

“The world’s favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May”- Edwin Way Teale

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Parma Officials Announce Gun Safety Program

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In light of seeming proliferating accidents and attacks involving guns, Parma City Council and the Parma Police Department have partnered to create a program to enhance gun safety in their community by providing residents with free firearm safety kits. The program is intended to be a proactive approach to preventing gun violence in the community.

The program came into being through the efforts of Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis, and Law Director Timothy Dobeck in partnership with the Fin, Feather and Fur company. Their efforts lead to working with Project ChildSafe, a nationwide firearms safety education program.

Project ChildSafe is a program developed by the



Left to right- Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck, Parma Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis

National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), which has distributed more than 37 million firearm safety kits throughout the country since 2003. The program is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the firearms industry. Each kit includes firearm safety information, as well

as a gun lock.

“We encourage residents to pick up a Project ChildSafe safety kit so that they can securely store their firearm,” said Parma Police Chief Joseph Bobak. “Each kit contains a safety curriculum and a cable-style gun lock. The locks fit on most types of handguns, rifles and shotguns. The goal is to prevent a child or any other unauthorized person from accessing a firearm in your home.”

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, Parma’s officials are participating in a national effort to promote firearms safety education to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe distributes gun lock safety kits to all 50 states and the five U.S. territories.

“We are pleased to have the City of Parma as a Project ChildSafe partner,” said Bill Brassard Jr., director of Project ChildSafe. “Project ChildSafe is an important step forward in helping ensure that all firearm owners fully understand their responsibilities with respect to the safe handling and storage of firearms.”

“We will be distributing the kits at events throughout the city, including upcoming ward safety meetings,” Brennan mentioned. “Residents may also visit the Parma City Council office and show proof of residency for a kit,” Councilman Divis added. The City Council office is located downstairs at Parma City Hall, 6611 Ridge Road. For more information, call 440-885-8091.

HELP Is Here For Home Repair

by Mark DeLaney

As spring blooms around us, so does the arrival of home improvement season. Projects that have been contemplated and discussed all winter long are now ready to be addressed. Most Cuyahoga County residents don’t know about an extra tool that they may have in their tool belt. That tool is called the Housing Enhancement Loan Program, or HELP

loan for short. All residents in communities on the west side could be eligible for this great program. I also encourage contractors and home improvement companies to learn about this program so they can share it with their clients.

How does it work? If the funds are being used for alteration, repair, maintenance or improvements, the homeowner

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Business of the Month



Congratulations to Make Believe Family Fun Center on being named the Mayor’s Business of the Month. Yuri, Elena, Rebecca & Sean Abramovich brought the business to 8308 Day Drive in December, 2016 and it has welcomed more than 150,000 visitors so far. Make Believe has a Ninja Wall, two rock walls, bumper cars, Virtual Reality, mini bowling, and even a toddler room for the youngest guests. A great place for a child’s birthday party!



70th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade Weekend

by Kathryn Mabin

The celebration begins with a Wing Ding, Friday, May 4th, at RAXX located at 5513 Pearl Rd. Net proceeds from this event benefit Polish Village Parma, a qualified 501(c)3. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20. Saturday, May 5th, at 6:00pm is the Polonia Ball in the St. Charles Social Hall. Junior Miss Polonia (ages 15-17) and Miss Polonia (ages 18-24) will be chosen at this event.

Sunday, May 6, 2018, the much anticipated parade comes to Polish Village. This parade kicks off the beginning of Spring in Polish Village. The parade route begins lining up at the Parma Circle on Ridge Road at 1:00pm. Bruce Kalinowski will be announcing the parade participants. Watch for

your local high school marching bands participating in the event. The parade starts at 2:00pm and travels north on Ridge Rd., towards Snow Rd. and ends at the Unity Catholic Credit Union parking lot next door to St. Charles Church. The parking lot will be transformed for this event into a fun filled destination for parade goers. Listen to and dance to a live polka band. Visit the various food and beverage vendors selling Polish and American food. New this year, under a tent will be home-based business vendors and crafters selling lots of unique items. In addition there will be activities for the kids. This is a great family event to kick off Spring.

Hope to see you there!

Citizen of the Month



Congratulations to Marie Chick, the Mayor’s Citizen of the Month. Marie was honored at a recent City Council meeting. She was chosen for her outstanding and tireless work on behalf of Holy Family Parish, the YMCA, the American Legion 703 Ladies Auxiliary and the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. Marie was presented with proclamations and certificates by Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Councilman Al Divis and was then joined by a sizable contingent from the YMCA and the Smallwood Center who attended the Council meeting on her behalf. Congratulations, Marie!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

Take a Hike at West Creek Reservation (Various Dates/Times)

The West Creek Conservancy deserves many congratulations for saving what has become the newest jewel in the Emerald Necklace we know as the Cleveland Metroparks. The West Creek Reservation and adjoining Watershed Stewardship Center are known nationally. Why not join the volunteers on one of their many hikes through the park. For instance, on Saturday, May 19 at 10 am you can join them on a hike from the Reservation to the former Parmadale property to find out more about its future. Check their website for many other hikes and activities at <http://westcreek.org/>.

Catch a Game at Veterans Memorial Park (Various Dates/Times)

When was the last time you strolled through State Road Park? Have you seen the beautiful memorials in honor

of our veterans, the monument of the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation, the smooth walking/jogging path and the many other amenities it has to offer. Even better, before or after your stroll, catch one of the many exciting baseball or softball games that go on pretty consistently throughout the summer. It’s free!

