

“Sometimes a thing and the opposite of a thing is true at the same time”- Wynton Marsalis

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Parma Mayor Will Present State Of The City At Tri-C

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter will offer his 2019 State of the City address on Monday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. Continuing the trend started when he entered office in 2012, the mayor will showcase a community partner by taking his address outside of Parma City Hall. This year, the address will be delivered at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma. The presentation will be in the Galleria, located in the center of the campus. The mayor chose Tri-C to highlight the college's expansion, which includes the new STEM building,



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter

Advanced Automotive Technology Center expansion and second phase of the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center.

"Tri-C's expansion of the Automotive Technology program and Public Safety Training Center, as well as

the construction of the new STEM facility, demonstrates its ongoing commitment to training today's workforce and providing affordable, quality education in Parma to area residents," DeGeeter said. "Additionally, our police and firefighters use the Public Safety Training Center for ongoing training, and many of

our first responders are graduates of the program. I know our police and fire departments are looking forward to the completion of Phase II."

Past State of the City speeches have been held at the Sheet Metals Workers Local 33, Parma's General Motors plant, University Hospital's Parma Medical Center and Cuyahoga

County Public Library.

"Our administration's approach has always been to combine common sense and hard work to produce real results," DeGeeter said. "We're proud to share some of our positive results at this year's State of the City address."

The speech is open to the public. Parking is free.

Seven Hills - "Partnerships" And "Progress"

by Tony Biasiotta

It is amazing how fast a year can go. I have just started my 2nd year as Seven Hills Council President, but it feels like the November 2017 election was just last week. When I look back at the year I can't help but say it is amazing what can be accomplished when you don't worry who gets the credit! If I had to succinctly define 2018 for the City of Seven Hills, I would choose the words "Partnerships" and "Progress".

Partnerships: To provide cost-effective solutions to the regular costs of running the City we aggressively sought partnerships with other service providers. We have entered into a number of agreements with neighboring communities to improve our infrastructure and services and to maximize the benefit to the taxpayer by sharing the cost of those improvements with other Cities or agencies.

Infrastructure Partnerships: We entered into an agreement with Parma to split the cost to resurface W.9th (50% each) and Cuyahoga County / Broadview Hts. to repave E. Sprague (our share is only 10%). We applied for and were granted full reimbursement of our 2018 Catch Basin Program (30 catch basins for \$47,850) from NEORS (saving your Sewer Maintenance Fee dollars for future projects). We received a grant from the County to offset a portion of the cost of our crack sealing program. We applied to the County 50/50 street program for McCreary (if approved, the cost to resurface will be split evenly between Seven Hills and the County). Looking ahead,



Tony Biasiotta

we are exploring expanding our sewer maintenance capability by contracting with the County for certain services. By exploring this partnership, Seven Hills would once again only pay the services we need as opposed to purchasing specialized sewer equipment that often ranges into \$100,000's.

Service Partnerships: We have entered into two separate agreements with the City of Independence, one for the services of their Animal Control Officer (ACO) and the other to allow a left turn into our smaller development on Rockside. The agreement on the ACO allows Seven Hills to use Independence's ACO on an as-needed basis which is charged at an hourly rate. We gain an important service with on a pay-as-you-basis without all the overhead. The left turn agreement was valuable in that being able to enter the Rockside Road project from both the east and west was a necessary condition of getting the project underway. We entered into a Council of Government (COG) agreement with Brecksville, Broadview Heights, and Independence. Together, we all became members of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center, a

nationally renowned dispatch service.

Meijer Progress: Early in the year we identified KMART as a potential opportunity for redevelopment and wanted to proactively address what often becomes a blighted property (in the event of a closure). We sought real estate brokers with experience in this business. I'm pleased to announce that those efforts have exceeded our expectations. Working with the brokers we were able to position our Seven Hills to have the best shot at obtaining a new retailer. Ultimately the retailer turned out to be Meijer. Every department pitched in: the City Engineer looked at the plans; the Building Department determined variances; the Law Department created ballot language; and Council promoted the idea. It really was a team win that put us in the position we are in today. It was an exceptional experience working with everyone to lay these things out months in advance and then watching the plan come to fruition this winter with KMART's closing announcement. More work awaits us in 2019 for this project. We must complete a traffic review, work with Parma on a potential traffic signal adjustment and complete a developer's agreement with Meijer. Thus far it has truly been an honor to serve as acting Mayor on this project! (Mayor Dell' Aquila voluntarily recused himself from the project to avoid any chance of a conflict of interest)

Rockside Progress. The smaller development (Vita-



(Back row, l-r) Anthony Woronischtsche (Lucas' dad), Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Emily Woronischtsche (Lucas' sister) and Rebecca Woronischtsche (Lucas' mom).

Youngest Citizen Of The Month Supports Parma Police And K9 Unit

by Carolyn Kovach

Lucas Woronischtsche, age 4, is the City of Parma's Citizen of the Month for January. He came to the council meeting on January 22nd sporting his tie, vest, new police haircut and adorable smile. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban presented Lucas and his mother, Rebecca Woronischtsche, with the proclamation on Jan. 22 for his generosity toward the Parma Police Department and K9 Unit. Lucas was surprised when he saw that four of the K9 officers and their dogs attended the meeting to honor him. Two

of his favorite K9, Dexter and Beny, were there to greet him with their tails wagging.

In addition to the treats Lucas brings the K9 dogs, he doesn't forget the K9 and Parma Police Department officers, who receive weekly visits and homemade goodies he bakes with his mother or treats he purchases with his own allowance. Lucas' mom said he does chores around the house to raise funds for the gifts he brings to Parma police and K9. "Lucas is our youngest Citizen of the Month and has the big-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Happy 2019! Occasionally a resident will attend a meeting of Parma City Council and wonder why there is sometimes little discussion about the items upon which members of Council are voting upon and why most items pass unanimously. The reasoning for this is because members of Council have already discussed, debated and compromised on the items they are voting on in the Council meeting in their respective committee meetings. This month's column is dedicated to making you aware of the various committees of Parma City Council and who serves on each of them.

Parma City Council typically meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm City Council committee meetings take place, while the Council meeting begins at 7:00 pm. It is in the committee meetings where "the sausage is made" as they say on politics. That is, it is in these meetings where members of Council discuss and debate the ordinances and resolutions they will vote on in future Council meetings. Members of the public are always welcome to attend and share their opinion about the issues being studied by Council.

