

Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters"- Abraham Lincoln

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PARMA Observer

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Volume 8 • Issue 10 • October, 2016

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Parma Observer Is 7 Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy
Publisher

Here we are 7 years into the Parma Observer Project, bringing citizen powered media to Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills since 2009. Something to consider: In 1980 there were over 50 major media outlets-today there are but 6. Fact is, independent media is the only place that average citizens can hope to have their uncensored voices heard by the public, and we are ever mindful of that.

Once in awhile, events occur which remind me that we still have work to do when

it comes to helping people in our community realize that the Parma Observer is indeed a resource and a platform for their unique opinions to be revealed to their fellow citizens, including the leaders of their cities. A few weeks ago I received a voicemail message from a gentleman who declined to leave his name or any way that we could reach him. He seemed upset and more than a little disappointed. He had read a story submitted by one of our regular volunteer citizen journalists which he disagreed vehemently



with. He demanded to know why we had not chosen to publish an opposite point

of view, a different point of view; in other words, his point of view. He lamented that he wasn't reading a story in the paper which reflected what he thought to be true, then he ended the call by strongly disparaging the writer, our paper, and myself (don't worry, I can take it). Something tells me that he won't exactly be thrilled with the story submitted by the same writer in this issue of the Parma Observer either.

Had we actually conversed, I would have gladly informed him that we are a completely different form of media than he may be used to, that being the kind which merely publishes carefully constructed pieces written by professional journalists. I'm not sure, but he doesn't seem to realize that because we publish the work of volunteer citizen journalists, he

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Parma Observer Publisher Daniel P. McCarthy accepting the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Special Recognition Award on behalf of the Parma Observer.

Parma Heights Named "Best Place"

by Erin Lally

Parma Heights named one of the best places in america to raise a family and one of the best cleveland suburbs for young couples. As young families search for the best place to move and/or raise a family, they need not look farther than Parma Heights. Wallethack.com recently named Parma Heights as one of the best places to raise a family in the United States (<https://wallethacks.com/2016-best-places-raise-family/>). "Good schools, plenty of things to do (especially outdoors), affordable housing, low unemployment,



Keeping cooling in the best place to do it, Parma Heights!

low crime, and a strong sense of community" were the criteria used to determine attractive places for families.

"Our neighborhood parks,

an outdoor pool & waterpark, walkable neighborhoods, proximity to the Cleveland

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Parma's Youth Baseball/Softball Coach



Rosie Daddario was joined by members of both the teams she coached as she was honored as Parma's Youth Baseball/Softball Coach. Rosie coached the Soza Fitness and Wellness girls' underhand team and the Doc's Shake Shoppe girls' mini team. Rosie is known as an energetic, enthusiastic positive role model, and we're proud to have her among our recreation coaches. Congratulations, Rosie, and keep up the good work!

Parma Honors World War II Veterans With Ceremony



City Council was packed at meeting to honor World War II veterans by Jeannie Roberts

On Monday, September 19, the City of Parma provided an unforgettable evening for nearly 40 World War II veterans, their families and friends and many who made it a point to come and say to those veterans: "Thank you for your service."

Mayor Tim DeGeeter declared the veterans, all residents of Parma, as Parma Citizens of the Month. Each veteran was recognized individually by name and branch

of service, and the mayor gave each a proclamation from his office, a resolution from City Council and certificates of appreciation from Treasurer Tom Mastroianni, Auditor Brian Day and Law Director Tim Dobeck. The veterans were each given a small desk flag made by Parma resident and former Citizen of the Month John Metzger.

The idea originally came from another former Citizen

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month’s column continues my series covering Parma’s places of worship by spotlighting Bethlehem Lutheran Church located at 7500 State Road, just south of Pleasant Valley Road. To prepare this writing, I met with Bethlehem’s Pastor, Rev. Robert Green.

Many might consider Rev. Green’s path to becoming a religious leader somewhat unconventional. After achieving an accounting degree, he found that truck driving was more financially feasible. While on the road he spent a lot of time reading the Bible and contemplating life and faith. “I came to the conclusion that, although I went to church and was involved, I was not truly living the faith,” Rev. Green explained. “I was naïve in thinking that my attendance and involvement was enough,” he added. So, he entered the seminary and began his preparation for leadership within the Lutheran faith. Growing up in Painesville, he came to Parma’s Bethlehem Lutheran 20 years ago and has served as pastor ever since. I can attest that he is very passionate about his work and philosophy. He is married to Kathy and is blessed with three children and five grandchildren.

The Lutheran faith is very diverse



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

itself with over 40 denominations. The largest is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) with about 4.5 million members in the United States, followed by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) with about 2.5 million. Bethlehem Lutheran belongs to the LCMS. The ELCA, as Pastor Green explained, is the more liberal wing of Lutheranism, allowing female pastors, same sex marriage and a more “critical” interpretation of the Bible. The LCMS, on the other hand, is more conservative, interpreting the Bible literally, recognizing marriage between one man



Polish Village's Treat-N-Greet

by Kathryn Mabin

The much anticipated Polish Village's Treat N Greet is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2016. This marks the sixth year this event has been in existence. The children, all decked out in their costumes, accompanied by adults, walk Ridge Road, Trick-Or-Treating the participating businesses. Families go directly to the Headquarters, located at 5773 Ridge Road, and receive a Passport that lists the locations of the participating businesses. As each family goes to a business the Passport is stamped. When the passport is filled, or when the adults become exhausted, they return to the Headquarters and turn in the Passport. Depending on how many stamps they receive, they are given tickets to enter in a raffle for prizes, which consists of baskets of goodies, or gift certificates from local merchants.

The event is held during the day-

time, and it is a safe way for families to celebrate Halloween. The upside for the businesses, especially those smaller Mom & Pop stores, is they receive foot traffic from people who may not know they exist. Many of the businesses also supplement the candy and gum they give out, with trinkets, or coupons, and other treats for both adults and children.

Each year the committee adds something to the event, keeping it fresh. The Ghost Busters frequently make an appearance. Some shops also dress in costume for the day. All in all, it is a great way for families to herald the fall season in a safe, friendly environment, and it is a great way to celebrate the community with your friends, neighbors and shop keepers.

The event is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information follow Polish Village on Facebook.

and one woman only and only allowing male pastors, for instance. “Bethlehem is one of the more conservative of our region’s Lutheran churches,” Rev. Green explained. He summed up his flock’s belief system in two short sentences: “The Bible – nothing more, nothing less . . . Our beliefs are not based on the thoughts of people, but on God’s Word, the Holy Bible!”

I was impressed with Bethlehem’s connection to the Lutheran Church in Africa. In fact, Bethlehem serves as the headquarters for Lutherans in Africa – a non-profit organization dedicated to “teaching, training, and translation works of Lutherans in Africa,” according to its literature. Rev. Green, who serves on the board, has been to Burkina Faso where the organization is doing a lot of work. “The people one comes in contact with in these war-torn areas typically have three questions: 1.) Is there a God?, 2.) Is there a Heaven?, and 3.) How do I get there?,” according to Rev. Green. To find out more about this ministry visit www.LutheransInAfrica.com.

Like many of Parma’s churches, Bethlehem traces its roots in Cleveland. In fact, St. Mark is its Mother Church. In 1904, a considerable plot of land was purchased at the corner of State and Pleasant Valley Roads with the church being built in the mid-1960s.

Services, called Divine Service, are generally held on Sunday’s at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., as well as Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments are served at 9:10 a.m., while Bible Class and Sunday school take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Special services are held during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent. In one of his many educational brochures, Rev. Green states, “If you have spiritual questions or concerns or want to find out more about God’s love for you through Jesus, Pastor Green would be glad to help you!”

