

Springtime is the land awakening.  
The March winds are the morning yawn.”- Lewis Grizzard

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Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter

## Is Positive About The State Of The City

by Jeannie Roberts

In his seventh State of the City address Monday evening, Mayor Tim DeGeeter touted Parma as a great location for people looking for a safe community and a good quality of life. During his speech at the Sheet Metal Workers Local #33, DeGeeter also highlighted Parma as a city on the rebound and highlighted rising housing values. “Over the past three years, our housing values have increased by 25 percent,” he said. “In 2017 alone, those values jumped 6.6 percent. The median sales price is now nearly \$107,000 – up from a low of \$85,000 in 2015.”

Beyond the housing market, DeGeeter also focused on Parma’s record as one of the safest cities its size, citing recent rankings from security companies. SafeHome.org ranked Parma as the second safest city in the state and alarms.org listed the community among the Top 50 safest municipalities in the country. “Not only



are these rankings a testament to the hard work of our police officers, but they also speak to our residents who do their part by reporting crimes and suspicious activities to help protect their neighborhoods,” he said.

DeGeeter also pro-

moted Parma’s diverse neighborhoods – from Polish and Ukrainian villages to the West Creek-Quarry District. And he pointed out the impact of the Shoppes at Parma’s more than \$90 million redevelopment. “The tens

of millions of dollars spent in this transformation also has spurred development in the area of Ridge Road, Day Drive, and West Ridgewood,” he said. “And we’re seeking to seize upon this opportunity. We’re creating a Town Center Strategic Master plan – with help from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission – to harness and incorporate all that is offered in this vital part of our community.”

In addition to The Shoppes at Parma, the mayor showcased Parma’s access to health care, touting University Hospitals’ Parma Medical Center and the MetroHealth Medical Center. “Where other cities have lost access to health care – whether through the closing of a hospital or the elimination of programs – Parma’s health care options are growing,” DeGeeter said. “What great assets we have here.”

DeGeeter also provided background on the city’s streets program to rebuild and repair Parma’s aging infrastructure. He described the financial challenges in tackling more than 500 lane miles of roads in the city – particularly in light of the loss of \$27.5 million in state funding since 2009. “Yet, we’re making strides by tak-

ing a fiscally-disciplined and systematic approach, and leveraging hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in state and federal dollars through low-interest loans and grants,” he said. “Last year, Parma invested more than \$6 million in major improvement to 29 streets.” DeGeeter also cited additional private-sector investment as a sign of Parma’s strengthening economy, including the long-awaited PITT OHIO project in front of the former GM Powertrain building. When finished, the company, according to DeGeeter, expects to initially employ 180 workers with a payroll of about \$7 million. But, he said, PITT OHIO could employ a total of 240 people at the proposed trucking terminal.

DeGeeter finished the address by focusing on two different residents. One, Ken Ehlert, who has spent a lifetime serving the public good in so many ways, and another, Christine Vodicka, who despite having enormously challenging health issues, has still managed to operate a successful tutoring business and learning center, while chasing dozens of dreams and being an absolute inspiration to everyone she meets.

## Marching Into Spring In Parma Heights

by Mike Byrne

The calendar tells us that spring officially arrives later this month on Tuesday, March 20. It’s also a time when things naturally get more busy in our community. People start spending more time outdoors in our city parks and in the Cleveland Metroparks which run right through the middle of Parma Heights. We start actively planning for our many summer activities like the annual “Kids in the Commons” weekend, held each August, along with the Ohio Flags of Honor program, which honors those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention beginning to prepare for our Youth and community recreation programs, including baseball, softball, tennis and learn-to-swim lessons.

But just like the rest of the year, Parma Heights continues to be a place where good things

are continuously happening.

**Here are some upcoming things worthy of sharing with you:  
BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND T-BALL REGISTRATION**

For your convenience, you can visit the city of Parma Heights website – [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) -- to register online for baseball, softball and T-ball.

Online registration will be available through April 12. Registrations are also accepted at Parma Heights City Hall at 6281 Pearl Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. After April 12, a late fee of \$10 will be assessed.

In-person registration for these programs will take place from 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays March 3 and 10 at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road.

If you have questions, please contact our Recreation

Department at 440.884.9606, or via e-mail at [recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov).

**POLICE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER (P.A.C.T.) PROGRAM  
TOWN HALL MEETING: COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the Parma Heights. Police And Community Together (P.A.C.T.) Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, from 7- 9 p.m. at Cassidy Theater 6200 Pearl Rd.

Representatives from the Parma Area Family Collaborative, Tri-City Parma Area MyCom, Young Professionals of Parma, and the Parma Heights Library will share information and answer questions regarding the many services they provide to adult and youth residents.

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## A Note From The Publisher

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In this edition of the Parma Observer, we are offering our readers something different: a new column from Rick Haase, a name familiar to many of you for his many years as a print journalist in the communities we serve. Haase will bring his inimitable writing style as a columnist to our pages each month, where he is already a regular contributor in his job handling public relations and special projects for the city of Parma Heights.

The column will focus exclusively on what’s happening in - and the people of the City of Parma Heights.

Haase, a long-time local reporter, has garnered numer-

ous local and national awards for his writing and has interviewed hundreds of celebrities, politicians, and many everyday people, each with their own story to tell. He’s lunched with Oscar winners Halle Berry and Elizabeth Taylor, and bowled with former First Lady Barbara Bush (at Parma Heights’ Yorktown Lanes), to bring you exclusive scoops and unforgettable stories. His experiences and expertise provide a unique perspective that you won’t want to miss. We hope you will enjoy it.

If you have information you’d like to see featured, you can email it to: [haase@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:haase@parmaheightsoh.gov).



COMMUNITY NEWS



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

# The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

As I mentioned in last month’s issue, I have a huge announcement to make about a project I have had in the works for months. This project illustrates my deep love for Parma and everything about it. It will also give everyone who feels the way I do a space to illustrate our deep pride for our community.

So, with no further ado, I am officially announcing that I am spearheading a program to raise funds to create and place a script Parma sign somewhere in the city. My wife, Deena, our kids and I love the script Cleveland

signs that have popped up in recent years and have family photos at all of them. Our many visits to the Cleveland signs inspired me to bring the idea to Parma. So, I have been working with Signature Sign Company – the creator of the Cleveland signs - to request that they provide me with some artist renderings of script Parma signs

The folks at Cleveland Sign were very excited by my request and have produced some really exciting script Parma sign renditions. The next steps involve inviting the community to get behind the project to help make it come to life.

