

“Life’s tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late”- Benjamin Franklin

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## Focus On The Future Engages Stakeholders With District

by Carl Hilling,  
Superintendent

Last May was a game changer for the Parma City School District. It was in May that we discovered we would have a \$2,000,000 budget shortfall in the 2015-2016 school year and then a \$7,000,000 shortfall this school year.

Addressing a deficit of that size meant making numerous reductions that affected our students. It also meant we needed to start thinking differently. Our entire administrative staff came together as a team and had a voice in the reductions and how it would impact their building or department. We looked at ourselves more critically, focusing on where we had come from and where we wanted to be.

From this experience came Focus on the Future. Seven Focus on the Future Action Teams were created, whose members represented a cross-section of the district’s stakeholders including administrators, classified and certified staff members, students, parents, elected officials and community members.

The Action Teams held their first meetings on January 18, 2017, at Parma Senior High School. Many of the teams began their discussions learning about each other. They also discussed what short-term recommendations were needed to address the critical issues facing our district. These short-term recommendations were meant to be improvements the district could implement immediately at little or no cost.

On February 21, 2017, the Action Teams reported to the Board of Education on their short-term recommendations. The Board then scheduled three special meetings in March to ask critical questions



Superintendent Carl Hilling

of the Teams and considered the short-term recommendations presented. I reviewed the short-term recommendations by the Action Teams and presented my thoughts and recommendations to the Board of Education on March 20, 2017.

On March 24, 2017, the Board of Education voted to accept many of the short-term recommendations provided by the Action Teams. The full list of accepted short-term recommendations is available on our website at [www.parmacityschools.org/future](http://www.parmacityschools.org/future).

Focus on the Future provides the opportunity for the administration to rethink and redefine how we operate, based on the desires of the community stakeholders. This is a real attempt to share the future of the district with the community and to give you a voice in this effort.

As you can imagine, this was a massive undertaking and we intended to make this process a team effort. Over 200 people volunteered to serve on an Action Team, and over 110 were chosen. In most cases, the stakeholders who volunteered were able to work on the team they were most interested in.

From the very beginning, the entire Focus on the Future initiative was conducted in complete transparency. Community members were invited to observe any and all

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## Mount Alverna Village Breaks Ground For Major Expansion

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On March 23 Mount Alverna Village held a ground-breaking service to celebrate the beginning of what will be a substantial addition to their Senior Living Community. The event was officiated by Cleveland Catholic Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries, O.S.B. and Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter, who both spoke to those assembled to mark the occasion. This scheduled major campus expansion on the 24 acre property begins the construction for a new building and renovation project totaling 10 million dollars. The major capital effort has 3 goals:

To erect and addition to the existing building for the relocation of therapy services and life enrichment activities.

To construct a new building dedicated to memory care and assisted living services.

To renovate all vacated areas on the existing buildings for additional resident services and amenities.

Bishop Gries remarked "I am very pleased to be invited to take part in this historic



event". He went on to say "Mount Alverna Village has had a long and wonderful history of taking care of Seniors which is a testament to all the associates and dedicated Franciscan Sisters of Chicago who have worked hard for Mount Alverna over the years".

"Mount Alverna Village has always enjoyed an outstanding reputation as a high quality, faith-based provider of care", said Sister Joseph Marie Zenda, O.S.F., Vice President of Ministry Development. "This major campus expansion is necessary to continue our work of carrying out the healing mission of Jesus and responding to the growing healthcare needs of the community".

The Acapella choral group from Saint Anthony of Padua School was on hand to provide a wonderful background to the event, and when Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter delivered his remarks, he mentioned that his Father stayed here last year when he was in town for major heart surgery, and he couldn't have been more pleased with the way in which he received such thorough and focused care.

By next year the project is to be completed and in full swing, so Parma will have yet another addition to the growing list of places where excellent Senior Care is a short distance from anywhere in our great city.

## Mayor Honors Citizen, Business Of The Month



Charm Thai restaurant owners Carl Bindman and Mel Jabkul with Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Council member Jeff Crossman.

by Jeannie Roberts

Scott Slack was named the Mayor’s Citizen of the Month, and the Business of the Month is Charm Thai Restaurant, 7462 Broadview Road.

Scott was nominated for his outstanding and tireless work on behalf of Holy Family Church and School. In January, he was presented with the 2017 CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) Recognition Award for his years of service coaching their youth. After attending Holy Family School, he returned as a Basketball coach for the past 20 years. Scott is the father of two sons, Ryan and Kyle, and a daughter, Monica. He is a life-long resident of Parma and lifetime parishioner of Holy Family Church. Scott has served as a past member of the Pastoral Council and Parish Mission Team. He is a current member of Holy Family’s newly formed School Board, further showing his commitment to the youth of our community. continued on page 3



Scott Slack with Council member Brian Brochetti and Mayor Tim DeGeeter.



COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

Recently, I had the honor of meeting one of Parma's religious patriarchs, Fr. Dale Staysniak, who has served as Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish for almost 24 years. This month in my continuing series on Parma's places of worship, you are provided with a glimpse into this religious rock of the community located at 6750 State Road.

