

"In March winter is holding back and Spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside us too"- Jean Hersey

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# PARMA Observer

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## Mayor Tim DeGeeter Shares Parma's Success Stories In State Of The City

by Carolyn Kovach

In his eighth annual State of the City speech Monday evening, Mayor Tim DeGeeter highlighted Parma's success stories to illustrate the community's progress. DeGeeter touted new business development, the strength of the city's neighborhoods, the community's reputation as a safe city and the infrastructure improvements made over the past year to about 100 people gathered in the Galleria on Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. He also spotlighted the work of Parma's council members and citywide officials, as well as local organizations and individuals. "We ought to be proud of our city, of the people who reside here and how we work together to make Parma a great place to live and work," DeGeeter said. "Every day, we're trying to build one success story after



Mayor Tim DeGeeter visits with 4-year-old Lucas Woronichs, K9 Dexter and Police Officer Bobby Jackson after his speech.

another in Ohio's seventh-largest city."

In his review of the city's economy, DeGeeter talked about the strength of the GM

Parma Metal Center, as well as the millions of dollars being invested by University Hospitals and The MetroHealth System into the community's two hospitals. He also promoted two other companies expected to make an impact – PITT Ohio and GES-AGM.

"PITT Ohio expects to complete construction of its trucking terminal complex and will employ more than 200 people," DeGeeter said. "It's our largest job-creation project in more than a decade." Meanwhile, GES-AGM, a graphite fabrication facility, is planning to expand at its Snow Road location. "GES-AGM has 47 employees at the facility and expects to add at least another 20 with the expansion," DeGeeter said. "And, it is investing heavily in new products and technology to grow even more."

Beyond the city's businesses, the mayor also focused on the millions of dollars the city has invested to fix Parma's streets and infrastructure, including this year's \$1.5 million resurfacing of Broadview Road, as well as the excavation project at Bonnie Banks near Stormes Drive. DeGeeter

also shared how Parma's home values have rebounded in the aftermath of the Great Recession. "At our lowest point, in 2015, the median sales price was \$85,000," he said. "But our housing values have rebounded, and there is a high

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## Brian Monter Appointed President Of UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals has appointed Brian S. Monter, MSN, RN, MBA, as President of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, effective March 4. Monter has proven himself as an experienced and successful leader in the University Hospitals system. He came to UH in 2016 to serve as President of UH Bedford and Richmond Medical Centers, campuses of UH Regional Hospitals. Under his guidance, the hospitals improved quality scores, recruited and aligned physicians to eliminate service line gaps, increased employee engagement and established a hospital transfer program in collaboration with UH Cleveland Medical Center.

"Brian and the UH Parma team will continue to advance the hospital's role as a valued resource for West Side communities," said Richard



Brian Monter is the new President of UH Parma Medical Center.

A. Hanson, President, UH Community Hospitals and Ambulatory Network. "Since joining our health system in 2014, UH Parma has made major facility improvements, recruited new physicians in several specialties, streamlined service delivery and achieved significant safety and patient experience milestones. We look forward to continued

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## Residents Learn About The Officer Behind The Badge In Citizen Police Academy

by Carolyn Kovach

The Parma Police Department is accepting applications for this spring's Citizen Police Academy. The academy is 10 weeks long, beginning April 23. It is free and will run weekly on Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Space is limited. The Citizen Police Academy opens the lines of communication between the community and the police department, giving citizens a

firsthand look at the rules, regulations, and policies the police follow. "The objective is not to train individuals in becoming police officers but to produce informed citizens. The citizens and police officers meet in a neutral, friendly setting and get to know each other," said Lt. Thomas Siedlecki. "In the past, citizens have simply seen a uniform. Now they have an understanding about the per-

son behind the badge."

Requirements for participation are the following:

Must be at least 18 years of age

Have no criminal history, other than minor traffic

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## Three Women Keep It 100 In Parma

by Carolyn Kovach

Three Parma women celebrated three-figure birthdays in February. What's the secret to their longevity? Can it be

attributed to delicious pacz-  
kis and pierogies? Is it because they live in safe neighborhoods with easy access to quality

health care? Or, maybe it is because Parma is one of the best cities for retirees, accord-

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Officer Bob Curtin stands with a proud Citizen Police Academy alumnae.



Mayor Tim DeGeeter recognizes Helen for turning 100.



Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban and Mayor Tim DeGeeter presented Mildred with proclamations for her 101st birthday.



Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro and Mayor Tim DeGeeter attend Jeannette's birthday bash at Parma Senior Village

COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Last month I began a new series on Parma's three branches of government by reporting on Parma City Council's committee structure. My plan for 2019 is to report on various aspects of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of your local government. This month I interviewed Parma Municipal Court Judge Deanna O'Donnell.

Parma Municipal Court is presided over by three judges (Kenneth Spanagel, Timothy Gilligan and Deanna O'Donnell) who hear misdemeanor cases with its jurisdiction, which includes Parma, Parma Heights, North Royalton, Broadview Heights, Linndale, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, and Seven Hills.

Judge O'Donnell grew up in Parma and attended St. Bridget Elementary School and Holy Name High School. While in elementary school her classmate, Craig Mackovjak, would often chase her home. She would always beat him in these chases and complain to her mother about them when she got home. "You will marry that boy some-



day," her mom would say. In fact, the two would end up attending kindergarten through twelfth grade together. Always a softy for stories of how couples meet, the story brought tears to my eyes, as her mom's prophecy came true. The two raised four beautiful and successful children, two of whom were former high school students of mine. Sadly, tragedy struck the family and their many friends in 2011 when Craig

## Young Professionals Of Parma Donate \$1,500 From Pizza Bake Off To Parma Hunger Center



by Kathie Zipp

Due to the success of the first Parma Area Pizza Bake Off on January 24, the Young Professionals of Parma was able to donate \$1,500 of the proceeds to the Parma Hunger Center. YPOP marketing director Kathie Zipp is shown handing over the check to one of the center's directors Dale Kraemer. The Parma Hunger Center is located at Parma Lutheran Church and provides food and other items of daily need to residents of Parma.



Students from The Academy of St. Bartholomew visit Judge Deanna O'Donnell in her courtroom.

was fatally injured at work.

Following high school Deanna attended Baldwin Wallace achieving a degree in political science. A thirst for knowledge led her to taking the Law School Admission Test and gaining entrance to Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. "It was not easy attending law school and being the mother of two at the time. In fact, one of my professors questioned my ability to be successful. This just made me work harder and, thanks to the support of my family and friends, I succeeded," she explained.

After law school, she worked in a small law firm, acted as a juvenile court magistrate and, later, served in the City of Parma Law Department as Assistant Law Director and Chief Assistant Law Director under Law Director Timothy Dobeck. When Parma Judge Mary Dunning announced her retirement, Deanna decided that she would seek the position. "I know it sounds like a cliché, but I wanted to do something to make a difference. I wanted people to be better off because they met me," she explained. She was elected in 2007 and again in 2013.

