

“The masters make the rules, for the wise men and the fools.”- Bob Dylan

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Vote “Yes” On Issue 85 To Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

by Joe Bobak

As Parma’s police chief, I have the honor and privilege of helping lead one of the finest departments in this county and state. And as a resident, I have had the fortune to live, work, and raise a family in a community that I am proud to call home. I’ve seen major progress in our city over the past few years, including key infrastructure investments, the redevelopment at The Shoppes at Parma, and businesses seeking to expand or locate here.

When speaking to groups of residents or businesses, I’m struck by how much they tie those successes and our

future to public safety – a key factor in determining the quality of life of a community. Fortunately, Parma, the seventh-largest city in Ohio, is considered one of the safest communities for our size. It’s a testament not only to the 102 officers who protect our neighborhoods but to the hard-working residents who live here. That’s why I’m hopeful voters will approve the



renewal of the 2-mil police levy on the November 8 ballot – a measure that generates about \$2.7 million at a

cost of around \$61 annually to owners of a home valued at \$100,000.

The renewal levy – Issue 85 – is not a tax increase, but rather continues funding salaries and equipment upon which the department depends. The major benefit of the levy, of course, is to help keep officers on the job so they can keep our streets safe. But we can’t overlook key investments that have a profound impact on community safety.

Among other things, the renewal levy helps fund our four K-9 units and our forensic equipment – resources that have become increasingly important. Our K-9 units, for instance, have contributed to significant drug arrests while

increasing officer safety during patrols. Forensic computers, meanwhile, have led to the conviction of child predators involved with pornography as well as put behind bars those charged with major felonies.

Failing to pass the levy jeopardizes those advances and would force cutbacks among our police ranks, eroding the department’s ability to provide the level of service our residents deserve and have come to expect. That’s because while our community is one of the safest its size, our police force has gained that reputation by efficiently operating under ranks considerably thinner than other municipalities. For example, of Ohio’s top 20 large-

continued on page 2

Open Letter From Mayors To Parma School Board

November, 2016

Dear Parma City School Board Members,

In light of Parma City School Board President Lynn Halloran’s resignation, we are writing this open letter to express our concerns – as well as offer our continued support – as you confront another situation that could damage the public’s already skeptical view of the school system. It is especially critical to turn around this perception amid an important renewal levy campaign.

As each of you know, we believe our cities are only as strong as our schools. That is why we have attended every school board meeting since the beginning of September, when we first learned of the now-shelved one-high school plan. It also is the reason we lobbied on behalf of the school district to gain an extension to submit a fiscal plan to the Ohio Department of Education. And it is why we are writing each of you today.

We believe filling this vacancy offers an opportunity for the board to regain some of the public trust lost over the outcry surrounding the initial recovery proposal as well as the controversy regarding the school board’s latest appointment. We believe selecting a qualified and experienced candidate in an open and transparent way – that includes soliciting stakeholder input – is an important step in restoring public confidence.

How this appointment is handled not only is important for helping to stabilize a board that has had two vacancies within about a month, but is a critical signal to a public considering whether to support the renewal levy this November.

We are more than willing to offer our opinions and views if asked, and we are hopeful that some of the quality candidates who applied for the last board vacancy will seek such an appointment again.

As always, we stand willing and able to offer our support at this crucial time for the school system. We are all in this together, bound by the same determination to make our communities even stronger.

Sincerely,

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter
Parma Heights Mayor Mike Byrne
Seven Hills Mayor Richard Dell’Aquila

October Citizen And Business Of The Month



Cheryl McIntosh with Mayor DeGeeter and Councilwoman Debbie Lime. See story on page 13!



Mack’s Beverage owner Pete Patel with Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro and Mayor DeGeeter. See story on page 13!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

I am writing this month to appeal to my fellow voters in the Parma City School District (PCSD). As a homeowner, public schoolteacher of 22 years (in a neighboring district), an elected official and as someone who loves this community and the people in it, I want to urge you to vote YES on ISSUE 118 – the PCSD renewal levy. Passage of this issue WILL NOT RAISE TAXES.

I totally understand the concern that many residents have regarding the recent controversies involving our school district. However, we cannot simply throw gasoline on the fire and make matters worse. Our children, our property values and our ability to attract new families depend upon our continued support of the PCSD. Failure of this levy would only serve to further



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

damage a challenged district.

As a community, we must stand united to fight for the cities that we love and the children who depend upon us

to fund their schooling so that they can receive a world-class education that will prepare them for success in the 21st century. Today’s youth will not only be competing against their peers here in northeast Ohio, but against those throughout the ever-shrinking and interdependent world. China reportedly has more honors students, for instance, than we have students in America. We have a responsibility to equip our youth for success in this hyper-competitive work environment. America’s exceptionalism and continued superpower status depends upon everyone doing their part.

If you are still not convinced, maybe the Founders can appeal to you. Despite the fact that they were political enemies, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were both fierce advocates of publicly funded education for the masses. In fact, Adams

wrote, “The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it...Education of youth, especially of the lower class of people, are so extremely wise and useful, that, to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant.” Jefferson added, “The tax which will be paid for this purpose [education] is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance.”

Please VOTE YES ON ISSUE 118 on November 8 – “An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest” (Benjamin Franklin).

Parma, UH Officials Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, flanked by Parma and University Hospitals officials around his desk, recently signed a Parma City Council resolution supporting efforts to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The ceremony in the mayor’s office in City Hall was attended by Parma Auditor Brian Day, Parma Treasurer Tom Mastroianni, Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck, and Councilwoman Kristin Saban, who is the resolution’s main sponsor. Also, from UH Parma Medical Center were President Kristi Sink, Community Outreach Manager Mary Beth Talerico and Oncology nurse Matt Wolbert.



Parma Auditor Brian Day, Parma Treasurer Tom Mastroianni, Parma Councilwoman Kristin Saban, Mayor Tim DeGeeter, UH Parma President Kristi Sink, UH Parma Community Outreach Manager Mary Beth Talerico, and UH Parma Oncology nurse Matt Wolbert.

“Many families have been touched by breast cancer, including mine, and cancer care and prevention is improving every day,” Mayor DeGeeter said. “We want to do as much as we can to help remind women to get mammograms regularly because early detection is essential for successful breast cancer care. We are fortunate to have such a fine hospital as UH Parma Medical Center right here in our city to assist with that.”

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States after lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. About 1 in 8 women – 12 percent – in the

United States will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. UH Parma Medical Center offers 3-D mammography (tomosynthesis) that improves the rate of cancer detection and reduces the need for anxiety-inducing additional testing.

“We are pleased to partner with the City of Parma in raising awareness about breast cancer risk,” Sink said. “An annual mammogram for every woman 40 or older is still the best way to save lives.”

Raising awareness about breast cancer is why Councilwoman Saban introduced the resolution, which was co-sponsored by all of city council. “This resolution holds a special place in my heart,” Saban said. “Had it not been for early detection at the age of 34 and with a 4-year-old child, my life may have taken a very different path.”

Vote “Yes” On Issue 85

continued from page 2

est cities, Parma has the lowest ratio with 12.1 officers per 10,000 residents, according to figures based on a local newspaper story in April. By comparison, those figures indicate Cleveland is at 37.3, Euclid at 18.8, and Lakewood at 18.

Meanwhile, as Parma’s police ranks remain lean, calls for service have increased since voters passed the last police renewal levy in November 2012. Last year, there were 35,751 calls for service. Taking into consideration

the increasing service calls, along with our already thin ranks for our size, the failure to pass the renewal levy would put public safety at risk because the city would have no choice but to make painful cuts.

