

“September: It was the most beautiful of words, he’d always felt, evoking orange-flowers, swallows, and regrets” - Alexander Theroux

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Tragedy In Parma Heights

by Dale Powell

On August 20 the unthinkable happened during a concert being held in the Greenbriar Commons in Parma Heights. When a woman was leaving in her auto, she apparently stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake pedal during the course of pulling out, and plowed into concert goers who were on the dance floor. The tragic result was that 8 people were injured, two seriously, and one victim has since died from her injuries. Another person was critically injured, the driver of the vehicle was completely distraught, and the rest of the audience was understandably very upset at the terrible events.

Incidents such as this have occurred from time to time at various places,

and it always raises certain questions. Are states doing enough to assure the fitness of citizens of advancing age to operate motor vehicles in a safe manner? Should insurance companies charge higher rates for elderly drivers in order to address the increased risk? Do incidents like this justify the rapid development of driver-less cars? Also, in hindsight, doesn't it seem somewhat risky to place a dance floor with no barriers directly on the pavement of a parking lot? Wouldn't it have been safer to locate the dance floor somewhere else that was not in proximity to vehicles? Was this an accident waiting to happen? It remains to be seen how this terrible tragedy will affect future events like this in Parma Heights and other communities as well.

UH Parma Athletic Trainer At Valley Forge High School Wins National Service Award

by CJ Sheppard

A 14-year record of treating and advising high school athletes during all practices and home games has resulted in a national award for a certified athletic trainer at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

David Rauch, who has worked with student athletes at Valley Forge High School in Parma since 2002 and travels with the varsity football team, was honored at the National Athletic Trainers' Association convention in Baltimore this summer. The prestigious Athletic Trainer Service Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the athletic training profession, and decades of service and leadership at the state and local levels.

Rauch covers home sporting events at Valley Forge High School and travels with the varsity football team. He spends afternoons

at the school, providing treatments and injury checks, overseeing practices and preparing teams for home games. He works with team physicians from Southwest Orthopedics and UH Orthopedics to ensure athletes are seen if needed.

The current Vice President of Inter-Association Affairs for the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association, Rauch has represented the organization at both the regional and district levels. He also is a previous recipient of the Valley Forge PTA's Helping Hands award for his care of the high school's athletes. He is a resident of Parma.

“High school student athletes benefit from having someone neutral on their side, who can help them in a time of need,” Rauch says. “When an injury occurs, the athlete and family know they can count on me to help them return to optimal health. I



US Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur At The Ukrainian Village Parade In Parma On August 27

Keep Recycling - It Make A Difference!

by Mike Byrne

Efforts at “Greening Parma Heights” have made significant strides. A recently released report of 2015 Residential Recycling Percentages shows that Parma Heights has the second greatest percentage recycling increase of all communities in Cuyahoga County.

The Parma Heights waste management program involves reducing waste through numerous recycling programs made available to our residents each year.

enjoy helping student athletes get back to activities and doing what they love to do. My door is always open to any athlete. Communication with coaches and parents is a vital part of my profession.”

Rauch also enjoys promoting his profession to high school students. He has mentored many students who have chosen health care fields, including athletic training, nursing and radiology. He received his bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from Wilmington College of Ohio in 1995 and a master's degree in Sports Administration from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee in 1997.

Participation continues to increase at special drop-off events held at the Service Garage in the Greenbrier Commons throughout the year. “More and more residents are coming to safely shred personal documents and to dispose of hazardous household materials,” says Michelle Teresi, city Recycling Coordinator.

Recycling a ton of 'waste' has twice the economic impact of burying it in the ground and extends the life of our landfill. In fact, according to an online magazine, “Recycling: Good For Economy and Environment”, recycling one additional ton of waste will pay \$101 more in salaries and wages, produce \$275 more in goods and services, and generate \$135 more in sales than disposing of it in a landfill.”

I thank every resident who puts forth the effort to recycle. By participating, we help benefit the economy by creating jobs for citizens in recycling industries but more importantly, we are together improving and preserving the environment for future generations.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District recently launched a new website called CuyahogaRecycles.org, which shows residents in all cities exactly what and how

they can recycle in their community. In Parma Heights, you can fill your green recycling cart with newspaper, junk mail, cans, cartons, glass, flattened cardboard and plastic.

Unused medications can be dropped off in a specially marked drop box in the lobby of the Police Department located at 6184 Pearl Road.

Special drop-off events are held throughout the year for computers, electronics, scrap tires, hazardous waste, and confidential documents. The schedule is posted on the Service Department page of our website at www.parma-heightsoh.gov.

If residents choose not to donate clothing to a charity of their choice, curbside donations of clothing, textiles and household goods are collected by Simple Recycling. To make arrangements for a pick-up, call (866) 835-5068.

