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Delegation From China Visits Parma On July 26

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Parma was host to a delegation visiting from The People's Republic of China on July 26, here as part of a U.S. Department of State sponsored Program entitled "Environmental Issues at the Municipal level in the U.S.". The purpose of their visit was to observe the Fernhill Stormwater Treatment Wetland, created at the Lower Fernhill Picnic Area in the Metroparks in 2016. This group of five visitors was invited here through the efforts of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs with the cooperation of the State Department International Leadership Program. The mission is to "explore how biodiversity and sustainability are encouraged in this country and to explore municipal efforts to address climate change, pollution, and responsible development". Their reason for visiting this particular site was to focus on how local government and non-profit organizations have collaborated to create a wetland area for the purpose of storm-water treatment and water quality assurance.

Since Parma has been rocked recently by severe rain events and subsequent flooding issues, one casualty has been the suspension bridge linking the parking area and the storm water treatment wetland across the creek. The bridge was completely taken out by a large tree being carried in the rain swollen creek dur-



ing a severe storm. The vehicles carrying the delegation had to park at a nearby shopping plaza on Brookpark Rd. and everyone walked from there southbound on the all purpose trail to the wetland. They were escorted by Bob Gardin, Executive Director of Big Creek Connects, Mary Ellen Stasek, Board Chair of Big Creek Connects, and Jennifer Grieser, Senior Natural Resource Manager for Cleveland Metroparks. Two members of the US Department of State Team joined the group as interpreters.

Our Chinese visitors seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly the entire time, taking in the beauty of the wooded area along the trail leading to the storm water wetland area. There are a few massive old growth trees which hug the trail and never fail to captivate all who encounter them. There were many stops during the walk, and the events

lowed made it evident that they were greatly impressed with what they were seeing. I have no doubt that they will always remember their visit to the

seventh largest city in Ohio, but just to be certain, I made sure that they had copies of the Parma Observer to take home with them.

August Ablaze With Activity In Parma Heights

by Mike Byrne

Mayor, Parma Heights

It seems hard to believe, but summer will soon be coming to an end. Before that happens, we invite you to make the most of the rest of season in our community. There is plenty going on.

GAZEBO GALLOP

Our annual Gazebo Gallop (5K Run/1 Mile Walk/Kids

Dash) begins at 9 a.m. on Sunday, August 6 at the Gazebo in Greenbrier Commons. Online registration is open until Friday, August 5 at 9 a.m. at www.hermescleveland.com. Cost is \$17/adults (\$20 day of race) and \$10/children 12 and under. To receive a \$5 discount, register in advance at the Parma Heights Food Pantry (6285 Pearl Road, Suite 30) with a donation of a non-perishable food or toiletry item.

OHIO FLAGS OF HONOR

Kicking off the second weekend in August will be the return of the powerful tribute "Ohio Flags of Honor" to the Greenbrier Commons. I invite you to join me for the opening ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 11 at the Gazebo. What makes this ceremony so special is that the families of Ohio's Fallen have been invited to attend. Over the past five

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Parma Public Safety Forum Deals With Opioid Epidemic

by Jeannie Roberts

The City of Parma and its Department of Public Safety are holding the second in a series of quarterly public safety forums on Wednesday, August 16. This one is entitled: The Growing Opioid Epidemic and How It Affects our Community.

The forum will be held at the Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma Branch at 6996 Powers Blvd. on Wednesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. Officials from the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services

Board of Cuyahoga County will present information about the ever-increasing challenges of trying to curb the explosive growth of drug addiction in Parma and other communities in Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio.

Officials from Parma's Public Safety Department will also be on hand to answer questions specifically about Parma. The next quarterly public safety forum is scheduled in November.

leading up to the development of this storm water treatment project were explained in great detail to the visitors. Their intelligent questions that fol-

Critical Blood Shortage: Give Blood At UH Parma's Blood Drive On Aug. 16

by CJ Sheppard

Blood shortages reach a critical state in the summer, as the number of high-school and college donors drop during break and ERs become busier with incoming patients. The statistics are staggering: every two seconds, someone needs blood; a person injured in an automobile accident can use up to 50 pints or more of blood.

"There is simply no substitute for blood," says UH Parma Medical Center Laboratory

Manager Laurel Herris, noting that only 5 percent of the nearly 40 percent of the population eligible to give blood actually donates. "Falling short means we may not have enough blood for someone like you, in your time of need. We really appreciate the time and efforts of all who donate."

UH Parma Medical Center holds its next Blood Drive on Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Auditorium. Make your appointment now.

Parma Citizens Police Academy Graduates

by Jeannie Roberts



Congratulations to the newest graduating class of the Parma Citizens Police Academy, shown here with Capt. Jim Blair and Chief Joe Bobak. Members of this class are: Francisco Ancona, Joan Carpeal, Maria Edvon, David Galletti, Jeff Marko, Miroslav Misyuga, Gary Rosewell, Dale Seibel, Ken Seichko, and Mark Stojkov.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

Many who know me know that I am a huge fan of anything Parma, especially our city’s history. Recently, I had the honor of meeting with one of Parma’s finest citizens. A woman who has served us in many different capacities and whom many of you voted for or waved to in an Independence Day parade. Her legacy of work helped lay the foundation for many institutions that continue to thrive in our fine community. What was expected to be a one-hour meeting, ended up lasting nearly five hours! I found myself enthralled in the story of her life and the fascinating stories of Parma’s past that she shared so vividly. In fact, I have so much captivating information to share that this column will be continued next month. Out of my deep respect for her, I call her Judge, but many Parma residents know her as Mary Dunning.

