

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building on the new”- Socrates

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Mayor Tim DeGeeter Highlights

Parma's Progress In State Of City Address

by Jeannie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter delivered the fifth State of the City address of his tenure on Feb. 22, and this was his most optimistic and forward-looking speech as he spotlighted the new jobs, programs and businesses coming to Parma. DeGeeter, who is beginning his second term as mayor, praised the people of Parma, calling them “leaders in thought and action who get things done ... fairly, responsibly and together.”

Attended by about 200 people, the speech was held at the hall of the United Auto Workers Local 1005, just across Chevrolet Boulevard from the city's largest employer, the Parma General Motors Metal Center. UAW president Steve Frammartino welcomed everyone who attended. DeGeeter was then introduced by his children, 7-year-old Jack and 4-year-old Molly.

The address centered largely around collaborative partnerships and was warmly received. The mayor said he was proud to take the city's motto – “Progress Through Partnerships” – to heart, saying, “whether it's working with local organizations and businesses, or whether it's collaborating with our neighboring cities or Cuyahoga County, we are finding ways to not only move Parma forward, but our region, too.”

DeGeeter recognized several community groups,



business owners and residents that he found inspiring in the past year, including:

- 14-year-old Michael Dontenville, who has taken it on himself to educate Parma residents about the many ways they can increase their recycling
- the executive committee of All Kids Playground, who have created an all-inclusive playground at James Day Park
- members of the Parma Youth Commission, founded by the mayor three years ago
- the owners of Rudy's Strudel – Eugenia Polatajko and Lidia Trempe - who were congratulated for “shining a positive light on our city”
- members of the Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma

for their considerable efforts to beautify the city

DeGeeter said he was especially pleased to share that, in a partnership with

the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the city was making “definite progress” on flooding issues in a northwestern portion of the city near the

GM plant, which he called a “decades-old problem.”

“We are proud to say that the Chevy basin is now under construction,” he said in the speech. He praised GM for the “donation of six acres of land” and the city's Engineering Department for securing additional funding to move the project forward.

“I want to thank the Sewer District for its capital investments in the design, construction and maintenance of the basin in the future,” DeGeeter said.

PITT-Ohio and the Rush Truck Center were lauded as examples of Parma's potential for economic development:

- Construction has begun on PITT-Ohio's 23-acre complex – the city's largest job creation project in a decade. The project is expected to eventually create

continued on page 11

Parma Youth Commission Fireworks Project

by Carson Huffer

Breanna Louis

The Parma Youth Commission wants fireworks to once again light up the sky over Parma this Fourth of July. The Youth Commission is comprised of students from Padua High School, Holy Name High School, Normandy High School, Parma Senior High School, and Cleveland State University. It is advised by Parma City Council President Sean Brennan.

We decided that our project this year would be to bring the fireworks back to our city. The fireworks display will be in celebration of the bicentennial of the settling of Parma. In 1816, Benajah Fay, his wife Ruth, and their ten children built their cabin where Pearl Road and Ridge Road now intersect.

The 4th of July fireworks were always a large and joyous celebration of our nation with all members of the community. In 2009, however, the

fireworks were stopped due to budget cuts. Not only because the entire community has missed these fireworks, but also because 2016 is Parma's bicentennial, the Parma Youth Commission is determined to bring them back. In order for the display to happen, the Youth Commission needs to raise about \$50,000. This would cover the cost of not only the fireworks themselves, but also emergency person-

continued on page 6

Parma's Business And Citizens Of The Month



Ward Four Councilwoman Kristin Saban and Mayor DeGeeter congratulate Isaac Lifschutz and Debbie Rafalski of Broadview Multi-Care Center, located at 5520 Broadview Road, honored as the Mayor's Business of the Month.



The Mayor's Citizens of the Month are the volunteers of the Parma Animal Shelter. Congrats to all.

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month’s column is a return to my series on Parma’s numerous and splendid places of worship. As such, I recently traveled to Bethany Lutheran Church and School located at 6041 Ridge Road to meet with Associate Pastor Rick Sweney and School Principal Bill Moses. As in my many past visits to Bethany, I felt welcomed to this gem in the heart of Parma.

Bethany Lutheran Church was founded in 1922 in a small room in a building at the corner of Ridge and Pearl Roads by a congregation of 24 souls. In 1926, the worshippers purchased a lot at 5994 Ridge Road, the current location of Christ Gospel Church. By the next year, they built their house of worship, adding a one-room school in 1935. “Education has always been an important part of our mission,” stated Mr. Moses in our talk. During the Depression, a generous



Bethany Lutheran School



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

parishioner purchased the lot where the current church and school are located. The original church was moved to this location, while the school remained at its previous location.

By the 1950s, like Parma itself, Bethany’s congregation was burgeoning. Soon they outgrew their environs and throughout the 50s and 60s, the parish experienced several expansions, including the building of the current place of worship in 1967. The school went through several expansions, as well, including 1967, 1992 and 2001. However, before construction in 2001, vandals set fire to the school and damaged the entire structure. During that time Bethany persevered, worshipping and holding classes

at off-campus sites. “We are especially thankful to Fr. Carlin and the congregation of St. Charles Borromeo Parish for sharing their facilities with us,” Pastor Sweney mentioned. Finally, in 2003, Bethany dedicated the renovated and expanded facility. Today 2,446 people call Bethany their spiritual home.

Bethany Lutheran School celebrated 80 years of educating the youth of the Parma area in 2015. They are very proud to have been honored in 2012 as an Exemplary School by the National Lutheran School Association – the only Lutheran school in Ohio to have been honored as such. The school serves students in preschool 3 through eighth grade, has a before and after school extended care program and daily religious instruction, among many other excellent programs.

Bethany Lutheran Church is part of the Missouri Synod, headquartered in St. Louis. The Synod consists of 2.6 million Christians in more than 6,000 congregations throughout the country. Founded by Martin Luther during the Protestant Reformation, Lutheranism grew out of the Catholic Church and has many similarities and differences to that faith. For instance, the liturgical ceremonies are relatively similar. However, Lutherans believe in being made right with God through faith alone. Two sacraments are key to Lutheran believers, including Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Interestingly, “Lutherans believe that, in Holy Communion, they receive four elements. They believe that they receive the



Bethany Lutheran Church

true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine,” Pastor Sweney added.

