

“Anniversaries are like birthdays: occasions to celebrate and to think ahead, usually among friends with whom one shares not only the past but also the future”- Zbigniew Brezezinski

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Parma Observer Is Nine Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy

When the Parma Observer was born in 2009, the world was reeling from a number of momentous changes and dire financial issues associated with that particular time. There was a new Administration in the White House, digging out from a massive recession, the worst since the Great Depression itself, the result of the colossal collapse of Wall Street financial markets at the end of 2008. We were losing as much as 800,00 jobs per month during 2009, the stock market was in the basement and consumer confidence was dismal, to say the least. Most would say that this was not the optimum time to start a brand new business, but my timing has not always been in the proper step, so into

the arms of fate I jumped. Many of the businesses and institutions we take for granted today were started in hard times.

The average lifespan of a community newspaper is often very short; sometimes less than a year. The fact that the Parma Observer is here 9 years later has everything to do with the tireless work and help of hundreds of people in our community whose important efforts have pushed this unique citizen powered hyper-local journalism project ever forward. Everyone from our fantastic writers, our dedicated readers, the fabulous advertisers who speak with their crucial financial support, and those who design pages, ads, and perform essential editing tasks. There is another reason as well,

which should be mentioned on this proud 9th Anniversary. I've said it before- independent media is the only place

left where average people can even hope to have their voices heard, or hear about what their fellow citizens think and

believe. Corporate media can't or won't meet their expectations.

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Issue 7 Builds Stronger Schools, Stronger Communities

by Dr. Charles Smialek

What a start to the 2018-19 school year! From Normandy's Band and dozens of cheering administrators welcoming back our teachers and staff in August to our district's "Kick-Off" event celebrating the excitement inherent to our district, countless members of our school community have dedicated myriad hours to ensure a positive start to the 2018-19 school year. The social fabric and pride that have made this an iconic school district were so clearly on display throughout all of our opening activities. I feel privileged and, frankly, lucky to join the ranks of our Parma Schools.

We will spend much of the next five weeks providing residents with as much information as possible about Issue 7, our 4.5 mill levy request. We work in large, dynamic communities and, accordingly, should communicate as clearly and consistently as possible. The notion of "found money" in last May's five-year forecast emerged as the most frequently cited concern of our community in the feedback we received this summer. Simply put, we did not "find" money. As you talk with the many stakeholders with whom you naturally interact, please keep in mind that last May's forecast:

- Relied upon external consultants (Ohio Auditor, Ohio Department of Education, Public Financial Resources) for increased accuracy
- Was only 3% different from October of 2017 Forecast (+1.6% revenue, -1.4% expenditures)
- Shows a balance of less than 14 days of operating dollars at end of FY 2018, while industry standards and Board policy calls for a minimum of 60 days
- Relied upon \$8.6 million in cuts to balance the budget



Parma City School District Superintendent Dr. Charles Smialek

(55 certified positions, 2018-20)

Parma Schools are critically important to our communities – Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills. Strong schools attract families and improve everyone's home values. Our schools have a long tradition of excellence, a source of great community pride. Our students need to be prepared for the workforce or for college and the schools need the tools necessary to ensure that happens. By 2020, the US economy will grow from 140 million to 165 million jobs. 65% of all jobs will require some education beyond high school.

The district has not passed a new money levy since 2011. Since that time, we have lost

\$71 million in state funding to charter school deductions. We are in fiscal caution and cut over \$23 million from the budget in the last 3 years. We increased class size ratios to almost 30 – 1 and eliminated teachers dedicated to improving reading levels and graduation rates. This is less than ideal for our children.

Our district is at a crossroads; this issue will literally define our district's future. We will either improve opportunity and educational offerings for our kids, or we will lose more ground and face further cuts. This issue will bring back learning labs and support classes, programs that kids need to stay on track. We will reduce elementary class sizes and provide more extracurricular opportunities and home liaisons to connect families to school.

We have a detailed plan at parmacityschools.org and welcome you to attend our October 3 (6:30 P, Parma-Snow Branch Library) or October 23 (6:30 P, Seven Hills Recreation Center) Town Hall Meeting to learn more about our school district and levy request.



Crews are demolishing 13 old dorms at Parmadale.

Demolition Work Underway At Parmadale

by Carolyn Kovach

Demolition work is underway at the former Parmadale Orphanage as part of a redevelopment project to clear nearly 80 acres for greenspace, public park development and watershed conservation at the site. In late September, crews started to demolish 13 old dormitories at the site after Cuyahoga County awarded \$1.35 million toward the project. The funding also includes the demolition of four blighted Parma properties at 7259 Ridge Road, 11599 Kader Ave., 4418 Pershing Ave. and 7407 Dorothy Ave. "The addition of the Parmadale land to the West Creek Conservancy also will create new access to the reservation for thousands of citizens," said West Creek Conservancy Executive Director Derek Schafer.