Mary Miller was born at Deaconess Hospital on October 8, 1937. She attended St. Mark’s Elementary through eighth grade, later graduating from Rhodes High School. “I wanted to be a doctor, but fell in love my first week in college,” she



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

shared. She went on to marry Donald Dunning who went on to become a dentist, while she became a registered nurse after graduating from St. Luke’s Hospital. They brought four children into the world, including a daughter (Laura) and three sons (Jim, Mark, and Darren). They built their “dream house” at 8105 Sierra Oval in Dogwood Estates in 1964, where she resides to this day.

After moving into their home, Mrs. Dunning grew concerned when the developer of Dogwood continu-



ally dumped dirt and other debris over the ravine in the property across the street. This prompted several calls to City Hall to no avail. One day she parked her car on the street in front of the lot. The developer called the police who “ordered” her to move her vehicle. “I asked my husband to move the car because I was not going to do it,” she exclaimed. She became further frustrated when a park that was promised by the developer never came to fruition. At the behest of Councilwoman Gertrude Polcar, she attended a city council meeting to relay these stories. “I was shaking, having never spoken in public before,” she explained. Police Chief Francis Szabo would later call her and commend her for her “spunkiness.”

Mrs. Dunning began attending more council meetings and learned that the developer now wished to have property rezoned close to Dogwood so that they could build a high-rise apartment complex, which she and her neighbors opposed. “It was about that time that I read about June Blaha running for city council and I thought, ‘I should do that,’ despite the fact that I had no idea what it entailed,” she mentioned. Being the go-getter that she is, against the wishes of her husband, with the help of friends, and despite the snows of February, she raised the 206 signatures needed to run in a short two-week timeframe for the Ward 7 position. Mrs. Dunning truly broke the mold in Parma, as she was the first young mother ever to serve on city council, after winning that first election in 1967, defeating incumbent Alan Wenz. “I funded that first campaign through bake sales and coffee klatches,” she told me proudly.

“I was appointed to the Senior Citizens Committee of city council, but found that there was nothing in the folder,” Councilwoman Dunning explained. Clearly, coming from outside of the powers that be and being a freshman on council, she was given essentially a do-nothing committee. She soon changed that. In fact, I am going on record in this article and declaring Mary Dunning the founding mother of the Parma Senior Center. “Research proved that the number of senior citizens was going to skyrocket by 1980,” she explained. Many of her colleagues were skeptical of her idea to hire a part-time senior ser-

vices director, not wanting her to get the credit and due to the future costs. Eventually, Mayor John Petraska agreed to support seeking a grant to fund a director for the Parma Sixty-Plus Recreation Center in 1968, which met in Memorial Hall. In later years, the Parma Senior Center, now the Donna Smallwood Adult Activities Center, would be built next door to Memorial Hall. “Donna Smallwood (nee Rees and now the namesake of the Center) was a single mother at the time, so we hired her to run the program,” Ms. Dunning shared. Incidentally, both Judge Dunning and I want to publicly acknowledge the years of dedication Mrs. Smallwood put into making the Senior Center a Parma institution.

I want to thank my friend Mary Dunning for honoring me with the story of her public life. I hope that you will stay tuned next month for part two of her story. Like me, I am positive that you will be fascinated.

Couple Donates Funds To Purchase K-9 Ballistic Vest

by Jeannie Roberts



Phillip and MaryAnn Tolaro donated to the Parma Police K9 Unit to purchase a ballistic vest for K9 Officer Dexter. Officer Bobby Jackson and Dexter are here with the Tolaros and Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

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August 26

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COMMUNITY NEWS

UH Funds Mobile App For Citizen First Responders

by CJ Sheppard

Citizen first responders trained in CPR can now receive text alerts of those in need of CPR in their vicinity through a new app. The PulsePoint Respond app was unveiled by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center and the Parma Regional Dispatch Center, which covers Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn and Brook Park.

“We know that CPR is fundamental to building lifesaving communities,” said Daniel Ellenberger, Director of University Hospitals EMS Education & Disaster Preparedness Institute. “The first line of defense in a cardiac arrest is a person trained in CPR, who can assist before EMS arrives. The only way we’re going to save lives is to have people trained.”

UH provided financial support to the Parma Regional Dispatch Center to implement PulsePoint, as it has throughout Geauga County and in the City of North Olmsted. Ellenberger notes that the implementation of PulsePoint in these four southwestern suburbs in Cuyahoga County expands coverage to as many as 200,000 citizens.

The American Heart Association’s 2016 statistics show that more than 350,000 cardiac arrests - or 70 percent - occur outside a hospital setting each year. Only about 46 percent of those individuals receive CPR before professional help arrives. CPR can double or triple a person’s chance of survival.

The mobile PulsePoint app,

available for iPhone and Android through the iTunes Store and Google Play, notifies users of the closest available Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The PulsePoint app is not limited to emergency responders or those with official CPR certification, as it can be used by anyone who has been CPR-trained. It also shows the location of the cardiac arrest

victim and nearest Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

At a June 29 news conference attended by EMS and city officials from the four cities, Parma Fire Chief Mike Lasky thanked UH Parma for helping the Parma Regional Dispatch Center with a means to extend lifesaving opportunities to its citizens. Ohio law now requires high school graduates

to be trained in CPR and AED use.

