

“Summer afternoon, summer afternoon: to me these have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language”- Henry James

# ParmaObserver

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

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## We Are Parma Proud

by Kathryn Mabin

We are Parma Proud, Inc. is a newly created 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance, improve and develop the image of the City of Parma, by informing the public on subjects and events which are beneficial to the community. This organization modeled itself after the Proud of Parma, Inc., a 501(c)4 nonprofit, which was created in the 1970's. Proud of Parma, Inc. thrived for decades and brought many memorable projects to the City of Parma. This new nonprofit hopes to move forward in building upon those traditions of bringing together businesses, government, nonprofit groups and individuals for the purpose of strengthening and promoting pride in our city, with fresh new ideas, enhanced projects and community-wide events.



On Wednesday, June 19th, We Are Parma Proud, Inc. had

their initial launch, a community meeting at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. It was well attended by nonprofit groups, businesses,

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## Parma Police Make Arrests In Explosives Case

by Dan Ciryak

On Friday, June 28, 2019, the Parma Police Department, along with ATF special agents, and investigators from the State Fire Marshall's Office, and the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) Bomb Unit, arrested the son of a local father and son duo for manufacturing and selling large quantities of homemade explosive devices. The father was later charged in Parma Municipal Court.

Charges have been filed against the following individuals:



Charles P. Johnson, age 36, listing an address in the 6300 block of Bradley Avenue in Parma. He has been charged with one count of Unlawful Possession of Dangerous

Ordnance, a felony of the 5th degree. He was arraigned this morning in Parma Municipal Court.

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## Script Parma Picture Of The Month



Parma Warriors 11U: David Bania, Langston Lucas, Grant Mahle, Kyle Kalinowski, Max Ritter, Ronnie Morlan, Luke Prosinski, Gavin Jakub, Sean Frank, and Jack DeGeeter.



## Parma Police Chief Recognized By NOPEC

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Since 2016 NOPEC has instituted a recognition program to identify exemplary employees in cities throughout the Greater Cleveland Area. This year our Chief of Police

Joseph M. Bobak had the honor of being singled out for this special recognition. As a lifetime resident of Parma, am I pleased and proud to learn that this

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## Calling All Grads - Valley Forge Class Of 1979

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Valley Forge High School Class of 1979 is having their 40th Year class Reunion on Saturday August 10. The reunion will be held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15 Hall, 716 W. 130th Street in Brunswick, Ohio 44212, from 4:00 PM through midnight. Join us for an evening filled with good friends, dinner,

drinks, 50/50 charitable raffle, photo booth, and so many pictures of classmates from the 70's! It's sure to be an evening of many laughs.

Tickets for the reunion are \$19.79. More information about the reunion can be found on facebook or by going to www.vf79.org. You can also contact Larry Napoli for more information at DEBLARYN@aol.com.

## Westcreek Conservancy Receives Award



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter and Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech presented Westcreek Conservancy with the Outstanding Support Organization Award during the council meeting on June 17. Executive Director Derek Schafer said "With support from the mayor and city, this organization has been able to expand the work it has done in Parma to five counties".



COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Take a moment to contemplate who the most influential resident has been in Parma's history. Maybe some famous folks who called Parma home come to mind like John D. Rockefeller who lived here for a short time, Ettore Boiardi (A.K.A. Chef Boy-Ar-Dee) who lived here later in life and died here, or astronauts Jim Lovell or Michael Good who also lived here for a time. Certainly, they all made their marks on our nation, but they've got nothing on the subject of my column this month - a man who lived much of his life here, served in so many different capacities, and has had such an impact on our community. That man is Ronald M. Mottl.

Truth be told, I have wanted to write this column for many months, but there is so much to say about Mr. Mottl that I knew it would not be easy. Further, because there is so much to



say, the editor has asked that I continue the column next month. Born on the east side, Mr. Mottl's father died when he was only 11 years old. Later, his mother remarried and the fam-



ily moved to Parma. The young Mottl attended Parma Senior High School and built an unrivaled record of academics and athleticism – being named all-scholastic in basketball, receiving the Cleveland Touchdown Club's Most Valuable Player award, as well as pitching a no-hitter and four one-hitters.

Following high school, Mr. Mottl accepted a baseball scholarship from the University of Notre Dame, where he served as captain of the 1955 team. Further, in just 5 ½ years he managed to earn both his bachelor's and law degrees. He then served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves for 6 years.

In 1958 Mr. Mottl was appointed to his first public service position, serving as assistant law director for the city of Cleveland under Mayor Anthony Celebrezze. Two years later he won his first elected office and served as councilman for ward two of Parma (the position I held from 2004-2011). He then went on to serve as President of Parma City Council from 1961 to 1966 (the position I have held since 2011). One of his biggest accomplishments as President of Council was successfully fighting a Columbia Gas rate increase, which saved Parma residents millions.

Council President Mottl's hard work catapulted him to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1967-68, then onto the Ohio Senate in 1969. It was in the Senate where he made one his biggest marks. A Democrat in a Republican-dominated chamber, Senator Mottl knew he had his work cut out for him, as it is always very difficult for a member of the minority party to achieve any legislative accomplishments. However, despite the odds, he had a dream of supplementing the state's funding of public education with the creation of an Ohio lottery.

Senator Mottl's first lottery bill narrowly passed both chambers of the Ohio General Assembly, but was struck down by the courts following a challenge by the Council of Churches. Not giving up, he reintroduced the bill and it passed both houses without one vote to spare in each house. It was then placed on the statewide ballot and was passed by Ohio voters in 1973. Therefore, it is appropriate to call Mottl the father of the Ohio Lottery. Since its inception, the Ohio Lottery has raised over \$27 billion for schools. Relatedly, he fought hard to bring the lottery headquarters to Cleveland, where it remains and has translated into hun-

dreds of jobs for northeast Ohio. While in Columbus, Mottl also authored legislation to reform Blue Cross rates and regulations and strengthen penalties concerning sawed-off shotguns. Further, he supported legislation that strengthened the oversight powers of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), prevented the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) from spraying roadsides with carcinogenic chemicals, prohibited the Director of the Department of Natural Resources from charging for the use of state parks, among many other important bills.

