

“April is a promise that May is bound to keep”- Hal Borland

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Parma Police Captain Graduates From FBI National Academy

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Police Captain James Blair recently graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Captain Blair was one of 230 Law Enforcement Officers who graduated on March 28, 2016, from the National Academy and the fifth officer from the Parma Police Department to graduate from the program. The 263rd Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 47 states. Also included in the class are members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 27 international countries, four military organizations, and five federal civilian organiza-



Parma Police Capatin James Blair

and fitness training for officers that have 19 years of law enforcement experience. Capt. Blair, as a 24-year veteran of the Parma Police Department and his service in the United States Army, well qualified him to represent the department at this prestigious academy.

The graduating officers were represented by the class spokesperson, Larry Dyess, Captain, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Metairie, Louisiana, and the principal speaker at the ceremony was FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe. A total of 49,021 graduates now represent the alumni of the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935.

Parma Safety Fair, Community Shred Event In April

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma's annual Safety Fair, a community family event for area residents to learn valuable safety information, is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd.

The event is a cooperative effort of the Parma Fire

Department, Parma Police Department, City of Parma and Parma City Council. The highlight of the Safety Fair is the medical chopper landing, which is scheduled at noon, after which kids and their parents can explore the chopper. The Fair also includes a grease fire demonstration, a K-9 dem-



continued on page 11

Parma Mayor's Citizen And Business Of The Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Congratulations to the Parma Citizen and Business of the Month. The Mayor's Citizen of the Month is one of Parma's most active and involved residents. She has been involved in various ways as a Parma citizen, including

being an inexhaustible volunteer for Parma City Schools, the Cuyahoga County Public Library and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Lower Great Lakes Chapter, among many other organizations; being politically active; and showing her com-

mitment to volunteerism even through her work – she is the Communications and Special Events Coordinator at Greater Cleveland Volunteers. She has already been awarded two lifetime achievement awards - from the Ohio PTA and the National PTA organizations.



Dianna Kall with her husband Wayne, daughter Jennifer, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward Four Councilwoman Kristin Saban.



Mayors from 10 cities have accepted the challenge presented by UH Parma Medical Center President Nancy Tinsley to become certified in CPR. Tinsley is pictured here with Board Chairman David Nedrich, Brooklyn Hts. Mayor Mike Procuk, Broadview Hts. Mayor Sam Alai and Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti.

UH Parma President Challenges Mayors, City Officials To Become CPR-Certified

by CJ Sheppard

Most cardiac arrests occur at home, yet fewer than 8 percent of those who suffer cardiac arrest outside a hospital survive. Those are statistics that don't sit well with University Hospitals Parma Medical Center President Nancy M. Tinsley.

When Tinsley hosted a Mayors' Roundtable last fall and learned that many city

leaders were not trained in this life-saving skill, she issued a challenge: become trained in CPR, and receive grant money to be invested in advancing health and wellness. To reinforce its mission in Building Lifesaving Communities, grant money will be awarded to each municipality based on the number of city officials and

continued on page 5



Dee Buchko, owner of Future Directions Hair Studio and Spa, along with members of her family and staff, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward Eight Councilman Scott Tuma.

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

As a social studies teacher in a local public school for over 20 years, I have had the honor of teaching thousands of students from very diverse religious backgrounds, including various denominations of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, among other faiths. Interaction with these wonderful students and their families reminds me of what makes America the greatest, the strongest nation on earth – our diversity. This month, I continue my series covering Parma’s many places of worship by reporting on my recent visit to the Grand Mosque at the Islamic Center of Cleveland.

On the one year anniversary of September 11, 2001 (before I entered local public service), I was invited by some of my students to speak at the Islamic Center. It was during that visit and subsequent invites to the annual Iftar dinner, celebrating the end of Ramadan – the month of fasting that is very much like Lent for Christians – that my better understanding and appreciation of my Muslim friends and neighbors began. We can learn a lot from kids.

As you turn onto the property of the Islamic Center of Cleveland off of West 130th Street on Parma’s far western boundary, one is struck by the beauty and majesty of the Grand Mosque. With its massive golden dome, smaller dome and two high minarets, it is quite a marvel. It is truly one of Parma’s many religious gems. Like in my past visits, I was welcomed as a friend by Imam Fouad Al-Saeed, who has led the congregation for about a year and a half. We spoke for over an hour and, as in my previous interviews of religious leaders for this column, I came away with not only a lot of new knowledge, but the wish to know more, as well.

The Imam moved from the San Francisco area to Parma in September, 2014. One of the points he drove home to me in our talk is the diversity of his flock. “We have members whose families have lived in America as early as the 1800s. . . We also have families from all over the world, including



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Puerto Rico, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Africa, Ireland, Palestine, Italy, Romania, Albania and many other places. Several of our congregants are also former Catholics, Mormons, and Orthodox Christians, among others,” the Imam mentioned. “We do not close our door to anyone,” he added. “Muslims are your doctors, military veterans, teachers, police officers, dentists, intelligence officials, you name it,” he added.

One of the messages that the Imam emphasized in our talk is that there are many similarities that Islam, Christianity and Judaism share. For instance, the three religions claim a common lineage to



The Grand Mosque at the Islamic Center of Cleveland on West 130th Street on Parma’s far west side

Abraham and are, therefore, referred to as the Abrahamic religions and are monotheistic, meaning they worship one god. Further, Muslims believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and will return to battle the Antichrist. The three religions also share the same common values as encapsulated in the Ten Commandments of the Bible.

One of Imam Al-Saeed’s favorite quotes is “Hear from me, do not hear about me.” He believes that the many stereotypes perpetuated about Muslims can be debunked by education and one-on-one contact. This is why the Islamic Center welcomes educational tours of the Grand Mosque and hosts understanding Islam classes, which are open to all who wish to learn more about the practices and beliefs of Muslims. In fact, just in the past month or so, over 30 schools have toured the mosque.

“I think we should respect all people and work to protect the rights our Founding Fathers guaranteed in the

Constitution,” Imam Al-Saeed stated. “How can we export democracy, if we do not practice it at home?” he added. “We are all Americans and we are all created equal, as it says in the Declaration of Independence, and we need to stand up for that,” he suggested. As an American government teacher, I could not agree more.

To find out more about the Grand Mosque at the Islamic Center of Cleveland, visit their website at www.icc-cleveland.org. In closing, I wish to thank Imam Al-Saeed for taking the time to be interviewed for this article. Best wishes to him and the members of the Islamic Center of Cleveland. To all who read this column, Asalamu Alikoum - peace be upon you.



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Health/Culture



David and Dawn Thuma

Zocdoc: Finding A Doctor Fast With Scheduling App

by CJ Sheppard

Dawn Thuma of Parma Heights urged her husband, David, to get to an emergency room because he wasn't feeling well. She had reason to be concerned, as he had just completed radiation treatment a year ago for throat cancer.

"I was reluctant to go to the ER," said David, 57. "I had been through so much. I thought it was side effects of radiation and didn't want to go through any more testing. I was just so tired."

They also had a dilemma because Dawn, who recently rejoined Seasons of Life Hospice at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, had new health insurance that meant having to find a new primary care doctor.

She remembered seeing information about UH's new partnership with Zocdoc, a free online medical care search engine and scheduling service. She downloaded the Zocdoc app and found David Thomas, MD, with UH Internal Medicine Center in Independence.

"I read his profile and saw that he was close by," said Dawn. "It was so easy. With a click of a finger, I got David the first available appointment the next day."

She also filled out her husband's paperwork online in advance, so David

could focus on simply going to the appointment. Dr. Thomas was aware that David was recovering from cancer.

"He complained that his abdomen had been hurting," Dr. Thomas said. "I had him lie down on the exam table, and I pressed on his abdomen. He jumped from the pain."

Dr. Thomas sent David to UH Parma Medical Center for a CT scan, which revealed that he had a perforated, gangrenous appendix – something that could kill him.

"Dr. Thomas saved my husband's life," said Dawn, who also became a patient of Dr. Thomas. "I can't say how grateful I am."

