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Parma Has A New Safety Director

by Jeannie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter has appointed Michael C. O'Malley as Parma's new Safety Director. O'Malley replaces Greg Baeppler, who recently retired after serving more than 11 years in that position, which oversees various departments, including Police and Fire.

It's a bit of a homecoming for O'Malley, who worked as Parma's Assistant Law Director from 1994-1999. That's only a piece of his extensive background in municipal government. Before working as Cleveland's Assistant Director of Public Utilities, O'Malley served for six years as Cleveland's Ward 16 Councilman. He represented the Old Brooklyn and South Hills area bordering Parma.

"I'm thrilled to return to Parma as the Safety Director," said O'Malley, who in his previous

jobs handled everything from labor negotiations and budget preparations and oversight to strategic planning and general day-to-day problem solving. "I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and working every day to make Parma an even better city."

Most recently, O'Malley comes to this position from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, where he served since 2012 as the Second Region Supervisor. In that job, he handled felony cases from, among other cities, Parma, which allowed him to work closely with the city's police department. Previous to that position, he was First Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, a role in which he supervised a staff of 320 employees.

"Mike brings a wealth of experience to Parma City Hall,

to our administration, and to his new role," DeGeeter said. "He'll be a real asset with his work in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and his understanding of municipal issues as a Cleveland Councilman, among other roles."

In making the announcement, DeGeeter also lauded Baeppler's work as Safety Director.

"Greg served this city with distinction in a time of real transition in Parma," DeGeeter said. "He played a large role in making our Police and Fire departments among the finest in this region. Whether as Safety Director, or as a former Cleveland police officer, or as a former Cleveland district commander, Greg committed his life's work to protecting the public. I truly wish him well in his future endeavors."



Outgoing Safety Director Greg Baeppler, left, welcomes his replacement, Michael C. O'Malley.



Rito's family and staff members are honored as Business of the Month.

Nancy Fedak, Rito's Honored At City Council

by Jeannie Roberts

When a resident or business owner is recognized and honored by Parma City Council, it is customary to ask the recipient to stand before the Council while the resolution is being read aloud. Parma's most recent Citizen of the Month

did exactly that. Usually the Council Chamber, which is not generally crowded, remains quiet while this happens.

In the case of Nancy Fedak, though, Council President Sean Brennan had to wait for a sizable crowd to issue a standing ovation and loud applause first.

Then, after announcing that he believed this to be the largest crowd on hand in support of a Citizen of the Month, Brennan proceeded to read the proclamation, which

detailed Fedak's numerous and varied volunteer affiliations and her love of and service to her community.

This, from the nomination letter sent in by Parma resident Dianna Kall: "Nancy Fedak depicts the consummate Citizen of Parma. Her volunteer efforts and interests are as diverse as the City itself. Nancy's diligence to the groups and organizations in Parma is above the mark. She has devoted countless hours; years with so many organizations that her impact has been pinnacle to the groups' successes, community outreach and enrichment for the City of Parma. ... If anyone loves the City, it's Nancy. (This is indicated by her) devotion to

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Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Nancy Fedak, and Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis.

Everyone Invited To Enjoy Parma Heights Party In The Commons

by Mike Byrne

In true small-town fashion, we invite all our neighbors and friends to come out and enjoy our Party in the Commons August 7-9, 2015. You won't find expensive food and crazy rides, but you will find people getting together to enjoy the better things in life: good food, good music and each other's company.

This year, as for the past two years, our event will begin with the dedication of the Ohio Flags of Honor, presented by the Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation, with an Opening Ceremony on Friday, August 7th at 7:00 p.m. The Ohio Flags of Honor is an incredibly powerful tribute to our Fallen Heroes from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. This

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ICan Bike Comes To Parma

by Deanna Krokos

From June 22nd to 26th, Parma was home to a unique and important program. ICan Bike, a 5-day intensive camp teaching individuals with disabilities how to ride a bike independently, took place at Ries Rink. This program was able to teach 40 riders over 5 sessions how to ride, building skills and confidence through intensive instruction and assistance.

ICan Bike is just one service of the national charitable



Rider and volunteers in Reis Rink.

group ICan Shine, which is devoted to providing a range of services such as this to disabled individuals in communities across the country. After seeing programs like this flourish and see widespread success, camp director and Parma resident Debbie Ezaki thought it would be a good idea to bring it into our own backyard.

"It really just made sense," said Ezaki. "The program

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Camp day 3 was fun for both riders and volunteers.

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

Summer in Parma is full of many fun activities, but finding out about them can sometimes be elusive. This month’s column is dedicated to some of my favorites. On a side note, my failure to list every event in Parma this summer is by no means a slight to anyone. I am limited by the space of this column. I apologize in advance to any that I have left out.

First, Parma’s annual Fourth of July parade truly captures the

Spirit of ‘76. This year’s coordinator, County Councilman Chuck Germana of Four Star Insurance fame, wishes to remind everyone that the parade will, in fact, take place on July 4. Further, the parade steps off on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. on Ridge Road near Snow and runs south to The Shoppes at Parma.

I will admit that I am a little biased on my next two suggestions, due to my affiliation with each. As

many of you know, I am an avid runner. What you might not know is that this Irishman loves his pierogies! So, I decided to put these two loves together five years ago and invented the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies. Thanks to the help of a lot of friends, Parma residents, and many local businesses, the event has grown every year with well over 800 participating last year. Participants can decide to either run or walk the 5k (3.1 mile) course or walk 1 mile of the course. Proceeds from the event benefit local charities, including the Parma Animal Shelter, Parma Girl Scouts, All Faiths Pantry, the CCC Scholarship Fund, and the Parma Area American Cancer Society Relay for Life. We will lace up on Sunday, July 5 at 8:30 a.m. at CCC’s western campus, 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road. For more information, call me at 440-884-0489 or visit our website at hermescleveland.com.

Next, is my parish’s, St. Charles Borromeo, summer carnival. This year it will kick off once again with a parade, which, under full disclosure, I plan and coordinate. The parade begins at the Parma Circle on Ridge Road and proceeds to the St. Charles campus on Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. The theme of this year’s parade is “Honoring Our Scouts.” Therefore, Boy and Girl Scouts - young and old - are invited to don their uniforms and march in the parade. Contact me if you are interested. The St. Charles carnival opens each day at 6:30 p.m. and runs through Sunday, July 12. The great food, games, bingo, casino room, and entertainment make for a fun family time.