28th Parma Rib n’ Rock (Thursday, June 7 through Sunday, June 10)

Parma’s premier summer event will take place once again at Cuyahoga Community College’s western campus (CCC-West), 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road. Admission is \$3 per person, while children under 12 are free. Check out Facebook or the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce’s website for more information. Full of fun, rides for the kids, live music, great drinks, excellent ribs and vendors - it is a family favorite!

Parma Young Professionals Tacos and Tequila (Friday, June 22)

I am a huge cheerleader for the



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Young Professionals of Parma. This fun-loving group of Parma-lovers has one goal – make Parma an even better place to live. New to the scene, they are growing fast. Why not join them at this fun event, which will take place at the Watershed Stewardship Center in the West Creek Reservation (enter off of West Ridgewood Drive). For \$25 enjoy an unlimited taco buffet, tequila drinks, beer, great music from local bands and fun company from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Find out more and buy tickets at <https://parmayps.com/events/>.

Traveling Vietnam Wall (Thursday, June 28 – Saturday, July 1)

Parma is blessed with many who served us in all of the branches of the military. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute organization has partnered with American Legion Post 703, the City of Parma, and several other community organizations to bring the traveling Vietnam Wall to CCC-West. Why not stop by and pay tribute to our honored veterans at this 80-percent scale version of The Wall on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The 360-feet long (8-feet high at it’s height) Wall contains all of the names of those found on the original.

8th Annual Parma Area Run-Walk for Pierogies (Saturday, June 30)

Sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center and Perla Pierogies at 5380 State Road, the Run-Walk has become a Parma area summer staple. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$30 on the day of the event, while children 11 and under are \$10. The charity event will take place once again on the campus of CCC-West. For more information check out www.hermescleveland.com or on Facebook.

Independence Day Parade (Wednesday, July 4)

Parma’s famous July 4 parade always begins near Snow Road and proceeds south on Ridge to The Shoppes at Parma. The parade commences at 10:00 am and hosts several local veterans and fraternal organizations, Parma’s safety forces, local high schools bands, Boy and Girl Scout troops, several elected officials, among many other groups.

86th Annual St. Charles Borromeo Parish Carnival (Wednesday, July 11 through Sunday, July 15)

The carnival kicks off on Wednesday with a parade on Ridge Road at 5:30 that proceeds from the famous Parma Circle to the St. Charles campus at 5891 Ridge Road. Attendees can enjoy nightly entertainment, excellent ethnic food, a car raffle, lots of games for kids and adults, air conditioned bingo, a

beer and wine garden and much, much more. Grounds open at 6:30 pm daily.

Heritage Days at Stearns’ Homestead (Saturday, July 14 through Sunday, July 15)

Come out and enjoy Parma’s only working farm located at 6975 Ridge Road from noon to 4:00 pm both days. Find out about their many other activities at <http://www.stearnishomestead.com/>.

St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church Summer Festival (Saturday, July 21)

Located at 5913 State Road, St. Vladimir’s is one of Parma’s many beautiful places of worship. My wife and I love this event. Doreen Jogan and her kitchen crew always serve up excellent homemade Ukrainian fare that can be washed down with a fine selection of very good beverages. Great entertainment, tours of the cathedral and interesting vendors will also be a part of the celebration. Stop by noon to 11:00 pm.

Veteran Grave Markers

by Bob Stilwell

The Parma Heights Historical Society is working on a project to identify all of the veteran graves in the Parma Heights Cemetery next to the Reservoir on Pearl Road with a plaque imbedded in cement at each individual grave. There are 60 known veterans of all wars dating back to the Revolutionary War. The latest veteran to be buried in the cemetery was Steve Santner Born 1916, Died 2018. He was the oldest World War II veteran to be buried here. He was 102. We will have 11 grave markers finished in time for the Memorial day celebration. These 11 grave markers will be implanted at the



graves in the general area of the American legion Post 703 podium stand in the Cemetery for all in attendance to see. The remaining 49 graves will be completed by Labor Day of this year. This is one of many projects that are planned for this year. If you are interested in joining our group then call Barb Pacino at 440-885-9767.

8th Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies

5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, June 30, 2018 - 8:30 am

Tri-C Western Campus - 11000 Pleasant Valley Road

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5K Run Award Age Groups: Top overall male and female 11 and under, 12-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, and 70 Over - Pierogie awards to top three male and female finishers in each division.

Mail entries must be received by Wed., June 27. Make checks payable to: Hermes Sports & Events 2425 W. 11th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

Register online at: www.hermescleveland.com Online registration closes Friday, June 29 at 9:00 am.

Race Director: Parma City Council President Sean Brennan: 440-885-8091 pierogie5k@gmail.com

Best pierogie costume contest - Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places! Proceeds benefit local charities. Sponsorship opportunities available!

Run/Walk for Pierogies

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Race Day Age: _____; Gender: M F

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature (Parent/Guardian, if under 18): _____

Shirt Size: YS YM YL S M L XL XXL XXXL Circle One: 5K Run, 5K Walk or 1 Mile Walk

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I hereby understand that upon my entry into the Pierogies 5K race/walk or 1 mile fun walk, I waive any and all claims for damages that I may have against University Hospitals, Cuyahoga Community College, Perla Pierogies, the City of Parma, the Parma Charitable Fund, Hermes Sports & Events, promoters, sponsors or anyone involved in the production of this race, regarding any and all injuries suffered by me while running, traveling to and from, or participation in this event, for myself, my heirs and/or assignors. I also understand that refunds will not be available for entry fees.