David felt Dr. Thomas was thorough in going over his history during his examination and was impressed that the doctor called him at home following surgery to see how he was doing.

"I'm doing very well now, thanks to some quick medical decision-making by Dr. Thomas," said David. "He really went above and beyond!"

"I'm also grateful for Zocdoc and my wife's knowledge about the app. I'm sure I would not have found Dr. Thomas, let alone get an appointment so quickly."

2015 Water Quality Report Is Available From Cleveland Water

by John Goersmeyer

At Cleveland Water, we know our drinking water is essential to the quality of life of more than 1.4 million people in 80 communities. That's why we are committed to providing our customers with safe, high-quality, drinking water that is available at

the turn of a tap any hour of the day.

Every Cleveland Water customer will receive notice of this report on their bills, however, printed copies can be requested by calling (216) 664-2639 or can be viewed and downloaded at <http://clevelandwater.com/2015WQR.pdf>.

Families Helping Families In Need During The Holiday Season

by Madeline Medley

Every year, the Adopt a Family Association through its Adopt a Family for Christmas program, provides support to low income families and their children. Unfortunately, there are always more requests from families seeking help during the Christmas holiday than there are resources and sponsors that we have in place.

During the 2015 holiday season, the Adopt a Family Association along with the partnership of Dollar Bank and WKYC Channel 3, 'Families Helping Families During the Holiday Season' was implemented to help families who missed the deadline to receive support through our annual program.

Collection boxes were placed at 28 area Dollar Bank branches. We want to thank all of the generous, thoughtful and compassionate Dollar Bank customers at each location who donated toys, games, winter coats and gift cards along with personal hygiene items. These items were distributed to over eighty (80) low income children invited to a Christmas party hosted by the Adopt a Family Association, which

was held at the Crystal Party Center in the Snowville Plaza.

As the Executive Director and Founder of the Adopt a Family Association, I would like to extend her sincere appreciation and thank you to Dorothy Curtis, Community Development Officer, Dollar Bank, Lisa King, Vice President of Marketing, and to all of the Dollar Bank employees for their participation in this promotion. I would also like to thank Margaret Bernstein and Shannon Larson from WKYC Channel 3 for the media and promotional help, Sandy Balzer for providing the dance music for the children and karaoke songs that brought a few Taylor Swift and Bieber fans to the microphones. Thanks to Gilligan the Magic Man performing his magic tricks for all of the children who attended.

And I want to say thank you to all of the people who adopted families during our Adopt a Family for Christmas program last year, including the Southland Dollar Bank employees for supporting two families and their children led by Lyn Charek and the five families that received support from WKYC, coordinated by Darlene Wodek.

Healthy Eating For Life

by CJ Sheppard

Learn how to make every meal with a delicious dose of healthy nutrition. Find out which to increase and which to avoid to help prevent chronic disease. Each class includes latest nutrition information, handouts and recipe demo with sampling. Four-session class is \$40 with a one-time \$3 food fee paid to instructor at first class. Classes are held on Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. at UH Parma Health Education Center, 7300 State Road, Parma. Register at 440-743-4932.

UH Parma President Challenges Mayors, City Officials To Become CPR-Certified

continued from page 1

employees trained and certified in CPR by June 1, 2016.

The UH Parma Medical Center CPR Training Challenge has been presented to the hospital's six founding communities – Parma, Parma Hts., Brooklyn, Brooklyn Hts., North Royalton and Seven Hills – as well as Independence, Broadview Hts., Newburgh Hts. and Cuyahoga Hts. Most of these cities have already scheduled CPR training sessions with the nationally registered instructors at UH EMS Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute. The instructors, based at UH Parma Health Education Center, are taking their training on the road, going to each community for sessions scheduled at their convenience.

Brooklyn Hts. Mayor Mike Procuk said the mayors responded with enthusiasm and are eager to get their staff members trained. Broadview Hts. Mayor Sam Alai noted that the CPR Challenge aligns well with his city's wellness initiatives, and envisions city workers from all departments benefitting – and pos-

sibly saving lives of their own family members or residents.

"This is a valuable tool to empower employees with a wonderful life-saving technique," says Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti, who has 150 employees already registered for training.

The American Heart Association reports that people who suffer cardiac arrest are up to three times more likely to survive if they receive CPR from a bystander. Yet fewer than half of cardiac arrest victims receive the CPR that could greatly improve their chances of survival until EMS arrives and the person is transported to the hospital. Since 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home, many people are unprepared to face such a crisis with a family member or friend.

"Quite simply, the life you save could be a loved one's – a parent, a spouse, even a child," says Ms. Tinsley, a registered nurse. "You don't have to be a medical professional to do your part in saving a life. Creating and sustaining healthy communities takes each of us doing our part."

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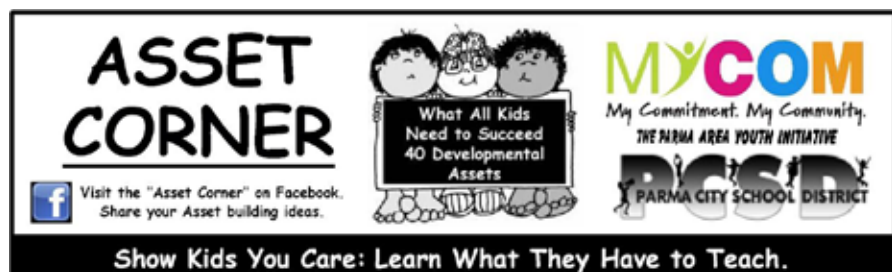
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Education



Asset Corner #76

by Gene Lovasy

April's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT

Feeling valued and appreciated is important to all of us. For young people, this means feeling safe and believing they're liked and respected. These feelings can go a long way toward empowering children and youth. Providing opportunities and recognizing accomplishments helps young people build self-esteem. This in turn, gives them the confidence to share their ideas, knowledge, and creativity by volunteering and working in paid jobs. By paying attention to young people, you show that you value them

This column's focus will be on..... Asset #9 – Service to Others

By helping others, young people learn to help themselves

To many young people, the world is small. It's made up of their school, home, and neighborhood. They may assume all schools are like their school. And, when they're very young, they may think the world revolves around them. But when young people start to reach out and help others, their world grows and so does their confidence. In fact, many young people report that when they give of their time and energy, they receive much in return. Serving others can help kids feel good about themselves and that they can make a difference in the world.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who serve others in the community for one or more hours a week are more apt to be respectful of others, helpful and kind, and patient. They also tend to value diversity. About 48 percent of young people, ages 11–18, serve in the community one hour or more a week, according to Search Institute surveys. Encourage all young people to recognize the value of helping others.

Tips for building this asset

The best way to teach young people the value of helping others is to be a role model. Activities such as providing a meal to a new parent, driving a neighbor to an appointment, or babysitting can make a huge difference in someone's life. Look for service opportunities to do with a young person. Join organizations that involve—and provide leadership roles for—both young people and adults.

Also try this

In your home and family: Together, think of 10 ways your family can serve others. Choose one idea. Pick a date to do the activity. Afterward, talk about your experience.

In your neighborhood and community: Join or support an orga-

nization that teaches (and provides opportunities for) serving others. Some possibilities to consider: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Food Pantries, YMCA/YWCA, and Youth Service America.

In your school or youth program: Seek learning opportunities for students and group members to engage in community service projects. Also bring community resources into the classroom or program setting.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Here are some particularly relevant programs offered at the Powers Branch Library in April. If you're interested, you can go here www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events to register.

Thursday, April 7th / 10:45 a.m. - Grow Up Great: Family Financial Literacy - Families with children ages 3 – 5: Nurture your children and nurture your nest egg! Preschoolers learn about spending, sharing and saving with fun Sesame Street activities, while parents learn about money, banking, credit, budgeting and identity protection. Presented by PNC Bank and United Way Young Leaders.

Saturday, April 9th / 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Practice ACT/SAT – Students Grades 6 – 12: Need to take the SAT or ACT? Take a free practice test first! Sylvan Learning Center will give you the opportunity to take either test during this workshop. Please bring a No. 2 pencil and graphing/scientific calculator to the exam.

