

“But I do feel a little teeny right now that I’m just ready to start and winter is entering. Half past autumn has arrived.” - Gordon Parks

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Police Body Cameras Coming Soon To Parma

by Vito Dipierro

Shortly after the commencement of my first term on council in 2014, the City was named in a lawsuit accusing one of our officers of excessive force. After hearing the details of the case, it seemed likely that the accusations were false. However, the taxpayers still got stuck paying for the cost associated with the lawsuit. It also gave the city as well as our fine police department a black eye. I began to research and found that the city had paid nearly \$200,000 over the previous ten years on similar cases. Through my research I started to read more and more about police body cameras. To me it was a common sense approach to not only save the taxpayers money, but also to protect the reputation of the city and the police department.

At a recent council meeting, Ward 9 Councilman



Crossman said, “Councilman Dipierro was the first on Council back in early 2014, before Ferguson, before all this stuff that has happened in the recent years, where it became almost imperative I think to have these body cameras to protect our officers and, I think it gives residents some comfort, as well, knowing that the interactions are being recorded.”

This was a relatively new concept at the time, so I began

to go through the political process of gathering support for the policy. Initially, my proposal met with strong resistance. With persistence and the support of my Council colleagues, the Police Chief and the Law Director, my recommendation to get police body-worn cameras has finally come to fruition. I am proud to have spearheaded the effort to get the city moving forward with the implementation of police body-worn cameras. Parma is already one of the safest cities in the nation and the introduction of body cameras will increase transparency, accountability, help prevent confrontational situations, and protect any false accusations of misconduct against our officers. This Council is committed to providing the best possible working conditions and equipment to the Parma Police Officers in the performance of their duties and protecting our residents.

Council President Brennan said, “It was Councilman Dipierro who was one of the early advocates of bringing body cameras to the Parma Police Department. I just wanted to acknowledge his significant part in our movement to introducing those in the department and I look forward to continuing to hear of his work with the Safety Department in the implementation ultimately of the cams.”

In addition, due to the diligent work of Police Chief Bobak, the city was recently awarded a \$135,000 body-worn camera grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and Bureau of Justice Assistance, which will save taxpayer dollars. The grant will be used to purchase 99 cameras with charging stations, video storage, computer software and personnel costs. It will also cover the cost of two years of attendance at a Justice Department body-worn camera policy training Conference.

Chief Bobak said, “The Parma officers are looking forward to these cameras, they will assist us in documenting

incidents. Also the grant that we received will save the taxpayers money.”

Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck also applauded these efforts, stating, “Police body cameras are overdue for our

police department. This new tool will help secure convictions in criminal cases and will also protect our officers from false allegations of misconduct.”

Parma Launches Into Small Business Month

by Jeannie Roberts

For the fifth consecutive year the City of Parma - along with Parma City Council and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce - will celebrate Small Business Month, which culminates on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council have embraced the nation-wide designation of Small Business Saturday and will continue this year to educate residents about the Saturday after Thanksgiving - the day after Black Friday - and to encourage them to participate.

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 and is celebrated every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The idea is that, even if hardcore bargain hunters insist on shopping on Black Friday, they can also support their local economy on Small Business Saturday. “We all know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday,” said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. “We are also confident that if we can get people to come Parma to shop - on Small Business Saturday or any other

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Ron Mottl Sr. Avenue



Left to right- District 4 Cuyahoga County Councilman Scott Tuma, Parma Councilman Brian Brochetti, Ron Mottl Sr., Parma Councilman Allan Divis.

by Jeannie Roberts

Soon you will be able to walk or drive on Ron Mottl Sr. Ave. - the part of York Rd from Independence Blvd. to the Southern border of Cuyahoga Community College. Mr. Mottl was at City Hall recently to receive proclamations from Parma City Council, presented by co-sponsors of the resolution, Brian Brochetti and Allan Divis, and also a proclamation from Cuyahoga County Council, presented by Parma’s representative, Scott Tuma. Mr. Mottl was first elected to Parma City Council in 1960 and also served as City

Council President, in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. He also served as a U.S. Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975-1982. He served on the Parma School Board and as its president. A veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, he was also a star athlete in football, basketball and baseball, which led to his being a charter member of the Parma Senior High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Street signs will be made to replace the York Rd. signs on the appropriate parts of the street. Congratulations, Mr. Mottl.

Parma Heights Wins Auditor Of State Award



Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne (left) holds the prestigious Auditor of State Award as longtime Parma Heights Finance Director Terrence B. (Terry) Hickey (right) looks on.

by Rick Haase

For the second time in five years, the City of Parma Heights has been recognized by Auditor of State Dave Yost with the prestigious Auditor of State Award. The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a financial audit. Parma Heights received a clean audit report.

“We’re extremely honored to be recognized by the Auditor of State with this award,”

said Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne. “I attribute the success to our excellent Finance Director Terrence B. (Terry) Hickey. Terry is exceptional at what he does, and receiving this honor is proof of his expertise and financial acumen. Terry has faithfully and loyally served the city as Finance Director for 32 years.”