Bethlehem also proudly provides a Childcare Center. It has a two star Step-Up-To-Quality rating, according a brochure. “We provide safe, loving, Christian care; the children also learn and develop through a preschool curriculum, interaction with each other, and the study of God’s Holy Word,” it goes on to say. Infants through pre-kindergarten

students are welcomed Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and a snack is provided. Children 6-12 are invited on school holidays, snow days, as well as during Summer Camp that takes place from June through August. Find out more at www.ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com or call 440-884-0430.

To learn more about Bethlehem Lutheran Church visit their website at www.BethlehemLutheranChurch-Parma.com, e-mail them at pastor@blc7500.com or call 440-845-2230. In closing, I wish to thank Pastor Green and his staff for inviting me to visit their fine place of worship.



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Parma, Ohio 44129
440.884.7625 •
<http://parmaobserver.com>**

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Publisher
Daniel P. McCarthy

Editor-In-Chief
Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Design and Production
AGS Design

Advertising Sales
440-884-7625

Writers

Kathy Augustine
Lizabeth Braskie
Sean Brennan
Mike Byrne
Christian Fitzharris
Joe Germana
John Horton
Lee Kamps
Erin Lally
Leo Lampeter
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Photography

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This event is free, but space is limited.
To register, call **1-877-597-6348**
or visit **UHParma.org/Classes**.

Holiday Inn, Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131



HEALTH/CULTURE

"Carmina Burana" In Parma!

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights. Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock presents: Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 2 and the powerful Carmina Burana by Carl Orff featuring the combined choirs of Parma, Normandy, Valley Forge, Padua Franciscan High Schools and Cuyahoga Community College Choir and soloist Kira Seaton and Brian Keith Johnson.

The orchestra, in its 47th season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM.

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Brian Keith Johnson has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in *il barbiere di Siviglia* to Ford in *Falstaff*. As a member of Actors' Equity Association, he has also performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in *Big River* to Father/God in *Children of Eden*. His concert repertoire includes most of the major baritone works such as *Carmina Burana*, *Elijah*, *The Verdi Requiem*, *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, *The Brahms Requiem* and *The Faure' Requiem*. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Western Reserve,



Baritone Brian Keith Johnson to perform in "Carmina Burana"

Carolina Master Chorale, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Porthouse Theatre. Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor's Degree from The University of Akron and has also studied abroad at The New Opera Academy of Rome in Rome, Italy and The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

Kira Seaton, Assistant Professor of Music at the Western Campus, teaches courses in Voice, Choral Music, Music Theory, and Musicology. After receiving her Master's of Music in Performance in 1985 from O.U., Ms. Seaton moved to Cleveland and joined the music faculty of the Cleveland Music School Settlement and helped to

found The Magnolia Ensemble, the Settlement Artist-in Residence Chamber Ensemble. She is the former Director of Music at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Berea, and currently serves as a musician for the contemporary worship services at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea. An active classical and musical theatre soloist throughout the Mid-West, Ms. Seaton has performed, musical directed, or directed at a majority of the theatres in the area, and has sung with both Cleveland Opera and the Cleveland Orchestra. Since joining the CCC faculty in 1987, she has directed, musical directed, or performed over forty CCC-Western Campus Theatre

productions, including the highly successful Holiday Christmas Projects, performing Children's Operas for over 12,000 school children over the past decade. Professor Seaton has directed or participated in touring choirs performing in a number of the nation's premiere performance halls, including The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Carnegie Hall in New York City, and our own Severance Hall. Ms. Seaton conducted the Tri-C Chorale on tour in Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy in 2004, and Montreal in 2009. She is the founding co-director of the CCC-West Summer Performing Arts Program, and is an adjudicator and coach for several regional music and theatre associations.

Dr. Randolph P. Laycock conducted his first performance with the orchestra on November 19, 1978. He has also conducted the Baldwin Wallace University Junior and Senior Youth Orchestras since October of 1978. Recently retired after 35 years of full time duties teaching music in the Parma City Schools, he is an adjunct professor of music history at Cuyahoga Community College. Dr. Laycock earned a Ph.D. in Music Education from Case-Western Reserve University, Master of Music performance from Bowling Green State University, and Bachelor of Music Education degree from Baldwin Wallace University. Dr. Laycock has been included in six editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and is listed in the 53rd Edition of *Who's Who in America*. He has previously been an active consultant for the Ohio Department of Education as a Praxis III assessor.

Stop For A Visit! Tri-C Hosts Open House On Oct. 15 At Western Campus In Parma

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will host an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 15, at its Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

The open house provides prospective students an opportunity to discuss academic programs with faculty and counselors; learn more about 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 Oct. 15. Other participating locations are:

Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick

Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland

Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake

This free event is open to the public, and parking is available at all sites. For more information or to register, visit www.tri-c.edu/openhouse.

Refresh, Retreat, Learn At Oct. 29 Women's Health Expo

by CJ Sheppard

Gather a group of girlfriends and loved ones for a refreshing morning of candid conversation with clinical experts about women's health topics, plus an array of shopping opportunities, at UH Parma Medical Center's Women's Health Expo on Saturday, October 29.

The free Women's Health Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Holiday Inn - Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence. Registration, complimentary health screenings and breakfast start at 8 a.m. Before the

event and during breaks, vendors will be selling jewelry, handbags, accessories, makeup, essential oils, home scents and gourmet foods.


"Women are often juggling so many schedules and issues for multiple people that it's difficult to make time for ourselves," says Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD, Associate Chief Medical Officer of UH Parma Medical Center. "This is a unique opportunity to put yourself first and gain the insight you need to stay healthy, in order to take care of yourself and those around you."

Learn how to handle urinary incontinence in a frank talk by urogynecologist Sherif El-Nashar, MD, PhD, and hear about advances in gynecologic exams with OB/GYN Steven Galun, MD. Multiple physician specialists will participate in panel discussions, where the audience will have a chance to ask those questions you've been afraid to address before.


Get a group of friends together and register today. To register, call 877-597-6348 between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER



Visit the "Asset Corner" on Facebook. Share your Asset building ideas.



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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #82

by Gene Lovasy

October's Asset Category: SUPPORT. Supportive, healthy relationships make a big difference. Many studies over the years confirm that caring, supportive relationships with adults are critical for raising young people who are healthy and resilient. Support means freely giving young people love, affirmation, and acceptance; surrounding young people with caring families, guardians, friends, teachers, neighbors, and other adults; and helping young people know they belong, are not alone, and are both loved and lovable.

- Support Assets Include:**
- #1 Family Support** – Family life provides high level of love and support. (68%*)
 - #2 Positive Family Communication** – Young person and his/her parent(s) communicate. (28*)
 - #3 Other Adult Relationships** – Young person receives support from 3 or more nonparent adults. (43%*)
 - #4 Caring Neighborhood** – Young person experiences caring neighbors. (37%*)
 - #5 Caring School Climate** – School provides a caring, encouraging environment. (29%*)
 - #6 Parent Involvement in Schooling** – Parents are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school. (29%*)

This column's focus will be on..... Asset #4 – Caring Neighborhood

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people are more likely to grow up healthy if they live in a community with caring neighbors. About 37 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they have caring neighbors, according to Search Institute surveys. The key is to create a safe haven in which young people feel loved, supported, and understood.

Tips for building this asset

Friendships and trust only develop when people take risks by acknowledging their neighbors, getting to know them, and taking time to form relationships. How well do you know your neighbors? Do you know their names? Get to know those who live around you. Begin by greeting your neighbors when you see them outside. With a little effort, you'll get to know the young people you live near and they'll get to

know you. It's important for the well-being of young people and society to reach out to one another and get to know neighbors.

