

“A gush of bird song, a patter of dew. A cloud, and a rainbow warning.
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue. An April day in the morning.” - Harriet Prescott Spofford

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A Message From The Parma City School District Superintendent

by Charles Smialek

This May, the Parma City School District will have on the ballot a request to renew an operating levy of 4.2 mills. This renewal is NOT a new tax and will NOT cost taxpayers ANY additional money.

The levy that we have placed on the ballot for renewal generates approximately \$9.2 million per year for our district and costs the owner of a \$100,000 home \$10.72 per month. Passage of Issue 3 will keep these amounts the same, yielding no increase in revenue nor costing homeowners any further expense.

Operating funds are used to support our general fund, which pays for the day-to-day operations of our school district.

Specifically, expenditures from our general fund breakdown this way:

- Classroom Instruction 66%
- Support Services (Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Counselors, Administrators, Curriculum Materials, Transportation, Maintenance, Utilities, etc.) 31%
- Other (Extra-curriculars, Architecture/Engineering Services, etc.) 3%
- Total 100%

We have made much progress this year toward implementing our three goals to improve our school district. These are the highlights of our efforts:

- Practice Fiscal Responsibility
- We are reducing spend-



ing on administrative personnel costs at Central Office by approximately \$920,000 from this current school year to next. This reduction will allow us to dedicate these funds to school-based resources, including Family Liaisons, Deans of Students, and the Parma Alternative Secondary School, a program that helps non-traditional students graduate.

Increase Student Achievement

On the 2018 Ohio State Report Card, we improved our “Gap Closing” grade, which shows how well our schools are meeting performance expectations for vulnerable populations of students. This “Gap Closing” grade improved from an “F” last year to a “B” this year. Our performance index increased from 81.2 in 2016 to 83.9 in 2018, indicating that our students are performing better on state tests.

Our four-year graduation rate also increased from 85.5% in 2016 to 88.1% in 2018, indicating that more of our students are graduating on time. Four of our schools

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Safety Town Registration

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Safety Town of Parma, now in its 47th year, will be offering four two week sessions at Greenbriar Middle School Annex, 11810 Huffman Rd, Parma, Oh. Safety Town teaches children home and pedestrian safety. Residents of the Parma City School District

whose child will be entering kindergarten, public or private, in the fall are eligible. Registration will be Saturday April 6th 2019, 9:00am to 12:00 noon, at Four Star Insurance Agency, 5835 Pearl Road. Parma. Registration fee is \$28.00. Questions will be answered business hours at 440-882-2014.



UH Parma Medical Center has broken ground on its \$27.5 million expansion and renovation of its Department of Surgery. Celebrating this momentous occasion are, from left: Richard Hanson, President, UH Community Hospitals West; Julia Mason, Chief Nursing Officer, UH Parma; Tim Boyko, Chairman, UH Parma’s Board of Directors; Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD, Chief Medical Officer, UH Parma; Brian Monter, President, UH Parma; Kathi O’Connor, Director of Operations, UH Parma; Angelo Pimpas, Chairman, Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation Board; Kim Monaco, Director, Clinical Operations, UH Parma; Tim DeGeeter, Mayor of Parma.

UH Parma Medical Center Breaks Ground On \$27.5 Million OR Expansion, Renovation

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has broken ground on the largest construction project in the main hospital in more than 30 years. The \$27.5 million renovation and expansion of the Department of Surgery was boosted by the Parma Hospital Health Foundation, which announced a \$2 million lead gift to support this transformational project. Fencing has been constructed in a large section of the main parking lot for the first phase of the project, a new addition of 7,700 square feet to the building that will modernize and alter the front of UH Parma Medical Center. The project will proceed in multiple phases over a two-year period, including a complete renovation of the existing Department of Surgery, to avoid disruption to surgery operations.

“This massive expansion and renovation of our entire surgery department positions UH Parma Medical Center for long-term growth,” said President Brian Monter, beginning his first month as the leader of this 332-bed hospital. “We are determined to

continue to enhance the hospital’s ability to be the choice for high-quality care, a hospital where doctors want to practice, patients want to come and employees want to work.” An increasing demand for outpatient surgery will prompt the expansion of pre-

and post-operative areas for outpatient procedures. The patient experience will be further enhanced, with greater privacy for surgery patients, a more spacious waiting room for family members and larger

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R,I,P, Honey - 2007- 2019 The Parma Observer Dog



“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.” – Will Rogers

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Like you, I am so happy with the warmer temperatures we have been experiencing after a long, cold winter. As an avid runner, this weather is much more conducive to being active. Along those lines, I have been very busy preparing for the 9th annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, which will take place on Saturday, July 6 at Cuyahoga Community College's Parma Western campus at 8:30 am. There is no better time to sign up than now.

The now-famous Run-Walk for Pierogies has become one of Parma's premier family-friendly summer events. Sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Tri-C West (11000 West Pleasant Valley Road), the Parma Observer, and Perla's Pierogies (5380 State Road), among many other Parma businesses and elected officials, participants are treated at the finish with Perla's homemade pierogies, courtesy of owners Daniel and David Serban!

Nine years ago I combined my love for running and pierogies and came up with the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies. Thanks to the help of many friends and sponsors, we host approximately 800 runners and walkers each year and have been able to donate thousands of dollars to local charitable causes. In fact, this year's charity partners include



the Parma Charitable Fund, the Parma Senior High School Hockey Team, Parma Boy Scout Troop 221, and the Cuyahoga Community College Gap Scholarship Fund. We have also committed \$1,000 to assist former Mayor Dean DePiero in his efforts to build a learning studio in memory of his late wife Kathleen Cochrane-DePiero who was a news anchor at Fox 8.