That’s why I urge residents to vote ‘yes’ on Issue 85: Passage of the levy will help keep our neighborhoods safe and preserve the progress our city has made – all without raising taxes. Together, we can keep Parma moving forward through Issue 85. Let’s take that opportunity this November.

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HEALTH/CULTURE

Take Heart: New Treatment Gives Hope To Atrial Fibrillation Patients

by CJ Sheppard

Breathless and exhausted, 60-year-old Susan Bercan felt her heart was failing her. Cryoablation, a new treatment option for atrial fibrillation now available at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, has breathed new life into patients like Bercan. "I was on death's door," says Bercan, of North Royalton. "I could not breathe, and all I did was sleep."

Atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder affects more than 3 million Americans. It is also among the most under treated cardiac conditions, and if left untreated, gives patients a five-fold increase in stroke risk. For patients whose atrial fibrillation is no longer sufficiently managed with medication, this minimally invasive procedure performed in the cardiac catheterization lab opens possibilities for patients of all ages.

In cryoablation, the abnormal cardiac tissue is frozen – rather than burned – to disable unwanted electrical circuits. The length of the procedure is only two to three hours, versus approximately six for radiofrequency ablation. Patients recover overnight in the Heart Center and typically go home in 24-36 hours.

Cryoablation is expected to decrease the frequency and severity of atrial fibrillation attacks, eliminating

or reducing symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue and weakness.

"Our primary concern when treating atrial fibrillation is to return the patient's heart to a normal rhythm, reduce the risk of stroke and improve quality of life," says James Ramicone, DO, who partners with Bartolomeo Giannattasio, MD in performing these procedures. "We are seeing amazing results from our patients."

The procedure is also offered at other UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute locations, including UH Cleveland Medical Center and Southwest General Health Center.

Findings from a large clinical trial found that almost 70 percent of patients treated with cryoablation were free from its symptoms at one year, compared with 7.3 percent of patients treated solely with drug therapy. Patients who received cryoablation also displayed a significant reduction in symptoms.

Bercan was diagnosed at 47 with congestive heart failure and cardiomegaly, or an enlarged heart. She quit smoking and her heart condition was controlled for years by medication alone. But when side effects from one of the medications complicated her life, atrial fibrillation was diagnosed.

"Now I am doing better than great," Bercan says.

Preschool Openings In Hospital's Star-Rated Child Care

by CJ Sheppard

The Child Care Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has full-time and part-time openings in its preschool classrooms for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Experienced teachers provide individualized activities that promote the social and academic skills needed for Kindergarten and beyond. Children are assessed throughout the year and teachers partner with families to set goals for their children.

The hospital's Child Care Center, located in UH Parma's Health Education Center, 7300 State Road, educates 180 children of hospital employees and community members. Children are grouped by ages, with classes for children ages six weeks to five years old (pre-Kindergarten). More than half of the Center's teachers and assistant teachers

have degrees in education and all participate in continuing education classes. The teachers are certified in CPR and trained in first aid and communicable diseases.

The Center is open from 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents can enroll children on a full-time or part-time basis based on their schedules, and UH employees receive a discounted rate. The Center provides diapers, formula and meals for all of its children. The Center has been recognized with a two-star Step Up to Quality ranking and is working toward four stars. In addition to the children enrolled throughout the year, over 30 school-age children attend the Center during summer break.

To inquire about openings, email the manager at Leah.Anastasakis@Uhhospitals.org.



Ann George, executive director of the Parma Heights Food Pantry, said the pantry is providing food to six times the number of families it did when it opened in 2008.

Hunger Persists: Parma Heights Pantry Busier Than Ever

by Alison Grant

When Ann George opened the Parma Heights Food Pantry in 2008, the depth of the Great Recession wasn't yet apparent. The local food bank told her she would likely see about 50 families a month. Eight years later, with the recession long since officially over -- and recent census data showing years of high poverty easing in communities across the U.S. -- the pantry supplies food to 280 to 300 families a month. "We're seeing people that have gotten jobs again, but they're not the good-paying jobs that they had," George said. "I've actually had men come in here and cry. They say they never expected to see themselves in a place like this."

George started concentrating on hunger in Parma Heights in 2007 after she overheard two women in the grocery store talk about struggling to make ends meet after their husbands died and their pensions were cut by more than half. A meeting was scheduled that night at her church to discuss mission donations to Central America. George told parishioners the money was needed at home. When she started making calls to drum up interest in a pantry, few believed there could be a problem in Parma Heights. "I found out then that if you weren't affected by it, you didn't know how bad it was," said George. It was the same thing Michael Harrington described 50 years earlier in his book "The Other American," when he said that poverty survived because it was invisible to most Americans.

Maps of poverty rates and the location of pantries and soup kitchens in Cuyahoga County help bring the picture of food scarcity into focus. In 1999, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank supplied 518 anti-hunger programs, primarily in the city of Cleveland. By 2015 there were 710 programs, scattered across a wider geographical area, with pantries and hot meal dining halls springing up in bedroom communities as far flung as North Royalton and Bay Village.

George and her small crew of dedicated volunteers see hurting families

up close every week. Parma Heights families or those who go to a church in town can visit once a month to pick canned and boxed food, produce and bakery goods from the shelves. But George never turns anyone away. Rita Mandsley, 62, walks to the pantry from Middleburg Heights, 2 1/4 hours each way. She pulls a wagon to carry home food if it's not raining. If it is, she uses a tote bag and takes less. "It means the difference between having something to eat and not," she said. "I get by in between by scrounging through garbage cans."


Nationally in 2015, the number of Americans living below the poverty level fell by 3.5 million, the largest annual decline in the poverty rate since 1999. The gains registered broadly across demographic, age, and income groups. But geographically, the recovery is uneven, researchers at the Brookings Institution said. "There are still communities across the country wondering how many years it will take for this recovery to reach them," Elizabeth Kneebone and Cecile Murray said in a report in September.

At the Parma Heights Food Pantry, volunteers scramble to respond to the scarcity some local families live with. The pantry has gently-used clothing (up to six items per family member), children's books (with a stuffed-bear chair for young visitors set up near the book shelves), a treasure chest of trinkets for kids and blankets that are donated to veterans. The pantry's main source of food is the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Every week a small caravan heads there -- Ann and her husband, Arnie, in their car, following a truck driven by a neighbor. The pantry spends about \$1,200 a month at the food bank and \$1,500 for rent and utilities. November and December are the pantry's busiest months. People that won't come in the rest of the year show up hoping to put a holiday dinner on the table, George said.


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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #83

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE:
ASK FOR THEIR OPINION.

November's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT. Young people are empowered when they feel valued, valuable and safe. They need to believe that adults like and respect them. Finally, they need plenty of opportunities to contribute to their communities through volunteering, working in paid jobs and sharing their ideas, knowledge and creativity. One of these days, the young people in your home, school, neighborhood and workplace will be in charge – in charge of their own lives and in charge of the world. You can help young people get ready for their future role by empowering them now.

EMPOWERMENT Assets Include:

- # 7 **Community Values Youth** - Kids perceive that adults in the community value youth. (22%*)
- # 8 **Youth as Resources** – Young people are given useful roles in the community. (26%*)
- # 9 **Service to Others** – Young person serves in the community one hour or more a week. (48%*)
- #10 **Safety** – Kids feel safe at home, school & in the neighborhood situations. (51%*)

This column's focus will be on.....
Asset #8 – Youth as Resources

Give young people meaningful roles “Having a voice” means more than making a sound when you sing or shout. The ways people express ideas, energy, and insights make each person unique. Helping young people find their voices is one of the best ways to help them be a positive force in their families, schools, clubs, teams, or neighborhoods. This is good for them—and for your community. Young people have a lot more to contribute when their opinions are respected and their talents are tapped. Listen closely to the opinions of young people around you, and you'll all benefit.

