

"We all shine on, like the moon, the stars and the sun"- John Lennon

ParmaObserver

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

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Script Parma Sign To Inspire Pride

by Sean Brennan

I am very happy to report that after months of fund-raising and many planning meetings, the city of Parma is now the home to a script Parma sign. Our sign was inspired by the script Cleveland signs that have become all the rage of selfie fans in the region. As an avid runner, I often include the script Cleveland signs as a part of my training routine. The Cleveland signs have really boosted the cool-factor of Cleveland and I know that the Parma sign will do the same for our community. This is just one way I wanted to give back to the community that has been so good to me and my family.

I am also happy to report that the sign and its installation were all paid for without using taxpayer dollars. In fact,



the money for the Parma sign was raised through the Parma Charitable Fund, a private, non-profit community booster organization I founded. Most of the funding came from proceeds from the annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies. Further, sev-

eral non-profits, individuals, and businesses also contributed to the project, including The First Energy Foundation, Barry Axelrod of Axelrod GMC-Buick, McGowan Governmental Underwriters, Strategic Aggregation Consultants, Donna Koler of

Koler Financial, Fred LoSciavo from Antonio's Restaurant, Attorney Stephen Zashin, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, Rick Capone, Paul Chuppa of Chuppa's Marketplace, Janet Stanley, Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis, Stefan and Oksana Stefaniuk, the Gliebe Family, Mark Kazmierski, Michelle Blazak, Parma Auditor Brian Day, Leo Samokieszyn, Parma School Board

member John Schweitzer and his wife Debra, Arlene and Raymond Spies, and Leslie and James Visconti. I was adamant about raising the money for the sign from donations, then donating it to the residents of the city, which is exactly how it was done.

I wish to thank all of our generous donors who helped bring the vision of the script Parma sign come to life, especially the many runners and walkers who have participated in the Run-Walk for Pierogies over the past several years. I also want to thank Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Service Director Brian Higgins, Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi, Ward Eight Councilman Dennis Kish and all of the my city council colleagues for their enthusiastic support of the project.

The sign was designed and manufactured by the Signature Sign Company – the creator of

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Seven Hills Farmers Market Celebrates Five Years!

by Kathy Holland

The City of Seven Hills Farmers Market will open at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019 and continue every Thursday through September 26th, 4-7 p.m., at the corner of Hillside Road and Broadview Road. For most of us, there's no better place to buy fruits and vegetables than at a farmers market. Markets offer food of superior quality and help support locally owned smaller-scale farms. A weekly trip to the Seven Hills Farmers Market is a perfect opportunity to learn more about how and where the food you are purchasing is grown and harvested. Meeting and talking



to the farmers is a great way to learn about sustainable growing techniques plus obtain some free advice on cooking tips and meal ideas. As the saying goes, "know your farmer, know your food." The same can be said for the other artisans

that are vendors at the market. Any one of them will be happy to share how they create swoon-worthy bakery, syrup, jams, healthy-for-you skincare products, pet treats, and more! Take this wonderful opportunity to savor the diversity that our vendors bring.

Need additional reasons to stop by on a Thursday afternoon?

It's about community; a place to connect with your neighbors, bring your children, meet new friends and get a taste of small-town life in the midst of our wonderful city.

It's about the seasons; fresh and delicious produce

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Memorial Day Remembrances



Disabled American Veterans held their annual Memorial Day Observance in front of Memorial Hall in the Parma City Center.



Parma Heights Mayor Mike Byrne addresses those assembled in front of Parma South Presbyterian Church during Memorial Day services, followed by a parade and a ceremony at Parma Heights Cemetery.



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

For years Parma residents have asked me why Parma does not have more competition in the cable and internet industry. Many are under the impression that the city government has authority over which companies can offer these services in our community and that the officials have stifled competition. In fact, nothing can be farther from the truth. First, cities in Ohio do not have the power to regulate which companies offer internet and television services to residents, due to deregulation in Columbus years ago. Further, speaking as a consumer of these products myself, I welcome competition and the better prices and services it theoretically brings. That is why I am happy to report that Parma will soon have another option, as WOW! Internet, Cable and Phone is coming to Parma.

WOW, which stands for Wide Open West, is the sixth largest cable operator in the country. They offer landline telephone, broadband inter-



net, and cable television services. The company has been working for the past several weeks to build out their infrastructure in Parma and offer, according to company documents, "the fastest internet available." The build out will, no doubt, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is these costs that have

deterred companies from coming to Parma (or any other city for that matter) over the years.

Ward Four Councilwoman and Chair of the Governmental Operations Committee of Parma City Council Kristin Saban held a hearing with representatives from WOW! recently. At the meeting, they shared that about two-thirds of Parma – mainly the middle and southern sections of town – should be operational by the end of 2019, while the city should be completed by early 2020. "I am very excited that our residents will have another option for internet and cable services," Councilwoman Saban mentioned. "I have received many calls from residents who definitely welcome more choices," she added.

In the public meeting, representatives from the company touted "award-winning customer service" and very competitive pricing structures. They also mentioned that they currently offer service in 31 communities in northeast Ohio, including Berea, Brookpark, Parma Heights, North

Royalton, Strongsville, and North Olmsted, among others. The Parma project has commenced with tree trimming and will be followed by laying cable under- and above-ground.

The company shared this message recently: "We may occasionally need to enter your yard but don't worry, we'll take special care to respect and protect your property during the process. We will flag areas around your utilities where we are doing underground work, and will return everything to it's existing condition. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation." They also invite residents to contact them at wowisbuildingachoice@wowinc.com if you have any issues or questions.

To find out more about WOW! visit their website at <https://www.wowway.com>. Best wishes for a great summer! Hope to see you at the Independence Day parade on July 4 and at the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies on July 6 at CCC-West.

Script Parma Sign To Inspire Pride

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the Cleveland signs. Bruce, the owner, and his crew are very talented artists who take a lot of pride in their work. I demanded that they be commissioned to create the Parma sign due to the excellent craftsmanship of the Cleveland signs. Needless to say, they worked painstakingly to produce a sign we can all be proud of.

The sign is located next to the Parma splash pad at Anthony Zielinski Park across Ridgewood Drive from the Shoppes at Parma. A grand unveiling took place on Saturday, May 25.

I am confident that the sign will inspire more pride in the community and encourage people from outside the community to visit Parma and learn what all we have to offer. I truly believe the sign will help further economic development. In fact, I envision people coming out to visit the sign, take a few snapshots, then do a little shopping and have a meal. I also hope prospective business owners will visit and find that Parma is a great location to do business.

To contribute to the maintenance of the Parma sign and other community projects, checks may be sent to The Parma Charitable Fund, 6306 Hampstead Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44129. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan speaks to everyone gathered at the Script Parma sign unveiling event. Also in photo are: Dennis Kish, Debbie Lime, Sean P. Brennan, Mark Casselberry, Allan Divis, Timothy J. DeGeeter and Mickey Vittardi in Parma, Ohio.

Parma Rocks July 4th - Party In The Park

by Wayne Mesker

Hello there Tri-City area friends. Many of you will recall when the 4th of July gave rise to a grand celebration for the Tri-City area while being dismayed and saddened when that ended due to financial / logistical issues.

