



Two meetings at Parma City Hall that addressed the July 5 storm and flash flooding drew large crowds.

by Carolyn Kovach

On July 5, a severe storm impacted the southwest portion of Parma in the afternoon, dumping a massive amount of rain. Local media reported 4.1 inches of rain in less than an hour, and the National Weather Service reported 5.5 inches in some areas. As a result, flash flooding occurred in Parma, Parma Heights, and North Royalton. Some residents reported that their basements flooded for the first time in homes where they have resided for more than 20 years.

"Our drainage system was simply overwhelmed because it could not absorb that amount of rain in such a short time period. We closed 13 roads and dispatched police and fire to reroute traffic and help residents. Our firefighters responded to 15 EMS calls and 38 fire calls during and immediately following the storm. Fortunately, no one was injured," said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

In 45 minutes, the storm caused significant damage and weeks of cleanup. Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works responded to 174 calls from residents regarding storm lines between July 5 and July 8. Service Department employees worked extended hours the evening of the flood and over the following two weeks to pick up flood-damaged property that residents placed on tree lawns.

To help gauge the damage, Parma, Parma Heights, and North Royalton are collecting and logging information regarding all the homes, streets **continued on page 5**



The Parma Heights Fire Department will be an important presence at this year's Kids in the Commons event.

Saturday, August 10 Will Be A Big Day In Parma Heights

by Rick Haase

Celebrate summer with the city of Parma Heights as a new pop-up handmade festival is coming to town. Making its debut from Noon until 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 10, the Big Creek Handmade Fest will feature a handmade artisan/ crafter market in conjunction event for art enthusiasts and families alike and I am very excited that we are hosting this festival in conjunction with our Kids in the Commons," said Mayor Mike Byrne. "This is a great opportunity to enjoy handmade pieces of art created by many talented local artists including members of our own

Ukrainian Village Parade & Festival On Saturday, August 24

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

On August 24th, the Ukrainian Village Committee will hold its 10th annual Ukrainian Independence Day Parade in Parma's Ukrainian Village. The Committee invites all to join them and celebrate this special occasion! The parade procession begins at 11 a.m. on Grantwood Drive, continues north along State Road, and ends at Ukrainian Heritage Park, located across the street from St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral (5720 State Road).

The Grand Marshal this year will be the Very Rev. John R. Nakonachny, pastor at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, who was instrumental in the creation of Parma's Ukrainian Village district. Thanks to his involvement, a productive dialogue was initiated with Parma city officials and Ukrainian Village was formally established in September 2009. Father Nakonachny himself grew up in Taylor, Pennsylvania, and began his spiritual ministry in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He received his Licentiate of Theology (1969) and Bachelor of Divinity (1972) from St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox College in Winnipeg, and Bachelor of Arts



Photo © 2018-2019 Stefan P. Stefaniuk

(1972) from the University of Manitoba. His ordination took place on November 19, 1972, by Metropolitan Mstyslav, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Europe. He served his first liturgy at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension in Maple-

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with the city's annual Kids in the Commons event

This new festival will feature local handmade vendors who will be selling their wares to the public. Ranging from bath and body products, to art, to jewelry, and more, there is literally something for everyone. Families are encouraged to attend.

This year's Big Creek Handmade Fest is launched by locally-owned Avant-Garde Art & Craft Shows. The company currently hosts over 30 artisan/crafter events held year-round in the midwest.

"The Big Creek Handmade Fest is the perfect summer

Greenbrier Art League."

Overflow parking and a shuttle will be available at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road.

You can come to shop for handmade art and crafts, visit with a caricature artist, play with bubbles or climb the rock wall, stop to see paper folding magic, get your face painted, take a souvenir photo with a mermaid, princess or superhero, visit the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, or take a dip at our municipal pool and waterpark.

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



Members of the Parma Senior High School Band showing their Parma pride following the Independence Day parade.

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

Last month I commenced a twoissue column about one of Parma's most notable residents – Ronald M. Mottl. Following years of distinguished elected service on Parma City Council and in the Statehouse in Columbus, the voters rewarded Mr. Mottl's hard work in 1975 by sending him to Washington, D.C. to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. In fact, he served for eight years in the nation's capital.

While in Congress, Representative Mottl made a name for himself as a fiscally responsible Democrat. In fact, throughout his career, he sought creative methods to pay for government services without utilizing taxpayer dollars. For instance, Mottl discovered that billions of dollars in short-term federal government deposits of social security and income taxes placed in banks were not accruing interest. As a result of his investigation, he led the effort to begin requiring banks to pay the U.S. Treasury interest on



these deposits. In fact, he estimated that approximately \$265 million was being left on the table annually from this seeming oversight. According to estimates, the federal government has collected over \$15 billion since the requirement was implemented.

Mottl's list of accomplishments in



Congressman (and former President of Parma City Council) Ronald M. Mottl and current Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at Parma City Hall.

Washington for his district back here is truly commendable. For instance, he spearheaded efforts to ensure that abandoned salt mines under Lake Erie would never be used as storage facilities for nuclear waste. He also worked hard to save NASA Lewis Research Center (now NASA Glenn) and its 3,000 jobs. Further, he fought to prevent the weakening of clean air laws, among many other accomplishments.

Mottl's service to the community did not stop after coming home from Washington. In fact, he served as President of the Board of Education for the Parma City Schools in 1986. While there, his crucial vote was the one that kept Normandy High School from closing. Frustrated with how schools are funded in Ohio, he again ran for and won a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives in 1987. While there he fought to ensure adequate funding for our local schools and schools throughout the state. In fact, he led the effort to place an amendment on the statewide ballot to ensure that all lottery funds would be required to be allocated for education in the state. The measure was subsequently passed overwhelmingly by Ohio's voters.

