

“We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer’s wreckage. We will welcome summer’s ghost”- Henry Rollins

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Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter greets Ukraine Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly in Parma's Ukrainian Village on August 24

Ukraine Ambassador To The United States Visits Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Saturday, August 24th was a spectacularly beautiful day for a parade in Parma's Ukrainian Village to celebrate Ukrainian independence, just as it was 10 years ago in the Fall of 2009 when the Ukrainian Village neighborhood was dedicated. We were there back then to cover the event for the very first issue of the Parma Observer, so

I feel a personal connection, as Ukrainian Village and the Parma Observer have grown together. The success of this neighborhood in Parma since 2009 is more than obvious, and I am proud to live in a city where dedicated people like those in Ukrainian Village demonstrate their ability to create such an attractive district.

Impressive indeed, and the former Ukraine Ambassador

to the United States, Valeriy Chaly, thought so too as he visited Parma, Ohio, to march in the parade. He served as Ambassador from July 2015 to July 2019. All citizens of Parma should be honored that someone this important finds a neighborhood in our city to be so significant. His appearance is a sign that Ukrainian Village is a vibrant and dynamic place worth living in and supporting. No wonder so many other places have tried to duplicate what is being done here. As the old saying goes, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

UH Parma Medical Center Announces Plans To Consolidate Delivery And Expand Women's And Children's Services

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center is shifting its focus from delivering babies to enhancing services that care for women and children throughout their lives. The hospital is expanding women's services and UH Rainbow pediatric services as it transitions labor and delivery to other UH locations.

The hospital that was built in response to the exploding birth rate in the southwest suburbs during the Baby Boom of the early 1960s saw only 262 births last year and is on track for fewer than 200 this year.

“A couple hundred births per year is not enough to sustain operations and continue

the high standards of care we demand of ourselves and that our patients deserve,” says Brian Monter, President of UH Parma Medical Center.

The consolidation of delivery services follows the regional trend of a steadily dropping birth rate in Cuyahoga County. UH patients will still have many options for childbirth services, including UH MacDonald Women's Hospital in Cleveland, UH St. John Medical Center in Westlake, UH Elyria Medical Center in Elyria, and Southwest General Health Center in Middleburg Heights.

The rest of this story is online at: parmaobserver.com

Parma Schools Seeks Public Input For Strategic Consolidation Plans

by Charles Smialek

Parma City School District Board Members and Administrators discussed during an August 15 meeting the next steps of the district's Strategic Consolidation process.

This fall's plans include again soliciting input from community members to help the Board make an informed decision about the future of their facilities.

Similar to the meetings that occurred this spring, district leaders and representatives from GPD Group, an architectural firm advising the district throughout this process, will seek input in Town Hall-style sessions designed to both educate residents and solicit their opinions.

This fall, residents will provide their reactions to specific options for the Parma City Schools campuses of the future. GPD Group and Parma schools' leaders analyzed survey data and feedback from the spring's meetings to determine the options most likely to gain consensus support. These are the options:

- Elementary Schools (Pre-K through 5th Grade)
- Option A: Six schools
- Option B: Seven schools
- Option C: Eight schools
- Secondary Schools (6th through 12th grade)
- Option A: One high school



(9-12), two middle schools (6-8)

Option B: Three secondary campuses, each with one 6-8 school and one 9-12 school

Option C: Two secondary campuses, each with one 6-8 school and one 9-12 school and a separate campus for Career Technical Education and other district functions

Community members will now be able to share their perspectives about the best possible models of and locations for schools.

Board President John Schweitzer explained, “The idea all along has been to consolidate the number of campuses that we operate. In each of the secondary models that we are weighing, we will be able to reduce the number of campuses we operate from six to three. On the other hand, we know from our surveys and

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



Parma Area Chamber of Commerce Business Advisory Board Members (L to R) Connie Bruno, Gary Sikon, Dottie Wenger, Sharon O. Williams, Katie Kolthoff, and Jackie Bolden showing their community pride.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