Here are the facts:
Research shows when young people have useful roles in their community they feel good about themselves and their future, do better in school, and get into less trouble. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard and appreciated. Only 26 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they've been given useful roles in their community, according to Search Institute surveys. Allow all young people to have a voice in issues and decisions at home,

school, and in the community.
Tips for building this asset:
Building this asset means valuing young people's talents, skills, interests, and opinions. It means setting aside the belief that adults know more than the younger generation. When you see children and youth as valuable resources, they feel more empowered to contribute to the community, and at school, and home in meaningful, thoughtful ways.

Also try this:
In your home and family: Invite your child to help you plan a party or other event. Ask for her or his opinions about the theme, menu, and guests.

In your neighborhood and community: Choose a community issue important to you and gather the opinions of both young people and adults. When the time for action arrives, enlist the help of those who share your passion.

In your school or youth program: Ask students and participants to find newspaper stories or images that grab their attention. In groups, talk about the topics they identified. Brainstorm ways for them to get involved and use their voices in positive ways, such as writing or e-mailing a letter to the editor, calling a legislator, attending a meeting, or forming a group.

ASSET RELATED NEWS
The Parma Area Family Collaborative is already starting to plan for this year's Holiday Giving Tree. Last year the program was able to give gifts to over 900 children in the community. This year the need is expected to be even greater. To participate contact Ken Rummell at rummellk@parmacityschools.org, ph: 440.887.4873 giving him your name, contact information, number of children you'd like to sponsor, and, if you'd like, the gender & any age preference. The “Wish List” for selected child will be sent to you by November 14th. Your wrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Collab starting on Dec 5 thru Dec 7th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Give Ken a call w/any questions.

The October meeting (Oct 11th) of the **Tri-City Youth Planning Council** was both energized and focused w/ student leadership taking a lead role in the discussion. Major issues centered mostly on fiscal recovery/district restructuring and how best to appropriately present alternatives & advocate effectively for a particular position. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm, Tuesday Nov 15 at the Parma Hts

Library. If you're at all interested in youth development/programming and/or involved in youth outreach, please consider attending these meetings. Show our kids that we value them!
The Collab's (at Hanna Elem on Snow & Chevy Blvd) next Mobile Food Pantry will take place on Thursday, November 10th. Help is needed in the morning (9:00 am) to unload & set-up, and again in the afternoon (2:00 pm) for distribution. Contact Kira Karabanovs, Director of Family & Community Engagement for details on how you can get involved in this and many other youth related

MyCom Youth Corner

by Jean Micklewright

Tri-City Parma community members were invited to attend four community meetings (9/29/15, 10/20/15, 12/1/15, 3/15/16) to explore the resources and needs of youth in our communities. A diverse group of community members (youth, parents, families, schools, businesses, faith based organizations, civic organizations etc.) worked together to develop a three year neighborhood plan to help our youth become successful adults. The results are listed below.

Community Needs-Priority needs for positive youth development: Goal Focus Areas:

I. Youth Engagement: To engage youth in decision-making, skill training, and opportunities for meaningful leadership in their schools, neighborhoods and communities

II. Out-of-School Time: To ensure that ALL Parma area youth have access, in their neighborhood, to comprehensive activities that expand

programs - email: karabanovsk@parmacityschools.org; ph: 440.842.7022.

The Islamic Center of Cleveland, 6055 W. 130th is now hosting a Mobile Food Pantry for low income families from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm the 1st Saturday of each month. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 5th. You must present a valid ID & it's recommended that you bring your own bags and/or carts.

Go to <http://cbsconnects.org/college/> for a summary of the various services provided by **Gear Up Parma.** They include ACT/SAT Fee Waivers, College application Fee Waivers, College Now & Gear up Scholarships, Assistance filing FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) documents & more. This is a great dollar-saving program available for district families w/ students planning on entering college. Don't ignore this opportunity.

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.

beyond the school hours and days=

III. Transitions: To provide programs for youth in Pre-K through 12 that help youth transition from pre-school to kindergarten, elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to adulthood

IV. Advocacy: To empower and prepare youth to discover their voice and use it to activate meaningful change for the needs of children and youth through policy work


Secondary Focus Areas:
Health & Safety: To provide free programming to students and their families so every student has access to the necessary resources to live a healthy and safe lifestyle

Youth Employment: To provide education, career exploration and job opportunities for youth that foster a positive work ethic and teach youth skills necessary for higher education,

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INSPIRATION

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Because none of us have received a perfect upbringing, we have to learn to unlearn those things that do not make sense at this point in our lives and replace them with new learning; blaming keeps this from happening. Forgiving someone is not necessarily doing something for someone else, although that can be a possibility; it is more a gift we give to ourselves that allows us to move forward with our lives. If we would try our best to see life from the other person's viewpoint, we would be more humane and empathetic.

In these days of moral confusion with attitudes and actions once outlawed by society and now defended and favored, such as sexual promiscuity and others, there are great pressures on "God-believing" people to compromise their values with these non-Biblical desires. Scripture encourages people to be primarily concerned with spiritual matters, such as strength of character, honor, and good works. Scripture is not hard to understand, just hard to believe and even harder to obey. The secret is in the attitude of the heart with which one approaches it. The closer one gets to God, the more clearly one sees his or her sinfulness and the more wonderful becomes His amazing grace.

There is one God and one mediator (judge) between God and every human being, and that person (advocate) is Christ Jesus. Those who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness has the promise that God will supply all their earthly needs. Today, more and more of our elected representatives in government are of questionable loyalty; often they focus on personal gain rather than promoting the common good. Unfortunately, most people have little or no education on how to be a good husband, wife, or parent in comparison to job education and training. We often are so busy seeing through other people that we have little or no time, inclination, or desire to see them through.

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?

Let's Have A "Pumpkin Painting Party"

by Lizabeth Braskie

Kathy couldn't help enjoying the wide grin on her face when she mailed the invitations at the Post Office. Images of happy kids and marvelous masterpieces were anticipated rewards for planning this event. She was excited to be hosting a painting party for eight nieces and nephews, all under the age of 7. The required shopping for this get-together took her to different locations which specialized in the party favors and supplies she would need. Fun was in the air as she prepared for the upcoming festivities, saving the pumpkin purchases closer to the party date.

A disappointment occurred when the parents of three out-of-town nieces informed Kathy the children were unable to attend the party. She didn't want them to miss out on some of the fun, so she sent them some foam soap, markers, and other surprises so they, too, could celebrate the upcoming festive season. When she set up the basement with large tables covered in heavy-duty paper, she also added plenty of paper towels and handi-wipes for accidental splashes or spills.

Finally, the day had arrived, and not only were the cutie-pies dressed for painting fun, their parents were also on board to help when needed. The kids each picked out their pumpkin and sat down to study their project while deciding what paint color to use. A few quiet moments produced a "think tank" for the youngsters who gave their selections careful consideration. The parents took occasional photos and slowly engaged in the suggestions and evolving works of art created by their offspring. Soon the pumpkins were getting a makeover, not only with different colors, but different textures as well. Some paint, at first, seemed to be too thin for this task because it slowly slid down the sides of pumpkin. Oh no! That's not supposed to happen! What should we do? Re-paint later? Will this spoil the child's careful creation? The consensus was to let the paint dry, see how it turned out, and hope for the best.