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Design and Production

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440-884-7625

Writers

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Gene Lovasy

Kathryn Mabin

Jean Micklewright

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Family & Friends CPR Arms Citizens With Life-Saving Skills

by CJ Sheppard

A staggering 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home, according to the American Heart Association. If your loved one or a visitor collapsed in cardiac arrest, would you know what to do? Effective bystander CPR can double or even triple a person’s chances of survival. By knowing CPR, you could be administering life-extending chest compressions to someone in cardiac arrest while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. On Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., University Hospitals Parma Medical Center will host a Family & Friends CPR course at UH

Parma Health Education Center, 7300 State Road, Parma.

The course is ideal for community groups, grandparents, new parents, babysitters and others interested in learning how to save a life. Participants will learn how to perform CPR on adults, children and infants, as well as how to respond when someone is choking.

“Hosting events like Friends & Family CPR is an important component to Building Lifesaving Communities,” says Daniel Ellenberger, Director of University Hospitals EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute. “Being trained in CPR can increase the chances of a family member surviving a sudden

out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.”

Susi Kugler, a secretary for UH Parma Medical Center’s Food & Nutrition Services, disliked feeling helpless when she heard “First Responder” calls for people in distress in the hallway at the hospital. She took a CPR class offered recently at the hospital.

“You never know,” said Kugler, whose parents are getting older and whose department is not located near patient care areas with CPR-trained clinical staff. “If someone is in trouble, I want to be able to help. I don’t want to just stand there and watch.”

Kugler appreciated the chance to

practice chest compressions on a mannequin. Like many participants, she was surprised at how difficult it was to depress the chest at least two inches, and to maintain a pace of at least 100 compressions per minute.

“We want survivability,” said Greg Breen, a 25-year instructor with UH Parma’s EMS Institute with 31 years of experience with Cleveland EMS. “The person you’re performing CPR on will have a better quality of life because they had bystander CPR.”

The course costs \$30. Register by calling 440-743-4932.



Performing CPR on a person in cardiac arrest can double or triple their chances of survival.

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OBSERVER

HELP Is Here For Home Repair

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applies at one of the participating banks: Key Bank, Huntington National Bank or PNC Bank. Most bankers are familiar with this program and can assist the applicant with the short amount of paperwork required to apply for the program. All of the banks above offer a home secured version of this program. Additionally, Key Bank offers an unsecured home improvement loan with rate deduction as well.

Parma Art News

by Kathryn Mabin

Call For Entries Medley Of The Arts Show & Sale The annual spring art show and sale, sponsored by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, will be held on May 19, 2018, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, at the Donna Smallwood Center. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. Monetary prizes are awarded for the first place in each of the following six categories: 1)Watercolor 2)Oil & Acrylics 3)3 Dimensional (pottery, carving, jewelry, sculpture) 4) Computer Graphics/Pencil/Pen & Ink/ Pastels 5)Photography 6)Fiber Arts, as well as a Best In Show and People's Choice Award. If you are interested in entering this unjuried show and are over the age of 16, please contact Michelle at (216)618-0956 or visit the web site at www.Parmafinearts.org, for an application and more information. No residency or membership requirements. Drop off date for entries is May 19th.

Enroll Now – Youth Art Classes Parma Area Fine Arts is offering Art Exploration, for ages 7 to 17. It offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of arts, crafts, and mediums with a certified instructor. Instructor, Sean Mabin received his Bachelor of Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and his Licensure to teach Art

If the application is approved based on the financial institutions normal lending criteria, the resident can get a home improvement loan at 3 percentage points below the normal bank rate. If the loan is for up to \$12,500, the term is for 5 years. If the loan is \$12,500 or above, the term is 10 years. The decrease is a fixed rate decrease. For example, a loan that the financial institution approves at 5% would get a 3% reduction to qualify for a fixed 2% rate.

The requirements are quite sim-

Education for grades K thru 12 from Cleveland State University. He believes in a discipline based art education, incorporating art history and current events as they relate to the class project. Class size is limited in order to offer individualized attention. Cost is \$8 for a 2 hour session, and supplies are included in the fee. Classes are held Wednesdays 4:30pm to 6:30pm, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr. Call 440-843-6474 or email kathrynmabin@att.net for more information or to enroll.

Enroll Now – Adult Classes Explore the world of Watercolor with Emery Bogardy on Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00pm. You will learn the different techniques used to create realistic watercolor paintings. Acrylic & Mixed Media with Michelle Behal, is also held Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr. Michelle is a proud member of NAIJA, NOAPS, Artists of Cleveland, Cuyahoga National Parks Artist Association, and President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Both of these classes are suitable for beginners. Cost is \$10 for a 2 hour session, discounted for members to \$8. For more information call 440-888-4514, or visit www.Parmafinearts.org.

ple as well. Any bank fees are capped at \$175. There is no limit on the borrower's income. The property taxes on the home must be paid current. Single family, two family and multi-family dwellings are eligible as are owner occupied and investment dwellings. Single family and two family dwellings must have a tax value of less than \$250,000. There is no limit of multi-family dwellings.

