

“Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter”- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Flooding Assistance For Parma Heights Residents Continues

by Mike Byrne

After last week’s torrential rains, the City of Parma Heights is continuing to work to assist residents who experienced problems due to flooding. The unusually heavy rainfall Wednesday night April 19 resulted in severe flooding problems for many

Parma Heights residents. Our Service Department employees responded immediately and began assisting residents Wednesday night. They’ve done a fantastic job. The flooding was something we could never have predicted.

Parma Heights Service Director Dennis Patten and I

met Thursday, April 20 with officials from the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Office and the American Red Cross.

County Emergency Management staff toured the most hard-hit areas of the city and performed an assessment of flooding damage.

The American Red Cross is making available Clean Up Kits to those residents in need, and especially senior citizens or those who are low-income families. Residents in need of a Clean Up Kit should call the American Red Cross at 216.431.3010, and ask for Humanitarian Services. They can also visit www.redcross-cleveland.org

Parma Heights Service Department employees have been clearing catch basins to minimize further flooding should more heavy rainfall occur.

The city has leased a rubbish truck for a one-week period to do bulk item pick-up for those with flooding related refuse such as water damaged carpeting and furniture.

A VERY SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

This year marks the 150th anniversary of of the annual joint celebration at Parma-South Presbyterian Church in Parma Heights. We want all of you to be part of it. Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America.

This 150th anniversary is thought to be the longest continuing Memorial Day observance in the State of Ohio.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 29, on the front lawn of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, where we will mark this milestone occasion with a service of remembrance. In honor of the 150th anniversary, we are working on plans for a very special guest speaker, to be

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

Polish Constitution Weekend 2017 In Parma's Polish Village

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Once again, the Ohio Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC) continues a 69-year tradition during the weekend of May 5 through May 7, with much of it taking

place in Parma's Polish Village!

Since its founding in 1948, the Ohio Division of the PAC has annually sponsored Ohio’s official celebration of the sign-

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Parma Police Auxiliary Citizens Of The Month, Recruiting New Members



Parma Police Auxiliary, Citizens Of The Month, Recruiting New Members

by Jeannie Roberts

Congratulations to members of the Parma Police Auxiliary (flanked in photo by Dept. Chief Joe Manning,

far left, and Chief of Police Joe Bobak, far right) for being chosen at Citizens of the Month. Their outstanding and tireless

continued on page 4

P Jay’s Pizza Is Business Of The Month



by Jeannie Roberts

This month’s Business of the Month is P Jay’s Pizza located in the heart of Polish Village at 5859 Ridge Road. Mayor DeGeeter is honoring this business, not only for the food, but for the sense of

community pride in this clean and well-run establishment. P. Jay’s opened in April, 1993 and has given back to the community in various ways during those 24 years - donating their famous

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The Ohio Flags of Honor return to Parma Heights August 11.

Safety Town Sign-Ups

by Chuck Germana

Safety Town of Parma is a home and pedestrian safety course for children going into kindergarten. Residents of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills are eligible. The course is two hours per morning for two weeks: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Sessions are: June 19-30 and July 10-21. Class Fee is \$28. This year, the site for Safety Town is Greenbriar Middle School Annex, the prior Forrest Elementary.

Registration sign-ups will be at Parma Sr. High Cafeteria on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



SAFETY TOWN 2017

GREENBRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNEX

June 19th – 30th:
9am-11am & 11:30pm-1:30pm

July 10th – 21st:
9am-11am & 11:30pm-1:30pm

REGISTRATION: AT PARMA SR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017 9am – NOON

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

Saturday, July 1 will be here before you know it and that’s why now is the time to sign up for Parma’s famous Run-Walk for Pierogies. This year marks the 7th consecutive year for what has become one of the community’s premier family-friendly summer events. Sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus (11000 West Pleasant Valley Road) – the event’s venue – the Parma Observer, and Perla Pierogies (5380 State Road), among many other Parma businesses and elected officials, participants are treated at the finish with Perla’s home-made pierogies, courtesy of owners Daniel and David Serban!

Seven years ago I combined my love for running and pierogies and came up with the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies. Thanks to the help of my Co-Chair Gary Uveges and many of our friends and sponsors, we host well over 800 runners and walkers each year and have been able to donate thousands of dollars to local charitable causes. In fact, this year’s charity partners include the Parma Charitable Fund, the Parma Senior High School Hockey Team, Parma Boy Scout Troop 221, and the Cuyahoga Community College Gap Scholarship Fund.

Participants may choose to compete in the 5k run, which is a chip-timed race, or they may walk the entire 5k (3.1



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

miles) or the shorter 1 mile course. The top male and female win the Golden Pierogie Award, as well as a \$100 prize package. The top three females and males in the following age group divisions win pierogie necklace awards: 11 and under, 12-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70 Over. The first 600 participants to sign up are guaranteed our signature t-shirt, pierogies and other snacks and drinks at the finish, and a goody bag. There will also be many door prizes awarded randomly.

The Run-Walk will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. next to the lake in front of CCC-West and continues around the flat college campus. Pre-registration is \$20 (ages 11 and under \$10) and can be done by mail by June 28 or online by June 30.



Onsite, day-of registration is \$25 and can be done from 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Registration for 7th Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies can be completed online at www.hermescleveland.com or call 440-885-8091 to be mailed

a form. Questions about the Run-Walk, including sponsorship opportunities, can be directed to pierogie5k@gmail.com or by calling. Check us out on Twitter and Facebook at [pierogie5k](https://www.facebook.com/pierogie5k). See you on July 1!

New Holy Family Service Helps Patients Receiving Curative Treatments

by Dana Carns

Holy Family Home Health Care and Hospice is now offering community-based palliative care to patients facing a chronic illness.

Palliative care is a relatively new medical specialty that offers pain and symptom management, education and emotional and spiritual support for those who face a chronic or serious illness. The palliative care team works in partnership with the patient’s attending physician to help manage difficult symptoms and side effects of medical treatment while providing support for the patient and their family. Palliative care is appropriate at any age, at any stage of disease, and along with any other type of treatment a patient may be receiving. Provided in tandem with curative treatments, palliative care can improve the patient’s quality of life.

Upon referral and after obtaining approval from the patient’s primary care provider, a Holy Family nurse practitioner under the direction of our palliative care physicians, will visit the patient where they live – at home, an assisted living or extended care facility.

Holy Family has been providing expert pain and symptom management for over 60 years. As part of St. Augustine Health Ministries, a non-profit leader in serving the chronically ill, this new palliative care program is an important addition for patients because it empowers them to make

choices about their treatment, set goals and live their lives to the fullest.

For more information about the **continued on page 3**

Seeking Tri-City Veterans Of The Korean War

by Jeannie Roberts


After the City of Parma honored veterans of World War II as Citizens of the Month last September, that idea has been expanded to neighboring cities Seven Hills and Parma Heights. The three cities would like to honor Korean War veterans this September.

The veterans will be honored on September 14 at the UAW hall located in Parma. The event committee is accepting names of Korean veterans from these cities and also donations from

individuals or business to purchase a commemorative gift for the veterans.