Arguably the most important and typically busiest committee of Parma



City Council is the Finance Committee. Chaired by Ward 7 Councilman Brian Brochetti (Vice-Chair Ward 8 Councilman Dennis Kish – former Parma Auditor), the finance committee deals with every bill dealing with expenditures of the city. In fact, this month this committee will meet several times to review the budget proposals of the various departments of the city. Every cent of taxpayer dollars is closely and methodically scrutinized by this committee, which includes every member of Council. Therefore, if you are interested in learning more about city finances, the budget review



meetings would be right up your alley. They will take place on the following dates: Wednesday, February 6 (6:00 pm), Monday, February 11 (6:00 pm), and Wednesday, February 20 (6:00 pm). Other meetings may be scheduled, as needed. Check the calendar at the City of Parma website to verify.

The Governmental Operations committee, as the name suggests, deals with a wide range of issues, including utilities, city policies, etc. This committee is chaired by Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristen Saban, while Ward 3 Councilman Mark Casselberry serves as Vice-Chair. Other members include Vito Dipierro (Ward 1), Roy Jech (Ward 9) and Brian Brochetti.

The Planning Committee of Council is chaired by Ward 5 Councilman Alan Divis (Vice-Chair Roy Jech) and deals primarily with zoning and building issues. For instance, if someone owns a piece of property that is zoned residential and wishes to have it changed to commercial so that they can open a business, this is the committee that reviews the issue and makes recommendations to all of City Council. Other members include Vito Dipierro, Mark Casselberry and Dennis Kish.

The safety of Parma's residents is the number one job of our city government, which is why the Safety Committee, chaired by Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime (Co-Chair Brian Brochetti), is so vital. From studying and recommending the use of body cameras by the Parma Police Department, to approving staffing levels of the police and fire departments, to reviewing our building codes, this committee is instrumental in the short-term and long-term safety goals of our city. Allan Divis, Ward 6 Councilman Larry Napoli and Mark Casselberry also serve on this committee.

Snow plowing and street paving, among many other services provided by the City of Parma fall under the purview of the Service Committee, which is chaired by Mark Casselberry (Larry Napoli serves as Co-Chair). Brian Brochetti, Kristen Saban and Vito Dipierro also serve on this committee.

Do you know what a riparian setback is? Among many other issues, it is the Environmental Standards Committee chaired by Larry Napoli (Kristen Saban Co-Chair) that deals with this and everything green. In fact, the work of this committee is a major reason why the City of Parma has been commended for being at the forefront of environmental protection at the local level of government. The creation of the West Creek Reservation is just part of the proof of this. Incidentally, a riparian setback is the distance

one is allowed to build next to where the water meets the land. Parma is the model for other cities in Ohio on this type of legislation. Other members of the committee include Roy Jech, Debbie Lime, and Dennis Kish.

The City of Parma has several Boards and Commissions that keep the City running smoothly, including the Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Building Appeals, Civil Service Commission, etc. When the term expires for members of these organization the mayor makes a recommendation to council. It is this committee, chaired by Roy Jech (Allan Divis, Co-Chair), that reviews each applicant's qualifications and makes a recommendation to all of Council. Other members include Larry Napoli, Dennis Kish and Brian Brochetti. I hope this column helps you better understand the mechanics of your local government. Stay warm this month!

Pleasant Lake Villa Christmas Play



by Deb Frank

The Pleasant Lake Villa Chorale, a newly formed group of singing residents, debuted on Christmas Eve morning as part of a "living" Nativity program entitled A Precious Gift Given in Love enjoyed by fellow residents, family and friends. They joined volunteer children and adults to reenact the Christmas story in drama and song. The program ended with a visit from Santa who distributed candy canes with the help of the angels and shepherds. The choir is preparing for their Easter performance.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Seven Hills - “Partnerships” And “Progress”

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lia Senior Residence at Seven Hills) on Rockside Road is on schedule. All site and foundation permits have been granted. Over the next month or so you will see significant activity at the site. The independent living portion of the project is targeted to open in the spring of 2019 and the assisted living and memory care portions later this coming summer. This development alone will provide over \$6 million in new tax revenue to the City over the next 15 years. The vast majority of this new revenue will be dedicated for the sole purpose of future infrastructure improvements such as roads and sewers. This project also creates a new revenue stream for the Parma City Schools (Over \$4 million over the next 15 years).

Progress continues on the larger parcel. This past fall Fairmount Properties was granted Preliminary Plan Approval for their Rockside Road proposal (temporarily called “The Bluffs”). Currently, before Council is a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU is a general framework of guiding principles that are agreed upon between the City of Seven Hills and the Developer. This agreement includes a minimum annual economic benefit to the City to be derived from the project of at least \$800,000 from property and income taxes on an annual basis when the project is fully stabilized. Further, the MOU states that at least 55 percent

of the overall tax revenues derived from the development must be from commercial development. This clause insures the project will remain mixed use. I will note that this agreement is non-binding but important nonetheless as this agreement becomes the broad strokes that will eventually be refined into a very specific and binding developer’s agreement (DA). I can’t emphasize enough that a project of this nature must make sense for both the City and the Developer to continue to move forward. Being the last major parcel available for development in Seven Hills we prefer to take a slow and methodical approach to get it right as opposed to getting it done fast for a short term gain. Next steps for this project: Complete the DA, begin leasing (Adjustments may happen during this step based on market conditions), financing is finalized, and then final development approval.

Wrapping up, I want to share with you that based on the 2018 appropriation ordinance recently passed by Council and sent to the County for filing, we finished under budget for general fund expenses on the year!

I look forward to keeping the success of 2018 going into 2019, continuing the “Partnerships” and “Progress” approach and staying engaged with our most important partner, the residents of Seven Hills!

P.S. I hope to see you at the Recreation Center this year, where I will

be actively hanging out and getting healthier in 2019. (The recreation center is open to non-residents. Discounts

apply for Parma residents through a ‘partnership’ agreement that includes discounted rates for Seven Hills residents at Ries Rink)

Youngest Citizen Of The Month Supports Parma Police And K9 Unit



Lucas Woronischtsche looks at the proclamation he received from Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter while his mother Rebecca Woronischtsche holds his other proclamations.