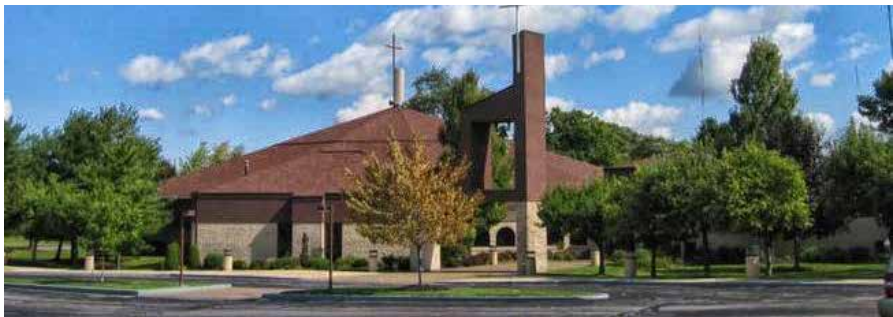
Fr. Dale grew up in a devout Roman Catholic family in North Ridgeville, where he attended St. Peter's grade school. He had a calling to serve the Church from a young age and, therefore, attended Borromeo Seminary High School. He remained there for college and was ordained a priest in 1975. He was called by the bishop to serve his first associateship at St. John Bosco Parish. He also served as an Associate Pastor at St. William (Euclid), St. Angela Merici (Fairview Park) and St. Adalbert (Berea) parishes. "God offers us all many gifts – marrying, serving the Church, having children, etc., but gives us free will to make our own choices," Fr. Dale explained. "I am so blessed to have been called to serve the Church," he added.

Fr. Dale mentioned that many folks have misperceptions about St. Anthony of Padua. In fact, this author is guilty as charged. For instance, many believe



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

that the Parish and Padua High School are one in the same. However, although they share the same property, they are separate entities. "The Parish and the high school were once run by the Franciscan Friar community, but they were always distinct bodies," Fr. Dale clarified. Further, the Parish was divested to the Cleveland Catholic diocese in 1993, due to the Franciscan Order's challenge to staff it any longer. As a result, Fr. Dale, a priest of Cleveland Diocese, was named pastor at that time by Bishop Anthony Pilla. "Our parishioners are very proud of their Franciscan heritage," Fr. Dale explained. "Further, they



all know that Parma is a great place to live and raise a family," he added.

One thing that I had never thought about prior to meeting with Fr. Dale is the huge tract of Catholic land that runs from the edge of Padua hill at Padua High School all the way east through St. Anthony of Padua, Holy Family Home, Mt. Alverna Village, Parmadale and Camp Corde, all the way to St. Columbkille Parish on Broadview Road. This area was once referred to as 'Holy Hill,' Fr. Dale explained. Although he is not quite sure of the history of this huge tract of Catholic property, he mentioned that "someone obviously had a vision back in the day."

In the spirit of St. Anthony, St. Anthony Parish came from humble beginnings. Anyone who frequents Progressive Field is familiar with St. Maron Church on Carnegie. If one reads the cornerstone of the building, however, they will note that it reads "St. Antonio." St. Antonio moved when St. Maron acquired the property, however, when the Innerbelt was constructed, St. Antonio was moved to Parma in 1959 and was founded as St. Anthony's. Parma was growing by leaps and bounds, so the move was a no brainer. The first building constructed on the State Road property was the elementary school and gym. In fact, the gym served as the chapel until the church was built in 1985.

St. Anthony's summer carnival kicks off the Parma carnival season each year. In fact, this year the carnival will run from Wednesday, June 7 through Sunday, June 11. The Parish welcomes everyone to join in the fun, great food, games, casino, rides, and fellowship.

The mission statement of St. Anthony of Padua School states the following: "St. Anthony of Parma Roman Catholic Elementary School is a faith community, where students are challenged to grow and develop spiritually, intellectually,

emotionally, socially and physically in accord with Gospel values. Our mission is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school and community." "One of the advantages our school has is its proximity to Padua High school, where our students are able to take courses and earn high school credits," Fr. Dale mentioned.

In closing, I wish to thank Fr. Dale for taking the time to offer the community insight into his fine Parish. Should you like to learn more about St. Anthony of Padua, visit their website at [www.stanthonypaduaparma.org](http://www.stanthonypaduaparma.org) or call 440-842-2666.


## Robert Oravec Celebrates 40 Years Of Service At Sirl's Automotive

by Laura Oravec

Robert Oravec started working at Sirl's Automotive February 1st, 1977 when he was 18 years old. He has become the manager of the towing department and has been granted the Order of the Towman award, the highest honor a towman can receive. Since receiving the Order of the Towman award he has become a Captain of the Order of the Towman and has also received the ACE award twice. His boss, Dale R. Sirl Sr., has expressed how proud he is of the work that he has done and the time that he has committed to the company. He stated that Robert has "given the most dedication that



any one person could give" and that he is the "heart and soul of the towing department." Robert has dedicated his life to being a tow truck driver and has dutifully given up many weekends and family functions to perform the duty that is required of a tow truck driver. Congratulations Robert on your 40 years of hard work at Sirl's Automotive.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Free Vascular Screening On April 8

by CJ Sheppard

If you are 50 years of age or older – and you are a current or former smoker, have diabetes, or have a history of high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol – you may be at risk for peripheral artery disease (PAD) or other vascular diseases, which affect the body’s blood vessels.

