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## Parma State Of The City Address Feb. 26

by Jeannie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter will offer his 2018 State of the City address on Monday evening, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Continuing the trend started when he entered office in 2012, the mayor will showcase a community partner by taking his address outside of City Hall. This year, the address will be

delivered at the offices of the Sheet Metals Workers Local 33 at 12525 Corporate Drive. “I am grateful for the Sheet Metal Workers’ accommodation for the speech, and I look forward to Parma residents seeing this impressive facility,” the Mayor said.

Past State of the City

speeches have been held at Parma’s GM plant, UH Parma Medical Center, Cuyahoga County Public Library, and the UAW 1005 Union Hall. “Our administration’s approach has always been to combine common sense and hard work to produce real results,” DeGeeter says. “We’re proud to share some of our positive results at the State of the City address.”

The speech is open to the public.

## Dennis Kucinich Announces Candidacy For Ohio Governor



Former US Congressman Dennis Kucinich at the Middleburg Hts. Community Center as he announces his official candidacy in his bid to be the next Governor of Ohio.

## Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrates Tri-C’s New Western Campus STEM Center



by John Horton  
Cuyahoga

Community College (Tri-C) ushered in a new era in academic instruction and workforce training with a January groundbreaking ceremony for its new Western Campus STEM Center.

The 60,000-square-foot building will house lab and classroom space for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses vital to the jobs of tomorrow. The new space will foster innovative and collaborative learning opportunities to expand educational experiences.

The \$34 million project reflects College efforts to address the increased importance of STEM disciplines for graduates entering the workforce, Tri-C President Alex Johnson said.

“Whether a student earns an associate degree or a workforce credential, a strong STEM background is critical to future employment,” Johnson said. “This building will provide the state-of-the-art resources and technology to build a foundation for success.”

Construction of the STEM  
continued on page 4

## Parma Heights Police Chief Teel Set To Retire April 1

by Rick Haase

Police Chief Daniel D. Teel has announced his retirement effective April 1, 2018. He was appointed Chief of Police for the Parma Heights Police Department in August 2006. Teel graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1981 and began his law enforcement and Air Force ROTC studies at Akron University. In 1985 he started serving the City of Brooklyn as a part time police officer where he remained until his appointment in 1987 as a full time officer with the City of Parma Heights. After serving as a patrol officer, sergeant and captain, Teel was chosen as acting chief January, 2006. He was named Chief of Police on August 3, 2006.

Throughout his career,



Parma Heights Police Chief Daniel Teel will retire after 31 years service on April 1.

Teel has been active in supporting advances in technology, improving equipment and providing the men and women of the department with the resources they need to meet the extensive tasks and dangers they face.

Teel served as a member

of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau Tactical Team for sixteen years. He attended the Harley Davidson Police Motorcycle Training School in 2000 and the FBI National Academy in 2004. He helped reestablish the motorcycle patrol unit of which he was an active member for two years.

Married thirty-one years to his wife Joyce, they have raised three children, Richard, Dedra and Bryan.

Referring to his career Teel said, “I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved in the law enforcement profession. The variety of experiences, the outstanding people you meet and work with and the challenges encountered make it truly a unique and rewarding career.”

## Work Continues To Improve Our Community

by Mike Byrne

Our efforts to implement various capital improvement projects in the city are continuing. One prominent example is the work to both maintain and upgrade the Cassidy Theatre which has been an important part of the community since its opening in 1974. Work recently was completed to install heavy duty commercial grade vinyl siding on the entire exterior of the building. The project was paid for using a \$50,000 grant from the Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant program.



Work was recently completed to upgrade the exterior of the Cassidy Theatre, a part of the Parma Heights community since its opening in 1974.

A portion of those grant funds additionally paid for the purchase of a much needed new main stage curtain. Earlier in

2017, a separate grant, also in the amount of \$50,000 from the State of Ohio, allowed for  
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COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

My father died of at the young age of 54, then his \

This month I return to my long-running series on Parma Places of Worship by spotlighting St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church located at 7700 Hoertz Road. To prepare for this piece I had the honor of meeting with Pastor, Rev. Ihor Kasiyan and Church Secretary, Anna Lukasik.

Fr. Ihor has a fascinating story, as he grew up in Ukraine. “God called me to the priesthood after the fall of communism,” he explained. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the

Ukrainian Catholic Church, which had operated underground for decades, was now permitted to operate legally. As a result, Fr. Ihor entered the seminary in 1990 and was ordained in 1992. In fact, he recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of his holy ordination. He served as a priest in his home country for 10 years, then was called by the bishop of the St. Josaphat Eparchy of Parma to serve at St. Andrew. Fr. Ihor is married to Tetyana and the two have two sons and a daughter. The family became naturalized U.S. citizens about five years ago.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church follows the Byzantine Rite, meaning,



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

although they follow the Pope in Rome, they have many traditions of the Eastern Church, including making the sign of the cross from right-to-left, no kneeling during services, the use of iconography, rather than statues, priests may marry, no use of musical instruments during services, etc. Christmas is celebrated at the same time as the Roman Catholic Church and Roman Catholics and Ukrainian Catholic parishioners may attend one another’s services and receive Holy Communion.