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gest heart," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "Our officers look forward to his visits." Saban was equally impressed with Lucas, who was not shy when surrounded by adults in the Parma

Council Chamber. "When I gave him the proclamation, I said, 'You are the coolest little guy I have ever met.' He smiled and then replied, 'Thanks, that means a lot,'" Saban said. "He also told me he picked out his tie and vest to wear for the evening."

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OBSERVER

Valley Forge High School Intervention Specialist Releases Second Book

by Rick Haase

Parma Heights resident and Valley Forge High School Intervention Specialist Libbi Chilia recently released her second book for Halo Publishing International. Chilia is also the co-chair of the Parma City School District Special Education Department and a 1988 Valley Forge High School graduate. Chilia's second book is entitled, "Imagine...The PossAbilities." This followed "Imagine...Amazing Me!" which focused on children with limb differences from throughout the U.S. and Canada, which Chilia completed more than a decade ago. Chilia's 14-year-old daughter, Sami, a Valley Forge Freshman, lives with limb difference every day. She wears a prosthetic leg due to a limb difference since birth. So the subject matter for both books would seem to come naturally. "I'm hoping that children who read this book define themselves not by what is missing, but, instead, by their passion," Chilia says in her profile on the Halo Publishing International website. The new book features children with limb differences, and has a universal message for everyone. It includes stories of teens overcoming challenges related to limb difference with a positive twist: as the author, Chilia asked the featured children how they overcame adversity and of what they are most proud in their individual lives. Chilia and her husband, Tony, are also the parents of sons Nick and Nate.

CLEVELAND THEN AND NOW -- The Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will be hosting an adult program titled, "Cleveland Then and Now," at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 7. Pairing vin-



Parma Heights Author Libbi Chilia and her daughter, Sami, right.

tage photos with their modern-day viewpoint, Cleveland Plain Dealer and Cleveland.com Reporter Laura DeMarco, author of Cleveland Then and Now will take you on a tour through the many dramatic transformations of this vibrant city.

LOVING THE 60'S -- Join musician and pop music enthusiast Bill Brauning for a look at the music, politics, iconic events and styles of the 1960's in a special program at the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 20. You

can register online at <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/1057237>

AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE -- From February 8-24 the Cassidy Theatre will present Broadway Bound by the legendary Neil Simon.

Part of a trilogy of plays, preceded by 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' and 'Biloxi Blues', this story centers on Eugene and his brother Stanley who are trying to break into the world of professional comedy writing (while coping with their parents' messy and gut-wrenching split). When their material is broadcast on the radio for the first time, the rest of the family is upset to hear a comedic rendition of their own trials and tribulations. How will Eugene and his brother balance their loyalties to their family and to their art?

For tickets or more information, call the Cassidy Theatre Box Office at 440.842.4600 or visit www.cassidytheatre.com

[atre.com](http://www.cassidytheatre.com)

A NEW ROLE -- Congratulations to long-time local journalist Mark Holan, who recently began a position as Program Manager for the Food Pantry at All Saint's Episcopal Church, which serves residents in both Parma and Parma Heights.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND-RAISER -- Parma Heights Cub Scout Pack 263 is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, February 2 at Parma-South Presbyterian Church. Support our local young men!

SAY ALOHA -- The Youth of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, will host a Hawaiian Luau Dinner and Silent Auction with doors opening at 6 p.m. Saturday, February 2.

The event, to be held in the church Fellowship Hall will help support 14 youth attending a mission trip to Brooklyn, NY this summer.

Tricia Crane directs the Youth Ministry at the church.

Tickets for the dinner and silent auction are \$8 and are available by calling 440.845.2060.

NATIONAL PEPPERMINT PATTIE DAY AND LUNCH -- In honor of "National Peppermint Pattie Day, which the Parma Heights Senior Center will celebrate on Monday, February 11, local seniors will have lunch together and get their own York Peppermint Pattie.

The Peppermint Pattie, in case you didn't know, was first introduced in York, Pennsylvania by Henry Kessler at his York Cone Company in 1940. The candy is hugely popular today, as it has been for many years.

Reservations must be made for the lunch by Monday, February 4 by calling the Parma Heights Senior Center at 440.888.4416, where Trish James is Acting Center Director.

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THE PARMA AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE
PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #110

by Gene Lovasy

February’s Asset Category: POSITIVE VALUES. You are what you believe. Values shape young people’s relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends.

This month’s column will focus on: Asset 28: iNTEGRITY It’s important for young people to honor their beliefs. It’s one thing to have beliefs and values. It’s quite another to stand up for them, especially when you feel like you’re sticking your neck out alone. Anytime young people draw on their inner spark of courage and act based on their values, they have integrity. History is packed with stories of honorable people with integrity. The best way to teach integrity to young people may be to practice and model it yourself. Think of the things you do every day: recycle an empty can if you care about the environment; point out something positive about

a person who others are making fun of. Integrity is Asset 28 of Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets, the qualities, experiences, and relationships that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who have integrity feel good about themselves, make thoughtful decisions, and lead others through their positive influence. About 68 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they act on their

convictions and stand up for their beliefs, according to Search Institute surveys. Help young people gain confidence to act in ways that reflect their values and beliefs, even when it’s difficult.

Tips for building this asset

Be a role model for the young people in your life: Think about what you believe in and value. Is it being a good friend? Helping vulnerable people? Honesty? Education? Health? Ask yourself whether your daily actions show you are true to yourself and your values. Confidence, trust, and respect are a direct result of integrity, and there are

many ways adults can help young people foster these characteristics.

Also try this

In your home and family: Talk with your child about a belief or value you admire and respect in him or her. Brainstorm ways to provide support and positive feedback when your child acts with integrity.

In your neighborhood and community: If you notice a young person who is being teased for not doing something considered “cool,” because it goes against his or her values, praise the young person for his or her integrity.

In your school or youth program: Ask students or participants to tell about a time when they acted with integrity, even though it was difficult. Congratulate each person.

Visit 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.



by Jean Micklewright

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

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

MyCom Youth Council joined the Parma City School District High School Discovery Centers youth for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day event on Friday, January 18, 2019. The youth

created Comfort Kits for children who are emergency removed from their homes. These kits were donated to DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) to hand out so a child has a few belongings of their own when they are removed. The kits were filled with mini shampoo, conditioner, soap, hair brush, tooth paste, tooth brush, hair ties, etc. Youth were treated to pizza, chicken tenders and pop prior to packing all the kits.