Pastor Sweney also mentioned that,

continued on page 5

Tri-C Western Campus In Parma Hosts Workshop On Helping Children Manage Anger

by John Horton

Explore strategies to help children manage anger, develop self-control and become more productive during an upcoming workshop at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C).

The program — titled “Helping Young Children Manage Angry Feelings” — will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 12, at the Western Campus Theatre, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road.

The workshop will be run by Hedda Sharapan, director of early childhood initiatives with The Fred Rogers Company. She continues to share the knowledge and wisdom that “Mr. Rogers” brought to the neighborhood.

The program is open to parents, educators and anyone else who works with or provides care to children. Professionals may earn three continuing education credits for attending the workshop.

Cost to attend is \$7.50, payable at the door. Tri-C students will be admitted for free. Advance registration is required at <http://tinyurl.com/jut6gju>. For additional information, call 216-987-5589. The program is sponsored by the Tri-C Educators of Today and Tomorrow.

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Health/Culture



Emily Vance started her nursing career at UH Parma Medical Center five years ago and is already working toward her master's degree, thanks to UH's generous tuition reimbursement.

Tuition Reimbursement Helps RN Advance Her Career

by CJ Sheppard

Emily Vance started working toward her master's degree in nursing in February, just two months after finishing her BSN. This steady climb up the career ladder for this UH Parma Medical Center RN is fueled by University Hospital's generous tuition reimbursement – and a love for a profession where every interaction counts.

Just five years ago, Vance was a patient care assistant on a critical care stepdown unit at UH Parma Medical Center. Inspired by her stint as a teenage caregiver for her grandmother in Florida, she decided she had the heart – and the stomach – for hands-on patient care. She received her associate's degree in nursing from Cuyahoga Community College before Parma Hospital became part of the UH system. Now a full-time nurse in UH Parma's Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute, she wants to keep on moving up, spurred by the additional financial incentives offered by UH.

It's an exciting time to be a nurse in the CVICU and ICU, where 18 nurses over the past two years since integration have gone back to school for a BSN or MSN degree.

"I'm amazed by my team, I truly am," said Michelle Adams, MSN RN,

who manages both units and has experience herself as a clinical preceptor. "Many of them started going back to school because of UH. But I truly believe that advancing their education gives them a better understanding of the theory and evidence-based practices of the profession.

"You remember the reasons you went into nursing – the caring, the compassion. You have time to think critically, beyond learning just the skills of nursing."

The emphasis on education also results in a more engaged staff, with many nurses volunteering for quality, compliance and governance committees. Vance, who lives nearby in Parma, feels truly connected to her community hospital.

"I bought a house right down the street with my husband," said Vance, 26. "Eventually, I want to become a nurse practitioner. But right now, I enjoy being on the floor. This is a great place to work."

Learn more about nursing careers at UH's westside locations at the March 11 Recruitment Fair on Friday, March 11, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Airport, 4900 Emerald Court SW, Cleveland.

Patient Weds Minutes Before Baby's Birth

by CJ Sheppard

Monique and Jamaal Chavers' best wedding present arrived alert and crying at 10:07 p.m. on Jan. 27. Wrapped in a pink and blue blanket in the maternity center of UH Parma Medical Center, their precious gift



Rev. Wayne Decker, the chaplain at UH Parma Medical Center, performed a late-night wedding just minutes before the Chavers couple's baby arrived.

weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

The Cleveland couple had planned to wed on Friday, four days before their baby's due date. But Zuri wanted a birthday that no one would ever forget. Her memorable birth was witnessed by family, friends, nurses Lexi Adamo and Katie McGuire, Laura Rauser, MD – and the hospital chaplain, who had married her parents 10 minutes before her arrival.

"Anything can happen in a hospital, and it's not always on our schedule," said Rev. Wayne Decker, who was getting ready for bed when he answered the call. He drove 45 minutes from Lorain County to preside over the wedding in the delivery room – a first for him and all the clinical staff. "It's a privilege to serve – and to be here for the beginning of a life," he said.

Paramedic Program Earns National Accreditation

by CJ Sheppard

The paramedic education program that has trained more than 1,700 of the region's paramedics over the past 32 years is now nationally accredited.

Already accredited by the state, UH Parma Medical Center's paramedic program has been awarded national accreditation by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs. National accreditation requires students to spend more time in class and 466 clinical hours providing care to patients of all ages, from newborns to the elderly. For example, to complete the program, a paramedic student must participate in a minimum of 50 squad runs, with 15

of those as the team lead. They must perform at least 50 assessments in the emergency room, interpret 30 EKGs, perform three endotracheal intubations and initiate 50 IVs.

Over the past three decades, UH Parma Medical Center has doubled the number of cities under its medical control and, consequently, the number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel it trains. The program's 15 nationally registered instructors, who also work in the field themselves, now conduct monthly training for 400 EMS personnel. In addition to graduating 50-60 paramedics annually, UH Parma Medical Center has expanded its class offerings for basic emergency medical technicians (EMTs), graduating approximately 60 EMTs each year, many of whom go on to become paramedics.

"I am proud that our program has graduated excellent entry-level paramedics for the past 32 years," said Joseph Toth, MBA, NRP, EMSI, Manager of UH's EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute, who graduated from the program himself in 1988. "The additional requirements set by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs will benefit the students as they are challenged to become critical thinkers. Our program is one of the best in Ohio because of our dedicated instructor team and support staff."



Inaugural Class At Tri-C's Mandel Humanities Center Includes Four Parma Residents

by John Horton

Parma residents William Funk, Andrew Kleis, Elliot Lang and Abdelmasih Markus are in the first class of future leaders attending the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®). They are among the 24 students selected for the inaugural class at the Mandel Humanities Center, which opened this semester at Tri-C's Eastern Campus in Highland Hills.

The College launched the center to offer a unique liberal arts learning environment with programming designed to cultivate civically responsible citizens who will lead Northeast Ohio toward a stronger future. The goal is for the center to become a national model for address-

ing community concerns through the lens of the liberal arts.

"The students selected for the inaugural class of Mandel Scholars are passionate, engaged learners," said Lauren Onkey, chair and dean of the Humanities Center. "They represent the diversity of our community and the breadth of programs across all Tri-C campuses."

