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- James Baldwin

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MetroHealth Plans To Open A Community Hospital In Parma

by Tina Arundel

The MetroHealth System is announcing plans to convert facilities in Cleveland Heights and Parma to community hospitals. The locations will focus on caring for patients who benefit from shorter hospital stays. The current medical office in Parma,

located at 12301 Snow Road, has an emergency department and services including lab, pharmacy and radiology. The site will become a community hospital with the addition of 16 single-occupancy patient rooms. Patients requiring more intensive specialty care can access MetroHealth's main

hospital campus, which is less than 12 miles away.

With the addition of the community hospitals, 80 percent of residents in Cuyahoga County will be within a 15-minute drive of a MetroHealth hospital. Construction is set to be complete by the end of this year and the facilities in both communities ready for patients by January 2018. "Patients and their families want to be as close to home as possible when it comes to receiving medical care, especially when it comes to hospitalization. The support the patients receive from their friends and family in a familiar setting, helps their



The current MetroHealth Parma Medical Offices will soon be home to a 16-bed hospital.

recuperation," said Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE, president and CEO of MetroHealth.

The new hospitals will feature single-occupancy rooms, with ample space to accommodate family members. The units are designed to create a soothing atmosphere and includes floors which minimize noise and lighting to

support a patient's recovery. The esthetics will mirror the expanded Critical Care Pavilion, which opened in 2016. "MetroHealth is contributing to the growing health care economy in our city," said Timothy J. DeGeeter, mayor

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Parma Heights Will Be A Busy Place This Summer

by Mike Byrne

Mayor, Parma Heights

It seems hard to fathom, but the end of another school year and beginning of summer vacation is upon us....and it will be a busy month of June for the residents and families of Parma Heights. Our outdoor Waterpark complex opens for the summer season at Noon on Friday, June 9. Pool passes are available for purchase online (www.parmaheightsoh.gov), at City Hall, or at the pool when it opens. If you are in need of some laughter as we head into summer, The Cassidy Theatre, our community's hidden gem, will be presenting "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum," June 9 through 25. Written by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, this fast-paced farce combines the ancient comedies of Plautus with a vaudevillian delivery. Tickets are available by calling the theatre box office at 440.842.4600, or online at www.cassidytheatre.com.

Speaking of Cassidy Theatre, you will notice the completion of an interior renovation project in the community rooms on the lower level of the theatre building. This project includes new paint, ceilings, floors, and energy efficient lighting, and was funded through a \$50,000 State Capital Grant with the assistance of State Representative Martin J. Sweeney (OH-14). This renovated space includes two separate rooms



which are suitable for use by the residents of our community. One room accommodates 50, the other, 100. Both spaces can be used for functions such as weddings, showers, rehearsal dinners, birthday/family parties, and meetings. If you are a Parma Heights resident and

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Parma Heights Hires Newest Police Officer

by Rick Haase

Bryan L. Miller was sworn-in as the city's newest Patrolman by Mayor Michael P. Byrne at the start of Monday night's City Council Meeting (May 22). He begins his new position on Monday, June 5, 2017.

After graduating from high school, Miller enlisted in the United States Army. He served active duty for eight years, during which time he developed leadership and communication skills. In 2016 he was discharged, and enrolled in the Cuyahoga Community College Basic Police Academy. He is currently employed as a Security Officer for the NASA Glenn Research Center.

Mayor Byrne praised both Miller for his qualifications, and Parma Heights Police Chief Daniel Teel for "finding such highly qualified candidates."

"That helps make certain that Parma Heights remains a safe community," he said.

Parma Heights Police Chief Daniel Teel congratulated Miller and his family immediately after the swearing-in.

"It's always an honor to be present as a new officer takes the oath of office. As most

continued on page 4



Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne administers the Oath of Office to the city's newest Police Officer, Patrolman Bryan Miller.

Parma Splash Pad Now Open



by Daniel P. McCarthy

After much anticipation, the Parma splash pad opened to the public on May 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 am. The impressive zero depth water playground is built on the former site of Ridgewood Pool at Anthony Zielinski Park, on Ridgewood Drive directly across from the Shoppes at Parma complex. Admission is free, and the park will be open 7 days per week from 11 am to 8 pm, except in dangerous weather and if the temperature is below 70 degrees. The splash pad is surrounded by decorative metal fencing, features chairs and picnic tables with decorative umbrellas, and is fully handicapped accessible. The project was funded in part by a \$225,000 donation from a Parma family, and a memorial plaque of commemoration is in place near the front gate.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month I return to my series on Parma's Places of Worship, spotlighting Good Shepherd United Methodist Church located at 5930 State Road. On Ash Wednesday, prior to 7:00 pm services, I had the honor of meeting with their pastor, Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison. Below is what I learned about him and the parish he leads.