“I am confident with the launch of PulsePoint, we will empower our citizens and save countless lives,” Chief Lasky said.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter recalled the June 19 motor vehicle accident on Snow Road, in which a passing motorist stopped to administer CPR before EMS arrived on the scene. The passerby, a nurse who was on her way to work at UH Parma Medical Center, saved the life of a child and assisted the paramedics upon their arrival.

“CPR has the power to save a life,” Mayor DeGeeter said. “We are hoping with the launch of PulsePoint more people can provide the kind of assistance she did, whether they are medical professionals or not.”

Since 1983, the EMS Education Department at UH Parma has trained paramedics and emergency medical technicians serving the community. Now, as part of the UH EMS Education & Disaster Preparedness Institute, this program has a broader reach with innovative solutions to the myriad of life-and-death situations encountered in the emergency pre-hospital setting. The EMS Institute continues to provide medical direction and continued education for area EMS professionals.

To register for a CPR course offered through UH’s EMS Institute, go to UHEMS.org.



Grace Wehner performed CPR on her husband Tom, left, at a dance at German Central two years ago, saving his life until paramedics like the one pictured here responded to her 9-1-1 call. Recently, they celebrated the rollout of PulsePoint, a first responder app funded by UH and now available in Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn and Brook Park through the Parma Regional Dispatch Center. PulsePoint alerts users to 9-1-1 calls within a quarter-mile and the location of the nearest AED, one of which is now located at German Central.

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OBSERVER



PSH Alumni Association Holding 5th Annual "Golden Reunion" On August 26th!

by Judy Martins

Calling all alumni of Parma Senior High and Parma Schaaf who have already celebrated their 50th class reunion! The PSH Alumni Association is holding its “Fifth Annual Golden Reunion” on Saturday, August 26th for all alumni (and spouses and friends) from Parma Schaaf and Parma Senior High graduating from 1967 back to the 1930s. Don’t miss this fun, casual day in the PSH Ballroom (cafeteria) featuring a school tour, light lunch and refreshments, and lots of reuniting with old classmates, hugs, reminiscing and memories. Over 250 attended the fourth annual reunion last year, and it's getting better every year!

In the 1980s, Lee Bailey ‘29, George Red Rees ‘34, and Tony DeMarco ‘62 worked on a plan to have an annual reunion for PSH alumni who had already had their 50th reunion. Financing and contacting alumni made it impossible to do at the time. It took another 30 years to get the ball rolling—they held their “First Annual Golden Reunion” in August of 2013 and over 200 alumni happily socialized, mixed, mingled and shared memories, enjoyed snacks, refreshments, pizza and music from the 50s and 60s, and

toured the building.

Tell your friends who are Parma alumni about the “Fifth Annual Golden Reunion” on Saturday, August 26th, to be held from 10 am to 2:30 pm in the PSH cafeteria, 6285 W. 54th Street in Parma! (\$10 Advance Tickets, includes a light lunch; \$5 at the door, does not include lunch.) Take a fun, casual stroll down memory lane, enjoying 50s-60s music and lots of reminiscing and catching up with old classmates. Long tables are marked by graduation year, so you'll be seated with your class, but can mix and mingle all over the "ballroom."

For more information and a printable Invitation & Reservation Form, go to www.pshalumni.org or www.psh56.com/GRR reunion. Advance Ticket deadline is August 10th. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and whether you get your advance tickets or get your ticket at the door (rear gym entrance) ... don't miss it! Join us! You'll so be glad you did!

“Friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. Work had to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people you knew you when you were young.”

Celebrating Ellen Polacek's 100th Birthday

by Tammy Kopystynsky

Blowing out the candles on 100 birthday cakes at one time seems almost impossible. It’s less of a challenge, however, if it’s one candle-lit birthday cake a year. Just ask Ellen Polacek who will be showing how it’s done when she blows out the candles on her 100th birthday cake this year! Fellow residents and staff of Southern Hills Skilled Nursing Center in Middleburg Heights, along with family and friends, will gather on her birthday Tuesday, August 22, to cheer Ellen on and to sing “Happy Birthday” to an exceptional lady. Her celebration activities will begin the previous Sunday with a gathering of family and friends.

Over the past 100 years, Ellen’s list of titles has grown to include wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, active church member, part-time Cleveland School cafeteria employee, and part-time catering employee. Ellen has seen, experienced and graciously adjusted to the many changes that have come about for her during those many years. Should you stop in at Southern Hills to visit with Ellen, look for her sitting in her favorite place in the foyer. Before she says a word, she’ll give you one of her cute smiles letting you know that she’s glad to see you. And just offer her a cup of coffee with two sugars and two creams, along with a cookie, and you’re definitely her friend!

Happy Birthday, Ellen, and



Ellen Polacek getting ready to blow out 100 candles on August 22!

may the Lord bless you as you continue to be a blessing to those who know and love you and for being an example of a life filled with love, compassion and contentment.

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

Asset Corner #92

by Gene Lovasy

Work together to make a difference for young people

Adults expect a lot of young people: to learn to treat people fairly and with kindness, act responsibly, get good grades, and become successful. Of course, young people can't learn everything they need to reach their goals without help from parents and other caring adults. Adults also expect a lot of themselves. Consistently modeling appropriate behavior, teaching values, and at the same time, striving for your own goals, can be challenging. That's why it's important to work together. If you know a parent with a troubled teenager or a teacher with a

failing student, ask them how you can help. If you are having difficulty connecting with a young person, be sure to ask for the help you need. Sometimes there are concrete things people can do to help; other times listening is all that's needed. Search Institute's framework of 40 Developmental Assets is meant to help guide young people—as well as adults—to a healthy, happy, thriving life.