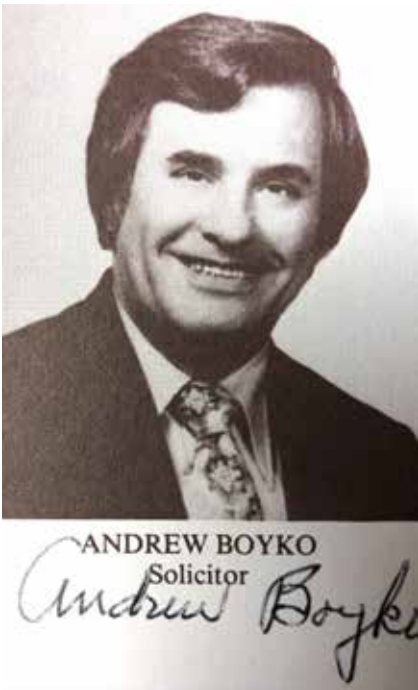
Some of you who have read this column and followed me over the years may recall my story of growing up. My dad left us when I was around nine years old. As a result, my single mother – God rest her blessed soul - lost the house and worked at May Company for slave wages and struggled to raise my sister and me. So, when it came time for me to go to college, luckily I was awarded some academic scholarships and was eligible for financial need scholarships, as well, including the federal Pell Grant. Let’s just say that I would not be where I am today without the help of Uncle Sam (U.S.) and other generous folks when things were rough.

When I joined Parma City Council back in 2004, I soon met with Law Director Timothy Dobeck and, then mayor, Dean DePiero to assist me with putting together a non-profit to provide scholarships to Parma students wishing to attend college. As a result, the City of Parma Andrew Boyko



Scholarship Fund was born. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization (not funded with any taxpayer dollars), it has so far given out well over \$100,000 among nearly 50 students.

The Foundation honors the service of Andrew Boyko, who served the City of Parma for over 30 years as municipal



judge, law director and in many other capacities. Judge Boyko was a Parma resident whose accomplishments stand testament to the importance of education in one’s life. Many public officials, residents, and businesses have given generously to make the scholarships available.

The Scholarship Fund is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors from the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education. In a blind fashion, a scholarship selection committee made up of members of the community take into consideration each applicant’s financial need, special circumstances, character, scholastic record, involvement in community service, and commitment to the City of Parma. One of the scholarships is designated for the applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service.

Since its inception, the Foundation Board of Trustees has included Attorney Timothy Boyko, Dr. Jeffrey Boyko, former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck and, myself, Parma City Council President Sean Brennan.

The Foundation will award a total of \$7,500 in scholarships in 2020. The Selection Committee will award three to five scholarships, with a minimum award of \$1,500 for each scholarship. To be eligible for the scholarship one must be a resident of the City of Parma, a United States Citizen, and a high school senior or equivalent.

The hope of the Board of Trustees is to raise enough funds to sustain the organization well into the future.

string bags were also given away. Many tables also had raffles.

Thank you to all who came and all of the organizations that participated.

We Are Parma Proud is currently in the planning stages for a Christmas holiday event, and are working on creating a Welcome To Parma booklet, which would list entertainment and shopping options in our city. If you are interested in joining this new nonprofit, or want to participate in an upcoming event, follow on Facebook at We Are Parma Proud, or email parmaproud1@gmail.com.

Therefore, we have planned a fundraiser on Tuesday, September 24 at the Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation in the Watershed Stewardship Center from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Our keynote speaker will be Brian Zimmerman, CEO of the Cleveland Metroparks. Hors D’oeuvres, beer, and wine will be served at the most beautiful venue in Parma. If you would like to come to the event, would like to donate, are interested in including the Scholarship Fund in your will, or you are a student wishing more information or an application please feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or email me at councilmanbrennan@msn.com.

On a side note, please contact U.S. Representatives Anthony Gonzalez and Marcy Kaptur, as well as U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman to encourage them to support legislation that helps kids afford college - it’s a good investment in our city’s, county’s, state’s and nation’s future.



Picnic In The Park A Huge Success

by Kathryn Mabin

On Saturday, August 3, 2019, a beautiful summer day with blue skies, no rain in sight and temps in the 70’s, We Are Parma Proud, Parma’s newest non-profit, hosted their inaugural event, a Picnic in the Park. It was held at Anthony Zielinski Park nestled by the Splash Pad, Parma Script Sign and Ridgewood Lake. As an inaugural event it was a huge success. They expected about 200 to attend and realized over 500.