The Cities of Parma and Parma Heights are teaming up again to offer

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Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President



Community Shred/Habitat For Humanity Collection Event

by Mike Byrne

The City of Parma Heights is teaming up with Habitat for Humanity and holding a joint event on Saturday, July 25, 2015. Both events will run simultaneously from 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. at the Parma Heights Service Garage located in the Greenbrier Commons. Proof of residency is required.

These Shred Events are always well attended as they provide residents with a safe, secure, and convenient way to shred their confidential documents. Now residents can bring the paper they want to shred and, at the same time, drop off any donations they have for Habitat for Humanity in one convenient trip. Habitat for Humanity has asked for donations of usable household furniture and appliances to help the mission of Habitat in improving housing in our area and we were happy to assist.

“The Shred Events are for residential use only. Residents are asked to please limit their documents to five grocery store bags or two copy-size paper boxes per family,” said Building, Housing and Recycling Coordinator Michele Teresi.

Habitat is looking for: furniture, appliances (ranges, refrigerators, dish washers, washer/dryers), kitchen equipment, sinks, toilets, vanities, kitchen counters, landscaping tools and materials, electrical/plumbing fixtures, vanities, tools, bricks/blocks, shingles and general building materials. All items must be usable and complete. No paint, computers, clothing or bedding. A tax receipt is available. Arrangements can be made

for Habitat to pick up larger items by calling 216-429-3631, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

One more Shred Event is scheduled for later this year on November 14th.

Residents with questions are encouraged to contact the Service Department at 440-884-9607.



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Health/Culture

Cancer Survivor Speaks Universal Language

by CJ Sheppard

Ukrainian immigrant Stepha Lyuta firmly believes that coming to the United States – and finding University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center – saved her life.

The 83-year-old Parma woman



Stepha Lyuta received many hugs from the staff at UH Seidman Cancer Center. She is welcomed back like family when she stops in for a follow-up visit.

was diagnosed in 2013 with vulvar cancer, a rare form of cancer that accounts for less than 1 percent of all cancers in women. The American Cancer Society estimates that 5,150 cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year.

Fortunately, Lyuta lived less than one mile from one of the 16 community-based locations for University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center. She was able to receive her diagnosis and treatment in the comfortable and convenient UH Seidman Cancer Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. When the cancer returned and she required a radical bilateral vulvectomy in October 2014, she went downtown to UH Seidman Cancer Center for



Rostislav Lyutyy accompanied his grandmother, Stepha Lyuta, to all of her appointments at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma Medical Center. Lyuta, a Parma resident and Ukrainian immigrant who speaks no English, was made comfortable by the staff at UH Parma, which is one of UH's 16 locations for cancer treatment.

surgery with gynecologic oncology surgeon Kristine Zanotti, MD.

Her devoted grandson, Rostislav Lyutyy – her motivation for emigrating from Ukraine – accompanied Lyuta, who speaks no English, to nearly all of her appointments, including two months of radiation and chemotherapy treatments. The staff accommodated her need for a translator versed in medical terminology through a real-time audio and video interpreter service.

Like her children and grandchildren, Lyuta fled Lviv, Ukraine to escape religious persecution, economic stagnation and poor health care, according to her grandson, who came to the U.S. at the age of 5 for surgery to correct a clubfoot.

"If she had gotten cancer over there, there is no way she would have survived," said Lyutyy, now 25. "She

kept it from us for awhile, until the pain was unbearable. At least she was here with us."

Carly Trainer RN remembers Lyuta doing a little dance in the hallway to show her spirit was strong. While she couldn't speak directly with Lyuta, she and other staff offered a steady supply of hugs.

"We met a lot of great people here – not just the staff but other patients," said her grandson. "Hugs are so important, and they understood she needed the physical contact."

Radiation oncologist Aryavarta Kumar, MD, at UH Parma Medical Center, was pleased to see that Lyuta's energy level and appetite have returned.

"She is doing well," said Dr. Kumar. "She looks really good."

Farmers' Markets Held At UH Parma June 30-Sept. 15

by CJ Sheppard

Farm-fresh produce and local specialties come to University Hospitals Parma Medical Center later this month with the return of Farmers' Markets. The market will take place under the covered patio outside the hospital's main entrance every Tuesday from June 30 - Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The first 50 customers coming to each weekly market will receive a free Greening UH reusable shopping bag, and complimentary screenings will be conducted by UH Parma Medical Center's community health nurses. Participating vendors include:

- Cossell Farms of North Royalton – produce
- Luther Farms of Richfield – produce
- Tal's Deli of Parma – bakery, breads and potato salad
- All Jammed Up of Parma – homemade jams, jellies and honey
- Scentsational Soaps of Parma – natural soap products
- The Three Sweet Sisters of Parma – pies

UH Parma Medical Center is located at 7007 Powers Blvd., Parma, Ohio.

Spiritual Care Volunteers Needed At Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Recruiting is underway for volunteers to address the spiritual needs of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center patients and families. Spiritual care aides work in the Emergency Department and the Surgery Waiting Room, providing comfort to patients and their families. They also visit patients in their rooms, provide directions and information to visitors, and stand in for clergy when the family's priest or minister is unavailable.

Volunteers must attend special

training sessions, which cover techniques of communication, professionalism, confidentiality, and medical ethics. They also will become oriented to UH Parma Medical Center and its programs and will gain a greater understanding of the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families during hospitalization. Volunteers generally work at least two four-hour shifts per month.

Please contact volunteer coordinators Steve or Kathy Hunsicker at 440-526-8509 for more information. The training begins in early September.

The President's Corner

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summer band concerts for residents. The events will take place in Parma on July 5, 12, and 19 and in Parma Heights on July 26, as well as August 2, 9, 16, and 23. The Parma Concerts take place at Anthony Zielinski Park, adjacent to Ridgewood Lake, while the Parma Heights events will be at the Greenbriar Commons. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and be there by 6:30 p.m. to enjoy the music. In case of rain, the events will be moved to the Donna Smallwood Adult Activities Center, formerly the Parma Senior Center, located at 7001 West Ridgewood Drive.