St. Andrew is one of many parishes within the St. Josaphat Eparchy (on State Road) in Parma. The St. Josaphat eparchy includes several states, including Ohio, part of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

The mother church to the local Ukrainian Catholics is Sts. Peter and Paul in the Cleveland Tremont neighborhood. As many will recognize from my previous articles, as Parma grew, so did its churches. St. Andrew followed in this vein. In fact, in 1935 several Ukrainian families purchased property from Mr. Hoertz, himself, then sold it to the Eparchy. Soon, a cemetery and picnic area were developed. Later, in 1964, it was decided that a new church was in order and on Sunday, May 28, 1967, the church was dedicated. In fact, St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

St. Andrew is a very active and vibrant Parish. For instance, they will be hosting Lenten Fish Fries on February 16 and 23, as well as March 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 5:00 pm until 7:30 pm. What could be better than their homemade pierogis, made by their very own pierogi group? They are also serving, baked fish, fried fish, shrimp, cabbage and noodles, potato pancakes, great bakery items, and more. Carry out is available. Further, the pierogi group sells several varieties of fresh pierogis every Friday throughout the year from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in the hall behind the church.

This coming Labor Day weekend, September 1 and 2, St. Andrew will hold their annual Ukrainian Festival. Having

attended myself, I can attest that it is a fun-filled cultural extravaganza, with great people, food and fun activities. The parish also rents their two halls, one of which holds up to 250 people, 100 in the other.

Fr Ihor shared that the Parish hosts about 250 families. In fact, as I perused several recent bulletins I came across some well-known Parma names, including the Boyko Family. Many will remember the Honorable Andrew Boyko who served the city of Parma for over 30 years as our Law Director and Judge and in many other capacities. His lovely wife, Eva, continues to call St. Andrew her home parish and Parma her home.

To find out more about St. Andrew visit their website at [www.standrewucc.org](http://www.standrewucc.org) or call 440-843-9149. Next month I have huge announcement about a project I have been working on for months. I cannot wait to let you know about it, as I know it is going to be exciting for our community! So, stay tuned to the Parma Observer!



St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church

## Parma Heights Police Officer Promoted To Rank Of Sergeant



Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne (left), swears-in newly-promoted Sergeant Stephen Lindh.

by Rick Haase

Mayor Michael P. Byrne is pleased to announce that Police Officer Stephen Lindh has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Lindh was sworn-in as a part of the January 22 meeting of Parma Heights City Council.

He began his career as a Police Officer in 2002 with the Parma Heights Police Department. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Lindh served his first 16 years as a member of the Uniform Patrol Division.

Lindh serves as a Range Officer

and is part of the city’s Community Policing Unit. He is also currently a member of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau Tactical Unit.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Flu Season Prompts Visitor Restrictions At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

Due to increased seasonal influenza activity, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has temporarily revised its visitor policy. Effective immediately, we will restrict visitors to all patient areas, including the emergency and

maternity departments. The restriction applies to anyone under the age of 18, or anyone (of any age) who exhibits flu-like symptoms. This policy will remain in effect until further notice.  
“At UH Parma Medical Center, we strive to provide the best care,



UH Parma Medical Center is temporarily restricting visitation by people under 18 and anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms.

Work Continues To Improve Our Community

continued from page 1

the completion of a major renovation to the community rooms on the lower level of the theater. This included upgrading the lighting, electrical system, floors and ceilings of both lower level rooms. Both rooms are now available to Parma Heights residents to rent. One has the capacity for 50 guests, and the other, 100. The rooms are adjoining and can also be rented together for functions with up to 150 guests. If you're interested, contact our recreation department at 440.884.9606 or via e-mail at recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov.

Meanwhile, there's a lot happening in Parma Heights to keep you busy during this cold winter month of February. **Here's what's going on:**

Barefoot in the Park

The Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Road, will present the Neil Simon classic, "Barefoot in the Park," February 2-18.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.cassidytheatre.com](http://www.cassidytheatre.com) or by calling the theatre box office at 440.842.4600.

Parma Park Elementary School Fundraiser

Parma Park Elementary School's PTA is hosting a fund-raising event, "Pasta With A Purpose," from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, February 10 in the Fellowship Hall of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights. (Directly across the street from Parma Park Elementary, 6800 Commonwealth Boulevard).

Cost of the event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-12.

The event includes an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner with salad, roll and dessert.

All proceeds benefit the Parma Park Elementary School PTA.

To order tickets: Call Leah at 216.402.9082, or purchase online at [parma-park-pta-s-pasta-with-a-purpose-fundraiser.cheddarup.com](http://parma-park-pta-s-pasta-with-a-purpose-fundraiser.cheddarup.com)

PACT – Parma Heights Police and Citizens Together

On Wednesday, February 7, the Parma Heights Police PACT group (Police and Citizens Together) will host a goal setting meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Road (in the Greenbrier Commons Complex).

The goal of the PACT program is to open the lines of communication between Parma Heights law enforcement officers and the young people in the community.