Join us for a free screening event on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, to learn about your risk for vascular diseases. Excellent treatments for all forms of vascular disease are available at University Hospitals

Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute locations across northern Ohio, including at UH Parma Medical Center.

Registration is preferred but not required. Call 800-883-3674.

## Prone Breast Therapy, An Advancement In Breast Cancer Treatment

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center now offers prone breast radiotherapy for patients who have had a lumpectomy for early-stage breast cancer. This well-established technique is only available at UH Seidman Cancer Centers at UH Parma and Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky.

This technique is advantageous for patients, as it may reduce radiation dose to the chest wall, heart, and lungs and thus potential long-term complications of breast radiation. It may also be beneficial for patients with larger breasts, as it allows the breast tissue to hang away from the thorax, reducing the width of breast tissue treated and potentially allowing the chest wall structures to be spared from radiation dose.

For more information, please contact Aryavarta.Kumar@UHhospitals.org, who sees patients Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at UH Parma Medical Center.

## Mayor Honors Citizen, Business Of The Month

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Charm Thai’s exceptional food and customer service, as well as its support of the community and the school district, were factors in the restaurant’s being honored. Carl Bindman and Mel Jabkul, who have been married for 17 years, run the restaurant along with their two sons, Tony and Toy. The restaurant

## Parma Safety Fair And Shred Event Return This Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma’s annual Safety Fair, a community family event for area residents to learn valuable safety information, is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd.

The event is a cooperative effort of the Parma Fire Department, Parma Police Department, City of Parma and Parma City Council. The highlight of the Safety Fair is the medical chopper landing, which is scheduled at noon, after which kids and their parents can explore the chopper. The Fair also includes a grease fire demonstration, a K-9 demonstration and information about gun safety, fingerprinting, Internet safety and much more.

This year, the Cleveland Browns will have a presence at the Fair, bringing as-yet unnamed players to sign autographs for an hour or so. Mayor

already features an extensive menu of Thai dishes, and the owners are in the process of updating and expanding its menu. The restaurant is open seven days a week, and Mel usually welcomes her regulars by their first name as they come in the door. Charm Thai has been in Parma for seven years, and we wish the restaurant success for many more.



Tim DeGeeter is excited that the Browns want to be involved, and calls the day “educational and fun for the whole family, and something our residents look forward to every year.”

In conjunction with the Safety Fair, a community shredding event is scheduled during the same hours at the main parking lot of the UH Parma Medical Center, off Powers Blvd across from the Parma branch library. The shredding services will be handled by Shred-It and paid for by a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District administered through the City’s Community Services & Economic Development Department.

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

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To schedule an appointment with a UH Parma Medical Center physician or to find out more about the surgical options available, call 440-743-4900.



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# TRI-CITY NEWS

## How Old Is The Red Circle?

by Kathie Zipp

Growing up in Parma, I must have passed the Red Circle Bar & Lanes on State Road thousands of times. I’ve bowled there for Girl Scouts and birthday parties, and I’ve stopped in for a drink with family and friends. As with many Parma residents, the Red Circle has always been a part of my life. But when I stopped to think, I realized I knew very little about it. “How long has it been there?” I asked my mom, also a life-long Parma resident. “As long as I can remember,” she replied.

My curiosity drove me to stop up at the Circle and try to find out more over some amaretto and coffee. But I was met with similar replies. “I’ve been coming here since I was a little kid,” said Jason Pfeil, now in his 40s. “I used to come up here for the youth bowling leagues on Saturdays, and even bartended for a summer later on.” Jason directed me to his dad, Tom Pfeil, who has run the Circle’s bowling leagues for



the last 30 years. Even he had trouble answering my question. “I remember when they added more lanes, from 6 to 12, and had to set the pins by hand,” he said. Tom also remembers the original owner Al Ceo.

The bartender Kathy also racked her brain, and thought she remembered when the original permit was pulled for a new awning, it may have said the late 1930s. I even called the city’s building department and the secretary said records said 1952, but that the original card was missing, so it could be even older. One thing is for sure, the Red Circle has been there a long time and its community vibe keeps people coming back. The third generation of Pfeils is now coming to the alley. “It’s a neighborhood place, more personal than big bowling alleys,” Jason said. “When I played on the youth league, we used to come here on Saturday mornings and then go sled during the winter time. Now my daughter bowls on the league.”

Tom has seen the same faces around the Red Circle for years. “I’ve known most of the people here their whole life,” he said. More than anything, he enjoys watching the kids on the leagues grow. “Some have grown up and can out bowl me now!” he said. Tom said the youth leagues are particularly important to the community because they offer kids another alternative to school-sponsored programs. He’s seen kids open up after joining the league in a way their parents said they didn’t previously. “It’s great for the parents too,” he said. “They can stay and socialize, or feel safe dropping their kids off at a place where they know most of the people.”

As I looked around the old alley, it was refreshing to see so many young faces happy to spend their Saturday afternoon there. I saw the next generation of Red Circle patrons—the next



generation of Parma. But Tom said unfortunately youth league numbers have been dwindling. Rather than lack of interest, Tom attributes the drop in no longer being allowed to distribute

flyers at local schools. “There are lots of private programs—bowling, karate, dance—that don’t get the attention they deserve,” he said.