The event kicked off at 1 PM with the Joseph J. Jacabucic Post #572, American Legion’s Honor Guard, presentation of colors, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The event was reminiscent of a family oriented, small town picnic. Children laughed and played. Adults strolled the grounds and listened to the live music provided by Tequila

Wagon, stopping to lunch at the various food trucks parked along the way. There were organized games for adults and children, plus a magician strolling around performing magic tricks. Face-painting too. We Are Parma Proud had their official logo shirts and peanuts for sale. They raffled off a rolling flamingo themed cooler filled with goodies.

Parma nonprofit organizations were invited to join the event. Many participated, such as Rise In Love/Pantry at All Saints, Ridgewood Garden Club, Parma Area Family Collaborative, Parma Animal Shelter, Parma Alumni Association, Partners In Education, Parma City School Foundation, PSE Credit Union, PECPTA, Parma Fine Arts Council, and Parma Constellation Schools. Many children received backpacks filled with school supplies. Sidewalk chalk, and

Don't Miss Ken Fest '19 On September 29

by Dale Powell

Legends at 8735 Day Drive in Parma will host Ken Fest '19, a benefit for Allison O'Donnell's Father, on September 29 from 3 to 8 P.M. \$10 includes entrance and buffet, with a cash bar. Almost Famous and That 70's Band will play throughout the day, with other entertainment to be presented. There will be a 50/50 raffle, and more. Please come and show much needed support.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Expanding, Enhancing Hospice And Palliative Care For Parma And Southwest Suburbs

by CJ Sheppard

With patient-centered care, innovation and enhancement as central principles, University Hospitals is re-envisioning and expanding end-of-life care for patients and families across Northeast Ohio.

In January, UH entered into a joint venture with Hospice of the Western Reserve to increase early access to quality hospice and palliative care for more families across Northeast Ohio. Hospice and palliative care services have increased by 300 percent across the health system under this new partnership.

UH is now transitioning Seasons of Life, the Parma-based hospice, into this contemporary, forward-looking model. Hospice of the Western Reserve at University Hospitals will begin providing outpatient hospice and palliative care, and UH will establish a new inpatient hospice unit within UH Parma Medical Center that replaces the current Seasons of Life hospice facility at 9511 W Pleasant Valley Rd. The space at UH Parma will be renovated to create a comfortable and supportive environment where the name, promise and spirit of Seasons of Life will continue.

While the residential hospice facility that opened in 2001 will no longer be operated as a hospice, UH is exploring new ways to use the building to enhance local health care services. Plans are in development to create a

garden on the UH Parma campus. “UH Parma Medical Center serves a vital role as the leading provider of quality health care to meet the needs of our patients in Parma and surrounding communities,” said Eric Beck, DO, MPH, President, UH Ventures. “We expect this transition in hospice opera-

tions to be seamless for our patients and families. We are continually working to align our medical resources and capabilities with the changing needs of the communities we serve.”

UH Parma Medical Center has made numerous investments in the hospital and its services in recent years, most promi-

nently the \$27.5 million construction and renovation of surgical infrastructure that began earlier this year. UH Parma also has received Five Stars for quality, safety and patient experience from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for two consecutive years and an “A” safety grade this spring from the Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit group committed to quality health care.

Longtime Parma Nurse Named Chief Nursing Officer At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

Kim Monaco, BSN, RN, a longtime nursing leader at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, has been named its new Chief Nursing Officer.

Monaco has managed Surgical Services and the Emergency Department, separately and simultaneously, over the past 15 years. She was twice tapped to serve as interim Chief Nursing Officer. In the 13 years before transitioning to management in 2004, Monaco worked as a nurse in multiple areas of the hospital, including the Intensive Care Unit, Home Health Care, Emergency Department and Surgery.

“A 28-year member of the UH Parma Medical Center family, Kim has proven her versatility, dedication and responsive leadership by running multiple critical care departments and being closely involved in daily operations,” said President Brian Monter. “She has the confidence and respect of

our nurses and the knowledge to step right into this important role.”