Leaders across Cuyahoga County see the benefit in this program. Sean P. Brennan, Parma City Council President says "I have been a proponent of this program for years. I have always felt that it is a no brainer if someone is planning to finance home improvements. In fact, my wife and I took advantage of the program soon after we purchased our own home. My advice is to shop the banks involved in the program and go with the one that has the lowest rate."

Once the loan is in place your city has the responsibility by ordinance to monitor the work on your home. You are required to do the following: Contact the building department or have your contractor contact the building department within one month of your loan's closing date to secure the proper permits and to determine if any zoning, building code or other approvals are required. You have ONE YEAR from the closing date of the loan to complete all of the work.

For your protection, your contractor should be licensed, registered and/ or bonded by your municipality. Contact the city for a list or your contractor can register with the city. The agreement with your contractor is a private one and not the responsibility of the lending institution, the county or your municipality. The city will notify the county that your work is completed. Please keep copies of any receipts and cancelled checks as they may be requested by the city or county to verify compliance. If you do not cooperate with efforts to monitor the progress of your work or any requests for documentation from city or county officials, your loan subsidy (the three point reduction of the bank's normal interest rate) is subject to removal. It is your responsibility to insure that your city is kept up-to-date on the status of your work. The city and county reserve the right to request receipts to verify the cost of improvements.

Due to the savings, the HELP loan can reduce the cost of the repairs or even increase the amount you are able to afford. If you are a resident or home improvement company and would like more information please reach out to me, Mark DeLaney, Branch Manager of the Parma Key Bank, at (440)345-7035. Don't "spring" into your projects without checking out this program first!



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

Asset Corner #101

by Gene Lovasy

MAY's Asset Category: COMMITMENT TO LEARNING. Education has improved immensely in the past 20 years. Today, more young people are taking high-level courses, fewer of them are dropping out, math and science scores are on the rise, and more students are entering college after high school. But that doesn't mean a commitment to learning happens naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one's own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers.

This month's column will focus on: Asset 21: Achievement Motivation Doing your best always makes the grade Do you know young people who always try their best in school,

without rewards or punishments dangling over them? These students have found a reason to work hard; they have achievement motivation. Doing well academically means different things to different people. It doesn't have to mean getting straight A's or being the valedictorian. It does mean doing their best work and caring about their performance, whether they're creating an art portfolio or writing an essay. There are plenty of reasons to work hard in school—getting good grades, making parents happy, or earning a spot on the honor roll. But the biggest incentive for young people to do their best—in school and out—comes from within: personal pride from knowing they gave it their all. Making an effort in school and other activities now, can give young people more reasons to feel proud later on.

Here are the facts

Research shows young people who try their best in school have bet-

ter grades, are more likely to finish high school, and are better at managing stress. They're also better at setting goals and more likely to enroll in college. About 65 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they are motivated to do well in school, according to Search Institute surveys. Help young people understand how important school is so they study hard, pay attention, and do their homework.

Tips for building this asset

What drives the young people you know to do their best? Whatever their reasons, remind them that when they try their best they can always feel good about the results, no matter what the grade.

Also try this

Eagle Scout



Parma Eagle Scout Kevin Bem was honored recently at a City Council meeting with a proclamation from Mayor DeGeeter, a resolution from Parma City Council and certificates of congratulations from Law Director Tim Dobeck, Treasurer Tom Mastroianni and Auditor Brian Day. Kevin, a junior at St. Edward High School, is the son of Kevin & Susan Bem and began scouting as a fifth-grade Webelo. He reached the highest level of scouting – Eagle – on April 10. Kevin aspires to become a Merchant Marine, and we wish him the very best with this and all his future endeavors. Congratulations, Kevin.



by Jean Micklewright

April Highlights Four youth council members participated in Global Youth Service Day at the MetroParks West Creek Reservation on April 21. Patrick from the MetroParks talked about his expectations. The youth learned a valuable life lesson as they went around picking up debris and trash. They all said they would never smoke (due to all the cigarette butts) and all said they had never been to West Creek and wanted to come back. After lunch, we went to the Watershed Stewardship Center. One of the naturalists, Matt, came out and took us into a classroom and let the youth compare possum, raccoon, coyote and deer

skulls. Both Patrick and Matt spoke about their education and career paths. All in all, it was a wonderful, educational opportunity.

Looking Ahead

Summer Days at the Hanna Building 11212 Snow Rd. Parma, Oh 44130

The Summer Days drop in ACTIVITY program is back! This FREE drop in youth program will start on Monday, June 4 and run through Friday, August 10, 2018. The program is from 11:00am until 2:00pm, Monday through Friday, except for July 4th. This fun program provides a free lunch and is for youth ages 5-14 (younger if accompanied by parent).

Maker Club – Continues through May 9 at the Parma Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. This program is 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

Super, Smiling Sam

by Lizabeth Braskie

Sometimes the quiet days of our golden years are sprinkled with the visits of our grandkids. These occasions bring smiles to our hearts and awaken the positive results that stem from interaction with our kin. I look forward to sharing time and space with each of them whenever they have time for a visit. I've been blessed with grandkids of all ages that are equipped with varying degrees of talk and action. They keep me busy with questions, sharing, concerns, serious talk, achievements and challenges. Their sensitive accolades provide sniffles as well.

