

“Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy”- HL Mencken

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Joe Bobak To Become Parma's Ninth Police Chief

by Jeannie Roberts

The Parma Police Department and the City of Parma are pleased to announce the selection of Captain Joseph Bobak as the city's ninth police chief. Capt. Bobak will replace current Chief of Police Robert Miller, who is retiring later this year.

Bobak was selected on January 8, after an intense interview process led by a panel consisting of Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Safety Director Michael O'Malley, and Strongsville Police Chief James Kobak.

"We are more than pleased with the selection of Captain Bobak as our new Chief, and we look forward to moving our city forward together," DeGeeter said. "I want to thank Chief Miller publicly for his great service to the city, and I extend thanks as well to the other applicants who interviewed for the chief position and for their leadership within the department."

In an evaluation of Bobak, Miller calls him "a confident leader ... who understands the delicate relationship between supervision and keeping officers motivated. Captain Bobak is well-liked by his officers."

Bobak, a Parma resident, has served with the Parma



Captain Joseph Bobak

Police Department for 25 years. He is currently the department's Executive Officer and commander of the Detective Bureau, where he oversees the handling of criminal investigations in all three units of the detective bureau.

Bobak was instrumental in implementing the police department's Crime Scene Unit, which collects and processes forensic and trace evidence at crime scenes. He also serves as the commander of the SWAT team and the police firearms range.

"I'd like to thank Mayor DeGeeter and Safety Director O'Malley for this opportunity," Bobak said. "I am looking forward to working together with city officials, residents, and businesses in the immediate and long-term future for the

betterment of Parma."

Bobak, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master's

degree in Criminal Justice from Tiffin University, also oversaw the development of the department's computer forensics lab, where detectives

are now able to forensically examine various types of electronic and digital evidence.

In 2008, Bobak graduated from the University of

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Parma Fire Dept. Hopes To Save City Nearly \$1 million In 2016

by Jeannie Roberts

In a report called "Six-month Assessment Report," the Parma Fire Department has announced detailed goals that would mean significant cost savings to the city in 2016. Parma Fire Chief Mike Lasky presented the report to the city administration and Parma City Council earlier this month.

Lasky's power point presentation was centered around a SAFER grant that provides

\$794,286 for two years. The grant provides for salary and benefits for eight new firefighters, who will be sworn in on January 7. That brings the department's number of firefighters/paramedics to 107.

The addition of the eight new firefighters means that the department can save \$297,818 in overtime costs alone, in addition to the savings realized as a result of the grant paying

continued on page 2



Fire Chief Mike Lasky details his department's plan to save significant dollars for the city in 2016.

Tri-C Selects Donna Imhoff To Lead Western Campus in Parma

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) has named Donna Imhoff as the president of the College's Western Campus in Parma. Imhoff has spent the past three decades at Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, where she rose in the ranks to become president of the largest campus in the CCAC system.

She arrives at Tri-C with a reputation as a champion for students. As a first-generation college graduate, Imhoff said she understands the uncertainty that grips many community college students taking their first steps into higher education.

"Community colleges provide opportunities for all" continued on page 9



Donna Imhoff

Parma's Citizens And...



Congratulations to the Christian Service Program of Padua Franciscan High School, named the Mayor's Citizens of the Month, and to Soza Fitness and Wellness, 5236 Ridge Road, for being selected as the Mayor's Business of the Month. Both organizations are being honored for all they do in the name of service. Padua students are required to perform acts for Christian Service, and they serve in many different ways such as volunteering at hospitals or hunger centers and nursing homes. Additionally, the students help with snow removal and leaf raking. Here with Mayor Tim DeGeeter are

... Business Of The Month



Padua principal David Stec, Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis, Padua's Christian Service Coordinator Robert DiRocco, and Father Allan DaCorte, President of Padua Franciscan. Soza Fitness is involved in many charitable events including All Dogs' Heaven Volunteer Rescue Group, Parma Animal Shelter, and Parma City Schools and continually gives back to the community by collecting backpacks with winter essentials for the homeless, holding holiday food drives, and recently, by starting a class on Friday evenings to allow parents to run errands while their children are exercising and playing games. Owners of the business are Matt Soza, a lifelong local resident; Frank Rando, who relocated from New York and has lived in Parma for the past 25 years; Greg Simon, who has lived exclusively in Parma; and DK Jones, who moved from Michigan to put down roots in the Parma/Brooklyn area 5 years ago.

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month’s column is dedicated to an issue that will appear on your Tuesday, March 15 Primary Election ballot which, unfortunately, has not received a lot of attention. In fact, the same issue will appear on the ballot not only in Parma, but also in Parma Heights, Seven Hills, North Royalton, Strongsville, and Broadview Heights. Issue 13 on the Parma ballot will state the following:

“Shall the City Council amend Section 618.11 Hunting or Trapping Prohibited; 618.21 Hunting Prohibited; and 961.02 Park Property of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Parma to permit the limited hunting of white-tailed deer by crossbow or long bow by licensed individuals conducted from elevated platforms, under terms and conditions established by the State of Ohio and City of Parma, and under the supervision of the Chief of Police?”