Stay tuned next month to find out more about Mr. Mottl's years of service since serving our community in Columbus. Best wishes to you for a blessed Independence Day. Take some time to read our nation's birth certificate: The Declaration of Independence. It's a very fascinating and important read.

## State Representative Crossman And Senator Antonio Propose Oversight Reform To Address County Jail Issues

by Mallory DeTota

The two Ohio Statehouse delegates representing Parma recently proposed legislative initiatives seeking to reform how the Ohio Department of Corrections provides oversight and enforces compliance with state standards.

At a press conference held at the Ohio Statehouse recently, Senator Antonio and Representative Crossman announced that their measures would apply statewide and would provide stricter enforcement of the current standards. Among the proposals included:

A strict timeline for addressing jail deficiencies with the ODRC filing a lawsuit to secure compliance;

Providing the ODRC with the option of appointing an outside expert to run a non-compliant jail

Allowing the state to close a jail or suspend its operations in the event the jail could not be brought up to compliance in a timely manner.

According to Senator Antonio, "the State of Ohio shares responsibility [for

fixing problems with the County jail]." Rep. Crossman stated that "it's not about casting blame but acknowledging there are issues that must get corrected. These issues did not occur overnight."

Rep. Crossman and Antonio also announced that their legislation will include establishing a bi-partisan commission to study additional jail needs, including examining facilities, funding, and training among other issues. According to their comments at their recent press conference, the oversight reform is about enhancing accountability and encouraging a sense of urgency to correct issues when they arise. According to Rep. Crossman, the legislation is expected to be introduced when the Statehouse returns to session in September.

If you wish to contact State Representative Crossman, you may email him at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov or reach his office at (614) 466-3485. You can also follow him on facebook at /Crossmanforohio or on Twitter @jef-facrossman

# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

MAYOR DEGEETER & FAMILY

## O-B-S-E-R-V-E-R Parma

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Medical Center Granted Provisional Adult Level III Trauma Status By The State Of Ohio

by CJ Sheppard

Following a consultative visit from the American College of Surgeons in April, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS has confirmed that UH Parma Medical Center has met the requirements to operate as a Level III Adult Trauma Center under provisional designation, effective immediately.

“This verification ensures that patients with traumatic injuries of minor to moderate acuity can be treated at our hospital, avoiding transfer to another hospital,” said David Linz, MD, Trauma Medical Director, UH Parma Medical Center. “Studies have shown that 85 percent of injured patients could be treated at their local community hospital, as long as they are certified for trauma care. This provisional designation raises the level of care for our community. We have four trained trauma surgeons on staff prepared to respond to their needs.”

Cases are considered trauma when they pose a significant risk to loss of life or limb, or permanent disfigurement or disability. A Level III Trauma Center must:

- Have continuous general surgical coverage
- Be capable of managing the initial care of the majority of injured patients
- Have transfer agreements with Level I and Level II trauma hospitals for patients that exceed its patient care resources
- Be involved in prevention and



UH Parma Medical Center is now operating as a provisional Level III trauma center. The process to apply for this status was led by David Linz, MD, Trauma Medical Director, and Kristen Tarase, MSN, RN, Trauma Coordinator.

have an active outreach program for its referring communities

Conduct education programs for nurses, physicians and allied health care workers involved with trauma

Patients with more severe injuries can be stabilized before transfer to Level I adult and pediatric trauma centers at UH Cleveland Medical Center or UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s

Hospital, respectively. Across the UH system, Level III trauma centers are in operation at UH Geauga Medical Center in Chardon, UH St. John Medical Center in Westlake, Southwest General Health Center in Middleburg Heights and UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna.

UH, along with the Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth Medical Center and public representatives, is a member of the Northern Ohio Trauma System, which coordinates trauma care across Cuyahoga County and the surrounding seven-county region.

“The risk of mortality for traumatically injured patients is decreased when they present to a trauma center,” says Kristen Tarase, MSN, RN, UH Parma Trauma Coordinator. “We are pleased that this provisional status allows us to provide members of our community with a higher level of care.”

Following provisional status, the State of Ohio will determine the official status within the next 18 months.

Parma Police Make Arrests In Explosives Case

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Charles W. Johnson, age 57, listing an address in the 6400 block of Keltonshire Road in Parma. He has been charged with one count of Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance, a felony of the 5th degree. He also appeared in Parma Municipal Court this morning.

On June 28, 2019, at around 10:30

AM police simultaneously executed two search warrants, one at each of the defendant’s homes. During a search of the homes, police recovered nearly 200 homemade explosive devices, some of which are commonly referred to as “H-100s,” as well as larger devices from the home on Keltonshire Road. The explosive devices range between 3.5” to 6” in length with an increased explosion

expectancy as the size increases. Police seized explosive materials, chemicals, cardboard cylinders, tools, glues, and fuses from the residence. Police believe the home on Keltonshire served as the primary location where these devices were made, and then later sold out of the home on Bradley Avenue.

This case is ongoing and additional charges may be filed later.

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OBSERVER

# Dempsey Sarapa Serves It Up At Parma Heights' Favorite Spot, The Club House

by Rick Haase

It's easy to see that Dempsey Sarapa loves what she does. Maybe it's the ever-present mega-watt smile that never seems to leave her face, no matter how busy she is. Or maybe it's simply that she loves her work. Sarapa, 27, is a server and bartender at one of Parma Heights' most popular restaurants, The Club House, located at the corner of Pearl Road and Kingsdale Boulevard. She's been there for 13 years, having started at age 14. Her grandmother, Bobbi Peschock, owns the restaurant and bar. The bar opened in 1988, and the restaurant in 1995. The Club House is known for its chicken paprikash.