Ask others to help

You are not alone. Raising young people takes a group effort and everyone—parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, friends, clergy, coaches—play an important role. There are people, places, and resources

everyone can turn to when help is needed to support young people. Two in particular include the Parma Area Family Collaborative & the Parma Area Tri-City MyCom Youth group.

Offer help to others

Families, communities, and schools need support. Even if you're not a parent, you can support young people and their families. Lending an ear at the end of a long day can make a big difference in the life of a frazzled parent. Offer to baby-sit or take a young person on an outing so parents can rest and rejuvenate. Not only will you be helping parents do their jobs better, you'll also be helping their children grow and develop in new ways.

Also try this

In your home and family: Be easy on yourself—and others! Tell yourself and your spouse, significant other, peers, colleagues, and staff what you (and they) are doing right helping young people. Avoid dwelling on mistakes; celebrate your successes and give yourself a pat on the back!

In your neighborhood and community: Help build your neighbors' confidence as parents and caring adults. Leave a note or voice mail telling a certain neighbor how much you appreciate him or her.

up to 12 years of age. Location: Behind Parma Hts City Hall; contact Ann George at 440.842.6491 for details.

The Collab's next Mobile Food Pantry will take place on Thursday, August 10th. During the afternoon distribution UH/Parma Medical Center, Community Health Nurses will be offering FREE blood pressure screenings and a representative from the Parma Health Ministry will be available to help folks apply for prescription assistance.

If you have the time please consider stopping by the **Collab** (Hanna Elem., 11212 Snow Rd.) on Tuesday, August 8th, any time between 9 am & 5 pm to help assemble the school supplies backpacks. With an estimated 1,300 backpacks the need for help is obviously significant. Don't hesitate bringing a friend or co-workers...there will be more than enough for people to do.

"Summer Days" at the Collab (Hanna Elementary) This FREE drop-in activity program for kids will be coming to an end on Friday, August 11th. Monday through Friday upwards of 100 kids received a free lunch, participated in supervised sports activities, arts & crafts projects, helped w/ the Community Garden and just generally had a great (and safe) time. Plan now on having your kids participate next year.

- To stay current and learn more about Collaborative events/activities, visit their updated web site at: <http://familycollaborative.com/>, follow them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Parma-Area-Family-Collaborative> or call Bruce Chamberlin, the Collab's Family to Family Supervisor



by Jean Micklewright

The Cuyahoga County Public Library offers an innovative way for adults with children to obtain their GED this summer. The Families Learning Together Program is for GED students with children entering grades 1 – 5.

Families Learning Together is a program designed for families. This fun interactive program not only prepares students for the GED but also provides a summer learning experience for their children to enjoy!

At this summer's session, The Center for Arts Inspired Learning provided literacy based experiences ranging from drawing and music to exploring science by building paper airplanes and water-fueled rockets. Through a MyCom Out-of-School-Time grant, OhioGuidestone staff provided social-emotional skills and nurturing parenting resources for the families. They facilitated family engagement activities during the last hour of the program that could be duplicated at home such



as creating a pizza garden, making butter, designing their own journal, brain-busting blueberry smoothies, career charades and multi-cultural games. The Cuyahoga County Public Library staff stocked the program with books related to content areas, read stories to the children and informed families about all the library has to offer.

Families and staff gathered for a light breakfast and a hearty lunch every day. Over the course of the eight-week program, students, children and staff became a close-knit family that encouraged, inspired and learned from each other.

This is the third year for the Families Learning Together program at the Parma Library, also held for the first time this year at the Maple Heights library. The program met three days per week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9:15 AM to 1:00 PM, beginning June 13th and ending August 3rd. GED students were asked to attend all sessions. Each family could earn a Kindle Fire by having good attendance.



In your school or youth program: Send a letter to parents about building Developmental Assets, and then discuss them in conferences or parent meetings.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

If you have a child entering kindergarten this year you should be aware of the state mandated **Diagnostic Assessment Screening** taking place at your respective school on either August 16th or 17th. To schedule your appointment or if you have any questions regarding the Diagnostic Assessment Screening please contact the elementary school your child will be attending. For additional detail visit the District's web site at www.parmacityschools.org.

On Saturday, Aug 5th, from 9 am to noon, the **Parma Hts Food Pantry**, in addition to a produce give-away, will be offering haircuts and school supplies, clothes & shoes for children

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INSPIRATION

Historical Talk Presentation August 19th At Parma Heights Library

by *Kenneth Lavelle*

There will be a Historical Talk given by Kenneth Lavelle inside the Parma Heights Library Saturday, August 19, 2017 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C. The topic will be the Founders' of Parma Heights as a Village after 1911 from Parma Township. Several sessions will be held lasting 30 to 40 minutes using a brief Power Point presentation and research presented concerning the

early Mayors of Parma Heights Village. General questions are encouraged after each presentation. This is sponsored by the Parma Heights Historical Society. Participants are encouraged to visit the next door 1876 Wooster Pike Road Tollgate House replica in the Greenbrier Commons. Members of the historical society will be there to discuss area history and any other questions one may have concerning local history of Parma Heights, Ohio.