For months, my colleagues and I have heard from a multitude of residents asking what can be done to solve the “deer problem.” From health and safety concerns to the destruction of expensive landscaping, elected officials in Parma and throughout Northeast Ohio have been seeking a solution that would prove effective, yet not cost prohibitive. In fact, Parma City Council has held a multitude of meetings and heard from many experts. Unfortunately, most of what we



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

have heard did not convince us that these two goals could be achieved.

The biggest dilemma in the eyes of many elected officials was that an intra-city solution was not going to work. Quite frankly, you can cull all the deer you want in Parma, but deer do not know city boundaries. In fact, we learned of cities that have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars attempting to cull their herds which continue to have an overpopulation of deer. Therefore, the conclusion was drawn that only a regional solution would work. I am happy to say that the mayors and city councils of cities mentioned above are working together to make this happen by placing the issue on the ballot for the voters to decide.

If passed, the ordinance will allow for the following:

- * The Police Chief may issue Municipal Deer Control Permits to qualified archer applicants, following the issuance by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources of its own Deer Management Control Permits to allow only bow-hunting (long bow or crossbow)

- * Hunting in areas of not less than five contiguous acres by state-licensed hunters proficient in the use of bow and arrow, subject to such rules and regulations as the Chief may prescribe

- * Hunting shall be conducted on an elevated platform only

- * Written permission from the property owner(s) must be obtained

- * Qualified archers must pass a state approved archery proficiency test and hold a valid Ohio hunting license

- * The Chief of Police is authorized to create any other rules and regulations necessary to ensure public health and safety

Interestingly, as I was typing this column, I received an e-mail that the Cleveland Metroparks culled 40 deer yesterday in the West Creek Reservation on Ridgewood Drive in Parma. The meat from their culling operations is donated to local foodbanks, which is also the

intent of the program described here. Please note that in order to vote on March 15, you must be registered by February 16. Voting by mail will begin on February 17. Voter registration forms and vote by mail applications can be obtained from your city hall, the Cuyahoga County Public Library, or by calling the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 216-443-VOTE.

In closing, I want to thank the many residents who have contacted me about this issue and I urge you to vote “YES” on Issue 13 in the March Primary Election. I am hopeful that the issue will pass in Parma and the other cities, so that a regional solution to the overpopulation of deer will finally be addressed for the health, safety, and beauty of our cities.

Tri-C Western Campus Hosts Visitation Day On Feb. 15



by John Horton

The Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host a Visitation Day on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 15, with sessions running from 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m.

The open house provides prospective students with an opportunity to discover Tri-C’s academic programs; learn more about enrollment, financial aid, and scholarships; explore student services; and tour the facilities.

This free event is open to the public and parking is available. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Four other Tri-C locations also will offer the opportunity for Presidents Day visits, including the Brunswick University Center, Eastern Campus in Highland Hills, Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland and Westshore Campus in Westlake.

For more information or to register at any of the sites, visit www.tri-c.edu/campusvisitation.

Parma Fire Dept. Hopes To Save City Nearly \$1 Million In 2016

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salaries. Resulting shift realignments allows for another \$45,286 and vacation savings for new hires over more experienced personnel adds another \$100,800 to the savings.

All told, Chief Lasky estimates that the city can save nearly \$1 million in 2016 alone.

Going forward, the department looks to add to savings by using technology differently as well. Officers meetings and classes can be done via Skype when possible, which would save approximately \$15,000 in fuel costs, and iPads are being deployed to cut down on paper costs for inspections and violations.

Volunteer opportunities

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In the United States, heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. During National Heart Month, we invite you to join us as our medical and surgical leaders put your heart front and center. Gather valuable information from presentations and interactive panels featuring premier University Hospitals Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute physicians – and get the insights you need to improve your heart health.

This event is FREE, but space is limited.
Appetizers and beverages will be served.

- 5 p.m.
Registration, screenings, appetizers and beverages
- 6 p.m.
Welcome – *Christine Zirafi, MD, Director, UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute Women’s Cardiovascular Center, moderator*
- 6:10 p.m.
Past, present and future of heart care – *Raju Modi, MD*
- 6:30 p.m.
Onco-cardiology – *Arthur Ulatowski, MD*
- 6:50 p.m.
Vascular/Stroke – *John Andrefsky, MD*
- 7:10 p.m.
Panel discussion, featuring:
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Atrial fibrillation – *James Ramicone, MD*
Peripheral arterial disease – *Kaushal Shah, MD*

TO REGISTER, call 1-877-597-6348 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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2016 **HEALTH**
Matters

Health/Culture

A Heart-To-Heart With Health Experts On Feb. 11 at UH Parma

by CJ Sheppard

Join your neighborhood experts at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center for a “Heart to Heart” day in honor of your health on Thursday, Feb. 11. This free event, held from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, presents premier physicians from UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute in an evening that puts your heart front and center. Enjoy heart-healthy red wine and appetizers while learning valuable information from physician presenters and an interactive panel discussion.