The demolition is the major step forward for the project after West Creek Conservancy bought the property from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland for \$1.75, of which \$1.5 million came from a Clean Ohio grant and \$250,000 from the Cleveland Metroparks, which partners with West Creek. While the city of Parma agreed to take interim ownership, West Creek is tasked with reclaiming the site and leveraging funding to re-dedicate the former Parmadale campus – which originally opened in 1925 – as public park land. Said Mayor Tim DeGeeter, "The re-envisioning of Parmadale is West Creek's most significant undertaking since the reservation's creation and will be transformative for

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Baker Mayfield Day



Mayor Tim DeGeeter with Pumpkinhead was at Mario's Barber-shop in Parma on 9/10 to proclaim Baker Mayfield Day in honor of the quarterback as the Browns lifted their lengthy losing streak, to the delight of all fans. Mario was also collecting items for hurricane relief on the East Coast.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

This month I am writing to encourage you to get out and vote. Particularly, I am going to make the case to vote YES on Issues 7 and 70. Back in August a gentleman called me and stated that he and his wife were thinking about purchasing a home on Charles Avenue in Parma. He had many good questions about Parma, including what I thought about the Parma City School District (PCSD). "My wife and I are planning to have a family and want a great education for our future children," he explained. After serving as a teacher and a Parma resident for over 25 years, I shared with him several stories of students I personally knew who attended our public schools in Parma and went on to become very successful. Some pursued further education at the collegiate level, other served in the



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

military, and others used the skills and knowledge they gained in high school to launch their career after graduating. A few days later, he called me back to excitedly tell me that they closed on

Fall Visit Days At Tri-C Western Campus

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host Fall Visit Days at Western Campus in October to introduce prospective students to academic and career opportunities. The hour long sessions provide a chance to learn about enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; discover the variety of student services available; and explore the buildings. Western's Fall Visit Days

will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, and 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 12. Registration is requested. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Fall Visit Days will also be offered at Eastern Campus in Highland Hills, Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland and Westshore Campus in Westlake. For more information, or to register, visit www.tri-c.edu/visit or call 216-987-6000.

Parma Observer Is Nine Years Old

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tions when it comes to meaningful information.

We have been pleased to be the only media resource in Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills that provides a place for all citizens and stakeholders in our community to publicly air their information and views for distribution. Even after 9 years, it is interesting to find that many are still not familiar with this concept. Recently, someone came on our facebook page to comment that we should "fire" a writer who had written a story which they did not agree with. I had to explain patiently that these are volunteer citizen journalists and therefore could not be fired. Also mentioned was that the person complaining had the opportunity to write their opinion, which if rationally written, would most likely be printed in the paper as well. We haven't seen their story as of yet,

but we're hoping that we will.

Lots of exciting changes have occurred in our area during the past several years, and I have every reason to believe that there are many more to come. Westcreek Conservancy, Young Professionals of Parma, Town Center Development, the future of the former Parmadale site- these are all developments that suggest a new chapter in our beloved community that will benefit all who call this place home or do business here. Anyone who feels that their ideas or participation can help to make a positive contribution should not hesitate to become involved. These are the times that call for far greater action, not less. The Parma Observer remains the vanguard of community powered discourse in the Tri-City Area, and we thank anyone and everyone who has played any part in our success.



the house! This is a perfect example of how good schools attract young families, which translates into demand for homes and bolsters property values. At the end of the day, this benefits all property owners, whether or not they have children who attend the schools.

The Parma schools are now under new leadership with a new superintendent and school board. I believe it is important for the community to support them in working to ensure that our children are ready for the very competitive 21st century working world. Issue 7 is a 4.5-mill new money levy. It will cost the owner of a one hundred thousand dollar home about \$13.12 per month in property taxes. A new money levy has not been passed in the PCSD since 2011. To find out more about Issue 7, visit www.parmacityschools.org/levy.

As a member of City Council, I work very closely with the Parma Fire Department. I see firsthand every day the fine work our firefighters and emergency medical service heroes do to protect and save lives. I sleep well at night knowing that the people I love are under their care. On November 6, we can show our appreciation of their service to our community by voting YES on Issue 70. Issue 70 is a five-year renewal 2-mill levy that translates into about \$70 per year for the owner of a one hundred thousand dollar home. The property taxes raised by this levy cover the costs of operating our five fire stations, including the key equipment needed for this important work.