"It's our attempt to reach out to

them and establish an on-going dialogue," said Patrolman Jack Darnell. Currently there are nine Parma Heights officers involved in the program, and they have already begun their community outreach efforts by going door-to-door, knocking on doors, and getting to know the residents of the community on a more personal level.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

At the City Service Garage from 9 a.m. to Noon Saturday, February 24,

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OBSERVER

# Every Journey Begins With The First Step

by Dale Powell

That first step is always the hardest to make when you begin any journey, as we all know. I myself have experienced this first hand recently as I go about making an important change in my life. What I found is that it is really not as difficult as I feared it would be once I actually decided to begin and the time for excuses was over. My friend Dan McCarthy is fond of saying "Can't lives on Won't Street" and this simple truth has guided me in my own personal journey. The Parma area is in a similar situation. All cities face a moment in time where they need to embrace new ideas that will keep them moving forward into an uncertain future where they will need to be ahead of the curve and have the most successful outcomes possible. The need to avoid unnecessary risk goes without saying, but being frozen in place as the

world changes is simply not an option for anyone, anywhere.

Bike lanes, dog parks, broadband development, community sidewalk programs, storm water management gardens, little free libraries, public art projects, pocket parks, bicycle friendly districts, green pathways, increased walkability, community gardens, tree planting programs, pop up art displays, etc. These are just a few of many creative ideas that communities around the world are embracing and trying all of the time in the 21st Century, and they are enjoying the benefits. There is no reason that the citizens and leaders in the Parma community should hesitate to consider these kind of options if they will lead to improving the quality of life here, just as those in the past embraced new ideas. We just need to take that first step- it's well worth it.



# Spring Fever And You

by Christine Vodicka

You may be thinking you still have several months of learning ahead of you before your next progress report or report card. You can take it easy for now since most of the projects are due in May. Well, think again...because Spring Fever is right around the corner. The weather will begin to warm up, the birds will chirp again, and the days will become longer.

Spring Fever does not have to put your grades at risk. I have compiled some suggestions I have used in my 21 years of tutoring. Here are some prevention tools to help you prepare for the inevitable spring fever:

- 1. Do It NOW**  
Turn in any late or missing assignments now. Also, don't wait until May 10th when your final project worth 80% of your grade is due on May 11th! Try to get extra credit assignments in early. It feels great to be ahead of the game!
- 2. Track all your assignments**  
if your school provided planner is tattered or in pieces, purchase a smaller pocket size memo book to jot down test dates and homework. Winter is a good time to try to develop new habits, so you are less prone to getting off track in the spring. While you are at Marc's, go ahead and pick up some fresh new high lighters, markers, index cards and

- any other motivating office supplies.
- 3. Designate your study space**  
If your grades aren't what you think they should be, perhaps it is your study space. Refrain from ever studying on your bed, as it results in sleeping. Go to the library to study or even a coffee house. I find it is difficult to study at home because of all the other things I may find to do.
  - 4. Track your time on a study log**  
This tracks how many minutes or hours you are studying or reading per day and per week. Track the date, start time, stop time, and total minutes for each time you sit down to study. This helps you stay accountable to your goals. If you see that you are rarely studying, the low test grade may be correlated. If you got an 'A' on the test and you see that you studied for 15 hours that is worth celebrating...

- 5. Reward yourself**  
Once April gets here and it stops snowing, kids all over Parma will be yearning to be outside (unless they have a severe technology addiction- that is another article!). Make it a habit to get your homework done prior to going outside to play. You will have way more fun when you play since you won't have math problems on the brain.

# Wild Turkeys In Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Recently a rafter of wild turkeys was spotted in Parma in front of a business on Plaza Drive. Aggressive turkeys in Rocky River have been in the news lately, even preventing mail delivery to some residences. These turkeys seemed much more sedate.

# Groundbreaking Ceremony Celebrates Tri-C's New Western Campus STEM Center

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Center and related renovations on campus should be complete by fall 2019. The new building will be situated at the northeast corner of the main campus building, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Voter approval of Tri-C's bond issue request in November made the project possible. Approval of Issue 61 raised \$227.5 million for the College to create new instructional space, keep pace with changing technology and address decades of wear and tear on buildings.

"Passage of the bond issue represented an amazing commitment from our supporters and a demonstration of confidence in the institution," Johnson said. "This investment will ensure that Tri-C has the tools to offer productive learning environments that strengthen the workforce and economy of Northeast Ohio."

**Other projects set to begin this year include:**

- Construction of a second building at Westshore Campus in Westlake.
- Expansion of the Advanced Technology Training Center in Cleveland.
- Construction of a mock village for scenario-based training at the Public Safety Training Center in Parma Heights.
- Expansion of the Automotive Technology Center at Western Campus in Parma.

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EDUCATION

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

# Asset Corner #98

by Gene Lovasy

**February's Asset Category: POSITIVE VALUES.**

**You are what you believe**

Values shape young people's relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire,

not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends.

*This month's column will focus on: Asset 27: Equality and Social*



by Jean Micklewright

**JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS...**

MyCom Quarterly Meeting

Our quarterly meeting was held at the Seven Hills Recreation Center on January 25. Representatives from West Creek Reservation, Parma Snow Library, College Colleagues, the Parma Area Family Collaborative and the City of Parma shared current and upcoming opportunities for community and youth involvement.

## MLK Jr. Community Diversity Day

This event, a joint collaboration between Tri-City MyCom, the Parma City School District and the Parma Area Family Collaborative was a celebration of the different cultures represented in the Tri-City area. The event was held on January 29 at the Hanna building. Attendees brought a potluck meal based on their heritage and shared their traditions. The DJ played international music and there was a gaming station for young people hosted by a MyCom Youth Council member.