Participants may choose to compete in the 5k run, which is a chip-timed race, or they may walk the entire 5k (3.1 miles) or the shorter 1 mile course. The top male and female win the Golden Pierogie Award, as well as a \$100 prize



package. The top three females and males in the following age group divisions win one of the very popular pierogi necklace awards: 11 and under, 12-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70 Over. The first 600 participants to sign up are guaranteed our signature t-shirt, pierogies and other snacks and drinks at the finish, as well as a goodie bag. There will also be many door prizes awarded randomly.

Pre-registration is \$25 (ages 11 and under \$15) and can be done by mail by July 3 or online by July 5. Onsite, day-of registration is \$30 and can be done from 7:00 am to 8:15 am.

Registration for 9th Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies can be completed online at www.hermescleveland.com.

com or call me at 440-885-8091 to be mailed a form. Questions about the Run-Walk, including sponsorship opportunities, can be directed to pierogie5k@gmail.com or by calling. Check us out on Twitter and Facebook @pierogie5k. See you on July 6!

Our Family Caring For Yours: New On-Site Hemodialysis Unit At Pleasant Lake Villa

by Divna Majstorovic

Pleasant Lake Villa will be opening an on-site hemodialysis unit in collaboration with the Centers for Dialysis Care. The dialysis unit scheduled to open early April, will have 6 chairs for residents. "We are very excited to be able to provide this service to our residents and community, shared Sharon Santoli, Administrator at Pleasant Lake Villa. "Residents will benefit by having the convenience of the dialysis center on site which will reduce travel time and a more efficient time to dialyze. A reception was held at Pleasant Lake Villa on March 21st to highlight the unit.

The needs of the community are always being considered as the facility evaluates and expands its medical service lines. Pleasant Lake Villa offers an




Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter with Pleasant Lake Villa Administrator Sharon Santoli on 3/21 at the event to introduce the community to the new Hemodialysis Unit at Pleasant Lake Villa.

in-house peritoneal dialysis program, a cardiology program led by Dr. Raju Modi and a pulmonology program led by Dr. Gregory Hickey and staffed

with a full-time respiratory therapist. The facility also offers a wound care program and a Pinnacle High Observation Unit designed to meet the needs of individuals with complex medical conditions

Pleasant Lake Villa, proudly serving the community for over 31 years focuses on serving Parma and the surrounding cities. Family owned and operated, the facility staff takes great pride in their positive impact on the community as a premier healthcare provider.

Pleasant Lake Villa offers a warm and comfortable environment with a dedicated team that provides rehabilitation, long term care, assisted living and hospice care. For more information, call 440-842-2273 or email Admissions.PLV@LHShealth.com



THANK YOU FOR VOTING ON MAY 7

Tim Dobeck
City Of Parma
Law Director And
Chief Prosecutor



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Seidman Cancer Center At UH Parma Unveils \$3 Million Renovation

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center invites the public to the reopening of the Radiation Oncology Department at its UH Seidman Cancer Center following a \$3 million renovation. At a community open house on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon, visitors can tour the facility, enjoy breakfast and meet two new oncologists and a cancer navigator to guide patients through their cancer journey. Visitors also can participate in health screenings and see the state-of-the-art linear accelerator that delivers radiation treatments to patients.

UH Parma has had a cancer center since 2000. As part of the UH Seidman Cancer Center's expansive network in Northeast Ohio, the UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma is among 18 community



Radiation Oncologist Kevin Kelley, MD, surrounded by members of the Seidman staff at UH Parma Medical Center.

sites that offer cancer care close to home. The new Elekta VersaHD linear accelerator brings the center the latest state-of-the-art technology for

radiation treatments.

Two new full-time oncologists are joining the medical staff:

Kevin Kelley, MD, Board-certified in Radiation Oncology. The Cleveland native attended medical school at Wright State University and completed his residency training at Hofstra University. He is proficient in all major modalities of modern radiation oncology, including intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image-guided radiation therapy and brachytherapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery.

Jennifer Muller, MD, Board-certified in Hematology & Medical Oncology, who comes to UH Parma from Southwest General Health Center. She went to medical school at Northwestern University, completed her residency at Duke University and her fellow-

ship at UH. Her specialty areas are breast cancer, chronic leukemia and lymphoma, myeloma and cancer genetics.

A new cancer patient navigator will guide patients through referrals, scheduling and obtaining pre-certification for procedures and treatment, and connecting patient with supportive services needed to alleviate anxiety for the patient trying to navigate themselves through the system.

In Medical Oncology on the second floor, Specialty Pharmacy is undergoing major updates to advance its focus on patient care. Specialty Pharmacy is pivotal in helping patients obtain answers to questions about their cancer drugs. This renovation is prompting a noticeable change to the layout of the waiting area on the second floor.

"Our Seidman Cancer Center provides dedicated oncologists, nurses and caregivers, state-of-the-art radiation therapy equipment and other multi-disciplinary services on our UH Parma campus," said Maruja P. Heiselman, MBA, BSN, CNOR, Clinical Manager of the UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma. "We can provide highly skilled, compassionate care for patients from diagnosis to treatment without a need to travel downtown or to another location. We encourage our community to bring family and friends to learn more about the latest cancer care available in their community."

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OBSERVER

Righteous Brother Bill Medley Talks About The Time Of His Life

by Felicia Naoum

He is one of the voices behind the most played record in the history of American radio: "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'." If you've had the time of your life, you may have been dancing with Patrick Swayze, but the track's timeless male vocals belong to none other than Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers. Today, Bill Medley never thought he would be performing without his original second half, Bobby Hatfield, who passed away in 2003. The blue-eyed soul brother once believed his singing career would be put to rest with the passing of Hatfield. "I thought I was pretty much done, but fans and friends convinced me that people still wanted to hear that music," Medley says in a phone interview.