Additionally, extra household refuse and styrofoam (not packing peanuts) can be brought to the Service Garage on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month between 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Again, for more recycling information, please visit the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's new website: CuyahogaRecycles.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month I continue exploring Parma's places of worship in my continuing series that spotlights our community's rich religious diversity and heritage. The church I visited recently for this column was St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) located at 5375 Broadview Road, just south of Brookpark Road. The young Pastor, Jason Soltysiak, was gracious enough to take time during a very busy week at his Parish to provide me with the information for this writing.

Fr. Jason grew up in New England and attended the University of Hartford. He holds the javelin throwing record for his high school and college, as well as a degree writing. His father, Rev. Joseph Soltysiak is also a priest and serves in New England. Fr. Jason was ordained to the priesthood in 2007, came to St. Mary's in November, 2013 and was installed as pastor on February 1, 2014. He and his wife Natalie reside in the Parish rectory on Wexford Avenue with their three cats, Frankie, Batman and Calbert.

Having been baptized myself at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Sandusky, I assumed that St. Mary's PNCC in Parma was also affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). I soon learned that I was not correct. The PNCC was formed in Scranton, Pennsylvania in the late 19th century specifically for new Polish immigrants who, according to their website, experienced "frustrations over cultural, linguistic and ethnic disputes" with the RCC. With 125 parishes in the United States, Canada and Europe, the faith boasts about 26,000 members in the U.S.A.

St. Mary's Parish was founded in 1915, in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. In 1952, the parishioners voted to purchase a city block of land at the corner of Broadview Road and Wexford Avenue in the City of Parma. In 1955, the Parish moved to



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

their current location into the church which was built with the help of many parishioners. Like many other religious communities in Parma, the Parish experienced incredible growth as the city's population proliferated. By the 1970s, a Parish hall was added, as well as a Sunday school wing.

The Polish National Catholic Church broke with the Roman Catholic Church tradition of saying the Mass in Latin, providing first and second generation Poles the ability to worship in their vernacular. Today the PNCC worships in English and "welcome[s] people of all ethnic, racial and social backgrounds." For instance, Fr. Jason stated that about two-thirds of St. Marys' congregants self-identify as Polish, while the other third are a mixture of various ethnic groups.

Confession is central to the PNCC faith. However, unlike the RCC, confession is generally public in which congregants are asked to privately confess to God, the entire congregation then recites the Prayer of Confession in unison, followed by penance and absolution assigned by the priest. "This form of confessional is very popular among the members of our faith," Fr. Jason explained. Private confession to the priest is also permitted and is pro-



vided on an as requested basis. The PNCC holds that the use of birth control is a person choice, allows divorced people to participate in Mass and allows priests to marry.

The PNCC is very democratic in nature. That is, each parish holds parish meetings in which the entire congregation meets to vote on major decisions. Further, each parish has a parish committee whose job it is to run the day-to-day operations of the community. The pastor is a member of the committee and has one vote as the other members do. "The pastor is the authority when it comes to faith and doctrine, while church operations are a group decision," according to Fr. Jason.

As the founder of the Parma Peanut Butter Drive, I was very happy and impressed to find out about St. Marys' Food Ministry. On the first Wednesday of each month, the Parish provides a meal to anyone who wishes to stop by. "We do not check folk's finances at the door, anyone is welcome," Fr. Jason explained. The Parish also holds a Sunday school, hosts two Alcoholics Anonymous groups, holds a fun carnival each July and has groups and activities for parishioners of every age.

For more information about St. Mary's visit them online at www.stmaryspncc.org.wix.com, by e-mail at stmaryspncc.org@gmail.com or call the parish office at 216-661-9246. In closing, I wish to thank Fr. Jason and his congregation for their kindness and hospitality.

Parma's Search For World War II Veterans



The City of Parma's search for its remaining World War II veterans has been going quite well, and plans are being finalized for the Sept. 19 City Council meeting at which they will be honored. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. These veterans deserve a packed house, and to that end, you are invited to attend to show your respect for what has been dubbed "The Greatest Generation." Please join us for what promises to be a moving ceremony. The veterans will be named Citizens of the Month for September and will be individually recognized with certificates from the Mayor, the City Council, Auditor Brian Day, Treasurer Tom Mastroianni and Law Director Tim Dobeck.

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HEALTH/CULTURE

Cornerstone Of Hope Founder To Inspire At Community Prayer Breakfast

by CJ Sheppard

Life was good for Mark and Christi Tripodi as the new millennium began. Blessed with three healthy children, a new home and financial security, they were grateful for their good fortunes. But life changed suddenly on Mother's Day in 2000 when the couple rushed their 3-year-old son, Bobby, to an emergency room with a high fever. A day later, they left the hospital without their child, who died from bacterial meningitis. Although they received substantial spiritual and emotional support from family and friends, the depth of their loss made their grief overwhelming.