This will require finding a location for the sign and raising the necessary funds, as no taxpayer dollars will be used. In fact, we will need to raise approximately \$15,000 to cover the costs of the project. I am excited to say that fundraising is already well underway and very successful, as I already have some generous commitments. I am also seeking suggestions regarding where the best location would be for the sign.

My hope is that this will only be the first of several script Parma signs that I would like to see around town. I believe the signs will inspire more pride in the community and encourage people from outside of the community to visit Parma and learn what all we have

# West Creek Conservancy Holds Board Elections, Welcomes New Board Member

by Liz Hersh

West Creek Conservancy announces the recent election of a new member to its Board of Directors and the re-election of four incumbent board members. New director John

Daters is Director of Digital Strategy at Ripple Effect Interactive in Cleveland.

“John brings great insight from the digital marketing arena,” notes Board Chair Jeff Lennartz. “With his input, we look forward to strengthening our

ability to connect with more people in better ways.”

John joins re-elected directors Barbara Hermes, retired safety professional from Sherwin-Williams, Maria Curcio, Accountant at Hyland Software, Eric Sluss, Project Manager at Sage Inc., and Irene Toth, retired English teacher from Parma City School System, and the eight seated directors to make up the 2018 Board.

If you are interested in serving on the West Creek Conservancy Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone, please contact Board Development Committee Chair Eric Sluss at 216.749.3720 or ericmssluss@yahoo.com.

# Seeking Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) For Youth

by Michele Blazina

CASA of Cuyahoga County, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, recruits, screens, trains, and supports volunteers who act as independent fact-finders for the court in cases involving child abuse and neglect. CASAs collect information that helps the judge make the best decision for a safe, caring, and permanent home for children involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. CASAs are everyday citizens who are trained and appointed by the court to advocate for the safety and well-being of children who are victims of abuse or neglect. CASAs are assigned at the earliest stages of a case, and continue to be an advocate for the child through their time in the court system. CASAs work collaboratively with all parties on the case, for the best interests of children. CASAs are only assigned to 1-2 cases at a time and spend approximately 10 hours a month on a case.

The CASA is responsible for the investigation, facilitation, advocacy, and monitoring of the assigned child's case of abuse, neglect, and/or dependency to represent the child's best



interests. Volunteer Requirements: At least 21 years of age; have access to transportation; pass screening; complete training; respect and relate to people of various backgrounds; gather and record factual information

accurately; communicate effectively; maintain objectivity/perspective; work within established program policies and procedures and accept supervision from program staff.

Take a stand ~ Make a difference ~ Change a life ~ Get involved today!

Those interested in becoming a CASA, visit [www.cfadvocates.org](http://www.cfadvocates.org) to apply or call 216.443.3377 for more information.

to offer. I truly believe the signs can help prime economic development. For instance, I envision people coming out to visit a sign, take a few snapshots, then do a little shopping and have a meal. I also hope prospective business owners will visit and find that Parma is a great location to do business.

I am really hoping that every Parma resident will show their pride in our fine city by making a donation at the project’s fundraising page at [www.gofundme.com/scriptparma](http://www.gofundme.com/scriptparma). You may also contribute by check to The Parma Charitable Fund, 6306 Hampstead Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44129. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Residents may also make location suggestions at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFS7NBK> or mail them in. You may contact me regarding any questions at 440-885-8091 or [councilmanbrennan@msn.com](mailto:councilmanbrennan@msn.com). Thanks in advance for your show of pride in our Parma!



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Shares Advancements In Stroke Care At International Gathering Of Neurologists

by CJ Sheppard

Innovative approaches to expediting care for stroke patients were shared by University Hospitals neurologists at the recent International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles. Neurologist John Andrefsky, MD, of UH Parma Medical Center, told the international audience about the success of the telestroke program piloted at UH Parma – the first program of its kind in Ohio. UH provided training and equipment to Parma Fire Department paramedics to livestream their stroke assessments from the field to the ER physician. By watching the pre-hospital assessment, the ER can alert pharmacy to mix clot-busting medicine and ensure the CT scanner is clear for the incoming patient.

Dr. Andrefsky told the audience of neurologists that telestroke has dra-

Marching Into Spring In Parma Heights

continued from page 1

KNOCK-AND-TALK PROGRAM

The Parma Heights Police Department's Police and Citizens Together (P.A.C.T.) unit is taking a proactive step to help the aging population through its new Knock-and-Talk program.

"In our opinion, it's important that senior citizens in our community have a direct line of communication with the police department and law enforcement," said Patrolman Jack Darnell.

"We have found that senior citizens are especially targeted, be it certain types of financial types of crimes, fraud and different kind of scams."

The impetus behind the Knock-and-Talk program came from a training session attended by Darnell. The idea is for residents to sign up for a police officer visit to provide an update on what's happening in the community, as well as hear about what issues seniors are dealing with in their lives.

"We feel that if there was a more regular presence of law enforcement in their life - stopping by once a month to visit, reminding them these are the scams going on - we can help prevent some crimes, while at the same time they can explain to us this is going on in our neighborhood," Darnell said.

The program also targets seniors without family and friends in the area who would like to welcome police officers into their homes for a visit. Currently, the P.A.C.T. unit has divided the city into four zones, with eight officers participating.

Knock-and-Talk is a part of P.A.C.T., which last year received a community policing grant of \$25,000 from Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Systems, providing funds for man-hours, events and supplies.

OPEN SWIM AT VALLEY FORGE HIGH SCHOOL

Read the rest of this story online at: <http://parmaobserver.com>

matically reduced the door-to-needle times for stroke patients. Like door-to-balloon (D2B) times that measure how long it takes to open occluded cardiac vessels in heart attack patients, the D2N times mark the time from the 9-1-1 call to inserting the needle in the ED that delivers clot-busting medicine to stop a stroke. "Preliminary analysis shows that field telestroke helps us evaluate stroke patients more quickly and with greater accuracy in order to expedite treatment at UH Parma and transfer for interventions, if necessary," Dr. Andrefsky said. UH's comprehensive stroke system also has had a significant impact on the American Heart Association's new 24-hour stroke reperfusion window. New guidelines for the treatment of acute ischemic strokes, the most common kind, also were announced at the conference.