The Ultimate Legacy

by *Lizabeth Braskie*

With today's knowledge of investment portfolios, living trusts, C.D.'s and various properties, attention is focused on a monetary or tangible inheritance to leave our children. Though this is a generous gesture, there is another more valuable commodity that, most likely, could enrich the lives of our offspring. It's not as positive as a rare antique or as visible as prime real estate. Rather these priceless entities are seeds of recollection that have been planted throughout the years and bloom for a lifetime. We scatter and sow these granules during contact with our kids, friends and relatives. They are nurtured during the times we shared, cherished through the memories they made, revered by the love they created and passed on. These remembrances become the silent catalyst of our busy existence; the anchor in our reason for being. Even William Wordsworth, in his Ode on Intimations of Immortality wrote, "...rather, find strength in what remains behind."

In the complex world of child-rearing, my family of eight children

provided both happiness and hard work. Each day had its upside and down. But, if it hadn't been for the times made special by cooperation and communication, all those years might have produced memory failure. Hours shared doing repetitive tasks, dinner conversations, bedtime stories, driving to and from anywhere created chances for honest, unconditional, bonding experiences. Together we usually found solutions for troubling problems, shopped for a special outfit, painted a room, baked dozens of cookies, folded mountains of laundry and shared significant or secret moments frozen in time. How many of our stories begin with, "Remember when we...?" How precious the memories. How deep the smile. Recreation provided great indoor and outdoor environments for quality participation. Projects, games, adventures and leisurely afternoons were the melting pot for remembrances. Vacations encouraged possibilities for meaningful one-on-one dialogue. Viewing a spectacular sunset from a fishing boat, walking as a group down a quaint village street or dreaming around a family campfire

I Believe

by *Daniel Taddeo*

A policy of separation of church and state is totally different from separation of God and state. God is on our side as long as we are on His side and hold fast to His clearly revealed Word. God's attitude towards individuals is determined by their love of truth rather than knowledge of the truth. Greed is a human weakness present in all societies. Helping those who refuse to work only makes matters worse. If people were angels, no government would be necessary.

Indeed, there is much in the world about which to "greatly rejoice." It does not come naturally to seek, obey, and then teach others the words of God as found in Scripture. Lies (darkness) oppose the revelation of truths (light). Loving God produces obedience, which in turn brings joy in that obedience. Most of us can do no great things—only small things with great love. Most people view others as self-

centered or God-centered.

People are much more inclined to embrace "the spirit of the world" than "the spirit of God." People often focus on God's "prohibitions" (negative) rather than His "provisions" (positive). People usually do what they do to survive and are unlikely to expend extra effort when it is necessary. Run away from untested and deceitful desires.

There are guaranteed negative consequences for shirking one's responsibilities. Try treating everyone (spouse included) as if he or she is your "customer." When people acquire knowledge, they become the ultimate beneficiaries. When the political party becomes more important than the "principle," the whole country suffers.

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

Who Gets Medicaid In Ohio?

by Lee Kamps

Recently much has been said and written in the media about Medicaid and who receives Medicaid. There are a lot of misconceptions regarding Medicaid eligibility and who actually receives Medicaid. Much of this information was reported in Cleveland.com, the web site of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and it is information that is readily available to the public. I feel that it is very important to share this information so people can have a better understanding about a very important part of our health care system.

Medicaid goes back to 1965 when President Johnson signed the bill into law that created Medicare. Medicaid was established at the same time as a welfare program for those in poverty. Unlike Medicare, Medicaid is a joint federal / state program, so when one is eligible for Medicaid, that comes through the state of Ohio. Medicaid programs are different in each state and as a result Medicaid eligibility does not transfer from one state to another.

Prior to the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA or Obamacare in 2014; in order to be eligible for Medicaid one had to be either over age 65, totally and permanently disabled, legally blind or caring for dependent children under age 16 in the house in addition to having income and resources within the Medicaid eligibility limits. Prior to the 2014 Medicaid expansion, the upper income limit was roughly 70% of the federal poverty level or about \$673 per month

for a single adult today. The Medicaid expansion under the ACA increased that income limit to 138% of the federal poverty level or roughly \$1350 per month for a single adult and eliminated the other requirements so anyone whose income and resources were under the limits would be eligible.

The expansion allowed single adults and childless couples under age 65 and not disabled to become eligible for Medicaid. It also allowed many working poor whose income was within Medicaid eligibility limits to become eligible as well.

So who gets Medicaid right now in Ohio? According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio; 39% of those on Medicaid in Ohio are non disabled children and pregnant women, 22% are because of the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA, 15% are low income non disabled, non elderly parents, 12% are aged, disabled and blind, 9% are special circumstances and 3% are young adults transitioning such as foster children.

But when it comes to where the money is spent on Medicaid, the picture looks radically different. According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio 48% of Medicaid expenditures are spent on the elderly, disabled and blind, 21% on the Medicaid expansion (where 95% of the cost this year is from the federal government), 13% is spent on the low income, non elderly, non disabled parents, 12% on non disabled children and pregnant women and 6% on those in

special circumstances and young adults transitioning.

Much of that money spent in the elderly, disabled and blind are spent on long term care and especially nursing home care. In fact in Ohio, more than 60% of nursing home costs are made by Medicaid and that percentage is increasing rapidly.

In addition, Medicaid eligibility varies quite a bit county by county in Ohio as well. As expected the large urban counties like Cuyahoga concentrate a lot of the Medicaid beneficiaries in Ohio. According to the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Cuyahoga County has 23.9% of all adults ages 19 to 64 receiving Medicaid. The counties with the highest percentage of adults ages 19 to 64 receiving Medicaid are those rural counties in southern Ohio's Appalachian region. Scioto County along the Ohio River has the highest percentage of adults on Medicaid at 30.4%. Not surprising, the Ohio counties with the

lowest percentage of adults on Medicaid are those mostly suburban counties. Geauga County has the lowest percentage of adults on Medicaid with only 6.7% of adults receiving Medicaid.