Rev. Morrison grew up in northeast Ohio and is a graduate of Medina High School. He became the Lead Pastor at Good Shepherd last July and has also served parishes in Cuyahoga Falls, Berea, Elyria and Spencer. He is carrying on the family tradition, as his father was a pastor, as well. In fact, his father was associate pastor at Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Ridge Road in the late 1970s. He shared that his family resided in Parma from the time he was about 6-months old to about 3-years old. An undergraduate at Otterbein College, he graduated from Boston University with a Master of Divinity and achieved a doctorate in Campus Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. His wife, Lisa, is a pastor in Lorain. The two have three young children. "I've kinda fallen in love with



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Perla's Pierogis. I will often be found at Panera or Starbucks sermon writing. Then the Metro Parks are a great place to just be with God," Rev. Tim mentions on his website.

Founded in 1927 in a former schoolhouse in Parma Village - building number 6 - Good Shepherd Church was soon built on the corner of State Road and Forestwood Avenue and dedicated in 1930. During its early years, the church was designated a "Sunday stop" by the Cleveland Railway Service, which ran the State Road "Dinky" streetcar. As



Parma grew, so did Good Shepherd. In fact, in 1949, the north wing was added to accommodate growing Sunday school classes. Soon, State Road Elementary School was using the building during the week to accommodate the burgeoning number of baby boom children in the community. Then in 1956, a third floor was added to the education wing, as well as the north façade. Finally, in 1967 another renovation took place and the glass-enclosed Forestwood entrance and foyer was added.

Rev. Tim shared that the Methodist Church does not build their own schools. Instead, "we have a tradition of fully supporting our public schools, including their levies." The protestant United Methodist Church was once two different churches which merged in 1968: the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Ridgewood United was once a part, and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, under which Good Shepherd was originally founded. Today, there are over seven million members and the United Methodist Church is the third largest Christian denomination in the United States. Many will recognize the United Methodist Church's flame logo, which represents the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the world, while the two parts of the flame represent the union of the predecessor denominations.

"We are committed to connecting with the community," Rev. Tim said of his congregation. For instance, they have a children's playgroup that is open to all families in the community with children ages five and under. They hold story time at the Parma libraries, visits to the new Make Believe family fun center on Day Drive, dances, and many other fun social activities. The church has also opened its doors to over a dozen support and recovery organizations, such as Nicotine Anonymous, an Alzheimer's support group, and various

Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous groups. Good Shepherd also holds Sunday school for all ages and has a 9:15 a.m. traditional Sunday service, as well as an 11:25 a.m. modern service that includes a live band.

In closing, I wish to thank Rev. Tim for taking time, especially on such a busy day, to educate me on his parish and faith. Clearly, his flock is in good hands. To find out more about Good Shepherd visit their website at www.gsumparma.com or call 440-884-9090.

City Of Seven Hills Farmers' Market Opens Thursday, June 29, 2017!

by Kathy Holland

The 2017 City of Seven Hills Farmers' Market, sponsored by Taleris Credit Union, Inc., will open on Thursday, June 29th, 4:00 -7:00PM. The Market is located at the corner of Hillside Road and Broadview Road adjacent to Fire Station No.1, 7195 Broadview Road, Seven Hills. 44131. There will be giveaways and musical entertainment by Gwendolyn.

The Seven Hills Farmers' Market began as a place where residents from Seven Hills and neighbors from nearby communities could purchase quality produce and goods at affordable prices. Now in its third season, the Market features neighborhood farmers, producers, artisans & vendors who

grow and/or produce their own goods, fruits and vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, meats, eggs, baked goods, and more. We pride ourselves on local products, local produce and friendly people!

The Seven Hills Farmers' Market mission is threefold:

- to foster a connection between local growers and artisans with our residents and consumers;
- to educate our residents and consumers about the benefits of preserving local agriculture;
- to serve our Seven Hills neighborhood by providing fresh, locally grown produce, and high quality artisan

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Lifelong Passion For Nursing Transcends National Borders, Language Barriers

by CJ Sheppard

Long before Sandra Zecevic was an assistant nurse manager at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, she was a little girl growing up on the Adriatic Coast in Split, Croatia, the former Yugoslavia. She borrowed supplies and empty containers from her pediatrician’s office and played nurse, yearning to pursue her dream to care for patients. Her late godfather would often play with her, pretending to be her patient.