Neurologist Cathy Sila, MD, Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center at UH Cleveland Medical Cen-



UH worked with the City of Parma and other area fire departments to train paramedics on advanced stroke protocols. UH also provided iPads so paramedics could livestream their stroke assessments to the ER doctor, expediting treatment upon arrival at the hospital.

ter, presented on brain imaging from the landmark DAWN Trial. This trial lengthened the critical window during which stroke patients could be treated

with mechanical thrombectomy using a device designed to remove a blood clot from a brain artery obstructing blood flow to the brain. Although time is always important in treating acute stroke patients, the DAWN trial has shifted the focus to identifying other patients who could clinically recover with low risk of reperfusion injury when treated with mechanical thrombectomy. Dr. Sila and her team looked at other imaging modalities beyond CT scans to determine if there was an advantage to patient outcomes.

"The DAWN trial proved that there are some stroke patients whose brain injury progresses slowly," said Dr. Sila, adding that neurologists also have access now to advanced neuroimaging such as special MRI and CT scans. "These patients can benefit from mechanical thrombectomy by reversing their stroke and preventing stroke progression in the face of a large intracranial artery occlusion."

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7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma, Ohio 44129





# OBSERVER

## Pleasant Lake Villa Offers Hospitality Assistant Opportunities For Students

by Sharon Santoli

Pleasant Lake Villa, is a 5 star, deficiency free skilled nursing facility that offers physical, occupational and speech therapy. Along with respiratory therapy, cardiac and nephrology programs are available for short term and long term patients. A medical model assisted living provides compassionate and individualized care tailored to meet the unique care and daily living needs of each resident. Pleasant Lake Villa is proud to be serving the Parma community and schools for the past 30 years. Throughout the years, Pleasant Lake Villa has offered various opportunities for students from Normandy, Padua, Valley Forge and Strongsville High Schools help enrich the lives of our residents.

Currently, we have opportunities for students who are interested in becoming a Hospitality Assistant. In this role, students get a chance to see how they can make a difference in the lives of seniors in the long term care field. This is a chance for students to work with residents while at the same time getting exposure to nursing, phys-



Autumn Zink

ical, occupational and speech therapy as well as the recreation department.

Our residents are so excited to be able to have the opportunity to connect with the students in the community. Hospitality Assistants spend time with residents one on one by conversing about a favorite story the resident would like to share. They also put a big smile and brighten their day when they come in to deliver items such as flowers to their rooms.

Hospitality Assistant, Autumn Zink, a student at Valley Forge; stated

she has enjoyed the residents sharing stories of their journey thru life. She felt the stories made her feel more involved and closer to the residents. Autumn said she is looking forward to coming to work as it made her feel a sense of accomplishment and joy being able to spend time with residents and provide care to them. Residents feel the Hospitality Assistants show their true enthusiasm when they share their stories with them. Her future educational goal is to become a software Developer.

As a Hospitality Assistant, Dominic Roschival, a student at Padua High School, was excited to have the opportu-



Justin Weaver

nity to visit and provide socialization to the residents. He said working at Pleasant Lake Villa has enhanced his compassion and understanding of those he cares for. His future goals are to attend Georgetown University and study law.

Hospitality Assistant Justin Weaver, a student at Normandy High School stated that he enjoys the opportunity in assisting our residents with their daily needs, attending and assisting our resident's with various recreational activities, and most of all, reminiscing with our residents about their many life-long accomplishments. Justin feels that he has become a part of an extended family at Pleasant Lake Villa.



Dominic Roschival

## Cleveland Heritage Museum Provides Off-Season Baseball Balm

by Harry Peck

Bill Veeck, Indians owner during the 1948 World Series championship season, understood passionate baseball fans. "There's two seasons," he once said. "Winter and baseball."

It was February 10. My son Brad and I, having had enough winter and craving some baseball, headed to the Baseball Heritage Museum, on Cleveland's east side. The museum is part of League Park, in the park's original ticket booth. League Park was home to the Cleveland Indians, the old Cleveland Rams of the NFL and the Cleveland Buckeyes, a 1945 Negro League championship baseball team. If you love baseball and its history, go to this museum. Memorabilia abounds.

A statue of Elmer Flick catches the eye as we entered. Flick, Bedford native and hall of famer, played for the Cleveland Naps, in the 1900s. It is said that the team rejected a Ty-Cobb-for-Elmer-Flick trade offer! An oversized bat and glove, draw attention. So do the baseball trading cards, vintage sets sponsored by Our Guy Cigars and Pharoahs Choice. "The mission of the museum," reads the website "is to preserve and present the history of diversity in baseball by entertaining, educating, and enlightening the visiting public about the multicultural heritage of baseball and the values it represents."

The collection illustrates that mission. Team photos of the Cleveland Buckeyes, Homestead Grays and the Kansas City Monarchs give props to the Negro League. Other photos tell of Caribbean teams and the significant Latin American contribution



Elmer Flick and Brad Peck. Cleveland once rejected a straight up Ty Cobb-for-Elmer Flick trade with Detroit.

to the big leagues, as do a Santurce (Puerto Rico) jersey and an Al Lopez-signed baseball. Barnstoming teams, women's baseball, Cleveland Sandlot baseball and Jewish ball players all receive their due.

Cleveland's sandlot baseball roots show in a photo of a mammoth baseball crowd. The poster reads "National Intra-City Championship Game, White Autos 11 - Omaha Lexus 6.

Sunday, October 10, 1915. Estimated figure 115,000. Brookside Stadium" (This stadium is now Cleveland Metroparks Brookside. Controversy over actual crowd size still exists as attendance was free.) The Wenhams Truckers, a dominant industrial league squad, in an era of company-sponsored teams, made headlines in Cleveland sports pages into the 1970s. Echos of those great teams and some headlines survive in this collection.

Special programming aids in the nod to women in baseball on March 24th with "You Can't Play Ball in a Skirt!" a portrayal of Alta Weiss, who paid for medical school by playing professional baseball in the early 1900s. Actor Anne McAvoy tells this in character. An "All America Girls Baseball 1943-54" sticker reminds of the league made famous by Geena Davis and Tom Hanks in "A League of Their Own."