This was the perfect time for a lunch break that gave the artists time

continued on page 11



"Smoky",
The Yorkie Doodle Dandee

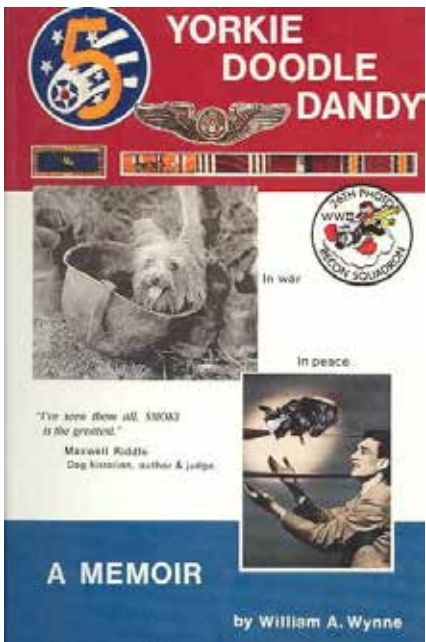
by Bob Stilwell

It was March 1944 and Cpl. Bill Wynne had a life changing experience. While serving as a U.S. Army aerial photographer in New Guinea, he bought a stray purebred Yorkshire Terrier for \$6.44 off a fellow GI-and the life story began about the canine often called the most famous dog of World War II. The "rollicking bundle of fuzz and energy", Wynn named the dog "Smoky", and became a war hero when he persuaded the 4 pound Dog to crawl through an 8 inch culvert pipe pulling a communications wire at a Philippines airfield, saving precious time and ultimately lives. But also the chance meeting was the beginning of a long association. Under Wynne's tutelage' Smoky became the first documented



therapy dog for battlefield casualties; then a performer to audiences and on television, and finally was memorialized with a monument in the Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River Reservation, along with five other monuments throughout the country for war dogs. Smoky died on 2/21/1957 at the age of 14. Bill Wynne, his wife, and family lived in Parma Heights for a short time along with his dog Smoky. They lived at 6835 Beresford in 1951. Bill is now 94 and lives in Mansfield, Ohio.

Parma Heights has many untold stories that we share as members of the Parma Heights Historical Society. Everyone is welcome to visit us every Tuesday from 10:00am to noon and every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Parma South Presbyterian church on Pearl Road in the basement.



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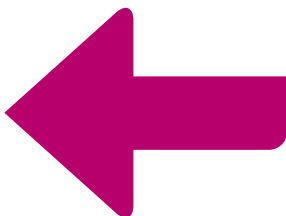
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PERSPECTIVE

We Are The United States Of America

by Lee Kamps

Well, I say to them tonight, there's not a liberal America and a conservative America — there's the United States of America. There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America....We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America.

These words were spoken by Barack Obama at the 2004 Democratic convention. Then he was a little known candidate for the United States Sen-

ate from Illinois. These stirring words as well as the rest of that speech helped propel him to the Presidency four years later. Here is a link to the entire speech: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/politics-july-dec04-obama-keynote-dnc/>.

It has been 240 years since the Second Continental Congress voted to break away from England and declare the thirteen colonies as independent states. Our nation fought a war to secure that independence. Following that victory, we had to form a new government. A loose confederacy of independent states had proven to be

a failure. So a convention was called in 1787 to build a framework for a workable form of government for the thirteen states.

What emerged was unique in the history of the world. The United States had invented a new form of government based on a constitution and composed of thirteen states all united in one republic with specific powers as well as one leader and all representatives in that government would be elected by the people.

But just what is the United States of America besides fifty states, more than 320 million people and a government? Here are some basic facts:

We are a nation of immigrants. From the day the first settlers arrived in Jamestown Virginia to establish a colony, this country has attracted immigrants from all over the world. Our industrial strength is due in part to the masses of immigrant labor who made the steel, built the cars and other products that made our lives easier and our country strong. Our culture and language reflect this rich immigrant heritage.

We are tolerant. Ever since the pilgrims landed in Massachusetts in 1620, people have come to the United States to escape persecution. Whether it is because of religious or political persecution, people have come to the United States for freedom from persecution. In fact religious freedom and tolerance is written into our constitution. As a result, perhaps the United States is the most tolerant nation in the world.

We are diverse. Ever since the first settlers arrived on the shores of this continent, we encountered native Americans who had been living here for centuries. Since then people from all lands and races have come to this country seeking freedom and the opportunity for a better life for themselves and their family. Currently there are more languages spoken in the United States than any other nation on earth. We have grown into a nation of more than 320 million people that includes just about every ethnic, racial and religious group in the world.

We are generous. Perhaps more

than any other nation, Americans give more to charity and do more to help those in need whether in our own country or overseas. Two political rivals and former Presidents, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton led an international effort to raise funds for relief of those hit by the tsunami in December 2004.

Yet despite our diversity and differences, we all salute and pledge allegiance to the same flag. We stand when we hear the Star Spangled Banner played. And, if necessary and able, we would take up arms to defend and protect this nation.

Rather than paint a vision of a better future for our country and proposing real solutions to the problems affecting the nation; some politicians are trying to gain power by dividing the nation rather than uniting the nation. In 1980, Ronald Reagan ran for President saying that "government is the problem". But here it is thirty six years later and some politicians are still saying that government is the problem. However many of those saying that are the government.

After the election is over, let us forget about campaigning and making political points and get down to the serious work of actually governing. The President and the Congress must work together for the good of the nation, not the good of their respective political parties. Those who we send to our state and national capital to run our government have a duty to represent ALL the people in their state or district, not just those who voted for them.

It is time to realize that dividing us into groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, wealth (or lack of) and religion; makes the United States weaker instead of stronger. Our national motto is E Pluribus Unum, or translated from the Latin, From Many, One.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches this month, we all should be thankful that we are living in the greatest country in history with a stable government that has worked for more than 229 years. In addition, this year we should also be thankful that the election campaign season is over.

Stearns

by Leo Lampeter

The condition of Stearns Farm is surely lacking. There are a number of volunteers who due a marvelous job under trying circumstances. They feed, clean and care for a variety of animals, which is no small task. The conditions of the farm are crude at best. Water must be hauled to troughs food hauled to the animals because the lack of waterlines and equipment to ease the stress of hauling is primitive. You would think that any assistance in lessening the burden of some of the chores would be welcomed with open arms. Naturally the decision making body would have to clear any proposal. Recently there was a proposal to three members of the board (The Parma Historical Society) that is supposed to oversee the operation of the facility. To run water lines to the corral where the cows were and another line to the area of the garden was a proposal made the three members of the board. This initial proposal was made to provide the labor at no cost to the farm if the farm would subsidize the cost of materials. A week later a member of the board that was in on the initial offer was approached again and asked if there was any response to the offer. The response was "what offer". After explaining again to this board member the offer, the response was that the process had to be followed and there was no understanding as to all the hurdles that had to be encountered. Cutting to the chase this board member was asked if the smallest effort was made by the board to begin the process. Again the

response was evasive. The bottom line was the lack of effort of the board caused the loss of an offer of free labor to install needed improvements that could have amounted to thousands of dollars of improvements. Because of the total lack of any intelligent inquiry by the board a simple act of making a phone call was not made and an opportunity lost. And there are those who wonder why the city is in such poor condition. With those in decision making positions who are incapable of making a simple phone call too difficult a task. These situations are reflective of the community leaders and their lack of thought for the community. For those that believe in the farm and those that visit it is a shame that this is another area where those in a position of authority have failed their community again. It seems to be coming more apparent that those in authority are in a situation that they are not capable of contending. If we are paying to keep such individuals because we need to compete to keep them what would be the price of competence? The city is losing because of people who don't have the proper sense of this community. There have been other offers of labors to be completed at no cost to the city which were rejected because of "insurance concerns" and "labor concerns". The bottom line seems to be; no desire to show the public there are competent people that are occupying positions with the city. Are the city officials concerned more about their jobs than getting the job done?