But Medicaid eligibility is also fluid. People come on and off Medicaid as income changes. Young adults on Medicaid get jobs. Older Medicaid beneficiaries may become eligible for Medicare. Children grow up and come off Medicaid. Working age adults find jobs or make more money and become ineligible.

But the most important thing about Medicaid is that for those with limited income and assets, being eligible for Medicaid can be a life saver should a serious illness or injury strike. That person on Medicaid may be your neighbor, the waitress who serves you the coffee at your favorite restaurant, the person at the register at the local store or someone's elderly mother in a nursing home.

Little Known Memorial In Parma Heights

by Bob Stilwell

As told by Gary Koval. Wanted to share this with forum members. Back in 06' my son and his best friend were attending BGSU as Juniors. Joe (my Son) and friend Tom were members of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Tom was President at the time and Joe, Vice President. Both boys had come home for the Easter holiday. On Easter Sunday morning about 2:00 A.M. while Tom was returning home from another friend's house, he was broadsided by a drunken driver and died two days later. My son was overcome with grief, but made it through the rest of the term as President of the Fraternity. The University donated a tree and the Fraternity bought a memorial stone for the base of the tree, on campus. Friends and family back home set up a make shift memorial at the intersection, bringing flowers and balloons over the years. Well, someone continued to remove these items to clear the

area. So with the permission of Tom's parents I made a memorial plaque with the hopes that the city, Parma Heights, Ohio, would in some way remember Tom, (who by the way worked his summers for the city). Two years have passed since I made the plaque and gave it to the Mayor's Office. I received a call from Tom's parents on 9/10/09, (Tom's birthday), to tell me that the city had erected the plaque. So now at the intersection of Denison Ave. and Ridgewood Dr. is Tom's permanent plaque recognizing the intersection as The Tom Hayn Memorial Intersection. The case that that plaque is enclosed in was paid for by the Thomas D. Hayn Memorial Fund at the Bowling Green State University Foundation. This Memorial fund that is funded by a yearly golf outing in Tom's name provides three yearly scholarships to incoming freshmen. Take a look at www.tomhayn.org for more information.



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OBSERVER

At Least It's Good For A Laugh

by Corbin Luna

Sometimes it's the drama I find most hilarious. Like Nancy Pelosi saying Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Climate Accord was tantamount to murder. Sometimes it's the spin. Like, Lee Kamps saying "more than 90% of climate scientists agree that human activity is accelerating the warming of the earth." The truth about that lies at ProCon.org. The site, in a fairly unbiased manner, provides both sides of whether or not humans are responsible for global warming. The "more than 90%" figure was erroneously taken from studies like the 2013 Cook review of 11,944 peer-reviewed studies on climate change which found that 97% of the studies expressing a position on the issue said that humans are causing global warming. Environmentalists translated that to 97% of all climate scientists. Per ProCon, the Cook study actually said:

Pro-- "...only 78 studies (0.7%) explicitly rejected the position that humans are responsible for global warming."

Con-- "...66.4% of the studies had no stated position on anthropogenic global warming, and while 32.6% of the studies implied or stated that humans are contributing to climate change, only 65 papers (0.5%) explicitly stated "that humans are the primary cause of

recent global warming."

Regardless of cause, our climate has warmed about 1.5°C since 1850. Should we do something about that? Possibly. If it's reasonable. But I've yet to see anything proposed that's reasonable including the Paris Climate Accord.

The parties to the Accord could not agree on what should be done so in desperation to say they accomplished something, each country pledged (called an NDC) what it would do on its own. The pledges of the top three polluters were:

China - "Peak CO2 emissions by 2030, or earlier if possible"

So China, whose emissions are double any other country, pledged to keep growing emissions for another thirteen years. Supporters argue that China's growth is leveling off so it's not that bad. But China didn't pledge to be "not that bad." Instead, they chose to protect their economy and if they average the same growth as the last thirteen years, the world's emissions will be worse even if the other countries meet their pledges.

United States - "The U.S. NDC sets a target of reducing its emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2025"

The U.S. pledged to reduce emissions and the economy be damned.

There is no argument the pledge would cost this country many jobs.

India - "To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030" by increasing "the share of non-fossil based energy resources to 40% of installed electric power capacity...."

India's pledge reduces the amount of their emissions per \$1,000 of GDP but increases their total emissions as their GDP grows. According to a Brookings analysis, if their GDP grows at 7% (last year it was 8%), India's total emissions by 2030 would be 2.3 times what they are today. And it would much greater if India met their pledge. Their economy has been held back due to a third of India not having electricity. Adding the capacity they pledged should help their GDP, hence emis-

sions, grow much faster.

Per the Accord, developed countries (the U.S.) would bear the cost for developing countries (India) to meet their pledges. Since a large part of India's economy is outsourced jobs, U.S. taxpayers would be paying India to take more jobs from them. That's reasonable...TO A LIBERAL!

So, the liberal elite made another agreement that threw this country (and the climate) under the bus. Then, in yet another attempt to divide the electorate, they proclaimed they saved the climate and anyone who disagrees is a climate denier and a baaaaaaaaaad person. Obviously, I'm old and confused. I thought I disagreed because it hurt the people of this country.