On April 12th, meet co-author Bob Weschler, whose book "The Jewish Baseball Card" is a definitive chronicle of Jews in baseball, detailing 170 major league Jewish players 1871 through 2016. Collections efforts are on-going: witness the museum's fund raising effort to purchase the ball

Babe Ruth hit for home run # 456, 90 years ago June 7, 2018. The Babe belted 46 at League Park.

In 1997, during the MLB All-Star game week in Cleveland, museum founder Robert Zimmer planned to attract customers to his jewelry store on East 4th by displaying Negro League artifacts. Overwhelming customer reaction converted baseball history into Zimmer's passion. He now serves as museum president.

En route to the museum, Brad & I passed Progressive Field. The count down sign said "Only 58 days until Opening Day!"

The Baseball Heritage Museum can help survive that wait.

For more info, the website is [www.baseballheritagemuseum.org](http://www.baseballheritagemuseum.org)

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## PCSD

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #99

by Gene Lovasy

**March's Asset Category: SOCIAL COMPETENCIES.** Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they're even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life. Young people who can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations are more likely to avoid risky behaviors and focus on positive attitudes. Research shows the more personal skills young people have to interact with others and make decisions, the more likely they are to grow up healthy.

**This month's column will focus on: Asset 32: Planning & Decision Making**

**Decisions, decisions . . .**

Wear a blue shirt or a red shirt? Try to fit in or create your own style? Go out with so-and-so or find a way to say "No thanks"? Watch some

TV or do homework first? Young people make a lot of decisions every day. Some are easy, others difficult, and still others just plain irritating. But all of these decisions are good practice for their future as they learn how to take more control of their lives. Best of all, when young people start connecting the choices they make today with their futures (goals, dreams, ideas for jobs), the better they'll get at actually planning for what they want.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who learn to make good decisions and plan ahead do better in school, are less likely to engage in drinking, smoking, or using other drugs, and are better able to accomplish more of what they want. Only about 29 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they know how to plan ahead and make choices, according to Search Institute surveys. Show young people different strategies to effectively plan ahead and make healthy decisions.

**Tips for building this asset**

Encourage young people to keep a daily "to do" list and check off items as they complete the tasks. Allow room for mistakes, but avoid rescuing them from the consequences. Celebrate

progress and accomplishments in planning and decision making.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Talk with your child about how you make decisions. Have you changed your approach over time? Invite your child to help with making a decision or plan a family event.



by Jean Micklewright

**February Highlights Three area youth attended Advocacy Day 2018 at the Statehouse in Columbus on February 22.**

Youth met with the legislative aides for Senators Bob Hackett and Mike Skindell and advocated for more funding for both before and after school programming. After listening to a keynote speaker while at lunch in the atrium, youth went on a guided tour of the statehouse.

**Looking Ahead**

Through youth surveys, Parma Tri-City MyCom area youth identified a gap in homework help and tutoring for high school students. College Colleagues, a local business, and MyCom

In your neighborhood and community: Invite local young people to help plan and organize a neighborhood party or potluck.

In your school or youth program: On the board or using newsprint, make two columns. Write Decision above one column, Future above the other. Have each young person list a decision he or she needs to make, then rank how connected (1 = low, 5 = high) it is to a future goal or plan (grades, college, jobs). Discuss.

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.

have collaborated to provide a solution for youth.

**FREE WALK– IN TUTORING:** Grades 9 – 12, Thursdays from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, March 1 – May 1, 2018.

**College Colleagues is inside Parkway Centre –** 6887 Smith Rd. #2, Middleburg Hts., Oh 44130 [www.collegecolleagues.net](http://www.collegecolleagues.net) 216-978-6524

**Maker Club –** Beginning March 21, Parma Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. will host a Maker Club for grades 5th-8th graders on Wednesdays from 4:15 – 5:30pm. This is offered in partnership with OhioGuidestone through a grant with Starting Point.

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INSPIRATION

My Alaskan Adventure

by Lizabeth Braskie

A recent trip to Alaska proved to be a remarkable experience for me. Invited by my son, Mike and his two teenage children, Jessica and Joey, we flew to Anchorage where our wonderful journey began. We spent two days in this flowering city where the environment seemed to welcome us. We enjoyed the visitor center and went to watch a movie to acquaint ourselves with this marvelous state. The important message we heard was to stay still if coming upon wildlife if in the open.

Our real adventure began when we rented a 30ft. Winnebago that would be our traveling home for almost three weeks. Most of our 2000 miles showcased the diversity of our 49th state which encompasses a staggering 600,000 square miles. From the rugged wilderness of Denali National Park to the quaint fishing villages of Homer, Seward and Valdez, we constantly were amazed at the kindness of the informative rangers and the laid-back residents. They all provided us with a growing respect for Alaska, and our constant amazement of its natural beauty.

The absence of billboards and litter made it easy to see the blooming fields, snow-capped mountains, cascading waterfalls and indigenous wildlife. Caribou were plentiful as were eagles, doll sheep and ptarmigans. We saw grizzlies and cubs through binoculars. We happened upon a cow moose and her calf coming out of the forest. We adhered to the warning we saw on the movie at the Anchorage information station. We stayed still while she walked near us then turned in the other direction.

Besides viewing glaciers and porpoises from aboard a tour boat, my favorite memory is of our guided rafting trip down the Gulkana River. We stopped several times to stand in rushing water wearing our waders, casting our lines and caught two king salmon – at midnight. It was an incredible and memorable adventure.

We'll always remember the unusual experiences, the friendly hospitality and the unique sightings that our Alaskan adventure provided. How appropriate that this state's flower is the forget-me-not.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo\

Giving children allowances is one way to begin teaching them how to save money and budget for the things they might want. It is not what we do not understand about the Bible that is a problem. It is what we do understand and do not do. Morality (rules of right and wrong) is indispensable to the maintenance of America; without it our country will collapse. Not all disabilities are physical or visible. It doesn't hurt to assume that everyone is hurting in one way or another.

Research tells us that the average adult needs seven to nine hours (more for children) of sleep nightly; our quality of life depends on it. Success is often that which we cannot spend (for example, the positive way our children describe us when they are talking with a friend). The Bible teaches that regardless of background, age, race, or any other factor, God loves everyone equally

and desires a genuine, personal relationship with us.