Since joining city council, I have been astounded at the increase each year in the number of calls to our firefighters and paramedics. For instance, in 2016 they responded to 11,062 calls, while last year they responded to an all-time high of 11,782 calls. The calls range from heart attack victims to drug overdoses and electrical fires to drownings. The things they see and deal with on a daily basis are quite a cross to bear, and it takes special talent, knowledge and courage that those of us not in the

Demolition Work Underway At Parmadale

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the conservancy and the city."

DeGeeter said the project not only reflects Parma's motto, "Progress Through Partnerships," but also a new beginning.

"We are thankful for the efforts of County Executive Armond Budish and County Councilman Scott Tuma for recognizing the project's importance by helping secure the funds for the demolition," he said. "I also applaud Derek Schafer for his leadership and seeing an opportunity that will benefit Parma and the region."

field could never truly understand.

If you are in need of a vote by mail ballot application, please contact me at 440-885-8091 or email me at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov. Please add Tuesday, November 6 to your calendar and vote. The polls are open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. In America we pride ourselves on being the world's greatest democracy. Democracy is not a spectator sport and only works when we all participate. Let's exercise our patriotic duty and do our part to support our fine community. Best wishes for a wonderful fall season.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Discovery Walks & Other Events From West Creek Conservancy

by Jeff Lennartz

PARMA, OH: Local land trust West Creek Conservancy invites you to its free ongoing series of guided walks and programs to learn about its conservation work in local communities and the progress being made to develop the 25-mile West Creek Greenway. Upcoming events include:

Wed., Oct 10th, 7 pm – 9 pm. “Memories of Parmadale.” This century-old campus was acquired by the Conservancy in 2017. As its 90 acres begin transformation into public green space, Marilyn Osborne shares her recollections tonight of living there in the 1960s. We’ll include a presentation on the site’s history and current plans. Held at the Watershed Stewardship Center at West Creek Reservation, Parma.

Sat., Oct 13th, 10 am – noon. “Discovery Hike – Independence’s Hemlock Creek Trail.” Join us for a casual walk along the newest leg of the West Creek Greenway, now under construction. (Completion and dedication of this section is expected in early 2019.) We’ll explore the fascinating history of the old Hunt estate and abandoned quarries, as we walk 2 to 3 miles. Park behind Cleveland Clinic Operations Center, 6801 Brecksville Rd, Independence. Terrain includes dirt paths, slight hills.

Sat., Oct 20th, 9 am – noon.

“Discovery Hike – West Creek Reservation.” We’ll take a vigorous 4 to 5-mile walk through the length of West Creek Valley’s largest protected area. The Conservancy saved this valley and continues to enlarge it. We’ll learn about the park’s history and future place in the Greenway. Meet at Monarch Bluff Picnic Area in West Creek Reservation, Parma. Terrain includes dirt paths, some off trail, and hills.

Sat., Oct 27th, 8:30 am. “Creatures in the Forest 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk.” Lace up for a trail run or 1-mile fun walk through beautiful West Creek Reservation in Parma. There will also be a free Trot-for-Treats for kids under 12. Includes food trucks, spirits, and awards. Note that paid registration is required for the 5K. Meet at Keystone Shelter.

For a complete list of events, more details, or to learn more about West Creek Conservancy, visit westcreek.org or call 216-749-3720.

About West Creek Conservancy= West Creek Conservancy has been connecting people to nature since its founding in 1997. To date it has conserved with its partners over 2,000 acres of habitat across 20 communities, creating and expanding several parks along the way. Its mission is to enrich the lives of people in Greater Cleveland by conserving natural habitats, restoring the ecologi-

cal value and sustainability of urban lands, and expanding neighborhood opportunities to experience nature. The Conservancy is an independent

nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that relies on donor support. Please consider joining today. Learn more at westcreek.org.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program Honors Parma Veterans

by Carolyn Kovach

The city of Parma and American Legion Post 572 are promoting a new Hometown Heroes street banner program to honor the service and sacrifice of Parma’s veterans. The 2-by-4 foot patriotic banners will line the road that leads to Veterans Memorial Park at 6328 State Road. The city is purchasing the brackets and will install the banners. When American Legion Post 572 approached the city to partner on the banner program, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter thought it was the perfect fit. “Putting the banners in Veterans Memorial Park is a fitting tribute for those who sacrificed so much for us,” DeGeeter said. “It’s a way to honor our Parma veterans and neighbors.”