Also try this

In your home and family: Encourage your child to get to know the people in your neighborhood by being a role model. Walk through the neighborhood as a family. Organize a potluck, cookout, or block party with your neighbors.

In your neighborhood and community: Meet with a neighborhood group or start a small group if one doesn't exist. Do activities together, such as creating a community garden or forming a "welcome wagon" of youth and adults to greet new residents. In your school or youth program: Create a magazine or book about local history. To do so, ask students or participants to interview some of the older neighbors and collect their stories.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Do you have a son or daughter who has finished the 8th grade or at least 15 years old and interested in the areas of health & safety? Consider encouraging their involvement in the Explorers program of Boy Scouts of America. There's a Parma Law Enforcement post & a Parma, Parma Hts., Brooklyn Fire & EMS post. This is a great opportunity for your child to gain some hands-on experience in a career as a police officer, fireman and/or emergency medical technician. *For details contact Jennifer La Riccia, Exploring Director at 440.669.6993 or jennifer.lariccia@scouting.org.*

Mark your calendars - **Sunday - October 9th at Byers Field from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** - for a repeat of the successful Axelrod Buick GMC Buick "Drive For Your Students" proceeds to benefit our students. This simple, free, fun event requires only that you showup, register & test drive a Buick/GMC vehicle of your choice. For that we'll receive a \$20 donation. The more people who drive the more money will be donated.

October 25th will be 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 to 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 "Teach Me to Read at Home" program will, once again, be hosted at the Hanna building on Snow & Chevy Blvd. For Pre-K children and their parents, it features a series of six evening workshops where parents and their children can work together on beginning reading skills. *Contact Beth Hastings at 440.886.7623 email: hastingsb@parmacityschools.org for details.*

GED & English speaking class schedules are now available at <http://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/2886>. Go there to learn more about these and other award winning adult education program opportunities.

If you're looking for a faith-based, after-school program for your family try the **LOGOS Youth Club at Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Ridge Rd.** There's no registration fee and dinner is served as part of Family Time. *WHEN: every Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:20 pm.; WHERE: Ridgewood UMC, 6330 Ridge Rd. Ph: 440.885.1360.*

Just as a reminder, the next meeting of the **Tri-City Youth Development Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday October 4th** beginning at 5:30 pm at the Parma Hts Library, 6206 Pearl Rd. (Greenbriar Commons). If you're at all interested in youth development/programming and/or involved in youth outreach, you should be attending these meetings.

The Collab's (at Hanna Elem on Snow & Chevy Blvd) next Mobile Food Pantry will take place on Thursday, October 13th. Help is

needed in the morning (9:00 am) to unload & set-up, and again in the afternoon (2:00 pm) for distribution.

The District's CBS Connects (www.cbsconnects.org) initiative is still looking for volunteers to become "I Could Be" online mentors for upwards of 75 students that have signed up for the program. If the "I Could Be" option doesn't appeal to you then go to the CBSConnects web site for details on the shadowing, career lunch & one-on-one mentoring program opportunities.

From Chelsey Kovar, President, PECPTA (Parma Early Childhood PTA)....Over 2,000 people attended the Touch-a-Truck event held on Sunday Sept 25th at the UH/PMC Health Education Center. It was a HUGE success and so much fun. We were able to raise \$423.92 for Parma Animal Shelter and collected hundreds of canned goods for the Parma Hunger Center. Our sincere thank you to the city, UH/PMC, event participants and our community for supporting our service projects See you next year!

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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Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

INSPIRATION



Sent in by Darly June Malinky

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All lines of reasoning point toward the God of the Bible as the one, true God. Although feelings fluctuate, consequences last forever. Any couple can birth a child, but it takes Godly parents to rear Godly children. Attitude keeps circumstances in proper perspective. Be a positive example in word, faith, purity, and actions. Being a servant, among other things, includes teamwork, understanding, and an attitude of love. Coveting and longing for something that is not ours produces much discontentment. God always offers us that which is best for us. God comes to all who seek Him with all their heart and soul and mind. God knows and cares about us regardless of how we feel about ourselves. If our minds are not mostly at ease, our bodies become diseased. If we can change our situation, we should do it; if we cannot change it, then we should change ourselves. It takes patience, perseverance, and quality time to raise responsible children. Kindness is the most desirable trait a person can have. Letting the past totally dominate the present and future is contrary to sensible living. Life is constantly moving us

in and out of “life-changing” places and relationships. May we mend our ways, encourage one another, agree to disagree with one another, and live in peace. Our challenge is to learn to “trust and obey” God’s Word. Our main mission in life is to be God’s witnesses. Overly demanding parents do not take into consideration the thoughts, feelings, and needs of their children. People who drift to the far right or far left usually end up in the ditch. Salvation will bring about good works. Take hold of the stress in life or it will take hold of you. The best way to reach others is to love them. We all struggle with hypocrisy, saying one thing and meaning another. We need to break through the barrier that hinders forgiveness. When people “resist the truth,” they will “believe a lie.” When people say, “It’s not the money, it’s the principle,” it is usually the money. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, the world is still a beautiful place.

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?

Every Kid's Dream!

by Lizabeth Braskie

Ever since the late 1940’s, I have a deeper appreciation for summertime and ice cream. That’s when our parents bought a “Mom and Pops” delicatessen and we three kids couldn’t believe we struck gold. The store was a few miles from our house in Cleveland, and my brother, sister and I were exploding with visions of unlimited candy and ice cream concoctions at our disposal. What fantastic opportunities were awaiting our discovery! Our parents let us experiment with sundaes, phosphates, and banana splits as part of our daily routine. But, then we started a new school within walking distance and reality hit. Since my brother and I were almost teenagers, we had to take care of customers when we returned from school. We learned the required jobs like slicing lunchmeat on an electric machine. We stocked shelves and refrigerator cases, swept and mopped, decorated windows, and sharpened our math by adding customers’ orders with pencil and paper. Our lucky little sister helped with small jobs. Fun was disappearing. Learning was taking over.

This store was known for selling farm raised, delicious chickens that customers could order. It averaged at least a half dozen each week. A farmer from a neighboring city delivered the requests to our store on Saturday mornings. The chickens’ feathers were gone but the insides needed to be removed by hand. YUK!! I had to help my mother with that repulsive job. I soon became immune to these operations and learned a little about anatomy.

Back then, when customers asked for certain items, we had to grab their requests from the shelves or coolers. Our profits were small at first but we built up the clientele especially with our famous ice cream bars that mom made. She

cut a large block of ice cream into nine sections, inserted a stick, then dipped each into warmed chocolate coating. As soon as possible, they were back in the freezer with one of the sticks having the word “free” stamped on the hidden edge. We usually let the customer select their choice from a large container. The lucky winner would bring it back for another on the house. These were very popular especially with us kids who got to eat any of the mistakes. We learned, then, how important profits could help us save for a new house.

Another of my jobs was to replace the unsold magazines and comic books when the new supply was delivered. We didn’t have much time to enjoy catching up on Archie or Batman, but they sure came in handy when business was slow. How could I learn from this? While reading, a reach to the penny candy just inside the front window made my demeanor a little bit sweeter.

One evening a regular customer came in for what I heard was fourteen slices of baloney. She just had mouth surgery and I didn’t quite understand her. Midway through slicing her order, I remembered she lived alone and didn’t buy in large quantities. I thought a minute then turned and asked “four thin slices?” she shook her head, Yes. I ate the mistakes and learned to listen.