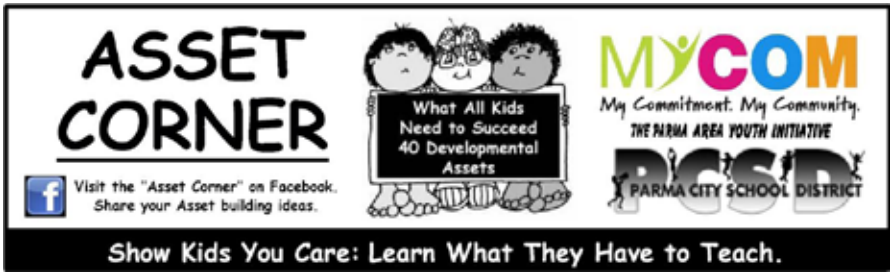
The Mandel Scholars are taking a special course exploring humanities disciplines and how they can be applied in the community. Students also are working with The City Club of Cleveland to organize a May forum to discuss issues facing Northeast Ohio.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and the Mandel Supporting Foundations awarded \$10 million to the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation earlier this year to establish the center.

The gift — the largest in Tri-C's history — established a permanent endowment to support the center and its initiatives, including scholarships for high-performing students accepted as Mandel Scholars.

It is anticipated that the academy will grow to include more than 200 scholars beginning with the 2016 fall semester. For information on how to apply, visit www.tri-c.edu/ScholarsAcademy or call 216-987-2600.

Education



Asset Corner #75

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: WAVE AND SMILE WHEN YOU PART. March's Asset Category:

SOCIAL COMPETENCIES
Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they're even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life. Asset 32: Planning and Decision Making

Decisions, decisions . . .
Wear a blue shirt or a red shirt? Try to fit in or create your own style? Go out with so-and-so or find a way to say "No thanks"? Watch some TV or do homework first? Young people make a lot of decisions every day. Some are easy, others difficult, and still others just plain irritating. But all of these decisions are good practice for their future as they learn how to take more control of their lives. Best of all, when young people start connecting the choices they make today with their futures (goals, dreams, ideas for jobs), the better they'll get at actually planning for what they want.

Here are the facts
Research shows that young people who learn to make good decisions and plan ahead do better in school, are less likely to engage in drinking, smoking, or using other drugs, and are better able to accomplish more of what they want. Only about 29 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they know how to plan ahead and make choices, according to Search Institute surveys. Show young people different strate-

gies to effectively plan ahead and make healthy decisions.

Tips for building this asset
Encourage young people to keep a daily "to do" list and check off items as they complete the tasks. Allow room for mistakes, but avoid rescuing them from the consequences. Celebrate progress and accomplishments in planning and decision making.

Also try this
In your home and family: Talk with your child about how you make decisions. Have you changed your approach over time? Invite your child to help with making a decision or plan a family event.

In your neighborhood and community: Invite local young people to help plan and organize a neighborhood party or potluck.

In your school or youth program: On the board or using newsprint, make two columns. Write Decision above one column, Future above the other. Have each young person list a decision he or she needs to make, then rank how connected (1 = low, 5 = high) it is to a future goal or plan (grades, college, jobs). Discuss.

ASSET RELATED NEWS
• **Have you heard....**To commemorate the bicentennial of Parma's first settlers, members of the Parma Youth Commission have taken on the responsibility of bringing the Independence Day fireworks display back on July 4, 2016. They're already well on their way to reaching the goal of \$50,000 but need the help of everyone in the community to get them over the top. Checks may be made payable to the Parma Charitable Fund (a non-profit 501C (3)) and forwarded to 6306 Hampstead Ave., Parma OH 44120. Direct questions to their advisor, Sean Brennan at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov or phone 440.885.8091.

The President's Corner

continued from page 2

"We are a very Biblical-based church, where the word of God is the sole norm of faith and life." In fact, a brochure he provided states that, "The Bible is the inspiring, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, without error in its original writings." Therefore, Lutherans are committed to reading, studying and living the written Word of God.
"Bethany is a very warm congregation. Testament to that is the fact that our servant employees stay with us for long periods of time," according to Pastor Sweney. Proof of his words are the facts that prior to Mr. Moses taking the helm as principal in 2012, he had served as a teacher there since 2004. Further, the

previous principal, Ken Boerger, served as a teacher at Bethany for 25 years, then 14 as main administrator. Also, Rev. Gary Hill, who will soon be retiring, has been the Senior Pastor since 2002. In fact, the congregation will soon begin the search for a new Senior Pastor.
If you would like to learn more about Bethany Luther Church and School, visit their website at www.bethanyparma.org or call 440-884-1230. In closing, I want to thank Pastor Sweney and Mr. Moses for taking the time to help me prepare this piece on their fine place of worship and institution of learning. Best wishes to all Observer readers for a happy and healthy spring!

- **Parma Council of PTAs' Annual Babysitter Training** course for 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders is scheduled for Saturday, March 12th & Saturday March 19th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Training includes the opportunity to be CPR & First Aid certified by members of the Parma & Parma Hts. 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.
- Students looking to go to school in the fall of 2016 should be filing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) now! Many schools have priority deadlines that have already passed, but it is never too late. Many students are eligible for free money by simply filing the form! If you need help, contact the College Now Advisor at your high school:
 - Parma Senior High** - Cathy Graham - 216.337.1296
 - Valley Forge** – Laura Boswell – 440.885.2360
 - Normandy** – Stephanie Niskey – 440.885.2410
- **Our CBS Connects Grant** They're looking for Parma area businesses and organizations that would be willing to participate in the Y.O.U. Summer Employment Program. This is a six week summer employment program where students from the Parma City School District will be placed at local area businesses and organizations to work. The program is completely funded by Cuyahoga County so the participating businesses would not use any of their own financial resources to employ the students. The deadline for worksite registrations is April 15, 2016. Visit this web site for additional information and to register: www.youthopportunities.org/summer-jobs-employer or call Chuck Caldwell, CBS

- Connects Coordinator at 440.305.3054. Visit www.cbsconnects.org to learn more about the CBS Connects program.
- **The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland** is hosting a "Bullying: Preventing, Preparing, & Protecting" workshop from 6:30 pm to 8:15 PM on Tuesday, March 8th at the Independence Civic Ctr, 6363 Selig Dr. Call 216.556.4937 for information and/or to register.
 - **The Collab** is hosting free tax preparation for any family making less than \$54,000/year. Twenty slots are available each Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Call United Way's "211" to schedule your appointment.
 - **The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry** is scheduled this month for Thursday, March 10th. Help is needed in the morning (9:00 am) to unload & setup, and again in the afternoon (2:00 pm) 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 & Teach Me to Read. Contact Kira Karabanovs, Director of Family & Community Engagement for details – email: karabanovsk@parmacityschools.org; ph: 440.842.7022.
- 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.