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OBSERVER

Proud Of Our Students

by Tom Mastroianni

I am writing this story because of what I observed at the October 4th Parma City Schools meeting. It was amazing to see the students of

our district come together and fight for something they believe strongly in.

At Parma City Hall for the past 10 years we have a program called

Anthony Zielinski Leadership for Tomorrow, which teaches 4th grade students in the district, private, or public, a live civics lesson. They hold their own council meeting, trial at the courts, and ask their elected officials questions. One of the reasons that myself, Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, and the late Treasurer Anthony Zielinski started this program was to not only show our students how government works, but also to urge them to get involved in their communities.

The October 4th meeting showed us that our leaders of the future can get involved, and when they do, they can make a difference. In the crowd of about 1500, most of which were students, there were many chants led by the students. One of the chants was, "Can You Hear Us!" Well I want to tell you, we all heard you! Your parents, teachers, and most impor-

tantly you should all be proud of yourselves.

There were many community and business leaders in the crowd who heard you, and now please hear me. Stay involved in your community, attend council meetings, visit City Hall, and meet your elected officials. Get to know us, we work for you, don't forget that. Look into a few of our great service organizations or charities in our area, for example The Parma Rotary, Parma Area Kiwanis, and the Parma Hunger Center to name a few. See what they have to offer you, and get involved in some way.

We heard you loud and clear at the meeting, your our future, and we want to continue to hear you!

Thanking you,
Tom Mastroianni
Parma City Treasurer

Drop That Smartphone, Or The Turkey Gets It!

by Andria Redlin

Every year I swear that I'm not hosting Thanksgiving. And I always change my mind, knowing that it will take me three days to transform my tiny apartment into a place fit for human habitation. Though it's almost certain that I will die of exhaustion after giving the turkey its once-in-a-deathtime butter massage before gently placing it into the roaster, there's nothing quite like a turkey dinner that attracts rarely-seen family to my door.

Thanksgiving is a lot quieter these days.

Post-smartphones, Turkey Day is still filled with family, food, and football. But now, it also features do-it-all devices that seem to be Super-glued to their owner's hands. Our newspaper's arrival has been outstripped by my guests silently using their phones to view online ads, just so they can high-tail it out of there to go shopping. Which leaves me feeling extremely insulted. After spending three days preparing my house and a grand meal, I at least expect my guests to show the courtesy of sticking around til at least 7pm. Is that too much to ask?

I find myself actually looking forward to the spine-snapping job of single-handedly preparing supper for twelve on Turkey Day. I've been doing this almost every year since I was 21, and it just wouldn't be the same without the aroma of roasting turkey wafting through my home. After a day of Black Friday window shopping when I can't afford to actually buy anything, those leftovers are comforting. But in recent years, things have changed. Horribly.

Let me tell you a true story. It was 2004, before the smartphone invasion. Easter Sunday arrived, and with it, my entire family at my grandmother's house. I'm thankful that no one had a smartphone that day, because I might have missed out on sharing a memorable afternoon at the kitchen table with my aunt, whom I was very close to. I didn't know it at the time, but that day was to be the last time I would see her alive, for she died unexpectedly the following July at the age of 47.

Before smartphones arrived on their spaceship named The Bane of Social Interaction, Thanksgiving used to be a wonderful holiday. My home would be filled with women meandering in and out of the kitchen for drinks or a chat, lending a helping hand with the food. The men would congregate in the living room to watch football, their cheers accompanied by Cheetos flying through the air to be found six months later when we decided to vacuum under the couch. Then, after what seemed like forever, I'd announce dinner and we'd cram our bellies full of enough delectables to feed all of Cleveland. After we'd eaten, someone would run out for that enormous, wrist-spraining Black Friday newspaper so we could noisily pass it around , enjoy pumpkin pie, and look at all the store ads. Good times.

For all you know, this Thanksgiving could be the last time your entire family is together. Do you really want your relatives' last memory of you to be an image of you with your eyes on your phone? Is checking your social media really more important than familial interaction? It's a holiday, for crying out loud. One day. No matter what holiday it is, you can put down your phone for a few hours. The world will not end, I promise. Perhaps you'll learn what's really important by doing so, and you may just discover that you appreciate that special time with your loved ones. You never know when it will be the last time you see them.

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Senior Living

Strong Team Spirit At Greenbrier Senior Living Community

by Dale Powell

On October 28th members of the Cleveland Cavaliers Cheerleaders, the Scream Team, Cleveland Monster Girls, and Slider stopped by Greenbrier Retirement Community at 6455 Pearl Rd. in Parma Hts. They were on a mission to support the Greenbrier Alzheimer's Association at their benefit, and of course to entertain and inspire everyone living and working there. The person responsible for the cheerleading squads visiting Greenbrier Retirement Community is Mike Hadl, a former resident. Mike was a

Sports Announcer for the Cleveland Lumberjacks and worked at the Gund/Quicken Loans Arena as well as spending years announcing at numerous college and high school sporting events. He gives great credit to the facility here for his well being, stating "Without Greenbrier's great work I wouldn't have been able to walk again". In light of the recent championships by both teams, this was quite a significant event to take place in what is normally a much quieter place. "I wanted to bring a smile to the faces of the residents and staff", said Mike.

Momentous Milestone At Pleasant Lake Villa

by Deb Frank

Pleasant Lake Villa celebrated a birthday milestone for one of their residents. Anna Barnok turned 101 years old on September 24, 2016. The celebration consisted of her family and friends joining her the day before her special day. Her Pleasant Lake Villa friends enjoyed her celebration the following day which included a beautifully decorated cake and lots of reminiscing with old photos of her past.

Anna was born in Butler, Pennsylvania in the year 1915. Her family then moved to Cleveland, Ohio. She had four sisters and one brother. They lived in what is now called "Old Brooklyn".

After attending Cleveland schools, Anna worked at National Carbon where she inspected batteries. There, she met Andrew Barnok who was her supervisor. They were married and moved to Parma Heights. Anna later worked at Parma Community General Hospital as a nurse's aide. She took classes and worked in the OB department taking care of mothers after childbirth. She retired from Parma Hospital. Anna's past interests included painting, floral arranging, gardening and reading. She continues to attend art classes and activities daily. Anna attributes her long life to walking and swimming.

AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers to assist taxpayers in southwestern Cuyahoga County. Our tax preparation sites are in Strongsville, Parma (2), Brook Park, Broadview Heights, North Royalton, and Middleburg Heights. Volunteers do not have to be retired or members of AARP.

All of our sites are electronic filing sites. Volunteers are expected to work at a site for at least 4 hours per week during the tax season, which runs from the first week in February through the 15th of April. Each volunteer must have an email address. Computer experience is preferred; however, not required. Volunteers do not need previous income tax experience. We provide a free two-week course for tax return preparers

during January. We are also looking for greeters and provide them with a free one-day course.