At the Oct. 20 Community Prayer Breakfast sponsored by University

Hospitals Parma Medical Center, the founder and president of Cornerstone of Hope will testify to how a purpose that values community, faith, hope and prayer can make a life-changing difference for those grieving and bereaved. Mark Tripodi will explain how a caring, dedicated staff and team of volunteers provides support and counseling services to strengthen the community at this nonprofit organization in Independence.

Tickets are \$25 per person for the event, held Thursday, October 20 from 7 – 8:30 a.m. at the Astrodome, 5720 State Road in Parma. For more information, contact Rev. Wayne Decker, Chaplain at UH Parma Medical Center, at 440-743-4295 for more information.

Parma Hospital Auxiliary Hosts Soup Social On Sept. 16

by CJ Sheppard

The Parma Hospital Auxiliary will once again sponsor its popular annual Soup Social to benefit patient care at UH Parma Medical Center on Friday, September 16. The event will take place under the covered patio in front of the hospital from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine.

This annual event began in 2011, with area restaurants donating homemade soup and bakery for the fundraiser. It has grown into a very popular fund-raiser for the Auxiliary, the hospital, and the community.

Soups, salad, bread and dessert are all donated for this event. For \$8.00 per ticket, you can enjoy three delicious bowls of soup (choosing from 10 different varieties), salad, bread, dessert, and a drink. Door prizes and raffle prizes, also donated by local businesses, will be raffled off. Members of the UH Parma leadership team will be on hand to assist with serving soup.

This year's proceeds will benefit the purchase of a blanket warming cabinet for patients at UH Parma Medical Center.



Children and camp counselors gather to get acquainted and sing camp songs on the first day of "Together We Can."

Children Needing Grief Support Can Find Help At Overnight Camp

by Laurie Henrichsen

Registration Now Open for "Together We Can Overnight" Help and support are available for children ages 8-14 who are coping with the death of a loved one. "Together We Can Overnight," a children's grief support camp hosted by Hospice of the Western Reserve, is planned from Saturday, Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m., to Sunday, Oct. 16, 10:15 a.m., at Red Oak Camp, 9057 Kirtland-Chardon Rd., Kirtland. For the convenience of families from Parma and surrounding southwestern communities, camp transportation will be provided from the Holiday Inn, 4181 W. 150th St. Drop off times and additional camp details will be included in registration packets. The registration fee is \$25 per camper; scholarships are available. Space is limited and completed registrations are due by Monday, Sept. 26. For more information and to receive a registration packet, call 216.486.6838.

Planned activities such as commemorative crafts, drum circles and storytelling encourage memories, coping skills and the expression of feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

Plenty of time is also set aside for fun recreational activities and creative play, allowing children to enjoy the beautiful natural setting.

"We have hosted bereavement day camps for many years," said Karen Hatfield, Team Leader for Counseling Services, Hospice of the Western Reserve. "Our campers have frequently asked us to consider an overnight event. We're excited to offer one for the first time this year. Staying overnight enables children to participate in traditional camp experiences like spending time together around the campfire and sleeping in the cabins available at Red Oak. The outdoor setting allows them to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and asking questions in a safe, supportive environment among other children who are coping with similar feelings."

Generous gifts from the community make it possible for Hospice of the Western Reserve, a nonprofit agency serving the Northern Ohio region, to offer a variety of grief support camps for children. For more information or to make a donation supporting the camps, visit hospicewr.org/donate.

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EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER

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Show Kids You Care: Learn What They Have to Teach.

Asset Corner #81

by Gene Lovasy

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

- Here are the facts
- Research shows the more young people are committed to learning, the more likely they are to grow up healthy. Search Institute has identified five assets in the Commitment to Learning category crucial for helping young people:
- #21 Achievement Motivation – Young person is motivated to do well in school. (65%*)
 - #22 School Engagement – Young people is actively engaged in learning. (55%*)
 - #23 Homework – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day. (47%*)
 - #24 Bonding to School – Young person cares about her or his school. (52%*)
 - #25 Reading for Pleasure – Young person reads for pleasure 3 or more hours /week. (22%*)

Tips for building these assets

By supporting young people and reminding them of the built-in rewards

of learning, you can help them deepen their engagement in learning at school, at home, and in the community. Focus on young people individually to help meet distinct needs, styles, and preferences. Schools and youth programs often offer different options. And remember: Learning happens everywhere, not just in school.

- Also try this
- In your home and family: Encourage reading as a regular part of your child's day or read aloud together. When young people are read to, have book collections at home and limits on TV watching, they are more likely to read for pleasure and lifelong learning.
 - In your neighborhood and community: Be a role model. Show young people your enthusiasm for learning new skills and gathering information. Encourage and support young people in finding new things that get them excited about learning.
 - In your school or youth program: Bring in guests who have achieved their dreams. Invite the students and participants to interview them and learn firsthand about the commitment needed to succeed.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

From the Library....1) HOMEWORK CTR ORIENTATION at the Parma Branch, Sept 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Join the homework center staff to find out about the free center and the help it can offer your child. The entire family is welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Homework Center opens Sept 21st. 2) Go to their web site www.cuyahogalibrary.org/ and check out all the new offerings. Click on the Branches tab for schedules and/or the Donate tab for a link to volunteer opportunities.