Cardiologist Christine Zirafi, MD, will moderate the event, with other topics including the Past, Present and Future of Heart Care with Raju Modi, MD, a look at the vascular system and stroke with John Andrefsky, MD, and a talk on oncocardiology, or the effect of cancer treatment on the heart, with Arthur Ulatowski, MD. A panel discussion on heart failure, atrial fibrillation and peripheral arterial disease brings more cardiologists and a vascular surgeon to the table.

Space is limited. To register now, call 877-597-6348 between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Volunteer in 2016

by Dianna Kall

Did you add volunteering to your List of Resolutions for 2016? If so, call us for more details on these and other opportunities in Cuyahoga County.

Bloodmobile - Help support the work of various bloodmobiles in the area. You would greet, register, and guide the blood donors through the donation process at blood drives throughout Cuyahoga County.

Companion Volunteer - Visit with residents of senior living facilities and/or medical facilities on a regular basis. You visit and read to them, watch TV, play games, complete puzzles, or entertain a fun conversation. There are flexible days and times.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers, 216-391-9500, greaterclevelandvolunteers.org



Recycling Awareness

by Bob Stilwell

Aluminum is 100% recyclable; it can be used over and over and over again. Recycling is energy-conserving.

Aluminum cans are recycled quickly; empty aluminum cans are recycled and back on store shelves in as few as 60 days.

Saves Energy: It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than create it from raw materials.

Reduces Emissions: Recycled aluminum requires less energy, so it produces 95% less emissions, such as greenhouse gases.

Conserves Natural Resources: Recycling aluminum helps conserve natural resources such as bauxite and water.

More than pays for itself: Aluminum is the only material that more than covers the cost of collection and re-processing for itself and subsidizes other containers, including plastic and glass.

Generates Revenues for Volunteer Ventures: Recycling is a source of revenue for schools, Habitat for Humanity and other volunteer groups.

Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough electricity to: power a TV for 3 hours, or a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours.

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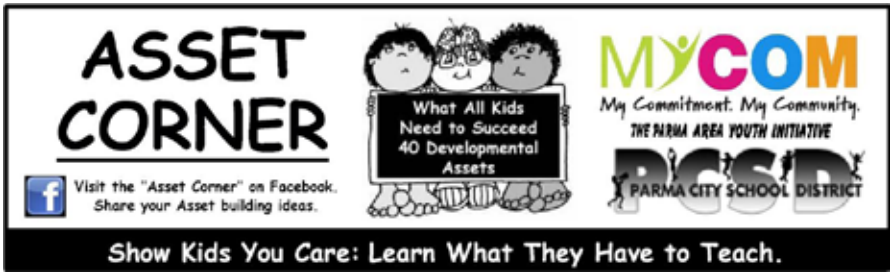
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Education



Asset Corner #74

by Gene Lovasy
SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: KEEP THE PROMISES YOU MAKE. February's Asset Category:

POSITIVE VALUES

Values shape young people's relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends. This column's focus will be on..... **Asset 26:** Caring

Follow your good intentions with great actions

People can help and care for others directly or indirectly. Direct help is when you spend time and interact with people who need care. Indirect help is when you collect money, food, or other items to give to people who distribute the items to those in need. It's important for young people to be involved in both direct and indirect caring.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who place a high value on caring are more likely to promote and model positive rather than negative behaviors. About 50 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they place a high value on helping others, according to Search Institute surveys. If everyone cared for one another, the world would be a safer, happier, more peaceful place.

Tips for building this asset

Caring about others includes caring for a lot of different people: those in your family, neighborhood, school, community, state, country, and the world. It can also include caring for animals and the environment. Volunteering—whether for a group or an individual—is an excellent way for young people to show they care. But the easiest, quickest way to demonstrate you care? Simply smile at those around you.

Also try this

In your home and family: Do volunteer work together as a family—at an animal shelter, a nature center, a food bank, or for another cause you care about.
In your neighborhood and community: Have a neighborhood garage sale. Use the proceeds to purchase

necessities and gifts for a local family in need or donate them to a local charity.
In your school or youth program: Facilitate a reading circle in which middle and high school students spend one hour a week reading to — and interacting with — elementary school children.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Plan now on attending the **Partners In Education (P.I.E.) sponsored Annual Pierogi Dinner** at Parma H.S.'s Cafeteria on Friday February 26th. Advanced sale only tickets are available at all school locations and at the Central Office – Fish Dinner = \$10.00; Pierogi Dinner = \$7.00. Carry-out available; make checks payable to P.I.E.; all proceeds go to support of our schools.

Parma Council of PTAs' Annual Babysitter Training Course for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders is scheduled for Saturday, March 12th and Saturday, March 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Training includes the opportunity to be CPR and First Aid certified by members of the Parma & Parma Heights Fire Department. Cost for the 2 session program is \$30.00. Contact your school's PTA rep for registration information; the deadline is March 4th.

Parma Area MyCom Youth Development Planning Committee meetings ... We're still looking forward to wrapping up this project in the next several months with an update to the existing plan that'll set a direction for our efforts and carry us through the next several years. For more information about MyCom, visit <http://mycom.net>.