## LOOKING FORWARD.....Summer Jobs for Youth!

MyCom partners with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)

to provide paid youth employment opportunities in Cuyahoga County neighborhoods. We have worked with Y.O.U. for seven years to provide jobs for youth ages 14-24 in the Tri-City area (Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills). In 2017 thirty-three youth were hired. We would like to exceed that number this year! February 1, 2018 is opening day for the online registration form that is required for youth to complete. Registration does not guarantee youth a job, but without it one cannot get a Y.O.U. summer job. Employers – you are needed too! Employers can register as a worksite and give youth valuable subsidized work experience. The registration for both is located at: [youthopportunities.org](http://youthopportunities.org)

## Advocacy Day

MyCom believes in youth voice and preparing youth to be involved citizens in their communities. Advocacy Day, February 22, 2018, is an annual event that takes place at the Statehouse in Columbus. Youth will have an opportunity to travel to Columbus and speak with legislators regarding issues that are important to them. They will also have a tour of the Statehouse. In preparation for this event, MyCom provides Advocacy Training on February 5.

## Justice

One person can make a difference

Young people who are concerned about equality and reducing hunger and poverty may not know what life is like for those who suffer these conditions, but they do understand it's important to care for people—all people. They care about people they don't know, who live a world away, and who may have critical needs. And they want to do something to make the world a better place.

## Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who place a high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty are more caring and more willing to help people who are less fortunate. They also grow up healthier and become better leaders. About 52 percent of young people, ages 11–18, place a high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty, according to Search

Institute surveys. Even tiny steps—if enough people take them—can make a big difference in providing food and shelter for others.

**Tips for building this asset**

Ask young people how they feel when others treat them unfairly. Use their answers as a springboard to help them find ways to make a difference in the world. Encourage them to give time, money, or talent to an organization that seeks to reduce hunger, poverty, and injustice.

**Also try this**

**In your home and family:** Find out which injustices in the world most concern your child. Help her or him develop a plan to personally help address the problem.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Donate canned goods and other non-perishables to your local food shelf. Volunteer to serve food at a nearby homeless shelter.

**In your school or youth program:** Choose a social issue that either directly affects or troubles the young people in your class or program. Have them write letters about the issue to the local newspaper or state representatives.

Visit [www.search-institute.org/assets](http://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.

# Work Continues To Improve Our Community

continued from page 3

the city will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. The service garage is located in the Greenbrier Commons complex at 6200 Pearl Road.

Examples of household hazardous waste include oil-based paint, solvents, used motor oil, automotive fluids, aerosols, lawn and garden products, pesticides, pool chemicals and household cleaners.

**Parma Heights Library Programs**  
Saturday, February 10, 2018  
2-3:30 p.m.  
**Kid Olympics**  
Calling all kids in grades K - 3! Bring home the gold during the XXIII Winter Olympic Games. Compete in balance beam Speed Stackers and more. Stay for a story and craft fit for a young Olympian.

**Monday, February 12, 2018**  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Valentine Family Fun**

For ages 2-8 with a caregiver. Join us for songs and stories about families and friendship and create a card for your Valentine.

**Saturday, February 17, 2018**  
10-11:30 a.m.  
**Friends and Family CPR**  
Ages 11-17  
It's Valentine's month so think of your heart and the heart of someone special to you. Learn hands-on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for adults children and infants through American Heart Association protocols. Participants will also practice with an AED and learn proper anti-choking techniques. This program is for community awareness not certification.

**Monday, February 19, 2018**  
**Diabetes and Heart Disease**  
7-8 p.m.  
Join Denise Kaiser, R.N., from MetroHealth Medical Center as she discusses diabetes as it relates to heart disease.



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# INSPIRATION

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A few people always prefer to believe the best of everybody; it saves so much trouble. After establishing the right priorities, we must maintain our focus on each of those priorities. Compassionate (kind) actions involve working with ourselves as much as working with others. Diligent work and effort always precede fruitful blessings and rewards. Even a good thing can become a bad thing when it becomes a ruling force in our life.

For today and its blessings, we owe the world an attitude of gratitude. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This is one of God’s greatest promises. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. God does not abandon us when we do foolish and stupid things. Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but also it is the parent of all other virtues.

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible. If there is righteousness (fairness) in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If we have tender thoughts about people, we should tell them now. If we spend our lives wishing (you name it), we may never enjoy (you name it). If we want people to trust us, do not give them reason not to.

In God we trust. This appears on our money and is our national motto. It has been said that the only easy way to deal with change is when we are the ones wishing to change. It is a pity and a shame how we break each other’s heart and cause each other pain. It is not our circumstances that create our discontent or contentment. It is we.

Joy exists only in self-acceptance, not a perfect life. Just do something for someone else when you have the opportunity. Know and seek God in every situation, then follow your dreams by trusting in His guidance. Laughter is the closest distance between two people. No family challenge is impossible with loving help.

No parents are perfect; therefore, children (as adults) must learn to unlearn and then relearn. Parents who encourage their children to set goals and go after them deserve an A+. Perseverance is the key to escape

and personal satisfaction. Praise and encouragement bring out the best in people and lift them up.

To improve is to change; to approach perfection is to change often. To what we devote our attention will be elevated in our consciousness. We all must guard against culture pollution. We (believers) look for the resurrection of the dead and life in the world to come. Amen. We can build any virtue into our thinking by dwelling on that virtue every day. We can experience our free will by choosing either positive or negative courses of action. We give people permission to make us angry. We have authority over our thoughts, but God does not force us to exercise this aspect of our free will.