There is GOOD news. For the past few years I have been speaking with Mayor DeGeeter, Mickey Vittardi and other leaders about doing something at Anthony Zielinski Park after the Parade ends at

the Shoppes Of Parma about 11:30 AM. They all agreed it was a great idea but the City wasn't in the position to or really shouldn't bear the responsibility for organizing it. As a musician who is also involved in the business side of the industry I finally decided to take this on by hosting our first Parma Rocks Party In the Park featuring Live Entertainment and some Recorded music

Details TBA The party will begin at Noon on July 4th and last until a time TBD. The entertainment will be using the Pavilion closest to the Splash Pad and Roycroft at Anthony Zielinski Park. We hope you will join us for what we would like to see become an Annual event. Look for Updates and Event Flyers to be available soon along with Social Media posts. Remember PARMA ROCKS !

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Medical Centers Earns "A" Grade In National Patient Safety Experts

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center was awarded an ‘A’ from The Leapfrog Group’s spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes UH Parma Medical Center’s efforts in protecting patients from preventable harm and providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’, ‘D’ or ‘F’ grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care.

“We are honored that the national Leapfrog Group acknowledges what



our patients, physicians and employees already know: that UH Parma Medical Center provides superior quality care in a safe environment,” said Brian Monter, President of UH Parma Medical Center. “This accomplishment is reinforced by our outstanding patient experience scores and recent recognition by the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with a Five-Star rating for quality, safety and patient experience for the second consecutive year.”

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades

to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent. Results are free to the public.

“To be recognized nationally as an ‘A’ hospital is an accomplishment the whole community should take pride in,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “Hospitals that earn an ‘A’ grade are making it a priority to protect patients from preventable medical harm and error. We congratulate hospital leaders, board members, staff, volunteers and clinicians who work so hard to earn this A.”

To access UH Parma Medical Center’s full grade details and patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org.

Parma Residents Invited To Walk In Memory Of Loved Ones

by Laurie Henrichsen

Walk to Remember, co-sponsored by Huntington Bank and Medical Mutual of Ohio, will be held at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Sunday, June 9. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:15 a.m. The event benefits Hospice of the Western Reserve and is open anyone wishing to celebrate the memory of a loved one. Registration includes all-day admission to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Rainforest and fun for the whole family! This year’s Walk will commemorate Hospice of the Western Reserve’s 40th



anniversary in the community.

A variety of family entertainment is planned, including team photos, raffles, crafts for kids, face painting, live music and more. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under age 12. A spe-

cial family rate is also available. Register online at hospicewr.org/WTR, or contact Monica Cowans at 216.383.3714, or mcowans@hospicewr.org.

Kristi Capel of “Fox 8 News in the Morning” returns as Honorary Media

Chair and Emcee. Proceeds benefit grief support services, art and music therapy, pediatric hospice care and other services not reimbursed by insurance.

Returning this year are Comfort Buddies (trade name, Warmies by Intalex). For each \$100 raised by a team or individual beyond the registration fee, a lavender-scented Comfort Buddy will be delivered to a patient. The therapeutic plush animals reduce agitation and provide a sense of well being to pediatric patients, those living with advanced dementia and many others

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PERSPECTIVE

We Must Never Forget Them

by Lee Kamps

On May 10 2019 I attended the dedication ceremony for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Valley Forge High School. The ceremony was very moving and impressive as the community honored those 15 young men who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. Four of the men honored were from my class of 1966 and I knew three of them. Two I knew from my homeroom and one lived in my neighborhood and we grew up together at Ridge Brook Elementary School. That ceremony and memorial made me proud to be an alumnus of Valley Forge High School. It certainly

epitomized the meaning of “Patriot Pride.”

There was a line in a popular song from the 1990s that went “All gave some, some gave all” describing Vietnam veterans. At the dedication ceremony all Vietnam era veterans were recognized and thanked for their service. Many went to Vietnam and some didn’t come back. The 15 men memorialized on the monument are but a small part of the more than 58,000 names on the National Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. But these men were my classmates, even if I didn’t know them or take the same classes with them at

Valley Forge.

I was especially proud that the entire event and the idea of a memorial recognizing those Valley Forge alumni who gave their lives in Vietnam was planned and organized by current students in the History Club. Those students only know of the Vietnam War from their history class and most likely only know a Vietnam veteran as a grandparent. For current students to do something like this really shows that Valley Forge High School deserves its nickname of Patriots.

Perhaps more than any other event, the Vietnam War defined my generation and shaped our lives, even if we never served or went to Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to go off to college at Kent State University right after graduation from Valley Forge in 1966. As such I was deferred from the military draft as long as I carried a full time course load and kept my grades up in college. But that college deferment only put it off until I graduated from college.

No doubt had I not been able to go to college, I would have either enlisted or been drafted in the military service. For those young readers who have no memory of the military draft; if you were drafted, you were placed in the branch of the military service where the need was greatest. If you enlisted, you chose which branch of the military service to join. It made a big difference since draftees were far more likely to be sent to Vietnam.

When I graduated from college in June 1970; the government wasted no

time in reclassifying my draft status and I was placed at the top of the heap for being drafted. But things had changed from 1966. There was a draft lottery system based on your birthday and the monthly draft calls were much lower. It was a nervous summer and I didn’t know what to do. The Plain Dealer published the draft numbers being called each Sunday. I said to my father that if they got close to my number, I would go enlist rather than get drafted. I also said that if I didn’t have a regular job by Labor Day no matter what, I would go enlist.

During the last week of August 1970, the Plain Dealer announced that local draft calls for the year would end at lottery number 195. I had number 204 so I was safe from being drafted that year. The next day I got a job offer. The next year I would be lower in the priority for being drafted. The last draft calls were made in the summer of 1971 and in 1973 the military draft ended.

It has been fifty years since the Vietnam War and most Vietnam veterans are aging. The war in Vietnam certainly was not one of the best moments in our country’s history. The war in Vietnam was a war that the United States had no business becoming involved. But regardless of anyone’s feelings about the war, we must never forget those who served there and especially those who “gave all” in Vietnam.

May 27 is Memorial Day, a national holiday set aside to remember those men and women who gave their lives in the service of our country through all our wars and conflicts.

FirstEnergy Cancels Sale Of Its Retail Electric Business To Constellation

by Carolyn Kovach

FirstEnergy Solutions (FES), the unregulated subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. and current supplier to the City of Parma Electric Aggregation Program, cancelled the sale of its retail electric business to Constellation.

The company stated it made this decision “to maximize the value of the business for the benefit of all stakeholders.”

In 2018, FES filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy and agreed to sell its retail business to Constellation. This past December, however, FES exercised

its option to terminate the Constellation deal. The company will continue to honor all contracts, including Parma’s Aggregation Program.

As FES works through its restructuring process, the company plans to emerge from bankruptcy as a new company this year. FES is assuring its customers that nothing will change with supply contracts, and business will continue as usual.

Residents who have questions regarding the Electric Aggregation Program, should contact FES at 1-866-636-3749.

Seven Hills Farmers Market

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showcases the cycles of nature in north-east Ohio - asparagus in spring, berries and sweet corn in summer, apples and pumpkins in autumn mark the turning of the year.

It's about variety; weekly, you can find an amazing array of produce and handcrafted products that you do not see in your average supermarket. Discovering new things is part of the fun of going to the Seven Hills Farmers Market.

It's about the local economy; buying directly from farmers and small independent businesses gives them a better return for their product and keeps dollars in our community. You are supporting a local business and maybe even a neighbor!

It's about the environment; food and goods in the U.S. travel long distances to get to your home. This shipping uses large amounts of natural resources, adds to pollution and all that extra packaging creates a lot of trash that needs to be disposed of properly.

It's about relaxing; sit down at the

complimentary picnic tables, soak up some sunshine, enjoy live music, and eat a treat or a meal from one of our weekly food trucks!