Polaris Westshore Career Fair

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services and Polaris Career Center will be hosting the 2016 Polaris/Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center Career Fair, at Polaris Career Center at 7285 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Hts, Ohio, 44130, on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
This free event, designed to foster the development of a competitive and productive workforce, will provide a vital link between employers, job seekers, community organizations and government agencies. The 2016 Polaris/Westshore Career Fair will have more than 75 companies and 500 job seekers. In addition, representatives from Polaris, and local community based organizations will be on-hand, providing access to educational resources, job search assistance and much more.

The Career Fair is a collaborative effort between Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, Polaris Career Center, Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC), Middleburg Hts Chamber of Commerce, City of Middleburg Hts, City of Berea, Berea City School District, North Olmsted School District, City of Strongsville, Ohio Means Jobs, Pipefitters Local 120, Lakewood Area Collaborative and WIRE-Net.
For information <http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us/>. For additional information visit www.polaris.edu.

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INSPIRATION

Outdoor Dad

by Lizabeth Braskie

“Hurrah, let’s go outside!” chanted my busy family of young children. Back then, this was fun time after their Saturday household jobs were completed. All of the kids loved the freedom and opportunities the

outdoors offered which continued throughout their teens and adult lives. But, of all the kids, son Mike, seemed to prefer the unrestricted ambience of all things outside most of all. All through his growing up years instead of a planned vaca-

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

According to the Bible, marriage is an institution put in place by God, in which two adults of different gender choose to share an intimate, personal, and lasting relationship. Doing otherwise does not change this.

As a society, we are moving in the direction of doing-away-with morality from our way of life. This has resulted in an increase of senseless acts of violence. Matters can only become worse with each succeeding generation.

As our relationship with God is holy, relationships between husbands and wives should be sacredly guarded.

God of the Bible is all in all: truth, righteousness, peace, love, patience, comfort, hope, grace, glory, and salvation.

Godly living involves our service to others via the use of our time, talents, abilities, and material possessions.

God’s law points out what is right, good, and true, and we are to live accordingly. Because of our sinful nature, however, we all fall short and our works cannot save us. This directs us to our need for grace. It is God’s grace that makes salvation a reality for each faithful believer.

Jesus promised that they who hear His Word and believe in Him who sent Him will have everlasting life, and they shall not come into condemnation but shall pass from death into life.

Life is a four-sided affair: physical, mental, social and spiritual. It is a four-fold opportunity to grow. It helps us to touch life at all angles, absorb strength from all contacts, and pour out power on all fronts. The more we pour out, the more we find to pour.

The Bible states that we are to refrain from “sin” as God defines it, and that in so doing, we will benefit others as well as ourselves.

The driving population needs to be more serious regarding distractions while driving, such as texting. They need to understand the risks to themselves and other people.

The surest way to guarantee ourselves a miserable existence is to live only for self and not consider the good of others.

We are to speak our truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant. They, too, have their story.

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?

tion in a tourist attraction, he would favor hiking, fishing, hunting, and tent camping while partaking in the uninhibited environment of nature’s best locations. Soon his growing family joined him in sharing this love of freedom and participated in the challenges of outdoor life.

Mike’s daughter, Jessica and son Joe, quickly accompanied him on their rugged experiences of camping and hiking in many of our National Parks and Forests. A practice round of rock climbing at a nearby facility served to acquaint the family with some of the skills they might need on their ambitious treks. Armed with suitable, comfortable clothing, correct footwear and campers’ supplies, the family was soon adding up the miles they walked on the Appalachian Trail and others nearby. Next they tried the somewhat vertical climbs in the Glacier, Cuyahoga and The Smokey Mountains National Parks with satisfied success.

On a special trip to Alaska, Mike and his kids were in awe of the RV adventures they were there to enjoy. The trio have a special memory of trudging up a Denali mountain to Thorofare Ridge where the wind velocity held them up while they leaned into the onslaught of the gale

force. Some quieter walks took them onto a glacier and hikes around several smaller lakes. A competitive, family practice, urged them to compare the size of salmon they caught while on an exciting rafting trip down the Gulkana River. And, after an early evening church service, they found a guide that would accompany them in their rental of a three-person kayak for an evening excursion on nearby Resurrection Bay. They were there to enjoy every wonderful experience they could. And they did.

Closer to home, Mike kayaks down the Cuyahoga River and bikes around the nearby trails. When surrounding cities have races for local charities, he usually joins the runners not only to share in the competition but to enjoy healthy fitness as well. His outside activities continue to be a passion he enjoys. And now, he has two little granddaughters with whom he shares fun and excitement in the great outdoors. In anticipation of their joining him in hiking around their neighborhood, he bought them appropriate clothing of pink camouflage pants and jackets. They are now the new recruits for living and loving Mother Nature’s hospitality. They are emphatic in their promise to hold his hand and follow his instruction, while making unforgettable memories with Grampa. I have been told that their enthusiasm has already prompted them to shout out, “Yeah!!” we’re gonna go outside!

Parma Youth Commission Fireworks Project

continued from page 1

nel and the wages of service workers. It is definitely a lofty goal and we are planning multiple fundraising events for the upcoming months, but we also need the support of people in the community. Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in donating, please send your check to The Parma Charitable Fund, 6306 Hampstead Avenue, Parma, Ohio, 44129. Write “fireworks” in the subject line. The Fund is a non-profit 501C(3) organization, so you can consult with your tax advisor about the potential tax savings your donation will provide. Questions may be forwarded to Council President Brennan at 440-885-8091 or sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov.

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March Matters

Senior Vaudeville Dancers Sparkle In March St. Patrick's Shows!

by Judy Martins

The 20 dancing seniors in the Raisin' Canes, Parma's vaudeville dance troupe from the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, bring sparkles to March with their rousing 90-minute St. Patrick's show! Wearing lots of green sequins, spangles and shamrocks they'll hit the boards dancing to rousing versions of "Mack Namera's Band," "Good Night Irene," "Green Green," "Riverdance," and audience interactive performances of "Old MacDonald" and "The Unicorn," just to name a few, finishing with entertaining solo numbers and a rollicking Irish parade through the hall, joined by their audience.