Maybe we need a new way to draw attention to these programs? Tom said the Circle may not offer the youth league next year if participation doesn’t improve. If you know a child between the ages of 5 and 18 who may be interested in joining the league this fall, please call the Red Circle and ask for Tom.

This blog has been republished from ParmaYPs.com.

## Parma Police Announce Criminal Charges In Katarina Bitterman Missing Person Case

by Kevin Riley

After an investigation by Parma Police and FBI agents in Cleveland and Boston, Parma Police have charged two people in connection with the events surrounding the disappearance and eventual discovery of 17 year-old Katarina Bitterman at a home in Salem, Massachusetts.

Michael H. Julien, age 19, and his mother Renee M. Hanson, age 43, both of Salem, Massachusetts, were indicted by a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury on charges of Inducing Panic, Interference with Custody, and Obstructing Justice, all felonies of the fifth degree.

Bitterman was reported missing back on March 4th. She was found approximately one week later on March 10th at the home of Michael H. Julien and Rene M. Hanson after an investigation by Parma Police detectives and FBI agents from the Cleveland Field Office determined that Bitterman was staying at their residence. FBI agents in Boston and Salem Police were notified and later found Bitterman alive and unharmed inside Hanson’s residence. Bitterman was taken into custody by Salem Police and held until her parents brought her back to Parma.

Parma Police detectives, along with Cleveland and Boston FBI agents,

continued to investigate this case after Bitterman was found in Salem. The investigation yielded evidence that Michael H. Julien and Renee M. Hanson plotted together to bring Bitterman back to Salem in order to live with them. The investigation also showed that Renee M. Hanson traveled alone to Parma on March 4th and picked up Bitterman a short distance from her home after her parents were gone. Renee M. Hanson then drove Bitterman back to her home in Salem.

In addition to the charges against Michael H. Julien and Renee M. Hanson, Katarina Bitterman will also be charged with one count of Inducing Panic in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

The Parma Police Department would like to thank the Cleveland and Boston Offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Salem Police Department for their assistance in this investigation.

We would also like to thank the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office for their quick response in assisting our department in filing criminal charges in this case. Any additional inquiries into this case, including the extradition of both parties back to Ohio should be directed to their office.

## Parma Citizen's Police Academy

by Kevin Riley

The Parma Police Department is pleased to announce that it will be conducting its Citizen Police Academy this spring. The Parma Police Department is currently taking applications for this spring’s academy class. The academy will start on April 19, 2017. The academy is 10 weeks long and will run weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. The cost is free for those individuals who are selected.

Individuals must be at least 18 years of age, have no criminal history other than minor traffic violations (background checks will be performed), be physically able to participate in active class training, commit to attend 10 weekly three-hour sessions, and sign required waivers and agreements.

The Citizen Police Academy program is intended to open the lines of communication between the commu-

nity and the Parma Police Department. The objective of the program is not to train and certify individuals to become police officers, but rather to produce better informed citizens. Citizens who participate in the academy program, along with the police officers who will teach various classes, will work together in a friendly environment designed to build trust and provide the citizen with an understanding of the many challenges faced in today’s law enforcement profession.

If you are interested in being selected for this fall’s academy, please contact Captain James Blair at (440) 887-7333, or by email at [atjames.blair@parmajustice.net](mailto:atjames.blair@parmajustice.net) for an application and more detailed information.

You can also log on to the following link for a brief video about the academy <http://www.cityofparmapolice.com/news/video.htm>

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

Asset Corner #88

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: LET THEM SOLVE MOST OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. April’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.

*This month’s column will focus on Asset #10 – Safety:*

Combating fear, and growing up



by Jean Micklewright

MyCom Youth Corner

Summer is right around the corner – what are you going to do when school’s out? Most teens would probably like to have their own job and earn their own money. MyCom partners with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) to match teens to summer work experiences in their neighborhood. A summer job provides more than a paycheck – it builds your resume with work experience, teaches you new skills and helps you explore different careers. Below is an interview with a student, Ebony, who has had a job through Y.O.U. for the last four summers. Last summer her job led the way for a year-round part time job.

**What high school do you attend? What year are you?**

**Ebony:** I am a senior at Parma Senior High School.

**Are you doing a vocational study?**

**Ebony:** I am in my second year in the Business Management vocational at Parma Senior High.

**Did you recently win an award in your vocational program?**

**Ebony:** Last year I placed first in small business management team, second in basic office procedures, and second in integrated office.

**How did you get your first summer job?**



**Ebony:** I applied February 2, 2013 on the Y.O.U. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) website.

**How did you first learn about Y.O.U.?**

**Ebony:** I learned about it through PATCH (Parma Area Teen Community Helpers) from Mrs. Jean Micklewright and Mrs. Kathleen Hall.

**What was the hiring process like with Y.O.U.?**

**Ebony:** At first it was very nerve-racking, being my first job, but with the orientations and information they offered us it was very simple.