- July 11 – Barrio
- July 18 – Smash Time
- July 25 – River Dog
- August 1 – Cheezylicious
- August 8 – Barrio
- August 15 – Hatfield's Goode Grub
- August 22 – The Little Piggy
- August 29 – Jackpot Chicken
- September 5 – Cedar Grill
- September 12 – Barrio
- September 19 – Hatfield's Goode Grub
- September 26 – Slyman's

The Seven Hills Farmers Market, growing community by inspiring healthy, sustainable, abundant living!

Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors; Taleris Credit Union, Inc. and Vince Hrobat Insurance Agency, Inc.

For additional information or to inquire about becoming a vendor, <http://www.sevenhillsohio.org/en-US/farmers-market.aspx>

Sobriety: Awakening, And Release...

by Davidione Pearl

This spring I entered my second year of sobriety.

Appropriate in many ways, as renewal wells forth upon the earth.

I imagine that my writing in partnership with The Parma Observer off and on for the better part of five years has left mixed reviews of my political leanings throughout the readership, perhaps even me as a person. I will however also venture to share that we can all relate to aspiring peace and serenity beyond the dense forests and clamor that at times reflect our troubled souls. It is through navigating such turmoil where we at once discover deeply questionable aspects of ourselves that we may ultimately choose never to share with anyone for fear of labeling, marginalization, or worse, the fear of permanently losing grip of our minds and being branded in public in such a way.

These sufferings, while costly to our well-being at the time, our families, friends, work relationships, and the wider community, also serves a purpose similar in nature to that of churned soil. Soil full of what may appear to only be debris and decay, yet is the circumstance from which all life renewed must emerge.

Like the pruning of plants, the fallen leaves, even volcanic ash that renders a land desolate following an eruption, only to exhibit ever more

vibrant bursts of flora and fauna decades later, so too are the calamities we face at our deepest levels. Calamities we convince ourselves that have no end, calamities that lead us down roads only we can see our way out of, when we finally listen and decide to no longer allow room for continued misconceptions supporting the fallacy that our ailment ‘defines us’.

A heavenly reminder that we were born without such emotional ailments, and grew with them over time through various levels of social disconnection and internal displacements that then made it easy to slip into seeking to subdue the restlessness through over-indulgence of substances that only served to make things worse.

It is only a ‘terminal illness’ when left unattended; the storybook of our lives is not that of our adversaries, it never will be. Nor is it the characters within the pages written. The storybook of our lives is held within your hands, your hard working hands - formed by those that came before you and wished nothing less than your peace, serenity, and salvation, that you grow to be fully actualized in the sacred reality that we are ancestors in the making and must carry the torch of that honored strength for those to come.

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IMPRESSIONS



Tri-C Commemorates 75th Anniversary Of D-Day

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion — a deadly mission that changed the course of World War II — during an evening vigil Wednesday, June 5, at Western Campus.

“Reflections and Remembrance” begins at 7 p.m. in the B Atrium of the Liberal Arts building on the southwest side of campus. The free community event will include the presentation of a D-Day video documentary from the College’s Crile Archive Center.

A wreath-laying memorial service will also take place at the Veterans Memorial Garden on campus to honor the thousands who lost their lives storming the beaches of Normandy.

More than 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops landed on the coast of northern France the morning of June 6, 1944. The amphibious military invasion — the largest in history — gave the Allies a critical foothold in Nazi-occupied territory.

The timing of the vigil coincides with the hour the troops readied themselves for the mission.

“D-Day became the catalyst for victory over Germany, but it came at a huge cost,” said James Banks, history professor emeritus at Tri-C and founder and director of the Crile Archives. “So, so many died that day claiming a sliver of sand.

“Their sacrifice shall never be forgotten. The courage of those troops changed more than the course of World War II. It changed world history.”

A community reception will follow the ceremony, which is presented by the Tri-C Veterans Initiative and the Crile Archives. Call 216-987-3193 for more information on the event. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A positive approach succeeds more than any other approach. All stand to benefit when we reach out with love to others. Amazing things can be accomplished when we resolve to live out our faith in unity. At times our burdens can seem so heavy that the joy in our hearts is all but crushed. Attention towards the needs of others is a healthy sign. Give not advice without being asked; and when desired, do it briefly. God loves us with even greater love than we can even imagine. God welcomes us into a kingdom of peace that passes all human understanding.

If we aren’t realistic, our daily plans will always be greater than our actual accomplishments. If we claim to believe God, our actions should represent him accurately. If we don’t bloom where we are, chances are we will not bloom at all. In the midst of our failures, God loves us and gives us the power to love others. It is better to be alone than remain in the presence of bad company. Many people in our society live by “it’s all about me” attitude.

Many tend to remember God more in times of anguish, sorrow, or fear than in times of joy.

One believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. Our faith helps us to believe that God is love. Our hearts are restless until they rest with God.

People lean heavily towards getting rather than giving. People must accept the consequences of their bad behavior. Having it both ways is not an option. Society tends to sway and change. God is our only constant in life. The actions of caring, giving, and sacrificing say “I love you.” The end results of obeying God’s commandments are peace, joy, and contentment. There is always more to learn and God knows what we are ready to hear. Thinking is not agreeing or disagreeing. That is voting. Those who delight in God’s ways will grow, thrive, and bring forth good fruit. Violating Biblical principles leads to negative consequences. We cannot give to others what we do not possess.

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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INSPIRATION

El Salvador: Rise Of Gang Warfare And The Mexican Border Effect

by Davidione Pearl

The Americas have historically been faced with war. From violent regime takeovers and citizen rebellions broadcasted throughout the world, to lesser known Black Ops missions sponsored by outside interests to ensure transitions of power, the western hemisphere has become all too familiar with elevated circumstances that lead to armed conflict.

At the end of the 1970s a rising tide of enmity among the peasantry in neighboring Nicaragua, coupled with a Cold War proxy struggle for power between The Soviet Union and The United States to assume political influence in the country, led to full-scale destabilization of the region as it collapsed into The Nicaraguan Revolution. The U.S supported seated dictator Anastasio Somoza, and the Soviets backed Sandinista left-wing opposition leader Daniel Ortega, who ultimately overthrew Somoza in a bloody revolution that claimed tens of thousands of lives, only to be further contested for a decade more by U.S assisted Contra forces – an armed conflict that in totality ran from 1978-1989, leading to over 40,000 deaths.

During this time, El Salvador reflected much of the same. The

nation was in the throes of civil war
isurrection that ignited in the
immediate aftermath of the assass-
ination of Bishop Oscar Arnulfo
Romero by a government financed
death squad. Bishop Romero was
outspoken against the El Salvadoran
government's murderous treatment
of peasants and workers for protest-
ing substandard living conditions.
Conditions that were the result of
a handful of elite coffee plantation
families that controlled the wealth of
over ninety percent of the country's
economy, and used it to continually
gain increased influence in politics
and military sway for more than a
century.

Coffee production was the primary industry and national export at the time, inferior wages reflected the growing disparity between rich and poor, reaching many tipping points throughout the 20th century, and finally culminating into coup d'état.

In 1980 the El Salvadoran government promised citizens that it would begin the reconstruction process to provide better living conditions, when that promise wasn't kept, along with the subsequent murder of Bishop Romero, the country erupted into civil war between loyal

government forces and FLMN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) - spurred on and sustained to large degree by revolutionary support and ideals that made its way across Honduras to El Salvador from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Panama, Cuba, and the USSR.