Our CBS Connects Grant ... Visit <http://cbsconnects.org/field-trips> to get the latest information regarding scheduled, career-related field trips with some already being scheduled into March. Learn more and encourage your kids to check out this unique, grant-funded, career-readiness service for our students. If you're a business willing to host small groups of kids to view your facility and learn more about the business and related careers and/or you're a professional willing to mentor a student or just share information about your career/profession, call Chuck Caldwell, CBS Connects Coordinator, at 440-305-3054. Visit www.cbsconnects.org for program details.

The District's DECA Program (an Association of Marketing Students) and CMM (Cooperative Marketing Mgmt.) have teamed up to host a Career Expo at Valley Forge H.S. on Friday, May 6th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is designed for high school students to meet reps from

colleges/universities and employers to find out about the schools, companies, related careers, and required skill sets. Here's a great opportunity for our business community, and particularly our CBS Partners, to demonstrate support for our District's students. For registration information, call Carolyn Holt-Balis at 216-885-8440.

The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, February 11th. Help is needed in the morning (9:00 a.m.) to unload and setup, and again in the afternoon (2:00 p.m.) for distribution. Volunteer opportunities are available not only at the Collab, but in every school within the District. Just some of the programs in serious need of help include the Discovery Centers, Parenting Partners, Project More, and Teach Me to Read. Contact Kira Karabanovs, Director of Family and Community Engagement for details – email: karabanovsk@parmacityschools.org; ph: 440-842-7022.

City Of Parma Scholarships Up For Grabs

by Sean Brennan
The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2016 award season. In its ninth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. Applications may also be obtained at Parma City Hall, any of the Parma Cuyahoga County Public Library branches or any

Regarding the recently released State Report Card, visit the PCSD web site at www.parmacityschools.org to read an open letter from Interim Superintendent Hilling as it relates to the data presented.

If you haven't heard, the Parma Heights Library will be temporarily closed for renovations beginning February 1st through approximately May 1st.

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 to <http://www.parentfurther.com> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities, and ideas.

high school located within the Parma City School District. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2016 – 2017 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service, and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is March 31, 2016. For more information or to donate to the Foundation, please contact Parma City Council President and Board of Trustees Member Sean Brennan at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov or 440-885-8091.

Joe Bobak To Become Parma's Ninth Police Chief

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ated from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety-School of Police Staff and Command, and in 2014 he completed the Police Executive Management Program at Northwestern University. As a result of completing these police executive training programs, Capt. Bobak received the Public Safety Executive Leadership award from Northwestern University.

In 2011, Bobak graduated from the

FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

A former commissioned officer in the U.S. Army where he attained the rank of captain, Bobak served as the company commander for a military police unit.

"Public safety is of utmost priority in our city," DeGeeter said. "We are very confident that with Capt. Bobak in the Chief position, Parma will remain one of the safest cities of its size in the country."

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INSPIRATION

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Although I may not walk with kings, let me be big in little things.
Be wisely world, not worldly wise.
Complete the most important things first; it is usually the best course of action.
Do a good deed every day if you can; peace and joy will come if we accept God’s plan.
Do not evaluate each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.
Every ass loves to hear himself bray.
Every vice has its excuse ready.
Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone.
Few people are modest enough to be content to be estimated at their true value.
Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.
It is your point of view that decides what you see.
Jesus paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.
No life is pleasing to God that is not useful and beneficial to people.
No work, however humble, dishonors a person.
Nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.
Reputation is what people think of us; character is what God knows of us.
Secret to success: “Do unto others as you would have done unto you.”
Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven.
Spiritual hunger is never satisfied with material food.
Statistics are like a bikini: what they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.
Success comes in cans. Failure comes in can’ts.
Talkers are no good doers.
Teachers affect eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops.
The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.
The soul, like the body, lives by what it feeds on.
There is a price to pay for rebellion and immoral behavior—
negative consequences are guaranteed.
There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.
To be wronged is an unending problem if we continue to remember it.
Truth is what stands the test of experience.
We must be strong and carry on.
We must make it a point to help rather than condemn those who do not abide in God’s Word.
Will the road you are on get you to my place? —God.
Worldly pleasures of our choosing can crowd God out of our lives.
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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150 Years Ago

by Bob Stilwell

4/9/1865 - Surrender of the Army of Virginia was held at the McLean house in the Village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, signaled the end of the nation’s longest war. Two important questions about its future were answered: Could the nation survive a civil war intact? And would the nation exist without slavery? The answer to both was yes and a new nation was born.
6/2/1865 - In an event that signaled the end of the fighting, Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of Confederate forces west of the Mississippi, signs the surrender terms offered by the Union negotiations. With Smith’s surrender, the last Confederate army ceased

to exist, bringing a formal end to the bloodiest four years in U.S. History.
The American Civil War began on 4/12/1861, when Confederate shore batteries under General Pierre G.T. Beauregard opened fire on Union-held Fort Sumter in South Carolina, Charleston Bay. During 34 hours, 50 Confederate guns and mortars launched more than 4,000 rounds at the poorly supplied fort, and on 4/13/1861, U.S. Major Robert Anderson, commander of the Union garrison, surrendered. Two days later, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling 75,000 volunteer soldiers to help quell the Southern “insurrection.” Four years later, the Confederacy was defeated at the total cost of 620,000 Union and Confederate dead.