Evolving since around 2007 a local non-profit, The Imagine Foundation (www.imaginefreedom.org) Is addressing the issues of human trafficking/ slavery by promoting solutions and education. Visit their web site to learn more. Among other things download a pdf of their curriculum for a proposed program called Project S.A.F.E. (Saving Adolescents From Exploitation). You don't have to be a teacher to appreciate the information. It's definitely worth sharing w/your kids.

The Collab's (at Hanna Elem on Snow & Chevy Blvd) next Mobile Food Pantry will take place on Thursday, Sept 8th. Help is needed in the morning (9:00 am) to unload & set-up, and again in the afternoon (2:00 pm) for distribution. For some perspective on the issue of food, or lack thereof in our community, 13,000 lbs of fruits & vegetables (a new high) were distributed to 150+ households during last month's Food Pantry. 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.

The district's Early Childhood PTA (PECPTA), City of Parma and UH/Parma Med Center are once again collaborating to host the 2nd annual Touch-A-Truck event beginning at noon on Sunday, Sept 19 at the Health Education Center, 7300 State Rd. (just north of Pleasant Valley Rd.) This FREE, signature family event will include monster trucks, fire trucks, police and other unique vehicles for kids of all ages to explore. Other activities include face painting, balloon animals, play area activities & concessions will be available. A portion of the proceeds will be used to support the PECPTA Scholarship Fund for a graduating PCSD student. Any donation of can goods or a non-perishable items will go to the Parma Hunger Center and any loose change will be donated to the Parma

Animal Shelter. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pecpta/> for more information about the organization and the event.

Learn more about the Parent Academy by visiting the PCSD web site www.parmacityschools.org & typing "Parent Academy" in the Search Box. You can click on the link describing the program as well as download a schedule of the monthly workshops. Typing "ABLE" in that same Search Box will give you a link to the District's Adult Education Program. Click on the "Exciting New Programs" link to learn more about four new and unique occupational training programs.

Share your asset building ideas and/or thoughts about the developmental asset concept by visiting the "asset corner" facebook page. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/character, 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.

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INSPIRATION

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All things work together for good to they that love God. This is one of God’s most difficult promises to believe in in times of affliction and loss.

America is experiencing an awful scourge of moral decay among our children and young people because their parents and grandparents have largely “forgotten the laws of God.”

Everything that we see, hear, feel, or think influences how we perceive what is right and what is wrong. Since all of us have learned wrong things, we need to learn to unlearn and relearn. We can do this by filtering everything through God’s truth word.

God considers the honoring of parents by their children to be of great importance; it is vital if our children are to come also to honor their Heavenly Father.

Godless people are more inclined to be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of good, treacherous, rash, conceited, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

If Christians spent as much time praying as they do grumbling, they would soon have nothing to grumble about.

If someone were to pay you two cents for every kind word you have spoken about people and five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?

In the near future certain people are going to begin asking themselves, “What-ever possessed me to get tattooed?”

It is a known fact that most children will follow in their parents’ footsteps and so will the generations that follow.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself.

No nation can remain free very long when immoral practices become widely accepted by a majority of its citizens.

There is hardly anybody good for everything, and there is scarcely anybody who is absolutely good for nothing.

We often hear it said, “If God existed, there would be no wars.” It would be truer to say, “If God’s laws were observed, there would be no wars.”

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?

Casino Royale Gala To benefit Hospital On Sept. 17

by CJ Sheppard

Enjoy an exhilarating, elegant casino-themed gala to benefit community health at the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation’s Casino Royale on Saturday, September 17. The atrium and ballroom of the Embassy Suites in Independence, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd. North, will be transformed into an elegant casino, complete with a jazz lounge and poker, roulette and other games of chance.

At the Foundation’s only major fundraiser for 2016, guests will enjoy a lavish dinner, artfully displayed appetizers and creative cocktails. In addition to casino games, a live auction and raffles will punctuate the evening, which runs from 5 – 11 p.m.

Top supporters of this event include: Legacy Health Services, the Title Sponsor; Parma Hospital Auxiliary, Presenting Sponsor; the Medical Staff of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Platinum Sponsor; and Weston Hurd LLP, Gold Sponsor.

The Foundation supports UH Parma Medical Center’s mission to care for the health and wellbeing of the community within and beyond the walls of the hospital. This year, the Foundation is focusing on supportive care for patients with cardiac, cancer and palliative care needs.

Tickets for Casino Royale are \$175 per person. Dress is black-tie optional for guests. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities or more information, please call 440-743-4280.