Donations are tax deductible and checks can be made out to the VFW Post 1974. If you would like to mail a donation, please send it to VFW Post 1974, 4305 Woodrow Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44134.

To send a veteran’s name and contact information or for more information about the event, please send an email to koreaveterans@cityofparma-oh.gov.



Crime Tip Line (440) 887-7340
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www.cityofparmapolice.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteers Give More Than 47,000 Hours To UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

The Parma Hospital Auxiliary celebrated its 332 volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April. This mighty force - who donate their time directing visitors at the Information Desk, transporting patients, delivering newspapers and comfort care items to inpatients, and providing a welcoming presence – gave 47,391 hours of service to the hospital in 2016.

The Auxiliary, which runs the Gift Shop and Healing Grounds coffee shop at UH Parma Medical Center and holds numerous fundraisers throughout the year, donated \$68,000 toward the purchase of many items, including walker bags, recliners for the Emergency Department, blanket warming cabinets for PACU and 9 CCU Stepdown, and Plain Dealer newspapers delivered

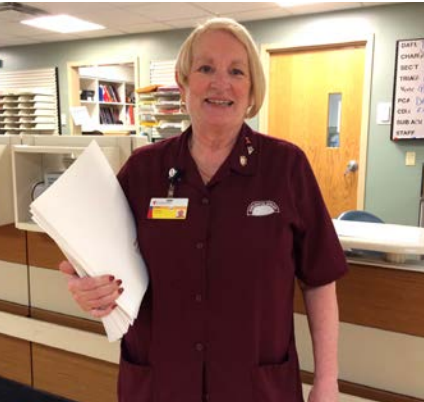


The Parma Hospital Auxiliary's 332 volunteers donated 47,391 hours and \$68,000 to UH Parma Medical Center in 2016.

daily to patients.

At a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon last month, they recognized one individual for donating more than 4,000 hours of service throughout their lifetime, and five students with scholarships named after Andrea Sack, the Auxiliary's longtime director. Awards for one year of service to 40 years of service were given, along with two Volunteer of the Year awards.

"You are all a very special part of our hospital family," said UH Parma President Peter Bergmann. "I thank each and every one of you for unselfishly giving of your time and talents to your community hospital. We are the better for your dedication."



UH Parma: Partner For A Healthy Pregnancy, Birth

by CJ Sheppard

Prepare for a healthy pregnancy and delivery with parenting classes at UH Parma Medical Center. Learn what to expect in labor, relaxation techniques and medication for labor and postpartum recovery in Prepared Childbirth classes starting on Thursday nights in May or Saturday mornings in June. Other single-session

classes packed with useful information include Caring for Your Newborn (also for adoptive parents) on May 20 and June 15 and Preparing to Breast-feed on May 7. Tours of the beautiful, tranquil Maternity Center are held the third Thursday of every month. For a full list of Parenting classes, go to www.UHParma.org/classes or call 440-743-4932.

Free Stroke Screening At UH Parma Medical Center On May 25

by CJ Sheppard

One American dies from a stroke every four minutes. A simple screening during National Stroke Awareness Month in May can protect you from the leading cause of long-term disability in the country. Attend a free stroke screening at University Hospitals Parma Medical Cen-

ter on Thursday, May 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. Preregistration is not required. University Hospitals Neurological Institute features the largest and most experienced program in north-east Ohio dedicated to caring for stroke patients. Visit UHhospitals.org/StrokeRisk to learn more.

New Holy Family Service Helps Patients Receiving Curative Treatments

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palliative care program, contact Holy Family at 440-888-7722.

Founded in 1956 by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Holy Family was the forerunner in end-of-life care. Today, Holy Family, a part of St. Augus-

tine Health Ministries, a faith-based, not-for-profit organization founded by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, has the privilege to provide home health care, palliative care and hospice care for individuals living throughout Cuyahoga and bordering counties.

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University Hospitals Parma Medical Center is proud to be recognized as a leader in surgical services by national agencies like The Joint Commission and Healthgrades. And with innovative technologies like advanced minimally invasive robotic surgery options and the only three-dimensional high-definition operating suite in the greater Cleveland area, we'll continue to be your local destination – for nationally recognized surgical care.

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.



UHParma.org

7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma, Ohio 44129

OBSERVER

Flooding Assistance For Parma Heights Residents Continues

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announced as the event gets closer. Watch our website – parmaheightsoh.gov – and our Facebook page for details.

After the ceremony concludes, we'll parade north on Pearl Road to the Parma Heights Cemetery, where they will be the playing of "Taps," a traditional wreath laying, and another brief community service honoring those Parma Heights residents who sacrificed their lives for our country.

We are asking as many of you as possible to attend this solemn service, and to have a huge turnout of residents lining both sides of Pearl Road on this all-important 150th Memorial Day anniversary. We are also asking residents to wear red, white and blue to visually demonstrate their civic pride.

Join your neighbors and your friends to show your pride for the city, our country, and most especially, for those who have died in military service.

OHIO FLAGS OF HONOR RETURNS AUGUST 11

Another important upcoming event in our city is the return of the Ohio Flags of Honor (OFOH).

The event returns to Parma Heights for the fifth consecutive year. The OFOH was founded to honor the men and women of Ohio who paid the ultimate price protecting our freedom in the service of our country in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Created by Gino Zimmer, father of Fall Hero Army Specialist Nicholas Zimmer, killed in Iraq on May 30, 2004, this traveling display has over

550 United States flags, of which over 250 represent the brave Ohioans who lost their lives.

What makes this so powerful and meaningful is the fact that the families of Ohio's Fallen Heroes are invited to attend the opening ceremony. Over the years, they have shared how much it means to them that our community remembers the sacrifices of their loved ones, and we, in turn, are able to extend our gratitude to the families themselves who have sacrificed so much.

The Ohio Flags of Honor will be on display in the Greenbrier Commons at 6200 Pearl Road and open to the public from Friday evening, August 11 after the 7 p.m. Opening Ceremony until the Sunday Closing Ceremony at Noon on August 13.

Police Auxiliary

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work on behalf of the Parma Police Department and the City of Parma make them an easy choice.

The Auxiliary is actively recruiting new members. With just 27 active officers, the Auxiliary has a goal of increasing to 50 officers, according to Commanding Officer George Balasko. Each applicant must go through training and pass a background check. Interested applicants can call 440-887-7300 x 7228 or email cityofparmaauxpolice.com.

Last year, Auxiliary members patrolled every street in the city on various assignments; two of those were making note of malfunctioning streetlights and missing street signs, and also issuing winter parking ban warnings. Auxiliary members direct traffic and provide street security during parades and are widely visible on Halloween as they patrol both on foot and in Auxiliary vehicles. Members can also be counted on in emergency situations and have responded to SWAT situations, guarded fire scenes, responded to downed wires in bad weather and assisted in flooded road circumstances.

In 2016, Auxiliary members donated 7,460 hours of their time. Auxiliary members will be on hand at Parma's Safety Fair, helping to produce a digital ID card for kids. They also serve with a heart – partnering with the Parma Area Family Collaborative to buy 13 children Christmas presents, organizing the Parma Police Food Drive and delivering 6 shopping carts of food and \$2,200 in cash to the Parma Hunger Center, and helping out at school open houses, PTA meetings, concerts, Sunday church details, sporting events, carnivals, and parades.

