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## Message From The Superintendent

by Carl Hilling

The Parma City School District is stronger when we all work together. We have several initiatives, programs, opportunities and plans in place that are making a positive impact on our students and our community. And, we have already accomplished so much, together.

Below are just a few highlights that I would like to share with you:

**Our school district** continues to focus on preparing all students for college or a career. Our Career and Technical program received three “A” grades from the Ohio Department of Education this year.

**We offer** 30 Advanced Placement and Honors courses. Last school year, our students took over 700 Advanced Place-



ment exams, with 62% earning college credit. That’s 5% above that national average and 4% above the global average.

**Our community** stakeholder-driven Focus on the Future Action Teams have completed 80% of their short-term recommendations less than a year from being approved by our Board of Education. In all,

42 of 52 recommendations have been completed.

However, there is still work that needs to be done.

Over the next 12 to 18 months, our district will be engaged in the Master Planning process. This will determine the most efficient and educationally-sound way for us to move forward.

The findings from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) report, which evaluated each of our school buildings, and Educational Visioning, which studied the best ways to deliver education, will serve as the groundwork for this process.

The district will continue to gather stakeholder feedback during this entire process, and we hope the community will help us create the blueprint for the future of our district, together.

Every day, you trust our staff to educate and support your kids. Moving forward, together, you can trust the newly-elected Board of Education with your tax dollars.

The Board of Education has placed a 7.4 mill levy, Issue 5, on the May 8, 2018 ballot. Issue 5 would help protect education in the district, supporting students and programs like some of those mentioned above. Students deserve the best education that we can provide. We also need to maintain and sustain great quality teachers and staff in our district. We need to safeguard these educational opportunities and dedicated staff, so our children can succeed.

Without the passage of Issue 5, the Ohio Department of Education will require PCSD to cut \$3.6 million in 2019 and \$9.3 million in 2020. We have already cut \$15 million in spending by streamlining operations while trying to minimize the impact to students. Any further cuts and reductions will surely have an impact on our students, our staff and our community.

I invite you to visit our website, [www.parmacityschools.org/levy](http://www.parmacityschools.org/levy), to read more about our accomplishments, our plan for the future and learn about Issue 5.

## Water Summit In Parma

by Kristin Saban

For many Parma residents, June 30, 2017 will never be forgotten due to the tremendous rains, some of which ended up in their basements. Parma’s Ward 9 Councilman Jeffrey Crossman is among those that will not soon forget, “I wasn’t so much driving in the rain that day-I felt like I was white water rafting home,” said Crossman. “Parma had a tremendous—seemingly biblical amount of rainfall, as did surrounding communities. I was just trying to get home safely while it was raining like I’d never seen before.” The rains ultimately caused widespread flooding in Parma and throughout Northeast Ohio, as storm water exceeded the capacity of sewers, rivers, and creeks to absorb the water. In addition to flooded homes, the Ridge Road exit off I-480 was temporarily closed and the Sam’s Club on Brookpark Road in Brooklyn was literally under water as the adjacent creek overflowed its banks. Residents subsequently appeared at City Council meetings to ask what the City was doing to address their flooding concerns and the City engaged its partner agencies to address resident concerns.



This year Parma’s City Council took a more proactive approach by holding the City’s first ever “Water Summit” in the Parma-Snow library’s auditorium. We wanted to inform residents what the City and its partner agencies are doing to tackle this issue. The storms hit my ward on Parma’s north side particularly hard. We all received numerous calls immediately. I was on the phone for several days in a row responding to residents and There were issues for weeks later as a result of this one event. Over the subsequent weeks, as Council met with representatives from the Northeast Ohio Sewer District and Cuyahoga County to learn what they were doing to combat storm water management issues in Parma, Council members, in combination with Parma’s Law Director Tim Dobeck, decided to hold an open forum where this information could be shared with

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## Parma Safety Fair, Shred Event This Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma’s annual Safety Fair, a community family event for area residents to learn valuable safety information, is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd.

The annual community shred event, scheduled at the same time, has been moved to

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## Parma Coach Of The Year



Congrats to Lindsey Kercher, Parma’s Coach of the Year in youth basketball. Lindsey coached 3rd & 4th grade girls on the “Fever” team. Lindsey and husband Chris have two daughters - Gracie, 10, and 8-year-old Delaney. Coach Kercher and her team were honored at a recent City Council meeting.

## Parma Citizen Of The Month



The whole thing began with a letter to Mayor Tim DeGeeter’s office from Esther Hofener. She was wondering if the City of Parma had a “Good Neighbor of the Year” ... “or of the decade” award. Esther and her husband, the Rev. Robert, have lived on Stary Drive for 53 years, and she says, “for decades” their neighbor across the street, David Rusnik, has been plowing their driveway, sometimes several times a day, at no cost. He does it for other senior neighbors as well, and is just the best neighbor any of them could have wished for. So Mayor Tim DeGeeter named David the Citizen of the Month and invited David to come to a City Council meeting. He promptly declined, because he felt no need for recognition, citing just being a good neighbor and “not doing anything out of the ordinary.” He even suggested “there are other individuals who are more deserving.” So Mayor DeGeeter went to Esther’s home on Stary Drive so that David could be presented with the award in the home of the people who nominated him.



COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President’s Corner



by Sean Brennan

Recently, I was contacted by my friend Jeff Fowler, who is a dedicated member of All Saints Episcopal Church. Jeff and I have known each other for several years, often crossing paths in our various volunteer activities. He kindly invited me to his church where I was inspired to write this latest rendition in my running series on Parma’s wonderful places of worship.

Upon entering the church, I met Reverend Canon Nancy Wittig. As we began to talk, I became fascinated by her amazing story. In fact, afterward I “Googled” her and found that we have one of America’s heroes of women’s rights in our midst.

## Parma Safety Fair, Shred Event This Month

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the parking lot at City Hall in an effort to alleviate traffic issues from past years.