The banners will be on display for one year, starting the first week of November and prior to Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The display will also mark the American Legion’s national centennial celebration, which is running from August 2018 through Veterans Day 2019. “The banners are a small way we

can acknowledge the sacrifice many of our neighbors have made serving our community,” said Joe Ruland, American Legion First Vice Commander of District 13. “Our local veterans and active-duty service members are heroes, and the program allows Parma to proudly honor them throughout the year.” Each banner will display a veteran’s photo, name, service branch and military service information. The banners will be given to the families after the display period ends.

“Thanks to our partnership with the city and support of Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, we can offer a banner to a resident for \$99 or to an American Legion member for \$75,” Ruland explained. “We are also accepting donations from residents and businesses to help cover costs.” Space is limited. So far, more than 20 banners have been sold. For more information or to order a banner, contact Joe Ruland at 440-281-4955 or jru-land100@gmail.com.

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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

MAKERS WANTED! Looking for artists, crafters, bakers for a Holiday Boutique Pop Up, hosted by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, to be held November 3, 2018 from 10am to 4pm at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. This boutique is for handmade artisans only. 8 foot spaces available from \$20 to \$30. Space is limited so don't wait. Call Michelle Behal at 216-618-0956, call Parma Fine Arts at (440)888-4514 and leave message for call back, or email kathrynmabin@att.net for details.

NEW JEWELRY ENAMELING CLASS: Anthony DeMarco, retired Parma High arts instructor, long time Parma Fine Arts Board member, and photographer will be offering low cost classes in Jewelry Enameling, starting in October. This class will be limited in size in order to offer the student individualized attention. Class is filling up fast. Email kathrynmabin@att.net, call (440)888-4514 and leave a message for call back on details.

AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH ART CLASS – Art Exploration with Sean Mabin, for ages 7 to 17. Classes are held Wednesdays 4:30 to 6:30, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. Cost is \$8 for a two hour class, supplies included. A \$5 discount is given for monthly prepayment. The first Wednesday in October the class project will be a Plexikineiscope, which is an old fashioned animated devise. The project for week two and three will be paper mache Day of The Dead skulls. Week four, haunted house drawing. For additional information email kathrynmabin@att.net.

Just in time for Halloween, Sean Mabin, Parma Fine Arts Youth instructor, has his handmade spooky skull and punky earrings for sale at The Mummy and The Monkey's Thrift Crypt located at 13349 Madison Ave. =

Craig Lindsle, Parma Fine Arts Board Member, participated in the 2018 Hall of Fame City Comic Con on September 15th. Craig has been touring the comic convention scene this year.

New Exhibit At Tri-C Gallery West

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is showcasing the three-dimensional works of two Northeast Ohio artists — Shannon Hines and Kortney Niewierski — at Western Campus.

The exhibit will be on view through Oct. 11 at Gallery West, located on the second floor of the campus library. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

The show is titled Texture. Home. Body. Soft. Place. The Artwork of Shannon Hines and Kortney Niewierski.

Hines has created sculptures and



Exhibit piece by Kortney Niewierski

installations that have been shown throughout Northeast Ohio and Pennsylvania. She has an extensive work history as a fine arts consultant and private collection preparator.

Niewierski makes three-dimensional forms of intrigue and peculiarity through the use of bodily imagery, toy-like forms and tactile fabrics. Her work is intended to cause a moment of introspection within the viewer.

Both artists also teach at Kent State University, their alma mater.

Free parking is available at Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. For more information, call 216-987-5322 or visit www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest.



Exhibit piece by Shannon Hines

PSO To Celebrate 50 Years

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a concert on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights. Also celebrating: Dr. Randolph P. Laycock 40 Years as Music Director.

Program will include a world premiere of “Celebrations for Orchestra” to be directed by the composer Loris Chobanian to celebrate our two milestones: Our 50th Season and Rand Laycock’s 40th anniversary as Music Director. Also featuring Guitar Soloist Brian Reichert performing with the orchestra in “Three Romances for Guitar and Orchestra” also by Chobanian, and two numbers from Rand’s first concert with the orchestra Light Cavalry Overture by Franz Von Suppe and Symphony in D minor by Cesar Franck

Loris Chobanian is Professor Emeritus of Composition and Guitar as well as Composer-in-Residence at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music

Bryan Reichert is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University (BM 2013), studying under Loris O. Chobanian currently holds a faculty position in Baldwin Wallace University’s Community Music School.