Entities receiving the Auditor of State Award meet

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

Like many cities around the country, Parma and its residents were hit hard by the "housing bubble" and impending economic downturn of 2008-2009. Sadly, many families lost their homes and neighborhoods were left with vacant structures that fell into disrepair. The impending blight was of great concern to citizens and elected officials, alike. I am pleased to say that Parma weathered this storm and has emerged strong. One of the programs utilized by the City to address this crisis was our Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in which homes no longer safe for human habitation are demolished, thereby eliminating blight and enhancing property values, as well as the quality of life of Parma's residents.

Parma's NSP included a three-pronged approach to eliminating blighted structures. The first approach, used primarily in the beginning years of the program, involved actually buying and demolishing housing units that were substandard to the local housing market, primarily due to their condition and/or size. "I am happy to report that no local Parma tax dollars have been used in any of our NSP programs," according to Erik Tollerup, who coordinates the program as Parma's Director of Economic Development.



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Instead, funds have come from federal and county grants.

The next approach to eliminating blighted structures occurs when the City investigates a blighted dwelling, typically based on neighborhood complaints, and determines that an inhabited home in such dreadful condition that it is deemed uninhabitable. "Condemning a home through an enforcement procedure is not something we take lightly and there are a lot of legal steps that must be followed," according to Tollerup. The city will always try and work with a homeowner to gain compliance, but, in most of these cases, these were banks, investors, or people who just abandoned



Under the wrecking ball.

their maintenance responsibilities.

Lastly, Parma operates its own Land Bank which will take ownership of property tax delinquent and/or dilapidated structures, primarily through County tax foreclosure procedures. "These are the homes no one wants or can't afford to fix. We take them, demolish them, and re-purpose the land," Tollerup says.

When the City obtains a property and eliminates the blighted structure, it deeds the property to interested adjacent homeowners free of charge. "This is their reward for putting up with the eyesore for so long," Tollerup mentioned. Further, one of the biggest reasons people give for moving out of Parma is that our lots are too small. This program is intended to create larger lot spaces to attract folks to Parma and keep them here and it works.

Not every city in the region that implemented an NSP demolished homes like Parma. Instead, some used very expensive renovation programs and, as a result, were able to accomplish much less than Parma. Further, these programs failed to bring in the expected revenue when the homes were sold. "We have been good stewards of our grants funds and have been able to accomplish much more than cities that did not implement a demolition program," Tollerup adds. In fact, since its inception, Parma has eliminated 88 blighted homes as of this writing, with two more pending for 2017. As a result, property values have been enhanced due to fewer homes on the market, the elimination of blight and larger lot sizes.

Happily, according to Tollerup, Parma has very few condemnable housing structures left. In fact, 2017 has seen the fewest demolitions since the program began, with only six. Further, the success of the program has helped bring the number of distressed properties down 90% since 2009. "However, although the ones that are easily noticed due to exterior blight are gone, we are still finding some that, although they may not look terrible on the outside, are uninhabitable due exclusively to their interior condition," Tollerup adds. Thus, the program continues. Incidentally, the City also uses some of the grant monies to demolish old garages. Therefore, if you are looking to eliminate yours, feel free to call the Parma Economic Development office at 216-661-7372 to inquire about the program.

Parma's NSP program could not have happened had it not been for the concerted efforts of many organizations and individuals who have worked diligently to take steps to stabilize the housing market in our community,



Now two nice lots!

including Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Congressman Jim Renacci, Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, County Executive Armond Budish, former County Councilman Chuck Germana, County Councilman Scott Tuma, County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley, all of Parma's city council members and other elected officials from 2008 to the present, as well as many other unsung public servants at Parma City Hall, Cuyahoga County, the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, and other organizations.

Drones Are New Tool For Parma Police Department

by Jeannie Roberts

Though a popular recreational pursuit, drones are not just fun and games. The Parma Police Department is putting two newly purchased UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to use as an important part of its crime-fighting efforts. Officers demonstrated use of the drones to city council members and members of the public in attendance at a local council meeting recently.

The department has purchased two drones, paid for using money from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, which uses money seized from criminal activity such as drug busts. One is equipped with a thermal imaging camera; the total cost of \$15,992.00.

There are myriad uses for the drones, among them allowing police officers to safely and efficiently search wider areas while looking for missing persons, especially children and elderly citizens, and also making it easier to locate armed and dangerous suspects who are either hiding inside of buildings or who have fled from police.



These searches can be efficiently undertaken with police officers on the ground, which enhances officer safety.

Safety Director Tom Weinreich stressed the importance of increased safety. "The deployment of drones is another practical use of technology that will enhance the safety not only of the men and women of our police department but also of the residents they serve and protect."

The department will also make the use of the UAVs available to the Parma Fire Department during search and rescue operations.

"I applaud the use of this new technology by Parma Police Department," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Senior Trick-or-Treaters Celebrate Halloween

by Judy Martins

A merry crowd of smiling area seniors, in a festive array of colorful costumes, gathered together at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in October to welcome the spirits of Halloween! The Center was ablaze with colorful leaves, cornstalks, scarecrows, grinning pumpkins, witches, and autumn decorations, as the joyful senior trick-or-treaters sang and danced in their costumes, laughing and sharing stories of their elaborate attire at the Center's Annual Halloween Party.