The Safety Fair is a cooperative effort of the Parma Fire Department, Parma Police Department, City of Parma and Parma City Council. The highlight of the Safety Fair is the medical chopper landing, which is scheduled at noon, after which kids and their parents can explore the chopper. The Fair also includes a Police K-9 demonstration, a grease fire demonstration, information about gun safety, fingerprinting, Internet safety and much more. Organizations represented at the fair include University Hospitals, Cleveland Metroparks, and Parma Animal Shelter.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter calls the day “educational and fun for the whole family, and something our residents look forward to every year.”

The community shred event, which was plagued by traffic issues last

Growing up in 1950s and 60s America when women were still marginalized, Rev. Wittig’s parents clearly instilled in her the belief that gender has no place in determining one’s station in life. In fact, she went on to earn a B.A. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a Masters of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. She later became a deacon in New Jersey in 1973. Then, she and ten of her female colleagues made history in 1974 by being ordained the first women priests in the Episcopal Church. The Philadelphia 11 created quite a controversy within the church, as female ordination had not yet been approved. However, in 1976, due to their work and that of their supporters,

year, has been moved to the City Hall parking lot so as not to interfere with Safety Fair traffic. Police officers will be on hand to direct traffic in and out of the parking lot, and signage will be posted as well. Shredding services will be handled by Shred-it and are paid for by a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

Parma residents should bring identification – a driver’s license or utility bill – and also a donation of canned or non-perishable food items for the Parma Hunger Center, which will be on-site collecting the food items.

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Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

the Episcopal Church finally recognized the ordination of women as priests. Rev. Wittig attributes her rebellious nature to the Civil Rights Movement, the anti-Vietnam experience, and, “most importantly, knowing that the Gospel speaks to women, as well as men.”

Rev. Wittig has only been in Parma since October and is the interim Pastor of All Saints until the parish selects a new leader to take the place of Pastor Heather Hill who was reassigned to a parish in Hawaii. The Reverend has three children and seven grandchildren whom she adores.

Like many of Parma’s churches, All Saints was born in Cleveland. In fact, the parish began in the Scranton-West 25th area before moving to Parma in 1950. According to oral history, their first services were held in that year “in the Recreation Hall of the City of Parma” and, later “in Parma Junior High School (Ridge and Ridgewood).” Then, in 1952, the congregation raised \$10,000 to purchase their current property on Ridgewood at Ames. Groundbreaking for the current church took place in 1953.

The Episcopal Church has its roots in the Church of England (Anglican), which broke with the Roman Catholic Church during the Protestant Reformation precipitated by King Henry VIII’s divorce from Anne Boleyn. Jamestown, Virginia – the first permanent English colony in America – was an Anglican settlement. Following the American Revolution, the Anglican Church in America separated from the Church in England and became known as the Episcopal Church. Two-thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and Presidents George Washington, James Madison, James Monroe, Franklin Roosevelt and Gerald Ford were members of the Episcopalian faith. Further, The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. is the seat of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The motto of the Episcopal diocese of Ohio is “God loves you! No exceptions!”

All Saints is dedicated to serving the greater Parma community. In fact,

they are very proud of their mobile food pantry, which takes place every third Saturday of each month from 9:00 until 11:00 am. Commencing in 2014, this partnership with the Cleveland Food Bank will celebrate the 500,000th pound of food donations to the needy this month. This little parish proves that a small number of faithful, loving people with big hearts can accomplish incredible things. The parish also rents out its hall, which can host 80 to 100. Sunday services are held at 8:30 and 10:30 am, with Sunday school at 9:45.

In closing, I want to thank Rev. Canon Wittig, Jeff Fowler and Ray Heitland for taking the time to enlighten me about their parish and faith. If you would like to find out more about All Saints Episcopal (8911 West Ridgewood Drive) visit them online at [www.allsaintsparma.org](http://www.allsaintsparma.org), email them at [office.allsaints@ohiocoxmail.com](mailto:office.allsaints@ohiocoxmail.com), or call 440-888-4055. Best wishes for a healthy and warm spring!

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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## April 10 Program Promotes Gaining Better Health Through Bariatric Surgery

by CJ Sheppard

Jessica and John Griffin tried cutting calories, restricting carbohydrates and limiting their food intake. At more than 300 pounds each, the young couple were held hostage by obesity and its accomplices of weight-related health problems like numbing foot pain, sleep apnea and diabetes.

Topping out at 315 and 354 pounds, respectively, they were determined to end this lifelong struggle. As young parents, they were motivated by the example they wanted to set for their children, ages 6 and 9. An unexpected diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes pushed Jessica to the brink. For John, his wake-up call was an inability to keep up with his sports-loving son.

“You don’t realize how everything spirals, and one day you wonder, ‘How did we get here?’” lamented Jessica, 36. “I finally put myself first and took steps to take control of my life – and to show my children how to be healthier.”

### Tools for Success

Other health care professionals had broached the sensitive subject before, gently suggesting that they might want to drop a few pounds. Jessica had always struggled with this thorny topic, she simply did not know where to begin. Finally, Lucy O’Brien, DO, her new primary care physician, told her about the accredited Bariatric Surgery Center at UH Parma Medical Center.

An online video, viewed in the comfort and privacy of her living room, helped the couple visualize the possibilities. She witnessed the astounding results realized by others who underwent life-altering weight loss surgery. Board-certified surgeons and experienced nutritionists counsel patients through medically supervised weight loss, preparing them for the transformation with lifestyle adjustments that will bear long-term success. This pre-



surgery phase also is required by most insurance companies. The program also has a 24-hour hotline, monthly support groups and exercise guidance, with no program fees.

“Support is crucial to a patient’s success long term,” says Anna Hazi-nakis, BSN, RN, CBN, Bariatric Nurse Coordinator. “Here at UH Parma Bar-iatric, we are committed to supporting



our patients along their journey and consider all patients part of our UH Bariatric family.”