And while Medley knows that his longtime, original partner is irreplaceable, he credits his current partner, Bucky Heard, with doing a "phenomenal job" filling the big shoes that Hatfield left behind and keeping The Righteous Brother's sound alive. Medley hopes that Hatfield is looking down with pride at the redesigned Righteous Brothers. Medley believes that Hatfield would understand his reasons to carry on The Righteous Brother's music due to the original pair parting ways in 1968 and Hatfield then reforming the group on his own, according to Medley.

Looking back, Medley does not regret the time the original group spent apart. "I think it was good for both of us. I think we both grew a lot. We were separated for six years." Medley continues to say that the separation caused both of the original Righteous Brothers to grow and reunite in 1974 with a more "comfortable feel." Ebb and flow made the two stronger together and the hit record "Rock and Roll Heaven" made its debut. Two years after the original duo reunited, tragedy struck, and Medley's ex-wife passed away. The singer had to change hats from musician to full-time father.

Despite trials and tribulations, audiences of various cultural backgrounds welcomed the group warmly, especially at a time in history when a heated political climate allowed for races to be divided rather than united. Medley and I spoke about the musicians being coined blue-eyed soul brothers, a designation that was given to Medley and Hatfield by African American disc jockeys and one that Medley looks to with honor.

"Being that the label has a racial



connotation to it, does that bother you?" I ask.

"No. It was a huge honor that the black audience was accepting us, and playing us. We were emulating the great black acts."

The Righteous Brothers expanded upon the talent of iconic African American artists early in their career, and the success saga continued including big screen soundtracks. A solo Bill Medley's pipes lent to mega box office titles like "(I've Had) The Time of My Life" with Jennifer Warnes in *Dirty Dancing* (1987), and together The Righteous Brothers topped charts with influential tunes like "Unchained Melody" in *Ghost* (1990) and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" in *Top Gun* (1986).

"Two of your hit songs are tied to the late Patrick Swayze and his renowned blockbusters. Did you have any relationship with the late actor?"

"I got to know him during award shows. I certainly got to know that he was a wonderful guy," Medley reminisces.

Medley's positive sentiments for Swayze are similar to his view on the very song that is the American anthem for a life lived, "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," his song.

"It is remarkable," the baritone singer says on the success of the famous song. "It is the song that keeps on giving. It is always a real blessing to be coupled up with that song. It is just remarkable, just remarkable."

Surprisingly, if Medley's musical heartstrings tug hardest at any of his

songs, he chooses "Just Once In My Life," as his favorite. In all fairness, the legendary hit maker says that choosing a favorite song is always tough because it is like your children and you do not like any of them, he chuckles.

With the hits we spoke of and the ones we did not, the longevity, and the withstanding of tumultuous grounds throughout a career spanning generations, The Righteous Brothers rightfully earned a spot in the house of Rock and Roll royalty as 2003 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees. According to Medley, though, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was a door that once looked bleak in opening for the blue-eyed soul vocalists.

"We did not think we would get in the hall of fame because we were kept out [in the past]. It was a political thing that five or six of us were hung up in."

But when the doors of rock and roll royalty eventually swung open for The Righteous Brothers with induction from Billy Joel, the soul trailblazers could not have accepted the honor with more gratitude. The induction came the same year Hatfield passed away and may have been the only silver lining Medley saw in 2003. "When it came around, it was really wonderful. Going into the hall of fame was a stamp of approval," the California native continues. The Righteous Brothers bring their fans joy through the universal language of music; Medley knows that The Righteous Brothers did their job. To Bill Medley, being a household member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame means: "You were here, and you

made a difference."

And The Righteous Brothers are still here. Two on stage and one in spirit performing at the Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park May 5.

The Rocksino is known for its Vegas experience albeit its Ohio address. Coincidentally, The Righteous Brothers have performed many times in Sin City, and have a current residency at Harrah's Showroom in Las Vegas, so the Rocksino should be like a second home to the stars. With all the talk of Vegas, I wonder if the upcoming show will have any "old" Vegas influence to it. We all know that the best things in life are from back in the day, right?

"The Righteous Brothers kind of came up admiring the Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Jerry Lewis [kind]," Medley answers. It is then safe to assume that any old-time Vegas influence has long been flowing through the performers' blood. Rest assured because Medley says The Righteous Brothers "know why the audience is there" and yes, they perform all of the hits.

All those hits were not born without wise lessons and old fashion grit. Bill Medley is a classic, but certainly not an antiquated performer, who is unafraid to mimic the advice of conventional stars like Lady Gaga. I ask Mr. Medley to offer his guidance on how dream chasers can make their dreams come true because we all know he did just that...in one of the most significant ways possible. After all, it is 2019 and so many fans have not lost their loving feelings for The Righteous Brothers.

"I think it is pretty simple as tough as it is," the original Righteous Brother says. "I think Lady Gaga just said this... you have to believe in yourself and believe in that dream and just do not stop, keep going after it, keep going after it. And if you are true to yourself and true to your talent, good things will happen."

While the Grammy winner wants everyone to pursue their dreams, he also sprinkles realistic expectations on his sound advice. "It does not necessarily mean you will be a big star, but good things will happen."

I jokingly say to the singer, "Not everyone can be as big as The Righteous Brothers."

In a fashion that is all heart and all humble, Mr. Medley responds:

"No they do not [have to be as successful as The Righteous Brothers] as long as you are happy and feel successful in your mind and heart."


And there you have it.


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EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER

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

Asset Corner #112

by Gene Lovasy

April's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT. Young people are empowered when they feel valued, valuable and safe. They need to believe that adults like and respect them. Finally, they need plenty of opportunities to contribute to their communities through volunteering, working in paid jobs and sharing their ideas, knowledge and creativity. One of these days, the young people in your home, school, neighborhood and workplace will be in charge – in charge of their own lives and in charge of the world. You can help young people get ready for their future role by empowering them now.

This column's focus will be on..... Asset #8 – Youth as Resources. Give young people meaningful roles.