Civil war broke out in Yugoslavia when Zecevic was a teenager. Her family fled to Serbia, where they lived as refugees before emigrating to the United States. But war would not disarm her dreams. Today, Zecevic is one of the more than 440 nurses – being honored the week of May 6 – 12 during

National Nurses Week - at UH Parma Medical Center who pursue their passion of caring for patients.

The multicultural staff features a range of bilingual nurses, includes those who speak Russian, Hungarian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Polish and French.

“Sandra has the passion of caring from a lifelong goal she set at a young age,” says Chief Nursing Officer Julia Mason RN, BSN, MBA. “She is compassionate and understands those patients who are immigrants through the many struggles she has faced personally. I believe that because of her background, she now takes the time to truly understand a person’s needs.”

With Yugoslavia splintered into six different countries, Zecevic watched people who lived, worked and played together become enemies. Like many families, hers had to leave nearly everything they had behind went they left for Serbia. Her grandmother was injured fleeing from their village of Otisic and became her first patient. Transferred to different hospitals with a poor prognosis, Zecevic saw how a bad concussion, brain bleed and amnesia affected her Baba.

“My Baba became the first person I really needed to care for,” says Zecevic of Parma. “The road I have traveled made me a better nurse. I can relate to the homeless, to language barriers, to caregivers and caring for patients with dementia and other challenging conditions.”

One year after her mother immigrated to Cleveland, Zecevic and her father followed, and her brother joined



Sandra (bottom right) helped care for her grandmother, who was injured fleeing her hometown during civil war in Yugoslavia.

them later. Her parents had a small apartment off York Road and worked in factories at night. Zecevic enrolled in an ESL (English as a Second Language) course at Valley Forge High School, where she worked hard to learn English, study and make friends. She graduated with honors and enrolled in Cleveland State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2001. Her first nursing job was at Bedford Hospital and she came to UH Parma Medical Center in 2007, initially working as a staff nurse on the floor she now

helps manage. “I am passionate about caring for my patients, my employees and the great team we have here,” Zecevic says. “While part of my heart is always where I came from, and I am very proud of my Serbian heritage, I am also truly proud of UH Parma Medical Center and our community. I am thankful to my family, friends and most of all God for guiding me, supporting me and giving me an opportunity to do what I love to do.”



Now an assistant nurse manager at UH Parma Medical Center, Sandra never gave up her dream to become a nurse.

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OBSERVER

Parma Heights Will Be A Busy Place This Summer

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interested in reserving the space for your function, call 440.884.9606.

Parma Heights also was one of 20 participating cities and non-profit organizations to be awarded a \$50,000 grant from Cuyahoga County which will be used to enhance the exterior façade of the Cassidy Theatre building, first opened to the public in 1974. Work on the exterior renovations is anticipated to be completed this summer.

On Monday, June 12 at 7 p.m., the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will present the Largely Literary Theater Company, performing a two-person show based upon the book by veteran local journalist Mark Dawidziak, entitled, "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone." The show features 50 life lessons drawn from classic Twilight Zone episodes. The Parma

Heights Library will also present a workshop entitled "Job Applications Made Easy," from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14. The workshop will cover the basics of completing a job application, and participants will learn how to develop a profile, copy, paste and upload a resume.

On consecutive Wednesdays, June 14 and 21, our Recreation Department will host registration for Flag Football from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road. And finally, families of all ages are welcome to attend our first free "Movie in the Commons," of the season beginning at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 17. Bring your blanket and lawn chair as we screen "Zootopia" behind the tennis courts.

Don't forget to stop and visit one of our many parks or take advantage of our proximity to the Cleveland Metroparks. We look forward to having you spend your summer with us in Parma Heights.

Parma Heights Hires Newest Police Officer

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know, the process to be selected is competitive. I am confident Bryan will serve our community well," Teel said. "I would also like to recognize Bryan's wife and children, as they are also tak-

ing on a new responsibility. From this point, there will be many long nights and missed family events. Bryan will need your support as he moves into his new career. On behalf of the police department, congratulations to you and your family."