Even though we lived every kid’s dream of unlimited sweets and ice cream, it was difficult to mix school and work. We were miles away from our friends and didn’t get to see them very often. So, when our parents sold the store more than two years later, we kids had mixed emotions. Now we were able to have hours of free time. We weren’t sure how to act---or what to do! We’d have to learn to adjust! Go figure.

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PERSPECTIVE

Is The United States Ready For Another Watergate Scandal?

by Lee Kamps

I am old enough to remember the Watergate scandal. I was on my honeymoon in Canada when I first heard about the Watergate break in back in June 1972. I thought then that there was more involved than just a "third rate burglary". Later when I learned that two of those burglars in the Watergate break in were connected to the Nixon campaign, I knew then that Nixon was involved.

Of course that whole story was buried during the election campaign and Nixon won in a landslide. But as soon as he took the oath of office for his second term, the story broke and the scandal was on. It dominated the headlines for more than a year and a half until Nixon's ultimate resignation in August 1974.

Of course during that period, there was a Middle East war and the Arab oil boycott. The economy went into a severe

recession that was the worst since the great depression of the 1930s. But the government seemed paralyzed and preoccupied with the Watergate scandal.

Should Donald Trump become President, I smell another Watergate type scandal brewing that could break once he is in office. Donald Trump's term as President would be like Richard Nixon's second term and probably just as short.

Are we ready for Watergate part 2? I think that would happen should Donald Trump become President. He hasn't released his income tax returns. There is the story about his dealings in foreign countries and with foreign leaders that is shrouded in secrecy.

Will Donald Trump place his business operations in the hands of a non family receiver should he become President? So far he has indicated that he intends to place his adult children in charge of his business operations while he is serving as President. That is not good enough since there are obviously very close ties and a potential conflict of interest.

Would Donald Trump be willing to place his personal assets in a blind trust controlled by someone outside of his family while he is serving as President? Every President and presidential candidate since the Watergate scandal has done that, except Donald Trump.

But then Donald Trump is the first major party candidate for President who has never held any elected office of any kind or seriously run for any elected office until this year nor has led an army during war time. Does Donald Trump have any idea where there might be a conflict of interest between his business dealings and his being able to serve as President?

There have been many wealthy business people who have served very well as mayors of major cities, congressional representatives, senators and cabinet officials; even as President of the United States. One thing that they all did was to walk away from their business interests and place their personal assets in a blind trust to avoid any potential conflict of interest. So far Donald Trump has not indicated that he would take those steps.

Another reason why I believe that

the nation is headed toward another Watergate type scandal is that since the dreadfully wrong Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United case in 2010; the political campaigns have been inundated with money from ultra wealthy billionaires in an attempt to influence elections.

This year the Koch Brothers are planning on spending more than 800 million dollars on the election. Here in Ohio, Koch funded shadow groups such as Fighting for Ohio and Freedom Partners Action Fund have been flooding the television airwaves with negative commercials against Democratic candidate for senate Ted Strickland.

There is an excellent book about how the power and influence of those shadow groups that are funded through wealthy billionaires and their influence on our elections titled Dark Money by New York Times reporter Jane Mayer. She investigated the money trail behind many of those shadow groups that flood our television airwaves every election with largely negative commercials.

Hillary Clinton has come out against the Citizens United decision and has vowed that if elected, she would push for a constitutional amendment limiting political contributions or public funding of elections. She has also vowed to appoint Supreme Court Justices who would be likely to vote to overturn the Citizens United decision.

Meanwhile Donald Trump has stated that if elected President, he would have the NRA vet his nominations for the Supreme Court. My prediction is that should Donald Trump become President, he would be constantly embroiled in scandal for his entire term. Is the nation ready for Watergate part 2?

Of course the decision is all in our hands as voters in this election. There is only one candidate who has been up front in her dealings and financial records and who has stated that she would work to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision that enables all this "dark money" in politics. We have the power to avoid another "long national nightmare" of another Watergate type scandal. Elect Hillary Clinton as the next President.

Shame

by Leo Lampeter

The presidential election is finally coming to the final days. After what amounts to about two years of listening to one politician after another deceive the public with promises that they can not possibly keep. Deception is a "gift" that seems to be integrated into every "successful" politico. We all know local governing bodies that always claim to be short of income and then low and behold raises for the select few occur with a sudden comment of how we need to keep good people. Do everyone a favor, when good people are found, not just ones collecting a pay check, let the voters know. The amazing thing with all the money making of the politicians is that the constituents don't join together to replace the career politicians with someone trustworthy. It has been said that 99% of the politicians give the rest of the politicians a bad name. More and more that seems to be more than a joke. The joke appears to be on the taxpayers. Look at the people who represent you, on all levels. When they are moved to respond to a concern it is indeed glorious, however, when the mood strikes not to address the concern it is cast aside with apparently no consequences for the representative.

The selection of representatives is abysmal. The representatives in Washington for both parties are required to spend at least thirty hours a week fund raising for their party. They have a specific building just for this purpose. This would time better spent trying to resolve the problems of the country. Instead of attending to the work they were elected to perform they

are concerned with their own survival to control the voters. It seems that everyone complains about the situation but aren't interested enough to make changes. If changes aren't made by the people who is going to make the changes? The politicians who are reaping, in many cases, large rewards for minimal response to the voters? They are in a comfort zone that is rewarding them. Would you change that situation if you were reaping rewards? That is highly unlikely to happen. The change must come from outside the system and that is the people not the elected. If you think that the elected will change without pressure from the voters just look around and tell me where, on any level, there is a politician that you can say you are truly pleased with their overall performance. After that look at the current candidates that are poised to seek a position in government.

Looking at the upcoming elections can you see anyone who is different that any elected official who presently occupy office? One of the saddest situations is the Presidential Race. You can not think that out of a country of three hundred and fifty million people that the major party contenders could only present the two finalists that both have serious issues. There appears to be a controlled direction of the vote by those outside of the parties that directs the most workable individuals to be selected for particular offices. On their own merits, as candidates, the vast majority of Americans don't trust either candidate for President. Which one is least likely to take money for their performance?

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OBSERVER

Reflections Of Patriotism In America Today

by Davidione Pearl

Over the past decade in America, when you log on to social media or turn on the television, it is very evident that the nation has been steadily marred in the culminating fervor of what patriotism means across the country. This has as well naturally been the case of course at all other times in our short history. What defines patriotism for some, has inevitably squared off on what it has meant for others, yet now in this day and age, with the advent of social media, the product of information and its greater social impact has become far more accessible, expedient, and therefore more abruptly thought provoking. Begging the question of: What is patriotism? What is its unique assembly in society? And... How, if at all, can it be quantified and measured? Recently, Quarterback Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers has exercised his right not to stand in pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States during the National Anthem, primarily due to personal convictions around what

he outspokenly sees as egregious disparities towards people of color at the hands of the law. His actions were naturally met with sweeping outcries of both protest and support, as he stood alone in the spotlight of history. Those set against his protest have intimated that his patriotism rings tepid at most, and have fiercely insisted that he put aside his differences in honor of standing for the flag during game openings, while those in support believe that standing for his core values at whatever the cost to generate attention and questions towards what he feels is contradictory in our society, is core to patriotism itself. "All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression." - Thomas Jefferson.