As an educator myself, I appreciate and can attest that education for all is very important to Congressman Mottl. From experience, he learned the importance of a good education. He fought hard his entire career to ensure that every child in Parma and throughout Ohio received a fair and equitable education, as mandated by our state constitution. No one can argue that he did not just talk the talk, but walked the walk, as his efforts continue to result in tangible gains for Ohio students. While in Columbus for his second stint, he did not rest on his laurels. In fact, he worked with his colleagues to accomplish the following and more while there: *allowing judges to use electronic monitoring house arrest for nonviolent offenders to address prison overcrowding *enhancing the penalty for criminals who use juveniles as lookouts in drug deals or who deal drugs in the

vicinity of children *designating I-77 as the "Vietnam Veterans of America Highway" *procured \$100,000 from Columbus to renovate the Byers Field press box

Congressman Mottl has proudly practiced law for over 58 years. In fact, after leaving Congress he was a partner with longtime Parma Heights Mayor Paul Cassidy at the firm Cassidy and Mottl. He currently practices at Ron Mottl and Associates located at 6650 Pearl Road, Parma Heights. He may be contacted at 216-990-2217.

Today Congressman Mottl lives in North Royalton with his wife Debra. His four children are Ronald, Jr., Ronda, Ron Michael (Mickey), and Amanda Leigh. Truth be told, no one person in Parma's history has served our community in more capacities than Mr. Mottl and for all of that service, including 33 years in elected office, we all owe him our thanks.



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Pooch Party To Benefit Northeast Ohio SPCA

by Stefanie Merkosky

Northeast Ohio SPCA has been a staple in the Parma neighborhood beginning in 2004. Since then, our shelter has helped over 35,000 dogs, cats, and small animals find their forever homes. We believe very strongly that no healthy animal should ever have to be put to sleep due to overcrowding. Unfortunately, not every shelter works this way and nearly 1.5 million animals are euthanized each year due to overcrowding. In our effort to combat this epidemic, we regularly rescue animals from kill shelters by transporting them and caring for them at our NO-KILL shelter until they are able to find their new families.

The work we do is often stinky, messy, and costly, but we love every minute of it! However, with gas prices soaring, transportation has become even more expensive. Some of the animals that arrive at the shelter require extra medical care which often leads to extremely pricey procedures and aftercare.

The caring folks at Mr. B's Irish Pub recognize the constant struggle no-kill animal shelters face and are eager to help Northeast Ohio SPCA out in the best way they know how; by throwing a party! A Pooch Party that is! The Pooch Party will be held on Saturday, August 31st from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Mr. B's Irish Pub located at 6887 W. 130th St. in Parma Heights. Tickets are \$25 and will include a large summertime buffet complete with BBQ chicken, sausage and peppers, pasta, salad, draft beer, wine, well drinks and more! The event will also feature raffle boards, 50/50 raffle, Chinese auction and adoptable pups on site! All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Ohio SPCA.

To learn how you can be a part of this PAWsome fundraiser please call Mr. B's Irish Pub at 440-884-3211 or visit www.northeastohiospca.org.

Parma Run-Walk For Pierogies



The 9th annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies was a great success back on July 6.

Mallory DeTota Rick Haase John Horton Lee Kamps Carolyn Kovach Gene Lovasy Kathryn Mabin Jack P. Marschall Stefanie Merkosky Jeff Nahra Davidione Pearl CJ Sheppard Stefan P. Stefaniuk Daniel Taddeo

Photography

Sean Brennan Mallory DeTota Rick Haase John Horton Carolyn Kovach Stefanie Merkosky Jeff Nahra Stefan P. Stefaniuk

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS Project SEARCH Graduates Seven Student Interns

by Jeff Nahra

On Tuesday, May 28th, seven student interns graduated from the Parma City School District's Project SEARCH Career & Technical Program at our partners University Hospital's Parma Medical Center.

The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, businessled, one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and relevant job-skills training through strategically designed internships.

The goal for each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work

experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching, and continuous feedback from teachers, job coaches, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities are employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs. The presence of a Project SEARCH High School Transition Program can bring about long-term changes in the business culture that have far-reaching



018-19 Project SEARCH Graduates

positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs in which they can be successful.

Worldwide, there are 500 PS High School Transition Sites, the majority in the United States. An estimated 3500 young people with disabilities are being served. Along with a skills trainer, the program provides job skills training and instruction in a program that started here in 2010. Our student interns work for 10 weeks (5 hours per day) in three different departments during the school year. Each intern has completed nearly 800 hours of service to the hospital. Skills they learn here are not just applicable in the health care setting but transfer well into community jobs. They have not only spent time on the job, but they have been in the classroom where they are instructed on how to fill out applications, develop resumes, and display a positive work ethic We talk about the importance of being dependable, honest, well-groomed, and professional at work and how these traits make us valuable to employers. We look forward to welcoming nine new student interns this fall. It will be the 10-year anniversary of the program here at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

August Programs At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

HEART DISEASE AND CALCIUM SCORING TEST INFOR-MATION

Thursday, August 8 - 6 p.m. Interventional Cardiologist Farshad Forouzandeh, MD, Ph.D. will explain the Calcium Scoring test and results. After the presentation, you may schedule a free calcium scoring test at UH Parma Medical Center. Light refreshments provided.

UH Parma Medical Center Auditorium, 7007 Powers Boule-

vard, Parma

To RSVP call – 440-743-4932

IS IT NORMAL MEMORY LOSS OR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

Wednesday, August 14 - 6 p.m. Neurologist Lauren Cameron, MD will explain normal versus abnormal memory loss, provide an overview of the common types of dementia and causes and treatments of dementia.