Ranging in age from 60's to 80's, the tapping seniors in the award-winning Raisin' Canes have been performing throughout the area since 1999, leaving happy, clapping audiences wherever



they go. With over 1,200 gigs already under their belts, they're still going strong! They tirelessly rehearse every Friday for 2+ hours at the Smallwood Activities Center. All volunteers, these

feisty, talented seniors manage 1-3 gigs a week (double that over the Christmas Holidays), donating all proceeds from their shows to the Center. They thoroughly enjoy entertaining, and are booked all year long at other senior centers, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, home days, parades, concerts in the park, malls, class reunions, group luncheons, dinners and parties, and wherever happy people gather. They're no strangers to television, having appeared on Channel 5 and Channel 8, and thoroughly love to strut their stuff. They'll be performing their Irish vaudeville show at the seniors' annual "St. Paddy's" Party and Dance at the Smallwood Center, Wednesday, March 9th, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. www.smallwood-center.com/flyer

Their lively vaudeville shows present lots of old songs, tapping, soft shoe and cane twirling, sing-alongs, audience participation, jokes and novelty solo numbers--and the entertaining music and dancing just keeps on comin'. The rousing vaudeville shows change themes throughout the year, with the St. Patrick's show in March, Patriotic show in the spring and summer months, a Luau in August, Otoberfest (with a little

Halloween) in September and October, and their dazzling Christmas show in November and December. Always working on new routines and dance steps, they also do celebrity imitations and novelty solo numbers--exciting, entertaining numbers with creative and colorful costumes.

If you haven't already, make it a point to catch their act. You're guaranteed to have fun--and so will they! For more information about these amazing Parma senior entertainers or to reserve a show for your group or party, visit their website at www.raisincanes.org or call the Smallwood Center at (440) 885-8800.

Easter Wines That Jam With Ham And Lamb!

by Christian Fitzharris

Easter is coming! Prepare for painted eggs and hopping bunny legs! This Easter celebrate with family, food, and a fanciful fruit forward frolicking of vinous vine varieties. Rack of lamb is an Easter tradition. The roast grilled goodness of a rack of lamb in the oven is a cherished memory I have from my early years. My step father would carefully wrap the rack in string and put those little "chef's hats" on the top part of the bone with mindful attention. A nice choice for lamb, as I've mentioned before, is Cotes du Rhone. Giant Eagle has one or two to choose from that

should compliment a nice rack well. Trader Joe's sells a delightful Cotes du Rhone called produced by Caves du Fournale which retails for \$8.99. With an ABV (alcohol by volume) of 12.5% it pairs fantastically with all manner of grilled lamb. Another good choice would be a nicely balanced Cabernet from Chile or California. California Cabernets have a much more smooth and juicy approachable nature on the palate. A Chilean Cabernet will usually offer dark fruits with a little pepper to make a well seasoned lamb rack pop. NOTE: If you are using liberal amounts of mint jelly on your lamb you will want to choose a fruity Pinot Noir over the more dry and higher tannin Cabernet. Your choice.

If, by chance, you choose hams over lambs, pay attention to the style in which the ham is cooked. Ham is already on the salty sweet side. A glazed ham would go nicely with the Pinot Noir I mentioned previously. The sweeter the glaze on the ham the more you may want to lean toward buying a sweet white Moscato to pair with this holiday treat.

Whichever Easter treats you choose to eat and drink, be sure to celebrate with wines from me that surely shall not stink!

Cheers! Happy Easter.

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Perspective

Making Obamacare Work Better

by Lee Kamps

It was six years ago this month, on March 23 2010, that President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law. Some provisions became effective six months later in September 2010, such as allowing young adults to remain on their parent’s health insurance until age 26. No cost preventative care for everyone became effective on January 1 2011. But it was on January 1 2014 that the Medicaid expansion and health insurance exchanges became effective as well as the individual mandate.

Whether the ACA or Obamacare is a success may not be determined for some time. But clearly the figures are moving in the right direction. While health care costs continue to increase faster than incomes, that rate has actually slowed since 2010. With more people becoming insured and with a pent up demand for health care because of many previously

uninsured Americans seeking medical care, this may skew some cost figures. But no doubt the act has made a significant difference.

However there are many serious flaws in the act that should be fixed to make it work much better for more Americans. Here are some ways that the ACA can be fixed to work better:

The Medicaid expansion did not include anyone who is eligible for Medicare. The expansion of Medicaid as far as income levels should apply to everyone, including those who are eligible for Medicare.

Regarding the Medicaid expansion, when the Supreme Court said that each state had the option whether or not to accept the Medicaid expansion, that needs to be addressed. Medicaid should be federalized completely and not left to the individual states. With the federalization of Medicaid, those on Medicaid could transfer their Med-

icaid coverage and benefits from one state to another. Federalizing Medicaid would save a lot of money and make Medicaid benefits uniform across the nation like Medicare.

The penalty "tax" for not getting covered or enrolling in the exchanges is way too low. This year the penalty is \$695 for a single adult or 5% of income whichever is greater. The penalty should be at least 150% of a basic level bronze level plan for that person's age or 10% of income whichever is greater. This would be the hammer that will get the young invincibles to enroll.

Rein in abuse of special enrollment periods for enrolling in the health insurance exchanges. This is already being done as I post this since CMS (the government agency that administers Medicare as well as the health insurance exchanges) has issued new rules regarding special enrollment periods that should curb the greatest abuses.

Eliminate the "cliff" as far as income eligibility for premium subsidies as well as Medicaid eligibility. If an individual or family is just \$1.00 above the upper income level for either Medicaid eligibility or a premium subsidy, then they have a great financial penalty. A better solution would be to gradually limit the Medicaid benefits or a premium subsidy rather than have it as a "cliff".

Premium subsidies should be available to anyone so that the silver level plan should not exceed 8% of an individual's or family's adjusted federal gross income. Currently if the premium for a silver level plan exceeds 8% of that individual's or family's federally adjusted gross income; than that individual or family is exempt from any penalty if they do not enroll through the health insurance exchange. But then that individual or family would be uninsured. It doesn't make sense.

Let's wean the United States off employment based health insurance. If an employer wishes to drop employer health insurance and allow their employees the ability to go on the exchanges to get their own health insurance; either mandate that the savings to the employer be given to the employees through increased wages and salaries (to better enable them to get their own health insurance) or as a tax deductible health insurance account (similar to a flexible spending account that many employers give employees already) for the purchase of health insurance through the exchanges.