The war would ravage the nation from 1980 – 1992, with the U.S. providing weapons, aircraft firepower, and tactical support to the El Salvadoran government, while simultaneously remaining fully engaged in counter-revolutionary efforts in Nicaragua.

The sum total of El Salvadoran deaths by UN records reports 75,000 dead, and thousands more displaced at the end of the war, with staggering numbers of civilian casualties brought on by both the government and the guerrillas.

Thousands of those that were displaced were granted asylum in The United States, most of which began new lives in Los Angeles, California - a dream come true that would soon become a nightmare.

El Salvadorans in Los Angeles barrios (neighborhoods) were immediately faced with significant levels of disdain, xenophobia, and physical

attacks by established L.A. gangs. In the beginning they would fight back in small isolated incidents, but lack of community support and fear of deportation would often leave them feeling helpless. Over time however, they would eventually band together and unite troubled young El Salvadorans in Los Angeles to form two of the most notorious international gangs the world would ever come to know.

MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha), and Mara 18, also known as Barrio 18.

These two formidable gangs wreaked havoc across L.A and would eventually both set their sights on international organized crime.

As a result, U.S. Immigration initiated measures in 1996 to crack down on the two organizations in a sweeping campaign of mass deportations back to El Salvador, a thing of which El Salvador was not ready to endure.

With the combination of deportees forced back to the capital city of San Salvador all hailing pronounced face tattoos of gang ink that left them virtually unemployable, the official

continued on page 8

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29TH ANNUAL PARMA AREA CHAMBER RIB N ROCK COOK OFF

The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College West campus proudly presents our 29th Anniversary of our Annual Rib ‘N Rock Cook Off on Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9, 2019. Our LOCATION is at CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WESTERN CAMPUS, 11000 W. Pleasant Valley Rd. Parma (site off York Rd- free parking on campus).



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FRIDAY June 7 4 PM To 11 PM	 <div>4:30 to 7 pm</div>		Old Skool 8 to 11 pm	
SATURDAY June 8 1 PM To 11 PM	 <div>1—3:15 pm</div>	 <div>4 to 6:45 pm</div>	The ELO Show 8 -11 pm	
	SUNDAY June 9 1 PM To 10 PM	 <div>1— 3 :15 pm</div>	 <div>3-6 pm Tent by front entrance</div>	 <div>4 pm to 6:30 pm</div>
 <div>Carnival Coupon Good ANY DAY \$2 off one Wrist Band PACC</div>	RIB N ROCK ADMISSION \$3 / Children Under 12 FREE Great Lakes Expositions Carnival Free admission to Carnival Side Adult & Kiddie Rides Available <small>Cost for rides are \$.50 per ticket with rides from 4-8 tickets per ride. All day wrist bands \$20, Purchase tickets on carnival side</small>			 <div>Carnival Coupon Good ANY DAY \$2 off one Wrist Band PACC</div>

Join the Discussion at: www.parmaobserver.com

NEIGHBORHOODS

The Parma Rib N' Rock- A Summer Tradition

by Kathie Zipp

If there's one thing that defines the beginning of summer in Parma to me, it's not the end of school or the increasing temperatures, it's the Parma Rib 'N Rock. Growing up, it was the perfect foray into summer vacation, going from the final days of school to a weekend of entertainment, rides, and of course, lots of food. The event started off at what was then Parmatown Mall, where for \$4.00 you could partake in the festivities throughout the weekend. Yes, the price of admission is actually a dollar lower than it was back in the 90s. Now in its fourth year at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, it has continued to grow with its new location into



the event we know today. The highlight of the weekend event is, naturally, the ribs. The rib vendors that have been announced this year are Armadillo's, Jack on the Bone, Mojo's, Pigtales, Smokin T's, and Texas Pit. The vendors are regulars at the Rib 'N Rock, which helps for nostalgia's sake on my part, knowing some of the names even from back when I went as a kid.

If you're looking for a sweeter sauce, Texas Pit's sauces are for you, while conversely Armadillo's are more savory. Pigtales have both a darker cook and sauce combination to give it that smokiness. Mojo's ribs come a little bit thicker to get more of the sauce on their ribs, and Smokin T's almost require a fork to eat them. While Jack on the Bone has great ribs as well, what I come for is their barbecued mushrooms.

When you go each year you get to know each vendor's style and which one fits yours. But if this is your first time or you don't have your favorites written down, just do what I do and grab a sample from everyone. You're sure to find a favorite. If ribs are not your thing, there are many other food choices and reasons to come out. The Rib 'N Rock is an event that does have something for everyone, whether it's rides, carnival games, or music.

The Young Professionals of Parma will also be running the craft beer tent for the third year. Come enjoy a selection of beer from Saucy Brew Works, Rhinegeist and more, plus wine while supporting the work this non-profit group does to promote our city as a great place for YPs to live, work and play. You can also help by signing up to work a shift at <http://ow.ly/CQsu30oMxdp>. See you there!

El Salvador: And The Mexican Border Effect

continued from page 6

end of the civil war just a few years earlier that left a gaping power vacuum of its national and city level security personnel, and an economy in shambles, the nation was a perfect storm for gangland takeover that would usher in a new unique brand of violence against the citizens of El Salvador.

This new form of neighborhood oppression across the country has marred a renewed sense of pain and agony among a people that had previously never had time to recover from

over a century of outcry, war and unrest - violence that today the El Salvadoran government does very little to counteract aside from occasional televised sweeps of suspected gang affiliates to show the world that they are utilizing the millions of dollars in humanitarian aid that pour into the country each year - aid that is ideally slated to be earmarked for response measures to repel gang activity. These monies however largely go unnoticed when repurposed to support other agendas.

Citizens fearing for their safety

in neighborhoods throughout the country are then left to make the very difficult decision to risk everything and migrate thousands of kilometers with their families through extreme elements, praying to reach our southern border, free of harm from predators we can only begin to imagine, that we may take them in and help them find a way to a life of greater peace, understanding, and contribution to an accepting society of those whose forebears were once seeking the very same existence for themselves.

ANGELS IN DISGUISE



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JUNE 6: PARMA RIB & ROCK 4:30 - 7 PM

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JUNE 21: #ALZ / MAKE MUSIC DAY 6 - 7 PM

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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Medley of Art Show at the Small-wood Center The annual Parma Area Fine Arts Council’s Medley of Arts Show & Sale was held on Saturday, May 18th. Participating in the event were 40 local talented artists from the area, showcasing approximately 100 diverse pieces of art. There was a steady stream of attendees throughout the day. The show was divided into seven categories. Best in Show, First Place in each category, and People’s Choice winning artists received cash awards. Ribbons were also awarded to those categories along with second and third place rib-



Top Watercolor, “Eye For An Eye,” by Samantha Bias

bons. **The winners were as follows:** **Best In Show:** *Mother’s Are Dying* by Ashley Nagel, **Watercolor:** 1. Samantha Bias – *Eye For An Eye*, 2. *Poppin’ Poppies* – Marge Horvat 3. Robin Prestien – *Red House With Fence*. **Three-Dimensional:** 1. Debra Newell – *Vintage Sounds*, 2. Donata Rahne – *Winged Isis*, 3. Debra Newell – *Flash Of Sunset*. **Acrylic/Mixed Media:** 1. Samantha Bias – *In The Garden Of Eden*, 2. Mary O’Hearn – *Evening At The Dock*, 3. Gary Nass – *Three Forest Dances*. **Photography:** 1. Anthony DeMarco – *The Alter of Notre Dame*, 2. Samantha Bias – *Daisy In My Lazy Eye*, 3. Anthony DeMarco – *The Train On Time*. **Graphics:** 1. Sean Mabin – *False Start*, 2. Kathleen Dregella – *Sheep*, 3. Alexa Thompson – *Breakfast*. **Fiber Art:** 1. Debra Newell – *Throwaways*,

2. Barbara Gorman – *Felted Wool Neck Piece*, 3. Jane Zampedro – *Mermaid*. **Wood Carving:** 1. *Acorns* – Stan Stary. 2. *Angry Bird* – Gerald Hoeltge, 3. Patricia Perchinske – *Gryffin*. **People’s Choice** went to Kathy Kijek for her *Rot-ten Watermelon* acrylic painting.