Remembering Flight 93

by Lizabeth Braskie

The overcast sky and intermittent drizzle set the pensive mood for our busload of passengers. We were on a recent day trip to visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanks-ville, Pennsylvania. Our collective, somber conduct reflected the apprehension and discovery of a tragic, yet important page of history. In the morning of Sept.11, 2001, four U.S. commercial airliners were hijacked by al Qaeda terrorists. Shortly after 9:00 a.m. the devastation began when the first two of these aircraft flew into the twin towers of New York City’s World Trade Center. Minutes later another hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, and the fourth was headed toward Washington D.C. by way of Flight 93. The terrorists fought their way into the cockpit of this plane around 9:30 a.m. Phone calls between the authorities and the travelers on board alerted them to their probable destination of crashing into the Capitol Building. The brave passengers decided to fight and gain control of the plane and prevent that from happening---all the while knowing they would give their lives for that to occur. And they did, at approximately 10:03 a.m.

We arrived at the facility and were given time to explore the main building, nearby overlook area and a closer visit to the crash site memorial. More construction was kept behind fences, but we were focused on what we could learn from the large Visitor Center Complex. While the rain had stopped, I walked quickly to see the overview of the large, flat area where the historic site was located. A guide at the rail pointed to a boulder in the distance and told us that was where the tragedy occurred. An image of twisted wreckage flooded my senses and the last seconds of 40 passengers and crew haunted my mind.

The Visitor Center was full of more information and some hands-on audio. This area was planned to be informative but with subdued light-

ing respectful of the unfolding chaos. Several large panels of minute by minute occurrences of that day were read by visitors in quiet observation. A notable scene was the path of Flight 93 shown in red on several of the large maps. Powerful descriptions and images conjured up in our minds were responsible for many tears on individuals’ faces.

I dabbled at my own when I finished listening to one of the phone calls that visitors could pick up and hear. They were the messages sent to loved ones from the doomed passengers. I heard a young girl speaking to her mom, telling her that she was never coming home again---that she was in a plane that had been hijacked. While sobbing, she explained to her mother that the passengers were planning to overtake the aircraft in order to prevent the devastation of the likely targeted Capitol Building. They were determined to change the course of this plane so that wouldn’t happen. I couldn’t imagine the painful dialog the travelers had with those at home. What bravery they all showed through their last words to their loved ones. Theirs was a successful yet indescribable moment of genuine valor.

I saved a few minutes to walk down the path and visit the crash site. It was about 200 feet from the railing on a flat grassy area. I focused on the boulder representing the headstone for the brave bodies buried underneath. I said a few prayers while imagining the last seconds of all those on board and their final thoughts. They shared in the noble act of unmitigated courage that saved a nation from another unspeakable act of devastation. No one will ever know the ultimate worry and desperation of the brave 40, but our prayers will forever be said in eternal thanks to all of them. As I left this sacred area, I hardly noticed the rain beginning to fall. It mixed with the tears I felt sliding down my cheeks.

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Pickleball Comes To Parma

by Jeannie Roberts

Ok, so maybe you haven't heard of it yet, and if you have, you might think pickleball is a silly name for a serious sport. The point is, it is a serious sport, and Claudia Fontana's goal is to make sure you try it out.

Fontana, retired from teaching physical education in Parma City Schools, carries the title of Ambassador now, from the USA Pickleball Association. She is crazy about pickleball, and she's downright thrilled that Parma has created two pickleball courts at

Ries Park, behind the ice rink on For-estwood Drive. Already the courts are busy, and Fontana is convinced that demand will dictate more local pickle-ball courts in the future.

Pickleball is America's fast-est growing participant sport, and its popularity is somewhat due to its appeal to kids and seniors alike. There are courts in Independence, Strongsville, Brecksville, Broadview Heights and Middleburg Heights. In the 2013 National Senior Games, hosted in the Cleveland area, there were more than

400 entrants in singles and doubles.

"This is a positive and healthy activity for all ages, and it is a great family game," Fontana said. "It's a very social sport, and can be played recreationally and competitively."

So what exactly is pickleball? The game combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. It's played on a court similar to a tennis court but much smaller. This allows for players with limited mobility but also encourages strategic, fast-paced rallies.

"There's really something for everybody," Fontana said.

Parma Parks & Recreation Direc-

tor Mickey Vittardi says that the initial response to the addition of pickleball courts at Ries Park has been positive. "People are still learning about the sport, but there is a lot of curiosity out there about it," he said. "We're excited to be able to continue expanding our recreational offerings."

Fontana is planning at least one introductory workshop in the near future to help people get acquainted with pickleball. "I think once people get out there on the court, they'll see how much fun they can have playing pickleball," she said.



Linda Baznik, Claudia Fontana, Mickey Vittardi and Tim DeGeeter touch paddles at the end of their game. This act of sportsmanship is encouraged by the USA Pickleball Association.

Tri-C's Encore Program In Parma Offers Learning Opportunities To Adults 55 And Older

by John Horton

The Encore Campus program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) begins a new session of classes Sept. 23 to enrich the minds and lives of those ages 55 and older.