“Having a voice” means more than making a sound when you sing or shout. The ways people express ideas, energy, and insights make each person unique. Helping young people find their voices is one of the best ways to help them be a positive force in their families, schools, clubs, teams, or neighborhoods. This is good for them—and for your community. Young people have a lot more to contribute when their opinions are respected and their talents are tapped. Listen closely to the opinions of young people around you, and you'll all benefit.

Here are the facts

Research shows when young people have useful roles in their community they feel good about themselves and their future, do better in school, and get into less trouble. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard and appreciated. Only 26 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they've been given useful roles in their com-

munity, according to Search Institute surveys. Allow all young people to have a voice in issues and decisions at home, school, and in the community.

Tips for building this asset

Building this asset means valuing young people's talents, skills, interests, and opinions. It means setting aside the belief that adults know more than the younger generation. When

you see children and youth as valuable resources, they feel more empowered to contribute to the community, and at school, and home in meaningful, thoughtful ways.

Also try this

In your home and family: Invite your child to help you plan a party or other event. Ask for her or his opinions about the theme, menu, and guests.

In your neighborhood and community: Choose a community

issue important to you and gather the opinions of both young people and adults. When the time for action arrives, enlist the help of those who share your passion.

In your school or youth program: Ask students and participants to find newspaper stories or images that grab their attention. In groups, talk about the topics they identified. Brainstorm ways for them to get involved and use their voices in positive ways, such as writing or e-mailing a letter to the editor, calling a legislator, attending a meeting, or forming a group.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/assets or 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

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

Every Drop Counts!: This six week out of school time program is taking place at Greenbriar and Hillside Middle Schools. Cox Communications and MyCom have provided funding for this hands on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) opportunity with an hour of intensive math taught by Parma City School District teachers twice a week. This is followed by one

hour of science programming provided by Mad Science and one hour of SEL (social and emotional skill development) activities integrated into water conservation learning on alternating days.

R Rules: This career development program is being provided by OhioGuidestone MyCom staff at the Parma Senior High School Discovery Center on Mondays and Wednesdays through May 23, 2019. The curriculum provides a framework for setting and attaining smart goals for high

school youth.

LOGOS, The Ridgewood United Methodist Church Youth program held their celebration dinner with family and friends on March 13, 2019. The program will return in September of 2019.

Looking Ahead

MyCom Youth Council:

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. Remember, Global Youth Service Day is April 12—14, 2019.

Maker Club, our hugely popular STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) program started their Spring session on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the Parma Branch. Go to cuyahogalibrary.org to register for this event.

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INSPIRATION

Dementia:
A Mother's Final Stages

by Davidione Pearl

Mother...Born March 3rd 1933. Reached 86 years of age one month ago. Pictures of her have long since reached a point of remaining best left away from the public eye, as she is calmly and quietly facing the final stages of neurological departure. A mother now fully bed bound; a once full world now lessened to that of mere inches.

Every March 2nd I am relieved and grateful. Every March 4th I experience feelings of deep anxiety yet again for the year to come, for she is at the final indigo - tangerine rays of her transitioning twilight. I often reflect on her rounding the corner in the '80s, both hands clasped and resting on her back, with a dangling bag or two of groceries for us to enjoy a little before putting away. Or the quiet moments we would have together as she would ready herself for the day - I would watch her in the mirror and always request that she curl her bangs because it looked so pretty to me when she did. I too often reflect on our afternoons out in old downtown, dipping french fries in our milkshakes at the Woolworth cafe counter. My thoughts return to her undying protection and safety that covered me when facing adults that had little to no empathy towards me as I grew into my own as a child. I think of her work as a celebrated local pianist, perform-

ing since age 3 for churches, weddings, funerals, and the Tri-C Jazz Band of which was my first introduction in 1982 to our now world renowned Tri-C Jazz Fest. I would watch her soft inviting smile as the band director would count off and kick in the tune - 2/4, 3/3, 4/4, 6/8... In those moments my mind would set adrift in tapestries of sound and dreams to one day perform and inspire audiences myself. Her work as a journalist is never far from my center, for her style of passive voice I now see is the unequivocal structural root of my own.

Yet in all of this, what remains most vivid, is the moment I finally grew big enough and responsive enough to halt the wrist of her advancing hand meant to slap me for reasons I no longer remember. It was in the basement doorway leading into the laundry room. I will never forget her eyes in that moment for as long as I live.. They were confused, temporarily disoriented, and hurt. For me, it was a mere rapid reflex response, yet in my adulthood I often return to rather saturnine feelings of desire to have then just closed my eyes and allowed the slap to reach my face, in order that I may instead receive her naturally sweet motherly eyes to those of loving matriarchal command in my memory, that I may no

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I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A mature person thinks twice before offending someone over a personal issue. A small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; it is the only thing that ever has. Avoid looking backward or forward and try to keep looking upward. God can restore us and does not count our trespasses against us. God instructs, we obey, and He performs. It is a deadly mistake to follow those who choose worldly ways over Godly ways. It is possible that the most significant acts of all are carried out in secret, seen by no one but God.

Life is short; enjoy it now! Love is fulfilling God's law because He is Love. Most of the choices we make require waiting.

People often make faulty judgments based on minimal information or hearsay. People who keep God's commandments dwell in Him and He in them. Praying for people who treat us with contempt is one way to do good to those who hate us. Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind. Repentance is a change of mind and direction and a turning away from sin. Seek God and call upon Him regarding all matters.

The sooner parents expect responsible behavior from their children, the sooner they will come through. Use what we have. Start doing it. Expect it to happen. (USE) We are not stuck with our attitudes. We learned them. We can "unlearn" them. We can all benefit from God's patience. We can lose the reality of the forest because we are looking too closely at each tree. We live in a dishonest (cheating) culture, unfortunately. We should live our lives knowing that what we do is observed by others. When parents spend time with their children, they pay them the highest compliment they will ever receive.