**Where did you get hired?**

**Ebony:** The first two years I worked as a Summer Days Camp advisor at Walter’s Grove Park and the third year as a Summer Days Camp advisor at the Hanna building for the Parma

**Read the rest of this article online at: [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)**

safe in an unsafe world

Young people who feel threatened, unsafe, or scared often spend a lot of time trapped in fear or in their attempts to protect themselves. They’re less likely to venture forth and take some healthy risks. On the other hand, young people who feel safe are more likely to feel secure enough to try new things. That’s why safety is an important part of feeling empowered. Fear, both imaginary and real, is a normal part of growing up. The key is learning to overcome it.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who feel safe in their surroundings are more likely to make positive contributions. About 51 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they feel safe at home, at school, and in their neighborhood, according to Search Institute surveys. The key to safety is to create and maintain an environment that minimizes fear and maximizes opportunities to take healthy risks.

Tips for building this asset

Media reports fuel reality-based fears, such as crimes and accidents. You may inadvertently add to young people’s insecurity by feeling anxious yourself and believing the world is dangerous. Young people pick up on adults’ attitudes and beliefs even if they don’t tell children how they’re feeling. Be aware of your behavior, body language, and words—and those coming from others. When you talk to young people about particularly upsetting or frightening events, remind them such occurrences aren’t common. Point out the many ways people take care of one another to be safe.

Also try this

In your home and family: Discuss with your child suggestions for how to remain safe in certain circumstances, and role-play situations. For example, create—and practice—an escape plan in case of a fire in your home. Identify a neighbor your child can go to in an emergency.

In your neighborhood and community: Donate your time, materials, or other resources to a local community center where children can safely play. If there isn’t a community center near you, work to establish one or create other safe activities for young people in your neighborhood.

In your school or youth program: Discuss with young people what it means to be safe at school or in your program. Encourage them to tell you—or other caring adults—if their safety ever feels threatened.

ASSET RELATED NEWS


Are you a student looking for a summer job opportunity....One of the

benefits of our Collab & MyCom initiatives is their connection to Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.). The organization has once again received funding to help match youngsters between the ages of 14 - 24 to meaningful summer work experiences. Visit [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org) to register, but hurry, available slots are filling up rapidly. If you’re an employer and would like to support the program, visit the site & click on the “Employer” link for information.

From 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Monday, April 3rd at the Parma-Snow Library (2121 Snow Rd.) State Representative, Marlene Anielski will presenting information regarding a number of state-wide educational opportunities for students between the 7th & 12th grades. RSVP for the event at <http://bit.ly/2k4vo3S>. Call Will London at 614.644.6041 or email [rep06@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep06@ohiohouse.gov) w/any questions.

Have you heard about the FREE Community 4th Grade String Program? Laurie Septaric, owner of Cappas Cakes & a member of the Community/Business/School Partnership has been graciously donating her time and talent since early this year teaching (w/help from 2 student assistants) 10, 2 - 4th grade students from 4 of our elementaries, how to play the violin. Their first concert is planned for Sunday, May 28th as part of the 10:15 Sunday worship service at St Peter UCC in Seven Hills. Lessons will continue through the summer months & Laurie is hoping to start a new beginner’s class in June & perhaps another in September -

**Read the rest of this article online at: [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)**




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**Ridgewood United Methodist Church**  
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## The Tollhouse Times

*by Bob Stilwell*

The Parma Heights Historical Society is planning on issuing a newsletter that will be ready for distribution this year. We are interested in hearing from anyone that has lived, or still lives in Parma Heights. We want to share some of your memories in the newsletter. We feel personal memories are enjoyable to read. Come and share your stories with us. We are located in the basement of the Parma South Presbyterian Church on Pearl Road every Tuesday at 10:00am or every 3rd Wednesday of each month at the same



location at 7:00pm. If you are not able to attend feel free to call the Parma Heights Historical Society President, Aldo Melaragno at 216-496-7150.

## I Believe *by Daniel Taddeo*

Adolescents who identify their primary motives, such as helping others, are three times happier than those who lack such altruistic motivation.

For a more rewarding life, the challenge is to minimize the negative “stuff” and maximize the positive “stuff.”

God’s Word says the harder we work to serve others and promote the “give” way, the more we will grow and the more we will “receive in return.”

If we are to use sex in the way God created us, we must restrict it to the marriage relationship and not to our thoughts, wishes, and desires.

The Ten Commandments express God’s love, will, and guidance concerning human conduct and relationships. They are the following:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

We are all equal in Christ, Who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another, binding upon all people in every age.

We are God’s stewards (managers) entrusted by Him with our time, talents, and treasures. Also, we are responsible for the proper use of the earth’s resources.

We should involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christ-like purity, health, and joy in our lives.

When people begin to exhibit disdain for God’s truth, there may soon come a time in their lives when they find it impossible to believe in the Creator.

Whether we are called to be leaders or followers of God, each of us must be willing and able to “endure the challenges.”

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?

## When The Shoe Fits

*by Lizabeth Braskie*

Sometimes our relatives and friends have a special, verbal description of someone that instantly identifies them as the person in question. When our family speaks about a female member who definitely loves “purses,” “rings” or even “nail polish,” we immediately recognize the described individual. Such is the identification for the word “shoes” that belongs to granddaughter Jessica.