Maker Club: This was a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) based program designed for 5th -8th graders. Youth participated in a variety of “Making” activities such as: Makey Makey projects, 3 D pen art, duct tape creations, coloring and photography, Strawbees, Legos.

The Fall Maker Club Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) portion of the program was started by playing the stuffed animal toss name game to encourage students to learn each other’s names and start to develop a sense of community. The Center For Arts Inspired Learning (CAIL) instructors had all students create batik, mosaic squares, learn photography and decorate sugar Day of the Dead Skulls as part of the steam programming. Sarah from Gigalearn had the youth create Spookybots, Turkeybots, Conductive Clay Projects and Pop-Up, Light-Up winter-themed cards.

SEL skills were intentionally rein-

forced by using hands-on activities. Youth loved playing charades when we discussed empathy. “Story Cubes” were used for real-life experiences on team building. Two silent games were used to emphasize the importance of communication skills. The first was asking the youth to line up by height and the second was “Don’t Wake The Dragon”. “A Rose, A Bud and A Thorn” and Clapping Circles were used as icebreakers, team builders and reflection.

LOOKING AHEAD

The MyCom Youth Council Advocacy Day Date will be announced soon.

MyCom will be providing Advocacy Day Training before our youth take their voices to Columbus to meet with legislators and/or legislative aides to advocate for issues of concern for all youth.

Youth, parents and partners are being invited to participate in MyCom Strategic Planning Sessions in January and February.

Maker Club, our hugely popular STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) program will be back next spring! Look for a March 2019 starting date.

LOGOS, The Ridgewood United Methodist Church Youth program will continue to meet until March 13, 2019. All youth are invited to attend.

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Vista Springs Greenbriar held an open house event in December that was a great way for the public to come in and have a look at this sensational living space. Here Tom Joyce from Home Instead Senior Care, an event sponsor, stands with Beth Shotwell Bowman, Director of Business Development for Vista Springs Greenbriar.

INSPIRATION

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

An affair is thought to be the most insurmountable problem in a marriage. Believers are not to be selfish or proud but followers of Jesus: humble, obedient, and servants. Celebrate every day, not just holidays, because every day is special. Christmas is strictly about Jesus, the real reason for the season. Doing something “just this once,” knowing it is wrong, can lead to terrible consequences.

God does not abandon us in our distress; He sticks with us through thick and thin. God sees everything, hears everything, and knows everything. God shows no partiality and welcomes everyone. God wants each of us to reflect His light by loving others the way He loves each of us. If we keep our eyes on God, we won’t lose sight of life’s purpose.

It is not all about getting recognition for utilizing our gifts; it is for God’s glory. It takes both partners for their marriage to thrive; each is responsible for enhancing it.

It takes time and effort to build healthy relationships. Love for others demonstrates God’s presence in

our lives.

Many people are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges in their relationships. More law abiding results in less crime, violence, and destruction. More learning can evolve from mourning than rejoicing. People are responsible for planting good seed and not responsible for how others respond; that is God’s job. The sensible thing to do is to celebrate what we presently have. Those who have God’s peace within them can thrive within strife.

We are not defined by what happens to us, but by how we respond to what happens to us. We need public outcry and political rage over violence in America to fix our depraved culture. We usually reproduce what we come from. When our behavior limits covetousness, contentment abounds. When we help bear someone’s burden, we will fulfill God’s plan for us.

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?

From Paycheck To Paycheck

by Jack P. Marshall

From Paycheck to Paycheck

Our government workers
Received their paychecks
One zero followed by another
A wall now divides
The haves and have-nots
Clueless leaders don’t seem to be bothered

What we have heard
It’s what we all know
We live from paycheck to paycheck
Paying the mortgage
Feeding our loved ones
A nightmare of “what happens next?”

For homeless Clevelanders
Push comes to shove
The Metroparks’ heartless deadline
For those well-off
With money to spare
They couldn’t care less, they’re just fine

We chuckle at those
Who shop to save
Walmart is a not so funny joke
From paycheck to paycheck
It’s how most of us live
There’s no harm in being common folk

Millions are “this close”
A mere paycheck away
From living life out on the street
Be kind and generous
Reach out, shake a hand
Look into their eyes when you meet

We are all a family
Trying hard to survive
Some lives are derailed in the wreck
The saddest reality?
The American Dream
Stretched and torn from paycheck to paycheck

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NEIGHBORHOODS



Visit Tri-C’s Western Campus On Presidents Day

by John Horton

The Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host a visitation day for prospective students on Presidents Day (Monday, Feb. 18), with sessions starting at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The day provides an opportunity to discuss academic programs with faculty and counselors; learn more about enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; discover the variety of student services available; and explore the buildings.

Registration is requested for the program, which includes an informational meeting and campus and classroom tours. This free event is open to the public, with free onsite parking available.

Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Tri-C will also host visits at five other sites on Presidents Day, including:

Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Hospitality Management Center, 180 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland: 10:30 a.m.

Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information, or to register at any of the six locations, visit www.tri-c.edu/visit or call 216-987-6000.

Changing Neighborhoods: Tri-C Program Examines Race And Suburbanization In Cleveland

by John Horton

Learn about the racialized settlement patterns that turned Cleveland into one of the nation’s most segregated metropolitan areas during an upcoming discussion at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). The free program — “Changing Neighborhoods Then and Now: Race and Suburbanization in Cleveland” — will take place from 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Tri-C’s Western Campus Theatre in Parma.

The discussion will be led by Todd Michney, a native Cleveland and an assistant professor in the School of History and Sociology at Georgia Institute of Technology. He is the author of *Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980*. Michney will explain the patterns that made Cleveland a segregated city despite its reputation as a racially progressive community. The program will explore white response to middle-class African Americans moving toward the urban borders and the ramifications of those actions.



To reserve a seat at the free event, go to www.tri-c.edu/ChangingNeighborhoods. There will be a reception and book signing after the presentation. Michney’s visit is part of the Carol S. Franklin Social Science Speakers Series sponsored by the Western Campus Division of Social Sciences. The series provides a forum to enhance awareness of current events and issues relevant to the community.