When asked what she enjoys about being a municipal court judge, Judge O'Donnell explained that she feels she has the ability to make a difference in the lives of the defendants that come before her. Unlike many felony defendants who go to the county court of common pleas, those who come before her it is their first-time offense. They are typically scared and do not understand "the system."

"Too many people have a jaded view of how our courts work, due to television. I take my position very seriously. As judge, I must maintain judicial temperament. It would be inappropriate for me to yell at people. I look every defendant in the eyes and give them time to explain their side of the story," she explained. "I do not get lost in the title of 'judge,'" she added. She clearly sees her job as judge as the Founders did – that everyone is entitled to a defense and is innocent until proven guilty.

Parma is lucky to have such an energetic, hard-working, fair-minded judge in Judge Deanna O'Donnell. "I look forward to going to court each day in hopes of giving back and making a difference in the community. It is a very high honor to serve the community as judge," she added before we

parted.

I hope you enjoyed this month's column. As always, I welcome your ideas. Send them my way at councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Best wishes as we approach the spring season!



PARMA Observer  
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Joins Study To Identify Genetic Mutations In Endometrial Cancer Patients That Indicate Higher Risk For Other Cancers

by CJ Sheppard

At 40, Maria-Elena Hill was crushing it – working out and walking daily, eating healthy and avoiding fast food, living a sweet life. But on a dream trip to Greece, the occasional monthly symptoms that arose during her menstrual periods grew ominously unusual. Bloating and agonized by shooting pains in her pelvis, she had trouble buttoning her size 4 pants.

“I was in great physical shape, but it’s easy to make excuses when you don’t have any of the warning signs for cancer in your life,” said the Toronto native, who now lives in North Royalton. “When my doctor told me I had cancer, I just kind of shut down.”

Fortunately, she was referred to gynecologic oncologist John Nakayama, MD, at University Hospitals. Her diagnosis of stage 1 endometrial cancer led not only to surgery to remove the cancer but a clinical trial that discovered an underlying condition that can predispose her to other types of cancer.

OSU chooses UH to sign up patients

UH is the second site in Ohio to enroll women with endometrial cancer in a clinical trial to identify inherited genetic mutations that may predispose them, and possibly other family members, to a higher risk of many types of cancer. Ohio Prevention and Treatment of Endometrial Cancer (OPTEC), which began at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove



Maria-Elena Hill is enrolled in a clinical trial that can help detect inherited genetic mutations that can put her and other family members at risk of developing other cancers.

Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), is looking primarily for undiagnosed cases of Lynch syndrome, a hereditary condition that greatly increases risk for colorectal cancer.

To be eligible for the OPTEC study, individuals must be 18 or older with a case of endometrial cancer diagnosed since Oct. 1, 2017. Candidates must also have undergone a hysterectomy or surgery at a participating medical

facility like UH.

“This disease is a beast; it doesn’t distinguish between age, race or ethnicity,” says Maria-Elena, whose brother and mother in Toronto are going for testing.

A participant must agree to genetic testing of a blood sample and some of the uterine cancer removed during her hysterectomy. Tumor tissue and blood will be thoroughly checked for evidence of Lynch syndrome, and other less common genetic abnormalities that could increase the risk of cancer. Results of these tests will be shared with and explained to participants. They may also consent to have a sample of their tumor tissue provided to the OSUCCC – James for research purposes.

“UH Cleveland Medical Center was recruited to participate in the OPTEC study based upon our excellent track record of research accomplishments and the large number of patients with endometrial cancer that

we treat,” said Steven Waggoner, MD, Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at UH Seidman Cancer Center. “Patients cared for at UH reflect the racial and socioeconomic diversity of Northeast Ohio. It is very important that studies on genetic factors associated with a higher risk of developing cancer reflect these diverse populations.”

UH’s Center for Human Genetics will provide free genetic counseling for patients and their adult blood relatives if a participant is found to have a genetic abnormality that could raise her or her family member’s risk of developing cancer. This information will become part of their comprehensive medical record.

“We may well advance the treatment of endometrial cancer from this study,” said Jan Maxson, CNP, at UH.

Proactively seeking screenings

Maria-Elena feels lucky to have learned that she carries Lynch syndrome. While already vigilant about screenings, she and her family members have a heightened awareness about cancer risk now.

“UH is awesome - I’m beyond thankful for them,” said Maria-Elena, who is in remission. “I’m very proactive, and now that UH has helped me find out I have this, I’m doing all my tests.”

Patients will be enrolled in this study until April 30, 2020. To enroll or to learn more, call Jan Maxson at UH at 216-844-3954.

Education and Community Events Schedule

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS PARMA MEDICAL CENTER

HEALTH Matters

Join our experts for talks and events about important health topics designed to create a healthy community and empower individuals to take control of their health. For more information about any of our programs, contact the UH Parma Medical Center’s Health Education Center: 440-743-4932.

CLASSES & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

All events are free unless noted otherwise.  
RSVP: 440-743-4932

FAMILY & FRIENDS CPR  
SATURDAY, MARCH 9  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A course participation card is issued.  
Fee: \$30.

IBD: INFLAMMATORY  
BOWEL DISEASE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 19  
5 p.m.

Parma Medical Center Auditorium  
7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma  
Light refreshments provided.

GET THE FACTS ON  
COLON CANCER

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 12 p.m.  
Seven Hills Recreation Center  
7777 Summitview Drive, Seven Hills  
Presented by Dany Raad, MD, Medical  
Director of the UH Digestive Institute.  
Light lunch provided.

SUPPORT GROUPS

STROKE AND ARTHRITIS  
THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
1 – 2:30 p.m.  
INFO: 440-743-4041

PARKINSON’S DISEASE  
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
1 – 2:30 p.m.  
INFO: 216-524-6354

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UH Parma Medical Center  
6525 Powers Boulevard, Parma  
INFO: 1-800-227-2345

CHILDBIRTH & PARENTING

All meetings are held at UH Parma  
Medical Center, third floor conference  
room, 7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma.  
INFO/RSVP: 440-743-4932

PREPARED CHILDBIRTH  
THURSDAYS, MARCH 7 – 28  
7 – 9 p.m.

Fee: \$80 for a four-session program  
(no charge for support person).

INFANT CARE CLASS  
SATURDAY, MARCH 16  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

One session fee: \$30

PREPARING TO BREASTFEED  
TUESDAY, MARCH 19  
7 – 8:30 p.m.

One-session fee: \$20 (no charge for  
support person).

BREASTFEEDING  
SUPPORT GROUP  
MONDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

MATERNITY UNIT TOURS  
THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
1 – 2 p.m.  
Participants meet in the main lobby.

440-743-3000 | UHhospitals.org/Parma  
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## OBSERVER

# The Pipes, The Pipes Are Calling This Parma Heights Resident

by Rick Haase

As a child, Andrew Fowler used to fall asleep to CDs of bagpipe music. He also used to listen to them at his paternal grandfather's house. Fowler, 26, began playing the bagpipes at age six and began participating in bagpipe competitions at age 9. Today, the Parma Heights resident of Springwood Road is a member of two local pipe bands -- he's the Pipe Sergeant of the 87th Cleveland Pipe Band, and the bass drummer for the Great Lakes Pipe Band -- and regularly plays for weddings, funerals and other occasions. "I love the sound of well-tuned bagpipes," Fowler said on a recent rainy Wednesday evening.