That's understatement, to say the least. According to Sarapa, she has customers that come from as far away as Georgia, Florida and California, expressly for that popular dish. "They bring containers with them when they visit to take it home with them," she said.

A graduate of Midpark High School and Cleveland State University with an undergraduate degree in psychology, Sarapa is what most people would describe as a "people person." "I like the communication. You meet a lot of different types of people as a bartender and server. I like that I have the chance to get to know people. Meals are very intimate for people." She said



Chicken Paprikash is why everyone loves The Club House at the corner of Pearl Road and Kingsdale Boulevard in Parma Heights. They also love server/bartender Dempsey Sarapa.

more than 50-percent of The Club House customers are "regulars." It's a neighborhood thing. "I think we have very loyal customers," Sarapa said. "They are our family."

Bobbi Peshock not only runs the business, but prints all the menus and bakes many of the desserts at home. So what's Sarapa's favorite dish? Surprisingly, it's not the paprikash, although she said she likes it very much. Her favorites are the Lobster Bisque, made with sherry, and "Pasta from Heaven," a menu item that you can customize by picking your favorite pasta and style of sauce. The number one choice for her

isn't on the menu any longer. "Steak Diane," a combination of fettuccini with steak, tomatoes and sherry. That was her go to food. She's one of about 30 employees at the restaurant/bar, and one of six servers. She loves to garden with her significant other, Brian Cuglewski, who works for First Energy Corp. as a process writer. She also loves to travel, having just returned from a few days in Myrtle Beach, SC. A Brook Park native, she now lives in Parma.

Her parents are Sherrie Belsito and David Sarapa, and she has two brothers, Corbin and Jake. Rounding out her family are her cats, Toby, an orange tabby, and Penelope, a full breed Russian Blue. Both are rescue cats.

Sarapa says to be a good server, you have to be a multi-tasker. "Time management is really important." She adds it is important to smile, be engaging and have a genuine personality. "I want to treat people the way I want to be treated," she said. "At the same time, you have to be yourself."

SPOTTED AT THE CLUB HOUSE IN PARMA HEIGHTS – For-

mer Parma Hospital (now University Hospitals Parma Medical Center) Nurse and administrator Gail Swiger and husband, Bill, having a leisurely dinner. The Swiger's maintain a home in North Royalton, but Gail Swiger reports they spend most of their time traveling the country in a recreational vehicle. Since her retirement in 2012, Swiger says they've logged over 140,000 miles of travel. Their next destination? Northern California, where their son is moving, having been working out of the country for several years.

A LONG-TIMER – Did you know that former city council member, police officer and city safety director Richard Rob was recently recognized by the Parma Heights Historical Society for being the longest Parma Heights resident in the community? Rob has resided in our town for 70 years. He lives on Greenbriar Drive.

A NEW ROLE – Colleen Corrigan Day has left her position as Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations at Holy Name High School in Parma Heights and is now the Director of Mission Support and Donor Relations at Regina Health Center in Richfield. Her husband, of course, is Parma City Auditor Brian Day.

ON STAGE AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE – Coming up August 16 – September 1 is Lend Me A Tenor, by Ken Ludwig. Here's a bit about the storyline.

On a very important night for the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, Tito Mirelli, world-famous Italian tenor, is set to perform the starring role in Otello. Henry Saunders - General Manager of the company - is beyond stressed and insists that his assistant,

Read the rest of this article online at [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)

## March Of Dimes Event 7/26/19

by Spencer Majka

Premature birth is one of the biggest causes of death in the United States. The babies that do survive are faced with a lifetime of serious health problems. March of Dimes is an organization that leads the fight for the health of all babies by using research, advocacy, and education to find out why premature births happen. The 6TH Annual Heels & Wheels fundraiser benefiting the Northeast Ohio Division of March of Dimes will be held on Friday, July 26th at the Axelrod Collision Center 4850 Brookpark Road. The past chair of the board for the NE Ohio Division of the March of Dimes Sara Costanzo reached out to Mayor Tim DeGeeter six years ago about this mission. Mayor DeGeeter had this to say about the event and mission, "Anytime our city can help and raise awareness about premature births with the ability to make a difference we feel honored."

Together, community leaders all

over the city of Parma have agreed to help, Barry Axelrod, President of Axelrod Buick GMC. UH Parma Medical Center has contributed numerous sponsorships while others in the community have been thrilled to join and contribute to this great cause. Maureen Kyle of WKYC will be in attendance for the event as an emcee.

At the event, there will be food samplings donated from area businesses like Mr. Chicken and Olive Garden. Guests of the event will have the chance to sample the foods, participate in sideboard raffles, play some putt-putt that is sponsored by Ridgewood Golf Course, and bidding on the silent auction. Mayor Tim DeGeeter is grateful that everyone in the community continues to contribute to this great cause. "Hopefully we are able to continue this event for years to come." March of Dimes will continue to help countless babies by supporting mothers and finding ways to prevent health threats.

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

# Asset Corner #115

by Gene Lovasy

**SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: DELIGHT IN THEIR UNIQUENESS..**  
**July's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME**

Community Connections Matter

Involving children and adolescents in forms of structure is not just a nice thing to do; it's essential. Structure provides the opportunity for personal development and adult connection that augments & extends the effect of family. For those young people w/absent, neglectful, overwhelmed or underskilled families – and there are too many – the power and impact of constructive use of time may be a critical factor in whether they become resilient or are trapped by adversity.