Still Seeking Veterans Of The Korean War

by Jeannie Roberts

The cities of Parma, Seven Hills and Parma Heights are planning an event to honor their living veterans of the Korean War. If you served or know someone else in Parma, Parma Hts. or Seven Hills who served in the Korean War, please let us know. A special email address – koreaveterans@cityof-parma-oh.gov – has been created to collect contact information so that we can be in touch with veterans regarding our ceremony. Veterans of the this war can also call Parma City Treasurer Tom Mastroianni at (440) 885-8812 or Communications Director Jeannie Roberts at (440) 885-8181 to confirm their attendance.



The ceremony will be on Thursday, Sept. 14 at the UAW Local 1005 Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., at 6 p.m. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Mayor Mike Byrne of Parma Heights and Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila of Seven Hills will present proclamations to the veterans from their city. There will be a guest speaker as well, and an opportunity for the veterans to mingle and talk after the ceremony.



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AREA WIDE EVENTS

August Ablaze With Activity In Parma Heights

continued from page 1

years hosting this event, we have heard numerous stories of not just how much healing it brings but also how much it means to the families that we have not forgotten their loved ones. The Ohio Flags of Honor will continue from 7 p.m. Friday evening through the closing ceremony at Noon on Sunday, August 13.

KIDS IN THE COMMONS

Our second annual “Kids in the Commons” event will be filled with fun activities for children of all ages Saturday and Sunday August 12 and 13 from 1-5 p.m.

Here is the schedule of events for Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13, 2017:

Pool – “Y-Splash” 10 a.m. – Noon. Registration link is online at www.parmaheightsoh.gov

Pool Open Noon – 9 p.m. Saturday and Noon – 8 p.m. Sunday

DJ Island Jeff 1-5 p.m. both days

At the Commons: 2-4 p.m. both days: Balloon Twisting, Fun with Bubbles, Airbrush Tattoos, Pickleball, Sand Volleyball, Cornhole, Boccé Ball

Movie – “Moana,” 9 p.m. Saturday, behind the Tennis Court

Cleveland Metroparks Nature Tracks and EcoZoo – 1-5 p.m. Saturday

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center (UHMPMC) – Safety Vehicle – 1-5 p.m. Saturday

UHMPMC MedEVac Helicopter – 2-3 p.m. Sunday

Cuyahoga County Public Library – Craft and Selfies with Superheroes 1-5 p.m. Saturday

Cuyahoga County Public Library - Family Storytime 1:30 – 3 p.m. with Parma Heights (Sunday)

Tollhouse – Old Fashioned Games – 1-3 p.m. Sunday

YMCA of Greater Cleveland Demonstrations: 1-5 p.m.

Saturday:

1-2 p.m. – Pickleball

2-3 p.m. – Strong by Zumba

3-4 p.m. Bootcamp

4-5 p.m. – Zumba

Sunday:

1-2 p.m. – Family Bootcamp

2-3 p.m. – Pound

3-4 p.m. – Yoga by the Gazebo

4-5 p.m. TRX

THE CASSIDY THEATRE

If you enjoy great community theatre, you won’t want to miss the Cassidy Theatre production of “You Can’t Take It With You,” which will be performed Fridays and Saturdays August 4-6 and

continued on page 11

You Know You’re From Parma When. . .

by Kathie Zipp

We put together some fun points any Parmidian will understand. You know you’re from Parma when...

You, and half of your friends, have worked at Marc’s

You have a pink flamingo in your lawn...and on your white socks... and on your bumper sticker...

Pierogies don’t mean Mrs. T’s

Parmatown mall was where you hung out and did your Christmas shopping

You go to the same neighborhood bar your parents went to, sometimes with your parents...

You’ve been to “Uki” school or know someone who has

There is a pizza shop, ice cream stand, bowling alley and bar within walking distance

A trip to the “grocery” store includes paying \$1.50 for a full lunch from the snack bar, which you enjoy while spending 20 minutes browsing the closeouts aisle buying things that aren’t on your list, then saying a quick “Hi” to live parrots before you put a single food item in your cart

There’s a church on every corner. . . right across from a bar It could be blizzarding and you still wouldn’t get a snow day

You drink pop. . . soda doesn’t exist unless it’s orange

You saw Marc Glassman in public and was disappointed that he didn’t have a parrot on his shoulder like in the cartoon

You have three high schools and two libraries

Only the Browns stadium is bigger than your high school football team’s

You look forward to that dull period between New Year’s and spring break because it’s fish fry season!

You try to get out of Parma, but then end up coming back because you love it

You know that Chuck is big and John is little

You are surprised to learn that not every city has its own golf course, metroparks and skating rink.