Sounds Of Music

by Ruth Revecky

Listen carefully! Sounds of music permeate the Air -- sighing winds, laughing children, chirping Sparrows, croaking frogs, growling dogs, and Hissing cats – all have unique sounds.
Violins sing and trumpets command, while piano Notes perfume the music room; falling leaves crunch Beneath shuffling feet; corn begins popping in August’s Blistering heat; and in winter, crackling ice creates Music as skaters glide over frozen lakes.
Yes, sounds of music are everywhere; drums beat to Dancing feet; flutes create rhythms that move Ballerinas to bend with grace; tapping toes and Clicking heels blend together, creating contemporary Refrains.
Grumbling thunder, splintering spears of lightening, Cradles rocking like a rhythmic metronome, babies Cooing, mothers crooning soft melodies to their Beautiful child; bleating lambs, clucking hens, Excited roosters crowing again, all fill the air with Strange, symphonic music.
Melting ice becomes a chilly stream, bubbling Staccato notes as it flows to a melodic dream. God’s world symphony is oft-times syncopated, But He’s in command – enjoy the concert He Orchestrates, by a wave of His majestic baton.

February Moment

Chocolate Valentines And Red Wines!

by Christian Fitzharris

Valentine's Day is fast approaching! What will you do to make it memorable for your loved one? You shared a sparkling moment years ago that led you to choose each other to be with for years to come! There was a time when you looked at each other with vulnerable, sparkling eyes and trusted each other enough to ease up on time with friends and dedicate time to the other because the joy you gained from being together was so magnificent. Others haven't found their partner yet. It's an exciting time to not lose hope and realize that there is someone out there for you!

Valentine's Day should be a reminder that there is someone out there for you, too! But the real question is...what will you drink when you are together?! That is the real question! You could just have a couple of beers on tap, but that may not lead to the most memorable history to look back upon. Valentine's Day is about chocolate and tender cards with simple sentiments of

love and caring joy.

The number one wine that pairs with chocolate is sweet Port from Portugal. Representing sweet love at especially this time of year! Most grocery stores and wine shops carry an acceptable Port. There are generally two types of Port: Tawny and Ruby. What is the difference? Tawny is perfect with dark chocolate and even bleu cheese, but Ruby Port is especially wonderful with those ripe berries and dark chocolate treats one may offer another in this season of love. Port is from Portugal and it is sweet, high-alcohol wine that allows inhibitions to be free and it is delicious with sweet treats and even blue cheese.

For chocolate, we have Malley's, locally, and even the West Coast standard of excellence, See's Candies. So, research and invest wisely in the one person that you love and cherish and make this Valentine's Day one for the history books!

Laugh, love, and enjoy! Cheers!



On Tuesday, Jan. 19th, the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce held a Grand Opening Ceremony for Hungry Howie's Pizza at its new location - 10227 Brookpark Rd.

Cuyahoga County Board Of Elections Hiring Over 5,000 Workers For March Primary

by Cathy Bajic

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is seeking temporary employees and poll workers for the March 15, 2016 Primary Election. Applications are now being accepted for more than 5,000 paid positions. "Our democracy depends on citizens being engaged in the election process," said Pat McDonald the Director of the Board of Elections. "Poll workers are the backbone of all elections as they assist voters on Election Day, and temporary employees help with vital administrative work before, during and after each election," said McDonald.

Poll Workers earn up to \$200.00 for their service, which includes successfully completing a poll worker training class and attending a meeting the night before the election.

Over 150 temporary employees are being hired to perform a wide range of duties. These jobs can last up to several months.

The public is invited to apply for poll worker and temporary positions online in the Employment section of the Board's website: www.443VOTE.com.



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Perspective

Xenophobia Is No Solution To The Nation's Problems

by Lee Kamps

After the mass shootings in Paris and San Bernardino, just about every Republican presidential candidate and governor went on record refusing to accept any Syrian refugees into the United States. But President Obama has said that the United States will accept only 10,000 of the refugees from Syria and the Middle East. So far, Germany has accepted more than ten times that number. Gaining asylum in the United States as a refugee is not easy. There is a very long process to screen those seeking refugee status in the United States.

Cops

by Leo Lampeter

Now, we have entered into an area that piques people's interest. Whether it is in a positive or negative vein, everyone has at least one thought about cops. If you have had a negative encounter, such as receiving a citation for speeding, there is not much of a chance the attitude toward the police is positive. If they have assisted you in a time of need, they are then super heroes. Usually the feelings toward them are rarely lukewarm. When someone calls and the response doesn't come, city hall will get a call. Even if the police were responding to a call like the one at Chuck E. Cheese or the robbery of a local bank.

People only realize what is hap-

In fact, our borders are far more secure than the borders in Europe.