Monaco has a bachelor of science in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University and completed the UH Leadership Advancement Program. A resident of Parma since she was 6 months old, Kim is active in St. Matthias Parish and has volunteered for many years with the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation. The married mother of three has four grandchildren and another one on the way.

“Our nurses are at the forefront of our patients’ care, safety and satisfaction, which leads to their experience at UH Parma Medical Center,” Monaco said. “I am honored and humbled to have been given this opportunity, recognizing that together with our elite executive team, providers, nurse managers and our ancillary leaders we can exceed our patients’ expectations. I am very excited for what is to come as we



Kim Monaco, BSN, RN, is the new Chief Nursing Officer of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

do our part to carry out the mission, vision and values of the University Hospitals health system here in the communities that we serve.”

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OBSERVER

Representative Crossman’s Town Hall Identifies Wins For Parma In State Budget

by Mallory DeTota

Parma got its turn on the “Ohio Promise” tour recently, as State Representative Jeffrey Crossman conducted a Town Hall event at the Parma Library on Snow Road. The Ohio Promise tour this summer, led by Democratic legislators from the Ohio House of Representatives, has focused on explaining the legislative wins from the state’s \$70 Billion biennium budget for Ohio House Districts like Parma.

“Our Ohio Promise tour is about explaining how we’re focused on legislation that will return Ohio to an opportunity state. People used to come to Ohio and retire here because of the opportunities that existed for better jobs, for example, and that’s what we’re focused on rebuilding” said Crossman. Rep. Crossman presented an entire slate of legislation that had recently passed the Ohio House targeted at reducing the cost of college education, obtaining good paying jobs in newly certified fields, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for seniors among other bills.

Rep. Crossman also focused his presentation on the state’s two-year budget, which included other wins for the area, such as an increase of an estimated \$3.2 Million in additional funding for rebuilding Parma’s roads and other infrastructure projects. “We were able to reverse the Columbus cuts to Local Government Funding and increase it a bit to ensure that cities like Parma have enough money to fund things like police and fire departments.” During the 8 years of the Kasich administration, the Governor forced cities across the state to find ways to increase revenues, by forcing local income tax increases for example, as the state imposed severe budget cuts on cities to fix its own budget. “The Local Government Fund consists of local tax dollars collected by the state that belong here in the community—not in Columbus” said Rep. Crossman.

During the open question and period, residents asked about details on the passage of the State’s “Nuclear Bailout” bill (House Bill 6) and inquired



on what the state legislature will do to address mass shooting incidents. According to Rep. Crossman, who opposed the nuclear bailout legislation, the bill is “a bad deal for Ohio.” “Not only did the state choose to invest in outdated technology, First Energy Solutions did not open their books to verify whether there was actually a need for the \$165 Million a year that the state will be paying indefinitely. From the evidence presented, it appeared that these plants are already profitable and they didn’t need taxpayer money.” As for gun control legislation, Rep. Crossman applauded the Governor for taking the lead, but also pointed out that there were several bills introduced before the recent shooting incident in Dayton. “If you want your opinion heard on these bills, contact my office, but also contact the chairman of the committee where

these bills are pending. They decide whether these bills even get hearings, but I agree that it’s long past time to have a conversation on these bills.”

Rep. Crossman also announced a series of open office hours beginning Saturday, September 7 at the Parma Library and encouraged constituents to meet with him to address issues of concern to them. “I appreciate the feedback and often the best ideas come from the people that are most directly impacted by the issues—they’ve typically thought about these issues a long time before I hear from them.” An appointment is recommended for these office hours, which can be scheduled by contacting the Representative via email at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov, by telephone at (614) 466-3485, or via Facebook @ crossmanforohio.



Academic Awards: Local Students Receive Tri-C Honors Program Fellowships

by John Horton

Eight students from Parma Observer communities have been selected for Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Honors Program Fellowships, which offer high-achieving students scholarships to cover tuition, fees and books as they work toward an associate degree.

Scholarship recipients include Natalya Montemarano, Diana Puts, Zoryana Puts, Ashley Stec and Kathryn Yutzy of Parma; Megan Kiewel and Colin Long of Parma Heights; and Brianna Bretz of Seven Hills.