Tax-Aide is a very rewarding IRS-supported program offered by the AARP Foundation providing free assistance to taxpayers with special attention given to senior citizens with low to moderate incomes. It is a great way for volunteers to become involved in their communities and learn about the preparation of the 1040 tax form. Our recruitment of volunteers is on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

For more information please call Tax-Aide District Coordinator Steve Donovan at 440-237-7348, call AARP's toll-free number at 888-687-2277, or visit Tax-Aide's web site at www.aarp.org/taxaide.

Volunteers Needed: Rain Garden Maintenance

by Jacqueline Gerling

Help Cleveland Metroparks keep stormwater runoff out of West Creek! Learn more about a stormwater project and lend a hand maintaining rain gardens installed in the right-of-way of this neighborhood-scale project on Wednesday, November 2 in Parma. Volunteers

will be removing leaves and weeds, trimming back grasses, and removing sediment to prepare the gardens for winter. Volunteers should meet at Parkhaven Drive. Clean-up will start at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.

Register, here: <http://bit.ly/2dMIkrm>



PSO to perform Holiday Pops Concert 12/4/16 at VFHS

Holiday Pops In Parma

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a Holiday Pops concert on Sunday, December 4, 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 a pop concert featuring: Franz Lehar's Overture to the Opera "The Merry Widow", Highlights from "Show Boat" by Jerome Kern, "George Gershwin in Concert", as well as a collection of Traditional Holiday favorites including Arthur Harris's "Medley of Well-Known Christmas Carols", "Christmas at the Movies" selections from Miracle on 34th St, The Polar Express, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Nightmare Before Christmas and Home Alone, and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride"

The orchestra, in its 48th 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.

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.

Trick-or-Treat At Pleasant Lake Villa



Unlimited cuteness wherever you looked during the Trick-or-Treat event at Pleasant Lake Villa in Parma on 10/27.

Autumn Almanac

Passion For Change Seeks Communications Professionals For Pilot Program And Pro Bono Projects

by Marilyn Quill

Both U.S. and British statistics show that one in four of us experiences a mental illness in a given year. And if you aren't affected directly,

mental illness will have an impact on your life through a family member, friend, neighbor, colleague, or through a chance encounter in the grocery store or on the street.

Let's Have A "Pumpkin Painting Party"

continued from page 6

to ponder the next step of the decorating process. Everyone feasted on pizza, veggies, pumpkin cookies and drinks, but our tiny tots hurried their consumption in order to finish their project. When our mini-Michelangelos checked the drying paint, they discovered that the thinner variety resulted in a variegated finish that added a mystical touch to the pumpkin's charm. It's okay! Hurrah for this reversal of worry! Now the stick-on faces were selected and with some adult assistance, little fingers worked their magic turning their creations into pirates, mummies, or scary creatures, each with accessories.

All too soon, the pumpkins were finished with satisfied faces on the painters and the painted. Not only were the kids excited to take home their project and place it in a window,--the

parents also appreciated the finished results. Before everyone left, the hostess gave each of the children a large "Trick or Treat" bag that was full of markers, foam soap, kiddie band-aids, candy and age related toys. The invited guests and parents thanked Aunt Kathy for her fun idea, admirable undertaking and generosity. Hugs and kisses were shared with everyone and after some clean-up help, the guests left.

Kathy was pleased the day was a success and the kids have the results of all their hard work. Although she was exhausted, she took a few minutes to reminisce in her mind, the day's events. She visualized laughing children and moments of a game-changing upset that turned into a positive and artistic surprise. The party accomplished all she hoped it would and left a memory for all who participated. It was a good day. And for all that, she wore a heart-felt smile.

Passion for Change, a Cleveland-area not-for-profit created to break the stigma of mental illness, is recruiting professionals in marketing and communications to participate in its core program, Communicators for Mental HealthSM. The program, designed as a national prototype, has been launched as a Greater Cleveland Pilot Project. The project is designed to train marketing and communications professionals through an online certificate course, "Understanding Mental Illness, Addiction, Stigma & Advocacy," and then match them with underfunded local mental health/addiction organizations for a pro bono project. Together, they will help effect change through a shared passion.

This is an exceptional opportunity for both marketing and communications professionals and mental health and addiction organizations. The pilot project is groundbreaking, with benefits all around. Marketing and communications professionals can enhance their resumes through education and a pro bono project in a specialized area and, as trained advocates, they will be better equipped to support family, friends, and colleagues dealing with a mental illness. Additionally, mental health and addiction organizations will have access to marketing and communications professionals who actually 'get' mental illness and stigma and are prepared to assist in a pro bono capacity.

Passion for Change has been developing Communicators for Mental Health in partnership with Greater Cleveland mental health and addiction organizations. Its earlier Phase I included representatives from Center for Families & Children, MHS (now Frontline Service), May Dugan Center, NAMI Greater Cleveland, Recovery Resources, Spectrum of Supportive Services, and Suicide Preven-

tion Education Alliance (now LifeAct).

Volunteers in a variety of fields—including public relations, marketing, social and electronic media, advertising, website development and graphics and fine arts—will find personal satisfaction in giving back to the community. It's also an opportunity for them to put Greater Cleveland on the map in developing a national prototype.

Passion for Change's mission is to be a catalyst in breaking the stigma of mental illness by shedding light, challenging misperception, and driving change through research, advocacy, and education.

For more information or to apply for the Communicators for Mental HealthSM Greater Cleveland Pilot Project, contact Marilyn Mongeon Quill at 216.496.3295 or info@passionforchange.org. Website: www.passionforchange.org.



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Recycling Made Easy

by Erin Lally

Mis-matched socks, dirty stuffed animals, curtains from the ‘80’s, things you wouldn’t donate but don’t want to throw away....when it comes to recycling, everyone thinks of paper, bottles and plastics but clothing, shoes and household goods like these are also highly recyclable. As the winter months and cold weather return, we start to shift our focus inside our homes to housework and seasonal wardrobe changes and that’s where the city’s Simple Recycling program comes in to help clear the halls so you can deck them.

Through the Simple Recycling program, curbside recycling of clothing, shoes, and reusable household goods is available for Parma Heights residents at no charge and without registration. The program itself is as easy as its name implies: residents put out bagged and tagged items on the curb on their regular recycling collection day. Simple Recycling initially distributed bags and tags to all residences and replaces them as they are used. Additional bags/tags can be ordered by visiting city hall, going on www.simplerecycling.com/supplies or by calling 1.866.835.5068.

In June of 2015, Parma Heights joined 27 other municipalities in Northeast Ohio in this curbside recycling effort to keep these goods out of landfills. As a result, to date the city has diverted over 60,000 pounds of clothing, shoes, and reusable household goods!

As part of the growing list of the city’s cost-saving green initiatives, Parma Heights partnered with Simple Recycling to provide maximum simplicity and convenience to residents to encourage participation in this often-overlooked recycling opportunity. Bill Wilke of Simple Recycling told me that, “Clothing is 100 percent recyclable, but 85 percent still ends up in landfills.” According to the EPA, the average person throws away 68 pounds of clothing, shoes, and household good per year which accounts for up to 15 percent of the residential waste stream. Simple Recycling encourages residents to recycle these reusable items, giving them a second life, keeping them out of landfills, and thereby saving our city money.