UH Parma Medical Center’s bar-iatric surgery team includes Mujjahid Abbas, MD, and Richard Ungvarsky, MD, who performed Jessica’s gastric sleeve surgery in December 2016. Two months later, John would follow. In the coming year, she would take up running,

logging two to three miles each day.

“So much more energy”

“I have so much more energy,” Jessica said, who – like her husband – now weighs well under 200 pounds. “When we were heavy, we were beyond exhausted all the time.”

A mechanic, John is no longer crippled by excruciating foot pain by day’s end. He now has energy to spare, happily accepting eager invitations to play catch in the back yard with his son.

To the delight of their children, they even enrolled in a family fitness class. Their weight-related medical problems have resolved, and they eat better and far less, cooking healthier meals.

“It can change your life,” Jessica declares. “It was the best thing we’ve ever done.”

Want to learn more? Attend a bar-iatric surgery information session on Tuesday, April 10 at UH Parma Medical Center from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dr. Abbas and a patient will speak about surgery success. To register, call 216-844-5274 or visit [UHhospitals.org/weightloss](http://UHhospitals.org/weightloss) and click “Register for In-Person Session.”

## Water Summit In Parma

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residents and everyone could learn what the city and other agencies were doing to minimize these flooding events. “We hoped that this Water Summit was a forum where residents felt comfortable engaging in a proactive way. “We’re hoping that everyone who had attended were able to take away what’s being done and what we can all do to prevent some of the issues that cause flooding in the first place” Crossman said. The Water Summit was held at Parma’s Snow Road Library on Thursday, March 22, 2018. Representatives from the City of Parma, Cuyahoga County, NEORSD, Cleveland Public Water and West Creek were all on hand to provide information and answer questions. The event was free and open to the public, with Rain Barrels raffled off courtesy of Law Director Tim Dobeck and Councilman Vito Dipi-erro. We are hoping for this successful event to be annual.

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OBSERVER

# Women's Flight Museum: 100 Years Of Accomplished Female Fliers

by Harry Peck

Before she tried to fly around the world in 1937, Amelia Earhart’s family wanted her to study medicine. The woman who would become everyone’s favorite lady pilot actually enrolled in Columbia’s pre-medicine program before taking a plane ride at a California air show. Shortly after, she began flight lessons and bought a used plane.

Jean Batten’s interest in flying, in 1929, came after a short flight with Australian pilot Charles Kingsford-Smith in his plane “Southern Cross.” This was a problem, as her father wanted her to be a concert pianist. When Jean and her mom went to London, she wrote to her father of long hours of practice.

Instead of piano practice, though, she was taking flying lessons.

When Thea Rasche’s strict German father ruled that girls did not play sports and certainly didn’t fly, his daughter secretly took flying lessons from a WWI pilot. After receiving her pilot’s license and later a license for flying acrobatics, she became the first women stunt flyer.

These stories, young women persevering in their love of flying, are on tap at the Women’s International Air And Space Museum at Cleveland’s Burke Lakefront Airport.

The women whose artifacts appear had two things in common-a passion to fly and the determination to

overcome numerous hurdles, often becoming the first (or early) women in their specialty. Some did good works later in life--some died early.

Now in It’s 20th year in Cleveland and still the only one of it’s kind worldwide, the museum’s collections include all aspects of women in aviation--pilots, flight attendants, astronauts, engineers, and other contributors.

“We’ve got information on 6,000 women, from an airplane to a piece of paper,” said Heather Alexander, the museum’s executive director.

With a very small staff (3 people including an intern), the museum receives artifact donations from families, sometimes honoring their family member and sometimes merely dispatching the artifacts.

“We don’t purchase any artifacts,” Alexander said. Instead the staff

reviews the donated materials and determines if the new artifacts fit the museum’s mission, which is to promote the role of women in aviation and space.

“Flying may have been just one component of a person’s life,” the executive director said. Karen Nybart, for instance, a NASA astronaut and a PHd. in Mechanical Engineering, sewed while in space, creating a stuffed dinosaur from space station scraps. Stuffed animals are often taken to space, partly because they are good zero-gravity indicators, which start to float when entering orbit.

The staff determines what part of the story fits with the museum. There’s no shortage of work, meanwhile, as

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

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Friends of the Parma Libraries volunteer group, we bring to your attention, National Library Week, April 8-14th.

If you are in either branch on Tuesday, April 10th – National Library Workers’ Day - offer a "thank you" to a staff member for their efforts.

We especially thank the two branch managers, Kathleen Sullivan (Parma) and Stacey Boycik (Parma-Snow) for their dedicated hours of their time to making our libraries better and better.

They both attend our board meetings to report on how much the Friends-supported programming is enjoyed by library customers and staff alike, and this in turn, increases our efforts to bring you more.

If it’s been a while since you’ve had the opportunity to visit a branch, please consider that week. You will discover the many ways our libraries offer such a variety of services, programming and materials - - it’s not just books anymore!

Dianna M. Kall  
President, Friends of the Parma Libraries

## Parma Area Chamber Of Commerce Gala



The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual Gala Awards Dinner on March 10.



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### THE PARMA AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE

## PCSD

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #100

by Gene Lovasy

**APRIL's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT.** Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected. As a parent, you are already one of your child's key asset builders. Letting your kids be responsible for their own outcomes (even if they're not necessarily what you want) is challenging, but remember that empowerment is important.

**This month's column will focus on: Asset 7: Community Values Youth**

Listening to diverse opinions can help everyone move ahead

As young people grow older, they quickly sense where they are wanted and where they aren't. Do the young people around you have opportunities to participate, serve, lead, and make decisions within the community? Do these same young people feel the community supports children and youth? If the answer to these questions is "not always" or "not enough," it may be time to make some changes. After all, remember how you felt when you were young and the adults

around you didn't listen or give you credit for your opinions? Everyone deserves a voice!