The fall program runs every Friday for seven weeks at Western Campus in Parma and Eastern Campus in Highland Hills. Age-eligible students can enroll in one to six classes for one low fee of \$99.

The course catalogue features more than 100 options on a wide variety of subjects, including art, cinema, computers, history, music, religion,

science, yoga and more. Classes are taught by Tri-C faculty, retired educators and subject experts.

"Senior adults can get out and meet new people while learning new things and challenging their minds, with no homework or exams included," said Suzanne Ortiz, who oversees the program.

Interested in classes but can't make it to Encore Campus? Then check out Tri-C's Neighborhood Scholars senior adult education courses, which take place at museums, parks and other

continued on page 9

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PERSPECTIVE

Health Care And Medicare In The 2016 Presidential Campaign

by Lee Kamps

Some people believe that the presidential election is a choice between the “lesser of two evils” or that their vote doesn’t make a difference. But elections ARE important and elections have consequences. Of particular consequence is the fate of the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare and Medicare. The result of this year’s presidential election may have serious ramifications that could affect millions when it comes to their health insurance and access to health care.

One of the things that happens at each party’s convention is the development of that party’s platform. Most voters don’t pay any attention to the party platforms when making their choice on which candidate to vote for. But party platforms are vitally important since those party platforms are the agenda that the President and members of congress from that party expect to adopt should they get elected. In essence the party platforms are a framework for what the party hopes to accom-

plish once elected.

This year the choice, especially involving health care and Medicare, couldn’t be greater. One party platform wants to expand Medicare and build on the ACA while the other party wants to restrict Medicare and repeal the ACA. Anyone can do an internet search or walk into the party’s local office and be able to read the party’s platform.

The platform of the Democratic party and Hillary Clinton is to expand Medicare to allow individuals age 55 through 64 to be allowed to “buy into” Medicare. Currently anyone under age 65 can only qualify for Medicare if they have been receiving disability benefits two years, have end stage renal disease or ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). This would affect only those who are not covered through their employer’s plan.

To me, this makes a lot of sense and is long overdue. Many individuals who are not disabled often retire early, are self employed or somehow not covered through an employer plan. A case that I am working with right now perfectly illustrates this point. The husband is turning 65 in a month and he will come off his employer’s health insurance and go on Medicare. But the wife is only 61 years old and she is also coming off the group insurance. Since she is not eligible for Medicare, she must get health insurance through the health care exchanges. Policies at her age are between \$550 and \$700 per month (unsubsidized) with deductibles from \$2500 to \$6500. Allowing her to buy into Medicare could save her thousands in costs a year.

From the standpoint of Medicare and the health insurance exchanges, allowing those individuals age 55 through 64 to buy into Medicare makes good sense as well. By allowing those people to buy into Medicare, it greatly improves the risk pool for the health insurance exchanges by removing from the exchange risk pool the oldest people. Those people covered through

employer group plans are not part of the exchange risk pool. By adding non disabled people age 55 through 64 to buy into Medicare also improves the Medicare risk pool since now Medicare is insuring more younger and healthier people than the regular Medicare population.

Improving the health care exchange risk pool and the Medicare risk pool would have the effect of lowering premiums for policies purchased on the exchanges and would reduce Medicare’s costs by insuring a healthier population.

Meanwhile the Republican platform is proposing to increase the eligibility age where one automatically qualifies for Medicare from the present age 65 to age 67. The Republican platform also proposes turning Medicare into a voucher program where Medicare beneficiaries are given a voucher so they can purchase a health insurance policy issued by a private insurance company.

However according to the Congressional Budget Office, this plan would not save Medicare any money and could increase Medicare’s costs. Increasing the eligibility age from 65 to 67 would remove from the Medicare risk pool its youngest and most healthy risks while at the same time increasing the costs for the Medicare disability account. Medicare beneficiaries who are under age 65 and on

Medicare because they are receiving social security disability benefits are paid under a separate pool. When that beneficiary turns age 65, their benefits under the disability pool end and their benefits are paid out under the regular Medicare risk pool. The disability risk pool is most subject to insolvency.

According to the CBO, the voucher plan proposed by the Republican party would end up shifting more of the health care costs to the beneficiary since it is estimated that the voucher may not be enough to cover most services currently provided by Medicare. This voucher plan would end Medicare as it has been known for more than fifty years and replace it with plan where it is completely privatized.

As far as the ACA, Hillary Clinton wants to build on what has already been working, establish a “public option” for the exchanges and make it work better. At the same time Republican nominee Donald Trump is calling for the repeal of the ACA and its replacement with “something terrific”.

So when you cast your vote this year, please understand what the candidates are running on with their party’s platform. It could make a big difference with your health care in the future.

