

“December’s wintry breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer’s memory”- John Geddes

Interested In Writing For The Observer? - Join Us At Our Public Meeting At Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd.) Every Tuesday 7 PM

PARMAObserver

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 10 • Issue 12 • December, 2018

FREE!
TAKE ONE!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers

The Future Of GM In Parma?

by Daniel P. McCarthy

There are some subjects that people talk about all of the time. Some never. Then there are other things that really need to be discussed, even if the discussion is uncomfortable. Our General Motors Parma Metal Center is one of them, I believe. When the recent announcements of plant closings by GM were made, I was disappointed for the places targeted for closure, while also relieved that our plant wasn't one of them- this time. The times that we live in seem to be increasingly uncertain, so one can't help but think of what is in fact our largest taxpayer and major regional employer. Just how important the GM Parma Metal Center is to our community cannot be underestimated. All of my life has been spent living in the shadow of this plant. When I went to school in the 1960's, it seemed like every other kid's Dad worked there. When shifts let out, there were Man-



2018 Corvette during the Open House Event held at General Motors Parma Metal Center in October celebrating 70 years in our city.

hattan style traffic jams as far as the eye could see, as workers streamed out by the thousands. It was easy enough to take it all for granted. What if in future decisions, our 70 year old plant meets the same fate as those in other places? What kind of devastating impact would that have on Parma and the surrounding communities? How could we fill the giant revenue hole that certainly would result? Are there any long term

discussions concerning that unwelcome possibility? These are just some of the questions that we should be asking ourselves if we are serious about meeting the challenges of the future and are willing to plan accordingly. In my mind, we should always hope for the best but plan for the worst. It is far too easy to hope for the best and simply ignore signs of danger until it is too late for any meaningful solutions. continued on page 2



Parma City Council members and Mayor DeGeeter hold up the signs they distributed to small business owners in November. They asked the owners to post the signs in their storefront windows to encourage residents to shop small.

Shop Small Parma Promotion Continues Throughout The Holiday Season

by Carolyn Kovach

Business was booming this past Saturday for many small businesses in Parma. Nov. 24 marked the sixth year for the city's Small Business Saturday when holiday shoppers were encouraged to shop local the day after Black Friday. Many council members visited small businesses in their wards the week before, giving owners "Shop Small Here" signs to post on their storefront windows. They also posted images on the Shop Small Parma Facebook page.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Parma City Council and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) have created a local angle to the national Small Business Saturday promotion, which was founded by American Express in 2010. "I saw a similar campaign in an out-of-state small town promoting their local businesses, and I thought this would be a great promotion to help all the wonderful small businesses in Parma. "Since 2012, the promotion has been a great success because Parma is the perfect place to shop small with our many different businesses throughout the city, including unique places in both Ukrainian and Polish villages. Our small businesses owners embrace the marketing of their places, and elected officials

enjoy connecting with the owners to promote their businesses. This project, at minimal cost to us, has a big impact on our local small-business economy during the holiday season," DeGeeter said. Local retailers, restaurants, bakeries, dealerships, salons, florists and other small businesses are participating in the Shop Small Parma promotion, which continues throughout December.

The official kickoff began at the Nov. 5 Parma City Council meeting when council members received their Shop Small signs for distribution, followed by a proclamation that DeGeeter signed on Nov. 14 with PACC President Dave Nedrich and Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime. "This is a wonderful way to show off what Parma's small businesses offer," Nedrich said. "The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce wants residents to support local business not only during the holiday season but year round. Shopping small is a simple way to invest in our community." "A healthy small-business marketplace is key to a city's economic success. As a result, city council, our chamber and I do all we can to encourage small business success in Parma. This is just a small part of what we do throughout the year," DeGeeter said.



2018 CITY OF PARMA holiday lights CONTEST



by Kathie Zipp

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The City of Parma, in conjunction with The Young Professionals of Parma, is hosting its annual Holiday Lights contest in an effort to honor the city's holiday lights masters.

Entries will be accepted now through December 16. Hopeful contestants can submit photos or videos of their holiday lights displays to HolidayLights@ParmaYPs.com. Four winners will be selected. Winners for best showmanship, coverage and aesthetics

will each receive \$50 gift cards to Chuppa's Marketplace, and then one overall winner will receive a \$100 gift card to Fast Eddy's. Visit parmayps.com/holiday-lights for full rules and information and have fun decorating!

PARMA
YOU'LL ♥ OUR
SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND BAKERIES.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

“Sunday, November 11 (6:39 pm): Dispatch Message – At 1631 hours PPD and PFD Responded to . . .Wexford Ave for a 74 YO Male with self-inflicted gunshot. House appeared to be secure and there was nothing suspicious about death - coroner has come to claim the body.” When I received this message from the Parma Dispatch Center last month, my heart sunk and it has been bothering me ever since. I did not know this gentleman, but I cannot help but be saddened knowing that he was, no doubt, suffering from loneliness and depression. His death awakened the memory of my Uncle Eugene who took his own life when I was a young teenager, as well as the students at the school where I teach that have either attempted or succeeded in ending their own lives. It also reminded me of the young man who shot himself last year in Parma soon after returning from serving our country.

Suicide in our nation has become dizzyingly out of control in recent years. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), suicide has been on the rise in every state, with



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

over 45,000 Americans dying by suicide in 2016. This number includes 1,707 Ohio residents. Further, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. The many statistics are just staggering.

My opinion is that we focus too much on suicide statistics and not enough on prevention. We simply must do more as a community, a county, a state and a nation to get our arms around this tragedy and the people who need our help. This article

Do you know someone thinking about suicide?

For help call:

ADAMHS
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Supported by Cuyahoga County Health & Human Services Funding

216-623-6888

Crisis Chat online at www.adamhsc.org
Crisis Text "FLS" to 741741

includes steps we can all take to do our part to help. I believe we need to be especially vigilant as we move into the holiday season when feelings of depression are heightened.

First, let’s all take a pledge to say hello to our neighbors on our streets who live alone and may not have any visitors. Just stop by to say hello or consider taking them some cookies, a card or some other small gift. Remind him or her that you are there if they need you.

Next, if someone you know talks about or threatens suicide, take them seriously. The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County has a plethora of information about what you can do to help someone you think is in danger of suicide. They can be reached at 216-623-6888. They also have an online crisis chat at www.adamhsc.org. Further, you can com-

municate with them by texting “FLS” to 741741.

Finally, if you are having suicidal thoughts, please seek help immediately by calling the 24/7 suicide prevention hotline at 216-623-6888 or 9-1-1. You can also text “4HOPE” to 741741 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Suicide is a very preventable public health crisis. Please join me in making the resources in this article available for everyone we can. Together we can save lives this holiday season and beyond. Best wishes to you for a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Family Collaborative Seeks Donors For "Giving Tree"

by Bruce Chamberlin

Our neighbors and friends in the Parma area are known for philanthropy, giving spirit and volunteerism. We watch out for each other and support each other in tough times. The generosity of the community over the years is heartwarming. Last year alone, the response to the Family Collaborative’s Giving Tree program and ‘adoption’ of financially needy children was quite impressive. The Family Col-

laborative was able to give to just over 1,000 kids at Christmastime due to the kindness of those in our communities.