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

Faith Community Directory

- Christ the Saviour American Orthodox Church**
10000 State Road N. Royalton, OH 440-237-9196
christsaviour.weebly.com
- All Faiths Pantry**
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329
allfaithspantry.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- Divinity Lutheran Church**
11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
www.divinitylutheran.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**
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www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church**
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Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

NEIGHBORHOODS

Surely An Egg-Citing Event

by Rick Haase

The Parma Heights Historical Society will present an old fashioned Easter Egg Hunt for children in the community ages 10 and under begin-

ning at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Gazebo at Greenbrier Commons. Children ages five and under can participate from 10-10:15 a.m. on the green space surrounding the gazebo.

Those ages 6-8 can take part from 10:20-10:30 a.m., while those ages 9 and 10 can enjoy the fun from 10:35-10:45 a.m. Bring a basket to collect eggs. Parents should also bring a camera or their cell phone to take photos. The Easter Bunny will make a special guest appearance.

ART EXPLORATION – a new Art Exploration class will be offered on Tuesday evenings beginning April 23, and running through May 28 in Classroom 19-21 at Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights. The classes

are free and are open to any skill level artist. Different media will be used each week, including graphite, charcoal, pastels). The final class will be an art show. The program is being taught by Kristin Yarger. For more information, call 440.845.2060.

WAKING UP YOUR GARDEN – Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County will discuss what garden chores need to be done from March through June during “Waking Up Your Garden,” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the Parma Heights Library. The program will include topics like clean-up, fertiliza-

tion, pruning and planting of lawns, flower beds, trees, roses and vegetables.

FRAUD ALERT – The Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will host a Fraud Alert program from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. As a part of the program, the AARP Fraud Watch Network will provide an overview of the many types of scams and fraud, plus share methods for how to avoid them.

ONSTAGE AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE – Children of Eden, with book by John Caird and music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, based on a concept by Charles Lisanby and with
Read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com



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Dementia: A Mother's Final Stages

continued from page 6

longer see them as hurt in my distant eye. I shall however never have that.

But mother, I do still have you, and thoughts of all else your tired hands have held - hands that now grasp and curl for what we no longer see, hands that rest on long departed breasts of once abundant life-giving selflessness, hands that held thousands of bus tickets over seventy years as you made your way around the city on tireless legs to take care of your family's needs, hands that always made sure our backs felt supported by their

strong and warm intention.

These days you rest more than wake. Rest now, for your sacrifice has been so much and for so very long, you have long since deserved to catch up on your rest in this world. You have given it your everything. I now know the time nears, that you wash and press your pretty flower dress and stockings only a few times more, for the long walk across the luminous bridge to come...

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PERSPECTIVE

Why Am I Not Surprised By This?

by Lee Kamps

The recent scandal regarding wealthy people and celebrities bribing people and gaming the system to get their children into prestigious colleges has made the news. Wealthy families were paying “consultants” to help their children take the exams, even going so far as to hire a “ringer” to take the exam for their child. Others were trying to portray their child as an athlete when they never played the sport. This doesn’t surprise me one bit that this scandal hit the news.

Wealthy parents have been bribing their kid’s way into prestigious colleges and universities for a long time. Donald Trump’s son in law Jared Kushner’s father gave a \$2.5 million donation to Harvard and his son got in. No doubt George W Bush got into Yale and Har-

vard’s graduate school of Business because of his father’s influence. Probably this is how Donald Trump was able to get into the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Back when I was in college during the 1960s, state universities in Ohio had an open admissions policy. They had to admit any graduate of an accredited high school in Ohio regardless of their test scores or high school grades or courses. Back then colleges taught remedial courses for students who lacked the proper high school grades or coursework. Those remedial courses were a waste of time and money. The student had to pay full tuition for those courses and they took up valuable class time, but offered no

credits toward a degree. While state universities back then had to accept anyone, they didn’t have to keep them. The fallout rate back then was over 50% of incoming freshmen didn’t return the next year. Some flunked out, but most dropped out, unable to handle college coursework.

It was easy to get in, but much more difficult to stay in college back then. Men who enrolled in college to avoid military service usually didn’t last long. Women who went to college mainly to get a Mrs. also didn’t stay either. The college coursework and life weeded a lot of students out.

Today colleges, including state universities, are much more selective in who they admit. With the cost of a college education so high and so many

students using loans to finance their education, money can’t be wasted. If a student takes out loans to pay college tuition, then drops out without getting a degree, those loans still have to be repaid. That makes it much harder for that person to get a college degree later in life.

If the son or daughter from a wealthy family gets into Harvard or Stanford because their family buys their way in through a donation or as a legacy, and that student might not even be able to get into Kent State University on their test scores or merits, doesn’t that cheapen the value of a degree from an exclusive college or university? Should a degree from a state university such as Kent State or Ohio State be any less important than a degree from Harvard or Yale?

Rather, the old expression that it is who you know more than what you know that really determines how successful one might be in the United States. A college student is much more likely to make those important contacts at an Ivy League school than at a school in the Mid American Conference. Does a law degree from Harvard make one a better lawyer than a law degree from Cleveland State University? Or does a business degree from Yale make one better in business than a business degree from Kent State University?

Look no further than Donald Trump. He got his degree from one of the most prestigious business colleges in the world, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. It is not easy to get in, nor is it easy to stay in that college. But does that degree make Donald Trump a better businessman? Gold plated toilets in Trump Tower might give the impression of success and class. However, four bankruptcies and a reputation for shady deals is not the measure of a successful businessman. But beneath the veneer of luxury and “class”, Donald Trump is still an incorrigible child.