MetroHealth Plans To Open A Community Hospital In Parma

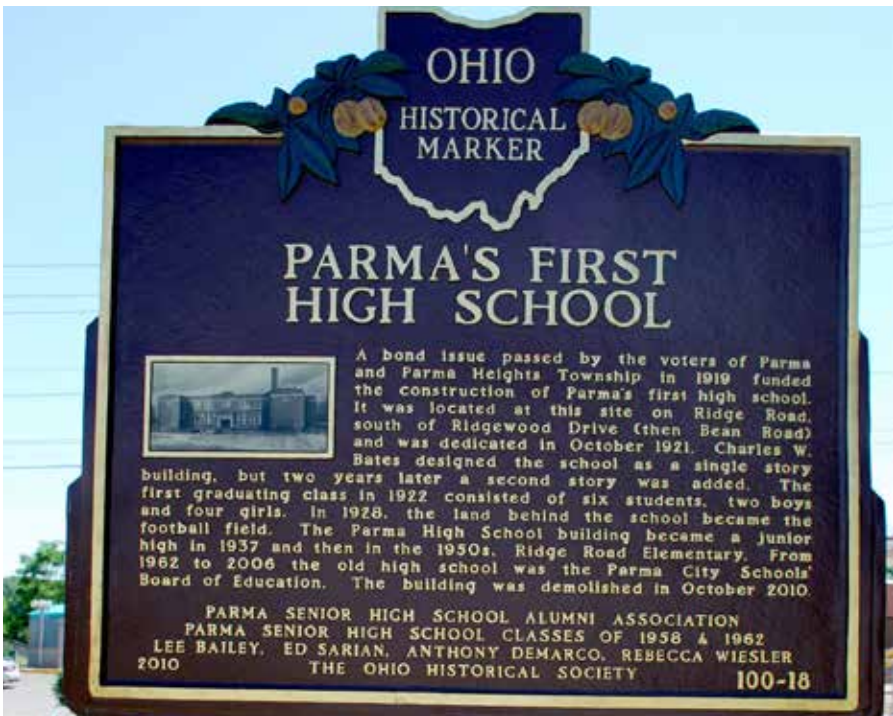
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of Parma. "Our residents will benefit from having access to all levels of quality health care, without having to leave their community."

The announcement comes as the health system is undergoing a major campus transformation, with plans to build a new 12-story hospital tower on its main campus. The expansion into the community is part of MetroHealth's strategy to keep its focus on what patients prefer – having access to all the levels of care they need, in their own communities.

The facilities in Cleveland Heights

and Parma were formerly HealthSpan urgent care sites and medical offices. In 2015, MetroHealth entered into an agreement with HealthSpan to transition the sites into MetroHealth facilities, ensuring that all residents of those communities have around-the-clock access to emergency care, observation units and other specialty services. The emergency departments opened in February 2016, followed by medical offices in April 2016. The addition of single-occupancy patient rooms to these sites allows for a seamless transfer of a patient to the hospital setting, while remaining close to their homes.



Historic plaque of the first Parma high 1921 on Ridge road in front of Byers Field.

Parma Senior High School Alumni Association: A Fixture In The Parma Area For 76 Years

by Anthony DeMarco

The Parma Schaaf High School Alumni Association was founded in 1941 at Parma Schaaf High School by Principal William Bassett, George Red Rees '34, and Lee Bailey '29. In 1953, Parma Senior High was opened as the Queen of High Schools. For the past 76 years, the PSH Alumni Association has continued its role as part of Parma Sr. High and the Parma community as a whole. We have continued our responsibility of helping with PSH class reunions, including class updated rosters and information about reunion dates. Each year through our Golf Outing (this year June 16 at Ridgewood Golf course) and donations from alumni we are able to award scholarships to deserving graduates of PSH of about \$12,000 plus a teacher grant. We furnish and maintain an Alumni

courtyard that is used by students and staff. We sponsor a tailgate event for Homecoming. We have an annual meeting (this year August 7 at the Parma Recreation Center at 6:30) open to all Alumni. Our Golden Reunion is annual event open of all Alumni that have celebrated their 50th reunion. This year's event will be August 26 at the PSH cafeteria at 10 am. We continue to communicate to our Alumni with a Newsletter "The Tradition", a Facebook Page and our website- psh-alumni.org. communicating dates, times, and events. We maintain an archival room/museum that contains history of Parma High and memorabilia that we have collected over the past 96 years. "Loyalty Eternally" Submitted by Anthony DeMarco '62 PSH Alumni Board.

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

Asset Corner #90

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: LET THEM TELL YOU HOW THEY FEEL. June’s Asset Category: BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS Boundaries are important to young people because they give clear messages about what’s expected. By the same token, caring adults who expect young people to do their best help them to learn good judgment. Every day young people face many options and choices. Boundaries and expectations provide young people with the support they need to choose wisely.