The festively costumed participants marched in a rousing parade, posing for the judges of the costume contest. The dozens of wonderful costumes were so imaginative, beautiful, scary and funny, and represented so much time and effort, the judges were faced with a nearly impossible deci-

sion! But they finally picked the four winners. The festive crowd enjoyed a delicious Octoberfest lunch, and toasted and shared their memories of Halloweens past. (In Parma, in the 40s and 50s, we did our trick-or-treating on two nights, including the night before Halloween, known as Beggar's Night, and chanted "Please Help the Poor" at the doors. Remember?) With Glenn Toth's music filling the hall, they whirled to waltzes and polkas, jitterbug and swing, tango and Latin dances so popular now, as lively line dancers circled the floor. The seniors love the music and especially love to dance! Those who weren't dancing were tapping their toes, singing, and enjoying the festive atmosphere and the beautiful melodies. After a delicious dessert, refreshments and bowls of punch, many party-goers bought raffle tickets and won great prizes — lovely centerpieces and great raffle prizes of beautiful autumn and Halloween baskets, many gift cards to local merchants, yummy Halloween chocolates, tickets to the next dance and beautiful hand-mad autumn lap quilts. A truly fun and exciting reason to dress up, fill their day with music, meet old friends, and make new ones!

Dances are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 11-3, including lunch, fun, raffle prizes and surprises, great company, and dancing to local area musicians. (You can also come at 1:00 for the "Dance only.") Their next Party and Dance will be the "Turkey Trot" on Wednesday, November 15th. Visit their website at www.smallwoodcenter.com for more details, or call the Center at 440-885-8800.



The Winners! 4th Place-Christine Diedrick as the Energizer Bunny; 2nd Place-Dennis Tyburski as R2D2; 3rd Place Joan Annen as the Spooky Alien; 1st Place-Bernie Puchaja as the Chubby Bikini Lady!



Respiratory Therapist Lora Raudins works with COPD patients to help them understand their chronic disease and keep them from being readmitted to the hospital.

Breathing Easier: Reducing Readmissions For COPD Patients

by CJ Sheppard

The elderly man, compromised by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD), was admitted to University Hospitals Parma Medical Center four times in six weeks. Then he met Lora Raudins, a respiratory therapist uniquely focused on educating patients to cope with this disease, and he has not returned since.

"Often patients are in denial that they have COPD until they learn that many lung diseases fall under this umbrella," says Lora, a respiratory therapist using 23 years of experience to thoroughly educate inpatients on their disease and the medications and outpatient rehabilitation that can keep them from returning to the hospital. "COPD is a scary disease, but education is the key to helping people live a full and active life."

The COPD readmission rate nationally is second only to heart failure. Ohio has a higher prevalence of this chronic disease, among the nation's leading causes of death, afflicting one in five patients over age 40. The Parma Hospital Health Care

Foundation, which for 30 years has supported the work of the hospital in caring for the community, funded a pilot program for a dedicated respiratory therapist to reduce the hospital's COPD length-of-stay and readmission rate.

"We work hard to innovate on behalf of our patients, offering new programs and services to ensure they receive the best care when they need it most," says Foundation Executive Director Marcia Ferguson. "Transitions for Success is another example of our personalized care for patients with chronic illnesses."

Lora averages seeing 55 patients each month who have COPD as a primary or secondary diagnosis. Since she became the COPD Navigator in January, readmission rates dropped from 17.7 to 14.5 percent. And enrollment in outpatient Pulmonary Rehabilitation, where therapy and lifestyle changes like smoking cessation are reinforced, has increased by 20 percent.

UH Parma adapted a program established by UH Elyria Medical **continued on page 9**

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OBSERVER

Tuskegee Airman Lands At Tri-C Western Campus For Veterans Day Program On Nov. 9

by John Horton

Trailblazing fighter pilot Harold Brown flew 30 missions during World War II before the Nazis shot his P-51 Mustang out of the sky in May 1944. The Tuskegee Airman lived to tell his story.

On Thursday, Nov. 9, he will share those memories during a Veterans Day observance at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). Brown is scheduled to speak at 11 a.m. in the Galleria at Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. His presentation will follow a 10:30 a.m. remembrance ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Garden. "Veterans Day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have defended this nation," said Rick DeChant, executive director of the College's Veterans



Initiative. "Harold Brown is one of those inspiring heroes, and we're honored to welcome him to Tri-C."

Brown served as a colonel in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, flying in the 332nd Fighter Group.

The nation's first African-American military pilots — the famed Tuskegee Airmen — manned the squadron's planes. The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. Their

achievements paved the way for full integration of the U.S. military. Brown logged 30 missions as a bomber-escort fighter pilot before being shot down and captured. U.S. forces liberated him from a prisoner-of-war camp in 1945. He continued to serve in the military following World War II. Brown spent more than two decades on active duty and held a post at Strategic Air Command during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1965 as a lieutenant colonel.