Intermediate/Advanced Water-color Workshop with Nicki Lanzi Watercolor Floral on Canvas Workshop is for watercolorists with intermediate or advanced skills is being held Saturday, June 28th, from 10 to 4. Enjoy a day of free flowing colors and your creativity! Students will incorporate watercolor techniques with a twist, to create a colorful floral! Sharing tips and ideas with other students is always a learning experience, and Nicki Lanzi will share information that she has learned over 30 years of teaching, and taking several workshops from renowned artists. Please feel free to bring in photos of flowers you would like to incorporate into the painting. Students will paint on a 22x28 inch canvas. Cost is \$80, plus your own watercolors and brushes, water container, paper towels or rag, one large wash brush, 1.5 in. or larger. Email kathryn-mabin@att.net to register or for additional details.

Brecksville Parma Area Fine Arts Council’s members, Anthony DeMarco, Gary Nass and Robert Pohm are on display at the Brecksville Center For The Arts, 8997 Highland Drive, in the juried show “In Honor Of Trees”, May 6th through June 10th.

Prama Artspace Gallery – The Car Show This gallery is located at 5411 Pearl Road. Parma Area Fine Arts members, Robert Pohm and Sean Mabin are two of the artists on display. The show runs May 24th through June 7th. The auto industry plays an important role in Parma’s history, and cars play an important role in our lives. This gallery features local talent in



Great Lakes Wood Carvers

their monthly themed shows. Original artwork is reasonably priced and often less expensive than mass produced art from box stores. The boutique also offers smaller items such as jewelry,

bookmarks, note cards and calendars by local creatives. Stop in and browse. The gallery is open Saturday through Monday, 2 to 7 PM.

High-On-Dolls

by Kathryn Mabin

High-On-Dolls is a group of talented women who enjoy creating fiber art dolls. The group began meeting informally in 1998 following a class taught by Doll Artist, Eleanor Peace Bailey, at Pins-N-Needles Shop in Middleburg Hts. In 1999 they formally organized their club. The club met once a month and grew to a membership of forty plus, with a waiting list to join, due to the limited meeting space at Pins-N-Needles.

Eventually members expressed a desire to meet with fellow doll-makers to work on projects, exchange ideas, and practice new techniques in a creative atmosphere, in addition to the monthly meetings. During this club growth, the organization became associated with the Parma Area Fine Arts Council as an affiliate organization. The group invited numerous nationally and internationally know doll artists to teach at the Parma Area Fine Arts



Medley of Arts Show - 2018

facility. The group also moved to the Quilter’s Source quilt shop in Parma for their formal monthly meetings.

As the club grew, so did their recognition, and they were offered a yearly display space at the Original Sewing and Quilt Expo, which is held annually every spring at the IX Center. High-On-Dolls has had a group display for a

continued on page 12

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

Asset Corner #114

by Gene Lovasy

June's Asset Category: BOUNDARIES and EXPECTATIONS: Boundaries are important to young people because they give clear messages about what's expected, what is approved and celebrated, and what deserves censure. By the same token, caring adults who expect young people to do their best help them to learn good judgment. Every day young people face many options and choices. Boundaries and expectations provide young people with the support they need to choose wisely. Today, we're going to be focusing attention on Asset # 11, Family Boundaries.

Clear, concise, consistent boundaries—for all

What happens if you're late to a business meeting? Run a red light? Fail to pay for your morning coffee? Rules and expectations are impor-

tant. They help establish the do's and don'ts for society and help things run smoothly. But rules are not automatically known; they must be created and learned. That's where parents come in. If young people are not taught early on that there are rules they must follow, they think they can do anything they want at any time. And, while we may like the freedom to make choices, having boundaries to follow—and expectations to live up to—can make life easier for everyone.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people are more likely to engage in positive behaviors and attitudes—and less likely to practice high-risk behaviors—if their families set clear rules and consequences and monitor the young people's whereabouts. About 46 percent of young people, ages 11–18, have families with clear rules and con-

sequences and parents or guardians who regularly monitor the young people's whereabouts, according to Search Institute surveys. Working with young people to set boundaries is an important way to show them you care.

Tips for building this asset

As a family, set clear, concise, and consistent boundaries based on your values and expectations. Make sure everyone—not just the children—is following the same rules, although there may be some differences depending on ages and maturity. Be sure to set up clear consequences for family members who break the rules. Also, make it clear everyone must always let the rest of the family know where he or she is.

Also try this

In your home and family: Meet monthly as a family to discuss boundaries: Are they fair? Do they still work? Do they reflect your values and principles? Adjust them as needed.

In your neighborhood and com-

munity: Communicate with your neighbors about the rules and boundaries in your family. Ask for their support. For example, neighbors can remind children to ask a parent's permission before accepting sweets.

In your school or youth program: Divide students or participants into groups. Have each group discuss family boundaries and consequences. Identify the reason for each rule.

Visit www2.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.

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OBSERVER

Upcoming Recreational Activities

by Carolyn Kovach

Swimming

Pool passes go on sale 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 22 and 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 1 at the Recreation Department. From June 3 to July 12, passes can be purchased Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on July. Proof of residency is required. The season begins Saturday, June 1 and ends Saturday, Aug.10. Regular pool hours are 12:30 to 8:30 p.m., weather permitting.

Starting Saturday, May 25, the Splash Pad at Anthony Zielinski Park is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily until Labor Day and then on weekends only in September. Admission is free.

Tennis

Youth (age 4 and older) and adult tennis registration is 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 4 for the first session and 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 2 for the second session. There are four levels: tot, beginner, intermediate and advanced. More details are at www.cityofparma-oh.gov on the Recreation Department page or call the Recreational Department at 440-885-8144. Register online or at the Recreation Department. Payment at the Recreation Department is cash or check only.

Junior Golf

Ridgewood Golf Course's Junior Golf Program continues to grow. The season begins Tuesday, June 11, but parents need to register their children now because the program fills quickly. Go to www.golfridgewoodohio.com or call the golf course at 440-888-1057.

Youth Volleyball

Girls Youth Volleyball (grades 5th through 12th) is open to Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills residents. Reg-



Ries Park's new playground equipment keeps children active outdoors.

istration is 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 26 through Sept. 13 and 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4. More details are at www.cityofparma-oh.gov on the Recreation Department page or call the Recreational Department at 440-885-8144.

Register online or at the Recreation Department. Payment at the Recreation Department is cash or

check only.

Free 2019 Recreation Department programs are available at the Recreation Department, 7335 Ridge Road, Parma. Pick one up for details on all recreational activities. For the latest news, follow @CityofParmaRecreation on Facebook.

La'Var Howell Named Cox Charities Community Hero

by Jeff Lavery

Parma, OH – As part of its commitment to celebrating employee contributions to the communities where they live and work, Cox Communications has recognized La'Var Howell as its Community Hero in Cleveland for 2019. Mr. Howell has devoted his time to USO Northern in Cleveland by helping veterans reacclimate to civilian life and through initiatives designed to support active military overseas.