**Here are the facts**

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

**Tips for building this asset**

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

**Also try this**

**In your home and family:** Ask

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

**In your neighborhood and community:** Serve on a community committee and seek out young people's feedback about specific



by Jean Micklewright

**MARCH HIGHLIGHTS** - PACT Town Hall in Parma Heights: Tuesday, March 6 was a great informational night for residents of Parma Heights. The town hall meeting, sponsored by PACT (Police and Community Together), focused on opportunities available in the Parma Heights area. Representatives from PACT, Parma Heights Library, Tri-City MyCom, Parma Area Young Professionals and the Parma Area Family Collaborative shared about their programs.

**Strong Women, Strong Leader Award:** We congratulate Zahraa Alribeawi, Parma Senior High School senior, for receiving the Strong Women, Strong Leader award at Cleveland State University on March 1, 2018. Zahraa takes classes at CSU and was recognized for her outstanding leadership abilities. Out of the five women who received the award, Zahraa, at 17 years old, was the youngest! Zahraa is a member of the Tri-City MyCom Youth Council. A well-deserved honor!

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Y.O.U. Summer Jobs:** Young people aged 14-24 can sign up for an opportunity to have a summer job to earn money close to home. Online registration does not guarantee a job, but without it you cannot get a job with Y.O.U. Many Tri-City Parma youth participate in this summer job program. The

issues. Let them know you greatly appreciate their presence and participation. Encourage civic groups to include young people in critical conversations.

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

Visit [www.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.parent-further.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.

online registration ends on Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00pm. Registration can be found on this website: [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org)

**College Colleagues,** a local business, and MyCom have collaborated to provide a solution for high school youth who need some extra help with tutoring! Very cool place and cool people! Teens will feel very welcome! FREE WALK - IN TUTORING: Grades 9 - 12, Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, March 1 - May 10, 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:** If you are in 5th-8th grade join us in the teen room on Wednesday afternoons to create, tinker and build! This program meets every Wednesday from 4:15-5:30 pm, March 21 - May 9, 2018 at Parma Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. This is offered in partnership with OhioGuidestone through a grant with Starting Point.

**Community Service:** Saturday, April 21, 2018 is Global Youth Service Day. Tri-City MyCom is planning a day of service for teens. We hope to partner with West Creek Reservation on a project. For more information contact: Jean Micklewright at: 440-479-4122 or [jean.micklewright@ohioguidestone.org](mailto:jean.micklewright@ohioguidestone.org)

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# INSPIRATION

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A mother cannot unlock all of life’s doors for her children, but she can help them find the keys. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve one’s looks. A train is free to travel only when it remains on the tracks. An ant on the move does more than a dozing ox. An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.

Be the change you want to see in the world. Believing in life after death makes a big difference on how one views dying. Convert challenging situations into character-building opportunities. Delight in the success of others as much as you do in your own. Every right implies responsibility, every opportunity an obligation, and every possession a duty. Freedom is never license to do as we please, but only to do as we ought. Give the world the best we have. We could get hurt, but give it anyway.

Life can be hard by the yard, but by the inch, life is a cinch! Life is a coin that we can spend any way we wish, but we can only spend it once. Love helps us mind and makes us kind to others every day. Manners can vex, soothe, corrupt, purify, exalt, debase, barbarize, or refine us.

Most of us are better talkers than listeners. Never grow so old that you cannot change your mind.

No matter how many new translations of the Bible come out, we still sin in the same way. Of all the things we wear, our expression makes the greatest impact.

Perseverance can tip the scales from failure to success. Remember mistakes just long enough to profit by them. Speak gently because people have enough they must endure without the addition of unkind words. Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but by being the right mate.

The most important thing that a father can do for his children is to love their mother. The wisest individuals are generally those who see themselves as the least so. There is no success without hardship. There is nothing permanent except change. Time is the most valuable gift one can give. Truth and oil always rise to the surface. We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience. Young children should have no authority over their parents.

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?

## Turkey Talk

by Lizabeth Braskie

A few weeks ago, my daughter, Kathy, invited me to stay the weekend at her new residence. Her move to a recently developed area of new homes proved to be the catalyst for quite an entertaining experience. The mood was set when the early evening arrived. She called me to watch ten wild turkeys select their high perch in the edge of the forest adjacent to her back yard. I sat like a little kid waiting for Santa. This breathtaking occurrence has happened about three evenings every week since she moved in. Thick vegetation and tall trees provided a panorama of wildlife as we watched the turkeys select their haven for the night.

From our inside look through the picture window, I was surprised to see that some of the leaner branches were preferred by our visiting residents. It was especially amazing when I saw their skinny legs that supported their large bodies. As some were in pairs and others

alone for the night, I was fascinated by their balance. Skinny legs on skinny branches seemed to me like an accident waiting to happen. Yet, the group was quiet as they settled in for the night. At my daughter’s suggestion, we both were up at seven the next morning—just in time to see all ten of the turkeys fly down to the grassy area directly behind her house. There was a constant chattering and bustling about. Not one of them stood quietly. They all visited with each other like we humans would do. Their continual, circular, interactive movements resembled our sharing of events with friends. And I could almost hear them gossiping:

“Listen everybody, will you look at Erma’s hair!” “Hey Barney, move over so I can make plans with Gertie.” “Mavis, you better not be sharing seeds with MY Elmer!” ”Josie, don’t forget

**Read the rest of this story online at:**  
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[www.rumc-parma.com](http://www.rumc-parma.com)

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NEIGHBORHOODS

There's A Parma Heights Connection To A Forthcoming Book

by Rick Haase

The city of Parma Heights was well represented at the annual Parma Area Chamber of Commerce President's Gala, March 10 at Holy Spirit Party Center. Among the notables attending were semi-retired Plain Dealer Sports Columnist and WJW-TV Sports Anchor Dan Coughlin with his son, Joe Coughlin, owner of Kwik Car Wash at West 130th Street and Pearl Road. Coughlin shared that he is working on his fourth book, which is to be titled "Last Call," and is due out November 4. It will feature many of the "great characters" that Coughlin said he's encountered in his more than five decade career covering Cleveland sports. Coughlin, who resides in Rocky River, turns 80 on September 17. His son, meanwhile, continues to be considered an up-and-comer in our community because of his civic involvement.