There are just two possible ways of life: God's way (good), expressed by His law of love, peace, and joy – the "give" way; and Satan's way (bad), as reflected in competition, greed, and violence – the "get" way. Those who still have parents should express their love and show respect while there still is time, for it is later than we think. We can all sense a mysterious connection to each other; therefore, it makes sense to practice "The Golden Rule." We, the people, must promote removing the changes in our culture that are destructive and replacing them with those that are constructive.

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

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NEIGHBORHOODS

# A Night At 'Club Cassidy' Coming April 28

by Rick Haase

A major benefit for our local community theatre is happening this spring and you'll want to be a part of it. "A Night at Club Cassidy," a benefit evening for the Cassidy Theatre will take place from 6-11 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at the Theatre, 6200 Pearl Road, in the Greenbrier Commons complex. The evening will raise funds to improve the theatre's lighting and sound systems and finance future production design. Honorary co-chairs of the benefit are Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne and Cassidy Theatre Managing Director Bob Stoesser. The evening will begin with cocktails and a Silent Auction with food stations and heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. in the newly-renovated community rooms on the lower level of the theatre, which will be transformed into a night-club atmosphere.

At 8 p.m. there will be a special production on the theatre's main stage with several terrific vocalists, and special V.I.P. on-stage seating (remember Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris on Playhouse Square)? Post show desserts and coffee will be enjoyed in the theatre lobby. Tickets are \$37.50 per person or \$75 per couple. Break out your cocktail attire.

The benefit planning committee – Amy Banner, Christine Hnat, Sharon



Joyce, Michael Larochelle, Kate Leigh Michalski, Tom Moran, Georgia Muttillio, Jean Peracchio, Louis Petrucci, Kenny Slaughter, Dan Tomon and Kristina Zielinski -- promises a good time will be had by all.

Many individuals who've been involved with the theatre since it opened in 1974 are being invited back for the evening, including former Managing Directors David Jecmen, Joe Tal, and Christine Hnat and husband Joe, the retired Parma Schools teacher and artist, who built many a Cassidy set, along with the city's former Recreation Director Tal and his wife, Mary

Beth, currently the Interim Director of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Seidman Cancer Center, and former Cassidy Technical Director Richard Moore, as well as theatre veteran Katie Del Vichio, the Greenbrier Middle School teacher and possessor of a powerhouse set of pipes.

Maureen Kyle, the WKYC-TV 3 reporter, will emcee the event. Kyle has a special and personal connection to the Cassidy Theatre. She is the granddaughter of the late Parma Heights Mayor Paul W. Cassidy, who founded the theatre in 1974 with wife, Elise. Kyle's father, St. Ignatius High School

Head Football Coach Chuck Kyle, will also be on hand along with his wife, Patricia Cassidy Kyle. We anticipate that the late Mayor's other children, Maureen Cassidy Foran, Michael Cassidy and Steven Cassidy also will attend.

Elise Cassidy, who resides at an extended care facility in Westlake, will turn 102 years young in April, but is unable to attend, her granddaughter said.

As there are 12 Cassidy grandchildren, the event could prove to be a bit of a Cassidy family reunion.

For reservations to the benefit, call the Cassidy Theatre Box Office at 440.842.4600.

MORE THEATRICAL FUN –Two alumni of Parma Heights' Cassidy Theatre – and it's well-known Youth Theatre program - are really making names for themselves in the show business world.

Corey Mach, who just finished starring as "Quasimodo" in the Hunchback of Notre Dame at both the Great Lakes Theatre Festival on Playhouse Square this past holiday season, as well as at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, is now playing "Harry," and understudying the lead role of "Charlie" in

Read the rest of this story online at: <http://parmaobserver.com>

MARTIN J. SWEENEY

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## March Update



With Cleveland Building Trades Exec. Secretary David Wondolowski & Parma's Parks & Rec. Dir. Mickey Vittardi (Above) & Parma's Local UAW 1005 (Below)



February is a short month full of action in the Statehouse. As your Representative, I testified in support of fair and full funding for our local schools. I am deeply concerned about proposed changes to limit cost of living adjustments for our service retirees as well as legislation to limit the rights of workers. On a positive note, I was able to help pass SJR 5, which will end politicians dividing communities for voting districts. This new law will make sure that Parma, Parma Hts. and Seven Hills are no longer divided amongst several congressional districts in the future.

Back home, we kept busy as well. I had the privilege of meeting with members of VFW Post 703 to listen about the needs of our veterans. Leadership from our own UAW 1005 in Parma as well as other unions met with me to express concerns about upcoming legislation.

As we move forward into March, be sure to have a safe and happy St. Patrick's day!

Yours Truly,  
Martin J. Sweeney



Testifying in Columbus in support of school funding (above) Meeting Parma's VFW Post 703 Commander Bill Schiffer (below)



State Representative  
MARTIN J. Sweeney

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## PERSPECTIVE

# Doing What's Right

*by Corbin Luna*

The International Monetary Fund was formed in 1944 to ensure exchange rate stability. Today it consists of 189 member countries “working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.” Each member country has a seat on the Board of Governors which elects a 24 member Executive Board to oversee the organization. The Managing Director since 2011 has been Christine Lagarde who was previously Minister of Economic Affairs, Finance and Employment in France.

One of the lesser known things the IMF does is audit member countries

“to identify potential risks to stability” and to recommend improvements the member countries can make. The results of their last audit of the U.S. was released June 27, 2017. Following are highlights of their recommendations with their comments regarding the basis for the recommendations:

Tax Reform – With one exception, they recommended what was done in the tax reform package that was passed. The exception was an additional recommendation to increase consumption taxes, e.g. an increase in the federal gasoline tax.

Rebuild Infrastructure - “Underinvestment in infrastructure has become a growing constraint on private sector productivity and long-term growth and job creation.”

Trade - "Further trade integration and the promotion of a level playing field in international trade, particularly in growth areas such as services, would offer important gains to the U.S. in terms of productivity, economic growth, and job creation."

Deregulation - “Simplification and streamlining of federal regulations as well as an effort to harmonize rules across states would likely boost efficiency and could stimulate job creation and growth.”