Brown built a new career in higher education after turning in his uniform. He started as an instructor and — after

earning a master's degree and doctorate — climbed the ranks to become vice president of academic affairs at Columbus State Community College.

The 93-year-old veteran now lives in Port Clinton. He penned an autobiography — *Keep Your Airspeed Up: The Story of a Tuskegee Airman* — published earlier this year by the University of Alabama Press. A book signing will follow the program.

Tri-C serves thousands of Northeast Ohio veterans every year through its Veterans Initiative. For more information on programs and services, visit www.tri-c.edu/veterans.

Drones Are New Tool For Parma Police Department

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"Use of drones will no doubt save a life, whether that's in a missing person or SWAT/hostage situation or in some other way. It's exciting to see Parma being ahead of the curve by being one of the first police departments utilizing this technology."

The thermal imaging camera is designed to pick up heat signatures of people on the ground, which will aid police and fire personnel in locating missing or injured persons, especially during searches conducted at night. Drones can also be utilized by the police department's Crime Scene Unit,

as well as assisting the Traffic Unit with mapping crime and accident scenes.

Police Chief Joe Bobak called the UAV "yet another important tool that will support the police department in its mission to keep the community safe and will aid police and fire personnel in efforts to save lives."

The department sent 10 officers to training at the Public Safety Training Center located on the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. They are currently in the process of obtaining operator licenses from the Federal Aviation Administration.



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EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER

Visit the "Asset Corner" on Facebook. Share your Asset building ideas.

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

Asset Corner #95

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: PRAISE MORE; CRITICIZE LESS. November's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT

Feeling valued and appreciated is important to all of us. For young people, this means feeling safe and believing they're liked and respected. These feelings can go a long way toward empowering children and youth. Providing opportunities and recognizing accomplishments helps young people build self-esteem. This in turn, gives them the confidence to share their

ideas, knowledge, and creativity by volunteering and working in paid jobs. By paying attention to young people, you show that you value them.

This column's focus will be on.... Asset #7 – Community Values Youth

Listening to diverse opinions can help everyone move ahead

As young people grow older, they quickly sense where they are wanted and where they aren't. Do the young people around you have opportunities to participate, serve, lead, and make decisions within the community? Do



by Jean Micklewright

October was a busy month for Tri-City MyCom!

LOGOS is a free youth program offered on Wednesday evenings at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Ridge Rd. in Parma that includes: a free meal, worship skills, bible study, recreation/life skills. This is supported with an Out-of-School-Time grant from Starting Point.

October 3 was our pop-up fitness event, MyCom Moves!, held at Anthony Zielinski park near the Splash Pad area across from The Shoppes at Parma. Thirty-three people came to enjoy the fun as we participated in some physical activity as the sun set over Ridgewood Lake. A big shout out to: the MyCom youth who helped plan this event, the City of Parma Recreation Department, Royalton Farms for the fresh, local apples and Soza Fitness for providing excellent Zumba and Yoga instructors! It was a fun evening for all.

We are happy to be at capacity for the fantastic, fun, free grant-funded program at the Parma Library, Maker Mondays from 4-5pm on Monday afternoons. Life skills (empathy, communication, strengths, etc.) and STEM education are the focus of Maker Mondays. This program ends on December 11. Depending on grant funding, we hope to continue this program in 2018!

Our MyCom Quarterly meeting was held at Ridgewood United Methodist church on October 18 with 56 people in attendance. The program included a free dinner, activities for youth, a MyCom update and a presentation on Social Media by a staff member from OhioGuidestone. It was a great informative, participatory event!

Make A Difference Day was on Saturday, October 28: MyCom youth distributed coats at the Parma Area Collaborative Annual Coat Drive at the Hanna building.

these same young people feel the community supports children and youth? If the answer to these questions is "not always" or "not enough," it may be time to make some changes. After all, remember how you felt when you were young and the adults around you didn't listen or give you credit for your opinions? Everyone deserves a voice!

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who perceive that adults in the community value young people are more likely to grow up healthy, exhibit leadership, value diversity, and succeed in school. Only 22 percent of young people, ages 11-18, perceive that adults in the community value their opinions and input, according to Search Institute surveys. Set a goal to create an environment in which you and other adults take time to listen to young people, spend time with them, and give credit to their opinions.

Tips for building this asset

Upcoming Events in November

Due to a grant from The AT & T Foundation, MyCom will be able to increase career readiness skills at two 21st Century Discovery Sites: Parma Senior and Valley Forge High Schools. We are grateful to The Cleveland Foundation and Representative Nick Celebrezze for facilitating this grant.

OPEN TO ALL: Family Night at Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 15. Free delicious dinner, family activities and a speaker

Young people's perceptions can tell you a lot about your community and what needs to happen so they feel the community values them. Ask young people what they think. Acknowledge their opinions, even if you don't agree. Work together to turn your community into a place that values its young people.

Also try this

In your home and family: Ask your child's opinion about something in the news. Listen carefully, without interrupting. Discuss the topic (agreeing to disagree, if necessary).

In your neighborhood and community: Serve on a community committee and seek out young people's feedback about specific issues. Let them know you greatly appreciate their presence and participation. Encourage civic groups to include young people in critical conversations.