**PERSONAL TRAINER PAR EXCELLENCE** – Vince Anello, the local fitness trainer who has been a Parma Heights business owner since 2012, and has been working one-on-one training people since 1968, was the first person weighing under 200 pounds to deadlift 800 pounds in the United States.

That happened back in 1975 in Harrisburg, PA.

He's also a treasure trove of information and is one of our best local resources when it comes to personal training. Anello, who turns 71 this year, looks more like 51. He's a member of the World Strength Hall of Fame, having been inducted in Las Vegas in 2015, and has been a member of the weightlifting Hall of Fame since 1998.

What's his secret?  
"You've got to keep moving," says Anello, who currently works with clients from 15 to 82. He says his oldest client is stronger than the youngest.

"The common denominator is a positive mindset," said Anello. I was a short little fat kid. If I can do it, anyone can do it."

He believes that all people can achieve their goals if they will just allow them to happen.

Anello is often seen around town walking his four Greyhounds – Ajax, Coin, Solo and NASDAQ – the latter named yes, after the stock market index.

**GET YOUR CAREER IN GEAR** - Valley Forge High School's will host a Career Expo on Friday, April 27, 2018. The Career Expo will be held in the school gymnasium, 9999 Independence Boulevard, Parma Heights. For participant organizations, a table with a blue table cloth, light breakfast, and a box lunch and drink will be provided.

The Career Expo will take place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The purpose of the Career Expo is to promote careers, colleges, trades, local business, marketing, and entrepreneurship to Valley Forge students and get them connected to businesses, learn about colleges to attend, and start the networking process earlier than their senior year of high school.

Donations are being sought to give away during the Career Expo. For more information, contact Carolyn Holt-Balis at holtbalisc@parmacityschools.org.

**GREAT CLEVELAND CLEAN UP** -- The fifth annual "Great Cleveland Clean-Up takes place on Saturday, April 21 at 38 different parks and locations across Greater Cleveland, including Kurtz Park at 6289 West 130th Street in Parma Heights.

Volunteers can meet coordinators at any of the different meet-up locations by 12:30 p.m. Before dividing into groups, volunteers are taught how to recycle and are educated on the effects of litter. They then spread out in teams of five, removing as much litter as possible in three hours. Volunteers primarily focus on removing litter from parks, sidewalks, playgrounds, neighborhoods, and highway exits and entrances.

The Great Cleveland Clean-Up is

an opportunity for employees or students to receive community service hours. Goal of this years' effort is to enlist 2,800 volunteers for the Great Cleveland Clean-Up.

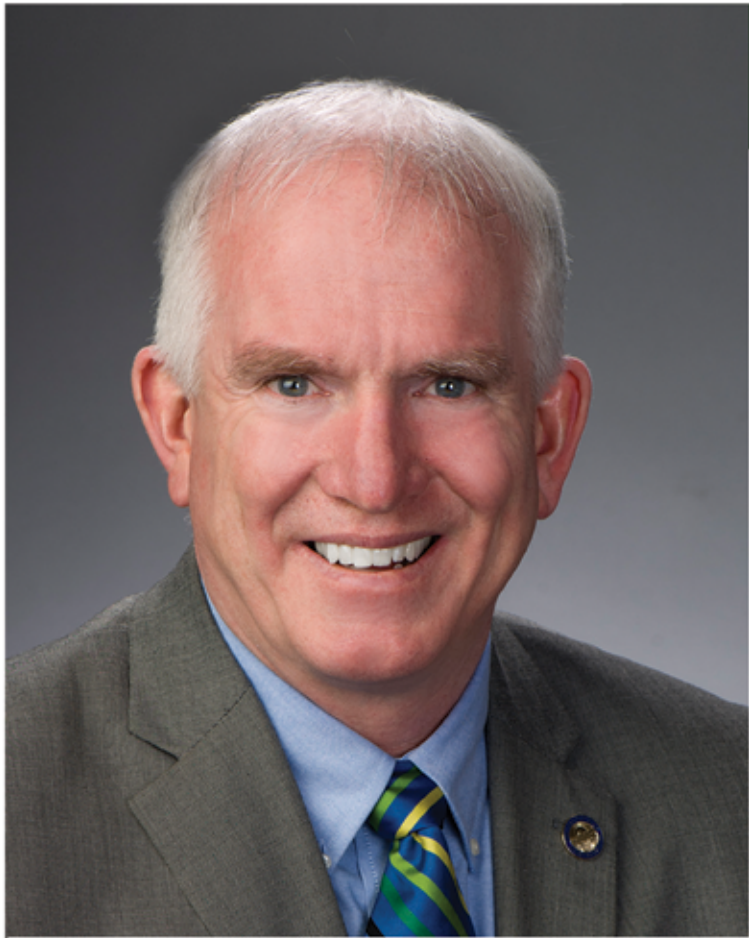
Executive Director of the effort is Jeff Schlekke, who can be reached at 440-829-4703 or via email at jeff@thelitterbugz.org. President is Nina Rossi, 216-470-4548, nina@thelitterbugz.org. Vice President is Matt Schmidt, 440-225-8215, matt@thelitterbugz.org.

**YOU CAN UKE!** – This sounds like big fun! The Parma Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will host a program especially for teens in grades 6-12 on how to play the Ukelele.

The program begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7 in Meeting Room A of the Library, 6206 Pearl Road. For more information, or to pre-register for the program, go to [www.cuyahogalibrary.org/parmaheights](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/parmaheights).