P Jay's Pizza Is Business Of The Month

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pizza to numerous schools, churches, and charity events in the Parma area, sponsoring dozens of Parma Recreation leagues with t-shirts, and sponsoring Polish Village events. P. Jay's Pizza has brought plenty of good publicity to Parma as well, with numerous awards for the pizza - Final Four Finalist in the Plain Dealer (Judge's Choice Best Pizza in the southwest region in 2011), Cleveland Magazine's Best of Cleveland Specialty Pizza award for the Pierogi Pizza in 2012, and for two years in a row, People's Choice Specialty Pizza winner (Potato Pierogi Pizza) at the Old Brooklyn Pizza Brawl at St. Mary's Byzantine Church. Congratulations to P. Jay's Pizza and owner Chris Mastroianni, pictured here with Economic Development Director Erik Tollerup and Ward Two Councilwoman Debbie Lime, for being named Business of the Month.

Polish Constitution Weekend 2017 In Parma's Polish Village

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ing of Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791.

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

On Friday, May 5, there will be an informal meet and greet event at the Parma Cafe (5780 Ridge Rd, Parma) from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m.

On Saturday, May 6, the Miss Polonia Contest will be held from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the St. Charles Social Hall where Miss Polonia and Junior Miss Polonia will be crowned. John Szleszynski & Son will provide music for listening and dancing. Tickets are \$10.00. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

On Sunday, May 7, there will be the Wreath Laying, Mass, Grand Parade, and Party. The traditional laying of wreaths will take place at Casimir Pulaski Monument (next to Cleveland City Hall) at 9 a.m. It is followed by the Mass which will be held at St. Charles Church (5891 Ridge Rd,



Parma) at 10:30 a.m.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. at Parma Circle (Ridge Rd, just north of The Shoppes at Parma) and will proceed north toward intersection of Ridge and Snow Roads. Those participating will include Parma City Officials, Parma area high school bands, US military color guard units, veteran posts in northeast Ohio, and many more.

A formal program after the parade will be held under the big tent behind

Unity Catholic Credit Union (5839 Ridge Rd, Parma) with food and drinks available from a number of local vendors. Music will be provided by Northcoast Mix.

For additional information, please call Mark Relovsky, General Chairman at (216) 970-0507 or e-mail him at mjrmotu@cox.net, or Allan Szuflada, PAC 1st vice-president at (216) 798-0181.

You can also visit PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio.com to learn more. A weekend event flyer can be viewed at PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio.com/Schedule.pdf

Remember to visit PolishVillageParma.com, [Facebook.com/PolishVillage](https://www.facebook.com/PolishVillage), and [Twitter.com/PolishVillage](https://twitter.com/PolishVillage) to keep up with the latest news in Parma's Polish Village.

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Wednesday- Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off
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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #89

by Gene Lovasy

May’s Asset Category: COMMITMENT TO LEARNING Commitment to learning doesn’t happen naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one’s own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers. The more committed a child is to learning, the more likely it is that she or he will grow up healthy.

This month’s column will focus on Asset #25 – Reading For Pleasure: Reading should be done for fun... Have you ever been so engrossed in a book you skipped watching a favorite TV show, didn’t hear the phone ring, or

stayed up too late at night? Now that’s a good book, and as anyone who loves to read will tell you, that’s the best part of reading! Books are the way most teachers instruct their classes. But there’s also a reason for young people to read for fun. The Commission on Reading contends that reading for fun teaches young people how to become strategic, skilled readers. They learn the difference between reading for a test and reading for pleasure. They learn when to read carefully or skim, ask questions or consult a dictionary.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who read for pleasure at least three hours a week (that’s only 26 minutes a day) exhibit more positive than negative values. Only 22 percent of young people, ages 11–18, read for pleasure three or more hours a week, according to Search Institute surveys. But reading—whether it’s for a grade or not—can open up a new world, transport you to faraway lands, bygone eras, or lives only dreamt of. Reading is important. It uses facts, figures, and emotions to both teach and inspire. Inspire young people to read for pleasure, and they will have a far richer life.

Tips for building this asset

Make it easy for your child—and other young people you know—to read for pleasure at your house. Provide a variety of reading materials such as novels, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Also, set an example with your own behavior. Don’t just read in bed when everyone else is asleep. Let the young people around you see you reading. Discuss issues with them that come up or other ideas you’ve learned from books. Finally, limit TV and computer time.

Also try this

In your home and family: Set aside a family reading time once a week. With younger children, read aloud together. With older children, read different books while hanging out together, or read the same book and then discuss it.

In your neighborhood and community: Volunteer to read books aloud to children in your community center, school, faith community, child-care center, or library.

In your school or youth program: Set up a book club to read popular fiction, nonfiction, or classics. Get together outside of class or during the regular program time to informally discuss the books you read.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Tri-City MyCom Youth Planning Council....Advocacy Day, March 30th - Our two MyCom facilitators, Seven Hill Councilman Anthony Biasiotta, yours truly & 6 students from our leadership group along w/close to 100 similar representatives from other county MyCom organizations bussed down to Columbus & spent the day meeting w/area legislatures. Our group had “face-time” w/both State Rep John Barnes and the legislative aide to Senator Mike Skindell where, in both cases, our student leaders did an impressive job effectively articulating their concerns & consequences that might occur as a result of decreases in funding for Out-Of-School programming currently being considered. In response to their request, during the next several weeks our group will prepare and forward to both legislators additional documentation noting their position.

Save the date and plan on attending the Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) Sping Medley Art Show & Sale, Saturday, May 20th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Donna Smallwood Activity Center adjacent to City Hall. Click here for additional detail: <http://www.parmafinearts.org/2017showinfo.html>.

Pre-registration for the library’s 2017 Build a Better World Summer Reading Program starts May 1st. The program will officially begin on Saturday, June 3rd & registration prizes will be available (while supplies last) beginning then. Visit your local branch in person or on-line for details. Mark your calendars now & plan on attending

If you’re a runner/walker don’t forget to register for the 7th Annual Run-Walk For Pierogies scheduled for Saturday, July 1st at Tri-C Western Campus. Register on-line at www.hermescleveland.com. For more information/details try www.facebook.com/pierogie5k - Twitter: @pierogie5k or contact Race Coordinator, Sean Brennan at 440.885.8091 email: pierogie5l@gmail.com.

From the National Summer Learning Association’s (NSLA - <http://www.summerlearning.org/>) newest partner Carson-Dellosa Publishing.... How much do you know about summer learning loss? Go here to discover its impact on academic success....<https://tinyurl.com/n2v223g> Additional helpful resources.

Have you been following the progress of the seven Focus On The Future Action Teams on their web site: <http://www.parmacityschools.org/future?> These strategic planning teams made up of community volunteers & school staff have been meeting to review those recommendations that were accepted by the Board of Education during their meeting on March 24th. Discussion is also being initiated on what their long-term recommendations may be. Stay informed; visit their web site.