Immigration - “A comprehensive, skills-based reform of the immigration system has the potential to expand the labor force, improve the dependency ratio, and raise the average level of human capital.”

Stop the presses! Did I read that right? The IMF recommendations for the U.S. are exactly what Trump has done or proposed doing. Based on the

composition of the IMF and the fact that it's a recognized expert on the subjects it addresses, it's hard to argue that their recommendations are wrong or made for partisan political reasons. And liberals haven't. Instead, they have opposed what's best for the country by offering excuses. The most asinine of those excuses is DACA, which liberals used to shutdown the government and to oppose skills-based immigration reform.

To be clear, my personal opinion is that the people who were illegally brought here as children and became contributing members of our society should be given a pathway to citizenship. But since they have illegally benefited from this country for many years that pathway should include repaying that debt by first serving this country, e.g. by serving in our military. Then they should be placed at the end of the queue of people legally waiting for citizenship.

With that said, what makes DACA such an asinine excuse is that the liberal politicians who are using it to oppose doing what's best for the country are actually putting the interests of the citizens of other countries above the interests of the citizens of this country. After all, the so-called "dreamers" are citizens of other countries. As the IMF said, skills-based immigration benefits the citizens of this country. Besides, DACA has nothing to do with funding or immigration or any other policy issue. It is a separate issue of what to do with some people who are here illegally.

So why are liberal politicians opposed to what's good for this country? I suspect there are a number of reasons. They believe that opposing Trump will get them reelected and nobody will notice they did it at the expensive of the people who elected them. They are so consumed with hatred of Trump they don't recognize that what they are doing is detrimental to the country. Their hatred has made them so irrational that hurting the country is preferable to acknowledging that Trump is trying to do what's right for the country.

**Read the rest of this story online at:**  
**<http://parmaobserver.com>**

# What I Hear

*by William Subjoc*

Twelve year-old Parma resident Abdel Bashiti, an innocent bystander, was shot and killed in Cleveland on November 25, 2017. I did not know him or his family, and I saw very little in the news about Abdel himself. It seems he was shot, killed, and largely forgotten. The recent school massacre in Parkland, Florida, has generated a huge amount of national news about in-school safety. What is not being discussed is gun violence outside of schools.

Anyone who remotely follows the local news here in Cuyahoga County cannot say there is not a gun problem here, especially in Cleveland itself. Whether in print, online, or on the television news I continually hear about random street shootings, people being shot in their cars, drive-by shootings, and shootings into occupied houses.

So what do I hear about it? Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson tells law

abiding people “you don’t understand the culture.” What I hear is someone not only glorifying but being a champion of a lawless society by encouraging thug behavior.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson also continuously says “it is what it is.” What I hear is a politician saying he does not care and he is not going to do anything.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson recommends building dirt bike tracks for the illegal dirt bike riders. He also quickly signs off on monetary rewards for lawless behaviors without even attempting to fight it in court. What I hear is Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson creating a monetary profit for illegal dangerous behavior. The law abiding public be damned.

I see Parma Police cars all the time on Ridge Road running radar, stopping cars, and handing out tickets. The Parma Police Department spends an incredible amount of manpower

protecting Parma from the Cleveland lawbreakers. What I hear is the sound of approaching danger.

With all this violence in Cuyahoga County, I have wondered what Ohio Senator Rob Portman is doing about it. What I hear from U.S. Senator Rob Portman is – a statement about putting an age restriction on military assault rifles. What I hear from U.S. Senator Rob Portman regarding the hand guns used in the Cleveland streets – not much.

I understand U.S. Senator Rob Portman accepts money from the NRA. What I hear is another politician counting their blood dollars while actively making it easier for criminals to commit street crime and allowing school massacres to occur.

What do I hear from the law abiding public? Well, very little, perhaps they do not care. And twelve year-old Abdel Bashiti of Parma paid the ultimate price for this public indifference. Your child may very well be the next one.

There are March For Our Lives events on March 24th in Cleveland, Columbus, Washington D.C., and many other cities. Google it to find out more. Will your child be the next one to pay the ultimate price?



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# IMPRESSIONS

## Greetings From South Carolina

by Lee Kamps

I decided to take a break from the political issues and write a different kind of column this month. This past week I have been enjoying a much needed break from winter and work along the coast of South Carolina at Hilton Head. I have come here often and this region, the “low country” of coastal South Carolina is rich in history as well as a unique culture. I spent a day in Savannah Georgia, just across the border. Savannah is where the colony of Georgia was founded. The city has preserved its old historic district and it was the setting for the movie Forrest Gump back in the 1990s.

Nearby is the city of Beaufort, a charming southern city that has also preserved much of its ante bellum buildings. As the Civil War was drawing to a close, the people of Beaufort just surrendered to General Sherman’s army without a fight. As a result, the Union army bypassed Beaufort and spared the city. Beaufort has also been the setting of many movies including parts of Forrest Gump. In fact, the house of Forrest Gump is in Beaufort and it was also used as the house in the movie The Big Chill back in the 1980s.

Beaufort was also the home of author Pat Conroy whose novels

echo the charm and culture of the South Carolina “low country” (so named because of its low elevation at sea level). His books are largely autobiographical. His first novel was titled The Water is Wide which is based on his first job as the first white teacher in an all black school on Dafuskie Island, an undeveloped island near Hilton Head. That book was made into a movie titled Conrack starring John Voight back in the 1970s. Perhaps the best known book by Pat Conroy was The Prince of Tides which was made into a movie starring Barbara Striesand and Nick Nolte. Other books by Pat Conroy were The Lords of Discipline, The Great Santini and Beach Music. Pat Conroy was a graduate of The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina in Charleston. His father was a career Marine Sargent. Pat Conroy lived in Beaufort until his death in 2016 at the age of 70.

Dafuskie Island is a largely undeveloped island off Hilton Head and is the home of the “Gullah” culture, a mix of west African and English cultures. Dafuskie Island was once the home of cotton plantations, but the owners didn’t live there. As a result, the slaves as well as escaped slaves and free blacks settled on Dafuskie Island. The island

still does not have any bridge to the mainland and the roads there are still dirt roads.