**A NIGHT AT CLUB CASSIDY** – It's still not too late to get your tickets for "A Night at Club Cassidy, a benefit for our local community theatre, named for the late former Mayor Paul W. Cassidy. Tickets are \$37.50 individually, or \$75 per couple. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a series of special concert of vocal per-

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



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PERSPECTIVE

Change is Coming – And The Young Are Leading The Way

by Lee Kamps

I am very impressed with the passionate protests and actions by the students at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida. On Valentine’s Day, a troubled young man entered the school armed with an AR-15 semi automatic assault weapon and killed 17 of their classmates and teachers. Rather than mourn the dead and comfort the families, many students have taken to political action demanding sensible controls on guns so this action is not repeated.

Then on March 14, led by the students at Stoneman Douglas High School; students all across the United States staged a 17 minute walk out of their classes to make a statement that it is high time for serious common sense gun control legislation. A sign at a protest recently said: “when our children act like leaders and our leaders act like children; change is coming.” I sincerely hope that this is true.

I am also pleased that so many of the younger generation are also becoming more active politically. Perhaps it was Donald Trump becoming President with his intolerance and bigotry that have caused many young people to become politically active. Or they just don’t like the world that they are inheriting from the older generations before

them. Those young people who are becoming active politically are sending a breath of fresh air to the stale and polluted air of American politics.

As a baby boomer who remembers the protests of the late 1960s and early 1970s when I was a young adult; I hope that this younger generation continues to make their influence felt in the political process. As a college student fifty years ago, I protested the war in Vietnam along with many in my generation who were asked to fight the war. Many of us felt that the war in Vietnam was a war that we had no business fighting.

I am very disappointed with my baby boom generation where so many of us sold out to corporate America. But as we grew up and had responsibilities, we needed to make a living. Earning a living and attaining the “good life” became more important than protesting or becoming active politically. Besides, in 1973 our troops were brought home from Vietnam and our combat role there ended. There just didn’t seem to be any more causes that generated the passion for many to become involved politically.

But marches in the streets and protests, no matter how massive, won’t create the desired change unless those people protesting vote. The difference between 1968 and

2018 is that in 1968, people under age 21 couldn’t vote. Most of those college students and soldiers in Vietnam couldn’t vote. The 26th amendment to the constitution granting the right to vote to 18 year olds wasn’t ratified until 1971.

While large protest demonstrations make headlines and get the attention of the news media; they don’t effect change unless enough people back up their protests at the ballot box. Protests don’t count; votes are counted. When people back their passion in the streets with the same passion in the voting booth or decide to run for office themselves; then change will happen.

I hear the same complaints all the time about how our elected officials only care about their special interests and donors and that they are all a bunch of crooks. We talk about term limits for elected officials, but there is an excellent method to hold our elected officials accountable. It is called an election and they are held usually twice a year, every year.

In every election, we elect the people to run our government. The first words to the preamble of the constitution are “We, the People”. In

a democracy, the people are sovereign and it is only when they vote that the people can determine the course of our nation, state and cities.

Every year there is a primary election. One is coming up in May. Primary elections are where the major political parties choose the candidates to run in the general election in November. If you don’t like the candidates who run in November, then vote in the primary and have a say in who runs in November. But throughout the United States, less than 20% of registered voters actually vote in primary elections.

From this baby boomer, who has voted in every election since I was old enough to vote; I sincerely hope that those young people back their protests with voting and continue to vote, even if they don’t like who is running. Vote for the candidate who best reflects your views or who you believe is the best person for the job. Because no matter how much anyone protests, it doesn’t mean a thing unless it is backed up by voting. Remember that elections have consequences.

Republican Meeting Guest Christina Hagan For Congress

by Ronald Czarnecki

The North Royalton Republican Club would like to welcome everyone to our next meeting April 5th at 7:00 pm at the North Royalton Library. We will be having Christina Hagan, candidate for congress, tell

her story and views on the issues. Also, we will discuss upcoming House Bill 512 on Ohio Education. Check out our website for more details northroyaltongop.com

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# IMPRESSIONS

## Young Professionals Of Parma Calls For Volunteers To Join Committees

by Kathie Zipp

The Young Professionals of Parma (YPOP) held a public meeting at the Parma library branch on Powers Boulevard on February 22. The group invited the public to come and learn about its newly formed purpose and initiatives, including committees and becoming a non-profit.

YPOP president Jackie Baraona lead the event, while attendees enjoyed eating and learning about paczki. She and the rest of the leadership team, including vice president Bill Baraona, marketing director Kathie Zipp, marketing coordinator Matt Orehek, treasurer Dan Tylicki and membership director Christine Francisco, took turns introducing themselves and explaining why they love Parma.

“I grew up in Middlefield, which is a big Amish community. So I was exited to move to a large suburb like Parma where everything from shopping to movies is close by,” said Francisco.

Jackie Baraona also introduced the group’s new purpose statement, which was developed collectively between leadership and committee directors. The Young Professionals of Parma is a network of community-



minded individuals striving toward the enhancement of the Greater Parma area. The group provides civic, philanthropic and social opportunities, while supporting and fostering local businesses. Its goal is to promote positivity and city pride.

In an effort to fulfill various aspects of its purpose, YPOP developed four new committees, which it announced at the meeting. Each committee chair, including Alex Jeffries (volunteering/philanthropy), Adam Corrao (business engagement & outreach), Ben Altemus (political advocacy) and Bill Baraona (social events), also presented.

“I grew up in Parma and said I

would never settle down there, but I moved back after college and do not regret it,” said Altemus. “I love the diverse cultures and events with endless amounts of things to do. And I look forward to using my experience with political advocacy to create a strong, positive and transparent relationship with our cities and elected officials and departments.”

A big focus of the meeting was to get more volunteers to participate on each committee. Anyone who did not attend the meeting, but is interested in joining one of the committees should contact YPOP at [hello@parmayps.com](mailto:hello@parmayps.com).