Light refreshments provided. UH Parma Medical Center Auditorium, 7007 Powers Boule-

vard, Parma

To RSVP call – 440-743-4932



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OBSERVER

State Senator Nickie J. Antonio Applauds State Budget

by Nickie Antonio

Last week in Columbus, I voted yes on House Bill 166, the state's two-year, \$69 billion budget bill. Ultimately, I was pleased to vote in favor of this budget. Some concerns remain, especially regarding education measures that were not sufficiently addressed in this budget, including academic distress commissions, state report cards, and graduation requirements. Overall, this budget makes real investments in our communities. It also shows our commitment to the people of Ohio, as we continue working to make our state the best place for people to choose to live and raise their families.

I helped secure several critical investments in the bill, including:

\$1 million per year for the Cleveland Lead Safe Coalition to reduce lead-poisoning in rental homes across the city



Senator Antonio working in her office at the Statehouse.

Increased money for programs supporting children with severe mental health issues who utilize multiple state services, known as multi-system

youth

Public health initiatives, including resources to curb the opioid epidemic through harm reduction such as syringe exchange services and increased access to Naloxone

Increased funding for our public libraries

Adult protective services initiatives and funding to help vulnerable adults who are unable to protect themselves

Arts and culture funding by increasing money for the Arts Council and continuing the motion picture tax credit which brings business to Ohio

Strengthened initiatives to lower infant mortality through home visit-

ing programs

Expanded wrap-around services for our schools so students can reach their highest potential

The bipartisan budget includes longstanding Democratic priorities. HB 166 increases funding for affordable housing programs through the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. It includes various measures aimed at supporting Ohio's children and families, like additional funding for children's services and home-living programs for low income and elderly Ohioans. It also funds the H2Ohio water quality initiative through the next two years.

Ukrainian Village Parade & Festival On Saturday, August 24

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wood, New Jersey, on December 14, 1972, as the church's pastor, where he continued to serve for 14 years. In 1987, he came to St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, where he has served for over 30 years.

This year's parade will showcase more than 40 marching units. Parade participants will include Ukrainian church communities, Parma area social clubs, local businesses, the mayor and city council representatives, city school officials, police honor guards, Veterans organizations, floats, and more! Spirited musical numbers will be performed by local high school marching bands.

After the parade, at Ukrainian Heritage Park, there will be a flag-raising ceremony celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day.

There will also be a festival at St. Josaphat's astrodome for all to enjoy! Festival admission and parking are free. It begins at noon and will feature a beer garden, authentic Ukrainian cuisine, live music, the Kashtan Dance Ensemble, and the Zorya Ukrainian Female Vocal Ensemble. There will also be games for kids, a petting zoo, hay wagon rides, balloon twisting, face painting, and more!

Questions? Email the Ukrainian Village Committee at ukrainianvillageparade@gmail.com.

Remember to visit Ukrainian-VillageParma.org, Facebook.com/ UkrainianVillage, and Twitter.com/ UkrainianParma to keep up with the latest news in Parma's Ukrainian Village.



Representative Crossman Announces Town

by Mallory DeTota

State Representative Jeff Crossman recently announced a town hall meeting in Parma, to be held on August 19, 2019, to address the State's recently passed budget. All residents are welcome to this free public event.

Ohio passed its two-year, \$70 billion budget after several weeks of negotiating beyond the constitutionally mandated June 30th deadline. Legislators were forced to pass a temporary extension budget on June 30th to allow for last-minute issues with the state's budget to be ironed out. Once the issues were resolved, the Statehouse passed the budget and the Governor signed the bill immediately on July 17th.

With the Statehouse dominated by Republican supermajorities in the House and the Senate, and a Republican Governor, the inability to complete the state's budget involved disagreements among Republican party factions, including how to deal with the controversial "nuclear bailout" for First Energy Solutions (HB6). The bailout bill passed separately and was signed by the Governor on July 23rd. State Rep. Crossman's town hall intends to address the nuclear bailout bill and also highlight some of the items from the budget that will impact residents locally. "For being in the minority party, we had a lot of significant wins in the budget," said Crossman. "We



Representative Crossman Announces Town Hall Meeting In Parma

were able to reverse a lot of the damaging cuts to our local governments, make investments in education, and support mental health recovery efforts for those dealing with the opioid crises. There's a lot there that's going to help a

lot of people."

The town hall will be held at Parma's Snow Road library branch. The event will be held on August 19, 2019, starting at 6:00 p.m.

You can follow Representative Crossman on Facebook @crossmanforohio.com and on Twitter @ jeffacrossman



What inspires You?... Let our devoted staff curate it for you!

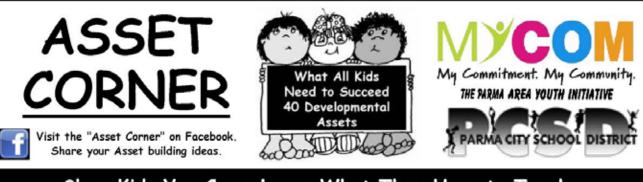


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EDUCATION



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

Asset Corner #116

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: Let Them Make Mistakes. August's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

All work and no play can be boring and stressful

The pace of everyday life varies depending on the activities young people participate in. These fluctuations are normal, even healthy. As long as young people don't consistently have too much to do or not enough to do, they're right on track. Problems arise when the balance begins to tip too far to one side or the other. Too much involvement can lead to stress or anxiety. Too little involvement can be a sign of depression or isolation. Ensure that young people constructively use their time for both fun and learning.

This column's focus will be on... Asset #17 Creative Activities

The arts for fun and learning

Whether it's Mozart or the Rolling Stones, Picasso or graffiti, most people like some type of music or art. Being creative—singing, playing the piano, drawing, or acting—can be fun, and helps young people improve basic and advanced thinking skills. Performing and creating works of art helps young people develop cognition (intellectual comprehension), cultural understanding, communication, and creativity. Learning that's fun and worthwhile what could be better?

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who spend three hours or more a week in music, theater, or other arts are more likely to grow up healthy. Only 21 percent of young people, ages 11–18, do so, according to Search Institute surveys. It's important to help young people find creative outlets that are fun, teach them

about themselves, and provide a way to relieve the stresses of everyday life.