The orchestra, in its 50th season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Dr. Randolph P. Laycock celebrating his 40th season as music director of the Parma Symphony having con-



Rand Laycock to celebrate 40 years as Music Director

ducted his first performance with the orchestra on November 19, 1978. Dr. Laycock taught string and wind music for the Parma City Schools for 36 years and was music department chairman for the Valley Forge Cluster. He and was director of Youth Orchestras at Baldwin-Wallace College from 1978-2016. He previously was director of the University Circle Chamber Orchestra from 1987-1994 and was a double bassist in the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Opera and Cleveland Ballet Orchestras. He has also been guest conductor of the Cleveland Philharmonic.

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

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

Asset Corner #106

by Gene Lovasy

October's Asset Category: SUPPORT Many studies over the years confirm that caring, supportive relationships with adults are critical for raising young people who are healthy and resilient. Support means freely giving young people love, affirmation, and acceptance; surrounding young people with caring families, guardians, friends, teachers, neighbors, and other adults; and helping young people know they belong, are not alone, and are both loved and lovable. This column's focus will be on.....*Asset #2 – Positive Family Communications*

The importance of an open door Sometimes conversations with young people—especially your own children—can become confrontational. Learning to listen can help prevent slamming doors and, instead, open them. Though challenging, being available for frequent, in-depth con-

versations is an important role parents and other adult family members can play in children's lives—from the time they learn to talk all the way into adulthood. The goal is to promote and maintain an open-door policy. Ask open-ended questions and then listen, listen, listen.

Here are the facts Research shows that young people who experience positive communication with their parents are more likely to grow up healthy and are more willing to seek their parents' advice and counsel. About 28 percent of young people, ages 11–18, enjoy positive communication with their parents and are willing to seek their parents' counsel and advice, according to Search Institute surveys. Practice consistently communicating—talking and listening to young people—with an open mind and heart.

Tips for building this asset
Positive communication also

means listening to understand a young person's perspective, not to advocate your position. Be available when young people need you—and even when they think they don't. Take good care of yourself so when your children want to talk, you can give them your full attention.

Also try this
In your home and family: Make it easy for your child to spend time talk-

ing with you: Keep an extra stool or chair in the kitchen, den, home office, or workshop area. When you're in the car together is a great time to chat, too.

In your neighborhood and community: Ask young people you know caring questions, such as: What was the best thing about school today? What was the best act in the talent show? Why? Listen to their answers and respond accordingly.

In your school or youth program: During parent meetings, discuss the importance of positive communication between parents and children

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

Treat & Greet



Northeast Ohio Ghostbusters will be appearing at Treat & Greet.

by Kathryn Mabin

Saturday, October 27th, 2018, Polish Village will hold their 8th Treat & Greet from 11am to 2pm. Treat & Greet is an extremely popular event. Each year it seems to attract more and more participants from our area and the surrounding communities. This is a great, safe, fun family event.

The children, accompanied by an adult, trick-or-treat the businesses located in Polish Village along Ridge Rd., from Pearl & Ridge to Thornton. In addition to the treats at businesses, each family receives a Passport with the names and addresses of the participating businesses. As the family trick-or-treats the businesses they receive a stamp. When the children are finished, or the adults become exhausted, the Passports are turned into the headquarters, located this year at 5734 Ridge Rd. For each 10 businesses visited and passport stamped, the families receive one ticket for entry in a raffle for an array of prizes, like gift baskets and gift certificates from local

merchants.

This event is held during daylight hours. The upside for businesses is they receive foot traffic from people who don't normally shop their stores, and gives them the opportunity to introduce themselves to new potential customers. Many of the merchants supplement the candy with trinkets, coupons, or other treats for both children and the adults. Some shops also dress in costume.

Last year Polish Village Parma, a qualified 501(c)3, purchased over 60,000 pieces of candy for this event from funds received through donations, or fund raising. This event is free and open to the public, residency is not required. It is a great way for families to herald the season in a safe friendly environment, and a great way to celebrate the community with your friends, neighbors and shop keepers.

For more information go to www.polishvillageparma.org, or follow Polish Village on Facebook.

Expansion Begins At Tri-C's Advanced Automotive Technology Center



by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will rev up its automotive technician training program with an expansion of the Advanced Automotive Technology Center at Western Campus. The 13,300-square-foot addition will feature lab space with 10 automobile lifts, offering more opportunity for hands-on training. The space will also include additional classrooms, a conference room and a student lounge. A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$7 million project took place Sept. 25. Construction is expected to be complete by next summer. "The expansion provides room to grow for an in-demand program that trains and connects students to high-paying jobs," said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C. "The Advanced Automotive Technology Center represents an investment in the workforce of tomorrow in Northeast Ohio."