UH/Parma Medical Center will be hosting FREE Speech & Hearing Screenings, May 22nd & May 23rd for kids ages 2 - 6 at their Speech Therapy

Read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com



by Jean Micklewright

MyCom Youth Corner

The Tri-City MyCom Youth Council attended Advocacy Day on March 30, 2017 at the Statehouse in Columbus. The youth had previously attended Advocacy Training provided by Voices for Ohio’s Children at the Neighborhood Leadership Institute.

Our group joined nine other Cuyahoga County Neighborhoods for the bus ride down to Columbus.

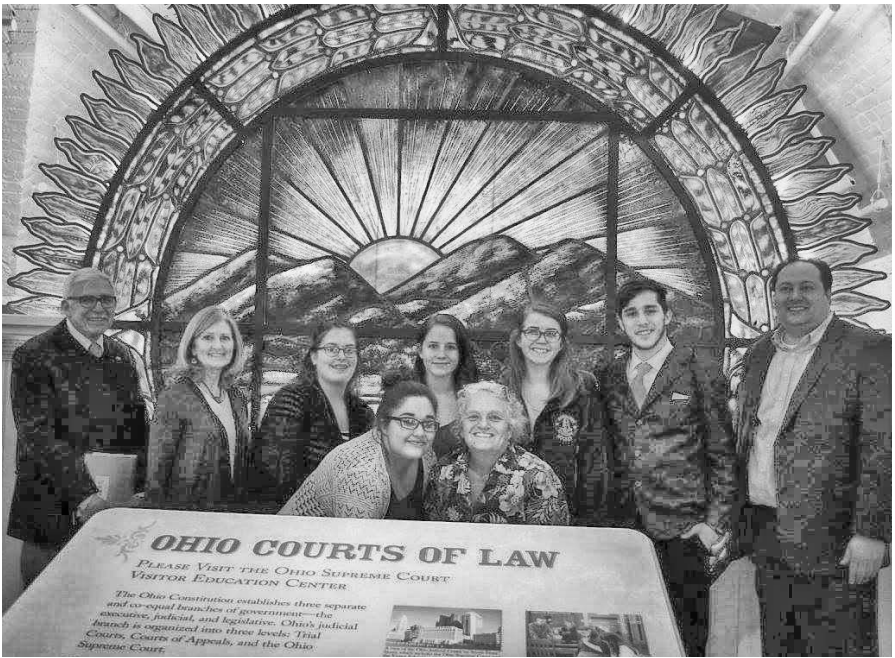
Six youth from Parma Senior High: Zahraa Alribeawi, Ebony Cianciola, Christine Huffman, Ilene Jones, Alexis Puleo and Noah Utterback met with State Representative John E. Barnes and the legislative aide for Senator Michael Skindell to advocate for continued and increased funding for out of school time programming. We were then treated to an interesting and informative tour of the statehouse.

The goal of this event was to allow our youth to use their “voice” to advo-



cate for themselves and others.

Seven Hills Councilman Tony Biasiotta, Community Activist Gene Lovasy, MyCom Project Coordinator Jean Micklewright and MyCom Project Assistant, Kathy Hall accompanied our youth on this educational journey.



INSPIRATION

Faith Community Directory

- Christ the Saviour American Orthodox Church**
10000 State Road N. Royalton, OH 440-237-9196
- All Faiths Pantry**
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-396-4329
allfaithspantry.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**
6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360
www.rumc-parma.com

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Look around to see which violations of God’s law are impacting humanity. How is your life affected by these violations? Nations go downhill when families go downhill. History does not document one civilization that survived without a dominating number of morally strong families. Protecting young people from risky behaviors and helping them develop positive behavior are easier when parents spend quality time together as a family. Some negative thoughts stand out more than others. The Really Awful Thoughts (RATs), such as those that dwell on our weaknesses, mistakes, and faults, can be more destructive

than others.

Teens who are givers are not only happier, but also they are more excited about life and more involved at school and with their families. They also are less likely to fail a subject in school, get pregnant, or abuse substances. We need a sound foundation like the Bible upon which to base our lives; unlike society, it does not drift, shift, or switch. When we live purposely, think right, serve generously, and forgive quickly, we lay the groundwork for emotional victory.

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?



The Gift

by Lizabeth Braskie

It’s a stroke of luck or a wish come true when you’re shopping for something very special and the person behind the counter knows exactly what you’re looking for. This is especially important when the item you’re hoping to find has to do with an extremely wonderful day in your life. I’m talking about looking for the perfect wedding dress and I know a saleslady that can produce your heart’s desire. She can read the expression on your face and fill in the blanks of your description. She can sense the design that fills your

request with a touch of something extra. She has the skills of a fashion stylist, the listening qualities of a best friend and the charisma of a respected socialite. Her name is Kimberly. And she has the “Gift.”

Kimberly has refined the art of personal touch. Not only is she knowledgeable in the products she sells but has the finesse to make sure the customer receives total satisfaction. Her job at a Bridal Boutique requires listening to the customer, scanning her memorized inventory for the shopper’s preferences, then adding compatible suggestions to offer a variety of possible selections. With her calming force, she has been known to change a “Bridezilla” into a happy Cinderella by taking her time with the nervous bride. This gesture results in having the top record of pleasing her special customers by fulfilling all their wedding dreams.

colors, styles and opinions, the task of pleasing everyone is quite a challenge. But her sales platform is to find exactly what the girls are looking for. She succeeds in developing a personal connection as if she’s known the shoppers for years. It’s her genuine style that appeals to those who are lucky to have found her.

Kimberly’s customers validate her work ethics by sending their friends and relatives to the boutique where she works. She is an expert on trends, new styles and colors, what is flattering and how the right dress can make dreams come true. She is responsible for many happy brides that realize a beautiful gown is the fairytale component to the beginning of her life’s newest chapter. It’s a live version that has evolved from secret wishes. Those fortunate to visit with this talented saleslady appreciate her dedication and her goal to completely satisfy each and every shopper. She offers lots of attention and success where she shines as the favored employee who knows her stuff. So, if a wedding dress can add to the mystique of the ceremony, then your heart’s desire has done its job. And you just might call it a “Gift” from the salesperson that helped find your special and perfect gown.

The attendants are also important in the selection process of their dresses. The bride may have a style and color in mind for their part of this fabulous event. Kimberly is well aware of the stress and strain on the wedding party and puts her friendly demeanor and warm nature into gear. She will show them choices that will flatter as well as keep within the compatibility of the bride’s dress. With different sizes,

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PERSPECTIVE

Don't Mess With Mother Nature, She Strikes Back

by Lee Kamps

Recently someone posted a picture taken from the air of the Cuyahoga River emptying into Lake Erie in Cleveland that was taken back in 1967. The picture shows the Cuyahoga River as a rust colored river spreading a rust colored plume into Lake Erie..

I remember the days of fifty years ago very well. You wouldn't dare eat any fish caught in the Cuyahoga River or in Lake Erie off Cleveland. You couldn't swim at any of the beaches near Cleveland on a hot summer day unless you wanted to place your life in danger. In June 1969, Cleveland gained national attention when the Cuyahoga River caught fire and destroyed a railroad bridge. But that 1969 fire wasn't the first or the largest fire on the Cuyahoga River. A fire in 1952 was much larger and did more damage.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Lake Erie was declared "dead" and became the butt of comedian's jokes. The once booming Lake Erie fishing

business was dead and people were afraid to eat any fish caught in Lake Erie.