With St. Patrick's Day approaching on March 17, this conversation seems somehow appropriate. "It (playing the bagpipes) is definitely in my heritage. They are a very distinctive instrument," Fowler said, recalling that his father's oldest brother -- a retired North Royalton firefighter -- used to play them at various family functions. The woodwind instrument takes excellent coordination, more than lung support to play, Fowler explained. And yes, St. Patrick's Day is the busiest day of the year for a bagpiper. "It's a 14-16-hour day on average," he said.

Fowler's day job is as manager-in-training at the car wash of Yorktown Service Plaza, 6177 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, where he's worked for two years this coming May. Yorktown is, of course, owned by longtime area businessman Doug Shull and his family. "There's not enough good things I can say about the Shull family," Fowler said.

"They're solid people." A 2012 graduate of Valley Forge High School, he's studied for one year at the College of Wooster, dropping out due to expense.

When he's not running the car wash at Yorktown, Fowler is playing his beloved bagpipes. Sometimes that means working with his friend Sean Lowry, a snare drummer who hails from Brook Park, or with his fellow bandmate and piping teacher Michael Crawley of Parma. Fowler and Lowry as a duo charge \$150 per half-hour to play for local functions. According to Fowler, a decent set of bagpipes go for anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

So what are the most requested songs for a bagpiper? Fowler says "Amazing Grace," "Danny Boy," and, believe it or not, "Long Way to the Top," made famous by AC-DC. "It's very fulfilling for me," he said of bagpiping. "It makes me feel like I'm doing something out of the ordinary. I've met people from all across the country and the United Kingdom because of piping." He competed in the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland in 2015, and is going back across the pond this summer from August 12-19. His father, Mark, a retired steelworker, is of Scotch and Irish descent, while his grandmother's parents came from Tipperary, Ireland. He jokes that, "I got the full leprechaun package -- red hair and blue eyes." Yorktown is a family affair for Fowler, whose mother, Dottie Wenger, works there as well in customer outreach. Rounding out Fowler's family is older brother Dan, 29. Fowler is available for those in need of his bagpiping services. Contact him



via e-mail at DRUMMER7289@yahoo.com. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## In other Parma Heights news:

**ONSTAGE AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE** -- The Cassidy Theatre will present Children of Eden, based upon the book by John Caird, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz from April 12-28. The production is based on a concept by Charles Lisanby with orchestrations by Bruce Coughlin and Martin Erskine.

Children of Eden starts with the very beginning: the creation of the universe. Father breathes life into his children, Adam and Eve, and learns that the hardest part of being a loving Father is letting go. It's a lesson that translates into the parenting of Cain, Abel, and Seth -- and is reiterated once again as Noah parents his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. This joyous and inspiring musical celebrates the difficulty of choice, the importance of passion, the value of questioning, and the pain in allowing those you love to take risks and face the consequences.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cassidy Theatre Box Office at 440-842-4600.

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/T-BALL REGISTRATION CONTINUES** -- Baseball/Softball/T-Ball registration in the city continues online now through April 11. In-person registration will take place from 9 a.m. -- Noon on Saturday, March 9 on the lower level of the Cassidy Theatre. Late registrations will be accepted at the Recreation Department inside Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road. Cash or check only will be accepted at the in-person regis-

tration or if you are registering at City Hall. Credit Cards are accepted online at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov).

**VALLEY FORGE OPEN SWIM** -- The community can take part in Open Swim time at Valley Forge High School, from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings through April 23.

The school is located at 9999 Independence Boulevard.

**A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE** -- Raisin' Canes, the Parma Senior Center's Vaudeville Dancers will present a special St. Patrick's Vaudeville Show from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 11 in Meeting Room A of the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library. Register online for the program at [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org).

**SPEEDWAY REDUX** -- Speedway has announced a new 4,600-square-foot gas station at the southeast intersection of Pearl Road and West 130th Street on a nearly two-acre parcel of land. The opening is anticipated in 2020.

The project will also include a Speedy Cafe, which is a fast-casual restaurant where customers place their orders on a self-serve ordering kiosk.

According to sources, food will be freshly prepared such as paninis, subs, specialty (hot) dogs, customizable pizzas, hand-crafted beverages (lattes, mochas, smoothies, and frappes), breakfast sandwiches and sides. The convenience store will also feature a "Beer Cave."

For many years, Speedway had occupied the exact same location before a previous station was demolished more than a decade ago.

## Mayor Tim DeGeeter Shares Parma's Success Stories In State Of The City

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demand for Parma homes. Even since 2017, the median sales price is up 11.6 percent to about \$120,400."

In the speech, DeGeeter talked about Parma's reputation as a safe city and explained that residents have played an essential role in helping police officers protect the community's neighborhoods. He cited the example of 4-year-old Lucas Woronischtsche, who became the city's youngest Citizen of the Month in January for his support of the police department's K9 Unit, including providing the dogs Christ-


mas presents. Seated in the crowd, Lucas smiled as the mayor told the audience about the youngster's story. Behind the row of chairs, Police Officer Bobby Jackson was standing next to police K9 Dexter, Lucas' favorite dog. The preschooler then provided the most lighthearted moment of the evening. When DeGeeter finished talking about Lucas, the mayor suggested he visit with Dexter. Lucas took him up on the offer and left his seat to play with his canine friend rather than sit through the rest of the speech. "I would've done the same thing," DeGeeter quipped afterwards.

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EDUCATION


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THE PARMA AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE  
PCSD  
PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #111

by Gene Lovasy

**SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: TELL THEM STORIES IN WHICH THEY ARE THE HERO.**

**March’s Asset Category:** Social Competencies Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they’re even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life.

**This column’s focus will be on.....Asset 33: Interpersonal Competence**

**Learning to walk in other people’s shoes**

Most young people know how to make friends. They notice when something bad happens to a friend, and when someone is acting differently. Empathy—one of the most important social and emotional skills—doesn’t come naturally to everyone. In fact, learning to walk in another’s shoes is tricky for many adults. After all, some people are easier to read and understand than others. Young people who strive to understand their own needs and feelings and know how to appropriately express them are more likely to respect the needs and feelings of others.

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people who have empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills are more likely to grow up healthy and avoid risky behaviors, such as violence and alcohol and other drug use. About 45 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they have empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills. Family is the cornerstone of most young people’s lives, but everyone needs friends, too.

**Tips for building this asset**

Interpersonal competence involves a young person’s ability to make friends and develop lasting relationships, as well as emotional aptitude. That’s the really tricky part. Parents and other caring adults can help young people learn how to monitor their own expressions of feelings, read other people’s

reactions and feelings (even if they aren’t expressed in words), and adjust social interactions based on the situation. Building interpersonal competence is a lifelong process, so be patient. Every relationship in a young person’s life is a chance to grow and learn.