In times of war and civil development, our nation, like any other, has been thoroughly divided with distinct

lines of demarcation drawn in the sand that have invariably strained the country in very impacting ways. In the middle of it all were those on both sides, and those indifferent, that saw patriotism and the nation contained through the experience of their own unique lens and needs be they inclusive or not. Two cornerstone examples of such direct polarity are the very stark opposing sides of The Civil Rights/American Rights Movement(s), where supporters of the movement(s) and those opposing them saw two very different Americas and the flag that represents her, a flag that the movement(s) held in deference, yet raised questions as to how it identified with those seeking safe and secure equity under her protection and care, while those not in support of the movements sought to preserve and maintain a way of life as defined by their upbringing and circumstances, a belief system that they felt was threatened.

America was founded on the principles of questioning powers that which a group found inequitable; and while the framers of the constitution held human property themselves through slave holdings, they too provided the constitutional road map of that which is "self evident", for a burgeoning nation that at times appears to be growing in its collective ability to listen with empathy, and at other times, one that seems to continue towards heightened levels of disconnect. To be a patriot, and its meaning defined, will continue to be elusive and personal for all bearers of its presence within them, the needs it services in their life, and the experiences that have led them there. Perhaps in time, the nation and its humanity will seek to greater understand each other, their needs, and the experiences alive within them, in hopes of increasing the value of what this lifetime means to each citizen within its lapping shores....

A Vote Of No Confidence For Parma Schools!

by John Lee

In mid September, I received the Monitor, the Parma School newsletter. The first story is titled: "State Audit is Game Changer for Schools" The article was written by our Superintendent, Carl Hilling. In the article, Mr. Hilling starts outlining some of the changes he has made with staffing cuts. He goes on about saving money, everything was "running just fine", but at the end of April, the Treasurer left the district, so as a procedural matter, the district asked not only our State Auditor to check the books, but "brought in some outside financial experts" to also check the books. Well guess what? They found out there was no positive balance, but a 7 million dollar deficit! \$7,000,000.00 IN THE HOLE! How and why does this happen? Where did the money go Mr. Hilling? Who did the Treasurer report to? That person needs to be fired for not doing their job, Mr. Hilling! Where was the School Board on all of this Mr. Hilling? Where

were You, Mr. Hilling, when the 7 Million disappeared? Do you mean to tell me that nobody ever asked for the balance sheet to see the district was 7 Million in the hole?

So Mr. Hilling, please explain how the State Audit is a Game Changer? It's as if you are blaming not only the former Treasurer, but also the State, for finding this little 7 Million dollar deficit!

"Expect The Best" Really? As a 40 year resident of Parma, a Graduate of Valley Forge, I expect and hope that you resign your position, along with the entire School Board! Instead, you are going to the voters to ask for money in November to cover up your mistakes and lack of accountability!

I urge as many residents as possible to show up for the Community meetings and demand full accountability from our district which should be resignations from You and the Board!

\$7,000,000.00 DEFICIT! How does that taste voters?

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Happy Anniversary

Parma Observer Is 7 Years Old

continued from page 1

can easily submit his very own view-point in a rationally written form, and it stands an excellent chance of being printed and thereby shared with the rest of the community.

I've noticed something else- in this issue a writer has submitted a piece in which he argues against the Parma City School District Board and urges voters to vote "no" on the upcoming renewal levy on November 8. Missing is even a shred of input whatsoever from any member of the school district who would presumably speak in favor of voting for the levy. Why is this? The past Superintendent on a regular basis submitted material as a way of informing tax payers of the needs and plans of the

Parma City School District. The fact that readers this month will only hear one side of the issue during one of the most trying and difficult times for our school district is a responsibility shouldered by the other side, who has chosen to remain silent as well.

We believe that by shining a light on and featuring the thoughts and opinions of as many community members as possible, local media rises to the level where it is most important- creating a civic discourse which actually leads to constructive, positive change. This is at the very heart of our mission. We were honored to receive the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Special Recognition Award earlier this year, and it says that we must be on the right track

when we have been singled out by the vanguard of the business community. It has been my extreme pleasure to be associated with this ongoing effort in

this community which I have spent my entire life in. Here's to 7 more years!

Parma Heights Named "Best Place"

continued from page 1

Metroparks, and partnerships with local schools are only a few of the attractions for young families to move and stay here," says Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

Motovoto.com named Parma Heights one of the best places in Cleveland for young couples, (<http://www.movoto.com/guide/cleveland-oh/best-cleveland-suburbs-for-young-couples/>) citing our many amenities, including

live productions at Cassidy Theatre.

"The close proximity to Cuyahoga Community College, affordable housing on quiet streets, unique cultural opportunities, diverse dining, entertainment options, safe and pristine parks located throughout the city, outstanding services, first-class programs and an environment that fulfills our residents' expectations are reasons for young couples to move to Parma Heights," says Byrne.

Timothy J. ★★★★★

DeGeeter

Mayor of Parma



Congratulations to Parma Observer on their 7th Anniversary of Spreading the Good Word!



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Mayor Michael P. Byrne

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Autumn Almanac

One Hour To Prepare For History

by Daniel P. McCarthy

An hour can pass quickly, and it is certainly not a long time at all in which to prepare for a truly historic event. This is such a tale. When Vice president Joe Biden visited Parma recently for a campaign rally at the UAW Local 1005 Hall, he mentioned to Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter that he would like to visit a business in Parma on his way in from the airport. This presented a bit of a dilemma- which business would this be? Difficult choice, since we have so many fine businesses in Parma, but a decision had to be made quickly, and the Mayor picked Rudy's Strudel & Bakery at 5580 Ridge Rd. in the Polish Village Neighborhood of Parma. "Owners Lidia Trempe and her mother have become icons in Parma" said Mayor DeGeeter. "They are a full service bakery in business for 68 years and are completely pro-Parma", he added.

When he called Lidia to tell her the news, he was glad that they had not closed for the day yet, and he had



Vice President Joe Biden with Rudy's Strudel & Bakery owner Lidia Trempe and some of her staff. Photo by Tim DeGeeter.

some difficult instructions for her; She was not to tell anyone of the impending visit, even her staff, and she had about one hour before numerous Secret Service agents and the crew which accompanies such visits would descend

on her place of business. Things went well after that, without a hitch, and soon the Vice President of the United States was standing in Rudy's Strudel & Bakery in Parma, Ohio.

Apparently

Joe Biden felt right at home in a business like this (who wouldn't?) and he indeed spent a good amount of quality time here. He was of course willing and able to experience some of the delicious baked goods offered by this wonderful bakery. So much so that when the mayor kindly asked Lidia to speed things up a little, on account of the hundreds of people waiting patiently back at the UAW Hall for the arrival of the Vice President, she informed him that it was in fact the Vice President who was slowing down the process, since he was having such a good time with the staff and making a nice connection with them. The Mayor snapped a photo of them together in front of the counter. Finally it was time to move on- I've been wondering just what the Vice President took with him in a box to eat later, perhaps on the plane. Whatever it was, he's sure not to forget his visit here, and I wouldn't be surprised if his next visit to Parma includes a stop at Rudy's Strudel & Bakery.

Church And Pokemon Go

by Jason Soltysiak

On Thursday, July 7th, an absolute sledgehammer of a mobile app changed the world: Pokémon Go. It released to large fanfare and even larger media coverage. It doubled the price of the stock of Nintendo, the company owning its IP (Intellectual Property) and I have seen it played by...no exaggeration...ages 6 to 70. And beyond my own eyes, I am sure that number is larger.

I write because I am a 34 year-old priest that grew up absolutely loving video games throughout my childhood in the 80's and 90's and has continued into adulthood, most lately with this Pokémon Go game.

In the weeks this has been out, I have walked 30 kilometers trying to hatch silly eggs. I have been a suburban zombie, eyes-to-phone, hoping for that rumble of a nearby fake monster. And I have spread the word of the game to other people with a vigor I probably should save for the Good Lord.