For more information, call 216-987-5508. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Plant A Future

by William Subjoc

How much thought do people put into the perennials planted in their yards? Some people put great thought into it and certainly some do the opposite. Simple research can greatly assist in creating a wonderful landscape even in the small forty foot Parma lots. Planning a makeover with select perennials can create a beautiful yard that will not just last a few years but several decades.

Evergreens, deciduous trees, and shrubs have numerous cultivars that

provide a variety of colors, flowers, backgrounds, shapes, and sizes. Take a look at your yard and decide if it’s time for new scenery that lasts. Garden centers and mail order off the internet is the best way research different cultivars that will set your yard apart from all the others. You do not have to settle for the same old over-used plants.

One such example is the Weeping White Pine also known as *Pinus strobus ‘Pendula’*. This cultivar will grow more like a shrub and if it lives long enough may even form an arch to



This Weeping White Pine is 22 years old and still has a long time to grow into full form. (Photo courtesy of West Holmes Arboretum.)

walk under. The specimen shown in the photo started at one foot tall and now 22 years later is about eleven feet tall. It may take another 22 years to reach the desired shape and form. A Google photo search will easily reveal full grown Weeping White Pines for

comparison. Seek out your favorite perennials and cultivars. Instead of instant gratification take the long view. Future generations of people you may not ever know will appreciate it.



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PERSPECTIVE

Great Life Lessons And Adventure Awaits

by Lee Kamps

This month of February marks the 109th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. It was on February 8, 1910 that the Boy Scouts of America was chartered. The first Boy Scout troop was organized in Cincinnati Ohio. Since then more than 110 million boys have participated in the Boy Scouts.

I was moved to write this column because of the rash of bad behavior exhibited by men as well as teen age boys. Perhaps had they participated in the Boy Scouts, they might have learned how to behave and contribute to society. Because there wasn't an active scout troop in my neighborhood, I didn't join the Boy Scouts until I was almost 14 years old. The objective of Boy Scouts is to teach young men how to be inde-

pendent, but also to work as a team and to be self reliant. The Boy Scout oath is: "On my honor, I will do my best, to God and country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." The Scout Law is: "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent." Boy Scouts move up through the ranks with the first rank being Tenderfoot, then Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. The first three ranks are fairly easy for most boys to attain. Just participating in troop activities would enable any boy to achieve those ranks. The higher ranks usually demand more commitment. It is not easy to achieve the highest rank of Eagle

Scout.

I never made Eagle Scout. I got as far as Life Scout and just needed a few more merit badges to make Eagle. But I was in high school and joined an Explorer Post that was more suited for high school age boys. However, two of my nephews made Eagle Scout.

Community service and leadership are two things that the Boy Scouts teach very well. Boy Scouts are expected to participate in community service, whether it is assisting elderly or disabled people or major projects such as repairing picnic areas. As far as leadership, boys learn that leadership is more than being the "boss". Leadership involves responsibilities and setting an example for others to follow. These lessons follow a man through his entire life.

As far as adventure, the Boy Scouts offer a lot of that. Whether it is just a weekend camp out in a local park, a week at summer camp or a major expedition, there are plenty of opportunities for young men to experience great adventures. There are national Jamborees where Boy Scouts from all over the world come together. I attended one in 1964 at Valley Forge Pennsylvania. It was an experience that I still remember more than fifty years later. I was able to see and meet the President of the United States, Lyndon B Johnson.

But then there is the really BIG adventure that is available to any boy who is able and has the desire. The Boy Scouts of America operates several sites for big adventure from a sea camp in the Florida the Everglades to a canoe base camp in Canada to the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimmaron New Mexico at the base of the Rocky Mountains.

I had the opportunity to spend seven days and seven nights backpacking in the Rocky Mountains at Philmont in the summer of 1965 when I was 16 going on 17 years old. This was true wilderness backpacking and everything we needed was carried in our packs, which weighed 32 pounds. If one got sick or injured, the only way down was on the back of a pack mule. We learned how to secure our food and items from bears and mountain lions. Of course, we did have guides along the trail, but we were really backpacking in the Rockies. Needless to say, this was very rugged so being in good physical condition was a must for this expedition. After we came down from the mountains, I got to ride in a rodeo.

How many men can brag that they got to backpack in the Rockies and ride in a rodeo before they graduated from high school? But this is all possible through the Boy Scouts of America. All it takes is for a boy to join a local troop and let the adventure begin. In addition, a young man learns character and leadership; two skills that will carry them through their life.

We Have A Dream: Beyond Walls..

by Davidione Pearl

Dearest Americans,

Monday January 21st, 2019 again marked the day we hold in supreme honor, the never-setting sun upon the crown of our King. Yet it inexorably continues to be a day immediately contrasted hitherto by the beast of infamy. For today, we quite starkly rest our morals of conviction within the fixed aggregate bricks of a wall...

Walls Of The Mind: Walls Of Containment

Leftists rested well after making history; subsequently bickering themselves into splinters.

The Far Right mobilized, seizing upon the lapse ensuring a presidency - and with it, twenty-six state houses

of which shall invariably slant districts to their favor far into the foreseeable future. Yet never before have sides been this polar-galvanized in their cries and risen fists during The Information Age, with so many still remarkably at rest.

Unbridled Ego

What has been in the far recesses of the mind for many; that thing beyond the looking glass grinning through the mirrors and smoke - the creature of antiquity repeatedly being driven through the great chambers of hope, blows hot blistering firestorm winds of strident division once more.

Paradigm Shift

People are uniting, Reuniting, Discovering, Rediscovering. What must no longer remain dormant.


Purpose

This seemingly salted barren no man's land terrain, is equally fertile in passion evermore for patriots to follow through. To take root. To anchor, grind, and hold the line. For their particular rest is over.