Simple Recycling offers the ability to recycle unwanted household textile items that are too heavily worn to donate to charitable organizations like the Salvation Army, Special Olympics, veterans’ organizations, etc. Parma Heights Recycling Coordinator Michelle Teresi and I urge our residents to continue donating gently-used items to these charitable organizations. However, although this is not a mandatory program, we hope our residents will consider this curbside opportunity to recycle clothing and textiles that they wouldn’t otherwise consider donating. The Simple Recycling program is a convenient, new way to reduce the amount of garbage residents are throwing out while eliminating things that are no longer need like stained/ripped cloth-



Bags like these can be picked up at City Hall

ing or socks/shoes that will never have a match! Other items that can be recycled through the program include clothing, bedding, curtains, pillows, linens, stuffed animals, toys and towels.

What will Simple Recycling do with these items? The answer is simple: when household textiles have reached the end of their useful life, they can be sorted for international export or broken down for

raw materials. Many textiles are turned into wiping cloths used in a variety of industries or businesses and others are processed back into fibers and turned into paper, yarn, insulation, carpet padding and other items.

Please consider participating in this easy way to recycle and help keep things out of our landfills that don’t really belong there!



Parma Officials Supporting Police Renewal Levy Issue 85

by Kevin Riley

On November 8, Parma voters will consider a five-year renewal of the city’s existing 2-mill police levy. The ballot issue is strongly supported by Parma officials, who emphasize Issue 85 won’t raise taxes. “Parma is one of the safest cities its size,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. “These dollars will help keep officers on the job and our neighborhoods safe without raising taxes.”

The renewal levy – used for salaries and equipment – generates about \$2.7 million a year and costs roughly \$61 annually for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000, according to the Parma Auditor’s Office. In addition to keeping officers on the streets, the levy has allowed for investments in the department’s four K-9 units – yielding drug arrests and increasing officer safety, Parma Police Chief Joe Bobak said. Further, detectives have relied upon the forensic equipment to, among other things, convict child predators involved in pornography, he said. “We couldn’t maintain our police force and continue to make these kinds of investments without passage of Issue 85,” Bobak said. “This renewal levy is critically important for maintaining the

level of service our department provides the community.”

The police department has been slowly building up its force to 102 officers, but still has one of the lowest ratios of officers per residents when compared to other cities in the county and state. Of Ohio’s top 20 largest cities, Parma ranks last with 12.5 officers per 10,000 residents, according to figures contained in an April article in a local newspaper. Those numbers indicate Parma is lower than Cleveland at 37.3, Euclid at 18.8, and Lakewood at 18.

While Parma’s police ranks remain lean, calls for service have increased since voters passed the last police renewal levy in November 2012. Last year, there were 35,751 calls for service. With increasing demands on officers, failure to pass the renewal levy is a dangerous risk for the city, Bobak said. “It would mean that we would have to reduce the size of our already lean police force – cutting into the bone of a department that operates as efficiently as possible with the resources available to us,” he said. “It’s incredibly important to pass this renewal levy to protect our elderly population, our children, our homeowners, and our businesses.”

MyCom Youth Corner

continued from page 5

certification and/or training to gain and maintain employment

We are now focusing on developing strategies and action steps to attain these goals.

Please attend our next neighborhood meeting to contribute your ideas:

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Parma Heights Library, 6206 Pearl Rd., Parma Heights, Ohio 44130
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Conference Room C

Teen Programs at the neighborhood libraries:

Galaxy Games: Video Game Creation Workshop: For Grades 6-12,

Saturday, November 5, 11:00-1:00pm, Parma Branch Homework Center

Rock the Ukulele-Workshop for Teens, Saturday, November 19, 2:00-3:00pm, Parma Heights Library, Meeting Room A

SmashCon 16: The Final Brawl, Saturday, November 19, 2:00-4:00pm, Parma Snow Auditorium

Rookie Athletics is a Tri-City Parma neighborhood partner. To learn about basketball skills, basketball leagues, Dodgeball and Sports of All Sorts programs for youth please visit the website at www.RookieAthletics.org. Accepting registration now for winter sessions.

Parma Observer

Tri-C Plans Veterans Services Center At Western Campus

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College has been awarded \$80,000 to help establish a Veterans Services Center at Western Campus in Parma and expand existing programs for those who served the nation. The Kisco Foundation named Tri-C a recipient of its Kohlberg Prize, given annually to increase support for veterans attending community colleges. The grant was announced during a recent ceremony at the White House in Washington. "This support from the Kisco Foundation will have a major impact on the lives of thousands of veterans," said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C. "The Kohlberg Prize enhances the College's ability to help more veterans secure rewarding careers and position themselves for successful futures."

The new Veterans Services Cen-

ter at Western Campus will offer a full array of support services to help veterans reach educational and career goals as they transition from soldiers to civilians and become contributors to the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio. The renovated space will include an area for academic advising and counseling; computer access to enable veterans to participate in online courses and services; meeting space; and a resource area providing information on veteran programs. Plans call for the new center to open in spring 2017. The project currently is entering the design phase.

More than 90,000 veterans live in Cuyahoga County. With the new center, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative estimates the number of veterans and their families it serves will increase



from 7,000 to 10,000. The College also aims to increase veteran enrollment from 750 to 900 within the next two years. Veterans consistently rank among the highest-achieving students at Tri-C. Tri-C's Veterans Initiative opens its doors at all veterans and their families, regardless of whether they are students at the College. The goal is for Tri-C to become a home base and beacon of hope for Northeast Ohio's military community. The new center will be modeled after the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at Tri-C's Eastern Campus in Highland Hills. The number of veterans and military family members served at Eastern Campus has increased 15 percent since

the center opened last year.

The College also operates veterans services centers at Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland, Westshore Campus in Westlake, Brunswick University Center and the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland.

The Kisco Foundation was established by businessman and philanthropist Jerome Kohlberg. The World War II veteran used the GI Bill to attend Harvard Business and Columbia Law schools and later fought to ensure veterans continued to receive education benefits.

The Kohlberg Prize was awarded to Tri-C through the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation.

October Citizen And Business Of The Month

by Jeannie Roberts

The City of Parma honored an October Citizen and Business of the Month at a recent City Council meeting. The Citizen of the Month is a familiar face to many in Parma. Cheryl McIntosh, the executive assistant at the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, began working at the Chamber over 33 years ago as a volunteer. After job-sharing for several years, she became the full-time executive assistant in 2002. She has worked at the Chamber for the past 25 years. She is a life-long resident of Parma and has an extensive volunteer history in town. She and her husband Jeff have been married nearly

44 years; they have a son, a daughter and three grandchildren. The Business of the Month is Mack's Beverage, located at 5358 Ridge Road. The store has been in business for more than 50 years and was recently named one of the 50 Best Beer Stores in America by Men's Journal magazine. The magazine cited Mack's "massive selection, giant walk-in cooler and ridiculously friendly staff." Mack's stocks more than 1,500 brands of beer. The store benefits from a very loyal customer base, and its Facebook page has followers from all over the world. Congratulations to owner Pete Patel and Mack's.

Strong Team Spirit At Greenbrier Senior Living Community

by Dale Powell

On October 28th members of the Cleveland Cavaliers Cheerleaders, the Scream Team, Cleveland Monster Girls, and Slider stopped by Greenbrier Retirement Community at 6455 Pearl Rd. in Parma Hts. They were on a mission to support the Greenbrier Alzheimer's Association at their benefit, and of course to entertain and inspire everyone living and working there. The person responsible for the cheerleading squads visiting Greenbrier Retirement Community is Mike Hadl, a former resident. Mike was a Sports Announcer for the Cleveland Lumberjacks and worked at the Gund/Quicken Loans Arena as well as spending years announcing at numerous



college and high school sporting events. He gives great credit to the facility here for his well being, stating "Without Greenbrier's great work I wouldn't have

been able to walk again". In light of the recent championships by both teams, this was quite a significant event to take place in what is normally a much quieter place. "I wanted to bring a smile to the faces of the residents and staff", said Mike.