Tuesday, April 12th / 7:00 p.m. - Math Edge - Grades 1 – 5: Become a math whiz and master problem solver through a variety of fun and challenging activities presented by Sylvan Learning Center.

Saturday, April 16th / 11:30 a.m. - Sensory Story Time Pre-school Level: Geared for children who are developmentally at the preschool level and specifically designed for children with special needs and their families. The program incorporates a schedule board, double visuals and sensory opportunities for participants as well as a half-hour of socialization time following the program.

Have you heard? **Tuesday, April 12th is PARMA AREA KIWANIS DAY** at Bakers Square restaurant on W.130 across from Sears. Twenty percent of all couponed sales made during the day will be donated to the organization, helping fund their many youth and community projects. Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/parmaareakiwanis to print your coupon and learn more about this great civic organization.

The 64th Annual Parma Council PTA's "Geraniums for Scholarships" has begun and will run through April

29th. This is a key fundraising component of the PTA's scholarship program and it needs and appreciates your support. If you're a parent in the Parma City Schools you have already received a flier and order payment envelope. If you're in the community, prices and an order form can be downloaded from www.parmacityschools.org, click on "For Parents" then "Parma Council of PTAs" then "Geranium Sale," or call Connie Nicotera at 440-845-5172.

Our CBS Connects Grant ... The deadline for the funded Summer Youth Employment 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 for program details.

Wanted: Donations of new or like new prom, bridesmaid or special occasion dresses, shoes, accessories (jewelry, purses, shawls, etc.) and new/unused makeup for the BELLE OF THE BALL BOUTIQUE coming up on May 7, 2016. The Parma Area Collaborative has put together this event to make certain that every girl, regardless of circumstances, has the opportunity to feel beautiful and special at her High School Prom. Call the Collab at 440-887-4873 for details.

Save The Date – Saturday, May

Polish Constitution Weekend 2016 In Parma's Polish Village



Ghostbusters Cleveland often make an appearance at the Polish Constitution Day parade.

by Stefan Stefanic

This year, the Ohio Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC) continues a 68-year tradition during the weekend of April 29 through May 1, with much of it taking place in Parma's Polish Village!

The calendar of scheduled events highlighted on the PAC website is as follows:

On Friday, April 29, there will be an informal meet and greet event at the Ridgewood Inn (5759 Ridge Rd, Parma) from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m.

On Saturday, April 30, the Miss Polonia Contest will be held at the St. Charles Social Hall where Miss Polonia and Junior Miss Polonia will be crowned. John Szleszynski & Son will provide music for listening and dancing. Tickets are \$10.00. Light refreshments will be available for sale. For reservations or more information, you can call either Allan Szufłada at (330) 659-9465 or Mark Relovsky at

21, 2016 and consider sponsoring or participating in **THE PARMA WAY 5K**. A flyer and registration forms are available at the Family & Community Engagement Department's page of the PCSD's web site. All proceeds will benefit the District's 21st Century after-school programs. For additional information, contact Kyan Johnson at 440-885-8777.

The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, April 14th. 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. Contact Kira Karabanovs, Director of Family & Community Engagement, for details on how you can get involved in this and many other youth related programs – 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 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.

(216) 970-0507.

On Sunday, May 1, there will be a wreath laying, Mass, parade, and party. The traditional laying of wreathes will take place at Casimir Pulaski Monument (next to Cleveland City Hall) at 9 a.m. It is followed by the Mass which will be held at St. Charles Church (5891 Ridge Rd, Parma) at 10:30 a.m.

There will also be a Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the St. Charles Youth Group from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the St. Charles Parish Hall. Cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Funds raised will go toward their World Youth Day trip to Krakow, Poland this summer.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. at Parma Circle (Ridge Rd, just north of The Shoppes at Parma) and will proceed north toward intersection of Ridge and Snow Roads. Those participating will include Parma City Officials,

INSPIRATION

An Unfair Label

by Lizabeth Braskie

Today’s family dynamics are constantly changing, causing single parenthood to explode into a widespread evolution. It covers all levels of custodial care, each with its own issues of balancing a close approximation to family life. From new parents to senior citizens, the separation of spouses has opened the floodgates of change, producing members from all walks of life. Collateral damage from these upheavals have created a culture of singles that try to survive with family, jobs, limited time, mortgages and debts that morph into a catchword of “Baggage.” Worse yet, is the power of this word that can scare off an interested and desirable companion.

It’s a challenge for parents with kids of all ages, to search for a special friendship while juggling career and single parenting. Efforts to socialize can be momentarily satisfied with friends and clubs that cater to their needs and connect them with new and like-minded individuals. But close relationships are balanced with the looming degrees of uneven road blocks. It may take time to sort out the pros and cons of searching for a sincere, accepting and trusting, significant other.

But for average seniors, their issues can sometimes center around

health and lingering family problems. Even though a generous percentage of them are able to enjoy acquaintances outside their home, some are happy to extend friendships and become involved with opposite members of their peers. Yet, a conscious worry over problems of their grown children has fostered skepticism about getting close to those who might benefit from becoming a couple. Guilt trumps personal involvement in some cases and “Baggage” wins. Again it ruins relationships and has been blamed for the possible interruption of commitments between two special friends.

For those who have been tagged with the dreaded label of harboring these needy dependents, many new experiences can be lost. Rather than risk being judgmental, a cautious approach may reveal the family members in question can actually be helpful to the daring, senior suitor. Possible work or hobby related topics can engage conversation. Experience or requested advice may be helpful to either side of the healthy exchange. Maybe the family is actually genuine and cordial, but the damaging and unspoken nemesis cancels the possible friendship of an exciting match.

Careful scrutiny may reveal there are some families of these adult, talented and ambitious children that do not deserve the “Baggage” curse. Instead they are resources that the faint of heart are ignoring. They are a beneficial and productive delight to their deserving parents and possible partner. It’s a sad waste when contemplating dating possibilities to judge “what if” instead of “what might be.” Seniors should enjoy the life they have worked to achieve and in accordance with whatever their health allows. They shouldn’t waste precious time worrying about things they cannot change. Our elderly population deserves to relish the twinkle in their eyes that confirm an individual victory. And, the only time that “Baggage” might be used in their present conversations pertain to the suitcases they pack for vacation.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All of our thoughts can be divided into two basic categories: right and wrong. Right thoughts are God-centered and wrong thoughts are self-centered.

Any use of sex except as an expression of love and procreation in marriage is sinful and breaks the Seventh Commandment.

Being gracious is difficult. It could mean letting go of grudges and prejudices and going beyond what is fair to what is merciful.

Children respond to tragedy differently. They look to adults for guidance on how they should react to grief. If adults absorb it and continue their lives, children assume they should do likewise.

Generous behavior reduces adolescent depression and suicide. Several studies have shown that teenagers who do volunteer work are less likely to fail a subject in school, get pregnant, or abuse substances.

God can take our weakness, if we give it to Him, and turn it into strength that will glorify Him and benefit us.

Gratitude and humility rather than resentment and grumbling should characterize our handling of circumstances that arise in everyday living.

Life is made up of little things: smiles, kindnesses, obligations, and giving. They are what win and preserve the heart and generate comfort.

Life is not passive activity. We are expected to sow, welcome, witness, and trust that even our smallest efforts could bear amazing fruit.

Meekness is the character of one who has the power to retaliate and yet remain kind – a vertical rather than horizontal attitude toward God.

More people are making their own rules, setting their own standards, and living their own way. This can and in many ways will only end in disaster.

Physical activity is among the healthiest things we can do for ourselves. Studies tell us that “taking it easy” is a real danger.

Seven guiding principles to help nurture our faith in God’s Word include justice, understanding, perseverance, endurance, reverence, friendship, and forgiveness.

When we are filled with kindness and gentleness, there is no room for bitterness or self-centered motives. With God’s help we can strive to speak gracious words that can strengthen families and communities by building people up, bridging gaps, and restoring broken relationships.