**This column's focus will be on Asset 19 – Religious Community**

**Meeting the needs of the spirit**

Young people involved in a faith community benefit in at least three ways:

1. They are more likely to have positive values;
  2. They have strong bonds with people of different ages and interests; and
  3. They spend less time experimenting with risky behaviors than those not involved in such a community.
- Here are the facts**
- Research shows that young people who spend at least one hour a week involved in activities within a faith-based organization are more likely to: provide service to others, enjoy youth programs, follow and provide positive peer influence, and exercise restraint when it comes to risky behaviors. Providing a place for spiritual growth and exploration could help reduce violence, alcohol and other drug use, and sexual activity among young people.
- Tips for building this asset**
- Faith-based organizations strongly emphasize their ideas of positive values. It's important for parents to choose carefully.

When you find a faith community that supports your family's values, your kids are more likely to internalize these values and make responsible decisions. Visit various faith-based organizations, and include your children in decisions about how and where to be involved. If you're already part of a faith community, welcome new parents and young people into your organization.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Include faith and spirituality into your family's daily life. Choose ways that best fit with your values, traditions, and culture.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Become an active member of a faith community and help promote the well-being of young people in your community.

**In your school or youth program:** Avoid scheduling events that conflict with families' spiritual or cultural commitments. Use a community calendar of events to help with your planning. If your community doesn't have such a calendar, consider creating one.

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

## Police Chief Recognized By NOPEC

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has occurred? You bet. Am I surprised? Not even one little tiny bit. For even the casual observer, it is quite apparent that our police department is a top notch organization, and our tremendous statistics making us one of the safest cities in Ohio and the nation is proof positive that the citizens of Parma enjoy a special relationship with their police department that people in other cities hope and wish they had. Our police officers are part of a highly functioning

department that consistently achieves excellent results with what can only be described as limited resources for a city of 80,000 people, the 7th largest city in Ohio. A good part of the reason for that is the relentless training that is always ongoing, along with the prime effective leadership that is present from the top all the way down. Make no mistake- the performance of our police department here in Parma plays a major role in making our city a desirable place to live. Congratulations Chief Bobak.

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# INSPIRATIONS

## A Conversation With A Classic: Richard Sterban Of The Oak Ridge Boys

by Felicia Naoum

He's a Jersey boy who went country, and while that is unusual, it's not the most compelling part of his story. Richard Sterban took a colossal risk and called it the most important decision he has ever made. He left singing backup for the King of Rock and Roll — Elvis Presley — to join the dual-genre band (country and gospel), the Oak Ridge Boys, a group he was always a big fan of.

Some may say he is the epitome of brave because making any decision can be tough but walking away from a singing gig with Elvis, well, that's up there. Sterban recalls his time with Elvis as very special. He says he was on top of the world singing backup for the King; however, he knew he had other work to do. It seems like leaving Elvis would take more than a leap of faith — I'm thinking five-hundred leaps. Rest easy, Sterban knew what he was doing.

Even though he decided to part ways with Elvis musically, he never chose to abandon music, ever. Music was his do-or-die.

Many were afraid of the singer's big



jump. Sterban, not so much. He trusted his gut. He knew his decision was the right decision, even when the world was telling him otherwise. A 2015 induction into the mecca where country's best live — the Country Music Hall of Fame — for the Oak Ridge Boys confirmed that parting ways with Elvis to join the Oaks was indeed his fate.

"I think time has proven I made a

pretty good decision. It probably culminated when we were inducted in the Country Music Hall of Fame with Elvis, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Hank Williams, etc." The singer calls the induction one he never dreamed of and one that is "beyond words."

Time has also shown us something different than we thought. See, Sterban never really left Elvis. He ended

up right back with him in that hall of fame. Talk about coming full circle.

While it takes fortitude to leave singing backup for Elvis, it also takes fortitude to replace a band member. Sterban was sure he could succeed at both. He never felt like second best being asked to replace a former member of the Oaks when he received the life-changing call from original Oak's member, William Lee Golden, asking him to join the quartet.

"I never really thought about that, to be honest with you. I just thought it was important to go in there and make a place for myself. I did not try to copy what the other bass singer was doing. I just did things my own way. I don't think I was second best."

Sterban may be talented when it comes to singing the songs fans love, but he's also wise and spreads wisdom like he does melodies.

"Music was always the thing for me. If you're going to be successful, you have to make a decision, and then you have to work to accomplish your goal. You have to work every day to make yourself better. You can't be deterred and having something divert your attention from that goal."

Sterban has other interests that he calls hobbies. He does admit that if he didn't succeed at music, he would've dabbled in sports broadcasting, preferably baseball. Music, though, has always been his number one. And, there's something to be said about going after your true passion with full force. Maybe that's the only way we can conquer our dreams, is if we give those dreams our all.

And while he gives his dreams his all, the details of his time with Elvis still piqued my curiosity.

"Being with Elvis was a learning experience for me. I was able to observe Elvis. He was very punctual. He was always on time. We never saw an empty seat when I was working with Elvis. It helped to prepare me with what was to come later in my life."

Perhaps Elvis was Sterban's guardian angel. It's as if the King took Sterban under his wing and set him free so he could sell out the very same seats with the Oak Ridge Boys that he did with Elvis. And he did. And The Oaks did.

Sterban once said his goal was to be in the best vocal group in the world.

"Did you accomplish that goal?"

"I think there's no doubt about it. It's probably difficult to say one group is the best, but when I made that decision, I felt the Oaks had a great deal of potential. I don't even think back then I realized how much potential the Oaks

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A mind that is disciplined and purified is ready for victorious actions. All of us are expected to be a servant in one capacity or another. Because we have a "skinny" belly doesn't mean we don't have a "fat" head. Discipline is absolutely necessary and it is a positive thing. Every generation seems to have to cope with its own unique set of problems and challenges. False teachings (non-Biblical)

lead to violence and cruelty. Eventually, they result in utter destruction.