We are expecting just as many families to apply for holiday assistance this year. To meet the needs of these families, we have redesigned our program so that our small staff can continue to do the family support, advocacy and case management services while implementing our holiday program.

Our concept is simple: Generous donors drop off new gifts and clothing for children, and we then invite parents to our “Santa Shop” where they can choose the gifts for their kids. The list of potential gift ideas is limitless – it could be games, coloring books, toys, puzzles, sports equipment, or building blocks. Clothing items are needed as well, and could include pants, shirts, socks, underwear, sweatshirts, and hats and gloves for kids of all ages.

In addition to parents shopping and choosing from a unique variety of donations, a gift-wrapping station will also be set up at the Santa Shop. Parents can take their time wrapping the gifts with some of the Collaborative’s amazing volunteers.

The Future Of GM In Parma?

continued from page 1

Since chance favors the prepared mind, we are always better off when we face the future with many options. When you consider that the GM Parma Metal Center contributes to around half of our annual city budget, increased focus on recent developments concerning GM is absolutely necessary, and most compelling.

Here’s the good news, and it does inspire confidence. When I spoke to a General Motors official, I received some information that I am only too glad to share. The GM Parma Metal Center supplies parts to virtually every GM site in North America. We have the largest metal production plant in North America, supplying 30% of metal parts overall. Readers may recall a headline from 2017 where it was revealed that more than \$220 million was invested in the facility. I was also informed that the UAW and Management have an excellent relationship at

GM Parma Metal Center, and this is also a major factor in the long term stability of the plant.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter is also very optimistic about our GM facility. When I spoke with him he said "GM officials told us that yesterday's announcement wouldn't directly impact the Parma Metal Center". "The facility is going strong and is in a good position. A vast majority of the work at the plant is for SUV's, trucks, and crossovers- precisely where the market is right now", DeGeeter said. I am happy to hear that our current situation seems to be secure, and I sincerely hope that General Motors realizes how much they mean to Parma and how important the more than 70 year relationship is to us. When the motorized vehicles of the future are here one day, I want our plant in Parma to be a major component in the manufacturing process, as it is still in 2018. Let's all keep an eye on this.

Throughout the experience, the parents will know that a loving, supportive member of our community gave so that their children could enjoy the holidays.

Here’s how to give:

Sign up to be a donor at <https://tinyurl.com/CollabElf>. Questions, contact Amanda at the Family Collaborative at 440-887-4873 or email collabsupport@parmacityschools.org.

Looking for ideas on what to give? We can use clothing, toys, books or games.

Monetary donations or gift cards are welcome. We can also use gift wrap and tape.

Host a ‘Giving Tree’ with your family, at your place of worship or at your office. We’ll help supply what you need to make it successful!

Thank you for your support this holiday season!



The **Parma Observer** is a community owned and operated citizen based news source. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The **Parma Observer** staff or our advertisers.

**P.O. Box 29030
Parma, Ohio 44129
440.884.7625 •
<http://parmaobserver.com>**

Advisory Board
Craig Czepczynski
Lisa Zaremba
George Salo
Bill DeMarco
Penny Schultz

Publisher
Daniel P. McCarthy

Editor-In-Chief
Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Design and Production
AGS Design

Advertising Sales
440-884-7625

Writers
Lizabeth Braskie
Sean Brennan
Bruce Chamberlin
Rick Haase
Lee Kamps
Carolyn Kovach
Gene Lovasy
Jean Micklewright
Felicia Naoum
Harry Peck
CJ Sheppard
Daniel Taddeo
Susan Banks-Yurok
Kathie Zipp

Photography
Rick Haase
Lee Kamps
Carolyn Kovach
Harry Peck
CJ Sheppard
Susan Banks-Yurik
Kathie Zipp

The Parma Observer is powered by:



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

One Home, Many Benefits In \$2 Million Renovation At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

A \$2 million investment in the renovation of a beautiful new UH Parma Medical Center office suite to house both General Surgery and UH Digestive Health Institute specialists streamlines care for patients and improves efficiencies for physicians and staff. "It's a genius idea to put surgery and GI doctors together," said Melinda Lakatos, BSN, RN, Nurse Manager of the CCU Stepdown, who was among the many employees and physicians who stopped by during a recent open house in Suite 309 of Medical Arts Center 2. "Our physicians consult with each other all the time on the floors. Now the patient doesn't have to go to several locations for appointments."

Patients now have the benefit of seeing two specialists in one stop, making it easier to schedule appointments and procedures with different physicians. For

example, a gastroenterologist can easily refer a patient to a surgeon, sometimes offering same-day appointments. Similarly, a general surgeon can schedule a procedure such as a colonoscopy with a gastroenterologist while the patient is in the office, notes Gastroenterologist Dany Raad, MD. "This is a great opportunity to allow for coordination of care in both the medical and surgical approach to the GI tract," said Richard Ungvarsky, MD, a general surgeon who also performs bariatric procedures. A connecting door to the neighboring Bariatric Surgery, Metabolic & Nutrition Center allows him to easily see patients in both suites. This center for both metabolic and surgical weight loss options provides medically supervised weight loss options and leading-edge surgery options for long-term weight loss, including minimally invasive procedures.



Sharing the same office suite allows for greater collaboration between UH Parma Medical Center's general surgeons and gastroenterologists like Varun Kapur, MD, Patrick Renner, MD, and Dany Raad, MD.

In the General Surgery/Digestive Health Institute suite, physicians find that sharing the same office space results in improved communication between physicians on complex cases, says Dr. Raad. General surgery has seven exam rooms, and GI has five larger rooms, with a common waiting room and check-in for patients.

The eight physicians now located in Suite 309 are:
Varun Kapur, MD – General Surgery

Unni Kumar, MD – Gastroenterology
Christopher Linz, MD – Gastroenterology
David Linz, MD – General Surgery
Dany Raad, MD – Gastroenterology
Patrick Renner, MD – General Surgery
Richard Ungvarsky, MD – General Surgery
Plakkat Velayudhan, MD – Gastroenterology



Crime Tip Line (440) 887-7340
crimetips@parmajustice.net
www.cityofparmapolice.com
Emergency – 911
Non Emergency - (440) 885 -1234

We work for you

Welcome to five-star healthcare.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Right here in Parma.

Experience exceptional care yourself.
When you receive the right care at the right time from the right caregiver, you know you've come to UH Parma Medical Center. We've earned the five-star rating, the highest possible, from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for our work to bring the science of health and the art of compassion to the patients we serve.


Call (440) 459-0200 or visit uhhospitals.org/parma to book your appointment.

Specialized Medical Expertise:
Heart and Vascular Care
Orthopedics
Bariatrics
Ob-Gyn
Emergency Room
Primary Care




EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER



Visit the "Asset Corner" on Facebook. Share your Asset building ideas.



MYCOM

My Commitment. My Community.