Volunteers play an important role at USO Northern. Namely, they provide direct comfort to the service members from northern Ohio. Vol-



unteers provide refreshments at unit homecoming or deployment functions or serve beverages and snacks at USO run canteens or lounges. These are the personal touches that boost morale and fortify the feeling that local defenders of freedom are supported on the home front by the public.

Mr. Howell, who resides in Cleveland, has supported USO Northern's mission by not only providing counsel and support to returning veterans, but also by donating care packages to support men and women currently overseas. Mr. Howell has further supported the organization by speaking with youth who are interested in pursuing careers in the military and sharing his own experiences as a veteran. Due to his efforts, USO Northern will receive a \$3,000 Cox Charities Grant to ensure its positive impact on veterans and their families continues to grow.

"Our employees are as committed to their communities as they are to keeping our customers completely satisfied," said Jay Allbaugh, senior vice president and region manager, Cox Communications. "They give of themselves freely to serve the needs of deserving community organizations,

Save the Date

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Parks & Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi and Ward 3 Councilman Mark Casselberry invite residents to attend:

Michael A. Ries Park & Playground Renovation Dedication

5000 Forestwood Drive
10 a.m., Saturday, June 1

The Recreation Department added new playground equipment to the Michael A. Ries Youth Complex late last fall and is officially dedicating it this spring.

Partially funded by the state, this improvement marks the third park to receive new equipment within the last few years. The other parks were James Day and Veterans Memorial parks, which now have exercise equipment and walking paths.

"We continue to strive for family-active participation and enjoyment at all our facilities," Vittardi said.



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La'Var Howell (L) and Robert Brill (R). Mr. Brill is a market vice president for Cox; Mr. Howell is a communications specialist for Cox.

and we are honored to recognize their generosity and selflessness as part of the Cox Charities Community Hero program."

Since 2001, Cox Communications has awarded more than \$600,000 in Cox Charities grants and in-kind support on behalf of their employee's volunteer efforts in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Ohio.

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WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

by Cathy Carroll

Death, while a tragedy, is comforted knowing a man who was also a dedicated police officer and devoted husband and father gave his life in defending his friends, family and community. Sergeant Bennett, a 44 year old veteran police officer, gave his life in the performance of his duty. Bennett strongly believed a man was born to honor God and his Country, began a career in the Navy serving in the Pacific Fleet for four years. After obtaining a honorable discharge in 1949, Bennett married his wife, Mary Lou and began his family. Bennett was appointed to the Parma Heights Police Department on June 1, 1957, and promoted to Sergeant on January 26, 1965. He was a dedicated policeman who was an expert in police photography, weapons, firearms and fingerprinting. Bennett was the Range Officer who later had dedicated in his memory the SGT. ROBERT BENNETT POLICE FIREARMS TRAINING RANGE.

On October 25, 1972, at approximately 1:15 p.m. the Parma Heights Police Department received a bank alarm from the Continental Bank Branch at 6809 W. 130th Street, Parma Heights, Ohio. Captain Richard Parker stated that while Sergeant Bennett was heading for lunch in the same direction, he received a radio dispatch that a bank hold up was in progress. Bennett acknowledged and proceeded to the robbery through the back parking lots to the rear of the bank. One suspect exited the rear entrance dressed as a police officer with a female hostage.

The hostage, a bank teller, broke free to safety. Gunfire was exchanged between the bank robber, Sgt. Bennett, and other law enforcement officers simultaneously. According to Sgt. Walter Barth, the bank robber fired the fatal shot that struck Bennett. Bennett returned the fire from a crouched position just before collapsing, resulting in the bank robber's death, as confirmed by the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office. Bennett's shots spun the bank robber around as a blast from additional officers struck him in the rear and right arm.

Sgt. Roger Bosze made his way to Sgt. Bennett and held the fallen officer in his arms until the Parma

Fallen Police Officer



Heights Fire Department and ambulance arrived. Bennett was transported to Parma Hospital where he was pronounced dead from a gunshot wound.

The other bank robber retreated into the bank and was subdued after a brief struggle. He was sentenced in 1973, at the age of 54, to a minimum

of 120 years in prison for his involvement in an attempted bank robbery that ended in the death of Sgt. Bennett. In addition to the slaying charge, he was convicted of attempted bank robbery, two counts of taking hostages and two counts of assaulting bank employees. He became eligible for parole in 1992. The dead bank robber's wife was also arrested five days later, charged and convicted with conspiracy for her involvement in the hold up.

More than one thousand policemen, including all twenty-three on the Parma Heights force, assembled to honor Sgt. Bennett. Neighbor-

ing state officers came to pay a silent and solemn tribute to Bennett. The funeral Mass, which was attended by many family members and friends, was conducted at St. John Bosco in Parma Heights, Ohio. The funeral cortege to Holy Cross Cemetery in Brook Park, Ohio, included about one hundred and fifty police cars representing scores of Departments from Cleveland, suburbs, and elsewhere. While the Parma Heights force mourned the loss of a friend and respected leader, police officers from North Royalton and Brook Park took over the duties of Parma Heights. "This was one of the largest turn-outs I have ever seen," said Captain Edward Bowolak of Parma Heights. "It was incredible." The family requested a final pass by the Parma Heights Police Station which was the site of fifteen and one-half years of service resulting finally in the loss of his life while in the performance of his duty. He was survived by his wife Mary Lou and six children, Robert Jr., 21, William, 18, Joseph, 16, Catherine, 15, Thomas, 13, and Mary 9.

Among the many who paid their respects were the Mayor of Parma Heights, Paul W. Cassidy and the Governor, John Gilligan. Mayor Cassidy established the "Robert Bennett Memorial Fund" to aid the widow and six children of the slain officer. "This is the only way we have to say thanks to the family of a policeman who died serving his community," said Cassidy.

Parma Heights City Council authorized the purchase of a plaque memorializing Sgt. Robert Bennett, the only officer of the Parma Heights Force ever to be slain in the line of duty. The plaque now hangs at The Sgt. Robert Bennett Firearms Training Range.

Father John Cregan, Police Chaplain, commemorates a concelebrated mass each year honoring all Police and Firemen killed in the line of duty.

The family of Sgt. Robert W. Bennett summarized their feelings in the following note to the people of Greater Cleveland: "Your kindness and sympathy are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express."

Robert Bennett's name is inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall, Washington, D.C., panel 41, West Wall, line 15.

By: Keith Witkowski, Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society

High-On-Dolls

continued from page 9

number of years now, with their group challenge dolls, Christmas Exchange dolls, and others.

The club members all share a common passion for doll-making and participate in multiple doll-making challenges, and personal interest projects during the year. They also have sewn and collected dolls for the Metro Hospital Children's Program. This wonderful program offers dolls and fiber art for children who have been admitted to the hospital.

In recent years Parma Area Fine

Arts has added a Fiber Arts Category to their annual Medley of Arts show, which allows the club an additional venue to showcase their talent.

The High-On-Dolls Club invites one and all to join their formal monthly meetings, held the 1st Thursday on the month, or the informal monthly working session, held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Drive. Both meetings are 2 PM to 4:30 PM. The club also invites you to view a display of their creations in the showcase of the lobby at the Smallwood Center.