Eyes open

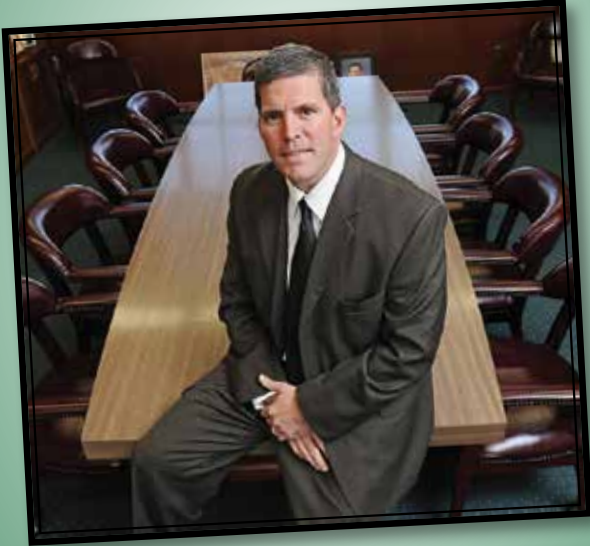
In you resides spirit awakening, beckoning your role as ancestor in the making; here, and now. A state of being, in devoted communion to protecting those to come, the land upon which they will walk, the water they will drink, the air they will breathe, and how they shall be received. May we always help reveal awakening light in others, band in engaged community, strive to connect across the many threads and tailors of critical thinking, and seek to affirm the sacred overarching mortality in us all. Flourish your dreams. They are needed more than ever now.

There is a dream beyond walls - a true spanning humanity of cultural bridges.



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IMPRESSIONS



Winter's Celestial Companion

by Susan Banks - Yurik

School classes were canceled with dipping temperatures prompting authorities to ground all airline flights. Alerts flashed crossed the television screen urging residents to stay indoors. The polar vortex had arrived. Interstate highways were starting to close. My husband and I would have to travel back roads to pick up our daughter from college. “What is that noise?” I asked. “Oh, it’s probably just ice on the tires. We’re fine.” my husband assured me. As we drove further into the darkness of a desolate rural area, the noise became louder and the car began to intermittently stall out. I made a frantic call to my brother. Upon relaying the last mile marker I recalled seeing, he was sure there was a gas station not too far down the road. As the blizzard continued to obscure our vision, we finally caught sight of a brightly lit area just ahead. My brother arrive as our car stalled out for the very last time.

The driveway into the station was at an incline and covered by a sheet of ice. Both men would have to push the car in order to get it safely off the road and into the lot. I prayed, “Oh Lord, please send a guardian angel to help us. We are in trouble.” As I sat in my brother’s car keeping warm, flickering headlights appeared from a barely visible, narrow dirt road behind the gas station. I was sure it had to be an emergency vehicle because no one else in their right mind would be out in these dangerous below zero temperatures and bone-chilling winds.

A young man stepped out from an old pickup truck wearing only a thin short sleeved white t-shirt and light tan colored pants. He was fair with blonde hair and very muscular. I could not believe my eyes. He had no coat, no hat and no gloves. He walked slowly and

calmly towards the men, unaffected by the subzero temperatures and frigid winds. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I kept thinking he is probably a kid from the college and if only his mother knew he was out in this cold, and where was his coat? I was worried for him.

Just as my husband and brother began pushing the car up the icy ramp, the young man positioned himself between the two of them. He towered at least two feet in height over them. Then, with hardly any effort, he lifted the bumper pushing the car up the ramp by himself. My brother and husband could barely keep their feet on the ground as they struggled to keep hold of the bumper as the car was swiftly being moved up the ramp into the parking lot.

Once the car came to a safe stop, the young man gave a nod and slowly walked back to his truck. As the truck turned around heading towards the direction from which he arrived, there were no headlights nor taillights. He simply vanished into the darkness of the night. Was this a guardian angel sent by God in answer to a prayer? Or, was this just an exceptionally tall young college kid who just happened to appear from out of nowhere and who just happened to be unaffected by -20 degrees wind chill? I will leave that for you to decide.

As for me, do I believe God answers prayers? You bet I do. I experienced a peaceful senenity and confidence in the midst of a most difficult situation. With gratitude, I pray, "Thank you God for having placed these heavenly spirits at the protection and service of mankind."

I think we can agree ~ there are times in life in which we can all use a little help, celestial companions!

What's In A Name

by Kim Harris

What is the meaning of your name? Have you ever researched it? There are numerous sites that you can visit to learn about the history, characteristics and statistics by state. After researching the meaning of Kim, I learned that over 200,000 babies have been given that name since 1880 and that it's derived from England. However, this is not what this article is about.

Every characteristic about my name is accurate. 100% accurate. I am sociable, helpful and want to please. I am also strong-willed and a leader. Interesting - how can that be? So my co-workers looked up the meaning of their names and they found them to be accurate too. What? Now I am perplexed. Our name is given to us at birth without any indication of who are going to be so how can that happen?

Our personality is important to who we are, but how exactly do personalities form? Are we born with these traits or do they develop over time? When researching this, I found that there are many theories behind the development of ones personality, but all agree that personality characteristics are developed over time

based on genetics, parenting, environment and social variables.

But can your name shape some of your personality? It makes sense because your name is a personal identifier of who you are. For example, there is one men's name that means trouble to me. Every time I meet someone with this name, I know he's going to be a knucklehead and without a doubt it's true. Do you do the same thing? I know it's not far but I can't help myself!

You Are Your First Name, by Ellin Dodge, delves into this exact question. She claims that letters have unique meanings and when put together, they provide insight into a name. Apparently this theory dates back to biblical times and has been used for centuries to help determine ones characteristics. Keeping that in mind, can your name help define your personality traits?

What do you think? I am not sure. My practical side tends to lean towards our individuality develops over time but there has to be something predisposed within our name. Before you decide, take the time to learn about your name. What will you find? You just might be as blown-away as I was.

College Club West Scholarship Grants Available For Women, 25 And Over.

by Paula Deal

Scholarships grants of up to \$3,000 are awarded annually by College Club West to greater Cleveland women ages 25 or older in a four-year-degree-granting program or graduate program. The Scholarship Committee selects recipients on the basis of maturity, academic record, promise, goals, and financial need.

Applications are due March 18, 2019. College Club West offers women living on the west side of Cleveland with four-year degrees and registered nurses opportunities to learn, socialize & participate in fun, meaningful activities. More information and application at www.collegeclubwest.org/scholarships.



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AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

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

The group is alive & well, continuing its bi-weekly meeting schedule, alternating between an activity of some type one week with a group discussion of a consensus topic the next. Meetings are from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Cassidy Theater.

For announcements & detailed information visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police; email: pactunit@gmail.com; ph: 440.884.1235

From Tri-C West.....

