 216-741-4010 and ask for Debbie Rafalski. Mark the date and be sure to attend Pierogi Palooza from 12 noon until 5:00 pm on Sunday May 31st. Don't eat a big breakfast- save some room for those delicious pierogis!



Unique Items - Unusual Venue

by Kathryn Mabin

In February, I received a phone call from Georgia Buresti, the owner of Mister B's Irish Pub & Eatery. Mister B's is located in the strip directly across from Southland Shopping Center on W. 130th. Georgia presented me with the wonderful idea of bringing artists and craftspeople into her establishment for a mini art show. Mini shows like this are popping up all over the Greater Cleveland area. They have multiple purposes, such as bringing in new patrons to establishments like hers, and they also offer the community a chance to view and purchase unique handmade items from artists in an unusual venue for a brief time. The artists have the opportunity to meet each other and compare their work, as well as discuss various techniques. This isn't your old fashioned idea of an art show like you see on TV or in the movies. The people who attend these type of events are not all dressed up fancy, walking around sipping wine and munching appetizers. Mister B's does have a nice menu though and they serve some pretty tasty food and beverages.

Several artisans set up displays on Saturday, March 14th. Three were members of Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC). The mission of PAFAC is to bring art to the community and this event certainly did accomplish that. Michelle Baran Behal, President of PAFAC, brought samples of her acrylic painting, as well as wood-burned pieces. Emery Bogardy, a prolific water colorist, and also a member of Greenbriar Art League, brought several of his favor-

ites. In addition to being artists, both Michelle and Emery are instructors at PAFAC, and they talked about their classes to several people. I am a jewelry designer and brought many of my very reasonably priced pieces. Ray Nageotte who does commissioned work had a nice display of his Xeroxography and acrylic art works, mostly with a rock n roll theme. Debra Elaine Chalkley had an assortment of watercolor paintings, beautifully rendered colored pencil and beaded jewelry. Robert D. Holschuk had acrylic paintings, pen & ink, and pencil. Britany Ficyk displayed acrylic and mixed media paintings, photography, and pen & ink. Robin Nagy and Bev McElroy had an assortment of one of a kind, handmade greeting cards.

I had the opportunity to meet lots of new people. One woman showed me a photo on her phone of a project she was working on at home. I shared my source of affordable semi-precious stones with another. I overheard two painters discussing their various techniques. There were lots of smiles all around and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Neighborhood establishments like Mister B's have always been a gathering place for friends and neighbors, and events like this one are an added bonus. Georgia plans to make these mini art shows a regular event at her establishment. Artists and craftspeople can contact Georgia directly at (440)884-3211 to participate in the next event, which is planned for May 23. Thanks Georgia for a great idea!



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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 eleventh in a series which will showcase a Parma area artist and introduce you to many of your talented neighbors.

Barb & Steve Bloom

The old adage “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade” certainly applies to Parma residents Barb & Steve Bloom. A couple of years ago Steve was laid off from his job and shortly thereafter Barb was also. Driven by the downturn in the economy and their unfortunate situation, they combined their creative juices and their handcrafted shop, Images in Bloom, was born.

Images in Bloom carries handcrafted soaps, shave soaps, scrubs, beautiful hand-dyed silk scarves, and wire crochet jewelry. Their handcrafted items are now sold on the web, on Etsy, in local boutiques, arts and crafts shows, fairs, and cultural festivals throughout Ohio and Michigan. They have a very busy schedule. This month they will be at the Rocky River Civic Center, Hessler Street Fair, and the Berea Fine Art May Show.

The handcrafted soaps, shave soaps, and scrubs are made with plant-based ingredients, essential oils, comfrey leaves, and cornmeal are added for exfoliating. The Gardener's Soap was the first of their line which now carries a wide variety. Each batch is hand mixed, molded, cured, and



packaged. They are also members of the Handcrafted Soapmakers Guild.