Grandson, Sam, is an eight year old bundle of curiosity, intelligence, hugs and kisses. He can amaze others by his calculated answers to questions. His incidental knowledge lends itself to sharing conversations about various subjects. But a loving, one-on-one banter can express his feelings, answer a question or just talk about something special that ultimately puts a smile on his face. He has autism and is a remarkable "poster child" for being the best he can be.

Sam's place on the spectrum puts him at the higher end of function. He can speak, run, comprehend, interact and try his best to do things kids of his age can do. He is working on expanding his attention span that's been a slight challenge at his age. Our modern technology

seems to have accidentally contributed to a possible help-aid by means of the I-Pad. Today's kids are learning many things through the inventions of hand-held devices that challenge their time, selections, intelligence and dexterity. Sam does very well with puzzles and other I-pad games that test his comprehension, motivation, calculation and patience. His achievements are sometimes overshadowed by his anxious search for the next challenge. But he always has time for hugs and kisses. These testimonials are the ultimate reward from an angelic, lovable child.

Sam loves to share his cars and trucks when his cousins come over. Imagination takes over and a friendly match up can easily turn into a learning experience. His outside activities include playing Tag in the backyard or climbing on the wooden structure that serves as a hideout or safe haven for other games. When visiting, I might even watch his baseball game at a local park. And when he is visiting at my home, he especially loves to take pretend restaurant orders in my kitchen. He rustles up the imaginary hamburgers or chicken nuggets with the flair of a seasoned chef. My plastic utensils get quite a workout when he's in charge of the "cooking." No order is too big for the chef to whip up. When his "restaurant" closes, there's Lego and board games.

continued on page 7

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

According to research, people benefit when their positive emotions outnumber negative ones by three to one. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good work. An important step in a young person's life is when he or she changes from parental dependence to Godly dependence. This point in one's journey of life will vary from person to person. Blessings may be in plain sight or hidden behind clouds of anxiety and despair, but they are always part of our lives. Change occurs from the bottom up. It takes concerned, inspired, and dedicated individuals to make it happen.

Gardening has social and mental health benefits as well as fresh air and bright skies; it also provides good exercise. God's healing love is the balm that eases the pain of life's hurts and gives a joy and purpose we could never have

without Him. History is filled with great civilizations that have come and gone. They all experienced more decay from within. If painful recollections of the past or frightening thoughts of the future come to mind, we can put them away.

In raising children, like everything else, what we do speaks so much louder than what we say. The challenge is to narrow the gap between word and deed. Obedience acknowledges that we serve a higher power than ourselves. At times, we do not ask for guidance because we think that we know the answer. Only after we look back on our lives, do we realize how much time, effort, and worry we devoted to things, situations, and circumstances that are out of our hands. The problems of life may distress our hearts, but the power of God is bigger than any storm we may encounter.

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

Two New Parma Heights Businesses Will Keep You Well Fed

by Rick Haase

Two new local businesses are certain to keep you well fed. Hani Mikhail, a native of Alexandria, Egypt, and his business partner Moe, have opened **Nile Seafood Restaurant and Market** in the strip shopping center at 6863 West130th Street. The combination restaurant and market which opened Saturday, April 21, has seating for 36.

Mikhail, who has 27 years' experience as an Executive Chef, believes Parma Heights is the perfect location for his business, which is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sundays from Noon until 6 p.m. For reservations, call 440.253.8333, or you can e-mail Nile-seafood2018@hotmail.com.

In addition to the ability to have a



Nile Seafood Restaurant and Market is located at 6863 West 130th Street.

meal, you can also purchase fresh seafood to take home. Specialties of the house include grilled or fried calamari, (\$9), and the Nile Seafood Appetizer Mix, which consists of smoked salmon, anchovies, calamari, shrimp, mussels and clams with three different sauces (\$15). Another popular item is the Nile Seafood Combo (\$30), which includes rice, salad and soup. The restaurant offers daily specials and both lunch and dinner buffets. Haidi Mikhail, Hani's daughter, said restaurant items are prepared "in the unique style of how we (Egyptians) cook seafood. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else." "Our customers are the king," she said. "Whatever you want will be prepared your way." Fresh seafood is flown in fresh from Florida and California.

Meanwhile, Parma Heights native Tiffany Dray Gentle, whose parents, Fred and Marlene Dray, reside on Greenbriar Drive, have begun a new endeavor called **Grandma's Euroland Pierogies**. They are making pierogis fresh, using recipes from Tiffany's late grandmother, Mary Chrewan, and her aforementioned mother. "The secret is in the dough," Tiffany Gentle said. "It's light, not heavy."

Grandma's Euroland Pierogis offers 17 different varieties for sale, including: spinach and gouda, potato and cheddar, potato, cheddar and onion, cheddar and bacon, apple spice, caramel apple, mushroom and sauerkraut, prune, peach cobbler, Reuben, beef, swiss and mushroom, squash and pecan, cottage ham, sauerkraut and potato, seafood, pumpkin pie and pepperoni pizza. Depending

on variety, prices range from \$5 for a half-dozen to \$15.50 per dozen. Pierogies are prepared in the kitchen of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, where Marlene Dray is the principal organist. A portion of all pierogis sold goes to Divinity's Arts in Action program, which focuses on community outreach through the arts, and each year provides a scholarship to a graduating high school senior in the Divinity congregation. Gentle and her husband will deliver your pierogis free in the Parma Heights area with a minimum \$20 order. Or, you can pick them up at the church from 9 a.m. to Noon Sundays and from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesdays. To place an order, call 216.848.0803 or email ktgentle@yahoo.com.