The students signed commitment letters with the College during an Aug. 7 ceremony at Tri-C’s Jerry Sue Thornton Center in Cleveland. Each scholarship — funded by donors to the

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation — is valued at up to \$5,160 per academic year.

The College’s sixth fellowship class features 40 students who graduated high school with at least a 3.5 GPA and outstanding ACT/SAT scores. By entering the scholarship program, they commit to being full-time students, maintaining a high GPA and earning a degree from Tri-C within two years.

These gifted students chose Tri-C to begin their college journey,” said Herbert Mausser, the College’s director of Honors and Scholars Programs. “I look forward to seeing them cross the commencement stage to collect their degrees in the spring of 2021.”

The rest of this story is online at: parmaobserver.com

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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #117

by Gene Lovasy

Show Kids You Care: Notice When They Grow. September's Asset Category: Commitment To Learning. Education has improved immensely in the past 20 years. Today, more young people are taking high-level courses, fewer of them are dropping out, math and science scores are on the rise, and more students are entering college after high school. But that doesn't mean a commitment to learning happens naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one's own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers. This column's focus will be on.....Asset #24 – Bonding to School

Finding a connection with school
Why do some kids drop out of

Parma Schools Seeks Public Input For Strategic Consolidation Plans

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meetings that neighborhood elementary schools are very popular. We have to determine the most appropriate number of these. We will use this fall to gain more information about what people think we should do.”

The Board of Education also heard from Squire, Patton, and Boggs attorney Richard Manoloff. Mr. Manoloff explained the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), which the district will most likely use for funding construction if it passes a bond issue in 2020.

In summary, “ELPP Allows school districts to pass a resolution requesting to enter ELPP. The Commission then performs an assessment of the district's facilities and enters into an agreement with the district on a Facility Master Plan that covers the entire needs of the district. The district then chooses a "distinct portion" of their Master Plan to fund through local efforts. When the district's turn later arises in the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program, the money spent by the district on the distinct portion is credited against the local share of the entire Master Plan projects.” (source: ofcc.ohio.gov)

The district will hold 12 community meetings, beginning September 3 through December 14.

Tuesday, 9/3/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Green Valley Elementary School

Monday, 9/16/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Pleasant Valley Elementary School

Monday, 9/30/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Thoreau Park Elementary School

Saturday, 10/5/19, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Parma Heights Library

Monday, 10/14/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Greenbriar Middle School

Monday, 10/28/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Hillside Middle School - Media Center

Monday, 11/4/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Shiloh Middle School

Saturday, 11/9/19, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Parma-Snow Library

Monday, 11/18/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Valley Forge High School - Media Center

Monday, 12/2/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Parma Senior High School

Monday, 12/9/19, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Normandy High School

Saturday, 12/14/19, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Parma Branch (Powers) Library

More information can be found on the district's website, www.parmacityschools.org/superintendent.

school and others stay in and even excel? Experts say kids who don't like school and choose not to attend are disinterested, bored, and feel unconnected. On the other hand, those who stay in school and do well have the opposite experience. They like it there. They have people who enjoy seeing them every day and who miss them when they're absent. They also have friends and family who are proud of what they do at school. These young people are stimulated and challenged, have fun, and enjoy learning at school.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who care about their school are less likely to be involved in violence or the use of alcohol and other drugs. They also are more likely to become good leaders, value diversity, and succeed in school. About 52 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they care about their schools, according to Search Institute surveys.

Tips for building this asset

Parents and others in the community can make a big difference in

improving schools and making them caring places for young people. If you know a young person who doesn't like school, ask her or him why. Remember that for students, part of bonding to school involves knowing someone in their school cares about them. Share your experiences from when you were in school—such as finding an adult or a peer who cared about you—with the young people you know who are struggling to fit in.

Also try this

In your home and family: Tell your child about one adult and one peer who cared about you when you were in school. Help your child identify which adults and friends at school he or she likes best and why.

In your neighborhood and community: Be an involved partner with the school. Volunteer to tutor in an after-school program or as an athletic coach. Use these opportunities to bond with students, helping them in turn to bond to school. If an employer, consider releasing employees at lunchtime to read to elementary school students.