Tri-C's Automotive Technology program has reported growth in enrollment and graduation and job placement rates over the past several years. Graduates earn an Associate of Applied Science degree. The College's center hosts two corporate programs — Ford's Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET) and the General Motors Automotive Service

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INSPIRATION

The Switch Project

by Lizabeth Braskie

It's usually so easy to get comfortable with repetition of things. Our daily habits are performed with positive results and not much thought. We are creatures of habit without worry or concern. Most of the time. But, there are times when we must disturb the usual and change the course of habit. Such is the event that now caused me some concern. It was just a little change that was necessary. It would only take me a few minutes to process the transformation that was at hand. But, I was not prepared for the personal conflict that ensued.

All I had to do was switch some of yesterday's memories to today's need for space. It involved my trusty car and my newest status in life. I needed to clear space on the area of my rear-view mirror in order to hang up my newest declaration of age related events, the "Disabled Parking Identifi-

cation Permit." I sat on the front seat and prepared to remove the bunch of memories that occupied the designated place of my newest acquisition. But, NO! I can't remove the large cluster of "stuff" that currently occupies that area. The bracelets, fuzzy dice, beads and plastic toys are all memories of a wonderful summer with my grandkids. That's when I took a few kids at a time to the newest kid's place and spent time winning memories of our fun time together

I analyzed the situation and examined the heavy knob of "stuff" while remembering the happy faces that shared time and laughter when they "won" a prize, then gave it to me. I choked up at the thought of removing my lifeline to so many happy days. NO, I cannot cancel history. There is room for both of my needs to hang together on the rear view hook. My yesterdays and todays will just have to get along!

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A generation or two ago, children were taught that there was a Creator to whom they were responsible and to whom they had to answer in the after-life. They were taught that a moral code was given to us to follow. A truly moral nation enacts policies that encourage personal responsibility and discourage self-destructive behavior by not subsidizing people who live irresponsibly and make poor choices. And because someone else pays the bill, the behavior continues and gets worse. Conversations in which people disagree yet respect one another are rare. Hopefully, God's presence would be felt on both sides of the divide. Every day contains the possibility for a life-transforming encounter with God through some unanticipated new connection.

It would be a good thing if we

expended energy on teaching people not to be offended when someone offers a different opinion, because we can learn something from everybody. No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him.

The costs and benefits of expanded preschool is not the answer to our educational problems because it does not get to the root of the cause, which is inadequate parenting. There is more to life than impressing others with our possessions, intellect, or talents. When we are feeling overwhelmed by life's pressures, taking a hike (you name it) may be just the tonic we need for our troubled spirit.

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?

Parma Ward 4 And 9 Joint Picnic



Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban and Ward 9 Councilman Jeff Crossman held their second annual joint picnic for residents at Westcreek Conservancy on 9/16

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Mayors Address The Community At October 25 Chamber Luncheon

by Rick Haase

You won't want to miss this one! **The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce will host its October 25 luncheon** at Holy Spirit Hall on West 54th Street. Keynote speakers will be the Mayors of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills – Tim DeGeeter, Mike Byrne and Richard Dell'Aquila. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at Noon by WalTam's Catering. Cost is \$18 per person, and you can R.S.V.P. to Cheryl McIntosh at 440.886.1700 or via e-mail to chamber@parmaareachamber.org. Holy Spirit Church and Hall is located at 5500 West 54th Street, south of Brookpark Road.

PSYCHIC FAIR – Yorktown Lanes, 6218 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, will host a psychic fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, October 7. Admission to the event is free. Featured guests will include: Melinda Carver, Theresa Manjas, Rev. Tim Brainard, Carol Gallardo, Eva Star, William Morgan, Terra Danielle Dixon and Rev. Betty Demchak. Readings will be available for \$25. Psychics and Mediums will be on hand, along with Tarot card readers. Astrology jewelry and crystals will be available for sale. For more information, call 440.886.5300.