**Also try this**

**In your home and family:** Welcome your child’s friends into your home. Spend time talking with them and getting to know them.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Get to know your

neighbors—adults and kids—by hosting a dinner party, potluck, or holiday gathering. Be sure to include young people in community social events as much as possible.

**In your school or youth program:** When new people join your class or program midyear, assign a young person to show the new person around, introduce him or her to people, and adjust to the new environment. This will help the new person feel more comfortable making friends. The young person in the buddy role will also develop greater interpersonal competence!



by Jean Micklewright

**February Highlights**

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

**MyCom Youth Council:** A MyCom Strategic Planning Listening Session was facilitated by one of our youth alumni. Four current youth council members and one other alumnus participated in the session. A series of questions were asked as to how MyCom should go forward during the next 10 years. What works, what needs improvement etc. Youth voice is a critical component of MyCom planning and our youth were able to speak about their own individual experiences. Different schools, genders, ages, and ethnicities were all represented by the 5 youth council members.

**Summer Jobs 2019:** Are you 14-24 years of age? Looking for a summer work experience? Apply today for the Y.O.U. Summer Employment Program. The Youth Opportunities Summer Jobs Registration Site is open. Go to youthopportunities.org and register for summer jobs.

**2019 Spring Logos sessions:** The SEL topics were relationships skills, self-confidence, and motivation. Youth were asked to define and give examples of all the topics. A variety of activities reinforced their learning.

Both groups participated in the “pencil Drop” game and were given direct instruction on encouraging each other and appropriate comments. For the game “This or That” youth were asked questions such as “Should all students learn two languages?” and discuss with each other why or why not. This inspires critical thinking and increases self-confidence.

**Looking Ahead ....**

**MyCom Youth Council Advo-**

Three Women Keep It 100 In Parma

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ing to Forbes magazine. Whatever the reason, these women have lived through 17 U.S. presidential administrations, five wars, the Cold War, the Great Depression, moon landings, the Great Recession and numerous other historical moments. To recognize their special birthdays, all three received visits from elected city officials.

On Feb. 4, Mayor Tim DeGeeter visited longtime resident Helen. Seated in her living room surrounded with balloons, flowers and loving family members, Helen was presented with several city proclamations recognizing her 100th birthday.

On Feb. 17, DeGeeter and Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban went to Mildred’s home to present her with proclamations. Mildred turned 101 on Feb. 12 and still resides in the same

**Tangible Tips For Connecting w/Kids...**Try incorporating one of these to begin building relationships & impacting lives:

- Text a message of encouragement or a simple “Good Morning! I hope you have a wonderful day!” and do it often. If you don’t know how to send texts, ask a teen to teach you how.
- Offer to tutor a youth through community groups & library programs

**Share your asset building ideas and/or thoughts about the developmental asset concept by visiting the “asset corner” facebook page. I’m looking forward to hearing from you.**

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

**cacy Day:** MyCom will be providing Advocacy Day Training before our youth meet with local legislators and/or legislative aides to advocate for issues of concern for all youth.

**MyCom Strategic Planning Sessions:** Different stakeholders continue to meet to contribute to the new MyCom Strategic Plan.

**Maker Club:** Our hugely popular STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) program will be starting the 2019 Spring session on Wednesday, March 27 at the Parma Branch. Go to [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org) to register for this event.

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

Parma home where she has lived for more than 70 years.

Finally, on Feb. 22, DeGeeter and Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro celebrated Jeannette’s 100th birthday with her at Parma Senior Village. During Jeannette’s birthday bash, which included live entertainment, food and, of course, cake, DeGeeter and Dipierro presented Jeannette with proclamations.

After the pianist led the room in a rendition of the traditional birthday song, he handed over the microphone to Jeannette. “God bless you all with sweetest blessings,” she said to her guests. “Thank you for coming and for all the things that you are wishing me. I wish the same someday for you.”

Reflecting on the three centenarians, DeGeeter said, “Maybe we should change the city slogan to: “If you want to live to 100, move to Parma.”

INSPIRATION

Seven Hills Pride

by Tony Biasiotta

Last month, I had the pleasure of sharing with you the 'progress' of a few large developments and many new partnerships that Seven Hills has recently entered into. This month I'm excited to announce some community pride.

This year the Seven Hills Hall of Fame introduced a new program that recognizes the Resident of the Month. Seven Hills City Council participated in honoring each recipient by passing a resolution of commendation for each honoree.

The first ever recipient was JoAnn Rencz, the February Resident of the Month. JoAnn, a 34-year resident of Seven of Hills, is being recognized for



JoAnn Rencz



Abriana Rondin

her contributions to the art community. JoAnn, who works with acrylic paints and soft pastels, has taught at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Abriana Rondin is the March Resident of the month. Abriana is lifelong Seven Hills resident and will graduate from Lutheran West High School this year. Abriana is being recognized for her accomplishments in the sport of soccer. Abriana holds a number of records in her chosen sport and is a recipient of multiple MVP awards. Abriana will attend Youngstown State this fall as a NCAA Division 1 Scholarship Soccer Player.

Please join me in congratulating Seven Hills Residents of the Month JoAnn Rencz and Abriana Rondin!

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A contented person has learned to accept the bitter with the sweet. A rewarding life is about more than self. It means sharing with others. Being different is not easy; it is one reason that conformity is so popular. Being helpless, ungodly, sinful, and God's enemy does not make one ineligible to receive God's grace. Being in Christ frees us from judgment, since He has already borne our judgment. Blessed is the person who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Do not tell God how big our storms are; tell the storms how big our God is. Each of us is a unique expression God's loving design. Family relationships and responsibilities are of great importance to God. For direction, let God's Word fill our memory, rule our heart, and guide our life. God's great gift of salvation, though faintly understood now, is a gift of love, grace, peace, and joy. It is much easier to pray for those we

love than those not included in this group. It pleases God when His word is honored, obeyed, and taught.

Nothing in our culture is more restricted than the Word of God in Scripture. Obviously, in order to save money, we have to spend less than we make. Salvation has past, present, and future dimensions in all its aspects. The secular world is tangible; God's world is intangible. To abide in Christ means to continue believing His Word and serving Him. Unlike many of us. Usually secular truth is somewhere between the two extremes. We do well to pray and not lose heart, then trust and wait on God. What God gives us, He expects us to share with others. When temptations knock at our door, we should not ask them to stay for dinner.

Self-reflection is always a good exercise. What I believe is a work in progress, not limited to these statements and subject to change. What do YOU believe?