In your school or youth program: Identify young people who do not have an involved adult in their lives and find ways to help them connect to a caring, available adult.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/character, 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.

Run-Walk For Pierogies Benefits Parma Early Childhood PTA



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan presents a check for \$500 from the proceeds of the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies to Stefanie Mayausky, Laura Horsburgh, Sarah Galarza, and Amanda Kovalkevich of the Parma Early Childhood PTA at the group's annual Touch a Truck event at the Shoppes at Parma.

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INSPIRATIONS



A colorful fence on Brookpark Road near the exit ramp of 176 North calls visitors and residents to action: “#MeetmeinParma.”

by Carolyn Kovach

For years, Parma residents have driven past a blank fence on Brookpark Road near the exit ramp of 176 North and probably have not paid much attention to it. Now the fence beams with a colorful design and social media-inspired message: “#MeetmeinParma.”

When Mayor Tim DeGeeter was the Ward 4 councilman, he wanted to do something with the plain fence to promote Parma. Years later as mayor, he had a conversation with Chelsey Kovar, graphic designer and owner of All of Her Design, about enlivening the fence with public artwork.

“We selected a design last fall, but weather prevented Chelsey from painting the fence until this past spring. That’s a long fence to paint. She tackled a big project and did a wonderful job,” DeGeeter said.

In late April, Kovar began painting the mural on the fence, but it wasn’t easy. A cold, wet spring made it challenging. “Painting a fence is not like painting a canvas. The wood can’t be wet at all,” she said.

The 100-foot, shadow-box fence also tested Kovar’s patience and artistic skills. It required lots of primer, two layers of each paint color and a steady hand. “All the lines were done freehand. We could not tape off the lines. And, we could not spray on the paint because it

might have drifted onto passing cars. We had to hand paint everything.”

Kovar solicited the help of her family. Her father and professional painter Jerry Hildebrant, intern Melinda Michaels and 7-year-old son Ari Kovar all pitched in.

After the team painted the background design, Kovar projected the message on the fence, traced the design and then painted the lettering freehand. Having spent so much time outside, Kovar said, “I did get a really nice tan.”

Kovar explained that the design represents more than just a public art piece. She wants it to become the slogan for a new campaign encouraging locals to take advantage of all that Parma has to offer. “Parma is a great place to eat, play and live. This is a small project that will have a big impact and showcase how much we have here,” she said.

Parma resident Suzy Griesmer is happy to see the artistic addition. “I thought it was a surprisingly contemporary invitation to our city,” she said. “Hopefully, it will rebrand Parma as a place people will want to explore.”

The campaign will include small paintings at popular interest points around the city, also with the message “#MeetmeinParma.” Polish Village, for example, will include the message on a mural that is now being painted.

The vibrant fence resides in Coun-

cilwoman Kristin Saban’s Ward 4, where it has been well received. “It is a burst of color you see when you enter the city that brings a smile to my face, along with many residents of Ward 4. I have heard from numerous residents that they love the sign, and I have seen people posting images of it on social media,” Saban said.

Kovar revealed that more murals are coming. “Public art helps to

empower citizens, support local artists and revitalize a city,” she said.

DeGeeter is pleased to see a formally drab fence turned into public art with a positive message. “I am confident the campaign will be successful. We have lots of parks, restaurants and shops. There are many places to meet up with family and friends. Now visitors and residents can share images of their favorite meeting places on social media.”

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A lot of us feel threatened by the many mental and emotional giants that have evolved in our lives. Until these dragons are slain, peace of mind will evade us. Acquiring understanding is critical; however, we must make sure that it is supported by Scripture and not the ever-changing culture. In these days of relativism, situational ethics, and changing mores, it is good to know that we can count on Biblical principles that never change.

One who drinks from the wells of the world will thirst again, but just a single drink from the springs of “living water” of which Christ spoke eliminates spiritual thirst forever. Our present earthly life is temporary. The Bible states that we are just passing through on our way to a permanent home awaiting us in heaven.