Untaxed


by Leo Lampeter

There is to be a great sigh of relief to be breathed. The heavy burden of constantly being taxed is being lessened. That thought that just passed through your mind that this guy might not be in possession of all his marbles may not be justified, read for awhile. You must remember whenever the government needed more finances an issue was put on the ballot and you actually got to decide whether or not your taxes were increased. That is less and less of an issue. Just look around at the various cities and suburbs. They no longer get your money by taxing you as much as they used to tax. The politicians don’t want to incur the wrath of the public so they can retain their office for as long as there purposes serve them. You must credit them with finally having a detectable thought process at least in this area. If they are not going to raise taxes as they are/were accustomed to doing, how will they separate us from our income to serve their own purpose. Well all you have to do is look around you and analyze what you see. They tell you we are not raising your taxes we are merely charging a fee for a service. Let us define the term “fee”. According to the dictionary a fee is a payment made to a professional person or to a professional person or body in exchange for advice or service. This seems fairly straight

forward as definitions go. You ask or receive a service you pay a fee, simple. There is just one question as to when governments impose “fees”, what if you have no desire to receive this service? The answer is quite simple, you don’t have to pay a fee. That is unless the government says you must pay the “fee”. As stated in the definition a fee is for advice or service. Logic tells me that if you choose to not receive this advice or service there should be no fee. If you have ever tried to opt out, in this scenario, service from a government body they respond you can not opt out. But there is no desire to retain the service and thus a “fee” should not apply. The response is we can not allow individuals to withdraw from our “fee”, and round and round we go. So you see we are not paying a tax where there is no option to pay or not, we are now paying “fees. You think that is impressive, look at the moves the North East Ohio Sewer District developed. Not only did they separate the billing from the water district to make it seem as if the increases are minute, they broke it up into a monthly payment instead of the quarterly billing so an increase will not only be doubled (splitting from the water bill) it also will be trebled by billing monthly instead of quarterly. If only they could develop a way to not take citizens money and perform remedies for the service. Thank God we won’t be taxed.

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OBSERVER

Rio 2016: Chasing Gold, And The Accessibility Of The Middle Class...

by Davidione Pearl

With the closing ceremony of The 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games now left only in memory, we as a world have undoubtedly each paused and reflected on the heartfelt nature and significance of the last two weeks, as what resonated deep within us all, was a collective celebrated meaning of hope, drive, unshrinking will, and an unwavering devotion to a sportive calling that lends an immeasurable sense of heightened purpose to each our being. A calling within of which transcends innumerable odds, and one that leaves the most intrepid of athletes a victor at once in the eyes of their community and nation, for making it to the highest level of competition that is the Olympic stage.

The athlete's story is our story, one that connects us all, yet too, it is one that is intimately connected to the scope of a nation's economy as it relates to accessibility as well, with some albeit little impact from population density.

The story within the story of medal counts that traditionally accelerate within the same handful of countries each Olympiad, is certainly one steeped in the riveting emotional drama of glory and sacrifice, however as well, such glory also has in large part to do with the advent of an emergent middle-class in those nations. Such economic standing inextricably bridges accessibility, accessibility to the income and resources necessary to most effectively secure training, facilities, equipment, travel, health management, even the nourishment and calorie levels associated with developing a growing champion.

To further illustrate this, the official top five medal standings are below:

United States – 121 medals (46 gold), 3rd most populated country in the world – 51 percent middle class

Great Britain – 67 medals (27 gold), 21st most populated country in the world – 48 percent middle class

China – 70 medals (26 gold), most populated country in the world – 70 percent of urban population middle class

Russia – 56 medals (19 gold), 9th most populated country in the world –

26.5 percent middle class

Germany – 42 medals (17 gold), 17th most populated country in the world – 48 percent middle class

The company of the above medal winners have traditionally remained steady Olympic victors, with their anthems heard far more than others around the world. A point of distinction to highlight too, is that the top two medal holders are also the two most diverse on the list, which invariably creates a wider scope of sporting possibilities in which a nation can compete and secure an even more sizable edge.

The unspoken side to the growth of a nation, and ultimately the growth of its middle class, is that far more often than not, somewhere along the line, other nations less stronger than their own, its people, and its resources, are marginalized and dismissed per exploitative socio-environmental gains to help ensure the pipeline of products and services into the import country and its markets. No country in the developed world has ever traditionally been able to structure themselves without aggressively pulling rather unregulated resources out of those nations to get them there.

Of course, this ultimately holds developing nations back from establishing their own middle class structures in the process, which makes the story of the athlete that rises out of a stacked-deck of marginalism in a desperate low-income nation, to Olympic fame, to be one that the voices of the impoverished world can all deeply relate and rejoice to, and hopefully one that we as well in the developed world can learn

to respect, appreciate, and even help to one day change. An understanding that while we rightfully and joyously celebrate our Ohio champions, national champions, and all that they and their families have sacrificed, we may also recognize, be grateful and thankful

for, the unique lottery of life that has placed us squarely in the advantages we have today, and yet be ever-mindful of, and reach back to, the rest of the world that we often unknowingly benefit from, in ways that continue to increase our ability to thrive on the world stage.