This column’s focus will be on..... Asset #12 – School Boundaries

Make sure everyone knows the rules

All schools need rules. In fact, young people actually learn better when school boundaries—expectations for how they should act—are clear and consistent. Setting these standards isn’t always easy, however, and neither is enforcing them. Many schools struggle with how to discipline students appropriately and effectively. It’s a balancing act in which school administrators, parents, and students play important

roles. Working together, families and educators can ensure young people reach their highest potential.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who attend schools with clear rules and consequences are more likely to display positive behaviors and attitudes, rather than engage in risky behaviors. About 52 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say their schools provide clear rules and consequences, according to Search Institute surveys. Work to ensure schools help young people focus on positive, rather than negative, behavior.

Tips for building this asset

It’s important for parents to stay involved in their children’s school. Teachers and administrators can help by creating a conduct code at the beginning of the school year and sending it home to parents. Parents can reinforce the rules set by the school. Conflicts may still occur, and when they do, allow everyone—students, parents, teachers, and others in the community—to feel comfortable voicing their concerns and

suggesting solutions to the problem. The more families, schools, and communities work together to establish consistent boundaries, the better off young people will be because they’ll know what to expect.

Also try this

In your home and family: Learn about school boundaries by visiting or volunteering at your child’s school. Ask yourself: Overall, how are students behaving? How do adults and students interact with one another? When conflicts occur, how are they resolved? How do the school boundaries match your home boundaries? When you’re at home with your child, talk to her or him about why school rules are important.

In your neighborhood and community: Understand the local school leaders’ expectations for the behavior of young people in the neighborhoods surrounding the school. If the school handbook isn’t specific, help administrators address the issue.

In your school or youth program: Work with the young people in your school or program to create clear rules and norms about appropriate behavior.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Attention all parents & high school students, go here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/summer2017bootcampreg> to register for a FREE ACT & SAT Test Prep Boot Camp, scheduled for June 26th - 29th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Parma Library on Powers Blvd. This program is funded by MyCom & administered by College Now Greater Cleveland. For more information, contact Michelle Broome Oatman at College Now Greater Cleveland at moatman@college-nowgc.org or 216.241.5587.

Are you looking for details on a youth-related, family-focused program, event or activity? Do you have one that you’d like to promote with a flyer? Visit either of these two pages on the district’s web site to find an event and/or upload your qualifying flyer. www.parmacityschools.org/flyers or www.parmacityschools.org/summer.

The Parma Alumni Association will be hosting its 21st Annual Scholarship/Operating Fundraiser Golf Outing on Friday, June 16th...9:00 am Shotgun start; 4 person, 18 hold scramble; \$85/Golfer incls Golf, Breakfast & Dinner; \$25 Dinner Only. Go to www.facebook.com/psh.alumni.golf for additional information.

Register now for the Parma City Schools 2nd Annual Parma Way 5K at Tri-C on Saturday, June 17th, proceeds from which will be used to augment after-school programs throughout the District. Open to anyone in our community and beyond, make it a

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



by Jean Micklewright

MyCom Youth Corner

“St. Peter String Sensation” is meeting a need for violin lessons for youth in the Tri-City area. Due to the financial situation of the Parma City School District, the fourth grade strings program was cut. That was the impetus for Laurie Septaric, owner of Cappas Cakes and member of the Parma Symphony Orchestra, to fill that gap.

The “St. Peter String Sensation” began in December 2016 when Laurie decided to donate her time and talent to offer FREE group violin lessons for Tri-City youth. Laurie’s knowledge and passion for music shines through and her group is growing with students from five local schools. She plans to offer a summer violin camp in June.*

One obstacle to overcome was a place to meet to offer group lessons. Pastor Chris Helton and St. Peter United Church of Christ in Seven Hills agreed to provide a meeting room. St. Peter UCC was happy to invest in youth and the community in this way. Mini-

concerts will be held at the church to give students performance experience and the opportunity to show what they have learned.

The mission of MyCom includes developing programming, with the assistance of the community, to fill gaps that youth experience. One of the ways this is accomplished is when community members work together to meet the needs of young people. “St. Peter String Sensation” is a perfect example of this. Thank you Laurie and St. Peter UCC!

For more information, Laurie can be contacted by phone/text at 216-571-2200.

*Plans are underway for St. Peter Violin Camp that will run Monday thru Friday, June 19-23 from 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. There will be a group violin lesson, hand chime lesson, bible study, craft time, and free play. Students must know how to play the D Major Scale on the violin. Students must bring their own violin, music stand, and brown bag lunch. Fee is \$5 per day, or \$20 for all 5 days. This is also a fun and easy way for high school students to earn community service hours.