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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Parma Mayor's Citizen And Business Of The Month

and expertise to some of the young people who attended the Night to Shine prom night for people with special needs, hosted by Cuyahoga Valley Church in Broadview Heights. Some of the young people who attended the prom went to Future Directions first and received complimentary hair-styling and make up for their special evening. The prom, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, was held simultaneously in 220 churches in 48 states and eight countries around the world. Congratulations to Dee Buchko, owner of Future Directions, who said “I am honored and blessed for our salon to be involved in this. We're going to do it next year, too, and it will be bigger and better.”

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Share Your Memories Of Ridgewood Golf Course

by Dave Chuba

I'm so happy to be able to be able to regularly share with you some of the exciting things we'll be doing during the 2016 golf season at Ridgewood. The first thing I'd like to know is why you think this course is special. What kinds of experiences have you had at Ridgewood? I have had the privilege of meeting many wonderful people over the past two years since I accepted the job here. So many players have come forward to share their stories with me. Since then, I have made it one of my goals to shed light on the history of this golf course and the unique connection we share with the city of Parma.

After listening to so many stories, I decided to create a new module on our website – www.golfridgewoodohio.com – to highlight our history by sharing these stories. But I need your help! I am asking you, the golfers, the city residents and our workers to share your stories with all. I feel it is important for us to share these stories with all

the residents of Parma in order to keep the history alive and well for future generations to enjoy and understand the unique connection this course has provided over the years to all its residents. There is a special connection between the golf course and its players that extends back to early childhood memories with so many of our guests and supporters. I think sharing these stories will secure not only our history but the successful future of this establishment for years to come.

If you'd like to participate, please follow the link to our website, choose the "Golf" tab and then "Our Stories." From there, just follow the directions to share your own story. I will pick one story every month and display it on our website. If your story is chosen I will award a foursome of golf for your efforts. Understand, not all stories will make our site, but if your story is selected I reserve the right to modify your content in order to fit the space provided and edit such content/language to make it appropriate for all of our readers.



In case you need some inspiration, I've uploaded a story about an important man in Ridgewood history, the beginning of which is noted here ...

Frank W. Ermer was a pioneer among pioneers in the early days of the Green Keeper profession in Northern Ohio. Born on February 8, 1894, in Cleveland, he started his illustrious career at Dove Bay CC in Dover Township from 1915-1917 where he mowed fairways with horse drawn gang mowers. He moved to Westwood CC in Rocky River in 1915 and became an assistant green keeper from 1918 until 1925. During this time he became a charter member of the Cleveland Green

Keepers Association in 1923. While at Westwood, he was mentored by head Green Keeper Fred A. Burkhardt who also had a storied career as President of the Cleveland District and National Green Keepers Association.

Upon departing Westwood in 1925, Frank became the Head Green Keeper at Ridgewood CC in Parma, Ohio. During his time at Ridgewood, Frank demonstrated his passion and characteristics of a leader and visionary for our profession ...

To read the rest of this story or to share your own, go to <http://www.golfridgewoodohio.com/golf/our-stories>.

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Perspective

Wage Theft Is A Serious Problem In The United States

by Lee Kamps

One of the most interesting courses I took in college and post graduate was a course in employment law. While just taking one law course hardly makes me an expert on any matter of the law, it did teach me that there are a host of laws and regulations in the workplace and that it can be easy for an employer to ignore or violate one of those laws.

My first experience with labor laws was back when I was managing a field office for a large insurance company and my district manager had threatened the agents to withhold their paychecks if they did not submit a report of their activity to the manager.

Law

by Leo Lampeter

There is a feeling that the law is here to protect all. Should you follow the law, you will have no problems. Should you choose not to follow the law, you are in for trouble. Should you choose to follow the law, you may also be in trouble. All you have to do is watch the news and with some regularity you will see that someone was released from prison because they were wrongly convicted. How can this happen? It is not as difficult as you may think.

Let us begin with a premise. The law is truth. The law and truth have

Outside my office was the poster that is required to be posted in all workplaces regarding wage and hour laws. One of my agents called me outside of my office and showed me a part on that poster that said it was illegal for any employer to withhold an employee's pay check except in rare cases.

After calling to verify the truth of that, I was told that the employee only had to file a complaint to the Department of Labor and that the employer could be forced to pay triple damages to the aggrieved employee as well as a fine. I was also told that even if the paycheck was withheld only one day, it could result in a fine being levied on the employer. When I informed my district manager of

nothing to do with one another. Why is that? Here is some input. There are times that the police are under pressure to apprehend an offender of the law, for the more serious offenses. In a rush to make someone accountable, details may be overlooked in an arrest to placate the public and authorities. There are even cases where there is such pressure on a person of interest that they confess, in some instances, after many hours of interrogation where no respite was provided for the accused.

After the arrest, the defense attorney begins his or her portion of the process. There is always a "not guilty" plea for how else could the attorneys maxi-

this, he had to back off that threat.

Several years ago, the nation's largest private employer, Walmart, was charged by the Wage and Hour division of the Department of Labor with forcing its employees to work "off the clock" to avoid having to pay overtime pay. Working "off the clock" meant that the hourly workers were still on the job, but were just not being recorded as working. Not only were those workers not paid overtime, they were not paid for the hours they worked "off the clock." The company was fined and the affected workers were compensated.

Very often the lowest wage earners are the victims of wage theft by

mize their income. At fees of sometimes hundreds of dollars an hour, why would the attorney be in a hurry to get justice? There are interviews, inspections of evidence, and a host of other tasks for which a lawyer charges a fee. For many of these tasks, however, a great many of the tasks are performed by interns and other hired help. These assistants work for much less of an income, but there must be a portion of the fees for the law firm, who know whom to contact. Perfectly permissible under the law; one guess as to who wrote the laws. They will say, in the effort to be accurate, it is a possibility. If there is a possibility of innocence, the defense attorney will exert enough effort to free his client. This is done for many reasons. His record in court is important to him. He can raise the point of his efforts to potentially new clients. This provides the incentive to be successful. Does this sound like a game? For them, that is one perspective.

Now for the prosecutors; their entire existence is based on how many people they can convict. That, in most cases, is a good goal. But if you look further into prosecutions, what do you see? Evidence withheld, witnesses that don't help their case not called, et cetera. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Both sides play the same game; it is not in what is best for the community that is foremost in their minds, it is what is best for their image. Just look at how many convicted felons are being released because of errors by the judicial system. It doesn't cost anything for the attorneys because the financing comes out of the taxpayer's wallet.

The judge has similar incentive. While his salary is fixed, what is it that motivates him? If someone is guilty, the judge, in order not to be perceived as soft on crime, will hand out a severe

their employer. Not only being forced to work "off the clock" but also being denied overtime pay and under-reporting of their actual hours worked is rampant in some industries such as food services, hospitality, child care and retailing. Also, many workers are also paid less than the minimum wage.

The National Employment Law Project surveyed low-wage workers in three cities across the country, and found that 26 percent of workers surveyed were paid less than minimum wage the previous week, and 76 percent of those who had worked more than 40 hours were not paid the legally-required overtime. And when workers file a complaint, they often face harsh retaliation from employers. Most workers who are being taken advantage of don't speak up, for fear of having their hours cut or being fired.

Short of having a labor union to protect the worker's rights, there is little a worker could do other than to quit the job or file a complaint and risk being fired for filing a complaint. One thing I did learn in that employment law class was that no one can be denied their basic right to address a government agency regarding a suspected violation of any law or regulation. Employers who retaliate against any worker who files a complaint to a government agency over anything in the workplace, whether it is about safety, environmental or wage issues can be sued in court.

But filing a complaint or even pursuing a lawsuit is a long and costly process that few low wage workers can afford. Fortunately, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown is co-sponsoring with Washington Senator Patty Murray a bill in the Senate, the Wage Theft and Recovery Act.

The bill would create new civil penalties for employers who engage in wage theft, and give workers the right to receive full back pay for the wages that were stolen. Right now, even when employers are caught stealing wages, employees are only able to recover lost pay at the minimum wage rate, even if their hourly rate is higher than that.

That's not right. When a worker's wages are stolen from them, they should be repaid in full.