At the same time, I also remember the smog alerts that were frequent in Cleveland back in those days. Smog alerts were very common in late summer and fall when cold air aloft trapped particulate matter and pollutants near the ground. There seemed to be an orange haze over the industrial valley and into many residential sections of Cleveland. I remember being at a public hearing on air quality standards where an old man dumped a large can of soot on the table of the board telling them that it was taken off the side of his house downwind of the industrial valley.

Also during that period, many raptors were scarce and some were considered endangered. Bald Eagles, the national bird and symbol of the United States were placed on the Endangered Species List. Hawks were scarce as well. This was because the use of the pesti-

cide DDT caused their egg shells to be very thin and led to nesting failure. The United States and Ohio were in danger of losing a lot of our natural wildlife.

Then in 1972, a couple of things happened that had a very large effect on Lake Erie as well as the nation. In 1972, congress passed and President Nixon signed into law the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the bill establishing the Environmental Protection Agency empowered with setting regulations on pollution and enforcing those laws and regulations. Those acts plus an increased awareness by the public on the environment helped turn the corner on pollution and the destruction of our environment. In addition that same year the United States banned the use of DDT.

Fast forward more than forty years to the 2010s. Lake Erie is much cleaner. The Lake Erie commercial and sport fishing business is booming. Lake Erie perch and walleye are popular dishes in many restaurants. The Cuyahoga River Valley between Cleveland and Akron is now a national park (and one of the most visited). Smog alerts are rare and some years pass without one being issued.

In many places along the shores of Lake Erie Bald eagles are common sights. Hawks and other raptors are common sightings along our roadways and fields. We have made a lot of progress since the "good old days" of fifty years ago. Now it is possible to swim on the beaches near Cleveland on a hot summer's day.

Sure we have problems with Lake Erie such as the algae blooms in late summer that rendered Toledo's water supply unfit to drink a few years ago. There are problems with invasive species not native to the Great Lakes

region such as the Asian carp that could threaten the Lake Erie ecosystem. But if we could solve the problems we faced fifty years ago, I am very confident that we could solve those problems facing us today.

But perhaps the greatest danger to the Great Lakes and the nation is coming not from industry or some foreign government. It is coming right from our own government in Washington DC. The budget submitted by President Donald Trump to congress calls for drastic cuts in key programs that protect our Great Lakes and environment. Among them are the ending of the Great Lakes Restoration Project that provides money for cleaning up of the Great Lakes and monitors pollution on the Great Lakes. The budget of the EPA has also been slashed and one congressman has introduced a bill that calls for the elimination of the EPA.

Another very bad budget cut is the elimination of the Sea Grant Program that funds studies on the health and ecology of the Great Lakes. Those studies measure progress in cleaning up pollution as well as how to deal with the problems facing the Great Lakes right now. Together those budget cuts could have devastating consequences for those living along the Great Lakes.

These short sighted budget cuts MUST BE STOPPED! There is a song by Pat Dailey, that goes "the Great Lakes are a diamond on the hand of North America. Brightly shining jewels rolling to the sea". Lake Erie is perhaps the greatest natural asset to Ohio and certainly to Cleveland.

My undergraduate degree is in ecology and one of the things that I learned was that it is not nice to mess with Mother Nature because Nature always strikes back.

Business

by Leo Lampeter

There isn't any business that comes to mind that doesn't want to increase its income. That is the purpose of the business. Depending on the business you have, commercial or retail, you attempt to put your best foot forward. By placing your best foot forward, not only do your customers notice but the community that surrounds you also takes note, although it may not be on a conscious level. One of the tenants of good business is to embrace not only your customers but the community. That would translate into having a good rapport with other business and individuals in that community. Along with these attributes, maintaining a good appearance comes into play. Maintaining walkways and landscaping, if it applies, compliments the business, along with keeping the property clean and easily traveled not only by vehicles but by pedestrians. Which brings to mind something that is obvious to most pedestrians. During the winter months there are a number of businesses that, while the parking areas of their businesses are taken care of, the walkways surrounding their properties are woefully neglected. If this is read correctly, they are saying that they care neither for the pedestrians nor the city in which they reside. Why else would they only clear the path for perceived customers but for no one else in the city? Is this a dominant thought in society, to have no respect for the other person unless it effects me directly? For those businesses that fail to care for all people of the area there is an action that can easily get them to become conscious of the situation.

If they only care about their own income, the best way to make them aware of the situation is to think twice if you want to patronize the business.

Perhaps that will serve as a wake-up call to them. It is possible that not only do these businesses need attention drawn to them but also the city in their actions. It is the Housing Commissioner who is responsible for the removal of the snow on walkways around the city. Should he be paid for not doing his job? Should he be retained for not doing his job? How many working people would have the security of a job if they ignored any part of their duties? From the information gathered it appears that the housing commissioner merely sends out letters to those who don't comply with the city ordinance. He has sent out so many notices without taking any action that people ignore the notices because, in this instance, the Housing Commissioner is a paper tiger. People have grown to know that there are no consequences. So, along with not doing this part of his job, he wastes time, money and personnel by sending out notifications without any actions following. Now take into account the lives that are in harm's way by walking in the street because walkways are hazardous. This doesn't sound like an individual who should retain employment with the city or anywhere. Do you think he would be retained in the private sector? One cannot fault only the Commissioner but also the individual who hired him. Perhaps the Housing Commissioner will be given another raise for this performance by the city with limited resources.

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OBSERVER

The Real Problem With The ACA

by Corbin Luna

Last month Lee Kamps wrote a piece about how bad the Republican alternative to the ACA was. Well, sort of. Actually, only the title and the first paragraph were about that. The rest was an attempt to defend the ACA. But there was a common thread to the piece. It was all far left talking points that, as usual, were nothing more than spin, innuendo, half-truths and lies.

In his first paragraph he named four organizations that had come out against the alternative to the ACA and claimed their being against it was absolute proof that it was a "real stinker of a bill." Spin. The truth is it proves just the opposite. You see, the real benefactors of the ACA were medical organizations and insurance companies whose profits skyrocketed. And that's who he used as his evidence. For example, he used the American Hospital Association. The entire purpose of the AHA is to advocate for hospitals and hospital profits have soared due to the ACA. The AHA would be remiss if they weren't against anything that might reduce hospital profits.

He also used AARP. The whole purpose of AARP is to sell insurance and nobody has benefited more from the ACA than insurance companies. AARP was originally formed by Leonard Davis as a way to sell insurance to seniors. (He was also the founder of the Colonial Penn Group of insurance companies.) AARP makes billions of dollars from insurance through their for-profit company and very little of that is used for the benefit of members of their non-profit organization. The last time their non-profit status was investigated a report was issued by

two congressmen on the findings. It was titled BEHIND THE VEIL: The AARP America Doesn't Know and it can be found on the internet with a search for that title. It's an interesting read.