The scarves are made using the Japanese resist method of dyeing called Shibori. Shibori is similar to tie-dyeing. Silk is a wonderful fabric, created by silk worms, and woven into various weights and finishes. Silk drapes well, has a natural sheen, a smooth soft texture, and dyes adhere well to silk. The silk is hand-dyed, after binding, stitching, tying, or bundling cones of fabric tightly, to create a floral pattern in the material. Barb uses vivid, bright beautiful colors that, when worn, add a pop of color drawing your eyes up to the wearer's face. She has also delved into burnout of velvet on silk.

Included in their line are wire crochet brooches and bracelets. Most of the brooches have a magnetic pin back which when worn with her scarves won't damage the delicate silk fabric. She has also produced crochet plastic bag totes.

Their website, located at www.imagesinbloom.com,



Shibori Silk Scarves.

imagesinbloom.com, showcases their products. They also offer custom orders. It is evident that customer service and satisfaction are important to them. The website also offers a blog which is filled with information and insight for other artists.

Recently Barb and Steve pitched their shave products to a major grocery retailer and were very well received. But in order to prepare for delivery they must purchase a UPC code for the business. They are short on funds to achieve this goal. So they have turned

to GoFundMe to ask for help. For every \$25 donation, they will ship one bar of their soap to the donor. If you are interested in learning more about Images in Bloom and their campaign on GoFundMe, visit their website at www.imagesinbloom.com.

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 kathrynabin@att.net.

You Are Invited!

by Kathryn Mabin

Saturday, May 16th, the Parma Area Fine Arts Council will hold their annual spring show, Medley of Arts, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W. Ridgewood Drive. Local artists will display their works of painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor & mixed media), photography, graphics (computer art, pen & ink, drawing & wood burning), 3D (sculpture, ceramics, clay & pottery), jewelry, fiber dolls, and woodcarving. A Chinese auction will be held of handcrafted items. Refreshments will be available. The event is open to the public, and admission is FREE.

Asset Corner #65

continued from page 5

It's Backpacks For Kids time again. This will be the 5th year that the generous contribution of KIKS Office, its vendors and the CBS Partnership provide stuffed backpacks for upwards of 400 kids in our district. The cost remains at \$18 per backpack. Please help reach our goal by making a check payable to Parma City Schools Foundation – Backpack Drive & sending it to 5311 Longwood Ave. Parma, OH 44134.

The Parma Area Kiwanis hit a milestone last month by completing its 15th year of hosting three Sundae Bars per year for high achieving students attending first Parkview and now RidgeBrook Elementary. Since starting in the 2000 - 2001 school year, members of the club have presented

pencils or certificates and personally congratulated and shaken the hand of approximately 3,500 students, not to mention serving approximately 10,400 ice cream sundaes. Visit www.facebook.com/parma.area.kiwanis to learn more about this and other club programs.

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 about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go here - www.parentfurther.com/ - for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities, and ideas.



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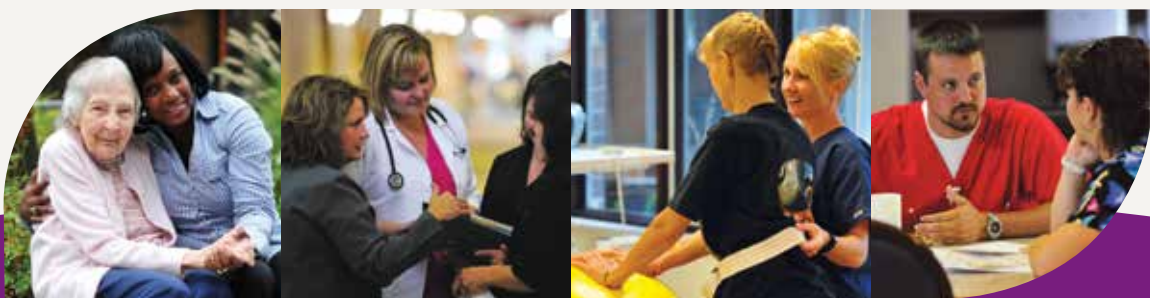
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