In addition, those admitted to the United States as refugees often assimilate very quickly into the United States and within a short time become productive citizens. Forty years ago, I became acquainted with a Vietnamese refugee family who had settled into northern Ohio with the support of a local church. The father was an engineer in South Vietnam and he and his family were able to escape when Saigon fell in April 1975. He was fluent in English, French, and Vietnamese, but his

pening in their own world. Their own situation is the not only the most important, it is the only situation. You can't forget when you were in a crosswalk and a police car was there waiting for the light to change and then, without lights flashing or siren blaring, he takes off like the car was on fire, only to stop at the next traffic light. Knowing that there would be no penalty for him to break the law, it is not infrequent that this "privilege" is used. Yet they haven't the time to write citations for traffic violations other than speeding. They are always caught in the middle. They probably would get writer's cramp from the citations of the individuals on their cell phones, not

wife was not. They had two children.

Within a short time, the mother was enrolled in the adult education program to learn English and the children were enrolled in the local schools. The father was able to find employment, but at a low wage, so the family still needed assistance. However, within a short time, the father had started a business with the mother working in the business. After a few years, the family was able to afford to buy a nice house in a suburban neighborhood and the business was thriving. Should have we turned away this family back in 1975?

attentive to traffic. How about the ones texting while behind the wheel of a car? These offenses would be enough to fill the coffers of city hall. The situation is that citations for these hazardous situations would be difficult to fine because the police rarely, if ever, cite anyone for these acts of inattentive behavior behind the wheel.

There is, however, no hesitation among administrators to put these officers in harm's way while administrators are risking their lives behind a desk. If you are wondering the reason for this: the police are too occupied with higher priority concerns. On a comparative basis, this city is woefully understaffed when it comes to law enforcement. You see there are not enough funds available to support a larger force that would be available to protect the citizens of this city. The administrators made certain that the trash fees were raised so that the trash would receive a priority, but the safety of the citizens takes a back seat to trash.

There is one other issue: the administrators made certain that they received their income increase to the tune of a reported \$2.4 million dollars. If there were a sense of propriety, would not the police be ahead of the pencil pushers? You see, if that \$2.4 million had been used for the city (ie. citizens), there could have been twenty new officers hired on a full-time basis. Not only that, the trash expense would have not been an issue and there would have been enough money to keep the pools open in the warm weather. The administrators, however, chose to fill their own pockets, in a cash-strapped city, as a priority.

To read more from retired Parma resident Leo Lampeter, check out the online blog, Leo Lampeter Speaks!, at <https://leolampeter.wordpress.com>

Very often refugees and immigrants are more likely to start their own businesses or buy an existing business. As part of the local business community, they want to be a part of their neighborhood. The weekend before Christmas, I was at a local restaurant on the West Side that is owned by a Middle Eastern family who happens to be Moslem. They had a "breakfast with Santa" for the children in the neighborhood and gave those children toys for Christmas. Is this the kind of person that we want to keep out of the country?

The United States faces a far greater risk of a terrorist attack from one of our own than any refugee or recent immigrant. Remember that besides the September 11, 2001 attacks, the greatest terrorist attack in the United States was the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City in April 1995 by a young man who had served in the Army and was aligned with right-wing militia groups. That bombing killed 168 innocent lives, including around 20 children in the day care center.

The San Bernardino shooter was a man in his 40s who was born in the United States and had lived here all his life. He worked with those who were shot in his rampage and lived in the local community. His wife was a recent immigrant who arrived on a spousal visa. Spousal visas also have a long process of vetting. There was nothing in either person's background that would raise any alarm. This couple also had a baby girl that they abandoned when they went on their rampage.

Granted, the United States needs to do a more thorough process of screening immigrants and visitors to this country. We also need to be more vigilant about suspected suspicious activity involving terrorism. But in the process, the United States cannot become a police state nor should we turn our backs on refugees escaping war or terrorism

President Obama was correct when he said in reaction to those who want to ban entry into the United States of Moslems or by refusing to accept any Syrian refugees that is "not who we are" and that the United States "is better than that." Since the arrival of the colonists in Virginia and Massachusetts, the United States is a nation of immigrants and refugees. Most of us have an ancestor who is either an immigrant or a refugee from another country who came to the United States for a better life. We must not give in to fear and hatred. As President Obama said, "it's not who we are as Americans."



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Observer

Summer Break Shouldn't Mean Going Hungry For Ohio Children

by Sherrod Brown

Last week, I outlined our top priorities for the upcoming year – and we are getting to work immediately on one of them: renewing and expanding nutrition programs that ensure Ohio children don't go hungry, particularly during the summer months.

One-quarter of Ohio's children live in households that have experienced hunger during the past year, and childhood nutrition programs are critical to providing school lunch and breakfast for these students. But too many of these children don't have access to a nutritious meal when school cafeterias close for the summer.



All Ohio children should be able to count on healthy, nutritious meals year round – summer break shouldn't mean going hungry.

We've worked with advocates across the state to raise awareness of the summer feeding program each year, and last week the Senate Agriculture Committee voted to advance legislation that includes my bipartisan Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act.

More than 633,000 Ohio children receive free or reduced-priced lunch on an average day, but many of these same students miss out on this important source of nutritious food in June, July, and August. The summer feeding program helps bridge the gap, but right now it's only reaching about 10 percent of children who need it. Our provision would improve the way we reach students during the summer, to ensure more children get the food they need.