For the first time in history, factors other than parents have become the dominant influence in child rearing. Hating people is like taking poison and hoping they die. In God's presence we experience love, forgiveness, and acceptance.

Knowledge takes a back seat to love. Learn from the mistakes of oth-

ers; we do not have time to make them all ourselves. Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Life without boundaries is not all that it is cracked up to be. Just ask someone who has been there. Mercy (kindness) is what God grants to believers, even though they do not deserve it. Most people know more about what makes others tick, than they know about themselves. One can be sincere and still be wrong.

The people to be most pitied are those who maintain closed minds. Though we sin, God does not withhold His mercy, pardon, and love. Truth has never been popular with the masses. Truth is absolute or it is not truth. Unrealistic expectations are the source of many of life's disappointments. We need faith and courage to live as God's people and do the work we are called on to do. Whatever we do has everlasting consequences, positive or negative. When someone challenges our Biblical beliefs, we should not give up and we should not give in.

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

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allfaithspantry.org

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

### Divinity Lutheran Church

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www.divinitylutheran.com

### The Islamic Center of Cleveland

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### Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Yang 2020 And The War On Normal People

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Maybe you've seen them on your Facebook news feed or heard about them from a friend. Local Yang Gang chapters are already cropping up all over the country, which include the Cleveland, OH Yang Gang, Parma, OH Yang Gang, and other nearby chapters.

Recently, I had an opportunity to meet up at Tremont's Civilization café with fellow members of the Cleveland, OH Yang Gang, who support 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang. At the meeting, the Cleveland, OH Yang Gang, whose members span the political spectrum, engaged in an energetic discussion about Yang's policies, the looming threat of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, the best ways to best promote his many ideas, and upcoming events to raise awareness about his candidacy to potential voters.

In a crowded field of two dozen Democratic presidential candidates, Yang, founder and CEO of Venture for America and author of The War on Normal People, seems to have distinguished himself in a way few other candidates have. Yang describes himself as the opposite of Donald Trump - an Asian man who likes math - and proposes as his flagship policy a Universal Basic Income (UBI) of \$1,000 per month, \$12,000 a year for every American adult over the age of 18. As it turns out, UBI is very much an American idea and, in one form or another, has found advocates over the years in the likes of Thomas Paine, Richard Nixon, Milton Friedman, Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama.

In a recent interview with MIT Technology Review, Yang explained his focus on UBI, also known as The Freedom Dividend, as such: "The reason why I'm focused on this issue is I'm convinced it's driving the social, economic, and political dysfunction we are seeing. The reason why Donald Trump is our president today is we automated away 4 million manufacturing jobs in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Iowa, all the swing states he needed to win and did win. And everyone who works in technology knows full well we



are about to do the same to millions of retail workers, call center workers, fast food workers, truck drivers, and on and on throughout the economy." In addition his appearances on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News, Yang has also been interviewed on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, Real Time with Bill Maher, The Rubin Report, and The Ben Shapiro Show. Yang's interview on the Joe Rogan YouTube show, drawing over 3 million views, appears to have propelled his candidacy into even greater relevance and has further boosted his name recognition.

While some critics have attempted to equate UBI with socialism, Yang does not see it that way. He recently tweeted, "Some confuse Universal Basic Income with socialism. Socialism is when you nationalize the means of production. UBI is capitalism where income does not start at zero. Rather than spend tax income on bureaucracy it is given directly to people."

Unlike our existing welfare programs, UBI would be simpler and more straightforward. Under Yang's proposal, while there may be some trade-offs when electing UBI, studies have shown that a UBI policy would likely have a positive effect on economic growth. One such study, conducted by the Roosevelt Institute, examined the macroeconomic effect of three UBI plans offering different cash amounts. All three plans produced increased spending power for lower-income Americans. The most generous of the three UBI plans studied (\$1,000 per month), revealed that UBI could potentially grow the economy by \$2.5 trillion.

Local Yang Gang members have found Yang's embrace of UBI to be very appealing. Madeleine Zimmermann of the Cleveland, OH Yang Gang says, "Yang's policies, particularly UBI, couldn't be any more relevant for a community like Cleveland. The city has an economically resilient history, and a policy like UBI would provide the fuel to magnify the impact of the persistence, creativity, and pride already present in our community."

But Yang's candidacy goes well beyond UBI. Whereas many other Democratic candidates have vaguely

indicated what policies they may support, Yang already has over 100 policies identified on his campaign website, Yang2020.com. According to the Democratic Leadership in Iowa, "Mr. Yang has the most detailed and comprehensive set of policy proposals we have ever seen at this stage in the campaign." Yang's three big policies are UBI, Medicare For All, and Human-Centered Capitalism. Other policies include making Election Day a holiday, recognizing data as a property right, expanding access to medical experts, implementing modern time banking, initiating a robo-calling text line to address unwanted calls, and regulating AI and other emerging technologies.

With so many other politicians seemingly stuck in the past offering 20th century solutions for today's problems, Yang's candidacy appears to offer a forward-thinking 21st century approach to bridging the current political divide and the toxic climate of distrust such divisiveness has fostered. In fact, when discussing his candidacy and solutions he proposes, Yang regularly emphasizes that "It's not Left or Right, it's Forward." This has become

**Read the rest of this article online at [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)**



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PERSPECTIVE

When America Was Great

by Lee Kamps

I was very impressed watching the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the D Day Normandy invasion during the Second World War. The courage and dedication of those men as well as the entire country during that war was remarkable. The entire nation was

united in a common cause.