In your school or youth program: Engage the young people in your school or program as leaders and decision makers. Get their input on school board or program directors' decisions. Invite them to discuss their experiences with the school board or program directors.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/character, www.search-institute.org/assets for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go here <http://www.parentfurther.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.

from OhioGuidestone on bullying.

2017 MyCom Youth Voice Award Night will be held November 1 at the InterContinental Hotel. Four nominations have been submitted from Tri-City MyCom in the categories of: Youth, Caring Adult, Civic Organization and Business.

In partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Kid's Café provides a free nutritious meal for children after school, M-F from 4-4:30 pm at both the Parma Library and Parma-Snow branch.

Parma Launches Into Small Business Month

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day - we'll gain long-term customers. We have so many different small businesses here that offer everything from wonderful European bakery items to disc golf supplies."

Throughout November, the Mayor and Council members will distribute Shop Small signs to any small business owner who wants one to place in the store window to indicate that this is a small locally owned business. Many business owners leave up the sign all

year round to keep awareness high that small businesses are dependent on local consumers to help keep the local economy strong.

"We've done a good job of raising awareness about Shopping Small," DeGeeter said, "and yes, this is a year-round thing, but we like to take this month to really focus in on helping people understand what a wealth of small businesses we have here. Once they understand that, they'll keep shopping here."

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INSPIRATION

Twice Blessed

by Lizabeth Braskie

These past few months have been busy, but gratifying for the things that have happened. Along with wonderful weather and family functions, there was an additional celebration---a first for our family. My out-of-town daughter, Patti, had successfully fulfilled all the requirements for the adoption of two children. She will be a single mom to a brother and sister, Amanda, 8 and Nicholas, 7.

The kids arrived about a year ago and have lived with Patti in their brand new location. They have learned about their extended families, life in a new state, the workings of their newly acquired schedules and the friendship they have nurtured with the family dog, Nala. The pre-adoption regulations were carefully followed and life took on new meaning as their habits and rules merged into their everyday, workable transition. It was a learning process on both sides of their new status and lifestyle.

The kids started their school year, lived like a real family and got to know and adapt as families do. When they started calling my daughter, "Mom", the tears flowed on both sides. Although some things took a while for adjustment, they reached common ground in changes that had to be

made. It took time, patience and lots of understanding, but it was all towards a goal of finally being a family.

Throughout the year, it was on Patti's shoulders to take care of all the paperwork, visits, reports and various pertinent requirements that needed to be completed. Having finished all the necessary requests, the plans for the adoption could be finalized. The official date of this celebration was in July of this past year, with the whole family gathering in a suburb of Cleveland. For this occasion, everyone was invited to assemble at an outdoor pavilion. At a pre-scheduled time, the out-of-town judge called on the phone and we all heard the questions asked and the answers given by my daughter. A tearful crowd clapped when the final words were spoken that two more children were now part of our family.

Even though Patti and the kids live in another state, they visit us when they can and we do the same. Our family grew not only in people, but in happiness, admiration and positive focus on all that we share with one another. It's a good feeling that comes with any new additions to the current status of our lives. And in this particular case, our family was increased and positively blessed twice.

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PERSPECTIVE

Comparing American Presidents

by Lee Kamps

In the spring of 2016 I visited the home and library of President Lyndon Johnson. His home and ranch is now a National Historic Site just west of Johnson City Texas in the "hill country" west of Austin. His library is on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin. Both Lady Bird and LBJ are buried on the LBJ ranch with other family graves.

Lyndon Johnson's background and upbringing are as far removed as Donald Trump's as possible. His family was not poor, but not much above poverty either. LBJ saw first hand the poverty in the central Texas area during the Great Depression. After college, he was a teacher in a poor rural school district and that experience had a lasting effect on him, even as President.

LBJ was a born politician and he

was the master of the political deal during his career. He became President under the worst circumstances possible, the assassination of John F Kennedy. He vowed that he would make sure that the policies and agenda of JFK would get through congress. He also inherited a little war in a far of land that later would consume him and forever brand his presidency.

But except for Vietnam, LBJ's presidency has been the most consequential since that of FDR. So much of the United States of today can be traced to LBJ's policies and accomplishments. It was LBJ that was able to break the log jam on the civil rights bill and get it passed and signed into law in 1964. Also in 1964, he was able to get through the first major anti poverty program since FDR, the food stamp program.

After that LBJ was able to break the log jam and get Medicare and Medicaid passed and signed into law in 1965. That year saw the passage of the Voting Rights Act that guaranteed protection of everyone's right to vote. Also in 1965 LBJ was able to get passed federal aid to education which provided federal money to help local schools and improve literacy. Another program from LBJ was the establishment of the Federally Qualified Health Centers, where the federal government helped fund and establish local health care clinics in under served locations. In the Cleveland area, there are two FQHCs that serve the poor in the central city.

Had it not been for getting the United States more involved in the Vietnam War, no doubt Lyndon Johnson might be judged as one of this country's greatest Presidents.