In Kamps' second paragraph, he said there is no basis for my saying the ACA hurts 99% of Americans. Au contraire. According to the Census Bureau, there are currently about 324.9 million people in this country. According to CMS, the organization that oversees the ACA, there are 12.2 million people enrolled for 2017. Simple math says that only 3.8% of the population gained coverage and EVERYBODY is paying more. Next remove the people who are part of the 3.8% who didn't really benefit from the insurance. For example, people who bought Bronze policies because that's all they can afford. But if its all they can afford, they can't afford to use it due to the deductibles, which for Bronze averages \$12,393 for a family in 2017. (For a more in-depth analysis go back to what I wrote in the January Observer.)

Of course, I was talking about people who bought insurance under the ACA. If you include all the medical and insurance professionals (like Mister Kamps) the number who benefited is undoubtedly higher.

Mister Kamps concluded by using some far left wing talking points about how every American benefited from ACA mandates. The truth is those mandates were in the vast majority of policies prior to the ACA. For example, he mentioned free annual physicals. Most people have had that in their policies for many years. Insurance companies are in business to make a profit

and they aren't dumb. They understand that keeping people healthy or detecting an illness early reduces their costs. That's why they want you to get an annual physical. The first time I remember an insurance company paying for my physical was in 1969 and it was a requirement. Today many companies, mine included, are using cost sharing to motivate people to stay healthy. Mine, for example, sends me \$50 when I get a physical. But typical of the far left, they pass a law that says you can have something you already have and then tell you how great they are for allowing you to have it.

But let's face facts. The argument about the ACA is really just a symptom of a much deeper problem. I don't like the ACA because it is a bad law that hurt more people than it

helped. And I don't care how you cut it or how much spin, innuendo, half-truths and lies you use, that's just a simple fact. You can use an example of some individual it helped. You can say it helped all of the 3.8% of the population who bought policies under the ACA. You can fudge that number to 20% or 30% if you choose. It still hurt more people than it helped. But liberal elites like Mister Kamps and the people who are now running the DNC will argue with their dying breaths that the ACA is a great law whether it is or not because the law came from the radical left. To them, it's all about partisan politics, not what's right or wrong or good or bad. And that's the real problem with the ACA and every other political issue today.



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Race Coordinator: City Council President Sean Brennan: 440-885-8091 pierogie5k@gmail.com

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

Parma Armory Now Open!

by Robert Euerle

5301 Hauserman Road. Silently sitting for over a decade, the building once again shows signs of life. I officially took ownership in 2015 and immediately went to work. The algae that sat like a bad five o'clock shadow on the building was cleaned. The drab and dying bushes removed for a more vibrant and inviting landscape. What stood as an eyesore on this lovely street, will now be a beacon for education and safety.

After almost a year of cleaning, repairing, updating, remodeling and city meetings; Parma Armory Firearms finally opened in late December as part of phase 1. The Range would shortly follow and open by the end of March after months of anticipation.

The first floor was originally a range which was evident by the rocket ship exhaust pipes which stood out for years on the south side entrance. It was then converted to classrooms. It has now been returned to its former glory and houses 5 brand new stalls. Our range is also heated so you can shed that bulky coat when colder weather returns. The air is circulated and cleaned by a Laminar Airflow Air-wall ensuring a fresh and clean visit. We are also proud to have Range Officers to ensure a safe environment you can comfortably bring your family to. During those busy times, enjoy the



comforts of our lounge complete with a live view of the range, an arcade game, and pool table!

In addition to the store and range, two classrooms have been outfitted on the second floor. The building will serve as a center for continuing education, health conferences, and regional meetings. Anyone is welcome to rent out the space.

On Saturday May 13th, we will be having our official grand opening proceeding a ribbon cutting on Wednesday May 10th at 10am with Mayor Tim DeGeeter. We want to invite everyone in the community to come out for some music, food, and raffles. We will have new shooter specials, discounted memberships, and some great offers! This has been a long time in the making and we still have a lot of work to do to make this building everything it can be. Let's continue to Make Parma Proud!!

Parma Heights Garden Club Plans Flower And Plant Sale

by Rick Haase

The Parma Heights Garden Club will host a flower and plant sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday May 13, 2017 in the Gazebo at Greenbrier Commons, 6200 Pearl Road.

The sale takes place the day before Mother's Day, and will include hanging baskets, bedding plants, and crazy daisy bouquets.

For more information, contact Kathy at 440-888-9178.

Pierogi Palooza At Broadview Multi-Care

by Daniel P. McCarthy

It is no secret that Parma is known for all things pierogi, and one of the fun festivals involving this delicious delicacy happens at Broadview Mutli-Care Center at 5520 Broadview Rd. in Parma on June 4th. Every year this event seems to grow and improve. Featuring a selection of vendors selling all kinds of pierogis, along with other enticing food and drink, exhibit booths

from many businesses and community partners, as well as a variety of musical entertainment throughout the day. There is a judging for the winner of the best pierogi- not an easy decision to make, I'm sure. The proceeds from this event benefit area charities, including the All Faiths Pantry. The event kicks off at 12:30 PM, rain or shine. See you there.

5 Year Old Parma Heights Resident Raises \$300 For The Homeless

by Amanda Karpus

Scarlett Karpus lives on Springwood Road in Parma Heights. A few weeks ago during our last real cold bout of the season, she saw her mother give a homeless man a few dollars and ask him if he had somewhere warm to sleep that night. He did, but Scarlett wanted him to move in with us and live in our guest bedroom. We explained that wasn't practical with 6 children of our own. She that proclaimed her father could build homes on the sides of highway exits for them, again this wasn't a viable solution. Alas we came



Scarlett Karpus & Mayor Mike Byrne of Parma Heights.



She was so proud of her accomplishment!

up with a yard sale to raise money to buy much needed items like razors, feminine products, toothbrushes and more. Scarlett and her siblings sold their own items, friends and family donated items to sell, as well as baked goods for a mini bake sale. I posted on social media and people came from all over NE Ohio to support her. Mayor Byrne came by to visit her and make a donation, she also took the opportunity to show him her new skills on a 2 wheeler! Her grand total was \$316.42 and with that we made 100 you matter bags to deliver to the city mission. All because a 5 year saw the need to make a difference.

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PARMA ART SCENE

Cassidy Youth Theatre
Summer Classes

by Rick Haase

The Cassidy Theatre’s Youth Theatre Summer Classes will take place June 19-August 5, 2017.

Summer classes feature acting, singing and dance instruction. Classes are offered for children ages 4-6 (StarDust!), and ages 7-19 (StarShine!).

A new option this year is shorter two-week sessions. But the traditional seven-week program continues.

Call the Cassidy Theatre at (440) 842-4600 for more information, or visit www.cassidytheatre.com.



On 4/22 Vista Springs Greenbriar invited the public to celebrate Earth Day at their location. Among the events was a demonstration of how to construct a "Fairy Garden", and this was the result. Easy to do, and what a beautiful, lasting miniature oasis to enjoy.