When the men who served in the armed forces returned home from the war, they were determined to go back to a normal life. There was a determination to make a better life for their children and those who followed. In fact, that generation was more focused on public

Lake Erie Bill Of Rights Sold Down The River By Industry And Ohio State Government

by Lucy McKernan

While Northeast Ohioans revel in heady, self-congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Burning of the Cuyahoga River – and all the things we’ve allegedly learned from it – our beautiful Lake Erie is worse than on fire.

It’s about to be sold to corporate interests by a government that can scarcely live up to its claim to “regulate” harm.

The first of its kind in the U.S., a Rights of Nature bill, the Lake Erie Bill of Rights (LEBOR), is now being challenged by animal agribiz with state backing for, get this: the right to dump animal waste into Lake Erie, slated to break records for toxic algal blooms caused and exacerbated by this type of polluting. (Animal agribiz results in more carbon emissions and degradation that excel climate change than industry and transportation combined.)

According to Tish O’Dell, Ohio organizer for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund: “In Toledo, Ohio, 61 percent of voters passed the Lake Erie Bill of Rights (LEBOR). It is the first law in the U.S. that specifically acknowledges the rights of a distinct ecosystem, securing the Lake’s rights to exist, flourish, and naturally evolve.” She adds, “LEBOR subordinates the ‘rights’ of corporations to the rights of people and the Lake . . . “

But after the vote, a judge granted the State of Ohio intervention in a law-

suit brought by an agribusiness farm against LEBOR. O’Dell explains: “The corporate farm and the State of Ohio joined forces against the people to protect Lake Erie by claiming LEBOR ‘illegitimate,’ but they now realize, in fact, that it is their government’s actions that are illegitimate.” O’Dell’s juxtaposing Ohio Attorney General David Yost’s ignorant press statements about “giving Lake Erie the right to sue as nonsense” to her own is spot-on, as she exhorts: “Giving non-living corporate entities the right to sue is legal nonsense.”

Ohio House of Reps’ response to Toledo’s adoption of LEBOR is particularly officious: When the House passed the 2020-2021 budget bill, they snuck in language to ban all existing and future Rights of Nature laws.

At this writing, Ohio Senate is expected to pass the bill by late June. It then goes to Governor DeWine (aka, Mr. Magoo) to be signed into law.

On a related note, if the wind industry – a bandage solution to climate change - has its way here, turbines may be erected offshore Lake Erie, resulting in incalculable migratory bird collisions/deaths along one of North America’s busiest flyways. Avian mortality likely can’t be tracked on water. And the industry already sued Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to keep public records private at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory

service as a great cause. That was evident in the generation of my parents and those who served in public office.

In fact, it was the government, in the form of the G. I. Bill that literally built Parma. My parents bought their house on Theota Avenue in Parma in December 1949 when I was just a little over a year old. That house was a modest Cape Cod bungalow like many others built in Parma and around the country then. It wasn’t very big, but my parents raised three children in that house. We never felt deprived and we felt fortunate to be living in a nice neighborhood with the modern conveniences like television and a refrigerator.

Like my father, just about every father on the block was a war veteran who bought their house using a “G. I. Mortgage” offering low interest rates and little down payment. That was true in just about every neighborhood in Parma as well.

Besides the mortgage, my father took advantage of the G. I. Bill and studied marketing at Western Reserve University so he could leave his job at the post office and work in the world of marketing and advertising. His two brothers, who also bought houses in Parma, used the G. I. Bill and became lawyers. Two uncles on my mother’s side used the G. I. Bill and became engineers.

But most of my neighbors in Parma worked in the auto plants, steel mills and other manufacturing plants in the Cleveland area. It was strong labor unions that made a living wage possible so workers could afford to buy a house in a suburb like Parma and to send their

children to college. The father next door was a local union official.

But everyone then valued education, even if they didn’t use the G. I. Bill to attend college. Most wanted their children to be able to go to college and for many in my high school graduating class who went to college, they were the first in their family to go to college. I don’t remember a school levy being defeated when I was growing up. I felt that I received an excellent education in the Parma schools.

Back then, there was a great system of state supported colleges and universities where anyone could afford to attend college. It was possible for middle class families to afford to pay the tuition at a public college or university. It was also possible for a student to literally work their way through college since most jobs then actually paid enough so a young adult could work and afford to pay their college tuition. When I graduated from college in 1970, the vast majority of my graduating class graduated debt free.

So, what has happened since then? First the state of Ohio provided more than 80% of the operating costs at state supported colleges and universities back in 1970. Now, the state of Ohio provides only about 20% of the operating costs at those colleges and universities. The result has been tuition increases far in excess of the overall cost of living.

Then most of those well paying union jobs have disappeared. In addition, wages and salaries for most jobs have barely kept pace with the cost of living over the past fifty years. During that same period executive compensation has skyrocketed while the tax rates on higher incomes has been slashed to levels not seen since the “Roaring 20s” of almost 100 years ago.

We know what made the country great seventy-five to fifty years ago. We also know what to do to rectify this situation. But our country has lacked the courage and political will to do what is needed. Misguided public policy pushed by elected officials who are in the pockets of wealthy donors have almost destroyed what made the United States great back then.

Perhaps our younger generation might be able to help rectify the situation.

in Northwest Ohio, where bald eagle and other sensitive populations’ mortality are kept secret. The state is a whore.

Yet, O’Dell says, “The state claims to be the ultimate and sole authority that can protect Lake Erie. We see the state using its authority to ‘regulate’ how Lake Erie is used and exploited.”

In environmental legal defense speak, the term “regulate” is key. Governments, including the EPA, regulate harm in order to satisfy special interests -- who actually cause the most harm -- they don’t stop it. Remember

continued on page 10



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IMPRESSIONS

Global Cleveland:  
Inclusivity And The Future Of America

by Davidione Pearl

There is a burgeoning recognition that is emerging again throughout the nation. A force that once heralded the coming of the Industrial Age – fires that would forge and define an era from sea to sea, continuing through to the height of its power on the world stage, cementing what would carve out history and become our legacy as a global leader.