YPOP reflects the reach of the

Parma-area chamber, which serves Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills. At the meeting, Jackie Baraona reiterated that one does not need to live or work in one of those cities to be involved with the group. Anyone with passion for the Parma area is welcome.

Jackie Baraona also addressed another common misconception: that the term “young professional” implies a desk job or a college degree. However, the term is only meant to describe the group’s target audience of career-focused individuals in their 20s and 30s. Participants in the group come from a wide array of occupations including hair stylists, teachers, entrepreneurs, financial advisers and more.

The group is also in the process of becoming a non-profit organization, which Jackie Baraona said will give the group the ability to better function and fulfill its purpose.

YPOP welcomes any feedback on committee initiatives, and encourages anyone who is interested in getting involved to reach out.

**Read the rest of this story online at:**  
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# PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PCSD Students Raise Over \$10,500 For The American Heart Association Through Jump Rope For Heart

This February, Dentzler, Green Valley, Renwood and Thoreau Park Elementary Schools participated in Jump Rope for Heart, a fundraiser for the American Heart Association that teaches students jump rope skills and encourages them to keep their hearts healthy by living active lives.

Peggy Clark, physical education teacher at Renwood, incorporated the message of making smart and healthy choices into the school's Jump Rope for Heart activities.

"Every student in this school knows my saying - 'Your homework is get out play, one hour every day,' so Jump Rope for Heart is just another way to promote having a healthy heart and staying active," she shared.

For the past seven years the school has been participating in the fundraiser and this year, students raised \$3,500 for the cause.

"I think this gives the students a chance to think bigger than themselves and to think about other people," Clark expressed. "They are helping people in their community and their family members, but also they are helping themselves for the future."

Renwood had various jump rope activities for each class to participate in from February 12 - 14, 2018, with the highlight being a super long jump rope that the whole class could try to jump over at the same time.

Thoreau Park also had a variety of activities such as jump ropes, skip-its, limbo and basketball hoops set up with music playing in the gym to get everyone's heart pumping for Jump Rope for Heart at the school from February 14 - 16, 2018.

The whole school participated in

the activities, regardless of if a student raised money or not to make sure no one is excluded. Students who did raise money earned prizes and unlocked 'Scare Squad' characters, similar to Pokemon, through the Jump Rope for Heart fundraising app.

The school fell just shy of their goal of raising \$2,500, collecting \$2,306 for the American Heart Association.

"I think this aligns very well with what we are trying to teach on a physical education stand point, especially about cardiovascular health and staying physically active," said Pat Montana, physical education teacher at Thoreau Park. "We have done things in the past with the NFL Play 60 program and I had the SNAP-ed, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program, come out to talk to Kindergarten through second grade about nutrition and healthy eating, so I think everything correlates together. It all goes full circle."

Green Valley raised \$3,891 during their Jump Rope For Heart event, which started off each gym class with a few minutes of jump roping during the month of February, while Dentzler raised \$876.

"It is important to discuss (nutrition, healthy eating and regular exercise) with children early in life so they can begin healthy habits young and maintain these habits throughout their lives," Dentzler Principal Renee Dzurak stated. "Jump Rope for Heart was a great way to bring attention to February Heart Health Month and remind the entire Dentzler community of the importance of keeping our Hearts healthy and strong."

## CBS Connects Gives PCSD Students Real-World Opportunities For College And Career Readiness

The path to take after high school is an important decision in every student's life. Through CBS Connects, Parma City School District students have access to a variety of career exploration and job development opportunities to help make that decision easier.

CBS Connects is a grant-funded college and career readiness program made possible through a partnership with PCSD, Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, C/B/S (Community, Businesses, Schools) Partnership and Community Ambassadors.

Chuck Caldwell, CBS Connects coordinator at Parma Schools, said the chamber has been the lead applicant on this grant for the past three years, securing over \$300,000 from the State of Ohio's Community Connectors Grant.

"The purpose of this program is to provide college and career readiness skills and connect students to the community through mentorships,"

he explained. "We have worked with over 1,500 students, providing tailored opportunities that line up with their career interests."

At the high school level, the program provides students with job shadowing and internship opportunities, college and business visits, mentor luncheons and community service projects. The program connects with middle school students through career fairs and career luncheons. Funding is used to cover transportation costs for college and business visits as well as food for luncheons and supplies.

"My biggest thing is exposing students to a variety of colleges as well as careers that have various education levels," Caldwell shared. "It's great to have that college-going culture and we support those students who will be heading off to college, but there are students in our district that are not going to go to college, and I want them to know there are great careers out there for them,

## Dr. Charles Smialek Appointed As New PCSD Superintendent



Carl Hilling, Charles Smialek, John Schweitzer

On March 1, 2018, the Parma City School District Board of Education approved Resolution 2018-03-89, 'Resolution to Appoint and Employ Superintendent of Schools.' The Board of Education approved the appointment of Dr. Charles Smialek as superintendent, beginning on August 1, 2018.

Smialek currently serves as Superintendent of the Euclid City School District in Euclid, Ohio. The Euclid Schools serves approximately 5,300 students in seven buildings. Smialek is also a proud graduate of the Euclid City Schools.

"Three communities, the 115,000 people of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills, turn their hopeful eyes to us, to this Board of Education, to me, to our team," Smialek said at the March 1, 2018 regular Board meeting. "They are hopeful we can continue the positive momentum of the 'new day' that Mr. Schweitzer spoke of at the swearing-in ceremony in January... We will organize our 'new day' around three goals: improve student achievement, practice fiscal responsibility and increase our credibility in the community."

Smialek earned his bachelor's degree in history from Ohio State University in 1998. He then earned his master's degree in teaching from Kent State University in 1999, focusing on secondary social studies teaching. In 2008, he earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Kent State University.

too. I want every student to have a positive outlook on their future."