See, the Big Guy has to get involved in this at some point. Niantic, the company who worked with Nintendo to release the game, had a sort of scavenger hunt, GPS featured game named Ingress that was critically loved but a relative consumer unknown. So, Niantic stripped that game to a basic level, added fake monsters, and made 5 billion(!) dollars.

Part of the original Ingress game that carried over was the featuring of historical markers as stops to refuel needed in-game items...a cleverly named Pokéstop. And almost every single church in the area happens to be a Pokéstop...again, an area that players need to stop at.

Needless to say, foot traffic at St. Mary's has increased a hundredfold since the game's release. When the game actually works (that is another

story), it is no surprise to see a kid, a young adult, or whoever parked near our church steps. Better yet are the cars that make a quick turn down the close side street to check-in to the Pokéstop or latch on to a "lure" that may have been set. Better yet, we had our largest fundraiser, our Polishfest, during the first 4 days of the game's release. People were constantly gathered away from the tents, food, rides and fun to be in front of the front doors of the church!

It has made for some interesting conversation – I am always upfront that yes, I am the priest here; no, I don't mind you hanging out here; and yes, I got a couple today, nothing really good. On a few occasions, I was able to speak about our church – our special branch of Catholicism, my allowance to be married and have a family (am married, no kids), and general questions about the parish itself.

If anything, it is a vessel for community leaders to reach to the public – much of the "pull" of the game is the conversations you strike up with other enthusiasts; it is very much a social experience, suburban zombies be darned. This extends beyond churches – Within a 15 minute walk from St. Mary's, one could "check in" or "fight" at an actual gym, a hot dog restaurant, a public park, a pavilion within that park, a wooden sign marking Ukrainian Village, and an old historical house, the Henninger House.

Inevitably, kids (ha!) are going to

learn something about each of these places – it is part of the games point, as well as the needed kilometers needed to walk to hatch eggs to get fresh fake monsters. For all the negatives fly on the nightly news by dummies playing while driving or zealous players hopping into and through busy thoroughfares to "catch 'em all," they truly got something going on.

Rather than just be an advertisement for a game that is already worth more than the Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers combined, I just wanted to remark how neat it has been to have our church be visited, if in the name of Pokémon rather than in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. But hey, maybe that gap can be bridged a person here or there, and if so, I'll happily explain the virtues of evolving your Spearow into a Fearow as well as those so-important 3 Divine Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love.



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Staying Independent Through Aging - You Need A Tool Kit!

by Peggy Lee-Tocco

Everyday 8,000 people turn 65 in America. Today older adults live longer in reasonable health, longer with more health issues, and longer in a home alone than ever before. Most Older Adults say they want to live in their own homes as long as possible, but 50% of them say they haven't planned for their own future as an aging person. Additionally, 73 % of their adult children say they have neither thought about nor planned for the care of their aging parents. This raises serious challenges for anyone hoping to maintain their independence throughout the aging process. Staying in their own home and preventing hospitalization then placement into a nursing home requires planning. That's what the free course, "Staying Independent Through Aging – Building Your Independence



it's time to talk about it.....

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The most cost-effective way to avoid calamity is for seniors and their adult children to educate themselves.

Parma Honors World War II Veterans With Ceremony



Mayor DeGeeter greets a veteran as Citizen of the Month

continued from page 1

of the Month. Ken Elhert suggested at a council meeting that it would be a great idea to honor a World War II veteran as Citizen of the Month. Mayor DeGeeter went him one better and suggested that an effort be made to locate as many of Parma's remaining WWII veterans as possible. That effort lasted about 10 weeks, and a database of more than 60 veterans was originally identified. Letters were sent to those veterans, and 45 responded. Thirty-seven of those came to the ceremony at City Hall, and the other eight were unable to attend.

Those unable to come to the event were sent certificates in the mail.

"This was a great idea, so thanks to Ken Elhert for that," Mayor DeGeeter said. "What happened after that was beyond all our expectations. To be able to personally say thank you to these

veterans was an honor. I was very humbled by the experience."

The mayor expressed his thanks to Parma's American Legion branches, the VFW and to the Honor Flight Cleveland organization for their help in locating the veterans. Joe Benedict, the president of Honor Flight Cleveland, called out the names of the veterans at the event.

Parma Auxiliary Police member Matt Chandler, on hand to help with the event, said "These veterans deserve everything they can get in the way of respect. I served in the Army and people say to me, 'Thank you for your service.' I appreciate that, but I tell them to tell their parents or grandparents if they served. Sometimes people are more comfortable saying that to a stranger than to someone in their own family. These World War II veterans, they won't be here much longer, and it's nice to see them honored and respected here tonight."

Heights communities. Sponsored by the Cyahoga County Library at Parma, the Older Adults Resource Network and Home Instead Senior Care306. This free course features collaborative sessions by experts from three area hospitals and local senior care organizations. Class runs Fridays: October 7 to November 11; 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Through the course participants learn how to have crucial conversations so they get want they want; assemble the appropriate lists that help when a crises arises; understand the array and diversity of senior living community options; what to do now to make your home age-in-place friendly; how to prevent hospitalization; and how to move confidently through life's 'speed bumps'.

The course is free and offered at the Cuyahoga County Library, Parma, 6996 Powers Blvd, Parma. Advance registration for the six week course is required. Contact the Parma Library and ask for Nancy Weitendorf (440) 885-5362 to register.

By understanding the many options available for every challenge and the costs of what's available today older adults and their loved ones can make an "emergency toolkit" and plan ahead.

A free course is now offered to older adults in the Parma, Parma Heights, Broadview, North Royalton Brooklyn, BrookPark, and Middleburg

Utilities Resource Fair

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga Job and Family Services and the Home Heating and Weatherization Task Force will be hosting a Utilities Resource Fair, at Lakewood United Methodist Church at 15700 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107, on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The free event will provide information and resources to the community, and enable customers to apply for utilities assistance programs such as Home Energy Assistance Pro-

gram (HEAP), Percentage of Income Program (PIPP Plus) and Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). Customers can apply for county benefits programs such as Medicaid, Child Care and Food Assistance.

There will be free Utilities Assistance Programs Training Workshops: at noon, open to the Public, on Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC); and at 1 pm for Providers, on HEAP, PIPP, etc. Registration is online for the workshops at www.cjfs.cuyahoga-county.us or call 216-987-7010.

Vista Springs Greenbriar Coming Soon To Parma!

by Karen Schaefer

Have you seen the beautiful building on Day Drive?? Wondered what it is? This will soon be a uniquely vibrant, independent assisted living and memory care community that will energize your soul!! In this resort type environment, you will find luxury accommodations, a 24 hour concierge, a full service salon, plenty of life engagement activities, and a place where you can make friends. We promise you 'heart centered care'. I like comparing it to a cruise without the water-we provide everything a senior needs at this stage of their life to help them make the most of this phase of their life.

You will feel it the moment you walk through the door. So much so that we have already accepted deposits from people who are ready to get on with their life and truly age in place in a warm and welcoming environ-

ment. We are redefining retirement living because we see each community member as an individual- a person with unique aptitudes and attitudes. Our number one priority is to provide a warm, safe and welcoming 'home' to all the people who live with us. We love when our community members say-I should have done this a long time ago! Don't let another day go by-call us for a tour and see for yourself why our community is filling up quickly. December is just around the corner-why spend another cold winter alone-come join us for your own-Full of Life Experience.