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crimetips@parmajustice.net

www.cityofparmapolice.com

Emergency - 911

Non Emergency - (440) 885-1234

AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

More re: Human Trafficking Raising Awareness – Some More Basic Indicators:

Source: “Suggested Best Practices for Law Enforcement” Guide dated March 2019

Note: This is meant to serve as a guide for identifying potential trafficked victims (labor or sex). The list is not all-inclusive nor in order of importance. The presence of one or more indicators may warrant further investigation.

- A ppearing destitute/lacking personal possessions
- Working excessively long hours
- Wages are withheld, or not in control of own money
- A missing juvenile
- Unable to come & go freely, or security measures that appear to keep a person inside an establishment
- A family member, loved one or pet is being threatened.

FOR LOCAL HELP: Cleveland Rape Crisis Ctr. – Project S.T.A.R. 24 hr Hotline 855.431.STAR (7827) www.clevelandrapecrisis.org/services/project-star/

Renee Jones Empowerment Ctr. & The NE Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic www.rjecempower.org 216.651.9601

Working with the Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking, is the Imagine Foundation, a small but growing human trafficking focused non-profit located in Parma Hts.

Visit www.imaginefreedom.org or call 216.365.8078

Other Announcements:

Here’s another interesting graphic from the Center for Community Solutions addressing the issue of disengaged youth (those between 16 & 24 neither in school or employed), noting 21% are in Cleveland w/the suburbs having around 10%. Based on that 10% figure & using the district’s student enrollment of around 9,800, we would have close to 1,000 of these folks in our community that could benefit from our help. Check it out here: <https://tinyurl.com/CCS-Disengaged-Youth>

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

The group continues to grow with activities and spirited, open discussions on issues of their choosing. Kids between the ages of 12 - 17 attending school in the area are welcome.

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

From Parma City Schools:

Saturday, May 18th concluded a

series of 12 public Strategic Consolidation meetings designed to solicit input & share information regarding district facility planning. An online survey is available to gain input from those unable to attend any of those meetings. www.parmacityschools.org/survey. September will begin another series of meetings where specific ideas/recommendations will be proposed & discussed.

Go here <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/7883> to view meeting minutes & copies of all related documents.

To learn where **free summer lunch programs** can be found, i.e.: in the schools, in libraries & others, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/freekidlunch>

If you haven’t heard, the **Pay It Forward Café**, an outreach of Community Ambassadors, is alive & well, now being hosted every 2nd Saturday at noon, at Ridgewood Methodist Church, 6330 Ridge Rd. Find out more about this great program by visiting <https://comamb.org/pay-it-forward-cafe/>

From Ohio Dept. of Education:

Go here <http://education.ohio.gov/> to access available resources/information re: schools in the district & the release of OH|ID, ODE’s new information portal.

Prepared by our local **ESC-Project Aware program**, go here <https://tinyurl.com/Mental-Hlth-Online-Resources> to view an extensive list of mental, behavioral & social-emotional resources available online.

From Achievement Center for Children:

Summer Horseback Riding classes are open to all typically developing children ages 4 & up. These 1 hour classes are offered June thru August on Mondays at 9:30 or 10:30 & on Wednesday at 10:30. The cost is \$25/child w/no minimum commitment. Contact Marla Rzeszotarski, Camp Cheerful volunteer at marla_rz@yahoo.com or 330-608-0352.

If you’d like to learn more about the Achievement Center for Children & Camp Cheerful visit their web site at: <https://achievementcenters.org/>

From the Parma Area Family Col-lab:

As a reminder, for anyone providing care for someone else’s child, consider stopping by the Collab from 10:30 - 12:00 pm, the 2nd Monday of each month for KINSHIP KOFFEE. Share your concerns, issues, learn about available support & resources, receive encouragement....light refreshments are served & free child-care is available. Call 440.887.4873 for more information.

The **relocation of staff & services of the Parma Area Family Collaborative from Hanna to**

Parkview elementary s/b completed on or before the week of June 17th. Note that Kinship Koffee on Monday the 10th & the Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, June 14th will take place at Hanna as scheduled.

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

From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group:

Find out what’s new & learn more about the County’s MyCom initiative and its programs & events by visiting www.mycomcle.org.

From Pathway - Caring for Children:

Save the date - Wednesday, June 26th. Where: Parma Library, Powers Blvd. Pathway will be hosting a free Parent & Child Wellness Seminar with a focus on the mental health of our youth. Topics include anxiety/depression, suicide prevention & family self care. Call 216.267.7070 to register.

From College Colleagues (a local CBS & Collab partner):

Developed to mitigate knowledge loss over the summer, consider registering your student in one of these reasonably priced programs: Bully Proof, Cursive Class, Paint Your Pet, Abstract Yarn Art. Go here for details: www.collegecolleagues.net or phone 216.978.6524.

From Love, Inc. (active Collab partner & engaged supporter of many local initiatives):

Visit their web site at <http://loveincuyahoga.org/> to learn more about their outreach and to register for their Annual Golf Outing scheduled for June 17th at Pine Hills G.C.

The 29th Annual Parma Chamber of Commerce Rib n Rock is June 6 – 9th this year. For folks/organizations interested in volunteering, call as indicated: Front Gate – Jenn Moore 440.759.1560; Coke Booth – Cheryl McIntosh 440.886.1700; Token Booth – Cathy Hogan 216.403.9900; Beer Booth – Ken Burdzinski 216.402.5980. For questions or general information call Cheryl at 440.886.1700 or check out the website at www.parmaribnrock.com

From the County Library System

Registration for the Summer Reading program is now open. Go here to participate:

<https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events/Summer-Reading-Program.aspx>

Interested in their summer camp offerings? Go Here:

<https://cuyahogalibrary.org/LP/Summer-Camps.aspx>

There are also computer classes for both beginners or for those looking to sharpen and/or learn specifics skills. Go here to learn more:

<https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Events/Computer-Classes.aspx>

From the Parma Snow Library:

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

From the Parma Branch Library (Powers Blvd.):

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

Summer Lunch - Ages 18 & under. Monday - Friday / June 3rd - August 9th. 11:30 a.m. We will serve free brown-bag lunches provided by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, while supplies last. Kids in attendance will receive a free book from the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/lunch.aspx>

Mad Science: Destination Moon! - Families with children entering Grades K – 5. Saturday, June 8th at 2:00 pm. Explore space with Mad Science of Northeast Ohio’s out-of-this world demonstrations about the moon. <https://tinyurl.com/MadScienceMoon>

Summer FUN for Everyone! - Entering Grades 1 - 8. Monday - Friday / June 10th — August 2nd. 11:30 am - 3:30 pm. Join in the fun on weekdays after Summer Lunch. Different activities each day. Weekly themes include animation, puppetry, building challenges and maker days. <https://tinyurl.com/SummerFun4Everyone>

From the Parma Hts Branch Library

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

Summer Storytimes at the Library: For Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Families. Saturday, 6/1 - Wednesday, 7/31. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.. Please call 440.884.2313 for more information.

Summer Lunch at the Library: For those 18 or younger; 11:00am-11:30am, Monday to Friday from June 3rd to August 9th. Looking for a place to have lunch this summer? Come to the Library where we will be serving brown bag lunches provided by the Cleveland Food Bank. While supplies last.

SUMMER IN PARMMA HTS.

It's Starting To Look A Lot Like Summer In Parma Heights

by Rick Haase

It's finally starting to look a lot like summer, although it does not officially arrive until a bit later this month, at least on the calendar, anyway. The Parma Heights Pool and Waterpark Complex open at Noon on Saturday, June 1. Season and daily passes can be purchased at the pool beginning on that date. Season passes for resident students/seniors are \$50. Adults are \$60, and family passes are \$200. Daily admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Seniors swim free on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. The pool and waterpark are located within the Greenbrier Commons complex at 6200 Pearl Road.