It was 36 years ago this month that I was transferred from northern Ohio to Spartanburg South Carolina, so I actually lived in South Carolina briefly and got to know the people there. I found the people there to be very friendly and proud of their heritage. South Carolina is known as the state that led the secession that brought on the civil war and that event in our country’s history is a large part of South Carolina. But the state has progressed very much recently. There is much more industry, especially in the Greenville – Spartanburg area in the northwestern part of the state.

I was fortunate to have been born into a family that enjoyed travelling. My grandparents often took long vacations including a road trip to Yellowstone National Park back in a 1955 Chevy back when there were no air conditioned cars or interstate highways. I remember family vacations in our car to Niagara Falls and Washington DC as well as a road trip in a huge Chevy station wagon to the Rocky Mountains back in 1965.

In 2017, I was fortunate to do a lot of travelling throughout the United States. In January I was on

the gulfstream waters of Florida and in September I was in the redwood forests of California. In May I was in New York city at the Brooklyn Bridge. In July I was in northern Michigan at the Mackinac bridge and in September I was in San Francisco at the Golden Gate bridge. I have also visited the volcanoes of Hawaii, the coast of Maine, the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and the Pacific northwest.

Travelling throughout the United States gives one an appreciation of just how great this country is as well as its marvelous natural features. I have been on the top of a 14,000 feet peak in the Rockies, seen the Grand Canyon, the Yosemite Valley, the Hoh Valley rain forest of Washington state as well as the rocky coast of Maine. I have seen historic sites such as the Alamo in San Antonio, the battlefield of Gettysburg, the homes of many Presidents and the numerous sites in our nation’s capital.

I have also travelled outside of the United States as well. Travel broadens one’s horizons and makes one more cognizant of other cultures and regions. There is a big world outside Parma Ohio. All one needs to do is get out and see it.

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

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

by Gene Lovasy

• For residents of Parma Hts., plan on attending the Parma Hts. Police And Community Together (P.A.C.T.) community policing Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Cassidy Theater. Officers will report out on progress and representatives from the Parma Area Family Collaborative, Tri-City Parma Area MyCom, Young Professionals of Parma & the Parma Hts. Library will share information & answer questions regarding the many services they provide to residents (adults & youth) of our community. The next meeting of the PACT Unit’s Youth Group will be 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Wednesday, Mar 7th at Cassidy Theater. Find various sign-up documents for PACT Unit programs and follow its progress at [www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police](http://www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police)

• If you’re a local organization looking for data to support your program or justify a position, consider visiting NEOCANDO (<http://neocando.case.edu/>) for a suite of innovative data tools of CWRU’s Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development (the Poverty Center). There’s no charge to access the site but you do need to register. The site has recently been redesigned and is well worth a visit.

• Save the date....Cleveland Metroparks will be hosting its annual

job fair at Stillwater Place (event center at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo) on March 3rd and March 18th. The direct link to the job fair information is: [www.clevelandmetroparks.com/job-fair2018](http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/job-fair2018). Please share as appropriate.

• Go here [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/edit/edit02.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/edit/edit02.shtml) to view Education World’s list of “Every-Day Edits” for the month of February. There are some really clever exercises that you can have fun doing with your kids.

O By now you s/b aware of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Traveling Wall, a 360 foot, 80-percent scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. that will be installed on Tri-C’s Western Campus from June 28th through July 1st. To defray costs, in addition to individual donations, 4 levels of sponsorships, from \$500 to \$5,000 have been established. A significant cohort of volunteers is also required to help man tents and assist visitors to the wall, 24/7 through July 1st. Checks can be made payable to American Legion Post 703 and sent to Tom Mastroianni, 7263 Maplewood Rd., Parma, OH 44130. To volunteer, email [tmastroianni@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:tmastroianni@cityofparma-oh.gov) or call 440.885.8812. Additionally, a special Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/AVTTParma/> - has been created for the event. As it draws nearer, announcements will be made

regarding training, donation updates and associated events.

• Don’t forget about the free tutoring for 9th – 12th grade students being offered by College Colleagues. This local for-profit tutoring business (<http://collegecolleagues.net/>) has stepped up to offer two free hours of walk-in tutoring/coaching on a first come-first served basis beginning March 1st to May 10th, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, on Thursday evenings. Call 216.978.6524; email: [contact@collegecolleagues.net](mailto:contact@collegecolleagues.net) for more information. Also, keep in mind that Homework Help is available Mon – Thurs from 4 to 5:15 & 5:15 – 6:30 at the Parma Branch Library (Powers Blvd) for students in grades K – 8....for details: <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/homework.aspx>

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

**The Collab's next Mobile Food Pantry** will be Thursday, March 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.

**Keep in mind** that the Collab also hosts a Clothing Center every Thursday starting at 2:00 pm. And watch for information coming soon re: the Annual Belle of the Ball Boutique & Tax Prep svc. (call 211 to make an appointment), free Money Management Classes and a source for qualifying folks in need of furniture.

**Visit the Collab's** web site at <http://familycollaborative.com/> for additional details on available resources, services offered and volunteer opportunities. While there, make your voice heard & click on links to either or both the PAFC Satisfaction or Neighborhood surveys.

**Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)** summer and year-round employment registration is now open. Cuyahoga County 14 – 24-year-olds wishing to register can visit the Y.O.U. web site at [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org) and click on the “Registration” tab to get started. The sooner you register the greater your chances of getting selected.

Click on the “Employers” link If you have a business & would like to get involved.

• An FYI from Parma City Schools....

**Save-the Date: March 7 & 8 2018** – PCSD Kindergarten Registration for children age 5 by Sept 30th. Where: Parma Branch Library (Powers Blvd.); Times: 7:30 am – Noon & 2:00 – 7:00 am. Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/studentservices](http://www.parmacityschools.org/studentservices) for documents required.

**For folks interested** in the STEM program at Pleasant Valley Elementary, an Open House is planned for March 5th starting at 6:00 pm.

**Public schools students** who have participated or plan on participating in the College Credit Plus program must register by March 31st. To find out more about this opportunity visit this related ODE web page: <https://tinyurl.com/y8uffbnh> or visit this page on PCSD’s web site: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/2441>

**As a “Save-the-Date”:** PECPTA (Parma Early Childhood PTA) Spring Resale event is scheduled for Saturday March 24, 8-1pm at Parma Senior High School. Tables go on Sale February 24 at [www.pecpta.org](http://www.pecpta.org)

**The next Superintendent’s Open Door Session** is scheduled for Wednesday, Mar 14th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at

**Read the rest of this story online at:** <http://parmaobserver.com>



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## Hereafter Plays Union House

by Jim O'Bryan

Legendary 70s cover rock band “Hereafter” will bring their show to the Union House in Parma, March 24.