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- 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.ridgewoodumc.org
- 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**  
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**Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio

# Parma Art Scene

## Artist Profile Gary G. Nass, Abstract Artist

by Kathryn Mabin

### Artist Profile Gary G. Nass, Abstract Artist

I recently had the opportunity to meet Gary G. Nass, a Parma abstract artist, and discuss with him the process he uses in creating his very unique pieces. They are a mixed media construct. His current series is an observation of the relationship between hard-edged things, such as poles, fences, buildings, etc, as represented by the wood stripping he uses, and the beauty of nature using the pho-

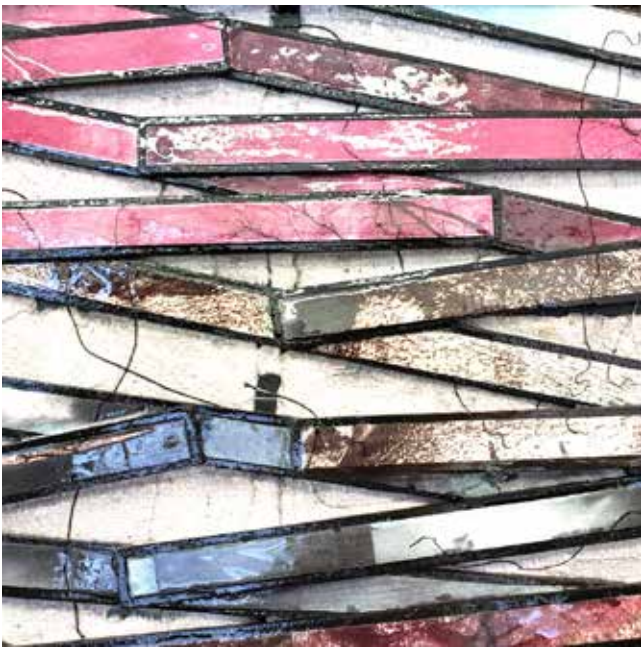
otographic image element of the work. He begins with a wood board, typically plywood, in various shapes, and builds a frame behind it. The wood is then painted or stained. He attaches shaped pieces of black poster board to the wood with small nails. Homemade paper of various colors is glued to the poster board. His homemade paper is made using scrap strips of paper, water, a frame, and a screen. It's also one of his favorite parts of the process. Strips of wood or poster board are then nailed in an arranged way, sometimes randomly, sometimes in a more geometric pattern, and often extending the borders of the piece. Nature photographs he's taken while walking, for example, in the Metroparks, of tree bark, gravel, wood chips, leaves, and the sky are altered on the computer for color and cropping and printed onto standard copy paper and cut into strips. The photo strips are glued onto the wood strips in an appealing way and covered with epoxy resin to seal them. It's a long, time consuming, detail-oriented process.

Gary states his interest in art goes back to his fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Schraff, who always encouraged him. He double majored in Drawing and Printmaking at the Cleveland Institute of Art and studied under Edwin Mieczkowski, Carroll Cassell, Jose Cintron, and Paulo Pelosini. He was most influenced by the late Edwin Mieczkowski, who taught him to work in a series and

the importance of developing an idea and seeing it through to its conclusion. Gary also worked as his apprentice. His current work is directly related to his time spent during his apprenticeship. He also attended the University of Akron, majoring in Graphic Design. Eventually, Gary went to work for the City of Brecksville's Service Department and became resigned to the fact that he would continue there for 30 years, and raise a family. But he

never lost sight of his goal of becoming a serious artist. Now retired, he is able to finally realize his dream and do what he loves best. On January 25, 2019, Gary's work hung at Prama Artspace Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd.

It's my opinion that you realized your goal Gary, and here's to many years of creating.



tographic image element of the work. He begins with a wood board, typically plywood, in various shapes, and builds a frame behind it. The wood is then painted or stained. He attaches shaped pieces of black poster board to the wood with small nails. Homemade paper of various colors is glued to the poster board. His homemade paper is made using scrap strips of paper, water, a frame, and a screen. It's also one of his favorite parts of the process. Strips

## Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

### Learn to Draw Superheroes

For ages 13 and up. This 8-week class will focus on drawing a superhero comic strip. Students will learn about character creation, background, and storytelling in addition to drawing. The class is limited to 10 students. The instructor is Craig Lindsley. Begins Wednesday, March 27th through May 15th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr., Parma, OH 44129. The instructor's fee is covered in part, by a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, with a very minimal supply fee. If you are interested, email [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net) for details or to register. This class will fill fast, so register now.

### Watercolor Painting with Emery

Wednesday, March 27th, will begin the 8-week Beginning Watercolor Class with Emery Bogardy. This class is for ages 55 and over. It will be held at the Smallwood Activities Center, from 2 to 4 pm. Instructors fee is covered in part, by a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, with a very minimal supply fee. If you are interested, email [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net) for details or to register. The class fills fast, so register now.

### Prama Artspace Gallery

A Celebration of Mardi Gras is the current show at the new Parma gallery. Celebrate Mardi Gras with Mardi Gras themed art. Get your celebration on before the start of Lent. This show runs through March 10th. Normal gallery hours are Saturday through Monday 2 to 7 p.m. Prama is located at 5411 Pearl Rd., Parma, OH 44129. The next show opens March 22, 2019, and will feature art by Thom Rossino and Sean Mabin.



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## Clay Display: Tri-C Gallery West Spotlights Ceramic Art In New Exhibit

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will showcase vibrant ceramic artworks created by local artists during a monthlong exhibit now on view at Western Campus. The exhibit runs through March 28 at Gallery West, located on the second floor of the campus library. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Sat-

urday. An opening reception will be held 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27. The exhibit is titled NOC Showcase Exhibition. The show features work by more than 30 members of the Northern Ohio Clay group. Free parking is available at Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. For more information, call 216-987-5322 or visit [www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest](http://www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest).

PERSPECTIVE

The Day Of The Buzzards

by Lee Kamps

This month, on March 15 the buzzards will make their annual return to Hinckley signaling the beginning of spring. But do the buzzards actually return every year on the same date? Do they actually migrate south for the winter, and how did this story begin? Well, the story behind the famous buzzards of Hinckley is based on some history as well as some folklore. Two hundred years ago most of northeastern Ohio was a forested wilderness, inhabited by many wild animals including some that would like to make a meal of livestock as well as humans. The forests of northeastern Ohio were teeming with game as well as wolf packs, bears and mountain lions. Following the end of the War of 1812, the threat from hostile Indian tribes was ended in much

of Ohio and more settlers arrived in northeastern Ohio. Many had been granted land by Connecticut for their service in the War for Independence since this part of Ohio was originally the Connecticut Western Reserve. On December 24, 1818, the settlers of Hinckley organized the “Great Hinckley Hunt” to clear the area of predators so their livestock could better survive the winter. The hunt was a well-organized slaughter and many animals, including many deer and non-predatory animals, were killed. Following the hunt, the men took the wolf pelts to Richfield to collect a bounty on wolves. They used the money to purchase several casks of whiskey and no doubt had a Merry Christmas. According to local legend, a few days after Christmas the region was