Please call for an appointment:

Ron Elsner- Executive Director

Karen Ann W. Schaefer-Director of Professional and Community Relations

Our address: 8668 Day Drive, Parma OH 44129

216-712-4400 or 330-235-8400

Parma Observer

Monster Mash- The Monsters Lose Their Identity

by Andria Redlin

It was only yesterday that I received the devastating news that the Cleveland Monsters, formerly the Lake Erie Monsters, have officially lost their identity as a Cleveland sports team. We now have a new name (again!), and a new set of colors. What was wrong with Lake Erie Monsters as our name? I mean, doesn't our Monster supposedly live in a lake? Like Lake Erie, for example? The name change is irritating enough. But the color change from the edgy black and blue to the oh-so-Cavs-ish burgundy and gold is an outrage. It's bad enough that our hockey team's merchandise has been relegated to a back corner of the Quickenloans team shop in a space that's smaller than my walk-in closet, but now they can no longer even have the dignity of keeping their original colors. Did they not prove themselves as Calder Cup champions this year, before the Cavs had their victory? Yes, they did, and they deserve better treatment than this. Don't get me wrong; I'm proud that we have a successful basketball team, but it's time for the Monsters to be rewarded for their hard work.

I must say that it is extremely unusual for me to be defending the rights of any sports team. By default, I really hate sports, preferring instead to see musicals, plays, or stand-up comedy shows. Now, before you all start making me the Chuck-a-Puck target and yelling "Boo" in my ear, please try to remember that we are all wired differently and have diverse interests. We can't help what we like. If everyone loved sports, tickets would never be available (or affordable), so be grateful for the dissenters, folks. I've always wished that I enjoyed sports, solely for the reason that the spectators are clearly having the time of their lives with other birds of their kind of feather. Have you ever watched people have a good time, wondering why you were the only one there who was miserable? It's like drinking alcohol and not feeling a buzz. Sadly, this is my history with any activity involving a ball, net, helmet, or wooden stick. I just wasn't 'getting it.'

I've attended many sporting events over the years for my husband's sake, but only succeeded in making myself practically suicidal with boredom. I guess that's the real reason they don't allow weapons in stadiums, because the sport-haters would be taking turns using them on themselves. But everything changed on the day when my husband dragged me kicking and screaming to my very first Monsters game around the time of the Calder Cup finals. We arrived at the arena, collected our white towels for Twist Time, and I sat down in my cramped seat, wishing I was home doing almost anything but witnessing a sporting event. I just knew that I was going to be half a Prozac away from a nervous breakdown for the next three hours, and the thought of organizing

my inbox of 907 emails into detailed categories was looking rather enticing. I logged in and began.

The clock counted down, the lights went out, and suddenly the gigantic inflatable Monster made its presence on the ice. Thinking that this was going to be the highlight of my time there, I reluctantly put down my phone and watched the show. The crowd was going berserk, but as usual, I was sitting there wondering what the heck was wrong with me. The game began, and before I knew it, I realized that I was jumping out of my seat and yelling just as loudly as any crazy cheerleader whenever the Monsters scored a goal. I was actually having a good time! The Monsters had won my heart. "Finally," I thought, "a sport I can appreciate! It's like Quidditch on ice!" I didn't know who was more astonished at my newfound love of a sport-me or my husband. He leaned over and said to me, "You are my wife,

right? The opera-loving sports-hater?" I gave him a wry smile, then twirled my towel in the air.

As the months passed, we kept returning to the games, and I grew to love hockey more and more, watching every hockey-related film we owned, from "The Mighty Ducks," to "Miracle." For the first time, I was viewing sports, or at least one of them, in a new light. I don't think most people can really remember the very first thrill they've experienced when they've discovered a newfound interest, especially when that interest was in a category that they initially hated. It's a heavy dose of pleasant surprise, like biting into a cheap hotdog and having it magically turn into a five-star filet mignon. I was really enjoying that filet mignon...until I found out that our amazing Monsters were being saddled with Cavs colors and a new name. Where's the nearest wall? I need to beat my head against something.



A Little Known Fact Of Parma Heights

by Bob Stilwell

Oscar Nicholas was the Toll Collector at the corner of (Wooster Pike) - Pearl and Olde York Road.from 1876-1907. His mother, Lucina Emerson, was the first born in 1822 in what is now Parma Heights She was the daughter of Asa Emerson. Lucina was a Civil War nurse from 1862-1865. She died at the age of 73. She had three marriages and outlived all three husbands. Charles Nicholas, Levi E. Meacham, and Joshua Whitney. Both of her sons were Civil War infantry soldiers, Levi E. Meacham Jr. and Oscar Nicholas.

Lucina is buried in the Parma Heights Cemetery along with many other family members including her son, Oscar Nicholas. There is a lot more to this factual story than I can write.

Anyone interested in a guided tour of the Cemetery and learning more about this interesting family may call the Parma Heights Historical Society Research Member, Bob Stilwell at 216-777-0835. This can be an interesting history project for school children. I will give them documentation copies and pictures that will help them with the project. I hope to hear from you.

I find these changes as acceptable as a root canal without novacaine. The Monsters' following may not be as strong as Cleveland's other sports teams, but they are steadily gaining respect and the recognition they are entitled to. It's been a slow process, and may continue to be so for a long time yet. But how are they supposed to continue getting that fame if their fan attire becomes almost indistinguishable from Cavs merchandise? Now, every time I see someone walking down the street in burgundy and gold, I wonder what team they support. I should not have to wonder. I thought the point of team colors was to make the team stand out from all others. Sharing the stadium with the Cavs never helped the situation either, but at least our beautiful black and blue colors gave us an identity. Now it is lost. We, the fans, have been betrayed, and we are angry on behalf of our beloved team that has worked so hard to pave their path to victory. Let them have their identity back.

We Popped The Cap On Pumpkin Taps!

by Christian Fitzharris

Autumnal greetings, savvy sippers and beer chippers alike. What spooky spirits are you drinking right now? PumKing? Pumpkick? Spooky Tooth or Warlock? Nitro Pumpkin Latte in a can? There are more and more ales every year. This year I've noticed at least five new ones that weren't around last year! What do they have in common? Pumpkin, yes but also one other thing. Mid to high (or what we used to call high) alcohol content. 9-12%Alcohol By Volume. Well not anymore, my friends. Free at last! The end of August marked a new day in brewing in Ohio. The 12% cap limit has been removed. House Bill 37 broke the limit on alcohol content brewed and sold in the Buckeye state. You may be saying to yourself, "Why did the cap need to be removed? I get drunk enough on 4.2% Bud Lite in the Muni lot before crying my Browns make-up off into my pillow." Ohio ranks fourth in the entire U.S for beer production. This brings an economic "buzz" of over 2 BILLION dollars into Ohio. Removing the cap unleashes our great breweries to offer even more diverse product in the realm of beer production in which the U.S is now officially the global leader thereof. What can you do? Buy some more Ohio beer like Fat Head's Spooky Tooth and let freedom ring! Who knows, next year we may be drinking pumpkin ales with the same kick as a nice sherry wine to make our cheeks shine. Cheers!

OBSERVING OUR PAST

Remembering Fallen Heroes

by Mike Byrne

The Ohio Flags of Honor visits towns and cities throughout the State of Ohio to honor the men and women who lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The second week in August, the Ohio Flags of Honor, made their fourth stop in Parma Heights and spent the entire weekend displaying the flags in our Greenbrier Commons.

The Opening Ceremony held August 12, 2016 was attended by over 30 family members of Ohio's Fallen Heroes from throughout the state. This powerful event is an opportunity for them to heal and for our entire community to also thank them for their sacrifice.