PSO Concert May 7 At
Valley Forge Auditorium

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert on Sunday, May 7 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:

Giuseppe Verdi’s Overture to the Opera “The Sicilian Vespers”

Edward Elgar’s Triumphal March from Caractus and Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 2

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. The orchestra, in its 48th season consists of 75 members of all walks of life



Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock presents Spring Concert Sunday May 7th 3:00pm VF Auditorium

from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

May Art Show

by Kathryn Mabin

The annual spring art show and sale, sponsored by Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC), will be held

on May 20, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Donna Smallwood Center. This show is free and open to the public. Great selection of raffle prizes this year. Refreshments will be served. Great Lakes Wood Carvers will be demonstrating their carving techniques during the show. Also on display will be one of a kind dolls from the High On Dolls club.

No residency or membership requirements for applicants. You still have time to enter. Ribbons 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 PAFAC's 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 PAFAC's web site at ParmaFineArts.org. You can also follow PAFAC on Facebook.

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Parma Heights

Promotes Two Veteran Law Enforcement Officers

by Rick Haase

Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne has promoted two veteran law enforcement officers within the Parma Heights Police Department. Detective Sergeant Steve Scharschmidt has been promoted to the rank of Captain, and Detective Dan Kravanis has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Both officers were sworn-in at the start of the Monday, April 10, 2017 Parma Heights City Council meeting before a capacity audience of residents, family members and colleagues from the police department.

“I’m very proud to announce the promotion of these two individuals who have served the Parma Heights Police Department with great distinction. They’ve both worked tirelessly to make the city safe for all our residents,” said Mayor Byrne.

Parma Heights Police Chief Daniel D. Teel praised both Scharschmidt and

Kravanis by sharing a quote from New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, who said: “You are being promoted for what you have done, but you are also being promoted for our belief that you can do more, that you can in fact take the responsibilities that you are now going to assume and use them in the right way, to serve as role models, to serve as inspirations.”

Detective Sergeant Steve Scharschmidt has his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Baldwin-Wallace College. He began his career as a Police Officer in 1991 with the Parma Heights Police Department. In his first eight years, he served under the Uniform Patrol Division. During his time as a patrol officer, Steve served as a member of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau Tactical Unit. He was a Field Training Officer and was part of the Community Policing Unit. In 1999, Steve was assigned to the Detec-



Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne swears in Parma Heights Sergeant Dan Kravanis.

tive Bureau where he served until he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, in 2011. After his promotion, he continued to serve in the Detective Bureau as a Supervisor. During 18 years in the Detective Bureau, Steve has been an integral part of the department’s exhaustive investigations. Through his hard work, he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and the entire community. He has always strived to receive the advanced training that was necessary in the investigative areas. In 2011, Steve was recognized as the Parma Heights “Police Officer of the Year”; throughout his career he has received commendations for his outstanding performance.

Detective Dan Kravanis started

his career in law enforcement in 1995 with the Cleveland Police Department, Sixth District. He served as a Field Training Officer in 1999 with the Cleveland Police Department. In 2001, he was hired by the Parma Heights Police Department. He spent 13 years on duty in the Uniform Patrol Division. During this time, he has served as a Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, a part-time DARE Officer, as well as Safety Town Officer. Dan is currently serving as an Assistant Team Leader on the Southwest Enforcement Bureau Tactical Unit. In October 2014, Dan was promoted to Detective. He has played an essential part in working investigative cases.

Parma Heights To Hold Sustainable Garden Seminar

by Rick Haase

The City is planning its second Sustainable Gardening Seminar of the spring season at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 in Council Chambers at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road.

“Our community cares about the environment and has shown this through increasing participation in all our Special Waste Collection events. Because of high resident interest, we are pleased to offer this seminar which will explain how to improve our food supply and reduce the creation of waste,” said Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

The event will cover designing yards and gardens for sustainability and for the creation of healthy, thriving places for families, pets and wildlife to grow. Green gardening lowers food costs, reduces environmental impact, and makes meals healthier and more exciting. Using smart garden management choices can actually change the amount of organic matter, structure and depth of garden soil and

its water and nutrient holding capacity. Sustainable strategies also limit the need to use garden chemicals thereby eliminating the need to purchase, handle, and store them.

In addition to the seminar, the City has a planned series of Special Waste Collection events planned for the spring. The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection event will be Saturday, May 13. On that day, Habitat for Humanity representatives will also be on hand, and will have a truck on-site. Other Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates are Saturdays, July 8 and November 25. These events allow residents the opportunity to drop off their unwanted household oil-based paints and products, pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals. Latex paint is not accepted, as it is biodegradable.

A Recycle Your Computer event will take place Saturday, August 26, while Community Shred Events are planned for Saturdays July 22 and November 4. This allows residents to recycle unwanted computer equipment, including CPU’s, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, terminals, modems, cables, software and ink printer cartridges. Cell phones and accessories will also be accepted. Televisions will not be accepted.

Meanwhile, a Scrap Tire Collection will take place on Saturdays September 9 and 23.

All 2017 Special Waste Collection Events are held at the Parma Heights Service Garage, 6184 Pearl Road, between the hours of 9 a.m. and Noon. Proof of residency is required, and the events are designed for residential use only.

Information on the complete, year-round schedule of 2017 Special Waste Collection Events is posted on the city website under the “Service Department” tab – www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

George F. Lonjak Named New Magistrate In Parma Heights Municipal Court

by Rick Haase

Current City of Strongsville Municipal Prosecutor George F. Lonjak has been appointed the new magistrate in the City of Parma Heights Municipal Court beginning May 1, 2017 by Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

Lonjak is also an attorney in private practice focusing on criminal defense and personal injury. He replaces Mark Stanton, Parma Heights’ magistrate since 2010, who was recently selected to head up the Cuyahoga County Public Defender’s Office, also beginning May 1.

“Mr. Lonjak brings a wealth of legal expertise to our Parma Heights Municipal Court, which will be invaluable,” Mayor Byrne said.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Walsh College, and received a Juris Doctor Degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1982. He is a licensed attorney in both Ohio and Florida. Lonjak has experience as an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor (1983-1992), and as a magistrate in the Parma Municipal Court (2008-2011), where he managed both civil and criminal dockets.



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TRI- C WESTERN CAMPUS



Bicycle Safety Day Ready To Roll At Tri-C Western Campus

by John Horton

The Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host its annual Bicycle Safety Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20, to promote and encourage safe riding habits.

Bicycle helmets will be given to children ages 5 to 12 while supplies last. Studies show that helmets reduce the risk of head and brain injuries in the event of a crash.

Children who attend Bicycle Safety Day will learn about safe riding habits and proper helmet fitting. Participants also will get the chance to test their steering, braking and general maneuverability skills on an obstacle course.

The family-friendly event will include free hamburger or hot dog lunches, plus entertainment and activities. Children and adults also can check out local safety vehicles as well as an emergency medical helicopter.

The free event will be held rain or shine at the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center at Western Campus, 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Bicycle Safety Day is sponsored by Tri-C's Campus Police and Security Services.

To register for the event, visit www.tri-c.edu/BikeSafetyDay. Call 216-987-0270 for more information.

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

by John Horton

William Funk of Parma was one of seven students from Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) named to the All-Ohio Community College Academic Team, which comprises top students at the state's two-year schools.

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

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

Funk graduated from Tri-C in December with an Associate of Arts degree before taking a semester off to care for his grandmother. He intends to transfer to a four-year university in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in linguistics.