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INSPIRATION

Is Anyone Going To Believe This?

by *Lizabeth Braskie*

It was a very quiet evening. After a busy day with my two grandchildren, the evening solitude was totally welcomed. My visit to North Carolina included babysitting while my daughter's job required her to be out of town for a few days. After checking the kid's homework and getting them to bed, I ate a few snacks while I watched some TV. One more bed-check at 9:30 and I could settle down to watch my favorite show.

Kids were fine, so I returned to the kitchen and was startled to see that the outdoor, motion sensor light had come on. If the family dog had seen this, her barking would have alerted me. The lit area covered a large patio stretching from one end of the house and past the garages, totaling about eighty feet. A few seconds evaluation prompted my curiosity. I ran to see what I couldn't determine from where I was standing. It led me to the huge moving figure that ambled right in front of the large window. I stood, gaping, in a mental blizzard, viewing a stocky figure I determined to be the last half of a thigh-high, 3x3ft. rear end of an animal, black with brown tufts, walking leisurely in front of my startled face. Too big to be a dog. But what animal might have roamed from the distant Smokey Mountains? It had to be a BEAR!!! If my brain had not been dulled by the shock value of seeing this animal, I should have run to the few remaining windows that would have allowed me a better vantage point. I could have confirmed the identity of this visitor with more reliable proof. But I stood there, not quite sure of what I did see. So, was I imagining things? Absolutely not! There was an animal that I determined to be a bear. I was not dreaming, and by now the unwanted visitor was hopefully down the street.

Now, do I let the dog out before I

go to bed? Usually we give her one last chance to tend to business and get her last romp for the night. But, should I canvas the area before this occurs. She's a great watchdog, but I don't want her to meet up with an animal this large and have my responsibility result in the sordid consequence of the family pet. Although a dog can run fast, am I risking a chance encounter with devastating results? I settled on opening the patio door, banging two pots together, and hoping it scares any loitering, hungry animal. I didn't know if bears were afraid of noise. But I was counting on it.

The next day, I didn't mention my scary story to my grandchildren. They got on the school bus not even knowing my hazardous, evening adventure. I'll tell them later. But now, the more I thought about it, the more I became an innocent victim of possible harm. The fear inside me seemed to multiply every time I thought "what if I had been outside with the dog?" I couldn't wait to tell my daughter when she arrived later that day.

"You'll never believe what happened last evening," I started to tell her two minutes after she arrived. "There was a HUGE bear outside on your patio last night..." I continued. My daughter's smile widened with each word. "I was scared to let the dog out," I tried to explain.

"Sounds like that was Baloo," she said, "He's our occasional neighborhood visitor and he's not a threat at all. Guess I forgot to tell you about him." Well there it was! Apparently, I would not have been in any danger from our visitor. Now, the hyped up story I wanted to tell my friends just got deflated. It all started with a quiet, evening and an outdoor misadventure. But, in my memory, it was "Beary" scary!

I Believe

by *Daniel Taddeo*

About half of Americans believe that an ongoing trend of people turning their backs on religion is bad for the country according to a recent Pew poll. Americans have the right to live as they please, as long as they are not interfering with the rights of other Americans to do the same. Choosing to live a Godly life is what the Bible refers to as one's second (spiritual) birth; this new life will be demonstrated by one's love and concern for others.

Our nation is on a downward trend morally among children and young people with the reason being their parents and grandparents are following God's laws less. Our system of democracy cannot survive with ignorant and uncaring citizens who can easily be manipulated by "slick" politicians. People can generally find a way to do what they want to do, and they can find a hundred excuses for what they do not want to do.

The founders of our nation never intended to exclude God-of-the-Bible from the classroom and government

because they knew that society needed a firm and proven foundation upon which to base its system of values. The fact that the United States went from the least to most esteemed nation in the world proves that they were right. Why would anyone want to change a proven plan? We are doing away with some of the very things, such as Biblical principles, that have made America the greatest nation in the world.

We were created to have a personal relationship with the God of the Bible, not worldly "gods." Each person must choose and live with the consequences. When everyone does that which is right in his or her own eyes, who is right and who is wrong when there is disagreement? When people follow God's truth, there is no limit to the blessings that they may receive, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

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?

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PERSPECTIVE

Pretending Something Doesn't Exist Won't Make It Go Away

by Lee Kamps

At the Cleveland International Film Festival back in April I saw an excellent documentary titled The Age of Consequence. The movie dealt with the subject of climate change, but approached it from a different angle; that of national security. Retired, former and active duty military personnel from the United States gave evidence that many word events and unrest are a direct result of climate change and that this poses a definite threat to our nation's security. Global warming and the spread of deserts in parts of the world are creating refugees on a massive scale not seen since the end of the Second World War. Many military officials see the resulting displacement of people as well as crop failures leading to failed states and a rise of terrorist organizations looking to exploit this problem.