Self-reflection is always a good exercise. What I believe is a work in progress, not limited to these statements and subject to change. What do YOU believe?

## The Amazing Brian

by Lizabeth Braskie

He is not just a teacher. He is not just a twentysomething looking for a purpose in life. Brian is a gifted, dedicated and fun loving architect of minds, aspirations and guidance for those lucky enough to be in his classes. He not only makes learning a treasured pleasure, but leaves an imprint on all those he touches.

Brian is currently working on his Master’s Degree in Sports Administration. He is a “people person” and is passionate about sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with his students. He finds satisfaction in their achievements that reflect his goals. The road to that end filters through his ability to understand the workings of many related and integral parts of individual and competitive games. He juggles his days with a full-time job then classes in his chosen field. He is gifted with a determined investigation to learn first, then teach with his practical and positive outline of the subject. He loves the diversity of sports and welcomes the opportunity to instruct his students on games that are played in stadiums as well as the less popular competitions that take place in volleyball courts and bowling alleys. He may be a graduate assistant, but this is only the beginning.

A tremendous passion toward sports may have been nurtured by Brian’s opportunity to assist in the Cleveland Indians visitors’ clubhouse for the past six seasons. He also earned internships with the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Cavs, and Akron Aeros in the past few years. What wonderful opportunities this young man achieved by being hard working, trustworthy, ambitious and sincerely dedicated to the task at hand. His upbringing is responsible for his dedication and willingness to help, making his family very proud. But especially, his infectious demeanor shows that he is devoted to learn all he can about his chosen career.

Spending time with Brian is an education in sincerity, motivation, honesty and a thorough love of sports. This young man has the ingredients to succeed above and beyond what is expected of him. His dream job is to work his way to becoming an Athletic Director. The knowledge he has gained throughout his adventure earned him a well-deserved vote of recognition. The people with whom he shares his love of sports are inspired to applaud his achievements and enjoy seeing his impressive journey thus far. Game not over!

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NEIGHBORHOODS

# American Veterans Traveling Tribute And Traveling Wall Coming To Parma

by Jeannie Roberts

Veterans and active members of America’s armed services travel great distances and make great sacrifices to preserve and protect freedom and liberty. Now you can honor and show your respect for their contribution by visiting the American Veterans Traveling Tribute and AVTT Traveling Wall and/or donating to defray costs of bringing the Traveling Wall to Parma.

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) will visit the campus of Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus with the Traveling Wall. The AVTT Traveling Wall is an 80-percent scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. Across its 360-foot length, the wall contains every single name etched on the original. At its apex, the memorial is an impressive eight-foot tall.

The Traveling Wall will arrive in Parma on Wednesday afternoon, June 27, 2018. The Wall will be installed at Tri-C West on Thursday morning, June 28 and will be open for viewing at noon and then continuously 24/7 until the Wall is dissembled at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 1. The Wall will be lit in hours of darkness, and security will be present 24 hours a day as well.

The event is sponsored by Ameri-



can Legion Post 703 in Parma, with additional support from Tri-C West and the City of Parma. Citizens who wish to make donations to the project can make checks out to American Legion Post 703 and send them to Tom Mastroianni, 7263 Maplewood Dr., Parma, OH 44130.

Additionally, a special Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/AVTTParma/> - has been created for the Parma event. As the event draws nearer, announcements will be made regarding volunteer sign-up and training, donation updates and associated events. During the event, photographs, videos and news coverage will be posted. To stay as informed as possible, “like” the page on Facebook.

“We are so honored to have the



AVTT and Traveling Wall in Parma,” said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter. “We respect and honor those who have served and are currently serving in our country’s armed forces. The Traveling Wall specifically honors those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War, and we are humbled to host this recognition.”

Said Dr. Donna Imhoff, President of the Tri-C Western Campus: “It is truly an honor for Tri-C West to serve as the Parma location for the American Veterans Traveling Tribute and Traveling Wall. Tri-C has long been a strong supporter of all Veterans. The Western Campus has a special connection, being the former site of the Crile Army Hospital and current location of the Crile Veterans Center and Archives. Our campus is on a piece of land with a special mission to assist and honor our military. We are incredibly humbled to be a part of this event.”

The mission of the project is to travel the nation to honor, respect, and remember men and women who served, and to pay specific tribute to

those who gave all in that service. Since the tribute is mobile, it allows people to honor and respect veterans and active military personnel without having to travel great distances to do so.

The Traveling Wall was completed in early 1998 and began traveling that year. AVTT’s Traveling Wall is the largest Wall replica traveling the USA. Remembering, educating, and respecting the service of our country’s veterans are the main focuses of AVTT.

About the AVTT: The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is a veteran-owned project committed to travel the USA to honor, respect, and remember those who served, and pay specific tribute to those who gave all.

AVTT is not government sponsored or affiliated, but funded through sponsorship fees, donations, and sale of merchandise at events. For more information or to schedule an AVTT event, visit [www.americanveteranstraveling-tribute.com](http://www.americanveteranstraveling-tribute.com) or email [kevin@avtt.org](mailto:kevin@avtt.org)

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### February Update



Serving seniors in Parma (above) and Parma Heights (below)



What a busy first month of the year we have had! In January, I had the privilege of **visiting our seniors** at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center **with Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter**. We listened to residents and met with Director Jo Ann Mason to see how the city and our state could help. I also had the privilege of **joining with our seniors in Parma Hts. Senior Center** where I got to share dessert (my treat!) with our residents.