THE PARMA AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE

PCSD

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #108

by Gene Lovasy

December's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME. The pace of everyday life varies depending on the activities young people participate in. These fluctuations are normal, even healthy. As long as young people don't consistently have too much to do or not enough to do, they're right on track. Problems arise when the balance begins to tip too far to one side or the other. Too much involvement can lead to stress or anxiety. Too little involvement can be a sign of depression or isolation. Ensure that young people constructively use their time for both fun and learning. This column's focus will be on... **Asset #18 – Youth Program**

After-school activities: They may be extra but they're also essential

It's appropriate that the word extra-curricular starts with the letter "E." But the word should really be essential-curricular. In fact, they're so important many schools are now calling them co-curricular activities. For many young people, youth programs at school and in the community are the highlight of their day. They meet new people who share their interests or introduce them to new pursuits. They spend time with adults who also enjoy the activity. And they

boost their skills.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who regularly spend time in sports, clubs, or other youth programs have higher self-esteem and better leadership skills, and are less likely to feel lonely. About 57 percent of young people, ages 11–18, spend three or more hours a week in youth programs, according to Search Institute. Young people involved in interesting activities helps bring out their best.

Tips for building this asset

Encourage young people to join a school or community activity that matches their interests, or try one they have never considered before. People can learn a lot about themselves by taking a chance on something new. Clubs and programs can also help young people make new friends of all ages, give them leadership opportunities, and make school more fun. Many groups also let them choose how much time and energy to commit. Current youth groups active in our area include: the Parma Hts. Police Department's Police And Community Together (P.A.C.T.) Youth Group, the Tri-City Parma Area Youth Leadership Council, Parma H.S.'s Girl Power program, the Discovery Center after school programs at Parma, Valley Forge &, I believe, Ridge-Brook Elementary are just

some examples.

Also try this

In your home and family: With your child, make a list of activities he or she wants to learn about. Rank the ideas according to her or his level of interest. Together, research ways to try out the top two choices.

In your neighborhood and com-

munity: Check your newspaper for upcoming community activities such as charity lunches, art openings, or athletic events. How many are youth-centered or allow youth participation? If you don't see many, consider starting an activity for young people with your neighbors.

In your school or youth program: Discuss the following with the young people in your class or program: If you could start a club of your own, what would it be? How would you get it started? What materials would you need?



by Jean Micklewright

November Highlights

The NEW MYCOM website is up and ready to view! Check out what MyCom is and does on MyComCLE.org !!!!

Youth Voice Awards

The 10th Anniversary of the MyCom Youth Voice Awards Event was held on November 15, 2018.

TriCity Winners from 2017 were asked to present awards this year. Carolyn Kovach, the new Director of Communications for the City of Parma and Amanda Rouse, a Caring Adult were able to attend and present awards to the 2018 winners.

Our nominees for 2018 included Richard Kaliszewski, a Valley Forge student, and the Parma Heights Police Department Police and Citizens Together (PACT) Unit.

Richard took home the Runner Up Award for Youth Community Service. He has spent countless hours volunteering at the Parma Area Family Collaborative for the Summer Days Program and many of the other programs or events happening there. He even goes so far as to call and ask if his help is needed for anything.

The PACT Unit won the Network Agency Award for Youth Engagement. The youth and police officers

in the PACT unit youth group have a true partnership. Ideas and input are consistently youth-driven in planning activities, discussion topics and fundraising. The mission of this youth group is to provide an environment for personal growth and relationship building with positive adult role models, specifically good relationships between teens and police officers. The PACT Unit won the Network Agency Award for Youth Engagement.

Looking Ahead...

MyCom Youth Council will continue to meet on Thursdays after school from 3-5pm at the Hanna building in November through and including December 20. We will continue to create Sea Creatures for our Make A Difference Day Event, The Ocean Challenge. Advocacy Day Training and Advocacy Day will soon be our focus. Join us for fun activities, food, discussions and planning future events and service opportunities. Bring a friend and join us!

MyCom Quarterly Meetings: The 3rd Quarterly Meeting was held in conjunction with our partner, the Parma Area Family Collaborative on Thursday, November 15. We will be sending out reminders for our 4th quarterly meeting in January of 2019!

BLUE LINE BAR & GRILL

Now Open Daily 11:00 A.M.

Food and Drink Specials

4305 Brookpark Road

440-799-4305

Danny's Auto Service

Domestic / Foreign
Light Trucks



ASE certified



Meyers Snowplow Parts And Service

Daniel J. Skonezny
(216) 267-1267

5273 Commerce Parkway West
Parma, Ohio 44130

HIKSON'S

14125 Detroit Ave.

Open Daily To Christmas
10am-9pm

Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 12pm-5pm

216.521.9277

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Ornament

YOU ARE NOT READY FOR CHRISTMAS UNTIL YOU VISIT HIKSON'S & MR. CHRISTMAS



Christmas Traditions in the House

THE WEST SIDE MARKET CLEVELAND, OHIO

OHIO'S LARGEST SELECTION OF MOUTH BLOWN GLASS EUROPEAN ORNAMENTS. MANY DESIGNED BY BILL HIKSON AND STAFF!

Hixson's Ornament

INSPIRATION

Growing And Gone

by *Lizabeth Braskie*

The holidays are bursting with things to do. But each special event seems to arrive with memories of the past. I'm a bit nostalgic and like to reminisce about family gatherings and special happenings that warms my heart and brings a smile to my face. My planning is put aside until I reconnect with our family's history.

It was always fun to watch my children's eyes light up when waiting for Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy or Easter Bunny. In our house, a visit from any of these friends evoked such a heartwarming response from the recipients that the memories were seldom forgotten. In our family of eight children, these practices were carried out, but along the way, I must confess, I shed a few tears. These feelings were not because of what we shared with the children when the "visits" took place. No, it had to do with the growing up process.

When the eldest child was old enough to understand and join the ranks of those who were dedicated to carry out these traditions, it made me a little sad to know my

children were taking steps toward maturity. One by one the growing kids stepped over the line, but each was careful to remain true to the mysteries which were entrusted to them. This was almost a dinner table topic at our house. Except for our youngest child. She wrote Santa notes, left the Easter Bunny a carrot and made sure her tooth was left in plain sight. Being the youngest, I thought her belief span would be considerably less than her predecessors. And, year after year I expected her to join the ranks of those who understand the magic of the growing up process. But each time she carried out her usual approach to the occasion and was totally engulfed in the tradition of things.

I was pleased this was happening, because it made the holidays a little more meaningful. I guess I was soft hearted and savored the bits and pieces of childhood. Yet I couldn't help wonder if there was something ironic in my last child's staunch support of tradition. What if she played the part just for my benefit?

I Believe

by *Daniel Taddeo*

All stand to benefit when we are grounded and rooted in truth. Any person who endeavors to live a Godly life is bound to encounter opposition. Blaming God for our troubles is like being on a dead-end street. It doesn't take you anywhere. Christianity grows with love, not violence. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Do not give me your list to live by and I will not give you mine; instead, follow God's list.

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. Faith is not about understanding; it is about trusting. Giving thanks and praising God for our many blessings should be an ongoing act. God's law has not changed because God does not change. If we are not careful, pride, security, cowardice, wealth and reputation can become our gods. It is difficult to always do what is right because we tend to trust in ourselves rather than God. Keeping our minds on Godly expectations is not easy.

Many people are influenced

more by the surrounding culture than the truth. Nobody can please everybody all of the time. No amount of sin in our lives prevents God's acceptance of us. Of making and reading many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Often the very traits that most annoy us in others are ones we possess. Pleasing our peers can easily take us down the wrong road. Rather than cling to certain old ways, we need to embrace the new. Responsible people do not elevate their interests above others' needs by taking advantage of them. Some people may possibly entertain angels without knowing it. Suffering will come to everyone. There should be no difference between what people believe and their actions. What we say at any given moment reveals the condition of our hearts at that time.