Tips for building this asset

Everyone is an artist in some way. Think of how you may create a new way to surprise someone on her or his birthday, hum along to the radio, dance when you're in a good mood. These small bursts of artistic expression are important ways people communicate individuality. By bringing more art and music into young people's lives, caring adults can help to develop another side of their personalities, talents, and skills.

Also, try this In your home and fa

In your home and family: Play magnet art. Here's how: Visit an art

museum as a family. Have each person walk toward the first painting that catches her or his eye (drawing you to it like a magnet). Let each family member explain what he or she likes about the painting he or she chose.

In your neighborhood and community: Encourage the creative energies of everyone in the community by supporting your local community theater.

In your school or youth program: Integrate music into your regular curriculum or program. Start the day with a bit of classical music, followed at lunch by rock and roll or jazz, and end the day with opera. Discuss everyone's preferences and invite students and participants to help select songs for the next day.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/ character and www.search-institute. org/assets for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go to www.parentfurther.comfor great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities, and ideas.

Parma's William Scheffler Graduates From Power Systems Institute At Tri-C

by John Horton

William Scheffler of Parma has been hired by The Illuminating Company after graduating from its utility worker training program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®). Scheffler was among 24 graduates in the third class since FirstEnergy Corp. reinstituted the award-winning Power Systems Institute (PSI) training program at Tri-C in 2014. The Illuminating Company is a subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

The two-year program combines hands-on utility skills training at an Illuminating Company facility in Brooklyn with technical coursework taught in Tri-C classrooms. Graduates earn an Associate of Technical Studies degree with a focus on electric power utility technology. The program is a partnership between the College and The Illuminating Company that reflects the utility's ongoing efforts to enhance service reliability for Northeast Ohio customers.





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and yards that experienced flooding. The city is asking residents to complete a damage assessment form available on the city's website and Facebook page. Parma, Parma Heights, and North Royalton are collectively applying for state and federal assistance but, according to the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management, the government threshold to qualify for assistance is extremely high.

At two meetings held at City Hall Council Chamber on July 17 and July 24, many residents living in the southwestern neighborhoods of Parma who were flooded attended the meetings. They asked city and county officials what has been done to help mitigate flooding. Collaborating with the Public Works, the city has spent about \$31.5 million on sewer line maintenance and \$8.66 million in flood prevention infrastructure projects over the last seven years. Since 2012, Public Works has responded to 18,600 house service calls and jetted nearly 1.7 million feet of lines. Additionally, the city purchased a \$281,517 broom sweeper to clean streets and a \$475,460 jet vacuum for clearing catch basins. A \$5,000 catch basin repair program allowed the city to repair 150 catch basins on main

streets during 2018. This year, the city is repairing 138 catch basins on secondary neighborhood streets. **What now?**

The city has received millions of dollars each year in local, state and federal grants and low-interest loans to offset expensive infrastructure projects for sanitary and storm sewer line improvements, culvert repairs, bridge upgrades, and headwall replacements and will continue to seek these funds. For example, the city has applied for federal grants to address flooding issues in the areas surrounding Antoinette Cuyahoga Community College

help continue providing safe and reliable electric service for our customers."

FirstEnergy originally introduced the PSI in 2000 to prepare the company's next generation of utility line and substation workers. Programs were established at colleges throughout the company's six-state service area, including Tri-C.

Since the program's inception,

Drive, Regency Drive, West Ridgewood Drive, Judy Drive, York Road, and West Pleasant Valley Road.

"This is a regional problem and fixing a problem in one community can impact another community. The Sewer District's three-year stormwater study, which should be completed at the end of 2019, will show us why we are flooding in areas and help us find solutions," DeGeeter said. "In the past, we completed major projects, such as the Chevrolet Boulevard Detention Basin, to help mitigate flooding. Currently, we are doing a number of smaller projects throughout the city, such as the one at Orchard Park."

DeGeeter said the city was told last

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"Our PSI program develops top-quality, well-educated men and women for the electric utility industry," said Mark A. Jones, regional president of The Illuminating Company. "We look forward to these graduates joining our workforce to FirstEnergy has hired more than 1,900 line and substation personnel who completed PSI programs in Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

For information on the program, visit www.firstenergycorp. com/psi or call 800-829-6801.



INSPIRATIONS

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

As God's representatives, we should make it our goal to influence as many people as possible in a positive direction. Communication evolves in more ways than words. Consider the following: a smile, a greeting, a thought, or a helpful deed. Each one of us hopes for something. Hope gives us the strength to keep going in the face of need, great or small. Hope is essential to life. Even when all our physical needs are met, emotional desires, such as friendships, love, and hope, are great enhancements to life. In this life, what we have, how we look, and what we can do dominates our existence. Externally, no part of who we are is more important that whose we are.

Life is filled with positive experiences that help us make it through the bad times. The ups and downs of life become clearer as we mature. Nurturing surfaces during parenting, caring, and mentoring. Relying on Biblical principles helps distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. Often understanding is a slow process that begins early in life and happens in such ways that we don't even realize we are learning.

Sin is an offense against God's laws. Traditionally, the original Seven Deadly Sins are pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth. Striving to eliminate sinful patterns in our lives is most praiseworthy; however, the ultimate objective is being obedient children of God. We do well to keep the faith during life's journey. Our focus should be on areas of major importance and not quibble over incidental matters. What parents pass on to their children will be passed on to their children, who then will pass it on to children yet unborn. When we allow our anxieties rather than our faith to shape our lives, we tend to act with anger and foolishness. When we become discouraged and find it difficult to be kind and loving towards others, it helps to remember that God is supporting us.