Your Neighbor Was Attacked

by Dave Kozak

It was a nice summer afternoon and I got home early from work. As I reached for the front door knob I heard some strange sounds. I went in the door, kicked off my shoes, but something didn’t sound right. I went back outside and I listened closer to the strange combination of sounds. There was a dog barking, maybe two...a lady yelling...and another lady screaming frantically. I ran in the house, got my shoes, my phone, ran back out, grabbed a rake, a long sharp stick, and ran like crazy toward the neighbor’s back yard where the sounds came from. Tracy, my neighbor, was running in the side door of her house. She was frantic, she was bitten several times, and she was bleeding. She seemed like she was


scared crazy and yet strangely composed at the same time. She said: “the dog wouldn’t stop biting...wouldn’t let go...wouldn’t let go.” She was calling her friend on her cell phone; I was calling 911. The Parma rescue squad was there in no time flat, but the paramedics couldn’t come in the yard until the police came...that was because I told the operator that my neighbor was bitten by a pit bull. The severity of Tracy’s wounds kept her in the hospital for a week and in bandages for longer than that. Her parents went through their own grief as they came from out of town to attend to their daughter’s needs. Tracy moved away 5 months later because the nightmares of what happened in her back yard wouldn’t stop. The last time I spoke to her she

loved her new job in Oregon.

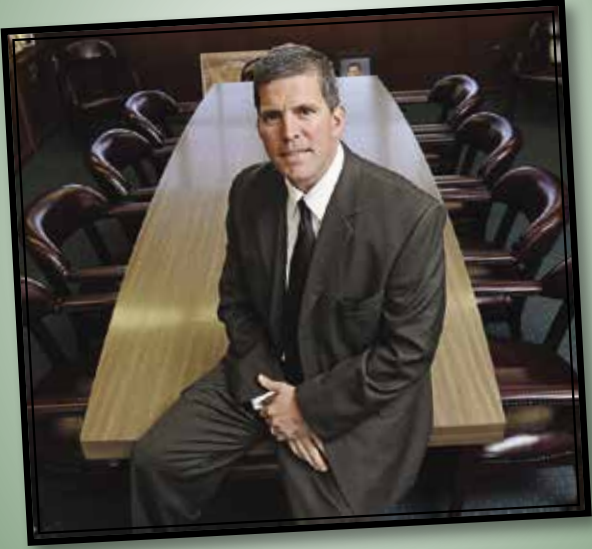
I’ve never trusted dogs—I had a paper route when I was young. Also my daughter was bitten on her face when she was 5 years old by my good friend’s otherwise good dog. Another friend’s pit bull attacked and killed an innocent dog being walked down the street by its owner. My barber told me a story about someone who died from a pit bull attack. Serious dog attacks are nothing new—insurance companies won’t cover any dangerous dog for liability. The State of Ohio also has dangerous dog laws. If you Google ‘pit bull attacks’ you’ll find many stories and statistics about this rarely reported danger.

These dog owners are always so shocked that their dog could do such a thing; they thought they had control of their pet. I never talked to the other neighbor that owned the dog that bit my neighbor, but I’m sure that she must have had some huge regrets that it happened because she knew Tracy. So this is a lose-lose-lose-lose situa-

continued on page 11



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IMPRESSIONS

Self-Defense In The Real World

by Deborah White

Open up a newspaper or your search engine and the news is laced with violence and destruction. Walking into a restaurant, attending a University, or even waking up in the morning can make anyone apprehensive about the events that lie ahead. Personal safety has become a priority to everyday living. What can be done about your day to day safety? There are many options available to those who are looking to improve their safety. Some options include weapons such as, guns, stun guns, mace, and knives. There are laws and regulations associated with every type of weapon and weapons are not always the answer to your safety solutions. For instance, training is needed in order to use any weapon. Guns need to be cleaned and taken care of. There is always the chance of premature discharge or loading the weapon in time for immediate use. Stun guns may have to be charged or need batteries replaced in order to ensure effective use. Mace has to be in a prime location handy for quick access and be pointed in the right direction when released. Knives are weapons that require a professional touch, but amateurs try their hand at using them. Taking a knife from an attacker requires professional training. Considering the chances of surviving a weapon attack, taking some type of self-defense, karate, or martial art should be number one on your list. Students not only learn skills to fend off an attacker, but they gain insight into how to become more aware of their surroundings and ways to increase personal safety measures. No matter what type of weapon you use to defend yourself, there is a chance of failure. Self-defense techniques are not full proof, but when weapons fail your techniques will not.

Becoming aware of your surround-

ings is the first step toward self-defense. People live day to day not paying attention to what is around them. If you are walking into a grocery store to shop for dinner the last thing on your mind is someone coming out of the shadows and putting a gun to your head. Even though survival is your first instinct, how you react is something else. Reaction time is everything when it comes to a gun being pointed to your head. Is the assailant standing behind you, beside you, or in front of you? Consider the time it would take to reach for your gun or mace. Is it ready in your hand while you are shopping? Of course it is not and why would it be ready in your hand? The problem is that no one expects bad things to happen and you go on about your day. So, owning a gun, stun gun, or mace is the least amount of "time" you will spend on protecting your life and that of your loved ones. Taking self-defense classes, karate lessons, or any martial arts takes time and energy. How important is your life to you? How about your family? Your kids come home from school and they almost always have homework to complete. Do you tell them it's okay if they don't finish it or do you make them do it because you know it will benefit them as they grow, and they can advance to the next grade? You make them do it for their own good. The same should be done to protect your life. Self-defense classes should be taken "for your own good".