To help make sure that happens, the bill also increases the number of years workers have to bring a wage theft claim in court. And it would require employers to provide regular paystubs, so workers can keep track of the pay they've earned, and more easily catch potential theft.

This bill deserves our support and we should thank Senator Brown for introducing such legislation. Every worker deserves to be paid an honest wage for an honest day's work.



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Observer

Recycling

by Leo Lampeter

The word recycling is in our everyday vocabulary. We have heard it from the powers that be, from the Federal government to the state government to local government to the environmentalists to the individual on the street. There seems to be no one who is against this idea for whatever their motivation. The consensus is save the resources of the planet. No one is against continuing to have the conveniences that we currently maintain and one of the ways is to recycle. Recycling also is a cost effective manner in which to create “new” items through using the once used items. Generally, there is less labor involved,

natural resources are kept more intact, and there is less contamination of the world around us.

The true leaders among us set the example for the ordinary citizen to follow. They not only design a format for us to follow, they are present to instruct the common individual the manner in which to carry out the achievement of the goal. It is taken for granted that all along this path, leadership will pave the way to a success of recycling. Without such leaders, we are but a rudderless ship floundering in the night without direction. Those not involved in the efforts to recycle are often perceived as buffoons (this is least offensive term that could be

found) and irresponsible.

At the city level, one would think that the most assertive efforts would be exercised, being as there is an effort in most communities to have each household concentrate on separating recyclables from other trash when the cities hire, in most cases, specialists in recycling to take over the handling of such a chore. In many cases of hiring outside management firms, the prospect of the recycling subsidizing the disposal of the remainder of the trash is an added incentive and often represented as covering the cost of waste disposal completely.

The powers that be must realize that the public must be instructed what is to be recycled and how to recycle. This must be done on a regular basis for a number of reasons. The public

doesn’t remember how important it is to recycle. The public is also transient and other areas may not have the same system. The simple act of informing the public to break down the boxes so as to have a more efficient pick up may never be mentioned, but is necessary to instruct on these details. Placing the recyclables of the city in a concern other than for the city to benefit may be perceived as a generous gesture but again the citizens, who are the city, are sold short. Every bit of income the city can generate must go to the city, not to singular interests no matter how noble, until the bills of the city (citizens) are taken as a priority. That is how a city is managed, not raising fees and taxes whenever the problem solvers aren’t equipped to solve them. And as ill equipped as they are, they continue to grant themselves increases in pay and deny others. They knew well in advance that state funding for cities was being gradually withdrawn so that our state’s governor could claim a budget that was balanced. It’s easy to balance a budget when expenses are cut.

Do You Remember... Any Underground Railroad Runaway Slave Escape Stories?

by Kenneth Lavelle

I was told and read several stories concerning runaway slaves. The enslaved persons traveled along the Wooster Pike and each inn stage-coach stop had visits from runaway slaves. There was a tunnel dug from nearby Countryman’s Creek to the basement of the old stone tavern inn. The runaway slaves used the tunnel to enter and leave the inn on the way to Canada. At one point in time this illegal activity was reported. The County Sheriff found the creek tunnel entrance and it was walled up. The tunnel was back filled in with dirt when explosives were used to collapse the tunnel. The tavern was built on a grade of high ground. Today, the grade of

land is very level and flat with Pearl Road.

The Parma area had a very active and well known anti-slavery society in 1835. I thought the route along the Wooster Pike became very active and was common knowledge to the slave hunters who visited here. The route traveled changed by the 1840s in Strongsville to continue on to Berea instead of Parma. The Fay house at 6607 Pearl Road kept runaway slaves out of sight in their basement according to a 1970s Western Reserve Magazine article. There was a tunnel used for entering and leaving. Local churches were active helping the runaway slaves. The Congregational Church mem-

bers provided food, clothing and aid to the slaves who hid in a barn next to the Church. At nightfall, the slaves rode hidden in wooden wagons that traveled to other safe houses in Cleveland according the History of Parma (1975) book. This illegal activity was done at night and in secret. No detailed records were kept.





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Parma Sports

Parma Youth Hockey Bantam Team Wins CSHL A2 Division And ‘Monsters Cup’

by David Jockers

The Parma Youth Hockey Association (PHA) is pleased to congratulate its Bantam level team on its recent success: Having won the CSHL Bantam A2 Division earlier in February, the team went on to win the Bantam A2 championship game in the CSHL playoffs – capturing the Monsters Cup on Saturday, February 27 at Strongsville’s OBM Arena. This marks the first time since 2010 that a Parma team has won both the division and the cup in the same year.

The Parma Bantam team (made up of 13-14 year old boys and girls) won the A2 Division with an impressive 15-1 division record. The top 4 teams in the division then advanced to the semi-final playoffs. In their semifinal game, Parma defeated Shaker Hts by a score of 6-2, putting them into the Championship Game versus Gilmour Academy, who earlier in their semi-final game had defeated Canton-Akron, 4-2.

While Gilmour played a tough championship game and kept it close deep into the 2nd period – Parma’s depth and conditioning outlasted Gilmour, leading Parma to the Monster Cup win by a final score of 7-1.

“What an achievement both on and off of the ice our players made this year,” said head coach Jerry Gunsley. “It’s a testament of what can be achieved through the hard work and dedication given by these players.” Parma Hockey is further proud to announce that 10 of its 15 Bantam players will be moving on to the next level – having committed to the following High Schools this fall:

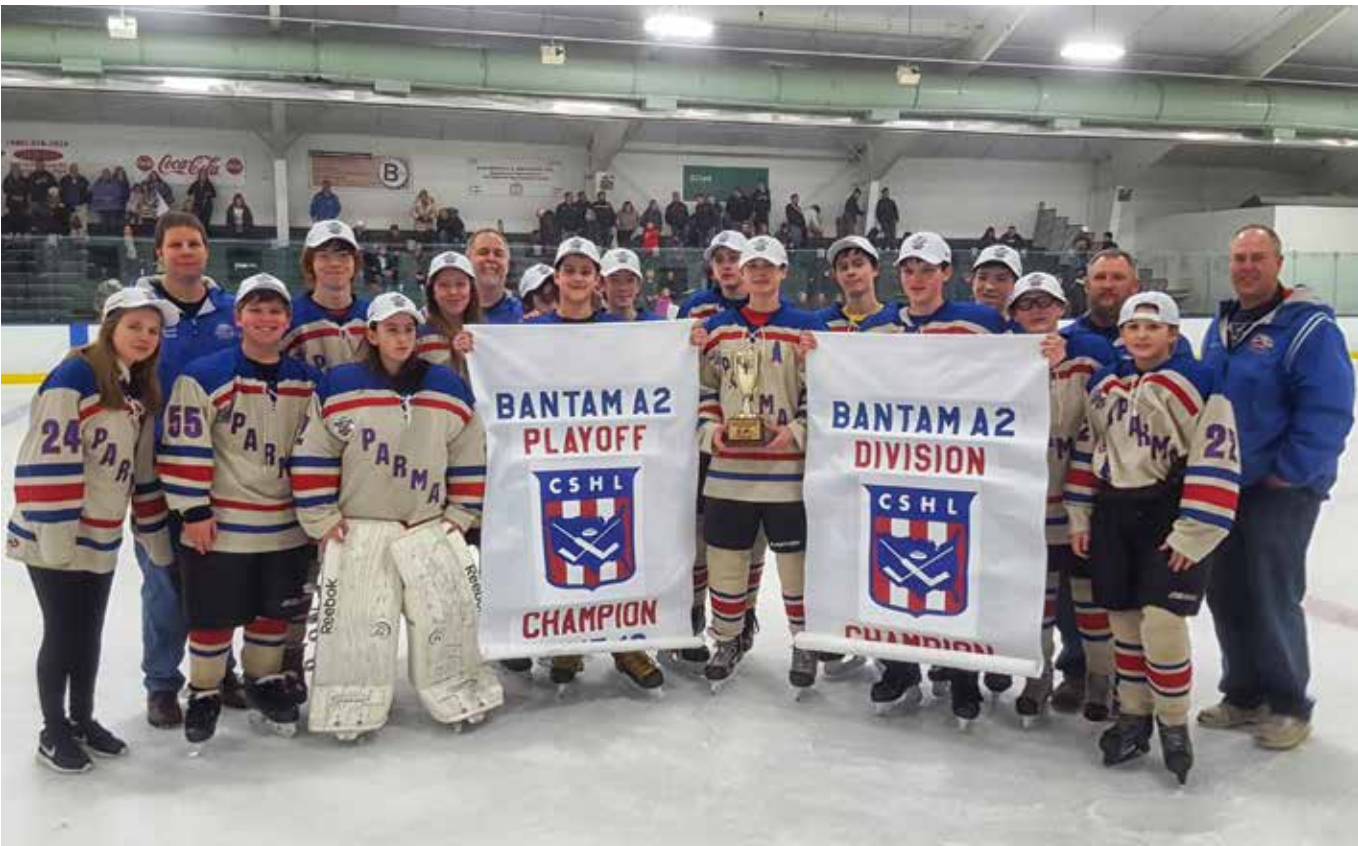
5 players have committed to Holy Name High School