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral offers delicious culinary

delights, live music, a beer garden, a kid zone, cathedral tours and more on July 18 and 19, from noon to evening at their 36th annual SerbFest. 6306 State Road is where the festivities will take place.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter invites families to his annual Mayor's Movie Night Out on Saturday, July 18. Residents are welcome to begin settling in on their blankets or lawn chairs at 7:00 pm at Mayor James Day Park, 11828 West Pleasant Valley Road. Paddington will begin playing on the big screen at 9:00 p.m. Games will take place before the film and a concession stand will be open for refreshments. The rain date will be

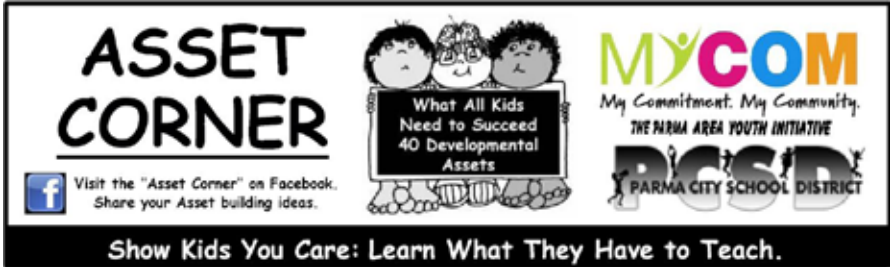
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Education



Asset Corner #67

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: LISTEN TO THEIR FAVORITE MUSIC WITH THEM. July's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME All work and no play can be boring and stressful.....The pace of everyday life varies depending on the activities young people participate in. These fluctuations are normal, even healthy. As long as young people don't consistently have too much to do or not enough to do, they're right on track. Problems arise when the balance begins to tip too far to one side or the other. Too much involvement can lead to stress or anxiety. Too little involvement can be a sign of depression or isolation. Ensure that

Nancy Fedak, Rito's Honored At City Council

her hometown, her schools, her former employer (Parma City Schools), her friends and neighbors.”

Among Fedak’s volunteer efforts and honors are these: eight years as president of the Parma Senior High Alumni Association; 13 years as a member of Friends of Byers Field Foundation; a founding member of the Board of Trustees for Parma Schools Foundation; induction into the Parma Senior High Alumni Association Hall of Fame; pinching pierogies at St. Josaphat's during annual Lenten fish fries.

The City of Parma is proud to honor Nancy as its June Citizen of the Month.

Rito's Italian Bakery and Deli also earned honors for June, as the Mayor's Business of the Month. The business, located at 10551 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. Founded by Santo Rito and currently operated by Santo, his wife Maria, his sister Maria, his children Jim, Anna, Anthony and Lidia and his grandchildren Dominic and Angela, Rito's puts together a mean cookie tray and makes Italian bread, wedding cakes and cannoli.

Rito's brought along a sizable contingent of its own and included several family and staff members in receiving the honor.

Congratulations to all.

young people constructively use their time for both fun and learning. **This column's focus will be on.....Asset #20 - Time At Home**

Quality time as a family

Work, school, activities, friends, and other obligations can at times pull family members apart rather than bring them together. You don't necessarily have to change activities to find family time. Just be creative.

Here are the facts

Research shows spending quality time together as a family helps young people strengthen skills such as leadership, good health, and success in school. About 51 percent of young people, ages 11–18, spend no more than two nights a week with friends “with nothing special to do,” according to Search Institute surveys. Protecting young people from risky behaviors and helping them develop positive behavior is easier when you spend time together as a family.

Tips for building this asset

Simply start spending time together: First, choose an activity the

Two Local Teachers Honored By The State

by Nanette Penny

Each year the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE) honors a select few outstanding adult education instructors. This year, the honor hits close to home. Two of the instructors from the Parma Adult Education ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) program were chosen among the top instructors in the state.

Kathleen McDonnell, a GED teacher with the program, was awarded the 2015 Northeast Ohio Instructor of the Year. This dedicated teacher began her career after becoming a nun with the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame. McDonnell’s teaching career began as a chemistry and math instructor at the high school level and has led her to a passion for teaching adults. Over the last 42 years, she has become an accomplished GED teacher and has taught for several different programs in Northeast Ohio. She jokes that the award is a “longevity award!” When asked what it meant to be receiving the award, she expressed her gratitude and stated, "To get an award for being a good teacher is very meaningful." She would also like to thank everyone who sent in supportive nomination letters and those who continue to provide support. As for the future, she will continue to educate those around her as long as she is healthy!

entire family enjoys. Then, commit to do the activity together one evening a week. Decide if you want to continue the activity or try something different. Ask yourselves: How often do we laugh together? Have fun together? Enjoy being with each other?

Also try this

In your home and family: Cook dinner together, with each family member preparing a dish. Then, for a fun change, eat dessert first.

In your neighborhood and community: Invite your child’s friend and his or her family over for an evening of family time—movies, games, popcorn and other treats.

In your school and youth program: Avoid scheduling practices or meetings that conflict with the dinner hour. It’s important for families to eat together.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

- The Collab’s Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, July 9th. 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.
- The Collab is once again hosting a free Summer Breakfast (served from 9:00 am to 10:00 am) & Lunch (from noon to 1:30 pm) program for kids ranging from ages 2 to 18. No registration is required – just show up and enjoy. The Collab (Parma Area Family Collaborative) located in the former Hanna Elementary school building,

11212 Snow Rd. Call 440.887.4873 with any questions.

- Campus Life Parma is looking for Parma area high school students to pick up some of the work that remains unfinished following the work of North Coast Mission Connection’s rehab of area homes. Work days are scheduled for 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday July 11 and for the same time on Tuesday, July 14. A pizza party w/the distribution of service certificates will take place from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Contact Lisa Timko at 440.523.1080 or email at ltimko@campuslifecleveland.org for more information. You may also register at facebook.com/campuslifeparma/ events.
- A special THANK YOU to the 100 or so volunteers who worked the “I Can Ride” week long event last month. As a result of their help and support 40 area special needs youngsters passed a life milestone by learning to ride a two wheel bicycle. What a great asset-building event!