Tri-C's Career Center (similar to the district's CBS Connects program) has introduced a new initiative that connects Tri-C students to local business leaders and industry professionals. Industry Connections is a speakers bureau from which Tri-C faculty can request presenters to come into the classroom and share topics and experiences that align with their course material. For more information contact Claudia.Motiu@tri-c.edu, Director, Employer Outreach, Career Center Cuyahoga Community College

Some more resources....

For those of you dealing w/issues related to Mental Health, Substance Abuse and various other disabilities give either of these two sites a visit. OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence) at <https://www.ocali.org/> and/or SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) at <https://www.samhsa.gov/> and <https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/faqs>. Both provide a host of services/information on either a state or national level.

From Parma City Schools....

Three StrategicConsolidation Town Hall type meetings are scheduled for February; 6:30 pm, Monday, Feb 11th at Ridge-Brook, 10:00 am, Saturday, Feb 16th at the Parma Powers Branch Library and 6:30 pm, Monday, Feb 25th at Shiloh. Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/PCS-Mstr-Plng-Sched> to view the schedule & questions/issues being considered.

Go here to read Superintendent Smialak's reorganization plan presented at the BOE's Jan 16th work session: <https://tinyurl.com/Supt-Reorg-Plan>

Brand new & just announced: Camp Invention - Supercharged for kids K – 6 & Camp Invention - Leaders in Training for kids grades 7 – 9. When: June 3 – 7, 2019. For details on this new, STEM-focused initiative go to: <https://tinyurl.com/PCS-Camp-Invention>

Go here <https://www.parmacityschools.org/feedback> to check out any current/active district surveys and/or to ask questions or offer feedback on district issues.

From CBS Connects our career readiness program...

A total of 108, 7th Grade Girls from Hillside, Shiloh, and Greenbriar Middle Schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Get WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) event at General Motors Parma on May 16th. The girls will be motivated and inspired by female engineers, participate in hands on activities, receive a tour of the plant, and have a chance to win prizes. Watch for more information at <https://cbsconnects.org/event/get-wise-general-motor-parma/> or <https://getwisefoundation.com/>

Registration is now opened for the 8th annual statewide Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Summit taking place at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank in Grove City on Tuesday Feb 12th. If you're a returning sponsor or site, a partner, or an organization considering whether SFSP is a fit for you than this is a program you want to attend. Find the agenda here: http://ohiofoodbanks.org/sfspsummit/2019/full_agenda.pdf; to register go to: <https://tinyurl.com/SFSP-Registration>

From the Cleveland Food Bank...

Due to the Government Shutdown, Food Stamps for February were distributed in January. You will need to carefully spend your benefit to make sure it last both months. At this time we do not know if Food Stamps benefits

for future months will be available. If you need help, you can call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for assistance locating food pantries and hot meals at 216-738-2067. If you need direct assistance and have specific questions, you can call or text Devin McNulty—Benefits Outreach Counselor at the Cleveland Food Bank at 216-314-9871

Parma Council of PTA's 8th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TABLES.... CHANGE OF VENUE

This is a unique event where you create and design everything for a dinner party all while raising money for Parma Council of PTAs Scholarships. Scheduled for Sat., Feb. 16th at the Holy Spirit Party Center, 5500 W.54th St, this fun event gets better every year. See photos from previous events on their Facebook page.

From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group...

Activities coming up.... Advocacy Day Training and Advocacy Day are coming up soon! Youth are being invited to participate in MyCom Strategic Planning Sessions in January and February. Check out their article elsewhere in this Observer issue.

Learn more about the County's MyCom initiative and it's programs & events by visiting www.mycomcle.org

From the Parma Area Family Collab:

Re: Staffing Announcements – Our best to Bruce Chamberlin as he moves on to a new opportunity in Lakewood. And, congratulation to Kristi Forsyth, who has been selected to fill the vacated position of Supervisor, Parma Area Family Collaborative. Kristi has been a member of the Collab team for the past 12 years and brings that wealth of experience & strong leadership skills to the position.

The next Food Pantry is scheduled for Thursday, Feb 14th. Help with set-up beginning around 8:45 am & distribution starting at 2:30 would be appreciated.

Learn more about the Family Collaborative, its programs, services, events & resources available in the community by visiting <https://family-collaborative.com/> or call the Collab at 440.887.4873.

Re: Adult Education – ASPIRE Greater Cleveland...

>> If you know of anyone, perhaps clients you are serving, employees, a neighbor, etc., seeking GED® /HSE Test Prep, Adult Basic Education, English Language/Civics Education, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). consider referring them to Aspire Greater Cleveland! FREE year-round classes for adults are offered at over 30 different locations spanning the Greater Cleveland area making it easy to find a class that fits any busy schedule. Distance education opportunities are also available to students who are unable to attend a traditional classroom setting.

Visit: <https://www.aspiregreatercleveland.org/> or call 1-833-ASPIRE2 for more information.

Check out CCPL's impressive selection of Digital Services at: <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Borrow/Digital-Collection.aspx>. One in particular is KANOPY, a free video streaming service that competes w/ Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime & other streaming video services. All you need is your library card. Check it out here: <https://cuyahogalibrary.kanopy.com/>

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...

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

The Homework Center is 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>.

Check out their calendar for these events of special interest:

A Wrinkle in SLIME and Space Workshop—Grades 4 – 8; Saturday, January 26th at 11:00 am; <https://tinyurl.com/WrinkleinSLIME>

Saturday Family Matinee: A Wrinkle in Time— Saturday, January 26th at 2:00 pm. Big screen viewing of "A Wrinkle in Time." Bring a pillow and blanket to spread out on the floor. Popcorn will be provided. <https://tinyurl.com/WrinkleMatinee>

Brick Builders Club -- Grades K-3. Last Tuesday of each month. January 29th at 4:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/BrickBuildersJan>

Adapted Storytime— Saturday, February 2nd at 11:00 a.m. For children with varying learning styles and abilities will learn together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged.. <https://tinyurl.com/AdaptedFeb>

Art Experiences— Grades K-8. Begins February 1st. Fridays at 4:00 p.m. All materials are included. <https://tinyurl.com/ArtExperiencesWinter>

The Wonderful World of Bubbles—Families. Saturday, February 9th at 2:00 p.m. The Bubble Lady will inflate tiny bubbles, long bubbles, giant bubbles, and an amazing square bubble. See a person inside a bubble! <https://tinyurl.com/WonderfulBubbles>

From the Parma Hts. Branch Library...