All through her growing up years, Jessica has been linked to her attraction of footwear. When she was little, she loved to dig into the “dress up box” of clothes, but especially the shoes that were discarded by older members of the family. Her winning selections were not “flats” but those that had small heels. These served her desire to enjoy the grown-up noise they made when she walked in them. Since most of my home had carpeting, she asked to go outside so that she could hear her “click shoes” while she walked up and down the driveway. I enjoyed her smiling face and the steps she took in order to hear the clicks on the concrete. During a rainy day we went to the basement where we played school. Jess’s role as teacher meant dressing the part including her favorite footwear.

Although the tile floor didn’t have the same noise quality as outside, I was still entertained with dramatized clatter.

While Jess and her brother were growing up, many family vacations were enjoyed in the great outdoors. Camping and hiking were repeated fun trips for all. These adventures needed different footwear for everyone, so hiking boots were added to each person’s inventory. Our National Parks and the Appalachian Trail lured the family to discover selected walking locations across the country. Their boots also covered many miles while enjoying the outdoors in the great state of Alaska. Sturdy footwear was necessary for exploring, hiking and sliding on glaciers.

As my granddaughter grew older and went through footwear trends, her teens and college favorites were the high-heeled “peep toes” that gave a classy look and feel to getting dressed up. These were the popular and exaggerated open toe, dressy shoes many girls wore for date night. Jessica’s preference was a pair of black patent leather with four inch heels. They added maturity to her stature and revealed that yes, she had grown up. When she got married, I teased her at the reception when she took off her uncomfortable wed-

**continued on page 8**

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PERSPECTIVE

# Republican Alternative To The ACA Lands With A Thud

by Lee Kamps

After seven years of promising a “market based” alternative to the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, the Republican Party finally delivered. However their plan is a disaster and would cause more problems that it would solve. When the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, AARP and the CEO of the Cleveland Clinic, Toby Cosgrove oppose this proposal; you have to realize that this is a real stinker of a bill. No matter how much they dress this up and spin it, no matter how much make up they put on this pig; it is still a pig and a very bad bill that should be soundly defeated.

Last month Corbin Luna wrote a column critical of my columns. In his column he states that the ACA only benefits a few people, yet hurts 99% of Americans. But there is no basis in fact for that statement. Contrary to his statement of only 1% of Americans benefitting from the ACA, the truth is that most Americans do benefit from the ACA. Let me illustrate.

For every American; the ACA mandates no cost preventative care. This means that preventative medical care is available to everyone with no deductible or co-payments. This includes an annual wellness exam for adults and annual well child exams for children. It also includes cancer

screening tests such as mammograms and PAP tests for women as well as prostate cancer screening tests for men. It includes colorectal cancer screening tests such as stool tests and colonoscopies. It includes tests to discover heart disease. This could make a large difference in lowering the cost of health care as well as improving the health care of Americans since diseases detected in their early stages are easier and more successfully treated.

For those on Medicare; the ACA helps by gradually closing the prescription drug coverage gap or “donut hole”. This year for anyone who falls into the coverage gap, 60% of the cost of name brand drugs are covered and 49% of generic drug costs are covered. The coverage gap will gradually close until 2020 when it will close with 75% of all drug costs being covered in the “donut hole”. For people with serious illnesses who use a lot of prescription drugs, this could be a life saver.

As far as the expansion of Medicaid that is part of the ACA; this has been a life saver for many people. An example is a woman I met a few years ago in her early 50s. She was forced to leave her job (and health insurance) to care for a husband with terminal cancer and an elderly father. Thanks to the ACA she was able to qualify for Medicaid under the expansion due to the ACA. Because of that she was able to

get a PAP test that revealed cancerous cells on her cervix. Without the no cost preventative care and Medicaid expansion, she would not have gotten that test and delayed seeing a doctor about it until there was severe bleeding indicating serious cancer

There are countless stories of others like her whose life and health were saved because of the passage of the ACA. In Ohio alone, more than 700,000 Ohio residents have been able to qualify for Medicaid because of the expansion under the ACA. That is 700,000 people who would be uninsured with most of them being students, part time workers and full time workers whose income just isn’t enough. Nationally it is estimated according to the Kaiser Family Foundation that as many as ten million people have qualified for Medicaid under the expansion as part of the ACA.

In addition to the Medicaid expan-

sion, the health insurance exchanges have enrolled many more Americans. Thanks to premium subsidies that are paid directly to the health insurance companies, many more Americans now have health insurance where they would not be able to afford it previously. Again according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 20 million Americans have enrolled in health insurance through the exchanges with 84% of those qualifying for a premium subsidy.

Yes, there are problems with the ACA that have been well documented. Not enough young and healthy people are enrolling and choosing to be uninsured. This is causing adverse selection and increasing premiums. However this is because the penalty for not getting covered is way too low so it is cheaper to pay the penalty than to get insured. The Republican alternative eliminates this penalty entirely. If anything, the penalty should be increased so it is more expensive to be uninsured by choice.