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, www.search-institute.org/assets for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go here <http://www.parentfurther.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.

Parma ABLE was thrilled when it was announced that another member of their staff would be receiving the 2015 OAACE Member Scholarship. Hayley Williams is a devoted GED teacher as well as the program’s Volunteer Tutor Coordinator. She is currently enrolled at Colorado State University where she is pursuing a Master of Education in Adult Education and Training. Williams is very passionate about education and the positive impact that her training is having on her students. She described how the scholarship will not

only benefit her, but all the students she will have the privilege of teaching in the future. A future she hopes will include teaching and educating adults for a very long time.

The Parma ABLE program offers FREE year-round classes for adults seeking GED Test Preparation, Adult Basic Education, English Language/ Civics Education, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). For more information, please call 440-885-8797 or visit www.parmacityschools.org/AdultEd.

Timothy J. DeGeeter
Mayor of Parma

Happy 4th of July!

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Inspiration

The Cat And The Mouse

by Ruth Revecky

The cat said to the little mouse who was peeking from a hole, "Let's be friends and go that extra mile!" The mouse's tiny pink nose kept twitching while the cat's tail was swishing. But the cautious little mouse sat calmly nibbling on a small piece of chunky cheddar cheese.

Said the mouse to the cat, "You're so big and I'm so small. One swallow by you and I'd disappear."

Said the cat to the mouse, "You've nothing to fear. I'm a vegetarian, not a meat-eater." The mouse slowly edged his way out of his tiny-holed house, because he felt more secure and somewhat braver. "Let's shake hands," said the cat to the mouse, "and we can be friends forever and ever."

Weeks and days flew by, and the cat and the mouse remained fast friends, until one day when the mouse was away, the cat started sniffing and cat-nipping. When the mouse returned home, he gasped, and said, "Whew!" The cat was stumbling and reeling

'round the room. He was high from sniffing and cat nipping.

The mouse knew he was in deep trouble, because the cat's eyes rolled 'round and 'round in his head, and he was licking his whiskers in anticipation of a delicious gourmet meal. The cat began chasing his little mouse friend in dizzy circles, but the mouse was too fast for the cat and ran into his little home in the wall.

Later when the cat yawned, the mouse ventured out and popped a cube of old green cheese into his open mouth. The mouse knew that cats disliked smelly old cheese. The mouse then said to himself, "Perhaps that will cure him."

The cat, after that, never sniffed or cat-nipped ever again, and for the rest of their lives, the cat and the mouse lived a tranquil existence. The cat remained sober, abstaining from sniffing and cat-nipping, and for the rest of his life was never again a threat to his little mouse friend!

ICan Bike Comes To Parma

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helps build so much confidence for these riders."

On the first day, riders of all ages begin with different levels of training bikes, riding on the concrete floor of Reis Rink. Balance aids such as floor rollers replacing back wheels and volunteer-guided handlebars help riders find ease and confidence as they begin.

Each rider began on Monday with two-three volunteer spotters, who followed them throughout the program, assisting with each progressive step riders took toward independent riding. At 8 riders per session, and 5 sessions per day, over 100 volunteer spotters got involved to make this program possible.

Watching the third session's first rider make it outside on a standard two-wheel bike, there was no question the profound effect this sort of program will have on its participants. Every rider is given a helmet and a medal to take home, to serve as a reminder of everything they have learned and accomplished, as well as to encourage riders to practice and utilize these new skills.

"You want them to take the skills home," said Ezaki. "When the confidence is built, it's amazing to see the effect it can have in their lives."

ICan Bike was sponsored by a number of sources throughout the community, making it a more affordable



option than comparable programs Ezaki had looked into in the past. It was also facilitated by all the volunteers who came out to help. The ICan Bike camp was an important and influential program that truly made a difference to so many members of our community.

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Uranus

by Melanie Clink

I have just arrived
striving for adventure
fulfilling my imagation
surviving on curiosity alone
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won't let itself die
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deep like the sea
never ending horizons
a world of constant change
all preserving the life inside me that
won't let itself die
now I am in harmony with a world like me
I know from the Earth what not to do
my part is just to be
being at peace with this world and the life
out of love, it will grow

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Be not ignorant of this one thing—that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day.

Because none of us have received a perfect upbringing, we have to learn to unlearn those things that do not make sense at this point in our lives and replace them with new learning; blaming keeps this from happening.

Forgiving someone is not necessarily doing something for someone else, although that can be a possibility; it is more a gift we give to ourselves that allows us to move forward with our lives.

If we would try our best to see life from the other person's viewpoint, we would be more humane and empathetic.

In these days of moral confusion with attitudes and actions once outlawed by society and now defended and favored, such as sexual promiscuity and others, there are great pressures on "God-believing" people to compromise their values with these non-Biblical desires.

Scripture encourages people to be primarily concerned with spiritual matters, such as strength of character, honor, and good works.

Scripture is not hard to understand, just hard to believe and even harder to obey. The secret is in the attitude of the heart with which one approaches it.

The closer one gets to God, the more clearly one sees his or her sinfulness and the more wonderful becomes His amazing grace.

There is one God and one mediator (judge) between God and every human being, and that person (advocate) is Christ Jesus.

Those who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness has the promise that God will supply all their earthly needs.

Today, more and more of our elected representatives in government are of questionable loyalty; often they focus on personal gain rather than promoting the common good.

Unfortunately, most people have little or no education on how to be a good husband, wife, or parent in comparison to job education and training.

We often are so busy seeing through other people that we have little or no time, inclination, or desire to see them through.

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?

Cree Indian Proverb

by Bob Stilwell

"Only when the last tree has died and the river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money."

This proverb is saying that we are killing our planet and that will eventually kill us. We have hunted and fished so many species out of existence it isn't funny. We have polluted our lands and waters in the name of the almighty dollar. We plow down forests to make way for big homes and office buildings, displacing animals and depleting our oxygen supply. We call it progress, but is it really? Global warming is proof that this proverb is correct. We are slowly killing our planet, but making a dollar is more important than preserving the earth. The next generation can figure it out because we NEED to use and destroy what we are using and destroying. In the future, they will figure out a better way, but for now we need to do what we need to do. Meanwhile, the threat of global warming increases every day. Animals are disappearing. Lakes are drying up. Shorelines are eroding. Weather patterns are becoming more and more devastating. New diseases appear all the time from the damage we are doing to the planet. We have to wake up soon or the future we dread is going to be the present before we know it.