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?

Faith Community Directory

- Christ the Saviour American Orthodox Church**
10000 State Road N. Royalton, OH 440-237-9196
christsaviour.weebly.com
- All Faiths Pantry**
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329
allfaithspantry.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- Divinity Lutheran Church**
11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
www.divinitylutheran.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**
6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360
www.rumc-parma.com
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church**
5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434
www.Stbridgetparma.com
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533
www.holyfamparma.org
- Parma Christian Church**
7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614
www.parmachristianchurch.org



the empty fridge
a sign your aging parent needs help




You can't always be there. But we can.

With Home Instead Senior Care, caring for an aging loved one doesn't have to be a struggle. It's why we offer everything from individualized help around the house to advanced Alzheimer's care—to keep them safe and sound at home, instead of anywhere else.

Take the first step. Call us at 440.888.3809 or visit HomeInstead.com/306

© 2016 Home Instead, Inc. Each Home Instead Senior Care franchise office is independently owned and operated.

ARABICA
COFFEE HOUSE & HOOKAH CAFE
6285 PEARL ROAD • 440.886.6648
PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130
Daily Promos From 1p.m. to 5p.m.



Monday- Buy 1 Pastry- Get Medium Coffee FREE
Tuesday- Noon-6PM \$6.00 Hookah w/Bev. Purchase
Wednesday- Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off
Thursday- Ladies Night- 50% off any drinks w/ad
Friday- \$4.00 Hookah All Day
Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

NEIGHBORHOODS

First Art Show A Major Success

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Prama Art Space and Gallery held their first show on November 4, and the response was very encouraging indeed. Throughout the course of 4 hours that the show lasted, approximately 200 people showed up. That is a very good response, and once again proves for me that while Parma has been lacking in Arts activities for a city our size, this is a sure sign that there is indeed a demand for art here. It should be noted that while some may believe that residents in the community have a lukewarm preference for art, a turnout like this for an initial event seems to suggest that in fact, Parma residents are literally starving for art!

Hopefully other artists and potential gallery owners will take notice and realize that there is a great opportunity in the Parma Area for art galleries and related events to take hold and flourish, as they have in so many other communities in Northeastern Ohio.



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter along with his son Jack discuss art with Prama Art Space and Gallery owner Sean Mabin during the first show there on November 4.

Take the Gordon Square Arts District in Cleveland for example. When I worked in the rent-to-own business in the 1980's, that area, quite frankly,

looked like it had been under attack by a fleet of tanks. Because of the dedicated efforts of many people, the Arts in many forms were introduced and

woven into the fabric of the neighborhood, resulting in very impressive changes. Real Estate values increased as high as 185%. Recently in Battery Park, a housing development there, the first \$800,000 house was sold. Think about that.

Art is a proven economic development engine. Since our city is only beginning to experience the growth of private sector art activity, the future of such growth represents an exciting opportunity for our community. Our mayor gets it- he was at this first show and saw with his own eyes what is happening. His young son Jack was with him, and impressed everyone with his knowledge and interest in art. He's only 10 years old now, but he may very well have a future in the world of art. Congratulations once again to gallery owner and resident artist Sean Mabin on being a true pioneer of Parma History. Looking forward to future shows and great times for our city!

Memories From The Distant Past

by Susan Banks - Yurik

As I continue my search for relatives from the distant past, I am curious as to where they lived, what were their values and traditions. Did they have substantial successes or failures? History repeats, be it déjà vu or memory cells passed along the gene pool from centuries ago, I sure would like to connect the dots! In my youth there was no need to ask questions, elders rarely discussed events from their past. Such inquiries were quickly hushed away. As one grows older, one becomes wiser with much more time for reflection, and time to complete the missing pieces of their life puzzle. Surprisingly, I recall events from the past, but have difficulty remembering what I served for dinner yesterday!

One of my favorite memories as a child was attending church with family, relatives and especially with my little cousins. I was fascinated by the beautiful carved



Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

rosettes, ivy, compositions of triangles intertwined with twigs on the church bench molding. They

were breathtakingly hand-carved by skilled German, Russian and Slavic immigrants. Surely there had to be a connection to my appreciation somewhere in my background. There we sat, my little cousins and I, as our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles stood to sing the old English church hymns. The organ played resounding blasts in lower keyed notes that vibrated from the soles of your shoes demanding immediate reverence in the house of God. Every so often there would be looks of furrowed brows and intense frowns peering over lace collared shoulders directed toward us children. We would behave until a glance, one little glance from one cousin to another pushed the envelope just a tad too far resulting in a stern hand on the shoulder and a quick exit to the church vestibule.

This past Sunday as I sat in church, my thoughts drifted. I

listened to the familiar echos of children's shoes scuffling on wooden pews. I took in the sights of sunlit stained glass windows with the Saints reflecting Bible stories from centuries ago. I inhaled the fragrance of incense and lilies from Easter as the sun's rays broke throughout the altar canopy. These days the hard oak pews have become a little more challenging to sit upon not for lack of childlike behavior, but one of arthritic inconvenience. I found myself wondering if those before me sat as I do now, pondering these very same thoughts. I continued to get lost in the beautiful detailed embroidery on the robes of the good priests. Such is my fondness for old English fashion, unique materials and heavenly detail in every stitch. Once again the organ plays a Celtic melody of grace. I recognize the sound from deep within my being not knowing exactly why.

Easter baskets lined the altar steps filled with treasures that are more than just nourishment, rather foods of life celebrations. The aroma of cabbage, beets and cucumber salads, Pascha breads, paprikash, kielbasi, sausages and kraut. Breathtaking memories of foods and traditions from unknown lands.

I returned home from church to find a long awaited delivery detailing my ancestry. I discover my ancestors are from the lands of Eastern Europe, Great Britain - and Ireland. Joy unspeakable. I begin to connect the dots!

Here's to the memories from the ancients of old and here's to the memories yet to be ~ wonderful memories for ages to come.

Na zdravi! Budem zdrowi! Egészségedre! Saluti! veli! Sláinte Cheers ~ Fancy that!

Parma And Ternopi, Ukraine Form Sister City Agreement



In June the City of Parma and the City of Ternopil, Ukraine signed a memorandum of intent to form a sister city agreement between our two cities. Ternopil Mayor Sergiy Nadal made the trip to Parma for the occasion, posing here with Parma officials in the office of Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter.

PERSPECTIVE

My Cleveland Christmas Memory

by Lee Kamps

The movie A Christmas Story about Ralphie’s quest for a BB gun for Christmas and growing up during the early 1940s has become a classic. But we all have our unique Christmas stories and here is mine from growing up in Parma during the 1950s. I grew up near the intersection of Pearl and Ridge Roads in Parma and attended Ridge Brook Elementary School. I walked to and from school because my family lived only two blocks from the school and my mother was usually home then. It was usually on a Friday during December that we had our big Christmas adventure. That was a shopping trip downtown to the big department stores and to see Santa Claus. During the Christmas season downtown Cleveland was a wonderland for a boy. When we went downtown, we dressed up. That meant that after coming home from school, we had to change out of our school clothes into our “church clothes” that were nicer. My mother never wore slacks shopping. She always wore a dress, especially when she went downtown.