Although not part of the ACA or Obamacare; repeal the outdated (from 1945) McCarran - Ferguson Act that exempted insurance from federal regulation and create a federal regulatory agency for insurance that is sold across state lines. This way insurance could be sold across state lines if the insurance company is operating in many states, but policies will be valid and benefits recognized in all states. States will still have the authority to license agents and regulate those insurance companies that sell only within the borders of that state (as many good insurance companies do). The McCarran - Ferguson Act is as outdated now as a car or household appliance made in 1945 would be today.

Instead of constantly passing meaningless repeal bills, perhaps it is time for congress and the President to work together and make the ACA work better for all Americans. It can be done if both parties decide that working together is better than political grandstanding.

YMCA

by Leo Lampeter

The YMCA is a valuable asset to any community, there is no doubt about that. That is why it was disconcerting to see the Y on Ridge Road in Parma close its doors. There are various reasons given for the closing, among them are; the building was old and needed extensive repairs, enrollment was down to the point of losing

money and the last known reason was that the offer for the land was too great not to sell, only the executives will know for sure. But all along they deceived the employees by telling them it was not going to close and they in turn relayed that information to the public. That aside, the variety of activities that were sports related including basketball, weight training, a variety

of training equipment, along with a variety of exercise classes and swimming. You remember swimming, the thing the administrators of Parma decided wasn't important compared to their pay increase.

Well, there is a small alternative here in Parma. A small portion of the exercise activities is taking place at the Donna Smallwood Senior Center. You might be familiar with it. It is the building without a visible address on it, so people can't find it the first time they attempt to locate it. There is a large banner that notifies you the YMCA is inside. It is a new location with limited space, however the space allocation is wisely utilized plus the fact that the YMCA pays rent to the city. Where will that rent money end up being used? The space being occupied by the YMCA has injected activity that was long missing. There is now morning activity which was previously missing. The activities are not only for the seniors, although the vast majority of participants are seniors. There is an imaginative YMCA staff that seems to always to be testing old ideas, that are new to the center and some new ideas also. It has created an energy that wasn't previously in existence there. There are actually people involved with activities other than merely coming to the center for a meal. Transportation is provided for a fee that is nominal. There are a number of volunteers that



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Observer

Bow Hunting On The Ballot March 15

by Lucy McKernan

What hits close to home this election if you are registered in Parma, Parma Heights, Seven Hills, Broadview Heights, North Royalton, or Strongsville is your “yes” or “no” vote on bow hunting in the form of on an “advisory” election March 15.

By looking through the lenses of game managers, biologists, hunters, official public records keepers, published data, and testimony from residents in communities where bow-hunting ordinances have passed, or may pass, I will PROVE that bow hunting does not reduce numbers, is cruel, economically motivated, does not increase public health and safety or protect the environment, and there is no basis for the hunting ordinance.

First, know thy enemy and his language, his propaganda: The ballot terms “limited hunting” by “licensed individuals” from “elevated platforms” and “under the supervision of the Chief of Police” is grossly misleading. Limited hunting defies logic, even for those who still think lethal measures can reduce populations. Licensed individuals simply means residents who purchased Ohio Division of Wildlife hunting permits. Elevated platform requirements are not enforced in other communities. Police chief supervision is misleading; public records show most chiefs and forces are lax, don’t enforce, and don’t prosecute violations. “Five contiguous (adjoining) acres” and ‘written permission” from all property owners are troublesome because public records across the region reveal trespass, untracked/suffering/impaied deer in others’ yards, and numerous hunters on one or two acres.

Fact: Bow hunting results in a 51 to 53 percent error rate. Deer can run

a mile with a pierced lung. For some, slow death, infection, and dehydration follow, no matter how “regulated.” “Licensed hunters” wait until deer bleed out before retrieving them.

Fact: Residents in every community with hunting ordinances continue to report untracked, suffering deer, dead or alive, impaled through the eye, face, neck and other body parts. Many bow hunters have confided in me that suburban bow hunting is not safe.

Fact: Game management agencies like Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) admit hunting perpetuates robust, rebounding populations. ODOW maintains populations between 50 to 75% carrying capacity, a researched, publicized sweet spot that guarantees “maximum sustained yield” for hunters.

Fact: ODOW revenue is down. Public records show recently retired ODOW Director Scott Zody chiding colleague/biologist Geoffrey Westerfield (covers Cuyahoga County) to get hunting going here. Westerfield’s reply compared officials’ confusion to little kids struggling to put together pieces of a Lego set.

Fact: Six communities will charge – separate from state hunting license fees -- \$150 per resident bow hunter. Independence, with just 7,000 residents, has about 80 to 100 licensed bow hunters. If these six other communities combined boast about 150,000 residents, and enthusiasm for hunting is proportionate, that means thousands of hunters times \$150. Killing is motivated by profit!

Fact: Cleveland Metroparks’ deer slaughter in the West Creek Reservation the past three years has caused them to seek refuge from the reservation to our neighborhoods, by ripple effect. We perceive more deer; there is

no proof there are more. Forty more deer in West Creek, some just six months old, were killed this season in the name of “conservation,” while our \$75M levy helped pave over and develop West Creek.

Fact: Officials know nothing about deer biology, but claim populations have reached levels that “threaten public health and safety.” Look at the facts: Cuyahoga County Board of Health: no Lyme disease; white-footed mice, not deer, are the prime vector

City and state deer crash records spanning five+ years for this area reveal: no human injuries or fatalities, very minor vehicular damage in 97 percent of the cases, and forty percent erroneous reports

ODOW data: no Chronic Wasting Disease or starvation in Ohio wild deer

All six communities: no landscape property damage records provided

No ground or aerial counts, like on the east side and in Lyndhurst where, despite officials’ approving the horrific cage and captive bolt kill method, few deer were located.

Fact: What does Lyndhurst have to do with us? Lyndhurst officials killed

deer based on Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership’s (LEAP) recommendations, from a grossly outdated conservation model, and LEAP is the reason it’s happening here, too.

... Fact: LEAP is a consortium of “conservation” groups whose members ratified the “Position on White-Tailed Deer” in Cleveland’s Office of Sustainability May 2013. Though required by Ohio Sunshine Laws to provide public records, Cleveland refuses to, but has allowed LEAP, prime mover of deer killing across the region, to hide behind private entity status while operating under the radar. LEAP and the Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association have bypassed the public process. Boycott LEAP member organizations: visit www.leapbio.org/members.

If you live in one of these six communities, and want a ‘VOTE NO HUNTING MARCH 15’ yard sign, or if officials vote for hunting after this advisory election, visit www.sevenhillsdeer.com to find out how you can help with voting blocs and/or referendums, the latter of which must be done within 30 days.