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Our Local History

Update: Parma Heights Historical Society

by Bob Stilwell

Many improvements have been implemented since the formation of the newly organized Parma Heights Historical Society in 2008. The following is the latest. There are 8 active members that reside in Parma Heights, although this is not a requirement to join the group. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Jim Griffith was instrumental in organizing the startup of The Parma Heights Historical Society, as the original Historical Society of Parma Heights had been disbanded for 8 years. Because of his busy schedule, he left the group and Joe Reeves was elected President of the Historical Society in 2012. We thank Jim for all of his contributions and hope that he may rejoin the group in the near future as his schedule permits.

Joe Reeves, President, helps as needed with all projects that we undertake. We have monthly meetings that Joe conducts. He keeps the City informed as to our various projects. Joe is a lifelong resident of Parma Heights and has a vast knowledge of the city.

At the beginning of this year Loretta Newlen, Secretary, of the Parma Heights Historical Society, introduced an idea to have informal meetings with people from The Parma Heights Senior Center to discuss our local History. Loretta held the first meeting, which proved to be informative. The Historical Society learned a lot as well as the residents.

All subsequent meetings have been held by Parma Heights Historical Society members, Aldo Melaragno, Treasurer, and Fred Koch, Antique and Unusual Items Member. Both of these men are also members of the Parma Heights Garden Club. It is amazing and very interesting what they have learned from the seniors. These meetings have been very beneficial to the Historical Society and the seniors. More importantly, Aldo and Fred have informed people about who we are and what we are doing to preserve our community's History. These guys are awesome, as the seniors will attest to. They didn't even have to pay me to say this, although they do pay the seniors off with donuts. HA! HA! No wonder they love 'em! HA!



HA! Maybe the seniors meant that the donuts were awesome. HA! HA!

Walter Barth, Vice President, has been busy mapping locations of past businesses of Parma Heights along with designing and selling Parma Heights tee shirts, sweat shirts, and hoodies. Walter is a retired Parma Heights Police Officer. He knows every square inch of Parma Heights.

Michael Andrysko, Member is continuously posting fascinating information on Facebook for our Public Group which is titled I was a Parma Heights kid. Jim Griffith was the originator of this group. It has proven to be very popular. Take a look what Mike has posted. You will like what you see. Mike investigates areas and locations of old structures, sawmills, and stone quarries that were here over 180 years ago.

Parma Heights Historical Society Ken Lavelle, Historian, and I have been writing monthly articles of Historical nature to the Parma Observer since last summer. I am also a Research Member of the Historical Society. Ken Lavelle's expertise with computers and credentials are too numerous to mention. He probably knows more about Parma Heights History than all of us together. He is a walking history book. In fact, he has written a walking History tour of Parma Heights in 2011. Daniel P. McCarthy is the Publisher for the Parma Observer. He has attended several of our meetings and has given full support along with the Editor-in-Chief, Stefan P. Stefaniuk. We encourage anyone that is interested in learning more details of our local History to visit us at the Parma Heights Library on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. You may also call the Parma Heights Historical Society President, Joe Reeves, at 216-870-4864. We look forward to seeing you!

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Perspective

What Is Great About Living In The Cleveland Area

by Lee Kamps

I was living in Lexington, KY in 1986 when a coal company headquartered there was acquired by BP and they wanted to transfer their executive and management personnel to Cleveland. Most of those affected that I met were taking the outplacement services rather than accept a transfer to Cleveland. Their impression of Cleveland was very negative.

I grew up in Parma. However, I have lived away from Cleveland for twenty years before moving back here in 1987. During that period I have lived in many different locations as well as visited other cities. Living in other cities and other states gives one a unique perspective on life here in Cleveland.

Junk

by Leo Lampeter

During the fifties and sixties, recalling the quality of American made products actually made you proud to be a part of this country. Appliances were sturdy, would operate efficiently, for that time, and nothing would cause them to break down. Automobiles were made of steel with a sturdy frame. They had sturdy chrome bumpers that would not only protect the vehicle from damage but the people inside. Now when there is an accident they fold up like an accordion and the entire car is scrap. They were made with vent windows an inside vent and you could choose the color that you wanted. The choice of color of the vehicle was yours, not only on the outside (which may have been two- tone) but also the color of the interior. Whatever the customer

If I had to relocate anywhere else, there is a lot I would miss about Cleveland. #1 on the things I would miss list is the Metroparks. I love to ride my bicycle in the parks and on the tow-path trail. In addition to that, there are many great hiking trails throughout the Metroparks. The zoo is first rate. Right up there is the Holden Arboretum. It is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon or a day and their trails are some of the most scenic I have ever hiked. In addition, they have the best cross country skiing trails I have ever skied.

Perhaps #2 of what I would miss is the Cleveland Indians, Browns, and Cavs. No other sports experience beats a seat at Progressive Field that Sports Illustrated rated as THE best bargain in

wanted the manufacturer would try to please. We came a long way from Henry Ford who said you can have the car in any color as long as it is in black. The biggest joke was Japanese merchandise that permeated the market as throw away junk that would be cheap to purchase, wouldn't last very long and was cheaper to replace than to repair.

The most famous items were Japanese radios and Japanese motor cycles and automobiles. The radios would not have a very good sound, but you could hear what you chose. They were compact (by the standard of those days) and that was the selling point, but after a relatively short time you could toss them because they wouldn't function. Junk.

Much the same could be said of the Honda motorcars. The first car that came out was the Honda Civic. The automobile world got a big laugh at this Jap scrap (junk) that could fit no one comfortably, but as they developed, they needed infrequent repair.