For the past two years, CBS Connects has partnered with The MetroHealth System, to award scholarships through the MetroHealth Career Readiness Scholarship program. The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce also offers scholarships to students pursuing business and law degrees, and for the past 30 years, has donated more than \$60,000 toward student scholarships.

"These partnerships have been great, especially with the chamber getting us local business opportunities and leaders," Caldwell said. "A lot of businesses and the community have really stepped up in a big way to support our students."

He began his career in education as a social studies teacher at Euclid Central Middle School in 1999. From 2004 - 06, he served as unit principal and assistant principal at two separate Euclid middle schools.

Beginning in 2006, Smialek was appointed principal of Forest Park Middle School, and in 2009, he was named principal of Euclid High School, which serves approximately 2,250 students. Smialek was named assistant superintendent of Euclid Schools beginning in 2015, and in July 2016, he was named superintendent.

Also at the March 1 regular meeting, retiring superintendent, Carl Hilling, was praised for doing an outstanding job given the tough circumstances the district has been in. He was thanked and recognized for his dedicated service to the Parma Schools.

"In regards to Charlie, he has spent his career dedicated to his alma mater in the Euclid City Schools. His dedication and passion for students and educational programs has not gone unnoticed in that community. We look forward to Charlie continuing to bring his positive energy to the Parma Schools and the three cities we serve. On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I would like to welcome him to the Parma Schools as we work together to build a stronger and more vibrant district for the future," said PCSD Board of Education President John Schweitzer.

Dave Nedrich, President and CEO of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, said CBS Connects allows students to understand that they can succeed and gives them confidence to find a great career that is fun and something they are passionate about.

"The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to support school to work initiatives through CBS Connects," he expressed. "Our chamber has a long history of partnering with the Parma Schools, starting 27 years ago with the creation of Community, Business, Schools (CBS). Since its inception, CBS has been the vehicle that enabled businesses to connect to

**continued on page 11**



AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

The Parma Hts. PACT Unit's Youth Group is active, doing well and continues to meet every other Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm usually at Cassidy Theater. Their next meeting will be April 4th. Find various sign-up documents for PACT Unit programs, i.e.: the Senior Knock and Talk service, and follow its progress at [www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police](http://www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police)

Saturday, April 28th from 9 – 4 pm -Baldwin Wallace University Center for innovation & Growth in Berea will be hosting "Girls In Motion" – a free, fun filled day of empowerment for young ladies grades 8 – 12. Questions: Contact Teresa Stafford at [teresas@clevelandrcc.org](mailto:teresas@clevelandrcc.org), ph: 216/658.2786.

College Colleagues is offering free tutoring for 9th – 12th grade students. This local, for-profit tutoring business has stepped up to offer two free hours of walk-in tutoring/coaching on a first come-first served basis on Thursday

evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, now through May 10th. Call 216.978.6524; email: [contact@collegecolleagues.net](mailto:contact@collegecolleagues.net). 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>

The Parma Chapter of Get WISE (Women In Science & Engineering) will be hosting its first Annual Get WISE program at the GM Parma Metal Center on Thursday, May 10th, 2018. This free program is looking to engage upwards of 125, 7th grade girls from Parma City Schools. Activities will include an educational plant tour, interaction w/professional women, hands-on competitive challenges, lunch and prizes. Watch for more information coming soon.

The latest issue of the Project Aware newsletter recognizes March as being Gender Equality & Women's

History month. In so doing it references an amazing collection of sites describing related programs, services, blogs and events taking place locally (highlights the well regarded & popular "Girl Power" program at Parma Sr H.S.), nationally & around the world. Go here to check out a copy: <https://tinyurl.com/ya632hd4>

An FYI from Parma City Schools...

As you should already be aware, PCSD will be seeking passage of a 7.4 mill levy on the upcoming May 8th ballot. A great deal of time and effort has gone into the analysis & development of information explaining why this levy is so particularly important at this time. Visit either of these two web pages for answers to any of your related questions & please share this information with your friends & neighbors..... <https://www.parmacityschools.org/levy>; <https://www.parmacityschools.org/facts>.

Valley Forge High School will be hosting a Career Expo from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, Friday April 27, 2018. This is a perfect opportunity for Colleges, Trades & Businesses to connect and promote careers and entrepreneurship to students in our District. The cost to participate is just \$30 which includes the table, chairs, a light breakfast & box lunch. Contact Carolyn Holt Balis at 440.885.8440, fax: 440.888.0239 or email: [holtbalisc@parmacityschools.org](mailto:holtbalisc@parmacityschools.org).

From the Parma Area Family Collab / Tri-City MyCom....  
The Collab's next Mobile Food

Pantry will be Thursday, April 12th. 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.

If your daughter is looking for a Prom outfit consider visiting the Belle of the Ball Boutique taking place at the Collab on April 21st from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. This is where our Senior High School students attending their Prom can "shop" for dresses and accessories, shoes, make-up, etc. Call 440.997.4873 for details. Cash donations and/or of accessories, in particular would be appreciated.

Also being offered is a Free Money Management workshop offered the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. See attached flyer for details.

Free tax prep is also available at the Collab by calling United Way's Info line 211 or visiting <http://www.211oh.org/how-we-help/featured-programs> to schedule an appointment on-line.

A new addition to the Collab's Resource Directory = Recovery Resources ([www.recres.org](http://www.recres.org)) offers a broad range of support services to include Addiction, Recovery, Criminal Justice & Reentry, Housing, Mental

CBS Connects Gives PSCD Students Real-World Opportunities

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the classrooms, and one of the major reasons that we have been successful in securing this grant is because of the success of CBS."


Next year, PCSD and the chamber plans to apply for the maximum amount offered through the grant,

\$150,000, to continue and possibly expand the program to the elementary schools.

"This is just an awesome opportunity for kids and I hope these experiences offered in this program makes an impact on our students," Caldwell said.

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**Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio



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