2 players have committed to Parma Senior High School

2 players have committed to Padua High School

1 player has committed to Brooklyn High School

Coach Gunsley added, “I’d like to wish good luck to our players who will be moving on to high school this fall, you are all ready for the next level.



(L-R) Samantha Hwodeky, Head Coach Jerry Gunsley, Nolan Kachmar, Jason Edmonds, Amanda Mindzora, Hallie Schmitt, Coach Tim Arthur, Ian Drlik, Assistant Captain Owen Arthur, Jacob Ledford, Adam Jockers, Assistant Captain Robbie Gudin, Andrew Ocilka, Captain Jerry Gunsley, Aaron Kozickie, Conor Nagle, Coach Dennis Nagle, Connor Kovach and Coach Dave Mindzora

I’m proud to have had the opportunity to have coached all of you!” The 5 remaining players will return to Parma Hockey for their second year of eligibility at the Bantam level.

The Parma Bantam team is coached by Head Coach Jerry Gunsley and Assistant Coaches Tim Arthur, Dennis Nagle and Dave Mindzora. The team is managed by David Jockers and Bob Kozickie. Bantam championship photo and roster attached. More information regarding Parma Hockey is available at <http://www.parmaflyershockey.org/>

About the Parma Hockey Association

Formed as a founding member in the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League in 1971, Parma Hockey has been one of Cleveland’s premier youth hockey organizations for development and education. Parma Hockey is home to numerous pro players, including

former NHL players Danny Fritsche and Brian Holzinger, plus 2-time USA Women’s Hockey Olympic silver medalist Kelli Stack and current OHL goalie standout Alex Nedeljkovic. PHA has taught the game and spread the love of hockey to thousands of area youth for 45 years. As a Non-Profit

organization, the Mission of Parma Hockey is to develop and maintain the love of hockey in all of its stakeholders: the players, coaches, parents and fans. It accomplishes this while providing a safe, secure, and friendly environment that allows the development of each athlete to their greatest potential.



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Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

Congressional Corner

Protecting Ohioans' Paychecks

by Sherrod Brown

American workers know they're working more than ever before, for less pay. They don't think they can get by – much less get ahead – even if they work hard.

And too often, they're right that the deck is stacked against them. Across our country and our state, too many workers are putting in long hours for an honest day's pay, only to have their employers cheat them out of the paycheck they've earned.

While most employers treat their workers fairly, there are still far too many who force employees to work off the clock, refuse to pay them minimum wage, steal their tips, or deny them overtime pay. Another trick employers pull to avoid paying fair wages and benefits is misclassifying workers – for example, a food service contracting company might call a “cook” a “dishwasher,” to avoid paying the higher cook's salary.

And we know that workers in low-wage industries like food service, childcare, and retail service are at the greatest risk.

Congress Continues To Work To Defeat ISIS

by Jim Renacci

Early March, a retirement home in southern Yemen was the sight of yet more atrocities committed by ISIS extremists. The retirement home was founded by Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity. It was targeted by four gunmen who killed 16 people, four of who were nuns from this congregation. ISIS does not need to be contained – as this administration has stated – they need to be exterminated.

The week of March 14th marked a congressional deadline that required the Administration to make the determination of whether ISIS and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are guilty of genocide. With the history of brutal attacks, and in light of the most recent attack on the retirement home in Yemen, I am proud to have supported the passage of two separate bills to protect the American people:

H. Con. Res 75 would designate the persecution and murders committed by ISIS as genocide and war crimes.

H. Con. Res 121 would label al-Assad as violator of human rights against his people and guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Although the Administration has repeatedly underestimated the strength and force of ISIS, Congress has not. In February, the deadline in which Congress required the President to submit a strategy to defeat ISIS was missed. Though the Commander in Chief has not submitted any strategy to deal with ISIS, the House of Representatives took actions to fight ISIS – notably increasing military spend-

The National Employment Law Project surveyed low-wage workers in three cities across the country, and found that 26 percent of workers surveyed were paid less than minimum wage the previous week, and 76 percent of those who had worked more than 40 hours were not paid the legally-required overtime. And when workers file a complaint, they often face harsh retaliation from employers. Most workers who are being taken advantage of don't speak up, for fear of having their hours cut or being fired.

These Americans are working long

hours at demanding jobs to support their families. We should be encouraging work and making sure that work pays off – not letting employers get away with cheating Ohioans out of the paycheck they've earned.

That's why, along with Senator Murray, I'm introducing the Wage Theft Prevention and Recovery Act, to crack down on this wage theft.

The bill would create new civil penalties for employers who engage in wage theft, and give workers the right to receive full back pay for the wages that were stolen. Right now, even when

employers are caught stealing wages, employees are only able to recover lost pay at the minimum wage rate, even if their hourly rate is higher than that.

That's not right. When a worker is stolen from, they should be repaid in full.

To help make sure that happens, the bill also increases the number of years workers have to bring a wage theft claim in court. And it would require employers to provide regular paystubs, so workers can keep track of the pay they've earned, and more easily catch potential theft.

This is a commonsense plan to protect workers, boost economic security, and ensure that work pays off for all Americans – not just the wealthiest few.



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continued on page 13

News From Tri-C



A Growing Talent: Tri-C Student Mike Meros Of Parma Places At National Landscape Competition

by John Horton

Mike Meros of Parma placed in the Top 5 nationally in two events while representing Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition held March 16-19 at Mississippi State University.

His performance helped Tri-C finish first among community colleges and third overall at the competition. The event attracted 63 of the top horticulture and landscape programs in the country.

Meros placed fourth in both interior plant identification and landscape

lighting.

The competition was organized by the National Association of Landscape Professionals and is a leading recruitment event for the \$76 billion landscape industry, where there is high demand for skilled workers.

Tri-C’s Plant Science and Landscape Technology program — based at the College’s Eastern Campus in Highland Hills — prepares students for careers in landscape design and construction; garden center or nursery management; and other horticulture fields.

Come For A Visit! Tri-C Western Campus In Parma Hosts Open House On April 23

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will host an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23, at its Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

The open house provides prospective students an opportunity to learn about degree and certificate programs at Tri-C; meet with academic counselors; receive information on enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; explore student services; and tour the facilities.

Western Campus is one of five Tri-C sites holding an open house during those hours April 23. Other participating locations are:

- Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick
- Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills
- Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland
- Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake

Tri-C Students From Parma Named To All-Ohio Academic Team



Enzo Zaccardelli

by John Horton

Enzo Zaccardelli and Zachary Toth of Parma were among eight students from Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) named to the All-Ohio Community College Academic Team, which comprises top students at the state’s two-year schools.

The All-Ohio Academic Team recognizes student excellence in academics, leadership and community service. Fifty-five students from across the state were selected for this year’s team on the basis of their outstanding records.

Tri-C had more students named All-Ohio than any other school.

Zaccardelli, who received first-team honors, expects to graduate from Tri-C this spring with an Associate of Arts degree. He plans to transfer to Cleveland State University in the fall to study history and anthropology.