Ah, the days of American quality and the Japanese junk, how times have changed. What we didn't realize was that the Japanese had long term plans. They were not planning for the next quarter or the end of the fiscal year, they were planning ten and twenty years in the future. At the present time, the American car still struggles to get caught up with the Japanese technology, and their cars rarely are in need of repair. The American products, however, are in constant need of maintenance in one way or the other. That is because big business has a "new" concept, make as much money as you can this quarter and this year and forget what happens in the long term. Just look at what happened to the big lenders and Auto industry (G.M. in particular). G.M.'s mantra used to be: how G.M. goes, so goes the country. Without G.M. the country would no longer exist. Greed; me now and forget everyone and everything down the road. Planned obsolescence is the mantra of business. That is why the C.E.O.

major league sports (the NFL, NBA, and MLB). Watching a Browns game from the Dawg Pound is an experience not to be forgotten. I have seen many memorable Browns games. I have also seen a no hitter by an Indians pitcher (in 1974) as well as a World Series game where it snowed during the game (1997).

Number 3 of what I would miss from Cleveland is the Cleveland Orchestra. Where else can you see the "best orchestra in the world" according to Time magazine in a fantastic concert hall such as Severance Hall? Is there a better way to spend a summer's evening than at a Cleveland Orchestra concert at Blossom Music Center on the lawn with a picnic and a bottle of wine?

Number 4 would be the fabulous

and C.F.O. don't care, they make tens of millions of dollars when they do a poor job and are released, so why should they care if the workers are making a fair wage or the product is quality or not, thus the diminishing middle class which bears the brunt of keeping the country going in every aspect, from fighting wars (which business encourages so they can make more money by producing for the war machine) to charity contributions.

Now, we sell more items with planned obsolescence than we can put in landfills. We can't repair items because business doesn't make replacement parts, and when they do, they come in modular units, as if the replacement parts aren't outrageously priced already. What happened to American pride in their products? Now that we have outdone the cheap Japanese junk, our junk is expensive.

recreational opportunities here year round. There are a lot of quality public golf courses here where you can play a round of golf for less than \$20.00. I could play a different course each week throughout the season. Sailing on Lake Erie is the closest thing to sailing on the ocean. I know skippers that have sailed on the ocean and the Caribbean and they say Lake Erie is just like the ocean. The Lake Erie islands are terrific places to get away from it all in the summer.

In winter, there are plenty of excellent places for cross country skiing when there is enough snow. Also, where else could one go downhill skiing after work during the week? Granted the local ski areas can't compare with Aspen or Vail, but for convenience they are tops. Also, there are several excellent ice skating venues all over the area so there is no excuse to be a couch potato in the winter.

Number 5 would be the cultural events here. I have seen many world class productions at Playhouse Square and I am still awed by the magnificence of the restored theatres there. The local community theatres also offer excellent productions throughout the year. The many museums in the area not only are educational, but a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon when the weather makes any outdoor activities difficult.

You could also cite the affordable housing costs in the Cleveland area as another thing I would miss. My daughter lives in Chicago and what she pays in rent there could buy a penthouse suite here. If you have ever tried to navigate Chicago traffic (or even Houston traffic), rush hour on the inner belt during a snow storm is nothing.

No place is perfect. San Diego has perfect year round weather and excellent recreational opportunities, but it costs an arm and a leg to live there. Austin, Texas is booming, but you have to endure 100 degree heat just about every day in July and August and if you think there is a lot of construction in Cleveland, you haven't seen anything like Austin.

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Perspective

#PatientsFirst

by Jim Renacci

With the King v. Burwell decision quickly approaching, our goal will remain to protect families and patients no matter the outcome. The Supreme Court is poised to rule on the legality of Obamacare’s exchange subsidies. The President’s health care law states that some individuals who receive health insurance through state-run exchanges are eligible to receive subsidies in order to make the plans affordable. There is no mention in the law, however, as to whether individuals in federally-run exchanges can receive these subsidies. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has interpreted the law to allow the federal government to offer subsidies to individuals who reside in states that did not choose to create a state-run exchange. If the Supreme Court finds that the federal government is not legally authorized to offer these subsidies, health insurance costs will increase for millions of Americans.

Ohio did not set up a state-run exchange, and in the Sixteenth Congressional District, over 11,500 individuals currently receive subsidies through a federally-run exchange and they are at risk of the Court deeming their subsidies invalid. Rather than reduce the actual cost of health care, these subsidies simply hide the true costs from customers. Obamacare has failed to make our health care system more cost effective. This is evidenced by the continuing growth in health insurance premiums due to Obamacare (which I will be examining in the Ways and Means hearing on June 23rd). In the end, we need to get back to a patient-centered health care system, and if the Court does deem the federal exchange subsidies invalid, my colleagues and I will ensure individuals who have their coverage disrupted through no fault of their own will be protected.

Following the Court’s decision, Republicans in Congress will ensure our solution protects families from the negative effects we’ve seen as a result of Obamacare, such as rising premiums and reduced choice in

the types of plans made available to them. Our common sense plan will protect families as we transition away from Obamacare to a system that puts patients back in charge, lowers costs, and provides greater access to quality care. It will also empower states to opt-out of Obamacare, and give them the flexibility and resources to more effectively lower costs and increase choices for American families. Finally, our plan will repeal Obamacare’s individual and employer mandates, the first step

towards repealing the entire law and replacing it with solutions that lower costs and empower patients to choose the care that’s right for them. Families should also rest easy in the knowledge that we will continue to make sure they are able to get coverage if they have a preexisting condition.

As a former CPA with over 25 years of experience in the health care industry, I know firsthand how destructive aspects of this health law have been. Time and time again, I’ve heard from constituents about their rising premium costs, tax increases, loss of their primary physician, and the burdens imposed on

business owners. Since being elected to Congress, I have fought to restore consumer choice and reduce costs, while also consistently supporting transitioning out of Obamacare to common sense, market-centered solutions.

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

Everyone Invited To Enjoy Parma Heights Party In The Commons

continued from page 1

travelling memorial of over 750 flags has the names of 293 Ohioans inscribed on the poles. Invited to the opening ceremony are the families of these soldiers which gives us an opportunity to also thank them for their sacrifices. I encourage all our residents and neighbors to join us as we remember and honor our Fallen Heroes. The Flags of Honor will be on display through Sunday, August 9th at noon when the Closing Ceremony will be held.