During the ceremony, the name of each service member is "shouted out" and a bell is rung in remembrance. A total of 293 flags were posted in the ground by the family members present, veterans' organizations, boy scouts and residents of Parma Heights. The flags remained on display in the Commons through the Closing Ceremony on Sunday, August 14, 2016.

Angelo Nuzzo, chairman for the OFOH organization here in Cuyahoga County said, "This is a way to keep the memory of those who have paid the ultimate price alive. The primary goal of the Ohio Flags of Honor is to

remember their sacrifice and give their loved ones a special place to bond with other families who have suffered the same loss. No one really understands the pain of losing a loved one to war more than another family who has had the same unfortunate experience."

When we first began this program here in Parma Heights, we had no idea of the emotional impact it would have on the entire community. In the beginning, members of the community came to show that they cared but now they plan around this event because they don't want to miss it. Parma Heights will continue to host this event because we want every family that lost a loved one to know we support them and more importantly, that their Fallen Hero will never be forgotten here in our city.

The President of the Ohio Flags of Honor, Gino and Lisa Zimmer founded this program in May of 2004 as a way to honor their son Specialist Nicholas E. Zimmer, U.S. Army, who was killed in Kufa, Iraq. Through this tragic loss and with the gratitude they felt for the overwhelming support from veterans, their families, the community, and a long list of organizations. The Zimmer family created a foundation for the memory of all lives lost from Ohio that were in the Iraq and Afghanistan War

and created the traveling memorial as a way for all Ohioans to honor these men and women, not just on Memorial Day.

In 2014, the truck that was used to haul the trailer and display throughout Ohio, began having mechanical issues. With well over 100,000 miles logged, the truck broke down three or four times costing the organization approximately ten thousand dollars in repairs. When the truck was on its way to a Veterans Day Parade and a tire blew, the entire operation was put on hold.

That's when I joined with Angelo Nuzzo and a group of other supporters to begin an effort and campaign to pursue the purchase of a new truck. A website called "keeptheflagsofhonor-

rolling.org" was created, phone calls were made, fundraising letters were sent and a GoFundMe account was set up. I am proud to report that over \$30,000 was raised and that, as a result, Gino was able to purchase a newer truck that not only brought the Ohio Flags of Honor back to Parma Heights this year but that will also keep the Flags of Honor rolling throughout Ohio.

The organization still accepts contributions to maintain the display. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor can contribute online at <http://keeptheflagsofhonor-rolling.org/>.



The steel I-beam from the World Trade Center, on display at The Shoppes at Parma.

September 11 Memorial Unveiled At Shoppes At Parma

by Jeannie Roberts

The City of Parma and The Shoppes at Parma collaborated on a memorial service to honor those who died on Sept. 11, 2001 in events in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. The highlight of the Sept. 11 ceremony was the dedication of a World Trade Center I-beam, recovered from the rubble, which was donated to the Parma Fire Department by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey after a two-year application and approval process.

The I-beam was donated on the condition that the artifact would be used for public display and memorial. The steel beam, which weighs more than 1,600 pounds, has been unveiled for the last time, as this is its new permanent home. It was previously displayed inside the Parmatown Mall at the Parma Fire Department training center. Now it is part of a permanent 9-11 memorial display at The Shoppes at Parma.

A plaque installed at the memorial reads, in part, "May it proudly stand as

a testament to the bravery and sacrifice displayed by citizens and emergency first responders." The plaque also displays a visual indication that the design of outside memorial, which incorporates the beam, large concrete planters and surrounding benches, represents the World Trade Center as it was before the terrorist attacks.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter is hopeful that Parma residents and visitors to The Shoppes at Parma will stop and reflect on the history that this display reflects.

"Sept. 11, 2001 was such a devastating day in our country's history, and we as a nation have vowed to never forget," he said. "This is a beautiful memorial to those lost lives and to our resiliency as a people. Let us in Parma do our part to always remember the sacrifices made on that day."

Parma's 9-11 memorial is located on the north side of The Shoppes at Parma between Dick's Sporting Goods and Fast Eddie's restaurant.



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PARMA ARTS SCENE

Artist Of The Month
Christine Vodicka

by Kathryn Mabin
Parma is home to a great talented individuals, artists and craftsmen, both professional and amateur, who specialize in variety of mediums. This article showcases a Parma area artist and introduces you to one of your talented neighbors.

Christine Vodicka, M.Ed.
Christine and her husband Sean, moved to Parma in June of 2015, to live in her Grandfather's house. She loves the close-knit feel of her Parma neighborhood. I met Christine when she reconnected with her creative side and won Best In Show at the Parma Area Fine Arts Council's show in May this year, for her charcoal and chalk drawing. Some of you will remember I wrote in June about a woman who danced a jig in the isle upon hearing she won. That was Chris. She has since joined the council and participated in the Chalk Fest in August by providing creative face-painting for the kids. She enjoys working with pastels, painting, mixed media, photography and interior decorating. She is the co-author of the freshman orientation textbook, Engaging the College Experience: How



Best In Show - Christine Vodicka

to Excel in the Classroom and Beyond (Kendall Hunt, 2012). Chris is also in the process of writing a new autobiographical/self-help book called Aunt Chris' Camp for How to Live Life, which was named by her nine year old

niece, Eva.
In 2013 Chris was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiation. In 2015 she was again diagnosed with breast cancer which had now spread to her spine. She underwent surgery to replace a vertebrae and to remove a tumor on her spine and more radiation. I am amazed by her motivation, her positive outlook on life, and vibrancy. She tells me she feels unstoppable.
A year ago Chris thought she would never be able to work again. But one of her dreams has finally come true. October 1st is the Grand Opening of her new business, College Colleagues LLC. It is located at 6887 Smith Rd., in Middleburg Heights. It offers Academic Success Coaching, Life Coaching, Tutoring personal success workshops, and educational consulting for ages K through adult. For more information on College Colleagues go to www.collegecolleagues.net. Chris said "I have too much experience, passion, and knowledge of academic success to share, as well as much more to learn. My work here is not done."
Chris is truly an inspiration.
If you are an amateur or professional artist, living in the Parma area, or know of someone who is, and would like to be featured an artist in an upcoming article, please contact me at kathrynmabin@att.net.

Parma Art News

by Kathryn Mabin
Register Now For Fall Art Classes! After school youth art classes Wednesday's 4:30pm to 6:30pm for ages 7 to 17. \$8.00 for a two hour session, supplies are included. Call 440-843-6474. Adult Watercolor with Emery Bogardy Wednesday's 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Adult Acrylics & Mixed Media with Michelle Behal, Wednesday's 7:00pm to 9:00pm. \$8.00 to \$10.00 for a two hour session. All classes are held at the Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Drive. Call 440-888-4514.
Art For The Fun Of It! Show. Saturday, September 17th, Parma Area Fine Arts Council hosted the Art For The Fun Of It! Student Show. This art show was held in the lobby of the Smallwood Center and featured the creative student work that was accomplished in the four pilot program free classes that were held this summer.

The event was free and open to the public. Refreshments were served. Two classes were offered for seniors age 55+ in watercolor and colored pencil/oil pastels. The majority of these students had never taken art classes before. The results were amazing. Two classes offered to youth, ages 12 to 18, were in Super Hero Cartooning and hand built & wheel pottery. Some pottery students created as many as 12 pieces each. A local indie cartoon artist attended the event and remarked that the students had talent and their story lines were very creative. Funding for these classes was provided Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Polish Village, and Proud of Parma. The Smallwood Activities Center and Parma Area Chamber of Commerce provided their facilities. Pottery & Clayworks Studio on Ridge Road provided their facility and expertise for the pottery classes.

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