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



by Jack P. Marschall

Where does one start To describe from the heart The haunting sight of bodies on the shore Their loving embrace In such a sad place Their hopes died along with so much more

Politicians rush to blame To them it's just a game Immigration is the dirtiest word in town "Please, share the dream!" We hear countless scream In silence, Valeria and Oscar were found

Tucked under his shirt So she wouldn't be hurt Overtaken by the swift Rio Grande We share the blame We share the shame Won't someone share a loving hand?

Humanitarian Pandemonium Two precious diamonds in the rough A father and daughter Frozen by warm water And we think we have it so tough

The horrific picture The relentless mixture Our planet grows cold without a care The haves and have-nots The gap begins to rot In a world where the rules are unfair

So where do we go? So what do we know? We should rescue one another from harm Valeria and Oscar Are anything but monsters They died helplessly in each other's arms

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Saturday- 54.00 Hookan All Day **Saturday-** 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM **Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio

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

6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360 www.ridgewoodumc.org

St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434 www.Stbridgetparma.com

Holy Family Catholic Church

7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533

www,holyfamparma.org

Parma Christian Church

7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614 www.parmachristianchurch.org



NEIGHBORHOODS

From Pittsburgh To Parma: One YP's Thoughts On Moving To The Flamingo City

by Danny Taylor

"Why would you want to move to Cleveland?" is a question I've been asked in the last year more times than I can count since finding out I was transferring. I've been asked by friends, co-workers, neighbors and even strangers. To be honest, I would have asked myself the same questions 10 years ago.

I grew up in the North Hills outside of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is a city with rust-belt roots and often overcast weather, much like Cleveland. After high school, I first traveled to Ohio to attend Kent State University for college. I studied architecture, enjoyed being able to buy beer at corner gas stations and met my fiancee from Cleveland. After graduating in 2010, I took a job with a construction company. Through the next decade, I lived and worked in several Pennsylvania cities including Pittsburgh, Clarion, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg. I seem to meet people from Pittsburgh everywhere I go, even in places as remote as Iceland. I've always been proud of the passion that people from Pittsburgh have towards their city.

Surprising to most, though, I'm not into sports. Wherever I go, I get the obligatory, "So you must be a Steelers fan?" Most times it accompanies a tone of indignation, but actually not



so much in Cleveland. I also grew up thinking that the pierogi scene in Pittsburgh was unmatched. After my first full fish fry season in Parma, which boasts both a Ukrainian and a Polish Village, I now think differently.

I have met a lot of people from Cleveland, starting with my time at

Kent State. Some of my best friends are from Cleveland. One recently moved to Parma, and my fiancee has lived in Parma her whole life. One thing that is apparent with nearly anyone I've met is their excitement when I say I'm from out of town. Everyone is eager to talk about their city and the things to do and see, but most of all the places to eat. I've learned that if there is ever a lull in a conversation to just say, "So I tried out this place _____ recently," and I know I'll get ten recommendations for similar places all over town.

While I'll always be proud of my hometown of Pittsburgh, I have had a wonderful experience moving to Cleveland, and specifically Parma. I'm thankful to have been introduced to the Young Professionals of Parma who clearly have a great passion for their town. That passion is starting to resonate with me too. This is all to say that I'm very much looking forward to buying a home here and continuing to discover all our city has to offer.

City Of Parma Works To Address Flooding Issues And Seeks Assistance

continued from page 5

year that the federal Community Flood Control Mitigation Program lacked funding. This year, the city is asking again if funding is available.

Additionally, on Aug. 12, city officials will be traveling to Buffalo, N.Y., to meet with the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers. They will be making a presentation about the July 5 flooddamaged area and asking about the section of the city where they have

applied for funds. What can residents do?

Residents who want their sewer lines snaked should contact Public Works at 216-443-8201 and ask about having their lateral storm lines jetted.

If a resident sees that a catch basin is clogged, they should call the City of Parma Service Department at 440-885-8184 and request it to be cleared. **More Information**

To learn more, go to the City of Parma website, click on "Departments"

and select "Service Department" from the dropdown menu. On the Service Department page, residents can read the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works annual reports for the City of Parma from 2013 to 2018. Also on this page, residents can read about "Integrated Planning" (see link in the right blue column).

https://www.facebook.com/ CityofParmaOhio/

http://cityofparma-oh.gov/ en-US/Service-Dept.aspx

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PERSPECTIVE

Remembering A Memorable Summer Fifty Years Ago

by Lee Kamps

I am old enough to clearly remember that memorable summer of 1969. Like Sherman and his dog Peabody from the old Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon show would say, let's go into the way back machine to that summer of 1969.

In the summer of 1969, I was attending the summer session at Kent State University, so I could graduate on time in June 1970 and living in an off-campus apartment that had a nice swimming pool. That was the perfect place to spend a summer as well as study by the pool.

One memorable day was the 4th of July that year. It was a warm and cloudy day that was very humid. During the

day, one could feel that something was brewing with the weather. Then after 7:00 p.m., the storms moved in. We hadn't heard about the storm damage in Cleveland, but the storms were just as bad in Kent. In fact, a tornado was spotted about five miles from the campus. It didn't cause much damage, but I do remember that it never stopped raining all night and into the next day.

But the one thing that caught the attention of the world was the Apollo 11 moon landing. I remember seeing the launch of the astronauts on July 16 and it was four days later that they landed on the moon. I watched on television in my apartment late that night as Neil Armstrong got out of the lunar module and walked on the surface of the moon. It was hard to believe that here it was on live television and men were walking on the moon!

That was on a Sunday night. The next day, Monday, I had a class in astronomy where the professor was an old man who I believed had dementia. Everyone in that class that day was still excited about the moonwalk the previous night. But the professor had no idea about what happened. In fact, he didn't even know that there were men on the moon as he taught that class.