You can read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com



Ken (left) and Tiffany Gentle.

Super, Smiling Sam

continued from page 6

I'm positive that grandkids are the best prescription for grandparent's aches, pains and loneliness that puts happiness in our hearts. Fortunately, there are no medical or dosage restrictions for these cures. All we need are plenty of refills. And a hankie for our happy tears that are forthcoming from grandkids' visits including my super, smiling Sam.



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PERSPECTIVE

Paid Family Leave, An idea Whose Time Has Come

by Lee Kamps

Earlier this month, I volunteered at the Cleveland International Film Festival and while I was there I saw many movies. The film festival showcases many movies from independent film makers, documentaries and foreign movies. This year's film festival featured almost 500 full length movies and shorts from 72 different countries. It also attracted more than 105,000 people during its 12 day run at the Tower City Cinemas and several neighborhood screenings, making it one of the largest film festivals in the world.

One of the movies that I saw this year was a documentary about the lack of paid family leave in the United States. The title of that movie was Zero Weeks. It was 25 years ago this year that new President Bill Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) that granted up to 13 weeks of unpaid leave for dealing with family medical needs such as a new baby or a serious illness of a family member.

But the FMLA only covers less than half of American workers. Exempted from the FMLA are employees of small businesses of less than 50 employees, the self employed and part time employees. In addition, FMLA only grants up to 13 weeks of unpaid leave, so many workers just cannot afford to miss that much time away from work without a paycheck. As a result, less than 20% of American workers take advantage of FMLA.

But the rest of the world has an answer. That is a system of government sponsored and funded paid family leave. In those countries, paid family leave is funded through a government administered insurance program similar to social security. Employees and

employers pay payroll taxes that establish a fund from which this paid family leave is made. In the nations where this has been done, there is very little abuse of the benefit and those workers who are benefitting from paid family leave are much happier and more productive.

For example, the United Kingdom offers 40 weeks of paid family leave, Vietnam 26 weeks, Bangladesh 16 weeks, Canada 15 weeks, Mexico 12 weeks and Iran 12 weeks. The United States and Papua New Guinea are the only nations in the world that do not offer any paid family leave as government policy.

But this idea is gaining momentum at the state level in the United States. Already eleven states, including New York and California have passed legislation establishing a state insurance fund for paid family leave that covers all employees, even part time and self employed workers. In those states that have had it the longest, there has been very little abuse and no exodus of businesses out of the state and in fact the opposite has happened. The presence of paid family leave in California has enabled many companies there to attract the best and most talented workers and that prompted a similar program in Washington.

As competition increases for the world's most talented workers, things such as paid family leave is becoming increasingly a benefit that will work against states and countries that do not offer this benefit. In my career of advising small businesses on matters such as employee benefits, one complaint that I often heard from a business owner was their ability to attract and retain good employees.

Most people believe that paid

family leave would only affect workers when there is a new baby in the home. But paid family leave would also be applicable where a parent or working adult is needed to care for a child or family member with a serious illness or an aging parent. Like social security, paid family leave could affect every worker in the United States, even single adults with no dependents. If you were to have a serious illness, paid family leave could make the difference between a healthy recovery medically and financially or recovering medically but ending up bankrupt and financially ruined.

Clearly paid family leave is an idea whose time has come in the United States. The United States is no longer alone in the world. Our economy and national security is tied to every other nation in the world. The 21st century is the century of a truly global economy and if the United States is going to be a leader, paid family leave should be adopted nationwide not just in eleven states.

FYI, the Cleveland International Film Festival next year is scheduled from Wednesday March 27 through Sunday April 7 2019 and will be at the Tower City Cinemas downtown.



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IMPRESSIONS

Lawyers, Guns, Money...

by Davidione Pearl

In the wake of millions of wailing patriots exhibiting their concerns across the nation around gun legislation, I find it even more challenging to digest opposition overtures decrying their two driven points: to not 'tread' on their 2nd amendment rights, and that guns don't kill people, 'people' kill people...I have however yet to experience any active solutions to follow their impassioned words, words that I recognize are valid to them and I do not discredit, but words that I nonetheless fundamentally disagree with, for the following reasons:

The Constitution was written at a time when a ragtag fledgling part-time army with very few weapons and even lesser skills, were under the tyrannical shadow of a high-powered monarch with an immensely efficient war machine under his command. The firearms amendment was more relevant then than it will likely ever be again in our country's history. It was also written at a time that every 5 slaves would equal 3 white citizens for taxation purposes within the garment of the 3/5 Compromise. A very antiquated time.

What I find particularly challenging is that there is little to no compromise when it comes to who or what kills people after they are dead -

the weapon itself, or the one that fired it. Both kill, plain and simple - The offender, the weapon, and third, us - for blatant inaction. If tank cannons weren't regulated, sold on the marketplace, purchased by someone who then devastated a community, would we not agree that said cannon should be leashed? Some years from now, when a manufacturer engineers a hand-held laser device that disintegrates its target, a purchaser goes out and devastates a community with it, would we not agree that said weapon too should be leashed?