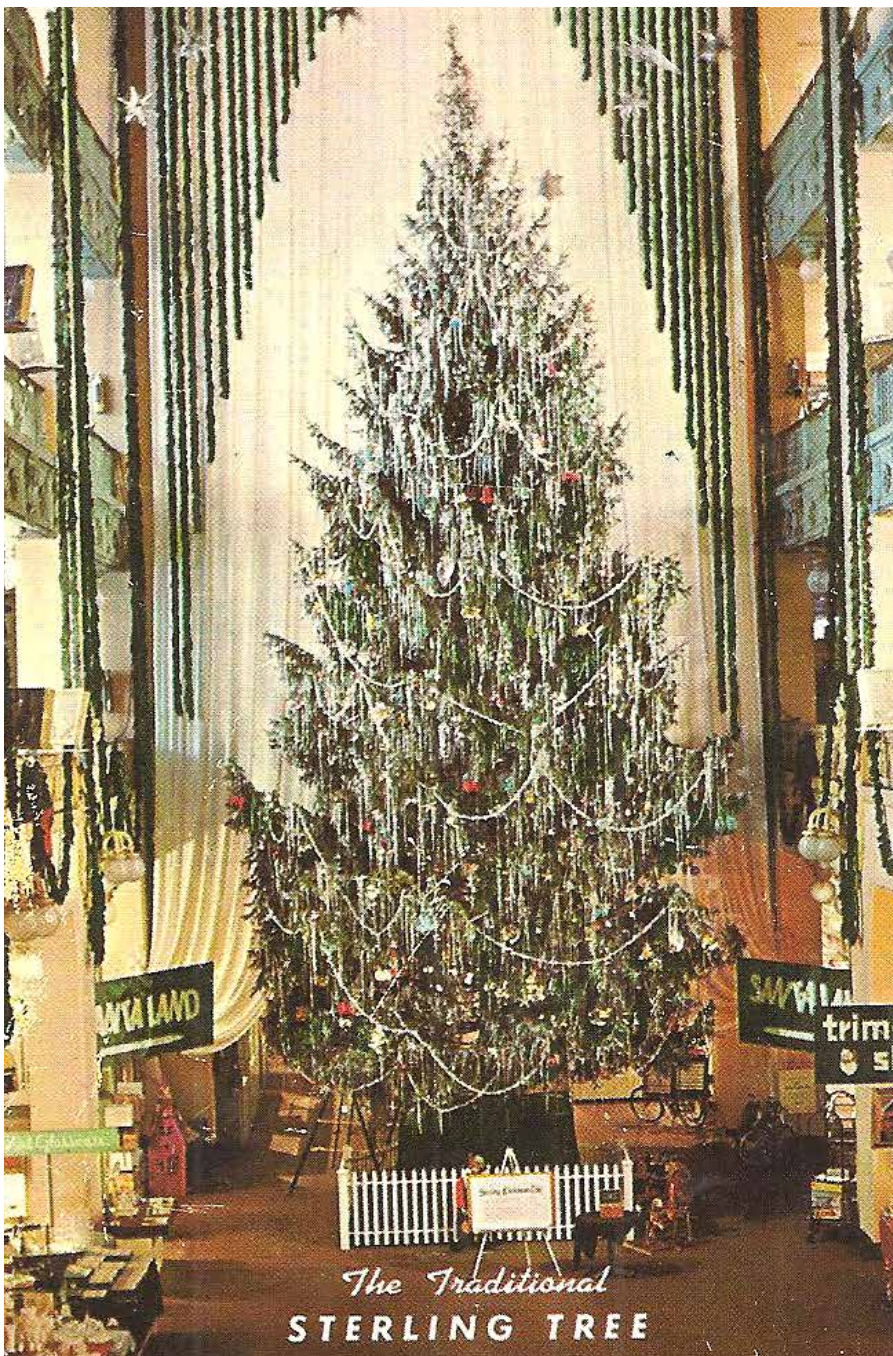
After my brother, sister and I got home from school and changed clothes, my mother walked us another two blocks to the Pearl and Ridge intersection where we caught the #79 bus downtown. Our family only had one car and father drove it to work during the week. Upon arrival downtown, we would head toward Higbee’s where we could browse the toy department and see Santa Claus before meeting our

father at the Frosty bar where us kids got a hot dog as well as a frosty. Father would drive downtown and park near his favorite restaurant, the New York Spaghetti House on East 9th Street.

At Higbee’s we would visit the Twigbee Shop where we could buy Christmas gifts for our parents and family. Store employees dressed as elves helped us kids choose gifts and manage the money that our parents had given us to spend. No adults were allowed inside the Twigbee Shop except the elves.

Then it was off to the other stores. We visited the May Company on Public Square and got to smell the scent of the roasting nuts at the Nut House near the May Company. A bag of freshly roasted peanuts was a must buy there. We walked from the May Company all the way to Playhouse Square to the big events; the 7th floor of Halle’s with Mister Jingaling, the Keeper of the Keys and to the Sterling Linder store across the street with their giant Christmas tree.

Halle’s 7th floor was THE toy department for everyone. Of course, it was special to see Mister Jingaling as well as Santa. But across the street at the Sterling Linder store was the big thing, their huge Christmas tree that was ginormous. Under that tree was a magic Winter Wonderland with a little train that took good boys and girls through a magical forest to Santa Claus. They also had Francis the Talking Mule there who would talk to the boys and girls about Christmas and




whether they had been good. Then if we had been good, we got a toy from Francis the Talking Mule.

Occasionally, there would be famous local personalities at Sterling Linder and one year I got to meet Bob Feller and get his autograph on a card featuring the big Sterling Linder Christmas tree. I still have that card, dated 1958.

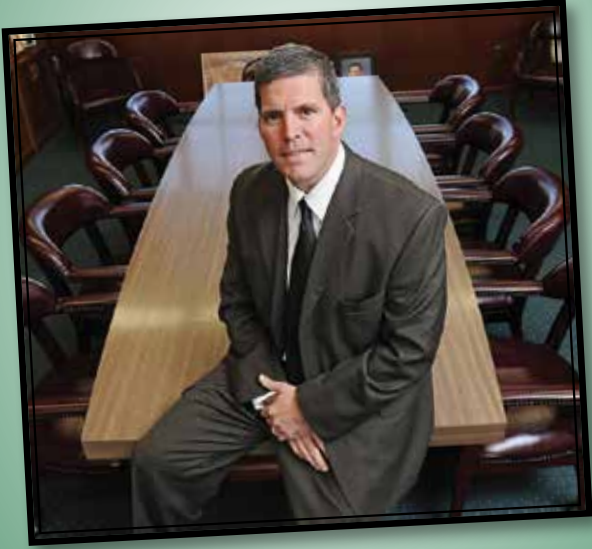
Then after all that excitement, us kids were dead tired and our family

made their way to the New York Spaghetti House where we could have a real dinner before heading home.

But alas all those stores are gone. One by one those downtown department stores closed and moved to the suburbs. Higbee’s was the last one remaining and it had changed its name to Dillard’s before closing its doors in 1996. But somehow the shopping malls and big box stores lack the magic of Christmas shopping downtown.