**In Columbus, I continued to fight for better funding for our schools and communities, honoring and caring for our veterans, and improving mental health education.**

Lastly, I was proud this month to **announce my candidacy for the Ohio State Senate** and that I have been **Endorsed by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party**. It has been an absolute privilege serving our community as your State Representative for Parma Heights, I am looking forward to serving Parma as well next year.

Yours Truly,  
*Martin J. Sweeney*



Testifying in Columbus (above)  
Receiving Parma Hts. Mayor Byrne & Councilman Verdile’s support at the Democratic Party Endorsement (below)



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PERSPECTIVE

Medicaid Work Requirement Is A Bad Idea That Won't Work

by Lee Kamps

Recently some members of congress suggested requiring “able bodied” adults whose income makes them eligible for Medicaid should either be working, engaged in a full time job search or pursuing education that would lead to gainful employment. Such an idea may have a great appeal; but in practice it would be an administrative nightmare and will not remove many from the Medicaid rolls.

A few years ago I wrote two columns for this publication about just who gets Medicaid in Ohio. That was based on figures before the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA or Obam-

care took effect in January 2014. Prior to January 2014, it was impossible for an “able bodied” adult not caring for dependent children in their household to qualify for Medicaid. Besides caring for dependent children in the home, an adult had to be over age 65, legally blind or totally and permanently disabled with income and assets below the Medicaid eligibility limit to qualify for Medicaid.

Examining the Medicaid population which could easily be done through a web search. The largest population on Medicaid are children under the age of 18. The next largest segment of people on Medicaid in Ohio

are the disabled and elderly, many who are in nursing homes. But the expansion of Medicaid in 2014 because of the ACA opened the door of eligibility to anyone whose income and assets made them eligible.

Examining this new segment of the Medicaid population; there are few who are “able bodied” adults who are not working and in the labor force. Included in this category are many people who are already working, both part time and full time. It is just that the income from their employment is low enough to qualify them for Medicaid. Another large segment are young adults still in college or graduate school who are working toward an advanced degree and cannot qualify for health insurance any other way.

to make sure that they are within the limits for Medicaid. It would be very difficult to verify whether anyone who is “able bodied” would be meeting additional work requirements.

Short term illnesses or injuries could render someone unable to work for a few months and without income. Imposing a work requirement for Medicaid eligibility would require much more work and documentation as well as additional resources necessary to handle the appeals and other administrative costs.

Regarding Shutdowns And Rational Thinking

by Corbin Luna

The shutdown has come and gone. However, we're still hearing a lot of spin, innuendo, half-truths and lies about it. And since the shutdown was ended with temporary funding that expires February 8, it will undoubtedly rear its ugly head again. Consequently, it's time to lock and load some facts about shutdowns in general and this one in particular.

Shutdowns were made possible by the Budget Act of 1974. That Act was passed when the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and the President was a Republican, The Democrats made it quite clear they were passing it as a slap in the face to the President. The stated goals of the Act were “(1) strengthen and centralize Congress' budget authority; (2) reduce the President's impoundment authority.” Shutdown is the name of the procedure that is used if agreement on funding the budget is not reached, but the entire government is never shutdown.

The Senate filibuster rules also come into play. In 1970, when Democrats were in the majority in the Senate, they changed the Senate filibuster rules. Since then senators can filibuster without holding the floor, which means any senator can stop any bill. Democrats also changed the rules to allow a sixty senator majority to stop a filibuster. (They had a sixty-one seat majority at the time.) In summary, the arrogance of liberal Democrats wreaked havoc on the budget process and we've all been paying for it ever since. But it's not just the budget. It now takes sixty votes to pass almost every bill in the Senate.

Prior to 2018, there were eighteen shutdowns. Due to the issues and the fact that Democrats controlled the House during the first fifteen (all appropriations bills must originate in the House), I believe liberal Democrats were at fault. You may disagree based on the issues. That's fair. Read them

Another segment that is now eligible for Medicaid are those adults who are acting as caregivers for a family member not a dependent child. A woman I met a few years ago fits into this category. She was forced to leave her full time job when her husband was diagnosed with cancer and her elderly father moved in with her. Caring for a sick husband and an elderly father was a full time job in itself, but did not offer any health insurance. Her husband and father had coverage through Medicare, but she was uninsured before the 2014 expansion of Medicaid.

Another fact is that Medicaid eligibility is fluid, constantly changing as circumstances and income dictate. Someone may be eligible for Medicaid, then get a full time job where their income makes them ineligible for Medicaid. On the other side of that coin, someone may lose a job and become eligible for Medicaid.

I know much of this from experience. I used to work at a county welfare office in another part of Ohio where a major part of my job was to determine eligibility for Medicaid. That was more than forty years ago. But currently I work among low income Medicare beneficiaries and meet many people who are on Medicaid. Determining eligibility for Medicaid includes verifying one's income and assets

In short, the additional costs of enforcing a Medicaid work requirement may exceed the benefits gained from eliminating some people from the program. Then those people cut off from Medicaid would still need medical care and they would be uninsured. There would be the additional costs and burden on our health care facilities for more uncompensated Medical care.