SPEAKING OF YORKTOWN... The sixth annual Hunter Station Sportsman's Club and Yorktown Lanes Clambake will be held Saturday, October 20 in the Yorktown Lanes Party Room, 6218 Pearl Road. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person and that includes draft beer and soda. The menu features two dozen middle neck clams, clam chowder, clam broth, tossed salad with assorted dressings, rolls and butter, one-half roasted chicken, sweet potato, corn on the cob, steamed mussels, an assorted vegetable platter, coffee and miniature pastries for dessert. A cash bar will be available. The event will also feature quickie boards and 50/50 raffle. For reservations call Larry Mieyal, Jr. at 216. 316.9029 or Mike Cottrell at 440.886.5300.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS – The Cassidy Theatre will present the Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical Little Shop of Horrors from

October 5-21 on the theatre main stage. Little Shop has captured the hearts of theatre-goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman (book and lyrics) and Alan Menken (music, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast and Alladin) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world. This production is based on the film by Roger Corman, with screenplay by Charles Griffith. The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II," after his co-worker crush. The foul-mouthed singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down-and-out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it blood. Over time, Krelborn discovers the plants' out-of-this world origins and intent toward global domination. Little Shop was originally produced by the WPA Theatre, Producing Director Kyle Renick, and was also originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre in New York City by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization. For reservations, call the Cassidy Theatre box office at 440.842.4600 or visit www.cassidytheatre.com.

GHOSTLY FUN – Two upcoming programs at the Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma Heights Branch will get you in the mood for the upcoming observance of Halloween. From 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 4 in the library's Meeting Room C, Sara Showman of Largely Literary Theatre, will present the program, "Ghosts of the Civil War," during which she will perform ghost stories from the South, including various literary selections and period songs. Then, from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 27 in the library's Meeting Room A, Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, will be presented. During this program, you'll be able to learn about this holiday celebrated throughout Mexico. A discussion of the graphic novel Ghosts, by Raina Telgemeier will take place, followed by decorating of sugar skulls. The program will also feature a discussion about other symbols that have deep meaning in both Mexican customs and culture. Nicholas Cronin is the Library Branch Manager. For more information,

visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org, or you can call the Parma Heights branch directly at 440.884.2313. The branch is located at 6206 Pearl Road in the Greenbrier Commons complex.

ANOTHER LIBRARY PROGRAM YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS – From 2-3 p.m. Saturday, October 20 the Parma Heights Library will present the Brick Builders Club program. The library will supply the bricks if your child supplies the imagination. This program will be held in Meeting Room A. Registration is required. Go to www.cuyahogalibrary.org, or call 440.884.2313.

TRICK OR TREAT – Halloween will be observed in the City of Parma Heights from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31. If you are participating in the handing out of candy to youngsters, please turn on your front porch light.

BE AWARE – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

AN IMPORTANT DEADLINE -- The deadline to register to vote or change your address for the November 6th general election is October

9th. Update online at www.443VOTE.com or at any branch of the Cuyahoga County Library.

You can vote by mail now. Visit the BOE website www.443VOTE.com to receive a ballot application. Ballots must be postmarked on or before November 5th.

GREENBRIER ART LEAGUE SHOW – Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14, when the Greenbrier Art League will present an art show open to the community at the Cassidy Theatre. For details, call Susan Kiedio at 440.845.5373.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION – The City of Parma Heights Service Garage will be the site of the fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection event from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, October 27. The Service Garage is located within the Greenbrier Commons complex on Pearl Road.

Want your Parma Heights information featured here? E-mail column items to Rick Haase at rick.haase@sbcglobal.net.

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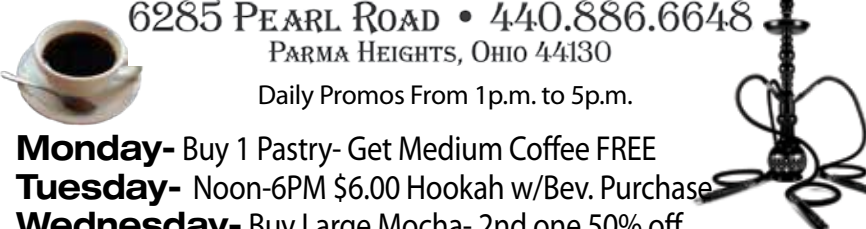


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PERSPECTIVE

More Enabling Bad Behavior And Hypocrisy

by Lee Kamps

When Brett Kavanaugh was nominated recently to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court due to the retirement of Justice Anthony, it appeared that his confirmation by the Senate would be a slam dunk. Now two women have come forward and accused Mr. Kavanaugh when he was in high school at an exclusive prep school of trying to take advantage of them at a party where they were drinking. His supporters are saying that this was long ago and he was a young man doing what young men often do. But really? Should he get a pass on this because that was more than 36 years ago?

Perhaps in an exclusive prep

school where the boys are from wealthy and prominent families, they might get away with things like that. Perhaps it is an entitlement mentality that seems to permeate those whose families have wealth and privilege that bad behavior can be excused as “boys will be boys”.