It was eleven years ago that former Vice President Al Gore made his documentary An Inconvenient Truth where he presented solid scientific evidence that has been backed by more than 95% of climate scientists that the earth has been warming

up at an accelerated rate since the dawn of the industrial revolution in the 19th century. In addition to consequences such as failed states and massive migrations, global warming could lead to rising sea levels that could inundate coastal areas and put many of our coastal cities under water by the end of the 21st century.

A few years ago at the film festival I saw another documentary titled The Island President that dealt with the President of the Maldives, an island chain in the Indian Ocean off the coast of India. His nation, a series of low lying islands, is slowly being drowned by rising sea levels as a result of climate change. The evidence was presented to the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009 and confirmed by scientists that the sea levels were rising and inundating the tiny island nation. President Obama attended this conference.

In 2016, 192 nations and the European Union signed the Paris Climate Agreement that agreed to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in their country. The United States signed this agreement as well as

China. This was the first international agreement addressing the problem of global warming and limiting the emission of greenhouse gases.

However now that Donald Trump is President, he is threatening to pull the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement. Trump believes that climate change is a hoax perpetuated by the Chinese. That flies in the face of massive scientific evidence that proves that greenhouse gases given off from the burning of fossil fuels has accelerated global warming. More than 95% of climate scientists agree that human activity is leading to global warming.

Under the Trump administration, the budget of the EPA has been slashed more than 30% and the web site about climate change has been shut down. In addition any mention of climate change on all official government web sites has been eliminated. The governor of Florida, Rick Scott another denier of human caused climate change, issued an executive order banning any mention of climate change or global warming in any official state publications and web sites.

Of all the major developed nations of earth, only in the United States is there widespread denial of human caused climate change. So where is this denial of the obvious coming from? A study was done a few years ago into the climate change denial and if one follows the money supporting the denial of human caused climate change, it leads to Big Oil and their supporters. One leading think tank supporting denial of global warming is the Cato Institute, a California based libertarian think tank that is heavily funded by the Koch Brothers. Most of the scientists

that have published papers denying human caused climate change were funded by fossil fuel companies.

In the movie The Age of Consequence there is a former Army Captain who led troops in Afghanistan said, "when 97% of my intelligence tells me that there is an ambush up the road and only 3% of my intelligence tells me that there is no ambush; I will follow the 97% and take another road to avoid the ambush". Yet shutting down web sites and suspending or cancelling research into climate change will not make it go away. It only postpones the obvious.

Like Mother Nature, she always strikes back and there is no denying the signs of nature. Nature doesn't lie nor does nature spin things for a political agenda. It is time for the United States to heed the scientific evidence and recognize what science is saying.

I am a former high school science teacher and the scientific literacy in the United States has declined a lot in the past forty years. Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York said recently that the United States rejection of science could spell the end of the United States as a world leader. He said that a nation that denies or rejects science is a nation in decline.

As Dr. Tyson has said; it is time to "make America smart again". Then perhaps when the nation is "smart again", perhaps the United States could become "great again". But no nation could ever become great or remain great when they ignore or reject science.

Politicians

by Leo Lampeter

Here's a topic that should make everyone happy. Politicians by design are placed in office by the majority of the populace, in theory. They may be placed there by a circumstance such as a position vacated for whatever reason. What is the purpose of having the politician? They are in office to assist in the operation of the area as defined by the election. They are elected, hired, by the people to serve the people. According to logic that makes them employees of the people who placed them in office. The thought process is, they would appreciate you for selecting them for their position. They do appreciate you for their position when it comes to election time. Other than that it is rare to see hide nor hair of them, and to achieve something positive from them at any time is next to impossible. When they are up for election they will promise you the world. The trick is to get them to do anything, much less the world. One big indication of a poor political atmosphere is when there is no competition for the various offices. That is an indication that the people of the involved area are in despair. They simply have given up. The thought process is that nothing can be done, so why bother? That only creates complacency of the elected even more. No one will compete for this position so why even do any work? Because every elected official in an area may be so busy covering for one another the mind-set is why worry about security, we all cover for each other?