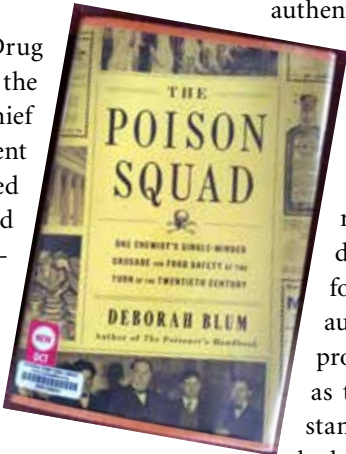
hit by a heavy snowstorm that dumped over six inches of snow that covered the dead animals from the Great Hunt. Those dead animals laid there under that snow which helped preserve them through the winter. Then when March arrived and the sun was higher in the sky, the snow melted revealing all the dead animals from the hunt the past December. Well, dead animals attract buzzards and no doubt the buzzards had a feast. Therefore, every year since 1819 the buzzards have been returning to Hinckley for the spring. So this year celebrates the bicentennial of the return of the buzzards. Since 1957, the town of Hinckley has been celebrating the Sunday following March 15 as Buzzard Sunday. This year it also coincides with St. Patrick’s Day. Next year it will actually be on

March 15, the day the buzzards return. But there are also some facts that need to be considered. The famous Hinckley buzzards are turkey vultures (Cathartes aura), members of the family of birds Cathartidae that includes most vultures. They are the most common of North American vultures and ranges from southern Canada to the tip of South America. They are named the turkey vulture because their bald red head resembles the head of a turkey. They inhabit a wide variety of habitats from subtropical forests to deserts and grasslands. Most turkey vultures in northern Ohio do migrate south for the winter. However, recently more have been staying here through the winter. Apparently, there is enough road kill and other dead animals to keep them well fed during the winter.

BOOK REVIEW: The Poison Squad, By Deborah Blum

by Michelle E. Rice


The Pure Food and Drug Act passed in 1906 due to the fervor of Harvey Wiley, chief chemist in the Department of Agriculture. He studied food products and educated the public about adulterated food. Formaldehyde was added to meat and dairy products, borax, copper sulfate, sawdust, floor sweepings etc. were added to food products. A plethora of products simply weren't what they said they were, contained toxic substances or flat out gross stuff. The book goes into shocking detail about this and the fight between manufacturer's and legislation for safe food,



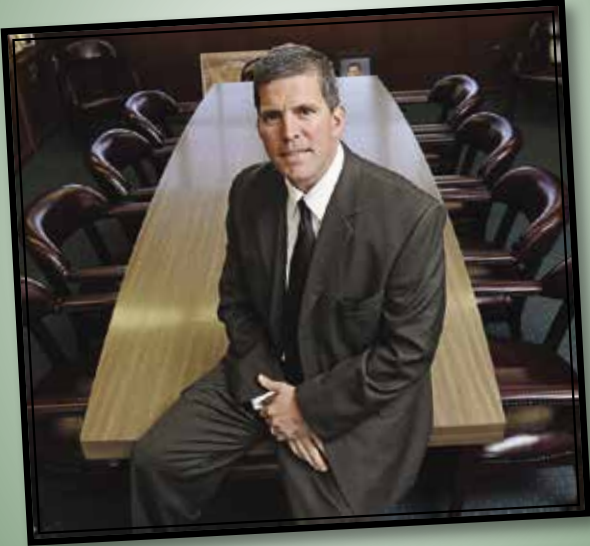
authentic food, and labeling such. The poison squad was a group of men that volunteered to ingest substances believed to be toxic to record the results. For decades Wiley battled for legislation to ensure authentic food and proper labeling as well as to eliminate toxic substances in food. Frustrated, he left public office to write uncensored for Good House-keeping and eventually published, 'The History of a Crime Against the Food Law,' venting his frustrations of a corrupt government that bent to industry pressure and ignored public welfare.

Despite the numerous poisonings and deaths over the years, it wasn't until over 100 people died, many were children, from a cough syrup containing diethylene glycol (found in antifreeze) that legislation greatly expanded the previous act and replaced it with the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938. It corrected deficiencies and gave real authority to what we call the FDA, Food and Drug Administration. The mid-nineteenth century marked the beginning of Europe enacting protective measures and banning many American food products. Today, the EU, Russia and many other countries have banned Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). They dominate our groceries, yet are banned for sale within and import to those countries which have bans in place. Much of the American food supply is still tainted, not just with GMO's, but an abundance of chemicals, preservatives, dyes, fertilizers, fungicides and herbicides that are known to be toxic, so there is still work to done to purify our food supply.

I have a personal connection to Hinckley. I am descended from John Wiard who settled in Hinckley with his adult son, also named John in the 1810s and may have participated in the Great Hinckley Hunt of 1818. He was granted land in the Connecticut Western Reserve for his service in the War for Independence. He was born in 1759. He died in 1860 at age 100 and is buried in a cemetery in Hinckley. In the 1820s or 1830s, a more substantial house was built over the original log cabin on Weymouth Road (S. R. 606) west of Ridge Road in Hinckley. That house stayed in the family until the 1980s when it was sold after a great aunt and uncle died. They operated a dairy farm on that land when I was a kid in the 1950s. This is the farmhouse where my paternal grandmother was raised and where my great grandmother lived until her death when I was in high school. That old farmhouse is still standing and has new owners who are turning the old dairy farm into an orchard and winery.



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IMPRESSIONS

Haitian Vodou: Relativity And Demystification

by Davidione Pearl

Deep in the dark arid jungle mountains of the world’s first black republic, there beats a distant drum. Pulsating low-frequency rhythms known as Petwo, Ibo, and Kongo, complimenting murmurs that heighten into shrieks and shrills of song, and swirling plumes of dust underfoot in near bare-body dance.

In heart-pounding orchestral union, the entranced practitioners rise as one in spirited cacophony well into nocturne, as the mounting intention of ceremony and prayer steadily increases to reveal the opening gateways and passionate climax of their decided spiritual objective, be it to peacefully empower and nurture an individual, group, or land - or to very much do the opposite all night through to the light of dawn..

This is Haitian Vodou, yet to more clearly understand it as a cultural phenomenon, one must endeavor to embark back to the origins of the slave trade and the ramifications of French Colonialism. Slaves in large part brought to the New World possessed animistic belief systems, that is to say, the perception that all things elemental, even words, carried the weight of spiritual presence. However, as was the standard business of colonialism at the time, it was forbidden for this new commodity (slaves) to practice as such, and thus were forced to submit in no uncertain terms to the ways of worship deemed acceptable by their French conquerors. This forced transition of worship led the slaves into a new paradigm of Henotheism – the worship of a single God while not denying the existence of deities, deities that they often disguised as Catholic Saints in a ceremony to maintain a convincing status while in the presence of their oppressors.

Several African cultures exhibited similar clandestine spiritual undertakings in the face of western hemisphere colonialism and the slave trade: Obeayisne (Jamaica), Shango (Trinidad), Candomble (Brazil), and Santeria (Cuba) – all examples of parallel amalgams in religious transformation. This

however ultimately led to what has become known as Black Magic, as the patience of slaves for their oppression to end through prayers to God alone left them in a precarious state of uncertainty. Galvanized by a perception of nowhere else to turn, they acquainted themselves intimately with working to seize upon the spirits of their subjugators through ritual.