Brad Lovejoy takes a break from working out to get a photo with the Cav's cheerleaders.

Holiday Wines For The Kind And Mine.

by Christian Fitzharris

The phone is ringing and family is coming over within weeks! What will you serve? What will you drink? Fortunately I have the latter covered for you. Stress not. Pinot Noir and sparkling wine is traditional, but this year is better than all others. Let's get fancy now that we are a city of champions! Not just any Pinot Noir will do this year! Perhaps a Pinot Nero would be good if you are Italian or would like to pretend to be Italian if only for the holidays. Pinot Nero red is an Italian produced Pinot noir which can be found at a few wine shops or select grocery stores with a well stocked wine section. If no Pinot Nero is found look for anything from Willamette Valley and you will have fodder for great conversation. "Willamette Valley produces great Pinot Noir because it shares the same lati-

tude as one of the most historic regions of Pinot Noir grapes on the planet, Burgundy. For champagne, I recommend G.H Mumm which can be found locally for \$35 approximately and isn't your family worth it? No? Well, then you'll have to offer up some exquisite Cava or California sparkling which may be more agreeable to your family members who may not have yet discovered the wonders of such affordable sparkling wine as of yet! A good Cava can be bought for \$10-15 and a California sparkling for about the same. If neither of these delicate offerings are suitable go for whatever the visiting family members usually drink. Everyone feels at home with what they are used to. Comforting wine and comforting family. Nothing could be more precious and more enjoyable! Happy Holidays! Cheers.

A Centennial Gem

by Bob Stilwell

The Cleveland Metroparks circles the region with an "emerald necklace" of more than 23,000 acres of park land stretching from Lake Erie south into Medina County. Its parks get more than 45 million visitors each year. To celebrate 100 years, the park system has published a 252 page hardcover coffee table book. "The 100 Year Trail". Inside you'll find photos and stories from the first 100 years of Cleveland Metroparks. Enjoy the parks while sitting in your easy chair and paging through the book, then get back outdoors and enjoy them first-hand.

"The 100 Year Trail" coffee table book is available beginning Nov.1 at Cleveland Metroparks Nature Shops and at clevelandmetroparks.com for \$39.95. Pre-order online and save \$10.00. All pre-orders will be available for pick-up in November.

OBSERVING OUR PAST

Tales From The Tollgate House:

The Parma, Ohio Grange Near Pearl Road School

by Kenneth Lavelle

Area farmers felt an economic and social need existed to establish a farm family organization to meet their future expectations. Thus, in December 1909, The Grange, was chosen to be their local model of a farm family organization to be established in Parma, Ohio. Local land developers had begun to enter the Parma area in 1901 - 1908 time period to build residential homes. There were many local farms operating in Parma Township. The interest in land develop-

ment had started with the announced plans in 1892 for an interurban steam powered train route along the Wooster Pike to Berea, Ohio and later to Medina, Ohio. These early interurban steam powered or electric powered routes had been approved by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners to use existing county roads. However, no construction was ever began due to an Ohio Supreme Court case ruling in 1902. The case of SCHAAF, ET AL v. THE CLEVELAND, MEDINA & SOUTHERN RAILWAY



A 2013 photo of the Tollgate House in the Greenbrier Commons taken by Kenneth Lavelle. 1939 cement street sign is in the foreground.



1933 photo of the Parma Heights Village Hall along Pearl Road between Pearl Road School and Parma South Church. Today the area is green space and a GCRTA Bus Shelter is nearby for No. 51 bus riders to use while waiting for the bus traveling North into Cleveland along Pearl Road. The 1933 photo is from the Cleveland State University Cleveland Press Newspaper Archive in the Rhodes Tower.

COMPANY, ET AL. 66 Ohio St. 215, 225-233; 64 N.E. 145; 1902 Ohio LEXIS 170 ceased development plans.

The Grange, as a farm family organization, had been established in 1867 with several goals in mind by its founder, Mr. Kelly. He had seen the North and South of our country divided by civil war. He thought a farm family type of organization was needed to help unite the North and South through agriculture. Two other goals were to pool economic resources together to allow farmers to purchase related farm items and increase the educational levels of their members to be more equal level to those citizens who lived in the cities, who purchased their farm products. The Grange has been said to be “a school outside of the school”. Women were allowed to be vote on issues affecting them in the grange hall meetings. Women were not allowed to vote on public issues in normal public elections until 1920. In the beginning, the grange was a secret type of organization. The general public was not aware of who was a member. Secret handshakes and use of code words were not unusual between members as they met fellow members. Not all Parma farm families joined and became members due to its secret type nature.

The Parma Grange Number 1732 was the fourteenth such local subordinate grange to be established in 1909 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. It was to serve their rural farm family needs until it disbanded in 1974. In the beginning, the Parma Grange was like most local subordinate granges. Each member had a specific ‘station’ or earned status. There were specific grange ceremonies, rituals, degrees and duties expected of each member. Grange pot luck suppers, dinners, dances, creating displays at the local annual county fair in Berea, Ohio were encouraged and members played local baseball games that were held in the area. Social and legislative work on the local, state levels were encouraged to improve the members’ lives. Some members joined the Parma Grange since it offered medical insurance benefits. The Parma Grange helped two

male members improve their speaking and administrative skills to later become public elected Mayors of the Village of Parma Heights, Ohio.

Over time, the Parma Grange became a more social organization rather than a family farming organization. The Parma Grange met in three locations while it existed. One location was the in the second floor meeting room of the Parma Heights, Ohio Village Hall at 6143 Pearl Road. For many years, this building had been the only public owned building in Parma Township, Ohio where public meetings could be held. This early public building has been called ‘Temperance Hall’ due to the fact the residents in the rural township met there to not allow alcohol to be available in the community. The building had been built in 1893 by a local temperance society called ‘The Independent Order of Templars’. It was built by ‘gift work’. When their land lease expired in 1898, the building was moved across Wooster Pike to the present Presbyterian Church property.

There was a specific program of awarded degrees to the Parma Grange members, who wished complete them, which was done also in the other subordinate granges in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. This was the aspect, that the grange was considered to be ‘a school outside of a school. A subordinate grange would normally met twice a month. The Parma Grange met on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in 1925, for example. At that time, the meetings held in July, August, and September had been suspended for the last two years. In 1925, their meeting place was referred to as the ‘Parma Heights School House on Pearl Road’, which is next to the Presbyterian Church Parma Grange met there at the Parma Heights Village Town Hall until 1947 and then moved to their second meeting site in Parma Memorial Hall on Ridge Road in Parma. In 1960, the Parma Grange met in the Parma Savings Bank meeting room. When the Parma Heights Grange disbanded, the remaining members joined the Strongsville Grange in Strongsville, Ohio.



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Polish Village Treat-n'-Greet



Parma Police canine Dexter loves to meet kids as they travel up and down Ridge Rd. during Treat-n'-Greet.



The Treat-n'-Greet in Polish Village this year was the biggest, most successful one yet!



Trick-or-treaters at PC Diagnostics, 5857 Ridge Rd. in Polish Village enjoy receiving treats and having their pass-ports stamped.



Ghost Busters on hand to entertain the children and their parents.



Parma Police handing out goodies at the Polish Village Pocket Park during Treat-n'-Greet on 10/29.

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