So what do we have? We have an unopposed electorate that may cover for each other when incompetence and

poor performance is observed. Now you are thinking, that is not possible. May one action be suggested. Look around you in your city. Is the population declining? Are the occupants of the city appearing of more questionable character? Are many homes vacant where they were once vibrant? All these and many more are indications of poor government. These indications do not occur over night but over a long period with elected officials concerned with their own welfare, not the area where they were entrusted. This can be exemplified by giving themselves an increase in pay even if they plead poverty for all other operations of government. What is often done by the elected officials to someone who may challenge their performance is that they resort to challenging the one who calls them to task. They attempt to divert attention from their own lack of performance to another, either person or area. The techniques of politicians are a well-schooled practices. For a moment think if you have ever received a direct response from someone involved in the political arena. It may have occurred; however on sensitive issues, it is doubtful that anything other than an evasive response was given. Could it be that they are insecure to the point that they are concerned about revealing their own performance openly? That would be the indication that could easily be deduced. If you recall, when Jimmy Dimora was taken into custody he repeatedly said, "I didn't do anything anybody else didn't do." If that is the case we are in worse condition than we may be aware.

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OBSERVER

Parma Heights Woman Named Long-Term Care Support Professional Of The Year

by Stephen Mould

A Parma Heights, Ohio woman has been named the 2017 Support Services Professional of the Year by the state’s largest organization representing long-term care facilities.

Bonnie Fishell, Human Resource Director at Greenbrier Retirement Center, Parma Heights, Ohio, was chosen by the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) as the groups 2017 Support Services Professional of the Year. The award was presented to Fishell at the Association’s annual convention in Columbus earlier this month.

The Support Services Professional of the Year Award is presented to individuals showing unsurpassed dedication to the facility and its residents as well as the long-term care profession. Candidates for the honor are nominated by the facility and its staff, and winners are chosen by a panel of long-term care experts appointed by the Association.

Bonnie Fishell takes ownership as Human Resource Director at Greenbrier. Bonnie lives customer service; it is what she loves to do, and she loves to see staff succeed in all aspects whether work-related or personal. Making work fun, every month Bonnie plans a special treat for her staff. During Christmas season, she made reindeer



Bonnie Fishell, Human Resource Director at Greenbrier Retirement Center

hot chocolate packets for all employees and made sure all residents received personal gifts.

With a passion and drive to make every new resident and staff member feel welcome, Bonnie’s tireless work ethic and abilities have helped Greenbrier achieve 15% annual turnover, down from over 60% four years ago when she took the reins. She also helps lead a new Nurse Aide Training Program which does training for 6 area centers.

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



From left are: Parma Heights Assistant Fire Chief Pat Finneran, resident Lorraine Paul, Brent Hovanec of Lowe's, resident Mary Carratola, Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne, resident Audrey Peterson, Chris Hope from the Greenbrier Senior Living Community and resident Larry Paul.

Parma Heights Provides Smoke Detectors To Residents At No Cost

by Rick Haase

Because the safety of our residents is our top priority, smoke detectors were recently purchased for residents who expressed a need at no cost to the homeowners. The smoke detectors were purchased through the generosity of the Greenbrier Senior Living Community, 6455 Pearl Road, Lowe’s, Parma Heights Councilman Jim McCall, and Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne.

Members of the Parma Heights Fire Department have graciously agreed to install the smoke detectors for those residents who wish, also at no cost to them. “It is my hope that these new smoke detectors will keep

everyone safe,” said Parma Heights Councilman James McCall. Added Mayor Michael P. Byrne. “The safety of every Parma Heights resident is our top concern.”

Said Parma Heights Fire Chief Bryan Sloan: “Early detection is the key to surviving a fire in your home. A properly working smoke detector can mean the difference between life and death. That’s why those who provided the funds to purchase the smoke detectors for our senior citizens make such an impact for our community. We thank Lowe’s, the Greenbrier Health Care Center, Parma Heights Councilman Jim McCall and Mayor Michael P. Byrne.”



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AREA WIDE EVENTS

Memorial Day In Parma And Parma Heights



In Parma Heights, in what is thought to be the second oldest continuous Memorial Day Observance in the nation, local Broadcaster Leon Bibb was the featured speaker, and he offered a solemn reading that was very emotional and seemed to affect the large crowd in a profound manner.



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) held an early morning service in front of Parma Memorial Hall on Memorial Day in Parma. Parma Mayor Timothy J. Degeeter was present, alsong with many other Dignitaries.

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On May 20, members members of the group Indivisible, along with supporters, staged a "Die In" at the corner of Ridge Rd. and Powers Blvd. in order to protest the vote of US Congressman Jim Renacci on the AHCA. They laid on the sidewalk to represent what they feel will be people suffering from this legislation. Whether people agree with their conclusions and opinions or not, this is something not seen often in Parma, that is, people vehemently protesting elected officials and their policies.

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