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Our History

Parma's West Veterans Grove

by Irene D Toth

Before there was Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation, and before there was West Creek Preserve or the formation of West Creek Conservancy, there was Parma's West Veterans Grove. A group of WWI veterans had purchased a large portion of what is now West Creek Reservation for their personal use. Some of the area was already in use by a mink ranch and an horse stable.

Charles W. Zilla was a Post Commander and an Officer of the West Veterans Organization. He had two daughters, Adrienne and Margaret, who were preteen and teenager at the time. The information for this article was supplied to me by Margaret, now Margaret Brennan.

After the veterans took over the property, they held weekend gather-

ings there. The veterans and their families enjoyed picnics and barbecues under the shade of the trees along the stream bank. There was a pavilion and a dance floor and other groups would rent the park to hold picnics, outings and other activities.

Margaret and her sister, Adrienne, would rent horses from the riding stable and enjoy the natural setting the park provided. Riding the horses along the top of the hills surrounding the creek gave them views of the meadows and the forested land as well as the creek below. In Margaret's words: "the water was so sparkling and clear. We had a swimming hole along the banks and would go swimming there. The bottom was shale, that beautiful black and grey shale found in the area. There were always wildflowers to be seen, and,of

course the birds and wildlife."

After a time, the veterans decided to divide the land and give each member a parcel. Their intent was to retire, build a home on their parcel, and live in the camaraderie they had enjoyed for many years. Only one of the veterans actually built a home there, and that house is still occupied. The remainder of the land, 48 acres, was sold to the city of Parma for the sum of \$45,000, according to Ordinance No. 79-58 passed October 7, 1957 by Parma City Council. A quote from the Parma Post dated April 10, 1958 states: "Parma Council adopted an ordinance to purchase The West Cleveland Veterans' Grove south of West Ridgewood Drive for \$45,000, the site to be used for a recreation area. An appraiser's value on the 48 acres was set at \$45,000."

Charles W. Zilla and his wife Milina retained two parcels as did every veteran in the group. Margaret Zilla Brennan inherited those parcels after the death of her parents and her sister. Margaret held the property for many years, hoping to build a summer home there and recapture a part of her childhood, the joy she and her sister experienced along West Creek. She and her husband had moved to Texas but they returned to the area to visit relatives. When they visited the site of their parcels they found it undeveloped and still beautiful. However, they were not pleased that the area was being used as a land fill and a dumping grounds for construction material. Margaret researched minutes of Parma City Council and found evidence that the transfer of the property to the city was to be used as a park. Margaret called it "the barn is locked after the horse is stolen theme." She returned to Texas exhausted but still with the hope "to see the dream of a really pretty, serene place for all to see." The mayor suggested she donate the land to the city, but she kept the property feeling she was holding on to a part of her childhood.

bered it. She agreed to sell her parcels to West Creek Conservancy and was happy to know that the park will be enjoyed by so many.

Jim Gibbons, a West Creek Conservancy member, remembers playing in the Parma West Veterans Grove as a youngster. There was a bridle path used by horses and their riders. He remembers the stable with the horses names attached at each stall. There was an old house down in the valley along the creek. It was called "The Haunted House." The house, the No Trespassing signs and a caretaker named Blake added an element of danger to Jim's forays into the creek area. Jim and his friends would catch small fish in the creek using dough balls and cheese. They would shoot baskets in the basketball hoop they found there.

At the time of my original research for this article, I contacted Mayor James Day who was the mayor of the City of Parma at the time of the purchase of the land. He gave me a copy of the picture of the land shortly after it was purchased. He had hoped to build a football stadium on the property, but that did not happen. He also told me that the so-called Haunted House had been the home of one of his uncles,

The mission of West Creek Conservancy is to enrich the lives of people in the Greater Cleveland area by conserving natural habitats, restoring the ecological value and sustainability of urban lands, and expanding neighborhood opportunities to experience nature. West Creek Conservancy is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. Donations to West Creek Conservancy are tax-deductable. For more information about West Creek Conservancy and its projects call 216-749-3720 or check online at www.westcreek.org.

The Beginnings Of The Cleveland Metroparks

ny Bob Stilwell

The oldest park district in Ohio, the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District was born in 1917, the initiative of a young self taught engineer who had conceived the idea of an outer chain of parks with connecting boulevards some 12 years earlier. William Stinchomb's genius was to anticipate the future need for an open space at a time when Cuyahoga County outside of Cleveland was still rural. From a few scattered donations of land in the Rocky River Valley, the Park District grew to embrace some of the most scenic areas of Greater Cleveland.

In March of 1917, the Ohio General Assembly passes a bill providing for "the conservation of natural resources by the creation, development and improvement of park districts". On June 30,1917, the board of trustees of Euclid Township petitioned the the Probate Judge of Cuyahoga County for the creation of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District. In July, a new park board was appointed and then met for the first time on July 30,1917.



William Stinchomb stayed on as a consultant without compensation.

From its inception through the 1920s, the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board concentrated its efforts on assembling parkland. The Park District materially took shape during its first decade. In 1920, the park district held title to just 109 acres of land in Rocky River and Big Creek. By 1930, it had acquired at a cost of \$3.9 million, 9,000 acres in nine large, unconnected reservations: Rocky River, Huntington, Big Creek, Hinkley, Brecksville, Bedford, South Chagrin, North Chagrin, and Euclid Creek. The next step, connecting the reservations, would be tackled in years to come.

Next year, 2017, the Metroparks will be celebrating 100 years

Dave Vasarhelyi, the founder of West Creek Preservation Committee, now known as West Creek Conservancy, contacted Margaret to ask her to sell her parcels to West Creek Conservancy. After speaking with Dave, she realized the mission of West Creek Conservancy would make it possible for her father's dream to come true. She was delighted to learn that the park is being restored to the natural state as she remem-



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The Parma Art Scene

Artist Of The Month Teresa Jedryczka

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 seventeenth in a series which will showcase a Parma



area artist and introduce you to many of your talented neighbors.

Teresa Jedryczka

Teresa Jedryczka was born in Poland. She came to the U.S. 22 years ago to start a new life, and has been a resident of Parma for 16 years. Teresa has worked in the healthcare industry for more than 20 years. Her life changed when she suffered severe back pain and other health issues, but what was worse was the depression that followed. She said it was like walking in darkness, in hopelessness and despair. Five years ago she found her salvation.