Another pivotal discussion in Congress right now as a result of Russian collusion in American politics through the vehicle of social media, is the issue of regulating the social media platform used, as an 'instrument' of accountability itself, the 'gun' as it were, not *only* those 'persons' that would seek to utilize it in such a way again. That is to say, holding an 'instrument' accountable is a preventative measure. holding 'persons' accountable will be by and large a reaction, far more likely to occur after the damage is already done. A dead person will not deem or politicize a shooter and their weapon to be mutually exclusive, they will just be dead and not want to be. There are now more guns than people in America per FBI numbers. Roughly 400 million. These numbers are rapidly growing,

and are only those that are registered, unregistered firearms numbers are of course even more staggering. With this in mind I ask only this: where do those that wish not to touch the second amendment begin to seriously rethink the numbers and types of guns in this country?

- 500 million?
- 1 billion?
- 10 billion?
- 100 billion?
- 500 billion?
- When are too many guns too many guns is my question?
- A trillion?
- 10 trillion?
- 100 trillion?
- 500 trillion?
- Or will it only be serious enough when your children come home ter-

rified and in tears from things they see and hear that we are allowing to become normalized language in our academic strata, as we carry a new found complacency with an obtuse mindset of, "this is just how it is". Is this really the example we wish to set forth as protectors? An impotent response to all this while gun manufacturers pull in record numbers and pimp us all? Or, will it only be serious enough when the day comes that your child, spouse, mother, father, brother, or sister, doesn't make it home at all?

They won't care in the slightest if it was the shooter or the weapon that killed them. We must develop a plan to address both ends of this, period. Lest we fail the future, and may as well be pulling the damn trigger ourselves.

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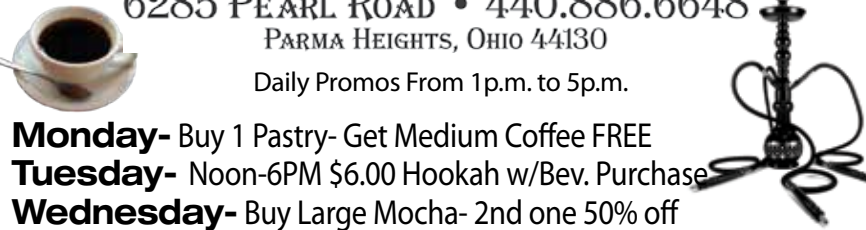
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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Seven Hills Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila, Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and Parma Heights Mayor Michael Byrne recognize the importance of Parma Schools' levy, Issue 5, and its impact on their communities.

A Message From Parma City Schools Superintendent:
Issue 5 Important For Our Staff
And Programs

by Carl Hilling

On May 8, the Parma City School District will have Issue 5 on the primary ballot. Issue 5 is a 7.4 mill operating levy request which will help protect and safeguard many academic programs and opportunities for all students in the Parma Schools.

Providing programs and opportunities that educate and promote the well-being of all children is what we do at the Parma Schools. We want to provide your children with the best education possible with up-to-date resources and buildings that are sus-

Ridge-Brook Elementary
Principal Steve Perry Named
Educator Of The Year By PTA
District 12



Ridge-Brook Elementary School Principal Steve Perry

by Amy Popik

When you talk to Ridge-Brook Elementary principal Steve Perry about his building and his PTA, you would think he was talking about his own family. The connections that Perry has built over the last two years at the tight-knit school are undeniable. In recognition of his dedication to the children and families at Ridge-Brook, Perry was named the Parma Council of PTA Educator of the Year for 2018. In addition to being named as the Educator of the Year in Parma, Perry was first nominated for and then later awarded the Ohio PTA District 12 Educator of the Year. District 12 serves the communities of Bay Village, Berea, North

continued on page 11

tainable. We are here to educate your students and prepare them for their bright futures.

Every day you trust teachers, support staff and administration of our school buildings with your students. The reason you trust them is because they are consistently good at what they do. They have earned your trust.

Our certified and classified staff do an excellent job in all of our buildings throughout the system. 75% of our teaching staff has a master's degree and more than 58% of our teachers have 10 or more years' experience in the classroom. They do this despite being in the bottom third in the county when it comes to pay.

It's no secret that many of our classified staff live in the district. Their hard work, dedication and attention to detail benefits the community's children and makes our three cities very proud.

If you think these people work solely for their paycheck, you would be completely mistaken. These dedicated staff members routinely give up their evenings, weekends and time away from their own families to help even one child. It's that passion and commitment to students which truly sets our district apart.

Maintaining and sustaining quality staff members in any line of business is an important part of being successful. It's the people in your organization who make the real difference. We are successful because of the many people who dedicate themselves to education, to students and to the Parma Schools on a daily basis.

Issue 5 will help protect and safeguard our staff by being able to maintain and sustain the quality staff we currently have. In addition, it will help the district attract other high-quality staff to join us. All parents want what is best for their children, and we do as well.

We will continue to be vigilant with your tax dollars moving forward as we look to the future. Over the last two years, we have cut \$15 million in spending by streamlining operations. The next round of reductions will have more of an impact. I ask you to consider Issue 5 and its importance on May 8.

PCSD High School Seniors Awarded
\$96,000 In Scholarships
At Winners Circle Recognition



Normandy High School scholarship recipients at Winners Circle.



Parma Senior High School scholarship recipients at Winners Circle.