The next step is to realize that something bad could happen to you in your unimpeachable world. Your reaction is detrimental to your continued pursuit of life and happiness. Reality is that many people do not understand the impact of striking another person. The thought of being hit by an assailant is "unthinkable" and is out of the realm of reality. Participating in self-defense

classes brings a person to the realization that striking another person has an impact on the outcome of an attack situation. Many girls grow up not knowing the proper way to "punch", because they are not programmed to hit, even to protect themselves. Boys are usually raised to be rough and play a lot of sports, including boxing, and martial arts. Sometimes the excitement of a new sport is short lived. As

adults, we owe it to ourselves to learn how we are impacted by physical contact. This is true in that; crime rates keep rising and violence has become a normal part of life around the world.
DL White
MBA from DeVry University
3rd Degree Black Belt. Teaches at Kent State University & Chief Instructor@Pro Martial Arts

A Message From The Parma City School District Superintendent

continued from page 1

earned overall grades of "B": Dentzler Elementary, Green Valley Elementary, Ridge-Brook Elementary, and Hillside Middle School.
We also provide outstanding opportunities for students to gain credit toward college. 14.6% of our students, up from 6.6% last year, secured a score of "3" or higher on an Advanced Placement Exam, translating into course credit at most colleges and universities. 15.8% of our students, up from 5.4% last year, earned college credit during their high school careers through our College Credit Plus offerings, saving their families thousands of dollars in tuition.
Finally, our Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs continue to be a true asset for our students. Our state report card indicates that 1,656 students participated in some form of career education. Of these, 65% earned a credential that will help them begin a career after graduation. Our CTE pathways earned a "B" in post-program

outcomes as 97.4% of recent graduates began a job, enrolled in college courses, or enlisted with the military after leaving our district.
Improve Transparency In Our Communities
We have worked to consistently engage our communities and ensure that we have open dialogue with our residents. We hold Town Hall Meetings at local libraries and "Facebook Live" events at least once per month, to reach higher numbers of our families and neighbors. We are in the midst of 12 "Master Planning for Strategic Consolidation" sessions that will result in the development of a plan to reduce the number of schools we operate. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to provide their input during this important process.
Upcoming Master Planning for Strategic Consolidation Community Meetings will be held:
Monday, April 8, 6:30 p.m. at Normandy High School
Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. at Parma Senior High School.

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From Parma City Schools...

The Phase Three – High Schools Strategic Consolidation meeting schedule is as follows:

6:30 pm, Monday, April 8th at Normandy H.S.; 6:30 pm, Monday, April 29th, Parma Sr. H.S.;

6:30 pm, Monday, May 13th at Valley Forge H.S.; 1:30 pm, Saturday, May 18th, Parma-Snow Library.

Providing another opportunity to experience a “21st Century Facilities”, see how that translates into real life by meeting at North Olmsted Secondary Campus (27301 Butter-nut Ridge Rd.), at 10:30 am, Saturday, April 6th.

Go here: <https://www.parmacityschoools.org/page/7883> to view the schedule of meetings, their minutes and other related documents.

On April 6th, Young Entrepreneurs (students grades 3 through 6) will be presenting their ideas & related business plans developed over the past several months to a panel of student judges & the public. A sampling of their products will also be offered for sale. The event sponsored by UH/Parma Medical Center is being held at Nor-mandy H.S. from 8:00 am to Noon.

To share general information & get community feedback, Superintendent Smialek will be hosting a Town Hall formatted meeting, Wednesday, May 1, 2019 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

at Parma-Snow Branch Library Con-ference Room A/B; 2121 Snow Road, Parma, 44134.

The District has announced the return of paper recycling bins at all of its schools. Accepted items include, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, hard & soft cover books, office/school paper, cardboard & mail. Money earned will accrue to the ben-efit of the individual school.

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

The group is alive & well, continu-ing 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. Kids between the ages of 12 – 17 living in and attending school in the city are welcome.

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

Learn how you can help students from Valley Forge H.S. complete an on-campus memorial to 15 alumni killed during the Vietnam war. They’re hoping to set the actual memorial in May and complete landscaping work shortly thereafter. Checks can be made out to Valley Forge H.S. memoed Viet-nam Memorial or contact Amy Byrne at byrnea@parmacityschoools.org. Valley Forge High School 9999 Inde-pendence Bl, Parma Hts, OH 44130.

From Parma Council of PTA's...

Their 67th Annual Geranium Sale that supports scholarships for district students begin March 25th through April 12th. Order forms will be available at every school, the dis-trict’s Admin Center and online at: <https://www.parmacityschoools.org/geraniums>

For folks who may be un or underinsured seeking medical care, the Islamic Center of Cleveland has just opened a free health care clinic. Located on W. 130th (just north of Huffman Rd.), the clinic’s regular

office hours are 9 am to 2 pm Saturday & Sunday and it’s open to anyone need-ing care. Learn more by attending their free Health Fair scheduled for Sunday, April 28th from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

From the Parma Area Family Collab:

For those providing care for some-one else’s child, consider stopping by the Collab from 10:30 – 12:00 pm, the 2nd Monday of each month for KIN-SHIP KOFFEE. Share your concerns, issues, learn about available support & resources, receive encouragement... light refreshments are served & free childcare is available. Call 440.887.4873 for more information.

The spring session of Teach me to Read at Home is full. If anyone is interested in signing up for the fall session contact Kira Karabanovs at karabanovsk@parmacityschoools.org or 440.842.7022.

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.

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 but slots are filling fast. Go to <https://jobs.youthopportunities.orgs> or call their Hotline @ 216.776.3900.

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

From the Cuyahoga County Solid

Waste District...

Are you part of the #trashtag Challenge – the global movement that went viral on social media ear-lier this month? People all over the world are participating by cleaning up litter and posting before and after pic-tures on social media with the hashtag #trashtag. Get your program/organiza-tion involved in this clean-up program w/a twist. Learn more & request your cleanup kits from: https://cuyahogarecycles.org/clean_up_cuyahoga.

The ever popular Parma Safety Fair will take place this year on Satur-day, May 11th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. If your organization would like to reserve a table call Linda Cross at 440.885.8093. Questions regarding the event can be directed to City Council’s Safety Chair at limeward2@gmail.com

From Boy Scouts of America...

Visit: <https://lecbbsa.org/#> to learn what’s new, upcoming events and opportunities that are available.