A spirited force that swept America like no other, of which all her many moving parts of innovation and advancement relied; this was the force of America’s newly defined people, the empowerment of welcoming empowerment of her immigrants, and consequently, the empowerment of the United States

as a whole.

Global Cleveland, a non-profit organization focused on regional economic development through attracting international newcomers to employment and social opportunities understands this very intimately, and has steadfastly become the area standard bearer of inclusion and unique ways to foster nations apart from our own.

With a mission geared towards economic development, educational exchange, and cultural enrichment, Global Cleveland seeks to build bridges that stand upon the foundation of a nation’s most precious resource, it’s diverse people, and all that they have to offer – to actively connect with and welcome the skills and talents of recently relo-

cated immigrants from afar, while continuing to cultivate local relationships with existing immigrant communities established long ago.

Headed up by former Cleveland Councilman Joe Cimperman, Global Cleveland understands the importance and core need for inclusion as it relates to the cultural and economic successes of any city.

May 1st – 3rd 2019 marked Global Cleveland’s Inaugural Sister Cities Conference, hosted by the Cleveland Public Library in partnership with The Cleveland Foundation.

In an encouraging intersectionality of promise and heartfelt pride, the conference brought in representatives from six of the twenty-three sister cities worldwide that shared the value and importance of work being accomplished between our cities, an interfaith panel of local Judaic, Islamic, Coptic Orthodox, and Roman Catholic community leaders that spoke to the fundamentals of peace and understanding, as well as panels on immigration, education, and economic development.

The common thread throughout was the significance and urgency of releasing misconceptions and identifying creative ways to close the

gap of marginalization to flourish in a way that fully reflects the truer essence and garden of humanity. To help each other be even greater, and consequently help our communities and ultimately our nations be even greater.

Founded in 2011, Global Cleveland is now poised to pull even further ahead of conventionality with establishing regional models geared towards attracting ever increasing numbers of sister-cities to partner with in pursuit of effective outcome measures, as they relate to immigration and shared prosperity.

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

# News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

More re: Human Trafficking. Raising Awareness. Futures without Violence (<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>) is a nationally recognized resource for information and support for victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse/assault. A recent focus is on workplace harassment...how to recognize gaps in equity, safety, respect, & what to do about it. From their home page above, click on the #CheckYourWorkplace graphic to learn more.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check out this detailed analysis of our area's long-term care scene just released by the Center for Community Solutions. Whether you plan on or currently serve this population, or are trying to understand/figure out options available to you as an individual, this report will go far in helping you navigate & understand the system's complexities. Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/CCS-LTC-RPT>

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

The group's summer schedule is now be down to an activity type meeting just once in July and again in August. Watch for information regarding the summer meetings & plans for the upcoming school year.

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

9th Annual Parma Run – Walk for Pierogies...

Registration for this area's signature, chip timed race at Tri-C's Western Campus is coming down to the wire. Mail entries must be received

by Wed, July 3rd while on-line registrations closes on Friday, July 5th at 9:00 am....on-site registration/check-in starts race day, Saturday July 6th at 7:00 am to 8:15. Visit [www.facebook.com/pierogie5k](http://www.facebook.com/pierogie5k) for more detail.

From Parma City Schools:

Stay informed about the district's academic achievements & activities related to consolidation by attending one of the two Town Hall type meetings scheduled this summer: Wednesday, 6:30 pm, July 17th at the Parma Branch Library and Saturday, 10:00 am, July 27 at the Parma Heights Branch Library. Four similar Town Hall meetings have been set for the coming school year

September will begin another series of meetings where specific ideas/recommendations focused on "right-sizing" the district will be proposed & discussed. The first of these 12 meetings will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday, Sept 3rd at Green Valley Elementary.

Go here <https://www.parmacityschools.org/superintendent> to view schedules, minutes of Superintendent meetings & status of various initiatives.

Mark your calendar now & plan on attending the 3rd Annual PCSD Opening Kick-off on Saturday, August 17th at Byers Field from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Visit: [www.parmacityschools.org/kickoff](http://www.parmacityschools.org/kickoff) for all the details.

If your kids are looking for something to do on a Friday afternoon try "Fun Friday" from 11:30 to 1:00 pm every Friday through August 2nd at Greenbriar M.S. Also available are a host of activities at our local libraries. Check out their entries below.

To find out about free summer lunch programs, i.e.: the schools', libraries & others click here: <http://tinyurl.com/lunchforkids>.

Universal Design for Learning Center plus so much more. This is a particularly resource/feature rich web site, well worth a visit.

From the Parma Area Family Collab:

Though far from completely settled in, the Collab should now, or very shortly, be in its new home....Parkview Elementary, 5210 Loya Pkwy. (immediately south of Parma Sr. H.S. on W.54th St.); their main number remains the

same: 440.887.4873.

Watch your emails & check the Collab's web site for any changes in programming, services, events, classes, etc. <https://familycollaborative.com/>.

From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group:

The County's MyCom initiative

Read the rest of this article online at [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)

## Lake Erie Bill Of Rights Sold Down The River

continued from page 8

ber Toledo's complete loss of water for three days in 2014, caused by lake toxicity? Regulation has worsened it.

Similar hoaxes play out on other Ohio political stages. At the Division of Wildlife, the ginormous issue affecting 96% of the public -- refusal by Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (ODOW) to implement EPA-approved, humane, affordable, and proven effective deer birth control PZP (Zonastat-D) -- is forcing ordinary Ohioans to demand what other Midwestern states have already implemented. ODOW officials claim PZP is "not approved," but they're the ones refusing it, to protect

special interests totaling roughly four percent of the population.