To this day, the mystique of Vodou is primarily associated with that of Black Magic, yet in doing so, one risks straying from key positions in relativity that escape like sand through the fingers of fallacy. We often assign Black Magic only within the confines of Haitian culture and religion; lest we forget, under the shadow of The Cross, for example, did more Black Magic and bloodlust run unmitigated and globally widespread behind the guise of religion in ways that will likely never be matched.

Lest we forget, it was Black Magic itself by the French cloaked in the garment of cross and crown that first decimated the original tribes on the island, that which made room for the coming slave trade of other decimated tribes from even further away, to ultimately lay claim to the birth of Haiti herself.

Lest we forget, today in America we still allow a known terrorist organization that murdered and intimidated innumerable citizens for generations through the Black Magic of burning crosses to remain nearly as commonplace as a country club - born out of a nation that laid colonialist groundwork in the same fashion as its fellow unappeasable conquerors to the south, that which brought unprecedented destruction upon the land and their inhabitants.

To better understand Black Magic as a whole, we must take a closer look at what it truly is, and the many cunning forms it has historically presented itself worldwide.

Vodou in Haiti however, has been rather highly misconceived. Like other belief systems, it too has its light and its dark, as it is practiced openly for the greater good of humanity on the island

by one-fifth of the population, and supported in daily drumming, song, and dance by a great many more.

It is however not reticent in the slightest to put forth energies to avail the full spectrum and breadth of the human experience.

It is a practice of energies; how one chooses to utilize those energies through intent and ritual is similar in nature and degree to any other, the only difference being that which we seek to construct through our own inability to draw the sweeping parallels.

PSO Concert March 10

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a Concert on Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights Featuring Antonin Dvorak Symphony #7, Xylophone & Marimba Soloist George Kiteley performing “Xylophonia” & “Fluffy Ruffles“ and “Soiree” an original composition by Darren Allen dedicated to the Parma Symphony Orchestra in celebration of our 50th Anniversary Season The orchestra, in its 50th season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM. Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, website [www.parmasympphony.org](http://www.parmasympphony.org) or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

George Kiteley was Professor of Percussion at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio from 1971 until his retirement in 2000. In addition to his

percussion work at BW, he directed the BW Jazz Band for 20 years. As a performer, he was timpanist/principal percussionist with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra and Cleveland Ballet for the entire run of those two entities, and later with the subsequent “Red {An Orchestra}”. He has served as an extra percussionist with the Cleveland Orchestra and has performed for numerous popular shows and stars at all of Cleveland’s major theaters and concert halls. A nonmusical retirement interest has been part-time work repairing clocks at Suburban Clock and Repair in Berea.

Darren Allen was born and raised in the Cleveland area. Though he has never formally studied composition, he has gleaned knowledge from many of his professors over the years. He currently composes and arranges for wind band, marching band, jazz ensemble, and orchestra. Mr. Allen and his wife Alice, a harpist, perform together in the Parma Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Winds.

Dr. Randolph P. Laycock celebrating his 40th season as music director of the Parma Symphony having conducted his first performance with the orchestra on November 19, 1978. Dr. Laycock taught string and wind music for the Parma City Schools for 36 years

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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 and 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 p.m. at Cassidy Theater. Kids between the ages of 12 – 17 living in and attending school in the city are welcome.

• For announcements and detailed information visit their Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police](http://www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police); email: [pactunit@gmail.com](mailto:pactunit@gmail.com); ph: 440-884-1235

## From UH/Parma Medical Center

• A Women's Health Expo to include a panel of experts to answer questions, a cooking demo, and a range of free health screenings will be held at the Health Education Center, 7300 State Rd. on Saturday, March 16th. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.; panel presentation begins at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited – register at 440-743-2651

• Surgical suites/operating room expansion – Construction activity on this major construction project should be underway this month.

>> Emergency Department Refresh...designed to improve privacy, comfort and patient flow, this several month project should begin in April

## From Parma City Schools...

• Phase Two Middle School community meetings scheduled for this month include Hillside M.S. on Monday, Mar 11th at 6:30 p.m., Greenbriar M.S. on Monday, Mar 25th at 6:30 p.m. and at the Parma Hts Library on Saturday, Mar 30th at 10:00 a.m. Go here: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/page/7883> to view the schedule, meeting minutes and other related documents.

• The Feb 11th issue of the Monday Monitor, among other things, has information about major administrative changes being made, details regarding Kindergarten Registration scheduled for Mar 6 and 7 and a piece explaining steps being taken to ensure the safety of our students, Go here to display a copy; <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/5303>

• 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.

## Some other school-related events...

• Normandy High School's 50th Anniversary Open House is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th from 5 - 8 p.m. Tour the building, enjoy student entertainment and stay for a short program at around 6 p.m.

• The Partners in Education (P.I.E.) Annual Pierogi Dinner will be held at the Parma Sr H.S.Cafeteria on Friday, March 8 from 3 - 7 p.m. ADVANCE SALE TICKETS ONLY available at all schools, Central Office and P.I.E. members; must be purchased by Feb. 25th. The Parma City Schools Foundation will hold a Basket Raffle at the event with many great offerings.

## From Parma Council of PTA's...

• Take a break and support your schools by reserving a Parma Council of PTA Family Night at Kalahari Water Park on March 14th...\$139 features 2 Queen beds and include waterpark passes. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-525-2427.

**A Unique Summer Camp...Camp Kasem at Case Western Reserve University** – A free summer camp for kids who have lost a parent to cancer, have a parent undergoing cancer treatment, or whose parent is a cancer survivor. Go here for details: <https://campkasem.org/casewestern/>

## From Tri-C... A couple of youth and young adult career based programs...

• Advanced Technology Academy (ATA).....Offers training for young adults, who are between the ages of 18-24 years of age at no cost to the student, and industry-recognized certificates in demand-driven occupations. Students of the Academy are eligible for a paid internship and full time, permanent employment. The ATA program is workforce driven, designed to increase occupational skills, employment opportunities and retention. More info at: [www.tri-c.edu/ata](http://www.tri-c.edu/ata), ph: 216-987-6304

• Youth Technology Acad-

emy (YTA)... a one-of-a-kind, STEM-focused high school program designed to train students (ages 14-18) for the technical workforce. Its goal is to ignite the interest of high school students in STEM studies and career pursuits via robotics training, competitions, and college credit in technology courses. More info at: [www.tri-c.edu/yta](http://www.tri-c.edu/yta), ph: 216-987-3368.

## From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group...

• For youth/young adults ages 14 – 24, registration for the Summer Youth Employment Program, coordinated by Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), is now open. Go to <https://jobs.youthopportunities.org> or call their Hotline @ 216-776-3900. The sooner you register the better your chance will be getting a job.

• Learn more about the County's MyCom initiative and it's programs and events by visiting [www.mycomcle.org](http://www.mycomcle.org)

## From the Parma Area Family Collab:

• The Collab has partnered w/ United Way 211 and the EITC (Earned Income Tax) Coalition to once again offer free tax preparation. Clients need to call 211 to schedule their appointment at the Collab. Slots are limited so don't delay making that call.