It would help provide food to children who can't access summer feeding sites. With school buses often not operating when school is out of session, many children – particularly in

rural areas – have no way to get to the churches and recreation centers and parks where meals are served.

The bill would also allow children to pick up meals and eat them off the premises, providing flexibility for busy parents who are often juggling work and child care while their children are out of school.

And it would cut red tape that organizations often face, streamlining the paperwork and application processes that are hurdles for schools, faith-based groups, and other organizations trying to serve students.

This provision has broad, bipartisan support, and passed as part of legislation to reauthorize funding for school lunches, breakfasts, and meals for children and mothers without enough to eat.

All Ohio children should be able to count on healthy, nutritious meals year round – the National School Lunch Program is one of the most successful programs we have at curbing childhood hunger.

Tri-C Selects Donna Imhoff To Lead Western Campus in Parma

continued from page 1

people who have the desire and drive to earn a college degree or certificate," Imhoff said. "The high-quality education provided by Tri-C gives students the greatest likelihood to achieve the ultimate goal of graduation."

Imhoff served the past four years as president of CCAC's Allegheny Campus in Pittsburgh, where she expanded workforce programs, supervised a campus revitalization project and broadened community involvement.

She also was president of CCAC's suburban North Campus from 2008 to 2013. In two of those years, she oversaw both the North and Allegheny campuses.

The leadership positions followed a variety of roles at CCAC, where Imhoff started her career in 1985 as a coordinator/instructor. She later served as an acting assistant director of social service career programs, a career counselor, and an academic advisor.

Imhoff was named an associate

professor of psychology in 2001 and a professor in 2004. She served as department chair from 2005 until being named campus president in 2008.

"The extensive experience that Dr. Imhoff brings to Cuyahoga Community College and Western Campus in particular will be invaluable to the continued success of our students," said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C.

Imhoff holds a doctorate in social and comparative analysis education from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in school psychology from Duquesne University, and a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation education from Penn State University.

She will join Tri-C on Feb. 1. Imhoff replaces Janice Taylor Heard, who has served as interim president at Western Campus since June.

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Parma Observer

A Rock 'n' Roll Memory

by Lizabeth Braskie

The beat ripped the air. Gigantic, throbbing speakers greeted the expected two thousand ticket holders to this unique, 1991, Richard Marx concert event. I was consumed with anticipation and allowed my feet to lead me into a world of euphoric mystique. Marx, rock and roll superstar, offered a free, limited performance to publicize his newest album, "Rush In, Rush Out." His stop at Cleveland's IX

Center would be the third venue on his one day, five city tour, having started that morning in the Baltimore/D.C. area, then New York City, Cleveland then Chicago. His last stop would be that evening in L.A.
Patti, my twenty-four year old daughter, had obtained our bright orange wristbands which allowed us entrance to the facility. We arrived early and joined the crowd of young and old alike which proved that the

music of our fabulous "in-person" vocalist bridged the generation gap. We followed the group to an inside area and lined up in front of the stage. We positioned ourselves to enjoy maximum view with minimum decibel distress. Seven rows of fans stood in front of us with more behind. I worried about getting caught in a rush of the stage and planned our retreat just in case.
The speakers blared Marx's songs,

pumping us for the real thing minutes away. My anticipating heart pounded while I remembered newspaper coverage of touring concert stars. Fans camped at airports and arenas hoping for a glimpse of their idols while most of us sat hypnotized watching famous singers on TV. That was our way of being connected to a dream. Was this a fad, we wondered?
Rock and roll exploded and the gyrations that epitomized the beat touched off a trend that has endured. I was speechless and mesmerized to be within smiling distance of this current heartthrob. Richard Marx and his group were now on stage, overflowing with talent. Marx thanked us for attending this "Rush In" event which introduced his new songs along with a favorite or two. The succeeding thirty minutes showcased a dynamic rapport this live band exchanged with its audience. Some girls had fainted at these shows and I now understood the reason that happened. The real-life presence of a rock star is not limited to screams of the teenyboppers. While I watched and listened to this probable legend, I had turned into a breathless sponge.

Help The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

by Bob Stilwell

As a 27-year member of the Adopt an Animal Program, I can assure you of all the great programs the Zoo has to offer. As appreciation for our support of this program, the Zoo staff invites my wife and I to an annual breakfast at the Zoo, along with many other 20+ year members. This is followed by a review of upcoming improvements and events, a behind-the-scenes tour of some of the animals living quarters, and a trip to the veterinary services.
This program has proved to be very successful. Seeing where the money is being used is very rewarding. Yes, I am putting in a pitch for the Zoo because I feel that they have and always will continue to make improvements to help sustain all animal life everywhere. If you love animals as my wife and I do, please consider helping the Zoo. Your help supports the enrichment and well-being of the animals. Your help provides informal



science learning opportunities, offering thirty programs that serve students and visitors of all ages. Your help can be designated to go directly towards wildlife conservation and sustainability initiatives. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

AARP Tax Aide Announces Tax Preparation Sites And Times

by Stephen Donovan

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program will be underway again this year the first week in February and ending the 15th of April. This IRS-supported FREE tax service offered on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation with special attention to those with low or moderate incomes and/or aged 60 and older. Taxpayers do NOT have to be retired or a member of AARP.