From Stearns Farm...

A save the date: WHEN: 1:00 pm, on Saturday April 13th, WHERE: Parma Christian Church, 7000 Ridge Rd., WHAT: “Bunny Yoga” – a fund raiser for the Homestead Hoofers 4-H club & their bunnies. Only 30 slots available – call 440.864.2021 to regis-ter. THIS CLASS FILLED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. WATCH FOR A REPEAT.

A couple of unique summer camp opportunities...

There’s a summer “Fashion

Read the rest of this story online at ParmaObserver.com

UH Parma Medical Center Breaks Ground On \$27.5 Million OR Expansion, Renovation

continued from page 1

pre-procedure and recovery areas.


Larger, state-of-the-art surgical suites will support the growth of sev-eral UH service lines and institutes at UH Parma Medical Center, includ-ing the Sports Medicine and Spine Institutes’ orthopedic surgeries, UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Insti-tute’s vascular and thoracic surgeries, UH Digestive Health Institute’s bar-iatric surgeries, UH Eye Institute’s eye procedures and UH Urology Institute’s urological cases. Over the past few years, UH Parma Medical Center has recruited several new surgeons in these

specialties.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter joined hospital leaders in celebrating this expansion of the city’s second-largest employer.

“We are thrilled the hospital is spending \$27.5 million to renovate and expand the surgery department, a move that will benefit the quality of health care for our residents,” said Mayor DeGeeter. “We thank the hospital for its investment in our community. Access to quality health care is one of the rea-sons Forbes listed Parma as one of the best places to retire and Military Times considers our community one of the top cities for veterans to live.”

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Parma Proud

Parma Safety Fair And Shredding Events Moved To May

by Carolyn Kovach

The 18th Annual Parma Safety Fair and Document Shredding & Food Drive were both moved from April to Saturday, May 11 this year. Another change is the location of the document shredding, which will be at Parma Senior High School.

“We changed the date due to the Easter calendar,” said Safety Director Tom Weinreich. “We relocated the document shredding to reduce traffic congestion. We also ordered two shredding trucks this year to keep up with the demand.”

The Document Shredding & Food Drive runs 9 a.m. to noon at Parma Senior High at 6285 West 54th St. Residents are asked to show proof of residency. A driver’s license, gas bill or electric bill are acceptable forms of identification. There is no limit on the amount of documents shredded, but residents are being asked to donate non-perishable food items for the Parma Hunger Center, which will be on-site collecting the donations. Residents are not required to stay while their confidential documents are being shredded, but they are expected to secure their documents if they choose to leave. Community Services Coordinator Gloria Wohl said bagged documents should be tied, and boxed documents should have a lid. “We don’t want to risk confidential documents blowing out of the bags or boxes

if we have a windy day,” Wohl said. Residents should make sure their paper documents are not bound with rubber bands or paper clips and binders. Also, no plastic folders or sleeves can be included. “Plastic, rubber bands and clips can jam the shredding machine,” Wohl explained. Gateway Products Recycling will be shredding the documents. A grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is covering the cost of the shredding.

The Safety Fair will be staged at the same location as last year – the Parma Justice Center on 5555 Powers Boulevard. The community family event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Safety experts will offer advice and safety giveaways, including bike helmets, smoke alarms and gun locks, while supplies last. Several activities are planned, including fire extinguisher and grease fire demonstrations; free fingerprinting for children; tours of the police station, firing range and jail; and visits with the K9 Unit, Metroparks mounted police, bomb squad and SWAT team. Children can climb into fire trucks and see police cars and motorcycles up close. There will also be face painting and a climbing wall. New this year will be a drone demonstration.

The highlight of the Safety Fair is the medical helicopter landing, weather permitting. After it lands, children and their parents can explore the chopper. Also in high demand every year is the assistance that firefighters provide parents who want to know how to properly install child safety restraints in their family vehicles.

The event is a cooperative effort of the City of Parma; Parma Fire Department, Police Department and K9 Unit; and Parma City Council.

Organizations represented at the fair include University Hospitals Parma Medical Center; MetroHealth Parma Medical Center; Safe Kids, Safe Communities; Cleveland Metroparks; the Parma Animal Shelter; and numerous community groups and businesses focused on safety issues and products.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter said the fair is educational for the whole family. “The Safety Fair is a spring event our residents look forward to every year. It is a fun way for them to learn how to keep themselves and their families safe.”



The medical helicopter landing (weather permitting) is a highlight of the free event.

Admission is free, and no registration is required. The fair will take place rain or shine, although some activities are dependent on the weather. The city is asking residents to fol-

low the City of Parma Facebook page to see posts about the Safety Fair and to share the Facebook Event with friends, family and neighbors.

Your Neighbor Was Attacked

continued from page 8

tion; Tracy and the owner both came out of this feeling horrible, the dog was destroyed, and I still feel angry that something like this could happen. I’m angry that there were no warnings and no signs that said: BEWARE DANGEROUS DOG. I never knew that there was a dangerous dog in my neighbor’s back yard.

You can prevent this from happening on your street. Report any pit bull that you know about. And until there is a better way to deal with this problem—please vote to keep Parma’s pit bull ban (vote NO to repeal this existing ban) on Tuesday May 7. Why should you vote or care? Because your neighbor was attacked and apathy allows bad things to continue. God bless this vote.


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www.cityofparmapolice.com
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**MAYOR OF PARMA
TIM DEGEETER**



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PRESENTS



Come visit the Easter Bunny Trail!

Gather the kids and come stroll the Bunny Trail for candy and goodies with the Easter Bunny.

Candy ✦ Crafts ✦ Snow Cones ✦ Face Painting

Don't forget your camera for a picture with the Easter Bunny!

Thursday, April 18, 2019 | 4–6 p.m.

RSVP by April 15 to the front desk at 440-842-2273



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