He is involved with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, International Club and Student Peace Alliance at Tri-C’s Western Campus in Parma. In 2015, he received national recognition as a Coca-Cola Leader of Promise Scholar, which honors academic achievement and leadership.

Toth, who received third-team honors, expects to graduate from Tri-C in May with an Associate of Arts degree and then transfer to John Carroll University to study history. His goal is to become a high school history teacher.

He is involved with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Tri-C Western Campus and was in the inaugural class of the Honors Program Fellowship that debuted at the College in the fall of 2014.

They joined the following Tri-C students — designated by campus — as



Zachary Toth

All-Ohio:

Eastern Campus: Sharmayne Schaffer of Garfield Heights (first team) and Heather Hamilton of Willoughby Hills (second team)

Metropolitan Campus: Vencott Palmer of Strongsville (second team) and Angela Garcia of Cleveland (third team)

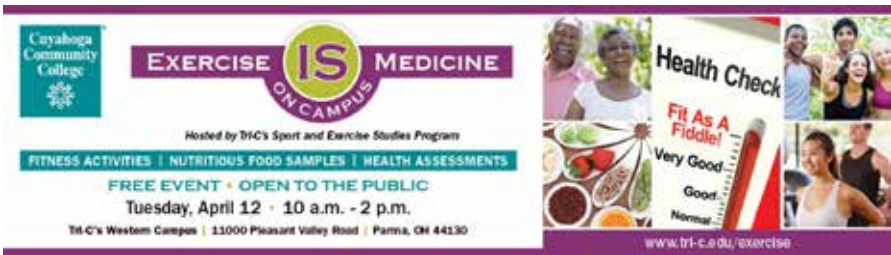
Westshore Campus: Sela Cunningham of Fairview Park (second team) and Rachael Hockenberry of Olmsted Township (second team)

First-team honorees will receive \$1,000 scholarships, while second-team members get \$500 scholarships and third-team members \$250. A recognition program for team members will be held in Columbus on April 21 during Community College Month.

The All-Ohio Academic Team program is supported by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

Law continued from page 12

sentence. If there is a volatile issue in front of him, he will lean toward leniency, so as not to radicalize either side. Why would a judge be so flexible on his rulings? He must get elected. If he doesn’t get the proper publicity, he may not get his job back, although not many voters are that attentive to the election of judges. At the time of the writing of this article, there are two thousand convicted felons in prison that are known to be innocent. Why are they then not released? Read the above.



Tri-C Promotes Fitness And Health At ‘Exercise is Medicine’ On April 12 At Western Campus

by John Horton

Learn how fitness and lifestyle can improve your overall health during “Exercise is Medicine on Campus,” a free upcoming program at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C).

The event is open to the public and will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Exercise is Medicine is part of a national initiative by the American College of Sports Medicine. The goal is to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle to help prevent many chronic diseases.

“Tri-C’s goal is to give people the tools they need to live a healthier life,” said Holly Clemens, coordinator of the event and an associate professor of Sport and Exercise Studies at the College. “It’s part of our commitment to campus and community wellness.”

The event will feature:

Fitness assessments and activi-

ties such as dry-land paddleboarding, rollerskating and tai chi, plus a chance to experience the VibeCage and learn how whole-body vibration can enhance physical therapy and sports performance

A variety of health assessments, including blood pressure tests and a body fat analyzer

Nutrition demonstrations and health food samples by students in Tri-C’s Food Services and local businesses.

The event is sponsored by the College’s Sport and Exercise Studies program, which prepares students for careers as personal trainers, fitness specialists and jobs in other health-related professions.

Tri-C ranked 10th in the nation in awarding associate degrees in health professions in 2014, according to Community College Week.

For more information on Exercise is Medicine or Tri-C’s Sport and Exercise Studies program, call 216-987-5070 or go to www.tri-c.edu/exercise.

Our History

50 Years Ago: A Look Back At 1965

by Bob Stilwell

A half-century ago, the war in Vietnam was escalating, the space race was in full swing, the Rolling Stones were on a world tour, the bravery of those who marched to Selma led the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and the St. Louis Arch was completed. The United States occupied the Dominican Republic, Malcolm X was assassinated, NASA's Mariner 4 flew by Mars, race riots erupted in Watts, California, and Muhammad Ali defeated Sonny Liston.

Let me take you 50 years into the past now for a photographic look back to 1965. The last 2 pictures are 17 year old Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar). New York City Basketball wonder of the High School hardwood circuit runs through a workout for tournament play in 2/17/1965. He is the all time leading scorer and is a 6 time NBA Champion. and Hillary Rodham. Senior class portrait from Maine East High School in Park Ridge, Illinois. Hopefully the best is yet to come.

Do You Remember... The Old Stone Tavern Inn Along Pearl Road

by Kenneth Lavelle

The old stone tavern Inn was built in 1817 by Conrad Countryman with family members. They had traveled by wagon to Parma Township in the spring of 1817. Mr. Countryman operated a blacksmith shop, sawmill and the old stone tavern inn. This old stone tavern inn was an overnight stage coach stop inn along the Wooster Pike beginning in 1820. The tavern was a regular stop where mail or packages were delivered and picked up before the local postmaster was appointed. Horse teams were exchanged at the old stone tavern used to pull stagecoaches. Wooden Wagons that hauled goods parked in the tavern's wagon yard. No established banks existed. Money and valuables were hidden to not be stolen. The tavern was robbed of its hidden currency and valuables.

Quarried stone from a nearby quarry was used to build the two-story

inn. This public house was a meeting place in Parma Township. The stone walls were reported to be three feet thick. Two fireplaces heated the building. The Countryman family moved further west to Michigan in 1823. Later owners included members of the Foster family. The inn was a station stop along the Underground Railroad in Ohio for escaping runaway slaves. It was one of three known stations in Parma Twp.

The Parma Post Centennial newspaper insert edition included the inn's history in 1926. The old stone tavern Inn was mentioned along with other inns that were still standing in the Cleveland News 1938 Sunday Magazine. The old stone tavern later became a private residence at 6363 Pearl Road. The building was divided up into small apartment units which was torn down in 1959. A Sunoco gas station currently occupies the site.

Parma Safety Fair, Community Shred Event In April

continued from page 1

onstration and information about gun safety, fingerprinting, Internet safety and much more.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, who attends the Safety Fair with his family, calls the day "educational and fun for the whole family, and something our residents look forward to every year."

In conjunction with the Safety Fair, a community shredding event is scheduled during the same hours at an adjacent parking lot of the Medical Arts Building #4, just west of the Justice

Center. The shredding services will be handled by All Ohio Secure Shred and paid for by a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District administered through the City's Community Services & Economic Development Department.

Parma residents should bring identification – a driver's license or utility bill – and also a donation of canned or non-perishable food items for the Parma Hunger Center, which will be on-site collecting the food items.

Congress Continues To Work To Defeat ISIS

continued from page 11

ing and putting a temporary pause on the Syrian refugee relief.

Despite the Administration not recognizing ISIS and President al-Assad as guilty of genocide, Congress is ready to do so. As Speaker Ryan has said, "We are ready to say this. We need to recognize these atrocities with clear eyes. And we need to continue to pray for the persecuted."

As we just celebrated Easter, and continue to practice our religious freedoms, I will remain working to keep our national security and the

American people safe. We need to recognize ISIS as a tangible threat to our way of life and President al-Assad as a war criminal who will stop at nothing to retain power.

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

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Items Of Interest

Free Comic Book Day 2016 In Parma

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Get ready, true believers - Free Comic Book Day is fast approaching! This year, the event falls on Saturday, May 7, as it celebrates its 15-year anniversary. As usual, it promises to be a fun-filled day for comic book fans of all ages to discover a variety of new comics. According to the FCBD website, there have been over 6 million free comic books ordered this year, a 7% increase over 2015's total of 5.6 million comics, and the number of participating stores around the world remains at over 2,300.