Dean DePiero
DePiero Law



deandepiero.com
5546 Pearl Rd. Parma, Ohio 44129
DePierolaw@gmail.com
C: 216.570.8665 | P: 440.884.2400 | F: 440.884.2401

Cutting Edge Branded Apparel & Promotional Products
For Your Business or Non-Profit



Remembered Expressions

Phone: 440.236.6282
www.RememberedExpressions.com

Mention This Ad To Receive \$75.00 Off Your Order!
(Limited time only. Order minimum required. Call for details.)

Huge Apparel Selections.
Latest Styles and Performance Wear.
In-House Equipment & Design Service



Young Professionals PARMAs

Strengthening the community of Parma through networking, activism, and local pride.

ParmaYPs.com
#ThisIsParma

 ParmaYPs  @YPParma  @follow_floyd_of_parma



meet. share. network. change.

IMPRESSIONS

An Interview With The Last Original Member Of The Spinners Henry Fambrough

by Felicia Naoum

Henry Fambrough is the last original member of the Motown group, The Spinners, and has insight to share. Fambrough, who recently turned 80 years old, say he still feels the same as he did when he was 20. As an 80-year-old, Fambrough is able to share a depth of wisdom and experience with readers.

Fambrough started the interview by reliving the early days of The Spinners originally called The Domingos. The group was brought to the forefront of the musical frenzy with the help of television recalls the singer. In their younger days, The Spinners traveled the country opening for legend Marvin Gaye. Fambrough mentions The 20 Grand, a famous Detroit club where Motown patriarch Berry Gordy saw The Spinners perform and shortly after singing them to Motown.

Success was on the horizon for the group as they received their star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1976 --- a moment that Fambrough shares with great pride.

The ride to the top has not always been an easy one for The Spinners who have been coined The Forgotten group of Motown despite creating hits like "I'll Always Love You," "Truly Yours," and the Stevie Wonder written and produced hit "It's a Shame." Fambrough did not disagree when asked about being labeled as forgotten. "That's a hundred percent true," responded Fambrough. In 1969, The Spinners left Motown for Atlantic Records because their contract was up and Fambrough says that, "no one was concentrating on The Spinners." According to Fambrough, acts like The Temptations, The Four Tops, Diana Rose and The Supremes and Marvin Gaye were the highlights and The Spinners became lost in the shadow of these bigger acts.

However, Fambrough assured me that The Spinners have no animosity towards the Motown label and credits Motown for their success by Motown being the group's "college," or training ground. However, Fambrough feels the true catalyst of success for the group came from Stevie Wonder (while still at Motown).

"Stevie was a good friend before we recorded with him. He informed us that he had written a song for us. He had written several songs for us." "It's a Shame" landed the number four spot on the R&B charts. "It was a big hit across the country," added the musician. "Our contract ran out... we were planning to leave Motown anyway.

Nothing was happening until Stevie produced that song. Everything started happening on a good note."

With the help of Stevie Wonder and, shortly after, a new beginning at Atlantic Records, The Spinners then met with Producer Tom Bell. Bell was another catalyst to the group taking off. The original member credits Bell for being the first one to concentrate

because I insisted they learn and do it how the original guys did it."

As time rolled on and members came and went, the message of music in and of itself along with the assistance of Producer Tom Bell, is what kept The Spinners together.

"Music is a worldwide communicator. Once you got a style, it is not going



The Spinners performing at Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park benefiting the Urban League of Greater Cleveland on November 15, 2018

on The Spinner's unique sound. Fambrough recalls the day that Bell visited Detroit to interview The Spinners. Bell gave the group his undivided attention. "The first thing he did was had each of us sing into our tape recorder," reminisced Fambrough. Additionally, the 80-year-old shared that Bell wanted the team of writers to write "straight from the voices" of The Spinners rather than from the music they heard in the past.

As Fambrough and I discussed the past, we also spoke of the comparison between the original group members versus the non-original members. "What's it like performing today without the originals?" I asked.

"Almost the same," assured the vocalist. "I taught the guys I got now. I taught them all the routines. We do the same type of show. The same songs. We get the same recognition from the audience that we got then. Maybe just a little bit more then than now because it was the originals."

But, newer territory doesn't seem to be a concern for this lead Spinner, because overall, he says the group is still getting "all the praises and recognition."

With changes of record labels, group members, and a passage of time, Fambrough was always be content with the true identity of The Spinners. Fambrough held stern with his belief to never stray far from the original Spinners. "I introduced new guys. I taught them the same way. We didn't lose anything



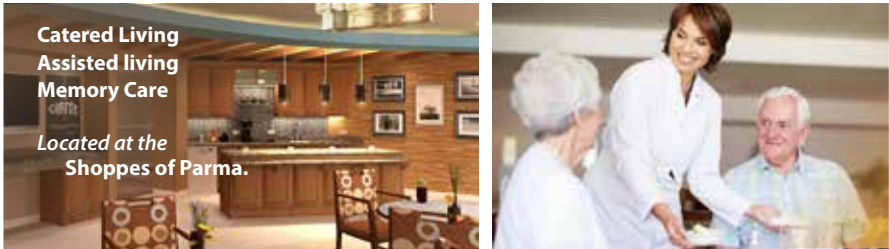
Henry Fambrough performing at Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park for the Urban League of Greater Cleveland benefit concert

says that you must find what your audience likes and draw from their wants. "You find what the audience likes from you, you put yourself forward with that. You can't make an audience love you. You can only present what you present, and if they like it, that's what you present more, and do what they want you to do."

To this day, The Spinners are still getting on stage for their audience. As Fambrough reminded me, age is just a number and doesn't stop this group who is living out their golden years performing and giving back. The Spinner performed a benefit concert at the Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park for The Urban League of Greater Cleveland on November 15, 2018. The Spinners pride themselves on giving back and have been giving back ever since they became known according to Fambrough. "That's part of success, when people love you, you give back the best you can."



What inspires You?...
Let our devoted staff curate it for you!



Experience next generation resort-styled senior living and assisted memory care. Enjoy the ultimate in lavish comfort with all the perks of a luxury hotel. You will always receive personalized health and hospitality services with genuine warmth and thoughtful attention by our team of experienced professionals. Rediscover the wonderful awakening of "Full of Life" living.

 **VISTA SPRINGS**
Full of Life. **(440) 340-4000**
8668 Day Drive | Parma, Ohio 44129 | VistaSpringsLiving.com

IMAGE PAINTING AND CONTRACTING

Nick Dosky, owner • nickdosky1@aol.com

- Interior/ Exterior Painting
- 5- year warranty on all exterior painting
- Drywall hanging and Finishing
- Carpentry all types

Call Today! (440) 558-6729

FREE ESTIMATES

LICENSED AND INSURED

FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

40 YEARS IN EXPERIENCE

IN THE TRADES

AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

The Parma Heights PACT (Police & Community Together) Youth Group...

• **Congratulations to the PACT Unit Youth Group** and co-facilitators, Ptl. Eric Taylor and Case Manager Kelly Latevola for being recognized & receiving a MyCom Network Agency Award for Youth Engagement. This is given to those organizations “....actively & authentically engaging youth in decision making about youth programming, community activities for children and young adults and/or community planning.” The award was presented during the 2018 Annual MyCom Youth Awards banquet held on November 15th.

For announcements & detailed information re. their bi-weekly (6:00 – 7:30 pm., Tuesday) meetings visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police.