He wants to teach language and language acquisition after he completes his higher education.

The first-team All-Ohio Academic Team honoree kept involved at Tri-C's Western Campus, assisting with the Japanese Culture Club, English as a Second Language program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter.

He was also part of the inaugural class at the College's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center.

Away from campus, he has volunteered with the City of Parma and Cleveland Metroparks to clean local parks. He also given time to the American Legion and Soka Gakkai International-USA.

Funk joined the following Tri-C



students — designated by campus — as All-Ohio:

Eastern Campus: Angelique Patton of Euclid (second team) and Kouame Kouakou of Warrensville Heights (third team)

Metropolitan Campus: Heidi Hubbard of South Euclid (third team) and Adekunle Popoola of Cleveland (third team)

Western Campus: Bruce Hyde of Parma (first team)

Westshore Campus: Bethany Thomas of Lakewood (third team)

First-team honorees will receive \$1,000 scholarships, while second-team members get \$500 scholarships and third-team members \$250. A recognition program for team members will be held in Columbus on April 20 during Community College Month.

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



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Lights, Camera, Action: Tri-C Grads Make Movie Magic

by John Horton

Two Parma residents — Virginia Beischlag and Steve Fixel — used training at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) to land behind-the-scenes jobs filming White Boy Rick, a crime drama starring Matthew McConaughey now shooting in Cleveland. Beischlag is working as a set production assistant while Fixel is a production assistant in the locations department.

Beischlag earned a certificate earlier this year from Tri-C's Film Crew Training Workshop. The College created the intensive five-week course to build the workforce needed to support Northeast Ohio's fast-growing film industry.

Fixel graduated from Tri-C last spring with an Associate of Applied Business in visual communication and design.

The two are among nine Tri-C graduates working on the movie: "Studios shooting movies in Cleve-

land look to hire as many local crew members as possible," said Lee Will, program manager at the Tri-C Student Production Office. "Those jobs go to people who can walk onto a set and know what to do, and producers know they can find those skilled workers at Tri-C."

White Boy Rick, scheduled for release in 2018, tells the real-life story of Richard Wershe Jr. As a teen in the 1980s, Wershe served as an FBI informant in Detroit before being arrested for drug trafficking and sentenced to life in prison. Cleveland is serving as a stand-in for Detroit, where only a few scenes will be shot, according to various media reports.

The film is just the latest to make headlines for shooting in Cleveland. Want to be part of the Hollywood scene? Tri-C's next Film Crew Training Workshop begins in January 2018. For information, call Will at 216-987-0252.

SENIOR LIVING



Earth Day Tree Planting At Vista Springs Greenbriar

Staff and residents at Vista Springs Greenbriar planted a flowering cherry tree to celebrate Earth Day on 4/22. This symbolic tree planting ceremony occurred just as this brand new living community is experiencing its first Spring, and many will remember this moment for years to come as this tree grows and prospers alongside of this remarkable facility.

Tri-C Western Campus Student Leaders Earn Top Honors At Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Convention

by John Horton

Students leaders with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) have been honored for their work with the international organization.

The honor society selected the student officers from Tri-C’s Chi Omega Chapter for a Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award. The chapter at Western Campus in Parma was chosen based on its exceptional record of leadership, scholarship and service.

Chi Omega also received a Distinguished Chapter Award and was named one of the organization’s Top 100 chapters during NerdNation 2017, the honor society’s annual convention held April 6-8 in Nashville, Tennessee.

- Chi Omega’s student officers are:
- Christine Hopkins of Broadview Heights, president
 - Brittany Bosowski of Cleveland Heights, vice president of service
 - Matthew Eyerdam of Broadview Heights, vice president of membership
 - William Funk of Parma, vice

- president of scholarship
 - Bruce Hyde of Parma, vice president of fellowship
 - Marija Karic of Broadview Heights, vice president of leadership
 - James Chambers of Parma, treasurer
 - Tina Seifer of Berea, recording secretary
- Two Chi Omega officers also earned individual honors. Hyde received the Distinguished Regional Officer Award for the Ohio Region, while Seifer was recognized for her work in the Honors Case Study Challenge.
- Phi Theta Kappa also presented a Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction to Tri-C’s Michael Schoop, president of the Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland. The award recognizes administrators who give outstanding efforts promoting the goals of the organization.
- The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is the largest honor society in higher education, with nearly 1,300 chapters on college campuses across the United States and other parts of the world. More than 3 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918.

Local Barber Celebrates 90th Birthday In May, Still Cutting Hair

by Lee Kamps

Salvatore A Caronite born May 30th 1927 -90yrs! Starting Barbering in 1953. Had 6 shops in Cleveland and Parma. Owned 2 restaurants. World War 11 Vet Occupation. Over Seas England-France- Belgium-Holland-Germany. Sal Loves people and has a real sincerity of heart for all his customers. His "Final Hurrah " is being spent at Z's Barber Shop 5510 Pearl Rd. Parma He would love to extend a \$10.00 Haircut to all seniors on Wed.&Fri. when SAL works, bring in article and all new customers will receive an experience of a lifetime. 440-429-7580

Soul Injury: Liberating Unmourned Loss And Unforgiven Guilt

by Nancy Weil

So many people suffer without understanding the root of their pain. For many the answer they are looking for may be held in understanding about Soul Injuries. Professionals and community members are invited to learn about this condition at two events being held locally.

Soul Injury is a spectrum of penetrating wounds that range from traumatic to insidious that separates one from their own sense of self, causing a person to feel defective or worthless. The origin for addressing Soul Injury originated with six VA hospice nurses who cared for 10,000 dying Veterans. They witnessed Soul Injuries firsthand as the wounds surfaced unbidden on the deathbeds of combat Veterans. “Dying veterans have taught us how to cultivate honesty, courage, and humility to disarm the fearful heart through love, forgiveness, and self-compassion so that wholeness can be restored. These lessons can be extrapolated to all of us because everyone has acquired Soul Injuries in one form or another,” says Vietnam veteran Marie Bainbridge, President of Opus Peace.

These free 2-hour educational programs provide a new paradigm for assessing acute and chronic trauma. Hosted by Jardine Funeral Home on Monday, June 5th and Yurch Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 6th. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. and



continuing education credits (2) are available for nurses, social workers, counselors, clergy and others at no charge.

A panel discussion will follow with panel participants Lily Rose Lee, formally known as Michelle Knight, who was kidnapped by Ariel Castro in 2002 and held captive until 2013, and CPL Mike Strahle (Ret.) who travels around the United States with "Eyes of Freedom-The Lima Company Memorial."

“We are beyond excited to bring this program to our community. We are very passionate about Soul Injury and its mission. I believe our community can gain knowledge from this program and its message. We believe many people can potentially benefit from understanding how to recognize a Soul Injury in themselves and those they serve,” said Crystal Jardine.

For more information or to RSVP to either of these events, call Jardine Funeral Home at 440-238-7701 or Yurch Funeral Home at 216-398-1010. Jardine Funeral Home is located at 15822 Pearl Road in Strongsville and Yurch Funeral Home is located at 5618 Broadview Road in Parma.

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