Last August, I took a road trip about two hours southwest of Cleveland to Marion to visit the home and museum of Warren Harding, our nation's 29th President. Warren Harding is not known as one of this country's best Presidents. In fact, most historians rank him near the bottom as far Presidential rankings.

His presidential administration is more remembered for the corruption of some of his appointees and of his inattention to governing as well as his untimely death two and a half years into his presidency. But Harding did have several good accomplishments as President. He established the Office of the Budget and was the first President to submit a budget to the congress. His Secretary of State nego-

tiated the world's first arms limitation treaty in 1921. He established the Veteran's Administration as we have known it since then and probably did more for veterans than any President previously. He dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and started the tradition of the President presenting a wreath at the tomb every year on July 4.

Both Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Warren Harding had some serious problems and flaws as President. Yet both had several great accomplishments that still define the United States today. But as far as our current President, I believe that history will not be very kind to Donald Trump's presidency. Fifty years from now, future voters will wonder how someone like Donald Trump could have been elected President.

The Stupidity Of The NFL "Protest"

by Corbin Luna

Sometimes I think the NFL protesters are suffering from a bad case of the stupids. But probably not for the reasons you think.

Their protest escalated to where it is today due to an exchange between Trump and Stephen Curry of the NBA champion Warriors. Curry said at a press conference he wouldn't accept the traditional White House invitation to celebrate their championship because: "That we don't stand for basically what our president has the things that he's said and the things that he hasn't said at the right times that we won't stand for it." His head coach said that Trump had "defended neo-Nazis chanting hate slogans." That was in reference to Trump's statement about the violence in Charlottesville when he said, "I think there is blame on both sides." Trump responded to Curry as he is wont to do and the protest escalated to the point it's at today because the NFL players didn't like Trump's response. So, although it started as something else, it became an anti-Trump protest; nothing more noble.

The sad fact is that Trump's statement about Charlottesville was correct. But, as usual, the liberal elite put their spin on the statement and said it meant Trump was defending the neo-Nazis. Then, all the little liberals who aren't capable of thinking for themselves started repeating it. The video that showed a counter-protester being beaten by the neo-Nazis in a parking garage was used as an example of how wrong Trump was. However, the actual investigation proved that the man who was beaten started the incident by hitting one of the neo-Nazis in the head with a flashlight and he was arrested.

Radical left groups like Antifa advocate the use of violence to shut down speech they don't like and they went to Charlottesville for that specific purpose. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." There's a reason that's such a famous saying. Without free speech there is no democracy. It is the first thing every dictator tries to shut down. Ironically, it was the first thing Nazi Germany tried

to shut down and now the radical left tried to do the same thing with the neo-Nazis and tries to do it with everyone else they disagree with. And that is far more dangerous than a few idiots marching around chanting nonsense regardless of how disgusting it is.

Protests that actually accomplish something have three things in common: a specific wrong is identified, what is needed to right that wrong can be articulated and the success of the protest can be measured. A prime example is the Montgomery bus boycott, one of the most important events in the civil rights movement. At the time, Blacks were required to ride in the back of the bus and if the front filled up they were required to give their seats to white riders. That was wrong. As a way to right that wrong, a group headed by MLK demanded that an ordinance be enacted to allow black riders to keep their seats. The success of the protest could be measured by whether or not the ordinance was passed, which it was.

Without those three element what's being called a "protest" is really nothing more than a temper tantrum that can accomplish nothing. The NFL players don't even seem to know what they're protesting let alone what needs to be done about it. They have voiced a variety of wrongs that need to be righted, most often "inequality" which is a generality. To some people it means affirmative action is wrong because it gives preference to minorities instead of treating everyone equally. But I doubt that's what the players have in mind.

So, exactly what is it they're protesting, what do they want done about it and how will they know when they've succeeded? Until the NFL players can answer those questions they are doing nothing more than throwing a temper tantrum which has zero chance of ever accomplishing anything other than proving that the NFL concussion problem is far more widespread than anyone thought. What else could possibly explain someone complaining about how unfair the country is while they're being paid millions of dollars to play a little game?



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IMPRESSIONS

Making A Difference One Person At A Time

by Mike Byrne

Over the recent summer, as Mayor I had the opportunity to have conversations with a large number of residents. In my role, I feel it is important to be personally connected to the people I represent. We live in a close-knit community where that connectivity is readily apparent. For me, it often happens one person at a time.

Whether it was during the recent Kids in the Commons event in August, at the Ward 3 Garage Sale, while meeting with the families of our veterans during the annual Ohio Flags of Honor memorial, or the Korean War veterans event in September, one common question I received from residents concerns the Cornerstone property.

The question? "What is going on with that large vacant parcel of land

near the intersection of Pearl Road and West 130th Street."

Those residents who have lived here for a longer period of time may remember this parcel as the location of various commercial enterprises, including Tops Discount Store, Barney's Wholesale Foods, Tops Grocery Store, USA Skates, Honey Hut Ice Cream and Meineke Muffler.

This property was purchased by a private owner, who in partnership with a commercial land developer approached the former city administration with the plans for a mixed-use retail and residential development. The owner had legal issues which resulted in the property coming under the control of the Common Pleas Court.