But the real problem is that here in the United States, we have never thought of health care as a basic right of citizenship. Instead we have treated health care as it is some commodity that could be bought and sold like a television set or car. But the first thing that I learned in a course in health economics is that health care does not operate

## When The Shoe Fits

continued from page 6

ding shoes and changed into a soft pair of slippers. A flashback had me visualizing a little girl who admitted no pain while she was determined to clomp up and down the driveway with a smile and her two feet in a grown-up dream. I had to dab at the grandma tears that were sliding down my cheeks.

Jessica’s degree in Nursing has dictated that appropriate footwear is a must for her present job. She kisses her husband and three daughters when she leaves for her evening shift. Dedicated to her profession, she walks silently in her shoes that specialize in comfort, flexibility and speed while proudly helping those in her care. During quiet moments, Jess might reminisce about her family, life’s journeys or favorite stories she can share with her daughters. I’m sure they’ll hear about the variety of footwear that walked through years of her life. No doubt she’ll tell them about the familiar and marvelous “clicks” of her treasured childhood memories. It’s a wonderful possibility that her girls have inherited the “shoe gene” and the amazing cycle of “click shoes” will continue. And, as for me, I’m sure of one thing. I’ll be listening.

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OBSERVER

Why I Don't Speak Spanish

by Corbin Luna

The other day a friend asked me to translate something to Spanish for him. I told him I couldn't because I didn't speak Spanish. That seemed inconceivable to him. "But you're Mexican," he said. "Your parents came here from Mexico. How can you not speak Spanish?" Yes, my parents came here from Mexico. But the reason they came here was to be Americans and they believed that if they were allowed to become Americans and reap the benefits of being Americans, it was their responsibility to be Americans, not Mexicans living in America. And since the language of Americans is English, they refused to speak Spanish to me and my siblings. Consequently, I don't speak Spanish. And as I told my friend, I'm not Mexican, I'm an American of Mexican descent just like he is an American of German descent. And as such, I don't speak Spanish just like he doesn't speak German.

I've often thought that the most important thing I learned from my parents was personal responsibility. They taught me that it was my responsibility to adapt to this country; not for this country to adapt to me. They believed it was my responsibility to abide by the laws of this country; not for the country to ignore the laws that I don't like. They believed that it was my responsibility to achieve success; not for the country to provide it to me. As they liked to say, if you want to live like a Mexican, live in Mexico. If you

want to live like a German, live in Germany. If you want to live like an Italian, live in Italy. And if you want to live in America, accept the American laws and mores and live like an American.

My parents had an immense dislike for the people who come to this country illegally, especially those from Mexico. They were breaking the law. They were rudely "cutting in line" in front of the people who were going through the process to legally become American citizens. Instead of being Americans, they were Mexicans living in America and they were giving Americans of Mexican descent a bad name.

Today we hear an awfully lot about immigration, especially how bad it is to deport people who came here illegally. It's just more spin, innuendo, half-truths and lies coming from people who have a personal, political, and/or financial stake. Sometimes it hard to ferret out what that reason is, but it's always there. For example, the other day I read that 97 Silicon Valley firms, including Apple, Google and Facebook, filed a "friend of the court" brief in opposition to President Trump's travel ban. The article made it sound like those companies were bathed in compassion. The fact is, according to a Silicon Valley think tank, over 37% of the tech jobs in Silicon Valley are filled by people from other countries.

Americans in those jobs earn well into the six figures. People from countries like India, for example, will take the job for fifty thousand dollars and think they've died and gone to heaven. By the time they come anywhere near their earning potential, their H1B visa expires, they go home, and the company uses the freed up H1B visa to hire someone else. Believe me, I know. Prior to retiring I was a VP with one of those software companies and saw it done on almost a daily basis.

On the other hand, I don't know a single immigrant who came to this country legally (and has no stake in keeping an illegal here) who believes that the people who came here illegally

shouldn't be deported. Granted, I don't know them all, but the ones I do know feel just like my parents felt.

If my parents were alive today they would be thoroughly disgusted by all the nonsense being said about immigrants. They would tell you that saying this country was built by immigrants is half true at best. The truth is that it was built by people of various heritage who came here legally to be Americans. And they would demand that you stop lumping them in with people who came here illegally. They were not Mexicans living in America. They were Americans of Mexican descent and they were extremely proud of that.

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SENIOR LIVING

Discover Parma Village Senior Apartments

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Parma area has been blessed in recent years with several fine choices for Senior living space, and here is one more worth a good look. Parma Village Senior Apartment Community, professionally managed by Clover Communities, at 11500 Huffman Rd., features affordable and comfortable senior apartment homes nestled in a quiet community setting. One and two bedroom apartments, each with designer kitchens including breakfast bar and modern electric energy saving appliances. Central air, French doors leading to private patio/balcony, and pet friendly, with restrictions; fees may apply. Other attractions include in-suite laundry, salon fitness and rec room on site, heat cable and water included, community lounge with fireplace, indoor central mailbox system, secure building, including TV monitored entrance with controlled access- and the list goes on and on- far too many amenities to



include them all.