Meandering back to LEBOR: As O'Dell points out, in the Ohio State Constitution: "All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal protection and benefit, and they have the right to alter, reform, or abolish the same, whenever they may deem it necessary."

O'Dell, Ohio organizer for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, urges those interested in the Community Rights Movement in Ohio contact Ohio Community Rights Network and Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

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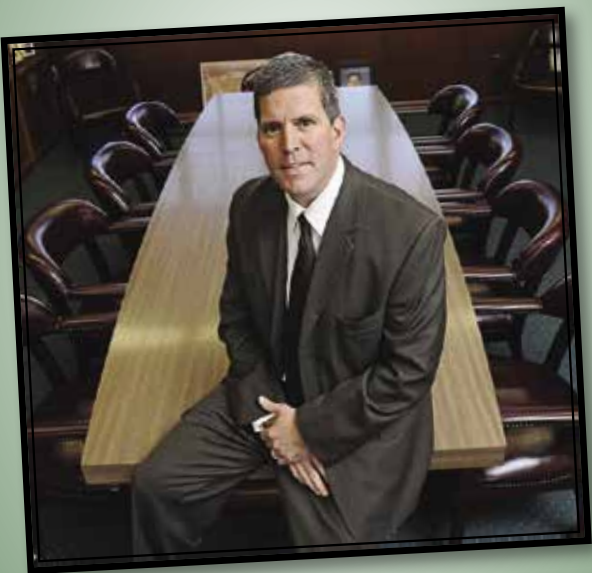
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Go here for a new source of local youth/family activities/events. This calendar is updated almost daily so visit often .... <https://tinyurl.com/kidsummerfun>.

Is a family member on the autism spectrum or has a low incident disability? Is your organization serving (treating/educating, etc.) that population? If so, consider visiting the Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence Disabilities (OCALI) at <https://www.ocali.org/>. Content includes a Family Center, a Center for the Young Child, a Lifespan Transition Center, Teaching Diverse Learners,



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PARMA ART SCENE



Celebrate Summer With The Ultimate Parma Scavenger Hunt

by Kathie Zipp

How well do you know your city? The Young Professionals of Parma is giving you the chance to put your knowledge to the test while having fun discovering Parma with a summer scavenger hunt.

Follow the link to the Google Form at [parmayps.com/events/](http://parmayps.com/events/) to see the list of hints. Then, throughout July drive around the city on your own time snapping photos of the items and places described. Then, simply upload the photos on the

Google Form and submit before July 31.

Provide correct photos for at least ten hints to receive a Parma sticker. Provide correct photos for 20 or more hints to receive a sticker, as well as an entry for a chance to win a gift card to a local restaurant.

Submit one form per person, or team up with friends or family and submit together. Have questions? Email [hello@parmayps.com](mailto:hello@parmayps.com). Most importantly, have fun exploring our great city!

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Congratulations to Bob Pohm, board member of the Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Bob Pohm will appear in a show with Polina Yavorsky at the Beachwood Community Center Art Gallery, located at 25325 Fairmount Blvd., in Beachwood Ohio, in July.

Prama ArtSpace Gallery's "Show Me What You Got" group show, curated by Emma Anderson will run

July 26th to August 16th. Prama is located at 5411 Pearl Rd.

August 3, 2019 Parma Area Fine Arts Council in partnership with Parma Early Childhood PTA will have their annual Sidewalk Chalk Event to coincide with the We Are Parma Proud's Summer Party In The Park. For more information follow Parma Fine Arts on Facebook.

We Are Parma Proud

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government representatives, and individuals. Discussed was the vision for the future, partnership opportunities, and action steps. We Are Parma Proud, Inc. is sponsoring the Parma 4th of July Parade. On August 3, 2019, a family oriented, Parma's Summer Party in the Park is to be held at Anthony Zielenski Park at W Ridgewood Drive.

Many exciting ideas were discussed at the launch party. Tom Mastroianni, City of Parma's Treasurer, will be chairing a committee to create a Welcome to Parma booklet. This booklet will highlight the unique culture and attractions the City of Parma has to offer. It will include a listing of the City's small businesses, recreational and entertainment offerings available only in Parma. The booklet will first be made available during the NFL Draft which will be hosted by the City of Cleveland in 2021. The booklet will also be sent to new homeowners welcoming them into the City of Parma. Volunteers will be needed to work on this massive project. If you are interested in donating your time to a sub-committee, please email We Are Parma Proud at [parmaproud1@gmail.com](mailto:parmaproud1@gmail.com).

During the meeting each attendee was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their visions for the future of the City of Parma. A Parma History book was discussed for launch in time for the City's 200th anniversary celebration. Projects mentioned included; additional City murals, public art, and a holiday light celebration to include additional Christmas decorations. Please keep the momentum up – you may share your ideas with the group by contacting them at [parmaproud1@gmail.com](mailto:parmaproud1@gmail.com).

We Are Parma Proud is selling tee-shirts as a fundraiser. These quality ¾ length sleeve shirts have their new logo on them, created by local design firm All Of Her Design. You will see

them on many of your neighbors as they show their pride in our great city. Tee-shirts can be purchased at Prama ArtSpace Gallery located at 5411 Pearl Road.

As the 7th largest city in Ohio, and the 2nd largest city in Cuyahoga County – Parma has a lot to be proud of. Such as the ethnic shops in Ukrainian Village and Polish Village, Stearns Farm, a 40 acre working farm in the center of Parma, and West Creek Reservation, to name a few. The crime rate in Parma is 52% lower than the national average, and our property values have continued to increase. Parma is a big city with a hometown feel.

Follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook, or email at [parmaproud1@gmail.com](mailto:parmaproud1@gmail.com).



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