There will be up to 50 titles that may be available at each participating location. DC Entertainment, Image Comics, and Marvel Comics will be among the many publishers offering titles that include Archie, Captain America, Sonic the Hedgehog, The Tick, Attack on Titan, Pokémon, and Doctor Who!

Fortunately for Parma area residents, there are three comic book shops participating in the event: B & L Comics, North Coast Nostalgia, and York Comics. Two of these are in close proximity to one another along Ridge Road in Parma's Polish Village. Though lines of colorfully costumed crusaders will likely already be forming as shops are about to open, each shop usually offers a different mix of comics. Consider visiting all three of Parma's incredible comic book shops to find just what

you're looking for on Free Comic Book Day! 'Nuff said.

B & L Comics Cards & Nostalgia
5591 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH 44129
Tel. (440) 886-3077
Sat. Hours 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

North Coast Nostalgia
5853 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH 44129
Tel. (440) 845-7040
Sat. Hours 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

York Comics & Cards
7390 York Rd, Parma, OH 44130
Tel. (440) 842-4466
Sat. Hours 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Check out FreeComicBookDay.com for more information.



The Joker often appears at B & L Comics located in Parma's Polish Village. | Photo © 2015-2016 Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Polish Constitution Weekend 2016 In Parma's Polish Village

continued from page 5

Parma area high school bands, US military color guard units, veteran posts in northeast Ohio, and many more.

A formal program after the parade will be held under the big tent behind Unity Catholic Credit Union (5839 Ridge Rd, Parma) with food and drinks available from a number of local vendors. Music will be provided by Northcoast Mix.

For more event information, visit PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio.com. A weekend event flyer can be viewed at PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio.com/Schedule.pdf



On Polish Constitution Day, this vintage fire truck features a Polish flag.

Also, be sure to visit PolishVillageParma.com, Facebook.com/PolishVillage, and Twitter.com/PolishVillage to keep up with the latest news in Parma's Polish Village.



The Cleveland Polka Association is always easy to spot during the parade, whether by sight or by sound.

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Parma Arts Scene

Four Cleveland Arts Institutions Pay Tribute To The Work Of Parma Artist Anthony Eterovich (1916-2011)

by Katherine Bulava

This spring, four arts institutions in Cleveland will pay tribute to the life's work of well-respected Parma artist Anthony Eterovich with simultaneous exhibitions. The principal showing is a centennial retrospective - "A Thrilling Act": The art of Anthony Eterovich (1916-2011) - that will open at Tregoning & Company, 1300 W. 78th Street, on April 15th, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth. Honoring the influence of jazz music on Eterovich's work, the John Petrone Trio will perform throughout the opening.

The Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) will feature drawings by Eterovich - a 54 year CIA faculty member - in the CIA Study Collection from June to August. A preview party for CIA Alumni at Tregoning & Company on April 14th at 5:30 p.m. will benefit the CIA through net sales proceeds added to its Eterovich Scholarship Fund. The Marshall Griffith Trio will perform.

Fundamental Gestures: Figures from Life, which opens April 15th at

ARTNeo, 1305 W. 80th Street, Suite 016, includes two Eterovich drawings and several more Eterovich pieces will be displayed on a feature wall.

And, rounding it out, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, 1834 E. 123rd Street, will present another opportunity to view Eterovich's work April 20th - May 7th. A small selection of Eterovichs will be on display in a Pop Up Office Exhibition.

The joint tributes to Eterovich pay respect to a Cleveland artist who steadfastly celebrated that city throughout his entire life. He studied under John Teyral and Viktor Schreckengost at the CIA after receiving a full scholarship and influenced countless students while on faculty there for more than 50 years. His work is in the permanent collections of the Butler Institute of American Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Dayton Art Institute, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve and ARTNeo.

After he won first prize in the 16th Annual National New Year's Show at the Butler Institute of American Art

with his painting The Merry Bench, Edith Halpert requested an Eterovich to show in her famous Downtown Gallery in New York. That exhibited painting, Table Charade, received a glowing review from Howard DeVree of the New York Times on May 6, 1951:

"One of the most ambitious canvases is by Anthony Eterovich, 'Table Charade' ... succeeds in bringing orga-

nization out of what might well have been a too complicated profusion of detail."

A full color catalogue to the exhibition has been published, containing essays and remembrances by Bruce Checefsky, William Martin Jean and George Kozman and will be available for purchase at Tregoning & Company.

Attention Creative Individuals!



by Kathryn Mabin

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC), serving the community for over 50 years, is accepting applications for their annual Medley of Arts Show & Sale to be held on Saturday, May 21st. No residency requirement. Professionals and amateurs are welcomed. Cash and ribbon prizes will be awarded in five categories. Categories include: Painting I (Watercolor/Mixed Media), Painting II (Acrylics/Oils/Mixed Media), Graphics (computer art, pen & ink, pencil, wood burning), and Photography, 3-D (sculpture, clay, ceramics, pottery, woodcarving and jewelry). Deadline for entry is May 14th. PAFAC offers instruction in watercolor and acrylic painting year round for adults, as well as weekly after school art classes for youth. Watch for a unique summer program soon to be announced for seniors and teens. PAFAC summer programming is funded

in part through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Thank you to the residents of Cuyahoga County for their support. For more information on the show, or to download the show application visit www.parmafinearts.org, or call (440) 888-4514, leave a message and a volunteer will return your call.

Polish Village is now accepting applications for Flamingo Fever 2016. Flamingo Fever is a public art event. Creative individuals use pink plastic lawn ornaments to create unique table top character sculptures which will be displayed in local businesses throughout Parma during the summer and auctioned off at a banquet in September. The net proceeds benefit the Polish Village Community Development Corporation. Artist deadline for designs and initial application is April 30th, completed sculptures accepted no later than May 25th. For more information, email kathrynmabin@att.net, or call (440) 843-6474.

Fruit Tops and Hard Soda Pops!

by Christian Fitzharris

Remember when the beer section of your local store had beer from one end to the other? You had Light Beer or Beer. American Beer and Beers from Around the World. These days, one or two sections will be filled with bright colorful packaging covering fluorescent liquids in translucent glass. Bottles that look more like carnival confections and fair fare. What are these strangers that have taken over our traditional beer selection?! There's everything from beer with grapefruit and beer with margarita mix to alcoholic orange pop. It's like Willy Wonka's drunken uncle broke into the candy factory and sauced our sweets! 2015 was the year that saw Hard Root Beer soar with huge sales in this emerging wave of sweet meets heat.

Now that 2016 is here, we are knee deep in the next wave of candy coated buzz bombs. The obvious market for this is, well, all of us. The United States consumes more sugar than any other country in the world with the average U.S. citizen consuming more than 150 pounds of sugar a year. That's about

thirty packages of five pounds of sugar being consumed by one person. The good news is that we can now drink the sugar instead of having to do all of that exhausting chewing! (Sure, you may be burning calories while chewing, but who has the time?) Ginger Beer has been around since the 1800s. Gosling's Ginger Beer is added to Dark Rum to create the classic Dark 'n' Stormy cocktail which is the national beverage of Bermuda. Ginger Beer is also used in the beloved Moscow Mule.

Some favorite sweet alcohol pops are: Henry's Hard Soda Orange or Ginger Ale ABV 4.2%; Not Your Father's Root Beer or Ginger Ale ABV 5.9%; Coney Island's Hard Ginger Ale ABV 5.6%; Hard Root Beer ABV 5.8%; Hard Orange Cream Ale ABV 5.0%; Seagram's Hard Soda: Lemon and Lime, Cherry Cola, Orange Cream, and Grape ABV 5.9%.

And remember, without sugar we wouldn't have alcohol so this was a long time coming. Grab a six pack of sugar suds and treat yourself to a Hard Root Beer float or Orange Cream buzz and pop into spring with zest! Cheers!

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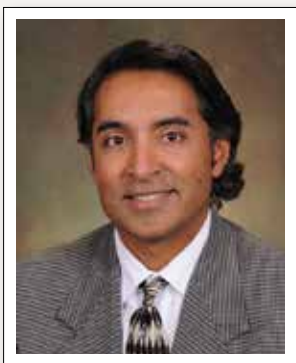
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