A personal note: When I attended nearby Greenbriar Middle School, this land was a field and woods and at one time had been a farm dating back to the Civil War era. There were the remnants of an ancient farm house, with only the stone foundation still standing. I couldn't help but think as I walked through the property and wonder if the people working the land back then ever could imagine in their wildest dreams that one day in the 21st Century an innovative living community such as this would grace this spot? We citizens of Parma consider this fine progress, and it is waiting for you to behold. Property Manager Vicki Gibbons will be only too glad to answer any questions and arrange for a visit to see for yourself all that is available here. She can be reached at 440-884-1700, and you can visit their website at [www.clovergroupinc.com](http://www.clovergroupinc.com).



Focus On The Future Engages Stakeholders With District

continued from page 1

of the Teams' meetings and submit their questions. Minutes of all the Action Team meetings were posted on our website within 48 hours, along with videos from all relevant Board of Education meetings for public review.

However, Focus on the Future does not stop with these short-term recommendations. Many Teams have already begun developing long-term recommendations that will help us make a plan for a new and dynamic school district. The Action Teams will continue to report to the Board of Education on a regular basis.

We also understand that some of our volunteer stakeholders will change over time and new people will replace them. We believe this dynamic will allow for new ideas. However, as people come and go, the Focus on the

Future process will remain intact. If an opening on an Action Team becomes available and you would like to be considered, please visit [www.parmacityschools.org/future](http://www.parmacityschools.org/future) and submit your information. We will make every effort to include you as a member.

I hope as you read through the short-term recommendations and visit our website, you will be impressed with the work already completed. I know I am.

We have heard the concerns from the community and we know they want solutions and plans that will make everyone proud. We will continue to work together as a team, unified with our three communities, to bring positive, comprehensive, and relevant change that will benefit our children today and tomorrow. We are a stronger Parma City School District.



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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Is

by Kathryn Mabin

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Parma Area Fine Arts is offering, Art Exploration, for ages 7 to 17, offers students the opportunity to explore explore a variety of arts, crafts, and mediums with a certified instructor. Instructor, Sean Mabin received his Bachelor of Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and his Licensure to teach Art Education for grades K thru 12 from Cleveland State University. He believes in a discipline based art education, incorporating art history and current events as they relate to the class project. Class size is limited in order to offer individualized attention. Supplies

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and cash prizes are awarded in the following five categories, 1)Watercolor 2) Oil & Acrylics 3)3 Dimensional (pottery, carving, jewelry, sculpture) 4) Computer Graphics/Pencil/Pen & Ink/Pastels 5)Photography, as well as a Best In Show and People's Choice Award. In honor of the 55th Anniversary the monetary awards have been increased over previous years. Applications must be received by May 12th. Drop off date for entries is May 19th. For details or an application please contact Michelle

at (216)618-0956 or visit the web site at [www.Parmafinearts.org](http://www.Parmafinearts.org).

Flamingo Fever

Sponsored by Polish Village Community Development, Flamingo Fever is looking for creative individuals. Applicants will receive a pink plastic lawn ornament to use to create unique table top sculptures. This is a fun family oriented event. For more information, or an application contact Kathy at [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net).

North Coast Needlers Quilt Show

by Gini Baldi

North Coast Needlers Quilt Guild presents its 15th biennial quilt show "My Favorite Chix are Quilters!" Over 250 quilts will be featured, ranging from traditional and contemporary to modern and art quilts, offering something for everyone to enjoy. Many of our members are award-winning quilters!

Quilts will be exhibited in the airy rotunda of Westlake High School, 27830 Hilliard Boulevard, Westlake, on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April

23. Show hours are 10-5 both days. A beautiful red and white guild-made quilt will be raffled off on Sunday afternoon.

Rounding out the show will be a boutique offering handcrafted items for sale, a quilt-side cafe', and a vendor mall featuring local and regional dealers. Admission donation is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, ages 10 and under free. More information can be found on the North Coast Needlers website [www.ncnquilt.com](http://www.ncnquilt.com).



Parma Heights T-Shirts

by Bob Stilwell

The Parma Heights Historical Society has created a newly designed Parma Heights T Shirts, in assorted colors, that are on sale now. They are \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping. Call

Aldo Melarragno (President of the Parma Heights Historical Society), for details. All proceeds will benefit the Parma Heights Historical projects that are planned for this year. Than you in advance for your order.

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artist this  
summer

2017 Pre-College Program  
Jul 9–21 and Jul 23–Aug 4

At CIA's Pre-College program, you'll spend two or four weeks using the tools and processes only available to our students while experiencing what it's like to attend a college of art and design. And you'll earn college credits while building your portfolio. View course listings and learn more at [cia.edu/pre-college](http://cia.edu/pre-college).

CIA



# Pleasant Lake Villa

## Skilled Rehabilitation Services



# Five Star Overall Rating

by the

## Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

### We are proud to offer

- Physical, Occupational and Speech therapies up to 7 days a week
- Private rehabilitation suites
- Assisted Living, achieved Survey Excellence the past 2 years
- Achieved Survey Excellence from the Ohio Department on Aging Resident Survey Satisfaction
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, individualized care for patients with chronic respiratory problems
- Cardiology Program, comprehensive approach to patient care starting with extensive nursing education and follow-up by board certified cardiologists
- Full-time nurse practitioners on site
- Excellent Wound Care outcomes



For more information, or to schedule a tour, call 440-842-2273



# Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

7260 Ridge Road · Parma, Ohio 44129 · 440-842-2273

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