• **Save the Date – The Ohio Association of Foodbanks**, in partnership with the Ohio Dept of Education, will be hosting the 8th annual state-wide Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Summit in 2019! When: Tuesday Feb 12, 2019; Where: Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Grove City (just south of Columbus); Target Audience: a returning sponsor or site, a partner, or an organization considering whether SFSP is a fit for you. Registration for the event will opens in early January 2019.

From Parma City Schools...

• **IF YOU VOTED “NO” FOR THE SCHOOL LEVY**, Supt. Smialek is inviting you to attend his next Town Hall meeting starting at 6:30, on Wednesday, December 5th at the Parma (Powers Blvd) Branch Library. Following a structured format, you’ll be given an opportunity to express the rationale for your vote....w/the request that folks discuss only matters within the district’s control.

• **Schools in the District** are gearing up for the Holidays. Visit the district’s and/or your child’s school website to view their schedule of pro-

grams, events and please show your support for those that you can.

• **Consider a donation** to help students from Valley Forge H.S. complete an on-campus memorial to 15 alumni killed during the Vietnam war. They’re hoping to set the actual memorial in May and complete landscaping work shortly thereafter. A check memo’d as “Vietnam Memorial” sent to Valley Forge H.S. or an in-kind donation, i.e.: landscaping and/or concrete services are specifically needed, would both be appreciated. Contact Amy Byrne, byrnea@parmacityschools.org or Mike Stringer, stringerm@parmacityschools.org for more information.

From CBS Connects our career readiness program...

• **Financial Literacy** sessions for students & their families. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 15th at Parma H.S. starting at 6:00 pm. Go here for program details: <https://tinyurl.com/CBS-Fin-Literacy>

• **Registration** is now open for students in grades 3 thru 6 interested in learning how to become Young Entrepreneur. Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/CBS-Entrep> for more information & to register. This is another unique opportunity offered to our kids by the CBS Connects program.

• **For free assistance** navigating the current college landscape visit the GearUp/College Now page of the district’s web site - <https://tinyurl.com/PCSGearUp>

• **Support the 8th Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive** and drop-off your jar/s of peanut butter at these locations: Parma City Hall, UH/Parma Medical Center & the CCPL Parma Powers Rd & Parma-Snow branches. The PB will be collected by All Faiths Pantry & distributed to low income seniors in our area. Cash donations allow All Faiths Pantry to purchase PB at below wholesale prices. Tax deductible donations payable to All Faiths Pantry Can be mailed to: Sean Brennan, 6611 Ridge Rd, Parma OH 44129. Questions call: 216.496.4329 or email: infor@all-faithspantry.org.

From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group...

• **Our local MyCom Youth Council** will be meeting on Thursdays after school from 3-5pm at the Hanna building starting now through and including December 20th. Join them for fun activities, food, discussions and planning future events and service opportunities. Bring a friend and join in!

• **Learn** more about the County’s MyCom initiative and it’s programs & event by visiting www.mycomcle.org

From the Parma Area Fam-

ily Collab: Interested in becoming a Community Elf for the Holidays?

Here’s how...

• **Please** use this link to register yourself as an Elf: <https://tinyurl.com/CollabElf>

• **Giving Tree and Santa Shop experience:**

• **Shop for gifts** and stocking stuffers for infants to 18 years of age. Gifts should come to us UNWRAPPED please.

• **Gift wrap and tape** make excellent donations as well.

• **Need ideas?** We’ll provide a wish list but be creative in your purchases!

• **Drop gifts off** by Friday, December 7th – Gifts can be dropped off Monday - Friday, 8:30 – 5:30 pm at the Family Collaborative, PCSD Hanna building at 11212 Snow Road in Parma

• **Monetary donations and gift cards** are also welcomed and can sent to Amanda Keeler at the address above. Checks should be made payable to Parma Family Collaborative..

• **Questions or concerns** about this new way to give? Give Amanda Keeler a call at 440-887-4873- or email us at collabsupport@parmacityschools.org and we’ll talk with you about our holiday program.

• **Learn** more about the Family Collaborative, its programs, services, events & resources available in the community by visiting: www.familycollab.com or call the Collab at 440.887.4873.

If you know of, or your organization serves families or clients that require food assistance, check out this calendar of west side food pantries... <http://www.tinyurl.com/parmafood>. Clicking on any of the pantry names will display its hours, address, requisites, etc.

If you know of, or are a woman 18 or older, in the midst of a transitional stage of her life, you should be aware of Tri-C’s Women in Transition Program. It’s a free, 8-week, non-credit course designed to help women in areas of personal development, career exploration & computer usage. Assessing financial aid resources & help w/financial literacy, health & safety issues, resume writing, interviewing/presentation skills and more are all available along the way. Go to www.try-c.edu/wit for details.

• **Our librarys’ Great Books for**

Kids Program is now up and running. Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-Kids-Bks> to check out their Giving Guide.

From the Parma Snow Library...

• **Go here:** <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-Parma-SnowCalendar> to display their event calendar for the current month.

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

• **The Homework Center is now open** — Two 75 minutes sessions, 4 – 5:15 pm & 5:15 – 6:30 Monday thru Thursday; for Grades K – 8. Go here for more detail & to register: <https://tinyurl.com/HomeWkHelp>.

Some December programs of note include:

• **Art Experiences**— Grades K-8.; Fridays at 4:00 p.m., December 7th and 14th.

• **Gingerbread Houses** -- Children of all ages with a caregiver; December 8th at 11:00a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

• **Student Volunteers:** Gingerbread -- Grades 4 – 6. December 8th at 10:00a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Help families make gingerbread houses. Earn Community Service Hours. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/MorningVolunteers> or <https://tinyurl.com/AfternoonVolunteers>.

• **Master Builders** -- Grades 4 – 6. Third Thursday of each month. December 20th at 6:30 p.m.

• **Brick Builders Club** -- Grades K-3. Last Tuesday of each month. December 18th at 4:00 p.m.

• **The Grinch:** Holiday in Whoville -- Ages 5 – 8. December 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-ParmaCalendar> for more information and/or to register for these and other programs.

From the Parma Hts Branch Library...

• **Go here:** <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-ParmaHtsCalendar> to display their event calendar for the current month.

• **Kids Café** - Are you 18 or younger? Get a brown-bag meal, courtesy of the Cleveland Food Bank, Monday through Friday 4:00 - 4:30pm **this service is at risk of being eliminated for lack of participation. Please help pass the word.**

Let me help with your insurance needs.



Contact me today!

Lynda Parker

Insurance Agent - Bankers Life and Casualty Company

330-625-7029

Lynda.Parker@BankersLife.com

COMPUTER SALES & REPAIRS



PC DIAGNOSTICS INC.
5857 RIDGE RD PARMA, OH 44129
(SOUTH OF SNOW ROAD & NEXT TO ST. CHARLES CHURCH)

♦ FREE ESTIMATES ♦ UPGRADES ♦ SMARTPHONE & TABLET REPAIR

♦ VIRUS & SPYWARE REMOVAL ♦ LAPTOP SCREEN REPAIR ♦ ON-SITE AVAILABLE

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY
WWW.PCDSHOP.COM (440)884-3903 

'TIS THE SEASON

Castle Noel Offers New Christmas Themed Attractions

by Harry Peck

The spirit of Christmas, and decorating for the holiday has been in Mark Klaus' blood since his youth in Seven Hills. It's not surprising then that the Normandy High School graduate parlayed the purchase of a church, a school and two storefronts in Medina into Castle Noel, an enterprise he calls "America's Largest Indoor, Year 'Round Christmas Entertainment Attraction." "Our home was a Christmas wonderland," Klaus said. (Klaus sounds like "Claus," as in "Santa.") "We always had ornaments in the ceiling and Santa flying over the house."