Tri-C's Encore Program To Adults 55 And Older

continued from page 7

locations around Greater Cleveland.

Neighborhood Scholars includes the Chamber Music Ensemble performance group; classes on ethnic foods and culture; and "Coffee with a Curator" sessions, which provide behind-the-scenes looks at exhibits and collections at University Circle institutions.

These alternate-site classes occur throughout the week and vary in length. Costs range from \$15 to \$65 per class.

For detailed information on Encore Campus or Neighborhood Scholars courses or to register for classes, visit www.tri-c.edu/encore. Potential students can also call 216-987-2274 for information.

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History Of Sears Homes

by Bob Stilwell

From 1908-1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold about 70,000-75,000 homes through their mail-order Modern Homes program. Over that time Sears designed 447 different housing styles, from elaborate multistory Ivanhoe, with its elegant French doors art glass windows, to the simple Goldenrod, which served as a quaint, three-room and no bath cottage for summer vacationers, (An outhouse could be purchased for Goldenrod and similar cottage dwellers). Customers could choose a house to suit their individual tastes and budgets. Prices ranged from \$187-\$6,800.



road from pre-cut lumber to carved staircases, down to the nails and varnish. Sears provided all the materials, including Electric, plumbing, heating, all instructions, and for many years the financing for homeowners to build their own houses. Sears Modern Homes stand today as living monuments to the fine, enduring and solid quality of Sears craftsmanship.

The Parma Heights Historical Society is very proud to announce that we have discovered at least one of these homes in Parma Heights at 6692 Orchard Blvd. This home was built in 1933 and with a lot of attention has maintained the original beauty of this home. This is a current picture of the home as of 2016. A special thanks to the current home owner for letting me photograph the home. This is another example of what the Parma Heights Historical Society is doing to document and preserve our history for future generations. If you are interested in becoming a member you can call the PHHS President, Aldo Melaragno at 216-496-7150.



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PARMA ARTS SCENE



First Place - 9 to 13 Age Group - Angelina Carte'



First Place - 2 to 8 Age Group - Mallory Rusiniea

2016 Chalk Fest

by Kathryn Mabin

On Sunday, August 7th, the Parma Area Fine Arts Council held their 10th Annual Chalk Drawing Event. The day was sunny, warm and breezy. The families that attended had a fun time celebrating summer. In addition to the youth, adults joined in on the fun, and created some outstanding pieces. This year the Fine Arts Council partnered with the City of Parma and held the event in the parking lot adjacent to Parma City Hall. Parma Mayor, Tim DeGeeter was on hand, with son Jack, to offer tours of the Mayor's Office. Parents took photos of their children in the Mayor's chair. The newest member of Parma's K9 Unit and his handler mingled with the families attending, passing out key-chains and hand sanitizer. The Parma Fire Department attended and passed out fireman hats and stickers. Fine Arts



Council member, Christine Vodicka, provided unique, creative, face-painting. The chalk, cold bottled water, and lemonade was also provided by the Fine Arts Council. Gift certificates for the first place winner in two age categories was provided by Mayor DeGeeter.

Public Art In Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Growing up in Parma, the iconic seal and walrus sculptures at Parmatown Mall were an indelible memory for most residents. They disappeared years ago from in front of the mall, and it was refreshing to see them again when the new owners decided to bring them out of storage as they began the undertaking of re-imagining this retail space. As far as I can remember, this was the only public

art in Parma when I was growing up, if you don't count the countless pink flamingos and chrome balls decorating so many homes throughout the city.

Will the seventh largest city in the State of Ohio continue to have no art galleries to speak of, and precious few examples of art on display for a city of 80,000? In many neighborhoods around the Greater Cleveland Area, art of all kinds has proven to be

the spark of economic development for neighborhoods. Art galleries, performance venues, festivals, etc., have served to revitalize communities, spur additional growth, accelerate property values, and provide opportunities that accompany the expansion of culture and the quality of life which art bestows. Neighborhoods that have embraced art directly benefit from grants provided by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the agency established to administer millions of dollars raised by a county tax on cigarettes voted by taxpayers more than a decade ago. Kudos to Parma Area Fine Arts Council for being the first entity to apply and receive one of these grants. These

efforts have been the result of planning and investment between the private sector and the cooperation of local governments. Where is the private sector in the Parma area on this vital subject? When will the Chamber of Commerce realize that by actively recruiting artistic ventures of all kinds, from galleries, festivals, educational institutions, etc., economic development will follow? We can no longer depend on the City Government exclusively to maintain and develop our cultural environment- artistic venues are after all still businesses, and are better left in the hands of those who understand how to grow and maintain commerce.



Is this the only public art in Parma? If you know of others, send it in to the Observer!

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