That summer, the war in Vietnam was still all over the headlines. Every day on the evening news there was some story about our troops being in some battle there with men getting killed. There were many protests against the war during the spring. But with the students mostly home for the summer, anti-war protests were minimal that summer. But a few weeks after the moon

landing came another signature event of that era; the Woodstock Music Festival in upstate New York. There were posters all over Kent promoting "three days of peace, love, and rock and roll." The posters featured a lot of the popular musical acts of the day and I knew several students who were planning on attending that event. In fact, one asked me to join him and others. They were going to skip classes on Thursday, Friday and the following Monday and drive to the Catskills of New York for the festival.

But I had some final exams in my summer classes coming up in a couple of weeks and needed to study. I was close to graduation and really needed those courses. Also, the money was a factor since tickets to the event were about \$20, a lot of money for a college kid those days as well as the cost of gas and any lodging on the way.

But when I heard all about the massive crowds there that broke the infrastructure and how there wasn't enough food, water, and toilet facilities, I was glad that I didn't go. That was made clear when I saw that it rained on Saturday, the big day of the event.

The summer wound down with my final exams at the end of August. I returned to the campus in September to begin my senior year at Kent State. The anti-war protests began again in the fall with a large protest march from the campus into the city in October and a large national day of protests in November. Of course, everyone knows what happened at Kent State the following spring.

However, it seemed for me at least that the summer of 1969 was a time of contrasts, of American greatness and of cultural upheaval. For me, perhaps it was the last summer of innocence since I did graduate in June 1970 and lost my deferment from the military draft. I was classified as 1A and eligible for military service. That was another chapter in my life and the subject of another column.

Venezuela: A Nation Rich In TurmOIL

and a series of tutors that would come

and go, until one, Simon Rodriguez

would begin to instill in Bolivar the

seeds of liberal ideals, revolution-

ary thought, and political philosophy.

Philosophies that were quite con-

trary to the far-reaching established

conservative rule extended from the

seat of Spain at the time. The impact

Rodriguez's world view would have

on Bolivar would in short time lead

him to travel across Europe, where he

would find love and return to Venezu-

ela, only to witness the suffering death

of his new bride not long after their

arrival onto his home shores. It was at

this point Bolivar made a vow never

to remarry, and instead began to fully

immerse himself into politics to absorb

time away from mental anguish; it was

also during this time that he received

revelation to unite the whole of South

king of Spain and installed his brother

Joseph on the throne. This sent wide-

spread reverberations throughout

South America, which had already

been growing in extreme discontent of

In 1808, Napoleon deposed the

America away from European Rule.

by Davidione Pearl

To fully comprehend the gravity of the nation of Venezuela and its immense fabric of complexity today, one must at once endeavor first to better understand the lasting effects of its Middle Ages monarchal rule under the crowns of both Spain and the Napoleonic Empire of France.

These two European superpowers would eventually sow the bloody landscape and tone for what would ultimately become one of the singlemost historic economic booms of the Industrial Revolution the western hemisphere would ever come to know among its sovereign nations.

General Simon Bolivar, born into a Spanish descended family of affluence in Caracas Venezuela in 1783, initially possessed dreams not unlike any other boy of regal pedigree that reflected the day - to travel, maintain family wealth and trust, and find love that would bear him children to carry and continue the name.

With both parents deceased long before his teenage years, Bolivar was left in the care of a disinterested uncle



Spanish kings and was now suddenly under the newly acquired power of the French Imperial Crown. South America ignited in revolt. Two years later in 1810, Venezuela declared its independence, beginning the long bloody road of revolution and counter-revolution that would ultimately lead Bolivar to establish La Gran Colombia - a confederation of states that encompassed much of northern South America and southern Central America from 1819-1830, with Caracas, Venezuela serving as its strategic military command.

La Gran Colombia was initially comprised of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama, with New Grenada, Peru, and Upper Peru to follow suit in the years to follow. Upper Peru, in particular, paid a lasting tribute to General Bolivar by renaming itself Bolivia, after his name.

General Bolivar was for a time, dictator of more than half of South America, yet the fame and glory were short-lived, as he squandered the treasury on military expeditions, ignored structural reform proposals, and dismissed new liberal constitutional ideas leading to much decay between Bolivar and the peoples of La Gran Colombia.

In 1829 Venezuela formally seceded away from Gran Colombia and severed all ties with Bolivar. For nearly the next hundred years, the country would then quietly face the natural ebb and flow of political dynamics similar to those of its surrounding nations, reflecting primary parallel exports of coffee, cocoa, and minerals. In 1922 that would however all change forever, with the discovery of rich Venezuelan oil reserves; reserves so plentiful the nation would become increasingly dependent on it as the country's singular resource - a reliance that ultimately came with such magnitude that it severely compromised all other sectors leaving the nation more vulnerable to global energy crises with each passing decade, compromising basic needs like food, water, and medicines. The 1980s saw a dramatic decline in oil prices per barrel, leading to protests continued on page 9

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IMPRESSIONS

Venezuela: A Nation Rich In TurmOIL

continued from pahe 8

giving rise to Hugo Chavez, a charismatic leader of leftist social reform. Chavez initiated popular social services for the poor by sustaining sizable increases in oil prices per barrel, turning away from U.S interests in favor of agreements with Russia, China, and Cuba of which was in the throes of a U.S sanctioned oil embargo, worsening relations between Venezuela and the United States.

In 2002 Chavez embarked on a wave of nationalizations expropriat-



ing banks and land thus gutting the private sector. He further nationalized heavy state assets, electricity, oil, telecommunications, all cement companies, finally, he bought Banco de Venezuela from the Spanish-based bank Santander. Venezuela, in turn, reached the critical point of importing most of its goods, leading to the decay of the country's production capacity.

Instead of reforming ministries, Chavez created a model of 'parallel institutions' and structures – extreme levels of bureaucracy and duplication of responsibility dependent on foreign borrowing against oil reserves futures without thought of establishing a sovereign wealth fund in the event of a downward trajectory, as oil prices are cyclical.