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

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Parma Proud

On The Spot Gets The Spotlight At Council Meeting

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward 6 Councilman Larry Napoli presented On The Spot Dry Cleaners with the Business of the Month Award on Jan. 22. The family-run dry cleaners has been in business at its 7399 State Road building for 12 years. Its original location in Broadview Heights functions as plant operations. Owners Bernard and Kim Darusz have lived for 27 years in Parma, where they are raising their four children. Bernard graduated from Parma Senior High School in 1969. “Bernard and Kim are committed to their customers and the community. They provide dry cleaning

for the Parma Area Family Collaborative, which helps families in need of winter coats and other essential items,” DeGeeter said. “They also clean band uniforms, choir robes and theater costumes for local and surrounding school districts, as well as support local businesses, such as nursing and rehabilitation facilities.”

In addition, On The Spot supports the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogis, which Parma Council President Sean Brennan organizes every year at Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus. Kim said she hopes to someday participate in the annual fundraising event.



(R) Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward 6 Councilman Larry Napoli presented Kim Darusz, part-owner of On The Spot Dry Cleaners, with the Business of the Month Award.

Crossman Begins Ohio Statehouse Duties



by Jeffrey Crossman

On January 7, 2019 each of the many members of the Ohio House of Representatives joined Ohio’s 133rd General Assembly by taking their oath of office. On that day, the members were neither Republican nor Democrat but Representatives of their respective communities from across our great state who joined together to represent all of Ohio.

I was honored to take my place among that group to represent our 15th Statehouse District (which includes Parma, Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, and Cuyahoga Heights). In all, there are ninety-nine districts comprised of approximately 120,000 Ohio residents in each District.

The Statehouse itself is beautiful place and I strongly encourage every-

one to visit the Statehouse to meet their Representative, sit in a session of the Ohio House (which is open to the public), and tour the Statehouse grounds. After all, the Ohio Statehouse is the “People’s House.”

If you are particularly interested in history, the Ohio Statehouse is a treat. The Statehouse itself has a great deal of history and there are free tours available to guide you through the building and museum located beneath the Statehouse. There are tours Monday-Friday each hour from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. On the weekend, tours are from noon to 3:00 p.m. Here are some interesting facts we recently learned about the Statehouse:

- The Statehouse was constructed over several years starting in 1839 — much of it by prisoners due to their



Huge attendance for the very first Pizza Bake Off held by the Young Professionals of Parma in partnership with the City of Parma, the City of Parma Heights and the City of Seven Hills.

Highly Successful Pizza Bake Off Could Lead To New Parma Tradition

by Kathie Zipp

The Young Professionals of Parma, in conjunction with the City of Parma and the City of Parma Heights, hosted its inaugural Parma-Area Pizza Bake Off on Thursday, January 24 at German Central. The event attracted an overwhelming response, bringing more than three times the attendance the group originally expected. The large attendance helped generate more proceeds than expected, which enabled the Young Professionals of Parma to donate a greater amount to the Parma Hunger Center. The group is grateful for the pizza vendors, sponsors, volunteers, attendees and music group The Baker’s Basement for making the event a success. “We were amazed, but excited, by the turnout,” said Jackie Baraona, president of the Young Professionals of Parma. “We got a lot more people than we expected, especially those who bought tickets at door, but we are touched by the community support and plan on holding the event at a bigger venue next year. Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and pizza vendors for making the event possible!”

The event included nine pizza vendors: Antonio’s, Casamel’s, Fratello’s, Guy’s, Napoleon’s, State Road, Giovanni’s and Master Pizza, along with Sloppy Bob’s bar and grill. Attendees sampled pizza and voted for their favorite slice. Giovanni’s Pizza won first place. “I really enjoyed the bake off,” said Amanda Keslar of Giovanni’s. “It was great to see the community coming together for an evening of fun. It turned our business completely around and we are busier than ever!” Master Pizza won second place, and Fratello’s and Napoleon’s Pizza tied for third.

“Total success!” said Dave Lahman Jr. of Napoleon’s Pizza. “A great way to bring together a collection of the Parma community’s own devoted pizza makers to showcase their talents. Cannot wait to be a part of it next year!”

Even with an extra crowded room, attendees also reported enjoying the event. On the Facebook event page, people commented on the friendly volunteers and vendors and getting to see neighbors in the winter months. Parma’s Mayor Tim DeGeeter sponsored the event and attended with his daughter. “My daughter Molly attended the Young Professionals’ first Parma Pizza Bake off and had such a fun and entertaining evening,” he said. “When Jackie first approached me about the Young Professionals hosting a pizza bake off, I couldn’t be more excited as I have always thought the city would support such an event. There was such a great turnout and positive response. It also was a charitable event, which is terrific. I also want to extend my appreciation to all the sponsors and especially to the pizza shops that participated, and congratulations to the winner.”

Parma City Council President Sean Brennan also sponsored and attended the event. “I am so proud of the Parma Young Professionals for working hard to prove what many of us already know, that Parma is a cool place to live!” he said. “The Pizza Bake Off was a huge hit and will, no doubt, become an annual Parma tradition.”

The Young Professionals of Parma is using feedback from attendees and sponsors to continue to make improvements for next year’s event.

inexpensive labor. Construction ended just before the start of the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln addressed Ohio House members as the United States’ president elect in 1861 and later laid in state in the Statehouse Rotunda after his assassination in 1865.

- In the late 1980’s, the State renovated and restored the original character of the Statehouse building, which had degraded over many years. The Statehouse currently appears much as it did when first constructed.
- There is artwork throughout the Statehouse and its grounds commemorating Ohioans contribution to the history of the state and the country,

including an Ohio veterans memorial outside the Statehouse.

I consider it a tremendous honor to not only get the opportunity to represent our District but to have the opportunity to walk such storied halls. I hope to see you in Columbus if you can visit, but if you cannot travel to Columbus, please feel free to contact the office if there is anything I can do to be of service to you (and yes I will continue to live in Parma!) *You can reach my office at 614-466-3485 or email me at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov. Follow me on Twitter here: @jeffacrossman and facebook here: facebook.com/crossmanforohio*



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