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK -- Saturday, June first is also the day when free yoga in the Park begins with Parma Heights resident and Yoga Instructor Jill Pawloski.

Come to the Gazebo in the Greenbrier Commons. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. the one-hour class begins at 10 a.m.

More in the Commons...

The widely popular **Outdoor Movie in the Commons** returns this summer.

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" will be presented at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 29. Residents should bring their own chairs and blankets. The concession stand will be open at the swimming pool if you want to purchase a beverage or snack.

ON STAGE AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE -- The musical smash Mama Mia! will be presented on the Main



The slides at the Parma Heights Pool and Waterpark are extremely popular.

Stage of the Cassidy Theatre June 7-23.

With the book by Catherine Johnson, and Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, Mama Mia! is the story of Sophie, who lives on a small Greek island. She dreams of the perfect wedding -- one which includes her father giving her away. The problem? Sophie doesn't know who he is.

Her mother Donna, the former lead singer of the 1970's pop group Donna and the Dynamos, refuses to talk about the past, so Sophie decides to take matters into her own hands. Sneaking a peek in her mother's old diaries, she discovers three possible fathers: Sam, Bill, and Harry. She secretly invites all three to the wedding, convinced that she'll know her father when she sees him. But when all three turn up, it may not be as clear as she thought.

Told through the legendary music of ABBA, Mamma Mia! has become a worldwide sensation as well as last year's hugely popular film featuring Cher and Meryl Streep.

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

F L A G FOOTBALL REGISTRATION -- For youth who will be ages 5-10 by October, 2019 is available online now through July 14. In-person registration is Tuesday, June 15 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Cassidy Theatre Community Rooms, located on the theatre's lower level.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL -- Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, will host its annual Strawberry Festival and Bake Sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 9.

Adult meals are available for \$11 and include one meat dish, two side dishes, a beverage and dessert.

Children's meals for those age 10 and under are \$5 and include one meat dish, one side dish, a beverage and a small dessert.

Meat dishes available are a hot dog, hamburger (beef or veggie). Side dishes are baked beans, a mixed green salad, potato salad, or bag of potato chips. Extra meat dishes will be avail-

able for \$4 each. Extra side dishes will be available for \$1 each.

Beverages will include soda or bottled water for 50-cents. Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade and water will be provided.

Dessert is -- of course -- strawberries, shortcake, whipped cream and vanilla ice cream.

If you want dessert only, the works will be \$5.

A wide variety of baked items will also be available for purchase.

WANT YOUR INFORMATION FEATURED IN THIS COLUMN? -- E-mail items to Rick Haase at rick.haase@sbcglobal.net.




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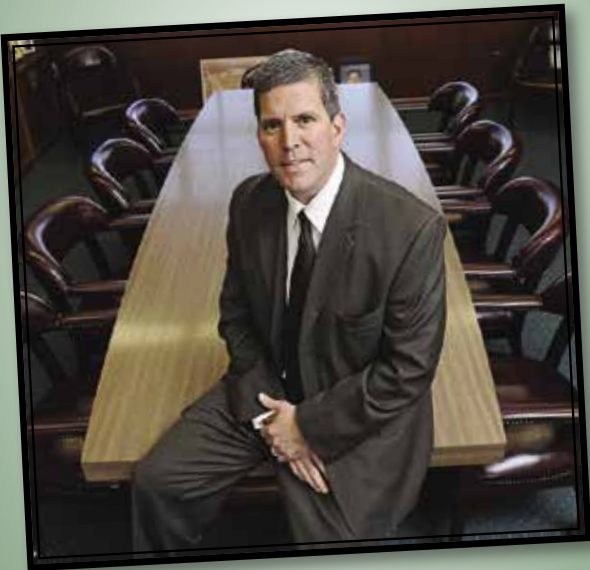


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HONORING THOSE THAT GAVE ALL

Valley Forge Students Remember

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On May 10 a remarkable ceremony was held at Valley Forge High School. A brand new Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, near the front entrance, was dedicated. The presentation ceremony held in the auditorium was virtually packed with grateful community members. The story behind this was truly extraordinary. Members of the History Club noticed a plaque in the hallway of the school that commemorated 15 students from Valley Forge High School who had lost their lives while fighting in the Viet Nam War. They felt that now 50 years later, these former students deserved more attention and respect for their ultimate sacrifice. It turns out that 15 students killed in action was just about the highest number for any school district in the country.

It is really amazing how once something starts, the momentum can take a life all its own. Through the efforts of a core group of people, soon the word spread about their intentions, and responses came from near and far from those touched by the idea of honoring the memory of these veterans who sacrificed their lives so long ago. The Global Parma Community can never be underestimated- so many people have grown up in our



Crowded auditorium at Valley Forge High School on May 10 to observe the dedication of the memorial to honor and remember 15 students who gave their lives in the Viet Nam War.

community, moved all over the world, yet never forget their years spent here. Clark J. Dougan, VFHS Class of 1967, was the keynote speaker at this event. He has written many books about the Viet Nam War, and was the co-creator of the award winning PBS documentary, "Fathers and Sons". He lives in Brookline, MA these days, and he mentioned that he had not been in

the Valley Forge High School auditorium for more than 50 years. His thoughtful address, as well as that of Mary Ann Becksted, sister of Sgt. Ronald J. Becksted, and Judy Kilbane Bizga along with Kevin Kilbane, siblings of LCPL Terrance J. Kilbane, was truly moving and very inspirational for everyone in attendance.

At the conclusion of this very

emotional ceremony in the auditorium, there was a procession outside to unveil the new memorial, which is actually 3 separate monuments. Everyone in the community should take the time to visit this thoughtful memorial envisioned and made real by contemporary students of a high school with a long tradition of pride and success of those who attended since 1961. These 15 who gav

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9th Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies

5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, July 6, 2019 - 8:30 am

Tri-C Western Campus - 11000 Pleasant Valley Road

Cuyahoga Community College University Hospitals Parma Medical Center

First 600 pre-registered are guaranteed a t-shirt. All will receive post-race pierogies, drinks and snacks!!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pierogie5k - Twitter: @pierogie5k

5K Run Award Age Groups: Top overall male and female 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 - Pierogie awards to top three male and female finishers in each division.

Mail entries must be received by Wed., July 3. Make checks payable to: Hermes Sports & Events 2425 W. 11th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

Register online at: www.hermescleveland.com Online registration closes Friday, July 5 at 9:00 am.

Race Director: Parma City Council President Sean Brennan: 440-885-8091 pierogie5k@gmail.com

Best pierogie costume contest - Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places! Proceeds benefit local charities. Sponsorship opportunities available!

Run/Walk for Pierogies

First Name: Last Name: Race Day Age: Gender: M F Date of Birth: Address: City: State and Zip: Phone: E-Mail: Signature (Parent/Guardian, if under 18):

Shirt Size: YS YM YL S M L XL XXL XXXL Circle One: 5K Run, 5K Walk or 1 Mile Walk

I hereby understand that upon my entry into the Pierogies 5K race/walk or 1 mile fun walk, I waive any and all claims for damages that I may have against University Hospitals, Cuyahoga Community College, Perla Pierogies, the City of Parma, the Parma Charitable Fund, Hermes Sports & Events, promoters, sponsors or anyone involved in the production of this race, regarding any and all injuries suffered by me while running, traveling to and from, or participation in this event, for myself, my heirs and/or assignors. I also understand that refunds will not be available for entry fees.

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