Teresa found her passion creating vases from leather. It became her salvation, her therapy, her healing power and her inspiration. The creative process is an effective way to stimulate the brain and make you feel happier. It is all about positive energy and bringing peace and

balance into your life. She feels that there is always light to those who live in darkness. “Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves.”

She spends hours working leather into shapes. Leather is heavy and difficult to form into shapes and designs. Each layer is shaped by hand. Once she has created the desired shape she glues it, and uses acrylic paints, gloss and embossing powders to complete the finished product. Each piece requires about three hours of work.

“I never thought I had artistic talent, or would call myself an artist.” But, last year she successfully sold her vases. It is a unique craft and one I have never seen before. Teresa hopes to share her work with other artists and is planning to organize an arts & crafts show soon. If you are interested in her leatherwork go to Facebook/Teresa Jedryczka/Handcraft or Facebook/Handmade Art.



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, please contact me by email at kathryn-mabin@att.net.

Parma Art News

by Kathryn Mabin
Rudy's Mural – And the winner is....Keri Sparenga, a self-taught Brunswick artist who specializes in murals for homes and businesses. The winning design also works well as a logo, and will soon be used on Rudy's promotional materials. See Keri's Facebook page for more on the artist. Criteria for this contest included a specific size, which was required by the firm that will be doing the installation. The original work will be copied on a printer and enlarged for installation on the building. Both amateur and professional artists were encouraged to enter. Entrants were also required to add an artist statement which may have included what inspired them, the techniques used to create the piece and any other information they may have wished to relay to the judges. Prior to judging, the artists names were covered up and the entries were assigned a number. The judges were asked to rate each piece based on originality, composition, use of color and did they follow directions? Each judge rated the piece based on a point system, and made notes pertaining to each entry. After that process was completed, the judges discussed each piece collectively and reviewed the artist's statement. The judges told me it was difficult to choose one out of the six finalists, as several entries were outstanding. Look for the mural to be installed later this year. This mural will be a beautiful addition to Polish Village's Rudy's Strudel & Bakery.

Images In Bloom - Congratulations are in order! Barbara & Steve Bloom, were Artists Of The Month in the Parma Observer's May 2015 edition. They have opened their own studio, on the 6th Floor of the Art Craft Building located at 2570 Superior Avenue. They hosted a successful Open House on February 13th. Plans are underway to offer classes in dying silk and muslin using various techniques, as well as small batch soaps. You can see them around town at various shows and on 3rd Friday Events at the 78th Street Gallery. For details visit their website Images In Bloom.

Parma Area Fine Arts Council offers adult classes in Watercolor, or Acrylics & Mixed Media on Wednesday evenings. The classes are very inexpensive and casual. Beginners are welcome. Art Exploration, a class for youth ages 7 to 18, is also offered after school on Wednesdays. Classes are centrally located at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center at 7001 W Ridgewood. Call for details at (440)888-4514, or visit the website at www.parmafinearts.org. You can also following postings of various class works on their Facebook page.

Polish Village's Flamingo Fever – Parma's First Public Art Event is Calling Out To Artists and Crafters to enter the 2016 fun event. Lawn ornaments are used to create unusual tabletop sculptures, which are placed around Parma during the summer. The festivities culminate in a fall banquet & auction. Applications will be available end of March. Email kathrynmabin@att.net for details.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter's State Of City Address Highlights Parma's Progress In

continued from page 1

240 jobs at the trucking terminal located on Chevrolet Boulevard.

Rush Enterprises converted a 13-acre parcel on Snow Road into an \$8-million state-of-the-art facility, which opened last year.

The mayor also praised the progress of the \$95 million redevelopment at The Shoppes at Parma, and he touted, among other things, the opening of Fast Eddie's, Panera and Sephora inside JC Penney as well as the coming attractions of Five Guys, Mission Barbecue and Ulta.

DeGeeter linked the encouraging news at the shopping site with the vision for his town center concept, begun two years ago with the creation of the Mayor's Town Center Task Force.

The geographic boundaries of the town center – branded by the task force as the “Crossroads of Parma” – includes Stearns Homestead, the Day Drive corridor, Byers Field, UH-Parma Medical Center, the Parma branch library, City Hall, the Shoppes at Parma and Ridgewood Golf Course.

DeGeeter included an update on the Parma Regional Dispatch Center, which provides dispatch safety services

for Parma, Parma Heights and Brooklyn. The cost of the \$3.5 million dispatch facility – which opened on Oct. 13, 2015 – was significantly offset by a grant from Cuyahoga County for just shy of a million dollars. Soon, the center will dispatch Brook Park's safety forces, too.

Parma's safety forces got a nod from the mayor as well. Chief Robert Miller will retire this summer after more than 33 years with the department, and DeGeeter praised Miller's leadership. The department's top post will be assumed by Joe Bobak. And at Parma Fire Department, Chief Mike Lasky drew high praise amid news that the department has worked hard to identify \$1 million in savings to the city over the next year.

DeGeeter also highlighted the efforts of Parma's Recreation Department, such as launching Tike & Spikes – a new soccer program for 3-year-olds – and the growth of the city's tot T-ball program, which had 241 kids – up from 120 when the program was first started in 2012.

In talking about Parma's recreation opportunities, DeGeeter also put a spotlight on an exciting addition in 2017 – a new splash pad in Anthony Zielinski Park that was made possible by a generous, anonymous donation.

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Matt Hudak
Randy Friend

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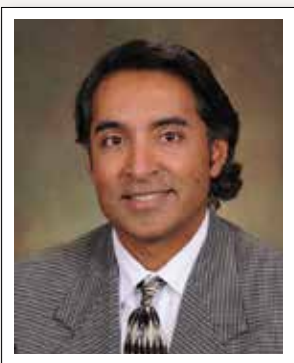
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“The cardiology program is very unique due to the close integration between acute care and post-acute care.

The program involves a **comprehensive approach** to patient care, starting with extensive **nursing education** and close follow-up by **board certified cardiologists**.

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- The Cardiology Program includes all cardiac related care, skilled nursing and rehabilitation to a speedy return home
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Our stats tell the story

- **880 patients** in the program since 2012
- **Less than 2%** of those on the program had to be readmitted to the hospital **within 30 days** of their hospital stay.
- Those who chose to opt out of the program were **7.5 times more likely** to be readmitted to the hospital because of a cardiac related diagnosis.

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