With a great blend from Bowie to Allman Brothers, from ELO to BOC, Jethro Tull, Heart, Who and more!

Hereafter features John Sustar, on Keyboards, Brian Stevens on Lead Vocals, June Sladek on Vocals, Eric McFadden on Guitar, Dianne Leonardi vocals and flute, Erick Luoma on Bass, Chris Brown on lead guitar, Bob Schein on drums..

You might be familiar with Hereafter as they have been playing around for a couple years.

You will also be able to see them

at Rocksino donating their talent on behalf of the Susan B. Komen Foundation and later at the Legendary Music Box in Cleveland’s Flats.

If you haven’t seen them you have probably seen them in other projects or bands they also play with. Most notable is June Sladek’s “Side fx Project.”

As the Union House is a smaller venue for them, it will be interesting to see how they fit this big stage show in there. “We have heard nothing but great things about the Union House, and really wanted to play for the Parma fans of the 70s,” said McFadden.

**Check them out on Facebook!**  
**Union House, 2713 Brookpark Road.**

# Parma’s Do Not Knock Registry blocks unwanted door-to-door salesmen

*Parma, OH:* To help prevent unwanted door-to-door solicitors, the City of Parma has partnered with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to provide a Do Not Knock Registry. According to Mayor Tim DeGeeter, “This is another way to increase the quality of life for our residents.”

Parma residents can register online at [DNKParma.com](http://DNKParma.com). Your address will be listed on the Registry, and you will receive a Do Not Knock window cling to display near your front door at no cost. If you signed up for the previous Do Not

Knock Program in Parma, you must register for this new program to ensure you are included on the new registry and to get your window cling.

“The Do Not Knock Registry is another tool our residents can use to protect themselves from unwanted interruptions at home,” said Safety Director Tom Weinreich.

When for-profit solicitors come to Parma, they must request a permit from the city. They are then provided with the Registry of addresses that they must avoid.

If you have signed up for the Registry and a salesman still comes to your door, ask which organization they represent. Non-profit groups such as public schools and churches are not regulated by the same rules that for-profit solicitors must follow. The Do Not Knock Registry does not apply to these non-profit groups.

If you feel that a solicitor is in violation of the Do Not Knock Registry, contact the city of Parma to report them. If a solicitor asks for a copy of your utility bill, do not provide it.

For more information about the Do Not Knock Registry, visit [DNKParma.com](http://DNKParma.com).

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



FRESH IDEAS

School Crisis Response And Grief Support Program Available To Local Schools

by Laurie Henrichsen

Tragic events such as the recent mass shooting at a Florida high school are difficult for anyone to comprehend and process. Locally and across the country, we collectively mourn the loss of life every time such a senseless tragedy occurs. In addition, our own sorrow, fear and despair can be heightened as we watch and hear about the plight of grieving students, teachers and the affected community on the nightly news.

Following such a crisis, expert on-site support frequently plays an instrumental role in helping faculty, staff members and students navigate the painful experiences of trauma, grief and loss. Locally, the bereavement center at Hospice of the Western Reserve – now called Western Reserve Grief Services - has offered a Crisis Response Program to provide immediate, on-site crisis response to deaths in the school communities of Northern Ohio for more than 15 years.

The program has been uti-

lized by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and many others. The services are available to any school system in the nonprofit agency’s service area. Trained bereavement professionals are available to provide on-site response. A single phone call from the school is all it takes to mobilize resources. In a typical year, trained grief and trauma support specialists from the organization deliver immediate on-site crisis support to 1,000 students and 250 adults.

“Schools must be prepared to respond to sudden, violent and traumatic deaths, such as car accidents, overdose deaths or shootings and suicides” said Diane Snyder Cowan, director of Western Reserve Grief Services. “Our partnership with schools allows them to more effectively address mental and emotional distress, reduce the likelihood of high-risk student behavior and return more quickly to productive teaching and learning.

“School personnel spend a good



amount of time with the children, so in some respects, they become a second family,” Snyder Cowan said. “Their response in times of grief and loss can be extremely comforting and helpful to students. It is not unusual for students to approach teachers, coaches, school counselors and others in the school community about topics that are too painful for them to discuss at home.”

In coordination with the school, trained and experienced bereavement professionals are available to

lead classroom, small or large group student discussions, hold informational meetings with parents, provide individualized sessions during a crisis response and offer guidance to teachers and staff. Follow-up services such as memorial activities, small support group interventions and educational programs are available as needed. Proactive services are also offered, including crisis response planning.

The program is one of the ways the nonprofit agency extends its expertise in end-of-life care and bereavement support to the community at large. Hospice of the Western Reserve is grateful for the financial support of individuals and other organizations, such as the Ridgecliff Foundation, for making the Grief Services for Schools Program possible. For more information on how you can ensure these important services are available for students, teachers, parents and school staff, contact Bonnie Robbins at 216.383.5258 or BRobbins@hospicewr.org. School administrators interested learning more are encouraged to visit the website: [hospicewr.org/griefandloss](http://hospicewr.org/griefandloss), or call 216.486.6287.

‘Art Of Fashion’ Celebrated At Tri-C Gallery West

by John Horton

The Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will celebrate fashion with a five-week exhibit showcasing the work of Kent State University faculty.

The Art of Fashion will be on view through March 29 at Gallery West, located on the second floor of the campus library. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. An opening reception took place Feb. 28.

The Art of Fashion features works by Kent State University faculty from the Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman School of Fashion Design and Merchandising and the Visual Communications and Design Department.

Free parking is available on campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

For more information, call 216-987-5322 or visit [www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest](http://www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest).



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Wednesday- Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off

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Friday- \$4.00 Hookah All Day

Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM

Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY · MARCH 30, 2018

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At Legacy Health Services, we are committed to improving the quality of life for those entrusted to our care. Physicians play a vital role as we work towards fulfilling this mission. On Doctors' Day, join us in expressing appreciation to the physicians that serve on our medical staff at Pleasant Lake Villa.



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For more information, or to schedule a tour,  
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