The popular outdoor Movie in the Commons, presented in partnership with Cox Communications, will once again be held in the grassy area behind the tennis courts on Friday, August 7th at 9:00 p.m. This year’s feature presentation will be the 2014 Disney 3-D computer-animated comedy film “Big Hero 6” that explores the special bond that develops between a plus-sized inflatable robot named “Baymax” and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. Recreation Director Tom Moran says to be sure to bring your blankets and lawn chairs. In the event of rain, the movie will be moved indoors to the N.E.O. Soccer facility.

Saturday’s entertainment kicks off at noon at Yorktown Lanes with a Car Show and DJ sponsored by Dependable Electric. The classic cars will be on display until 4:00 in the afternoon. Food and drinks from local vendors will be available in the

evening hours on Saturday.

In keeping with the down-home feel of our celebration, this year we selected music groups that have a country theme, featuring Coalies Run and Victory Highway. Coalies Run gets the music flowing at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night. One of Northeast Ohio’s premier live entertainment musical groups, Coalies Run is classified as Modern Country, but features a vast song list guaranteed to please everyone. Anyone interested in checking them out beforehand, can visit their website at: <http://coaliesrun.com>. Five professional musicians with decades of experience make up the group which features a dynamic sound. Coalies Run will play Saturday

night through 8:00 p.m.

Bringin’ it home on Saturday night is Victory Highway who will take you on a journey from the 1970’s classic rock through today’s Rock Country chart toppers. Get ready to rock by visiting their website at: <http://www.victoryhwy.com/> and come celebrate with us right through Victory Highway’s last chorus at 11:00 p.m.

The historic Tollhouse, operated by the Parma Heights Historical Society, will be open for tours on Saturday, and every through Labor Day from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Stop by to visit and view the impressive array of the documented history of our great city.

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Parma Observer

Kiwanis Celebrates 100 Years Serving Children Of The World

by Joe Germana

Recently, Parma Area Kiwanis was very busy continuing its mission to "Serving the Children of the World." The Parma Area Kiwanis has arranged for Ridge-Brook Elementary to establish a "Buddy Bench." The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. It is believed that peer support is a critical factor in combating school bullying and aids in suicide prevention. The hope is that students who are playing at recess will go to the buddy bench and include the children

who are sitting there to play or talk with them. It is a learning opportunity to show care about others when we ask others to play. It also is a hope that new friendships will be made because of the buddy bench.

Kiwanis also encourages good citizenship with quarterly "Terrific Kids" Sundae Bar and awards ceremony. Students are nominated by their teacher for exhibiting good citizenship and/or bringing up their grades. They are then presented an award, shake the hand of and adult Kiwanian, congratulated, and treated to a custom made ice cream sun-



Kiwanis Members Tito Cambreri and Gene Lovasy display the newly acquired "Buddy Bench."



Parma Area Kiwanis received proclamations from the Mayor, City Council, and the Treasurer's office in celebration of Kiwanis International's 100th Anniversary.

Parma Heights Hosts Landlord/Tenant Fair Housing Seminar

by Mike Byrne

Parma Heights has a long, proud history of supporting fair housing and to help ensure that that will always be the case in our town, we are once again hosting a Fair Housing & Landlord/Tenant Rights class on Tuesday, July 28, 2015. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Training Classroom in the Greenbrier Commons, 6200 Pearl Road, Parma Heights. Seating is limited. The class is free to the public.

Darlene English, Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Housing Research & Advocacy Center, and representatives from the Cleveland Tenants Organization will present information regarding the responsibilities of landlords and tenants and how federal law prohibits rental discrimination with regard to religion, race, ethnic background or disability.

The mission of Cleveland Tenants Organization is to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable and accessible rental housing in Greater Cleveland. The Housing Research & Advocacy Center is a non-profit fair housing agency that promotes fair housing and diverse communities, and works to eliminate

housing discrimination in Northeast Ohio by providing effective research, education and advocacy.

The Fair Housing policy for the City of Parma Heights has been updated regularly to mirror federal law. The policy is available for viewing on our website: www.parmaheightsoh.gov and I have included it here for easy reference:

PARMA HEIGHTS SUPPORTS FAIR HOUSING

The City of Parma Heights is a community historically open and accessible to any and all persons without exception or exclusion. Our first Fair Housing Resolution was adopted in 1968 and in 1996, the city adopted a Fair Housing Ordinance, which was updated in December, 2011.

The Fair Housing Ordinance provides for Fair Housing throughout the city, assuring that all persons have full and equal opportunity to consider all available housing for themselves and their families within the city without being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, handicap, familial status, national origin or military status and to promote a stable racially integrated community.

The Fair Housing Ordinance also

dae made and served by Kiwanians.

Parma Area Kiwanis had a table at the City of Parma Safety Fair at the Parma Justice Center on April 25th where they distributed "CHAD" Stickers for car seat and bike helmet safety. "CHAD" stands for "Children Have An iDentity." Too frequently, firefighters come upon a car wreck where the mom is unconscious and there are children in the car who are too young to speak or communicate anything useful to the rescue team. Place a sticker on each child's car seat providing information that can help rescuers. Include: child's name & DOB, parents' names, DOB & phone, emergency contact info, child's doctor, any medical issues, and any medications. This information is also vital in a bike helmet in case of an accident.

established a Fair Housing Review Board to mediate any complaints of discriminatory housing practices.

Any resident or prospective resident of Parma Heights who feels they are being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, handicap, familial status, national origin or military status or needs further information, are asked to contact Housing Coordinator Michelle Teresi at 440-884-9607.

The President's Corner

continued from page 4

July 25.

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian National Church will hold its Annual Ukrainian Festival Parish Feast Celebration on Saturday, July 25 from 12:00 pm to 11:00 p.m. My wife and I make a point of attending this event every summer. The people, the food, and the cold drinks make for an enjoyable lunch or dinner at 5913 State Road. Be sure to take a tour of the beautiful church while you are there!

St. Mary's Polish National Church at 5375 Broadview Road invites residents to their 6th Annual Dinner and Car Show on Saturday, August 1 from 4 to 8 p.m. Authentic homemade polish cuisine, including stuffed cabbage, pierogi, kielbasa and many other favorites are sure to delight. Call 440-781-7910 for more information.