Access to health care should be a basic right of citizenship and not subject to any test of whether they “deserve it”. This is how other developed countries view access to health care, so why not the United States? If this country is to become truly great, access to basic health care should be considered as a basic right of citizenship.



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# IMPRESSIONS

## Interesting Events Of The Past And Today

by Kenneth Lavelle

Many interesting events have been held in Parma Heights Village. One event was the Ohio field hunting championship trials for pointer dogs. On October 29, 1936 a four-day event was held beginning at the Parma Heights (horse) Riding Academy located at 6321 Pearl Road. Area Judges, dog owners along with spectators rode horses across rural farm land in Parma Heights, Middleburg, and Brookpark Villages on a nineteen mile course. It was very common for area farmers to allow hunters to track small animals that lived on their property.

Today, deer are allowed to be hunted by bow hunters during deer season with permission from land

owners, local Police Chiefs, in the Cities of Parma, Broadview Heights and North Royalton. Hunting is done from tree stands on private property where signs are posted to protect public during daylight hours. An application with two permits are required: one from the specific city and the other permit issued by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The white tailed deer is the official State of Ohio animal. At the moment, there are no registered and certificated bow hunters in Parma Heights who hunt white tailed deer since hunting is allowed only on private property parcels consisting of five acres or more. Many private land parcels in the City of Parma Heights are less than five acres.

## Regarding Shutdowns And Rational Thinking

continued from page 8

and decide for yourself. I will say that in five of them, a Democrat was President and both houses were controlled by Democrats, including a sixty seat majority in the Senate.

The next two occurred while Clinton was President and Republicans controlled the House. The issue was the House demanded a balanced budget. Clinton refused. The shutdown ended when Clinton agreed to a seven year time-table for balancing the bud-

get. He was reelected and, using the time-table, the budget was balanced in his second term. And ever since, Clinton has taken credit for balancing the budget.

The 2013 shutdown occurred because Republicans refused to fund the ACA. The ACA is a bad law. But good or bad, funding an existing law is a separate issue and for that reason the Republicans were rightly blamed for the 2013 shutdown. But at least what

continued on page 10



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AREA WIDE EVENTS

# News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

The Parma Hts. Police And Community Together (P.A.C.T.) community policing unit is alive and well. Officers are making progress knocking on doors, introducing themselves to residents and where appropriate informing/offering to enroll folks in a “Knock and Talk” seniors’ welfare check type program; the Youth Group continues to grow & meets on a regular basis for fun events/activities or for discussion of relevant topics. Find various sign-up documents for these programs and follow the unit’s progress at [www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police](http://www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police).

Do you have a middle or high school student/s interested in participating in a talent show where the first three contestants can win scholarships in the amount \$2,500, \$1,500 & \$1,000 respectively? Visit this Prevention Action Alliance web site for details: <https://preventionactionalliance.org/oigt/>. Submissions are due by Feb 28th.

Have you registered your BEST OF PARMA vote yet? Visit the inaugural Best of Parma 2017 web site - <http://www.allofherdesign.com/best-of-parma.html> & register your vote for THE BEST.... in over 40 categories.

Nominations began on Dec 13th & will continue through Jan 31st; voting will begin Feb 1st though Mar 1st with winners announced Friday Mar 9th.

Some “Save-the-Dates” from PECPTA (Parma Early Childhood PTA)...

PECPTA Wing Ding is February 3 at Zigs \$25 per person all you can eat/drink and a portion of the proceeds support the PECPTA Sarah Kyker Scholarship.

PECPTA Spring Resale Saturday March 24, 8-1pm at Parma Senior High School. Tables go on Sale February 24 at [www.pecpta.org](http://www.pecpta.org).

Some FYI’s from Parma City Schools....

Focus on the Future – To stay current & learn more about this planning initiative view/download a copy of InFocus the initiative’s newsletter, at [www.parmacityschools.org/future](http://www.parmacityschools.org/future).

Stay connected to PCSD by downloading their new mobile app. It’s free & available for both Android & Apple devices. Go to the appropriate “Store”, search Parma City School District, select & install. It’s well designed, intuitive, with an up-to-date storehouse of information.

The next Superintendent’s Open Door Session is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 7th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the district’s Admin Offices at Parma Sr H.S.

From the Parma Area Family Collab / Tri-City MyCom....

The Collab’s next Mobile Food Pantry will be Thursday, February 8th. 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 web site at <http://familycollaborative.com/> for additional details on services offered and volunteer opportunities. While there, make your voice heard & click on links to either or both the PAFC Satisfaction or Neighborhood surveys.

From the Parma Branch Library (Powers Blvd.) special events....

Cleveland Music School Settlement: Every Tuesday in February at 6:00 p.m. Grades 1-3.

Music therapists will help students review key literacy concepts through the use of books, musical instruments, singing, listening, simple composition and movement experiences. Registration required, at <https://tinyurl.com/musicsettlement>.

January’s issue of the Project Aware e-newsletter has all kinds of information/links useful for parents, their kids as well as teachers. Rather than trying to extract & re-print the information, visit this web site to review at your leisure: <https://tinyurl.com/y8wypstc>. Well worth a look-see!