You remember sledding down State Road Park hill

You spent Friday nights in junior high ice skating at Forestwood rink

The phrase “lake effect snow” strikes fear in your heart

Friends meet at your house because it’s cheaper to Uber or Lyft downtown

While figuring out what direction you’re heading, you refer to Broadview Road and Pleasant Valley

You STILL can’t figure out where Pearl intersects what street

Every place you shop at is off Ridge Road

You have your own personal freeway downtown

You can live on the same street as someone living in Parma Heights or Seven Hills, then turn the corner and you’re in Parma again

It’s acceptable to drink at family parties, or really at anything

You wish that you could read Ukrainian so you could understand what the heck two-thirds of the businesses on State Road are selling

Many of your friends’ last names end in “ski”

You have been woken up by a marching band at 8:30 a.m. in the middle of summer vacation

The main event of summer is the Rib n Rock

Your fondest childhood memories were from United Skates, Marc’s Funtime Pizza Palace and Discovery Zone



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PARMA ART SCENE

Cassidy Theatre Presents "You Can't Take It With You"

by Rick Haase

The Cassidy Theatre presents “You Can’t Take It With You,” by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman August 4-6 and August 18-27. There will be no

performances during the weekend of August 11-13 because of the Parma Heights “Kids in the Commons” event. Curtain times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Parma Art News

by Kathryn Mabin
FREE TEEN CLASSES – BEGINNING POTTERY

Register Now! Don't hesitate, these classes fill up fast. Beginning Pottery, two six week, two hour sessions, for teens age 14 to 17. Class size is limited to six students each. Class dates are held on Saturday's, beginning September 9th and ending October 14th. Session A will held 10am to Noon, Session B will be held 12:30pm to 2:30pm. Students must choose am or pm classes and will be unable to trade times. No make up classes will be allowed. Students will learn basic hand built and basic potter wheel skills. Instructor fees, clay, glazes and kiln firing are included. Classes will be held at The Pottery & Clayworks Studio, located at 5728 Ridge Road in Polish Village. These classes

are brought to you by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, through a matching grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Polish Village CDC, and individual donors who are advocates of community art programming. To register, or for additional information email kathryn.mabin@att.net.

Cleveland Metroarks Centennial
Last month I reported that Kathy Kijack's acrylic painting Metroparks was accepted into the juried art show for Cleveland Metroparks Centennial. I am happy to report that another Parma Fine Arts member was also accepted. Robert Pohm's Cardinal watercolor, State Bird in Metroparks, was also accepted. Look for these paintings when you stop in at the Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek August 1st through the 27th.

Tickets are \$15 for Adults, and \$14 for Students and Senior Citizens. The production is directed by Dan Sekanic.

Storyline: Grandpa Vanderhof and his wacky family, the Sycamores, have been happily living their zany lives in his house for many years. This family (and their friends) are a madcap group of eccentrics, marching to the beat of their own drum, with pride and joy. But when practical young Alice Sycamore becomes engaged to her company's Vice President Tony Kirby, the Vanderhof/Sycamore clan must straighten up to meet the new in-laws. Disaster ensues when the Kirbys arrive at the wrong time. Can the two families find a way to accept each other, and more importantly, will love win out?

Call the Box Office at (440) 842-4600 for more information. Don't miss the rest of the 2017 season, or upcoming fall Youth Theatre classes. Visit www.cassidytheatre.com or call the box office to order gift cards, ask about youth theater classes, or to purchase tickets.

The Cassidy Theatre is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. The Cassidy Theatre is located at 6200 Pearl Rd. Parma Heights, in the Greenbrier Commons complex.



Normandy High School student, Nica Zampedro

Parma Student Wins 1st Place In International Art Contest

by Kathryn Mabin

Sixteen year old, Normandy High School student, Nica Zampedro won 1st place in the adult category at the International Godzilla Fest held at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare. The 24th Annual G-FEST was held July 14th to July 16th this year. G-FEST is a family-oriented convention which caters to a wide variety of interests within the kaiju (strange beast) genre. Interactive sessions with actors and crew from the Japanese Godzilla films are a favorite, as they encompass many topics of interest for fans. Additional attractions are films, both new and old, gaming and of course contests. G-FEST also has the western world's largest kaiju-oriented dealers room.

Nica's 1st place ceramic coil pot painted in acrylic is titled Mothra. She is also a collector of all things Godzilla, and has quite an extensive collection. Nica is the beautiful and talented daughter of Joya & Dominic Zampedro, and granddaughter of life-time Parma Area Fine Arts board member Jane Zampedro.

I expect I will be writing more articles on this young lady's accomplishments in the future.

Ridgewood Garden Club Of Parma Receives Numerous Awards

by Elaine Mekruit

Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma returned from the Garden Club of Ohio, Inc. convention held on June 5-7 in Perryburg Ohio. They received 5 First place, 8 Second place, 7 Third place awards. The awards were for gardening and service projects completed in the city of Parma. Working with youths, garden related projects completed in

Parma. They received 2 awards from the National Garden Club, Inc. for projects completed. Congratulation to Barbara Okleson who belongs to RGC. for receiving the prestigious 2017 Mildred Heter Buckingham Award which is given out to only one person in Ohio for Outstanding service. Thank-you to everyone for there dedication for making this a great club.

August Ablaze With Activity In Parma Heights

continued from page 10

August 18-27. Call the Cassidy Box Office at 440.842.4600, or visit www.cassidytheatre.com.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Our Summer Concert Series in the Parma Heights Gazebo continues through August 20 with shows beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the following concerts, in partnership with the City of Parma and Cox Communications:

Sunday, August 6 – Logan Wells
Sunday, August 13 – Wayne Tom-sic

Sunday, August 20 – Don DiSantis
FREE PRODUCE AND FREE CHILDREN'S HAIRCUTS

Speaking of the Parma Heights Food Pantry, they have collaborated with the Cleveland Foodbank to offer Free Produce on the following Saturdays in the parking lot behind City Hall: August 5, September 9 and October 7, 2017. Please bring your own bags.

Produce will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. on the respective dates, while supplies last. Additionally, Classic Studio and the Parma Heights Barber Shop will offer free haircuts for children age 12 and under on Saturday, August 5, also behind city hall.

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