Tax-Aide sites in southwest Cuyahoga County are located at:
Parma Library, 6996 Powers Blvd., Parma, OH 44129. Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To make an appointment, go to the Parma Library and complete sign-up book.
Parma Snow Road County Library, 2121 Snow Road, Parma, OH 44134. Open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To make an appointment, go to the Snow Road

Library and complete sign-up book.
Middleburg Heights Community Center, 16000 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Make an appointment at Middleburg Heights Community Center.
Brook Park United Methodist Church, 6220 Smith Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. Open Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 216-676-4738 Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for an appointment.
Broadview Heights Human Services Department, 9543 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147. Open Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 440-526-4074 for an appointment.

As we stood and listened to the final ballad, this page of history would end. I blew a kiss to the superstar who waved goodbye. We turned to leave and slowly savored the memories. I felt joined in kindred spirit to the ranks of those who shared space with Elvis, the Beatles, and other legends. Did they, too, feel a buoyancy in their steps and a hunger in their hearts for more?
As a recycled participant, I vowed to continue my vigilance. I assumed the role of trustee for the rock and roll infant and self-imposed duty to watch how the child grows up.
From my observations, the kid was in capable hands. Let the beat go on...



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Parma Area Seniors

Seniors Officially Ring In The New Year!

by Judy Martins

Sparkling in their finery, area seniors gathered at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center on January 20th to celebrate and ring in the New Year at their annual New Year's Party and Dance! The Center glittered with festive decorations, hats, and horns as the merrymakers counted down with the gongs, cheered, hugged, and sang "Auld Lang Syne." They know the new

year is never really "official" until they welcome it together at their annual party! After parading through the Center in a rousing conga line and New Year's chain dance, they enjoyed a delicious lunch and toasted and shared their memories of the holidays. With Al Batistelli's music filling the hall, they whirled to the waltz, swing, tango, and Latin dances so popular now as



lively line dancers circled the floor. The seniors love the music and especially love to dance! Those who weren't dancing were tapping their toes, singing, and enjoying the festive atmosphere and the beautiful melodies. After a delicious dessert and bowls of punch, many happy party-goers won great raffle prizes and lovely centerpieces. A truly fun and exciting way to welcome the New Year, meet old friends, and make new ones!

The Smallwood Center hosts a dance on the third Wednesday of every month. You can get a schedule of all parties, dances, and their countless other activities by picking up a

copy of the Center's 32-page Newsletter-Magazine, "The Center Line," published on the first of every month. On Wednesday, February 17th they are holding their "Seniors' Winter Mixer and Dance" at the Center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There, seniors can dance away their winter blues to the music of Wayne Tomsic, enjoy great company and refreshments, enjoy a Dance Contest, make new friends and brighten up a February afternoon! Tickets for this dance are \$6.00 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. All seniors are welcome for a really fun afternoon!

If you are over 55 years of age, come to the Center any weekday between



8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. It's located at 7001 West Ridgewood Drive (behind Parma City Hall, up the hill at the first light east of Ridge). JoAnn Mason, Director of the Center, or one of the friendly, capable staff will be happy to show you around. Join them for lunch at noon and take part in any of the many fun, informative, and healthful activities on the schedule every day! They offer line dancing, group singing, pinocle, bridge, chess, pool, support groups, conversation groups, crafts, senior exercise, Wii leagues, a low vision group, Veterans group, Movie Day, Bingo, parties, dances, trips, advice on health coverage and programs available to seniors, and so much more! Since they have partnered with the Parma YMCA, even more outstanding exercise and dance classes are offered, as well as many more fun and interesting programs and events! There is something for everyone!

There are special days for free blood pressure and health screenings and great informative presentations by

many senior-related providers. They also offer home delivered meals and bus transportation programs. (Call 440-885-8143 for bus details) Their monthly Newsletter-Magazine, "The Center Line," has a complete listing of lunch menus, calendar of daily activities, party and trip listings, local events, and great articles for seniors! Also, be sure to visit their colorful, musical website at www.smallwoodcenter.com for a calendar of monthly Center activities, monthly lunch menus, trip listings, lots of photographs, and links to many helpful and informative senior sites.

Stop in at the Center! You'll be so welcome — and you'll be so glad you did!

Have a little spare time? The Smallwood Activities Center always needs volunteers, especially to help set up and decorate for parties and dances! If you'd like to be part of this helpful, friendly group and make new friends, please call 440-885-8800 for more information, or to ask any questions about this outstanding facility for seniors.

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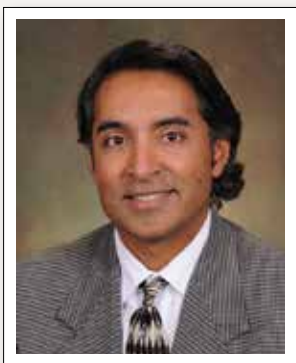
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