By 2012 oil accounted for 95% of all of Venezuela's exports - it was a single export country, shouldered only by \$100 per barrel rates sustained from 2005, up from \$7-\$9 per barrel rates at the time Chavez secured office in 1998. As Chavez's health soon declined, so did that of the nation's economy. In March of 2013, Chavez succumbed to cancer, leaving Nicolas Maduro to lead the struggling nation out of 150 billion dollars in foreign debt and navigate around U.S sanctions that made it nearly impossible to renegotiate with bondholders to roll over the debt from 2013 to today.

To date, Venezuela has reached 13,000 % inflation making it the largest recession in the western hemisphere - nearly twice as large as the Great Depression, and the resulting impact has been one of widespread state-sponsored violence against protestors - two of whom I will refer to as Alex and Mateo, when interviewed in Colombia they recounted protest stories to me of being shot in the leg, and the other witnessed his best friend being dragged out from hiding under a car and executed in front of him by "Los Colectivos", armed militias largely comprised of hardened criminals exonerated and released from prison under order of Maduro to exact the will of the police-state onto the people by any means necessary...

Venezuela is a nation that has endured significant challenges and trials at every turn of its infancy and adolescence. Once proudly proclaiming the most pristine beaches, waterfalls, and gemology across the globe, we will come to know the truer beauty that is Venezuela and her people at a time soon again.

The only question that remains, is how you may help her people here, that they may, in turn, help those abroad in their plight.



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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

Understanding the long-term impacts on HT survivors' ability to access and maintain safe and well-paid employment opportunities is key to their successful placement and ultimate recovery. "Future Without Violence" has made available a copy of their Jun. 26th webinar: Human Trafficking and Its Impact Employment. It offers, among other things, insight into the unique types of education and employment-related challenges that survivors of human trafficking may face after they are no longer in the trafficking situation. If you're in a position that may require you to counsel an HT survivor, or would just like to learn more about this issue, then this webinar is for you. www.futureswithoutviolence. org/htemploymentimpacts

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

• Pending the return of the regular school year schedule the PACT Youth Group will be generously donating their time to help out at the "Kids in the Commons" community day event on Aug. 10th and the St. John Bosco Fair Aug. 15th to 18th.

• For announcements and detailed information visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parmaheights. police; email: pactunit@gmail.com; phone: 440-884-1235.

• "Kids in the Commons," the Annual Community Days event at Greenbriar Commons in Parma Heights, is taking place from Noon to 5 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 10th and is looking for teen volunteers. If you need service hours or would just like to help out

LAW OFFICE OF KELLY M. ZACHARIAS

call Erin in the Mayor's office at 440-884-9604 or email at: mayorsoffice@ parmaheightsoh.gov

• If you're looking for things to do with your babies, toddler(s), or preschooler(s) up to age 5, visit: www. cuyahogakids.org, a recently launched, family-friendly, mobile-friendly website showing activities at locations within a certain radius or anywhere in the county. You can look for events or activities or even childcare. If you're an organization providing service to that youth cohort I'd encourage you to visit the site to make your organization and/or program is listed.

• Go here: www.search-institute. org/blog/providing-support-to-middle-school-or-high-school-parents to learn how to help your child in their transition to middle or high school. The focus is on how families can use Search Institute's Developmental Relationship Framework to help in this transition. The Developmental Relationship Framework is SI's next evolutionary step picking up where the Developmental Assets Framework has left off. I would highly recommend a visit to this link.

From Parma City Schools:

• Go here: www.parmacityschools. org/superintendent to view the Superintendent's Town Hall and Consolidation meeting schedules, minutes and status of various other district initiatives.

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

• Mark your calendar now and plan on attending the 3rd Annual

PCSD Opening Kickoff on Sat., Aug. 17th at Byers Field from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visit: www.parmacityschools.org/ kickoff for all the details.

• Save the Date.... The ever-popular "Touch A Truck-PARMA" is coming up on Sat., Aug. 24th from Noon to 4 p.m. at Shoppes At Parma. Check out all the details at: tinyurl. com/Parma-Truck group work with and/or support challenged kids. www.wags4kids.org

• "Annual 2019 Cheers to Camp Cheerful" - 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 21st. This is the Achievement Center for Children's signature fundraiser supporting programs and services taking place year-around at Camp Cheerful (on Royalton Rd just east of the I-71 Rt 82 interchange). Click here: campcheerful.achievementcenters.org to learn more about what's available. To buy tickets or otherwise support the fundraiser click the purple banner on top of the displayed page.

From the Parma Area Family Collab:

• The relocation of the Collab from Hanna to their new home at Parkview Elementary, 5210 Loya Pkwy. (immediately south of Parma Sr. H.S. on W.54th St.) is now complete.

• the annual distribution of backpacks/school supplies....will take place this year at various community events, to include Parma Proud's "Picnic in the Park" from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sat. Aug. 3rd at Zielinski Park, 7660 W. Ridgewood, Parma Hts "Kids in the Commons" at the Greenbriar complex on Sat., Aug. 10th and the district's Opening Day Kick-off on Aug. 17th at Byers Field. Registration will be required at each event - first come/first served.

• "Parenting Partners", this popular 8 week class for good parents looking for ways to become great parents is being offered again beginning Aug. 13th. Classes are every Tuesday from 3 to 4 p.m. - FREE childcare is available. Call the Collab at 440-887-4873 for information and/or to register.

• The Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 8th. Please check their web site to confirm its location.