A subsequent developer acquired the property through a court-ordered

auction. This new developer had its own legal issues (unrelated to the Parma Heights development) and the property was foreclosed upon by Wells Fargo Bank. As a result of the foreclosure, Wells Fargo, of Charlotte, North Carolina, became the new owner of this property, and remains the current owner.

The original owner petitioned the City of Parma Heights to place a special assessment on the property for the installation of streets and utilities. This special assessment acts as a lien against the property.

Litigation about the various parties' positions regarding the special assessment, mechanics liens, and debt owed to lenders is on-going. The matter is currently pending in the Court of Appeals. This litigation has made it difficult to attract developers to the site.

Over the years, we have realized that many people think that the City of Parma Heights owns or can develop this property. This is not the case, as Wells Fargo Bank is in full control

of the disposition of the land. While many people have suggested creative ways to develop the land, such as developing it into a public park, only Wells Fargo can make that decision. I agree with the many residents who want this property to be sold to a developer with a viable development concept.

We continually and aggressively require property maintenance, provide assistance in marketing the property to potential developers, and forward potential leads to Wells Fargo for its consideration. We have had encouraging and positive discussions with several interested parties over the years, and have worked diligently to facilitate new development.

Parma Heights is committed to continuing to do everything we can to work with Wells Fargo to secure an appropriate buyer for this property.

And, as Mayor, I am committed to staying connected with our residents. One person at a time.

Parma Heights Wins Auditor Of State Award

continued from page 1

the following criteria of a "clean" audit report:

- Filing timely financial reports with the Auditor of State's office in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- The audit report does not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs;
- The entity's management letter contains no comments related to:
 - Ethics Referrals
 - Questioned costs less than \$10,000
 - Lack of timely report submission
 - Reconciliation
 - Failure to obtain a timely Single Audit
 - Findings for recovery less than \$100, and
 - Public meetings or public records.

This is the second time the city of Parma Heights has been the recipient of the Auditor of State Award. The first honor came in 2012.

Reducing Readmissions For COPD Patients

continued from page 3

Center, which has enrolled more than 1,000 patients since initiating follow-up with COPD patients in 2014. As a NICHE hospital, UH Parma has additional protocols for elder care and is part of a systemwide High Reliability Medicine initiative to improve COPD care.

"This opportunity has done so much more than reduce readmission rates," Lora says. "This program is allowing COPD patients to take control of their disease rather than the disease controlling them."



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Red Circle Grand Re-Opening



Red Circle Lanes in Parma held a Grand Re-Opening celebration on October 27, after being closed for remodeling. Here the owners and their supporters pause to cut a ribbon signifying a new era at this historic Parma landmark.

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (Or Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

• If you're a parent of a child in a Parma City School, PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) is the acronym that refers to the District's anti-bullying initiative implemented several years ago and it s/b familiar to you. If not, or if you'd like more information go to any of these sites: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/pbis>, <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/Oct-16-2017/Addressing-bullying-what-parents-want-to-know>, <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/School-Safety/Safe-and-Supportive-Learning/Anti-Harassment-Intimidation-and-Bullying-Resource/Anti-Bullying-Resources-for-Parents>, <http://www.pbis.org/>

• If your organization has a safety focus or component of any kind & you're looking for programs, information or material visit: <http://www.injurypreventioncenter.com/>. The initiative is a service of University Hospitals Rainbow & Children's Hospital with the Rainbow Injury Prevention Center working with local, state and national legislators to advance the health and safety of children and families. Their web site contains a host of links to information and resources of all kinds. It's well worth a visit. Also, membership in the coalition is Free to anyone wishing to volunteer to promote safety in NE Ohio. Meetings are bi-monthly, generally the first Tuesday of the month @ 10:00 am at changing locations across the county. Questions or requests for more info can be directed to Cyndee Bratz @ 440-888-8889 or cyndeebratz@aol.com.

• From the County Library.....
 • ASPIRE Greater Cleveland - What used to be PCSD's Adult Education

program is now part of this service available as a result of a collaboration between CCPL, Cleveland Public Library and the County's Dept of Job & Family Services. For more information call 833-ASPIRE2 (833.277.4732) or visit: <https://www.aspiregreatercleveland.org/>.

• Benefit Navigators - All CCPL branches offer residents the ability to submit the documentation needed to maintain benefits by fax and/or apply online for services. Library staff are trained "Benefit Navigators," and can help residents find the online programs and applications that meet their needs.

• After-School Homework Help - Students in grades K - 8 don't just do their homework in our branches. They receive free homework assistance from trained staff through our Homework Centers and Homework Mentors programs. 90 percent of parents surveyed said their child's grades improved after coming to our Homework Centers. Learn more at: <http://cuyahogalibrary.org/homework>

• Some FYI's from Parma City Schools....

• Focus on the Future - The first group meeting of all seven of the FOTF committees took place on Monday, Oct 16th at Parma Sr. H.S. Attendance was strong as was participation and feedback. Additional meetings are being scheduled w/the next one set for Thursday Nov 16th. Go here to follow their progress: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Domain/1707>.