Holy Family Parish at 7367 York Road will celebrate its Summer Festival from August 5th through the

Other projects in April included assisting the Parma School Collaborative unload the trucks for the Food Pantry on April 9th. On April 18th, the Kiwanis fed the homeless and needy families at St. Augustine Church in Tremont. Our April 15th Breakfast meeting featured a speaker from the Cleveland Indians on the upcoming Tribe Season.

Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis' primary focus is giving an opportunity for children to learn leadership skills while providing service to their home, school, and community. For school age children, they sponsor the Kiwanis K-Kids in elementary schools, Builders Club at middle schools, Key Club in High Schools, CKI in colleges, and Aktion Clubs for adults with disability. Locally, the Parma Area Kiwanis sponsors clubs at Green Valley and Pleasant Valley Elementary, Greenbriar Middle School, Normandy, Padua, Parma, and Valley Forge. They also sponsor a "Terrific Kids" Sundae Bar at Ridge-Brook Elementary for kids who "Bring Up Grades" and exhibit good citizenship. Parma Area Kiwanis meets weekly on Wednesday. For more information, see www.parmaareakiwanis.org or call Joe Germana at (440) 882-2012.

9th. Great festival foods, nightly entertainment, games for all ages, fireworks on Saturday night and much more always make for a wonderful time.

Of course, everyday this summer you can stroll through the newest gem in the Cleveland Metroparks' Emerald Necklace - the West Creek Reservation - on West Ridgewood Drive between Broadview and State Roads. If you have not been there, you don't know what you are missing. It is sure to remind you of why we should be proud to live in our fine city. The Watershed Stewardship Center is famous throughout the country for its dedication to educating residents about the latest green trends. You will be amazed at the diversity of flora and fauna throughout the park.

In closing, there is plenty to do in Parma this summer. So, go out, support a local organization and, most of all, enjoy yourself!

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The Parma Art Scene

Artist Of The Month Laurie Sak

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

Laurie Sak – The Woodcarver’s Daughter

Our area experienced a White Hurricane, severe blizzard conditions, bitter cold and strong winds, during the winter of 1978. One brutally cold



Dragon Fish by Laurie Sak.

winter day in 1978, when Laurie was suffering from a particularly bad case of cabin fever, she called her Dad, and he offered to teach her to carve. Her Dad was an excellent woodcarver, cabinet maker, pilot, and former owner of an airport in California. He had a large shop in his barn/hanger in Lodi, Ohio. She has many fond memories of the time they spent together, as she learned the art of carving wood. In addition to carving, he taught her the proper method of caring for her tools, saying that it would be a reflection on him as a teacher if he did not instruct her properly in their care and maintenance.

In 1985, Laurie joined the Parma Wood Carvers Guild, which was later renamed Great Lakes Wood Carvers. GLWC meets monthly, on the evening

of the fourth Thursday, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. A variety of projects such as animals and caricature carvings are offered. Winter holidays are celebrated with Santa’s, snowmen and angels. Each member is given a cutout during the monthly meeting to work on, and it is interesting to see how each member personalizes it in their own style. Members also work on their own individual projects which are shared with the group. They have a monthly newsletter that provides information on upcoming shows throughout Ohio, photos of completed pieces and other news worthy items. Tuesday evenings, weekly, they also have an open carve night. Tuesday’s Open Carve is an informal group of like-minded individuals joined in friendship for their love of carving. The group has always held the tenet to help each become better and more knowledgeable carvers. Laurie tells me that over the years she has had the honor of meeting many wonderful and talented woodcarvers, and formed lasting friendships through this group.

Last year, Laurie and the GLWC were involved in a statewide project called Fallen Feather, which honored Ohioans who gave their lives in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn in the Middle East. Each carver lovingly created a feather from a prescribed blank adding detail and their own design with the name of a fallen Ohio soldier. Each carved wooden feather was mounted into a .50 caliber shell casing. The casings hang



Santa Scene by Laurie Sak.



Parma Art Show.

on a 5x10 foot board of buckeye wood. A carved eagle looms atop the display with a tear dropping from its eye. The memorial now resides permanently at the Ohio Society of Military History in Massillon, Ohio.

Laurie has exhibited at the Artistry in Wood show in Dayton, Ohio, the largest of its kind with over 300 exhibitors and vendors. She has also shown at the Sauder Village Woodcarvers Show, just outside of Archbold, Ohio. In the winter, Laurie and her husband travel to Texas “to avoid

stayed on at Tri-C and worked as the Earth Science tutor for 15 years.

Like most artists, she dabbles in other mediums. She’s been known to pick up a brush and paint in oils. Her Mother taught her to sew, which led to her interest in quilting. Her goal is to complete a bed sized quilt for each of her five grandchildren. She also makes hardanger doilies. Traditionally this is a white or cream embroidery, although colors are now popular. Hardanger embroidery is named after a region in SW Norway, although the origins are thought to have started in the Middle

East and traveled throughout Europe then fine-tuned in Norway. It uses a combination of basic embroidery, cut-work, drawn-work, and needle weaving into geometric patterns.

But her passion is with carving. Laurie said “there is something about the feel of a block of wood in my hands that always draws me back to carving.” Mahogany and Butternut are her favorite, as they have a warm rich color and beautiful grain.



Welsh Love Spoon by Laurie Sak.

shoveling snow.” She has joined other “Winter Texans” from across the US who enjoy carving. She has exhibited at the Rio Grande Woodcarvers Show in San Juan, Texas, and the Chip-O-Tex Show in Harlington, Texas. Her pieces have also appeared in ‘Chip Chats’ Magazine, published by the National Woodcarvers Association. This May, she won Best In Show and First Place in Three-Dimensional Art in the Parma Area Fine Arts Council’s annual show for her Welsh Love Spoon carved out of Butternut.

After her two sons had grown she attended Tri-C and graduated Magna Cum Laude with an Associate of Arts Degree. Several of her pieces were chosen to appear in Tri-C’s shows. She

She prefers to carve in high relief, and botanical subject matter is her favorite. “There is a freedom of creative expression and a limitless supply of ideas from the garden.” She commented on how she wished that her Dad could be here to see what she has accomplished.

If you are interested in learning more about Great Lakes Wood Carvers, stop in Tuesday evenings at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, and say hello.

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

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