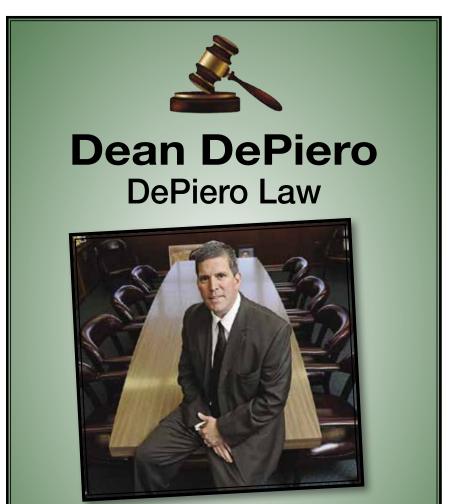
• Be sure to check their web site (www.familycollaborative.com) for any additional and/or changes in programs/services, etc.

From our Tri-City MyCom Youth Group:

• Our local Tri-City MyCom initiative has undergone an organizational restructuring which, among other things, has seen Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) taking over from Ohio Guidestone as the lead agency. IN THIS REGARD....

• Jen Martinez has recently joined CCPL as the Parma/Parma Heights MyCom Coordinator. As such, she will be networking with local organizations, schools, community partners and youth groups to help facilitate communication amongst all of the wonderful resources that our area has to offer. MyCom's objective is to expose our youth to a variety of activities and connect them to a network of caring and committed adults. Jen will be out in the community meeting with existing organizations to learn what services they offer, how they can be communicated to our youth and their families, and collecting feedback outlining gaps in service that the community would like to see filled. If there

See the entire list at: parmaobserver.com



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• Just came across an interesting, somewhat local youth support non-profit call WAGS4KIDS or Working Animals Giving Service for Kids. Their web site is worth a visit particularly if you or your

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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Watercolor For Beginners Age 55+

Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) was awarded a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) for 2019. This matching grant allows them to offer some FREE classes. This session, Watercolors For Beginners Age 55+ will be offered on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., beginning September 4th and running until October 23, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W Ridgewood Drive. Students will learn the basics and some shortcuts in creating watercolor paintings. This session runs for 8 weeks. A \$16 supply fee will be collected at the first class. Students will be given paints, brushes, paper, and other supplies to take home and practice with during the week between classes. The instructor, Emery Bogardy, is the resident watercolor instructor for PAFAC, and has also taught continuing education classes for the Parma City School District. You can view his work at www.bogardyart.com. This is a great opportunity to learn a new hobby without the outlay of a huge supply cost. To register for this class or for more information email kathrynmabin@att.net.

Prama Artspace Gallery – Show Me

What You Got

Prama Artspace Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd in Parma, Ohio currently has an exhibit of emerging artists, titled SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT. This exhibition showcases the creative works of 30 Northeast Ohio artists in various mediums and is one not to miss. This exhibit continues until August 18, 2019. Prama also operates a small boutique within the gallery, in addition to the exhibitions. It's the place to purchase those We Are Parma Proud shirts for only \$15. Stop in and browse.

Cleveland Photo Fest

The Cleveland Photo Fest, a nonprofit, was established in 2019 as an annual event for the benefit of the Greater Clevelanders who support photography as fine art. It's the brainchild of Laura D'Alessandro, a fine art photographer, writer and educator, Jim Szudy, a photographer who also does web design, social media and marketing, and Herbert Ascherman Jr., an international photographer, lecturer, teacher, and historian. There is a tremendous outpouring of support for this event throughout the arts community. To date, they are sponsoring 19 exhibitions in 13 venues and promoting more than a dozen other photographic exhibits and programs.

The first morning I helped Stanley down the stairs, the third step creaked. That's when I found

These events will run from August through November. Prama Artspace Gallery was honored to be involved from the beginning. The TAKE A GOOD LOOK/Brush High School Student Exhibition will open August

Saturday, August 10 Will Be A Big Day In Parma Heights

continued from page 1

At 9 p.m. August 10, you can round out your day of fun with a family movie night as "Mary Poppins Returns" is presented. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

All these family-friendly activities are with the help and support of numerous community partners, including the Cuyahoga County Public Library - Parma Heights branch, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Parma Heights Garden Club, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, the Cleveland Water Department, NOPEC, the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, the Parma Heights Food Pantry, Seek Ye First Ministries, the Parma Area Family Collaborative, the Parma Heights Historical Society, MyCom, the Valley Forge High School Athletic and Music Boosters, and the Parma Heights Police and Fire Departments.

Sponsors of the Kids in the Commons event are NOPEC, Parma WalMart, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, My.Com, Akron-Cleveland Area Realtors and the Parma Heights Historical Society with Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus.

15TH ANNUAL ST. JOHN BOSCO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The 15th annual St. John Bosco Parish International Festival will 24, 2019, at Prama Artspace Gallery located at 5411 Pearl Rd. For more information on the Cleveland Photo Fest or locations of other exhibitions visit www.clevelandphotofest.org.

take place Thursday through Sunday, August 15 through 18 on the parish grounds, 6480 Pearl Road, with support from the Home Family Italian Club, next door at 6450 Pearl Road.

The four-day event will include a spectacular fireworks display on Friday evening August 16 at dusk, by "Lite the Nite Pyrotechnics," sponsored by Joe and Sheila Kavalec and Jim and Cathy Kavalec.

There will also be games of chance, ethnic foods, kiddie, and adult rides and a \$10,000 grand prize raffle at 9 p.m. Sunday, August 18.

Bluestone Union will entertain from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, August 15.

Cavalieri Reale will be on stage from 7:30 until 10 p.m. Friday, August 16.

On Saturday, August 17, The Soul Men, a Blues Brothers Tribute Band will perform from 7-10 p.m., and Sunday, August 18 will feature two different bands. New Barleycorn will play from 2-5 p.m. and Shout! From 6:30 until 9 p.m.

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

A free Yoga in the Park class will be held at the Gazebo in Greenbrier Commons at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays August 3 and September 7. The community is invited.

See the entire list at: parmaobserver.com



out his wife, Martha always told him to fix it. And now he's just glad he never did, because that's home. I love hearing Stanley's stories about home. And now I get to be a part of them.

Maddie

- Maddie G. Stanley's CAREGiver



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