## Barefoot In The Park Opens At Cassidy Theatre February 2

by Rick Haase

The Cassidy Theatre will present its production of the Neil Simon classic, “Barefoot in the Park,” from February 2-18, 2018.

The first production of the Cassidy’s 2018 season, the play includes the following cast members, directed by Dan Sekanic:

Katie Corie	Simon	Atkinson
Louis Petrucci .....	Paul	
Dave Hopkins .....	Repairman	
Mike Kunikis .....	Velasco	
Marybeth Orr .....	Mother	
Production staff includes	Stage	

Assistant Steve DeLuca, Prop master Louis Petrucci, Stage Manager Jen Sindyla and Sekanic.

Here’s a brief synopsis of the show:

Paul and Corie Bratter are newlyweds in every sense of the word. He’s a straight-as-an-arrow lawyer and she’s a free spirit always looking for the latest kick. Their new apartment is her most recent find – too expensive with bad plumbing and in need of a paint job. After a six-day honeymoon, they get a surprise visit from Corie’s loopy mother and decide to play matchmaker during a dinner with their neighbor-in-the-attic, Velasco, where everything

that can go wrong, does. Paul just doesn’t understand Corie, as she sees it. He’s too staid, too boring, and she just wants him to be a little more spontaneous. Running “barefoot in the park” would be a start.

"The mission of Cassidy Theatre is to enrich the multicultural life of the Greater Cleveland area by providing a diverse theatre arts program that entertains, informs and educates."

For tickets or more information, call 440.842.4600 or visit [www.cassidytheatre.com](http://www.cassidytheatre.com)

## Regarding Shutdowns And Rational Thinking

continued from page 9

the Republicans wanted in 2013 was about funding the budget. What the Democrats want in the 2018 has nothing to do with the budget.

So, for example, when people like Schumer say the shutdown was the Republicans fault because they hold the Presidency and control Congress, it's spin because Republicans don't have a sixty seat majority in the Senate. But let's forget about all the liberal elite spin for a moment because this issue goes much deeper.

People are sick to death of all the side deals, double deals, spin, lies and finger-pointing that make Washing-

ton the “swamp.” Draining it was what Trump campaigned on and it struck a chord with voters. If a bill is about funding, it should pass or fail on its own merits and delaying it due to a side issue is a good example of why people voted for Trump.

During the 2013 shutdown, Obama said: "You don't like a particular policy or a particular president? Then argue for your position. Go out there and win an election." That's what Republicans did. But instead of arguing their position, liberal Democrats have chosen to attack Trump personally and create problems they hope they can blame on him. That's what the shutdown was really about. Liberal

Democrats shut down the government in hopes of blaming it on Trump and when they saw it wasn't working they passed the same funding they refused to pass prior to the shutdown.

The real problem facing this country is that the liberal elite who run the Democratic Party are so eaten up by an all-consuming hatred of Trump for winning the election they have become too irrational to even understand that what they're doing is exactly what got Trump elected. They keep saying it and doing it and all the little liberals who can't or won't accept reality just keep repeating it and rooting them on. And the end result of all their nonsense could easily be Trump's reelection. God help us all.

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FRESH IDEAS

Young Professionals Of Parma To Plan Over Paczkis

by Kathie Zipp

Now in its second year, the Young Professionals of Parma is looking to increase participation and awareness of the group and its mission. To achieve these goals, the group will host a meeting, which will take place Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m. at the Parma Ridge library. Attendees are invited to

enjoy paczkis from Rudy's Strudel and Bakery while learning more about the group and opportunities to participate in its various committees, including Volunteering & Philanthropy, Business Engagement, Political Advocacy & Community Development and Social & Events.

The group invites anyone interested in learning more about its mission or interested in getting involved to attend. The group focuses on engaging with people ages 20 to 40 but all ages are welcome to come to the meeting. In conjunction with the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, Young Professionals of Parma looks to serve the interests of young professionals in Parma and the Parma area including Seven Hills and Parma Heights. Living or working in Parma is not a requirement to attend the meeting or become involved in the group. Anyone who has a passion for Parma or interest in the city is encouraged to attend.

"As we enter our second year, we really want to reignite interest in the

group and make sure people understand what we're about and what our goals are," said Jackie Baraona, YPOP president. "We want to be more than a social group. We're trying to become a non-profit and we've established committees to launch some of our other initiatives. But we need more people to support our efforts to take the group to the next level."

Young Professionals of Parma's mission is to strengthen the community of Parma through networking, activism and local pride. Wife and husband Jackie and Bill Baraona founded the group in July 2016. Learn more about the event and group on [parmayps.com](http://parmayps.com)

Visit Tri-C's Western Campus On Presidents Day



Tri-C Western Campus

by John Horton

The Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host a visitation day for prospective students on Presidents Day (Monday, Feb. 19), with sessions starting at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The day provides an opportunity to discuss academic programs with faculty and counselors; learn more about enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; discover the variety of student services available; and explore the buildings.

Registration is requested for the program, which includes an informational meeting and campus and classroom tours. This free event is open to the public, with free onsite parking available.

Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Tri-C will also be hosting visits at four other sites on Presidents Day, including:

- Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills: 11 a.m.
- Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland: noon and 1 p.m.
- Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information or to register at any of the five locations, go to [www.tri-c.edu/visit](http://www.tri-c.edu/visit) or call 216-987-5179.

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