• Learn more about the Family Collaborative, its programs, services, events and resources available in the community by visiting <https://familycollaborative.com/> or call the Collab at 440-887-4873.

**From The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center...** An Ambassador Training

## Brian Monter Appointed President Of UH Parma Medical Center

### continued from page 1

growth with the \$27.5 million expansion and renovation of surgical services just beginning and investment in a new linear accelerator that ensures state-of-the-art cancer care close to home for patients in and around Parma."

Monter earned his bachelor's

Workshop open to anyone who would like to learn more about how to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse, and become more involved in societal change. When: Monday 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., March 18th; Where: 1228 Euclid Ave., Ste 200, Cleveland; Cost: Free and open to the public; Registration: [clevelandrapecrises/ambassador](mailto:clevelandrapecrises/ambassador); Questions: Alex Leslie at [alexl@clevelandrcc.org](mailto:alexl@clevelandrcc.org).

## The Senior High Youth Group of Ridgewood United Methodist Church

will co-sponsor w/Group Care and Parma's Mayor Tim DeGeeter this year's National Group Mission Trip during the week of June 16th - 22nd right here in Parma. Administrations of the cities of Parma Hts. and Seven Hills are also supporting this great community project. If you know of homes in the area that require refurbishing or would like someone to speak to your group email Renita Nohejl at [nohejl@campuslifecleveland.org](mailto:nohejl@campuslifecleveland.org). Visit the following web sites for more information:<https://ridgewoodumc.org/youth/> or <https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/home-repair/parma-oh-2019/>

**Check out CCPL's impressive selection of Digital Services** at:<https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Borrow/Digital-Collection.aspx>.

## From the Parma Snow Library...

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

## Read the rest of this story online at ParmaObserver.com

degree in nursing at West Virginia Wesleyan College and a Master of Science in Nursing at Kent State University College of Nursing. He earned his MBA at Kent State and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He lives in North Ridgeville with his wife and three children.

**Read the rest of this story online at ParmaObserver.com**

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# Parma Proud

## Parma’s Butcher Shops Love Serving The City’s Families

by Kathie Zipp

You’ve probably visited the West Side Market downtown (and if not, you definitely should), but did you know that three of the vendors have locations in Parma too? Here’s why Parma’s plentiful meat shops love serving the city and what delicious offerings you should try at each!

### Thayer’s Select Meats

Maureen Thayer-Funfgeld’s father Bob Thayer started Thayer’s Select Meats in 1966. She started working for the family business as a dishwasher at age 12, learning everything from the bottom up.

Thayer-Funfgeld said her father decided to open the business in Parma because it was a family-oriented city.



State Meats

“One of many great reasons for still running Thayer’s Select Meats in Parma is that the city has stayed family oriented,” she said. “Being here for almost 53 years, we have watched many generations grow up. Sometimes when people are shopping here we may see four generations all together. That means a lot to Thayer’s Select Meats!”

What sets Thayer’s Select Meats apart, according to Thayer-Funfgeld, is its quality and customer service. The shop also offers old-fashioned comfort food like stuffed cabbage, stuffed peppers, chicken pot pies, lasagnas, and more. She encourages newcomers to come in and try any of Thayer’s Select Meats’ unique homemade products.

### State Meats

After immigrating from Ukraine, State Meats’ founder George Salo Sr. learned the butcher trade working in New York City. He started State Meats in 1974 in Parma where he felt right at home with the city’s high Ukrainian and ethnic population. Salo’s wife, Marie, and son, George, run the business today.

You may have had a State Meats product without even realizing it. The shop sells to many local restaurants and delis including Sokolowski University Inn, Music Box Supper Club, Rowley Inn (next to the Christmas Story House) and more.

George Salo Jr. said what makes State Meats unique is making mostly everything in-house, such as smoking its signature kielbasa in old-fashioned smokehouses (probably why the parking lot smells so good!). The shop also serves



A.C. Meat Shop

up jumbo pierogies, stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes, German schnitzel and a variety of salads.

People line up outside of State Meats every holiday to keep their family traditions alive.

“We like that the city recognizes the diversity of ethnic backgrounds and brings the community together through local events and parades,” Salo said.

Salo encourages first-timers to come visit, promising you can sample almost anything you want. Actually, don’t be surprised if you’re greeted with a sample of kielbasa right when you walk in the door.

### Pinzone’s Meats

Tony Pinzone grew up working at stands at the West Side Market, learning the trade before opening his own meat stand there in 1976. Then in 1995, he decided to open another location in Parma. The move enabled him to expand his business and seek wholesale accounts.

Pinzone likes doing business with Parma’s families, many of which live very close to the store.

“Many of these families still cook dinner, do backyard barbecues and entertain,” he said. “It is an excellent opportunity to do great business in a great area that happens to be very close to where we live and raised our family.”

Pinzone’s Meats carries just about anything you could imagine a traditional butcher shop to have, including many things you can’t find in a grocery store. Pinzone says what sets the shop apart is that most times when you walk in there is at least 75 years of experience behind the counter to answer your questions, or cut exactly what you’re looking for.

He invites new patrons to come in and try “the best Italian sausage ever made,” homemade meatballs, tender steaks, locally-raised pork and ground chuck that’s hand selected and often ground by the hour.

### AC Meat Shop

AC Meat Shop is family owned and brought 44 years of experience when it opened its doors in Parma in 2010. It carries a variety of Romanian and other traditional European products like sausages.

Owner Christian Cotrau said the shop makes its products by hand in its

smokehouse. Cotrau also said the people in Parma make it a great place to work, and to come in for smokies and pork cracklings!

### Dionne’s Meats

Andrew Dionne grew up in Tremont and began working at the West Side Market when he was just 13. He purchased his first stand at the market in 2001 and currently owns five.

He opened a location in Parma in 2015 to better serve his restaurant accounts and suburban customers.

“With our location in Parma, we are able to serve a wide variety of customers that may not be able to make it to the West Side Market,” he said.

All of Dionne’s meats are locally sourced and antibiotic free with no fillers or hormones. Dionne said that the shop not only carries products that butchers used to offer 60 years ago but also oven-ready products that are fresh and ready to cook.

Come in to try fresh ground chuck, delicious ribeye, homemade pierogies or a jalapeño cream cheese stuffed pork

tenderloin wrapped in bacon. Yum!

### Dohar Meats

Miklos “Mike” and Angela Szucs have brought Parma’s newest butcher shop in from the West Side Market. Dohar Meats has been in business since the 40s. Angela started working at her father’s market stand at age 13, and the two are happy to keep the business family owned.

“Working on the market over the years, we knew most of our customers come from the suburbs, including Parma,” Miklos said. “We already have a friendly relationship with many of




Thayer's Select Meats

our neighbors and we think we are in the right neighborhood.”

Dohar specializes in cured-smoked meats, made on a weekly basis to avoid using extra preservatives. It also carries fresh pork, beef, and lamb.

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