• If you have any used/slightly used adult sized baseball gloves collecting dust in the basement consider donating them to Shiloh Middle School. As part of their observance of Veterans Day Shiloh students will turn over donated gloves to A1 Glove Repair to be refurbished and forwarded on to

military men & women serving overseas. Deadline for donations (gloves or check) is Friday, November 10. Contact Heidi Dzur at dzurh@parmacityschools.org w/questions or to schedule a pickup.

• From the Parma Area Family Collab....

• The Collab is once again coordinating the community's Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program, soliciting donors (both individuals & organizations) to adopt a family/s. If you're interested, please contact the Collab by Friday, November 10th at 440.887.4873 or collab-support@parmacityschools.org.

• The Collab's next Mobile Food Pantry will be this Thursday, November 9th. 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.

• Visit the Collab's updated web site at: <http://familycollaborative.com/>, for details about the Adopt-a -

Family as well as other programs & available services. While there make your voice heard & click on the the links to either or both the PAFC Satisfaction or Neighborhood surveys.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

October In Polish Village

by Kathryn Mabin

As a resident of Polish Village, and one of the Polish Village Volunteers, I wanted to share with you, the many reasons why I love living here.

October 1st, on the corner of Ridge & Snow, the new CVS opened it's doors. The new CVS is located on the site of the former Parma Theater and Flowerama. Many great memories were associated with the Parma Theater and many residents were dismayed at the demolition. Flowerama was also a neighborhood staple and residents have mourned it's loss also. Visit the Polish Village Facebook page for numerous comments and opinions. You will find a memorial on the Essen side of CVS to the Parma Theater that uses original theater bricks and a small plaque commemorating the dates. In addition, on the Essen side of the

new CVS building is a new beautifully painted mural, depicting Polish dancers. Please take note of the flamingos incorporated into the design.

Home Depot of Brunswick and Purple Heart Veterans selected the Tharpe Family home located at 7201 Charles Ave. for rehab. This was accomplished in two days with the help of numerous volunteers and employees from Home Depot. The home and fence was power washed, and interior and exterior painted. All new windows and doors will be installed. Kudos to Home Depot and Purple Hearts for the excellent job. Thank you also for choosing a veterans home in Polish Village. And last but not least, thank you to veteran, Ralph Tharpe for his service.

October 8th was National Pierogi Day. Rudy's Strudel & Bakery celebrated on Saturday the 7th in traditional Polish Village style with a pierogi fest. You gotta

love Lidia, she really knows how to party! Tons of pierogi, and Paczki too! Miss Dyngus Day was there. Also on hand was Lidia's friends from Terrestrial Brewing Company, plus Polka music, a pierogi eating contest, and Polka Yoga with Soza Fitness.



Nat'l Pierogi Day Celebration at Rudy's



Treat-n-Greet 2017

Despite less than ideal weather, families still flocked to the 2017 Treat-n-Greet held in the Polish Village Neighborhood in Parma on October 28. This was the seventh annual event, and the popularity of this unique celebration seems to grow every year.

Also on October 8th local residents from Alber Avenue, had their Annual Corn Pub Crawl. This group visited the bars on Ridge Road and even stopped at Rudy's. They played games and had contests along the way. Lots of fun!

The pocket park, located next to Palmiero Brothers on Ridge Road, is a green space in the midst of the commercial business district on Ridge. Much work has been accomplished at this park in the last few months. In addition to the new trees, mulch, and flower bulbs planted, you will see flag poles, and a brick pathway. Currently in the works is the installation of a bench and a little lending library. Bricks are still available for sale. Memorialize a loved one, a significant date, a family, or your business.

Beginning in September and ending in mid-October, 12 teens had the opportunity to take FREE classes at The Pottery & Clayworks Studio on Ridge Road. Students learned basic hand built and basic potter wheel skills. These classes were brought to you by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, through a matching grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Polish Village, and individual donors who are advocates of community art programming.

The month ended with Polish Village's Treat & Greet. Children, accompanied by an adult, trick-or-treat the participating businesses along Ridge Road, from Pearl & Ridge to Thornton. This year Polish Village purchased 100,000 pieces of candy for the event. Many businesses supplement the candy with their own items. Families also

enter to win lots of prizes of gift certificates and merchandise. Some businesses dress in costume. Others offer coffee and donuts to the adults. This event draws people from all the surrounding communities. It is the most anticipated fall event in Parma.

Driving down Ridge Road you will find a great many new small businesses. Polish Village loves their small businesses and it's residents love shopping local. That is why it can boast a nearly 100% occupancy rate. Polish Village takes pride in their community. Businesses and residents are encouraged to decorate for the holidays. This is a great place to raise a family!

A Holiday Tradition Continues

by Rick Haase

Mark your calendars now and join the city of Parma Heights from the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5 p.m. Sunday, November 26 at the Gazebo at Greenbrier Commons.

The city's holiday tree will be officially lit.

There will be caroling with student musical groups from Holy Name High School and Parma Park Elementary School.

Hot chocolate, donated courtesy of the Vineyard Cleveland Church will be served.

All children will receive a gift bag with donations from local businesses.

And the highlight of the event will be a special appearance by none other than Santa Claus himself.

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