Valley Forge High School scholarship recipients at Winners Circle.

by Amy Popik

On April 13, high school seniors from throughout the Parma City School District were awarded scholarships during an annual day of recognition known as Winners Circle. Organized entirely by the Parma Council of PTAs, Winners Circle assemblies are held at Normandy, Parma and Valley Forge High School throughout the entire day. This year, 115 scholarships were awarded, totaling just over \$96,000. "Seeing the students come through elementary school all the way up now to graduation, and how successful they've become through our school system is, of course, a brag point," Angela Revay, Parma Council of PTA president said.

The sponsors of the scholarships represent a cross-section of all three communities. One of the most recognizable fundraising campaigns in the district is the annual Geranium Sale for Scholarships, now in its 66th year. Besides that sale, each building's PTA unit individually raises funds for scholarships throughout the year. Other sponsors include former PTA units, alumni associations, local businesses, service organizations and individual

family donations.

"PTA units from school buildings that have closed tried to set up funding to continue to give scholarships," Revay said. "State Road, for example, has given one the past few years even after their building closed. They have been able to keep it going, which is great."

All PCSD high school seniors are welcome to apply for the scholarships. The application process begins over winter break when PTA posts the scholarship application on the website. When students return in January, PTA then offers assemblies in each building to provide more information for families. Interested students complete the applications and return them in early February. Once the applications are received, PTA members at the building and district level begin to review the applications. All scholarships remain anonymous during the entire review process. Scholarship applications are also shared with the sponsors to review and rank. Once the entire review process is completed, the results are tabulated.

High school seniors are invited to the Winners Circle ceremony along

continued on page 11

AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From the Ohio Dept of Education.... In-Demand Jobs Week is scheduled for May 7 – 11, and communities throughout Ohio are gearing up

PCSD High School Seniors \$96,000 In Scholarships continued from page 10

with all the sponsors. At the ceremony, scholarship winners are individually recognized and invited to share with those in attendance their plans after high school. “Knowing that a lot of them are going on to be engineers or in the medical field or teaching, it’s just really a highlight to see all the good things for these students and other students who may or may not have been awarded a scholarship,” Revay added.

Ridge-Brook Elementary Principal Steve Perry Named Educator Of The Year By PTA District 12 continued from page 10

Olmsted, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Orange, Parma, Rocky River, Solon, Strongsville and Westlake.

The nomination letter written by the Ridge-Brook PTA spoke of Perry’s ability to make connections with everyone in his school’s community. “What really made Mr. Perry stand out is the fact he has that interaction with his students and his families,” Parma Council PTA president Angela Revay explained. “He’s gone door-to-door to families from the time school started and continues to do so. Taking backpacks of supplies to them that were donated. Making himself known in the community and not just within the four walls of the school. He’s motivated his staff and he gave lots of credit to them for the fact that he received this award.” “I’m humbled,” Perry expressed about receiving both awards. “It makes me want to work harder because it makes me reflect and go ‘Did I really deserve this? What can I do even more for my families, kids and staff here where I can actually feel deserving?’ I feel like I’m not, just because I want it to represent our school and not just one person.”

Perry has made it his mission to visit every Ridge-Brook family at their home throughout the course of the school year. For Perry, the visits not

to host events to inspire students and job seekers about local career opportunities. More than 30 events are planned to date and the list is growing.

Access the In-Demand Jobs Week After the Winners Circle ceremony, students have an opportunity to meet with their sponsor. Both the student’s family and the sponsors are then invited to the annual PTA scholarship dinner, this year held on May 10. At the dinner, scholarship winners are once again commended and recognized for their successes.

Congratulations to all of the high school seniors from Normandy, Parma and Valley Forge who received a scholarship this year!

only build a stronger link between the school and home but also shows that the school cares about kids and their well-being. “Building relationships with families lets them know that you care about their kids and you’re going to keep them safe,” Perry explained. “And that you put your actions where your words are. You can say whatever you want, people don’t believe it unless you live it... Having people see that my staff and I care about kids, that’s just very powerful.”

Perry also expressed how grateful he is to the Ridge-Brook PTA unit for their dedication to the students and staff in the building. “They are passionate about it, they really are,” Perry said. “There is no agenda for them. They want what is best for the kids and what’s best for the school. They will do whatever it takes... They are willing to try anything that will either benefit the teachers, the kids or just the building. They work behind the scenes and make sure everything is perfect. They just love Ridge-Brook.”

In recognition of his District 12 award, Perry was invited to the 112th Ohio PTA convention held near Columbus. Perry along with other district award winners gathered for the announcement of Ohio PTA’s statewide Educator of the Year, along with the Helping Hands award.

web site here: <http://omj.ohio.gov/indemandjobsweek> and scroll down to access both the Event Map and the Business-Education Partner Search Map. While there click on the link to view details of Ohio’s 200+ in-demand occupations. It contains some really great information.

Before going out to buy fresh maple syrup this season check out this new project: Scout’s Own Maple Syrup, an entrepreneurial initiative of

the Lake Erie Council of Boy Scouts of America. The scouts are involved w/ the tapping of trees on the Beaumont Camp Reservation and turning over 70,000 gallons of maple sap into bottled syrup. Go to www.ScoutsOwn.org for details and to purchase.

The next meeting of the Parma Hts. PACT Unit’s Youth Group will be

You can read the rest of this story online at: parmaobserver.com

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2018 BOGO ADMISSION Good ANY DAY Buy 1 Admission Get 2nd Admission FREE PACC/PrmOb

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. 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.

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