Well, I grew up in Parma and attended Valley Forge High School. I knew that there were parties where there was drinking and when my father smelled beer on my breath and I came home a little loopy, I was grounded for a month. I wouldn't think of trying to take advantage of a girl there since I knew that it would get all over the school the next week and eventually back to my parents. I feared the wrath

of my father more than the police. In addition, when I was in high school I was involved in several organizations that stressed gentlemanly behavior. I was in the Explorer Scouts, a high school division of the Boy Scouts, DeMolay, a young men's organization affiliated with the Masons and the Key Club, a service club affiliated with the Kiwanis Club.

When I went off to college after high school, my father had me on a short leash. I was told that if I got into trouble or got some girl in trouble; my father would take me to the military recruiting office where I could choose which branch of service to join. My college career would be over and my

military career would begin. For the first two years in college, I was in the Air Force ROTC program and they had a code of conduct that required gentlemanly behavior and respect. That involvement in different organizations for young men gave me a solid grounding on how to behave. I knew that if I had acted like a young Brett Kavanaugh or Donald Trump, there would be serious consequences.

But perhaps people from wealthy and privileged families who can afford exclusive prep schools don't have to worry about consequences for bad behavior. They can do whatever they please and it will either be excused or covered up and life goes on as planned. Except if you happen to be the victim of such bad behavior. Then it doesn't go away.

Decisions, Decisions

by Grayson Luna

In the March issue of this publication my brother Corbin published an article titled Doing What's Right. What he said in that piece is much more important today so I asked him to update it and resubmit it. He declined saying he no longer wanted to spend his “valuable time” exposing the spin, innuendo, half-truths and lies that come from liberals because the vast majority of people are smart enough to see through what they say without his pointing out how ridiculous most of their nonsense is. When I questioned how valuable his time really is he promptly ended the conversation by telling me if I thought it was so important I should devote my own time to it. Corbin can be an obstinate cuss, especially when he disagrees with me, but I do think it's important so....

IMF confirmed, there is no doubt that it would benefit this country. On the other hand, we don't really know what the agenda is of liberals who oppose him. Abolish ICE and Medicare for all are the most common items we hear but they come from the far, far left and both are as bizarre as the far, far right wanting to abolish the IRS. ICE only enforces the immigration laws. Anyone who disagrees with those laws should want to change them, not do away with enforcement. In fact, one IMF recommendation said, “A comprehensive, skills-based reform of the immigration system has the potential to expand the labor force, improve the dependency ratio, and raise the average level of human capital.” And that is what Trump asked for and liberals opposed. The problem with Medicare for all was clearly demonstrated in California. Liberals passed a single payer system without providing too much information about it. According to the LA Times, 65% of voters supported it. Then the cost was revealed, which would have doubled the budget of the state with the highest state income tax, and the 65% in favor changed to 80% against and it was dropped.

The more moderate left understands the socialists' agenda is a sure loser but they have nothing to offer voters that is of greater benefit than what Trump is already trying to provide with his agenda. If they did they would be running on it. Since they don't, they do nothing but try to smear Trump and block his agenda so they can say he didn't deliver on his promises. An article in last month's Observer provided a great example. It said that Trump was like Nixon and Nixon had something

to hide and, therefore, asked, “So, what does Trump have to hide?” Innuendo at it's finest, only used by lazy, dishonest writers when there is no evidence to support their opinions.

So why is it more important today? Because the midterms are next month. Liberals keep telling us to vote for Democrats because Trump is a terrible person. Conservatives keep telling us to vote for Republicans because Trump improved the economy with his tax cuts and deregulation. (Both of which were among the IMF recommendations.) But the real choice is about moving the country forward. You may not like Trump, but voting for Republicans will help move his agenda forward which will help the people of this country. Alternatively, you may like a particular Democrat, but if (s) he will at best block an agenda that will benefit you and at worst support legislation that will harm you, as Corbin concluded, you're “just cutting off your nose to spite your face.”

Supreme Court appointments are for life and the justices on the Supreme Court are to judge the laws of the land and act as the ultimate authority about our laws. Therefore, anyone being considered for such an important lifetime appointment must be held to the highest standards of ethical and moral behavior. Whether their approach to the law or the constitution is liberal or conservative, their judgement must be above politics and their ethics must be beyond reproach.

But for politicians to dismiss bad behavior from anyone in a high position while they have been critical of other's bad behavior is hypocrisy. Sure, all this is political. That can of worms was opened up twenty years ago when a sitting President was impeached for an extra marital affair that involved consensual sex with an adult.

My mother had an expression or a “momily” that went; be careful what you accuse others of doing because it will come back at you. Or if you throw mud at someone else, it will get thrown back at you.



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