Guests visiting Castle Noel currently enjoy several past seasons of Christmas collections. A new attraction for this season is the Yeti, all 800 pounds of him and fully animatronic. He's better know as Bumble (the Abominable Snowman) from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. "He's a new family member and we lured him here from Tibet with gingerbread," Klaus says, tongue in cheek. "He's ready for display for the 2018 Christmas season. Next year, the Yeti will be housed in the new Gingerbread Theater with a giant gingerbread house rising from the stage, dancing gingerbread and will do an entire show to entertain guests."



Award Winning Sweet Shoppe Display, originally by Lord & Taylor in New York City.

hand- jeweled by Klaus and his sister Karen--a half million jewels in all--enhance "Reflections Around the World." Independent motors power each snowflake.

Castle Noel also displays millions of dollars of animated New York City Christmas windows formerly at Sak's Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's, Lord & Taylor and Macy's. New movie props from Christmas movies like "Elf," "Santa Clause 2" and Santa Claus: The Movie" add to the list of new holiday features. "There's nothing like it," Klaus says proudly, before admitting his real key to business success is his multi-talents -- sculpting, interior design, theming and animatronics, among others-- that allow savings on all those needs and has kept the operation viable for five seasons.

A varied career including selling his own products on QVC and the Home Shopping Network taught him alot. Creating sculptures and ornaments allowed Klaus to sell through garden centers, for instance. He was once offered a job as a Disney Imagineer. "It's been a labor of love," Klaus says of his seven day-a-week schedule. "It's our own magical kingdom--we work everyday to make it better. It's amazingly addictive and fulfilling." But guests to Castle Noel are fulfilled as well. Klaus has endless stories...a middle-aged man, perhaps in his 40s, brought his

mother. "She never smiles," he said. The two entered Castle Noel and took the walking tour. Midway the tour--"She was smiling! She even took the slide." "You don't realize what these things mean to people," Klaus said. "The place is not just plaster and paper--it makes people feel good." He says his

effort is a way of celebrating the Klaus Christmas tradition, plus a tribute to his parents. His grandfather, a carpenter, dismantled old Victorian houses and turned the rubble into little paper villages. "And Dad was like Clark Griswold in Christmas Vacation," Klaus said, detailing a story of his father ram-

ming an over sized Christmas tree, 16 feet high and 12 feet wide at the base, through a three feet wide door, aided by a running start. A humorist himself, Klaus sports a sweatshirt on this day which says "I'm North Polish."

More information on Castle Noel is available at www.CastleNoel.com .



What's With The Flamingo?

by Kathie Zipp

What comes to your mind when you think of Parma? There are many answers depending on who you ask. You have locations such as Stearns Farm, West Creek, or The Shoppes at Parma, and you have both Polish Village and Ukrainian Village. The first thing that comes to mind for many, however, isn't a place at all, but a thing: pink flamingos.

The plastic flamingo became a staple of suburbs throughout the United States shortly after its creation in 1957, and Parma was one of many to adopt this phenomenon. Locally, the flamingos were sold at Kal's Nursery, a staple of Ridge Road for decades, and they were even bought for "Proud of Parma" shows back in the day.

Whether it was reality due to high demand or perception due to a population explosion (between 1950 and 1960 it nearly tripled, going from 28,897 to 82,845), Parma and flamingos became synonymous thanks to none other than Ghouardi. Ernie Anderson ran Shock Theater from 1963 to 1966, and ran various skits during his time on the air, one of which was Parma Place, a parody of Peyton Place. In the skits, Parma was at times called Amrap (Parma backwards), and the skits included white socks, kielbasa, and of course, pink flamingos.

Parma Place became a hit, but it

also earned the ire of many in Parma, perhaps none more significant than the mayor at the time, James Day. Finding it to be a slur on the community, he fought Ghouardi over Parma Place. Sides were taken, and before long, Parma Place ended as swiftly as it began. The skit ended in 1966 with Shock Theater ending entirely shortly thereafter.

As for what set off the Parma politicians at that time, all I could find was an anecdote from Chuck Schodowski mentioned in the Plain Dealer many years after the fact. During a high school basketball game, a banner was rolled out saying "show us your white socks". One of the many in attendance was Mayor Day's daughter, who relayed it to him, and it spiraled from there.

Whether or not the anecdote is exact, the legacy of Parma and flamingos lives on. In 2013, Flamingo Fever began in Polish Village, where business would have decked out flamingos decorated out by local artists, complete with a banquet and flamingo auction. The local high school girls' rugby team has also joined in the flamingo legacy, naming themselves the Parma Pink Flamingos. Who knows what's next for one of the strongest symbols of the City of Parma.

This blog has been republished from ParmaYPs.com.



Elf costume, from "Elf."

Another new feature is "Reflections Around the World," a mirrored infinity room with five rotating boxes representing scenes from the USA, Italy, Great Britain, France and Asia. Each was previously a Bloomingdale's window display. Twenty multi-colored snowflakes, each with two colors,

Your choice for quality short-term rehabilitation

Providing quality health care services for seniors since 1953, we are pleased to offer short-term rehabilitation services and programs.

MOUNT ALVERNA VILLAGE
FRANCISCAN COMMUNITIES

6765 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134
www.mountalvernavillage.com/np
(440) 843-7800

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

2018 CITY OF PARMA

holiday lights

CONTEST

Send photos or a video of your display with your name and address to **HolidayLights@ParmaYPs.com** by Sunday, December 16.

ParmaYPs.com/Holiday-Lights



Pleasant Lake Villa

Skilled Nursing · Rehabilitation · Long Term Care · Assisted Living



Five Star Overall Rating

by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Come experience premier health care with all the touches of home – and more. Pleasant Lake Villa is a family run organization, and we make it our priority to provide you with high quality care, spacious accommodations and the comforts of home.

Amenities and services:

- 60 private short term rehab suites with private bathroom and shower
- Medications administered by 24-hour nursing staff
- Visiting physicians, including dentist, optometrist and podiatrist
- 24-hour personal response system
- Beautiful, secure and private courtyard for residents to enjoy fresh air
- Non-Denominational chapel with on-site chaplain
- Medical model assisted living
- Housekeeping, personal laundry and linen services
- Barber shop and beauty salon services
- Complimentary in-house cable television and in-suite internet and phone service
- Aromatherapy/gentle massage. The use of essential oils and lotions helps reduce stress for the resident
- Music stimulation, which includes using instruments, provides an invigorating experience provoking improved memory and coordination
- Gardening, cooking and arts and crafts

For more information or a tour, call 440-842-2273



Top Work Places
2018

The Plain Dealer · cleveland.com



Silver Recognition
Health Services Advisory Group



Eli Pick
Facility Leadership Award



Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

7260 Ridge Road · Parma, OH 44129 · 440-842-2273