Seven Biblical paradoxes that relate to basic truth are the following: To get, we must give; To really live, we must die; To save one’s life, he or she must lose it; To be wise, we must become fools; To reign, we must serve; To be exalted, we must become humble; To be first, we must be last.

The word “love” means different

things to different people. The Greek language is more specific: eros (sexual appeal); philia (friendship); storge (family members); agape (God’s love for mankind and the love people are to have for one another). To get or to give? That is the question. Here then is the secret of an abundant life: to give is to live and to live is to give.

True Christian faith means to be completely persuaded that there is no other truth apart from the Word of God on which we might build our life. We are all subject to depression given the right set of circumstances; however there is a way out. It is by having a reason for living, a goal—one that can never be totally fulfilled in this lifetime because it is a growing and changing experience. We should not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing (renovating) of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

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

Faith Community Directory

Christ the Saviour American Orthodox Church

10000 State Road N. Royalton, OH 440-237-9196
christsaviour.weebly.com

All Faiths Pantry

P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329
allfaithspantry.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Divinity Lutheran Church

11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
www.divinitylutheran.com

The Islamic Center of Cleveland

6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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

St. Bridget’s of Kildare Church

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www.Stbridgetparma.com

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Special Program Coming To Parma Heights Library September 25

by Rick Haase

In the 1970’s Clevelanders Danny Greene and John Nardi tried to muscle in on the Cleveland mob’s operations.

The result was a bloody mob war that left Cleveland with the moniker, “Bomb City USA.”

A special program at the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, September 25 will explore this.

The program will take place in Meeting Room A of the library, 6206 Pearl Road.

You must register online to attend at cuyahogalibrary.org. The program is free.

FINAL FREE PRODUCE GIVE-

A-WAY – The Parma Heights Food Pantry will host its last free produce give-a-way of the season from 9 a.m. to Noon in the parking lot behind Parma Heights City Hall. Please bring your own bags to take home your produce.

YOGA IN THE PARK – The last free session of Yoga in the Park will take place Saturday, September 7 at the Gazebo in the Greenbrier Commons complex at 6200 Pearl Road.

Registration begins at 9:30, and the class starts promptly at 10 a.m.

SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION – The city will host scrap tire collection events from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays, September 14 and 28.

Scrap tires will be collected at the Service Garage, 6140 Pearl Road.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Tuesday, September 24 is National Voter Registration Day.

National Voter Registration Day is a day which celebrates our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since.

The day has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). It is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and the National Association of Election Officials (The Election Center).

Every year millions of Americans find themselves unable to vote because they miss a registration deadline, don’t update their registration, or aren’t sure how to register.

National Voter Registration Day wants to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote. On Tuesday September 24, volunteers and organizations from all over the country will “hit the streets” in a single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts. National Voter Registration Day seeks to create broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach tens of thousands of voters who may not register otherwise.

A GENEROUS ACT – Parma Heights Baseball Commissioner Mark Davis is the individual responsible for

donating the cost of table, chair and tent rental for the recently concluded Kids in the Commons event on August 10.

This year the event also featured the Big Creek Handmade Fest, which brought numerous artisans to the Greenbrier Commons for a highly-successful day for the city.

If you see Mark, be sure to thank him for his generosity.

COMING TO THE CASSIDY THEATRE NEXT MONTH – Foot-loose, the musical, will hit the main stage of the Cassidy Theatre on October 11. The production will run through

The rest of this story is online at: parmaobserver.com


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PERSPECTIVE

How To Lose An Election

by Lee Kamps

As the year 2019 winds down toward the next year and the 2020 presidential election; Democrats are in an excellent position to win the Presidency as well as retake control of the Senate and strengthen its majority in the House. It seems that as the year winds down, the Trump presidency is unraveling in front of the nation and world. Polls are now showing that the top Democratic candidates for President soundly defeating Donald Trump if the election were held now.

But the election is fourteen months away and a lot can happen in that time. No doubt Donald Trump won't help his cause with his tweets and comments like saying that he is

the "chosen one". But the Democratic party has shown that they are great at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Remember 2016?

One sure fire way to lose an election is for the presidential campaign to devolve into what candidate Kamala Harris called a "food fight" among the candidates. Intra party squabbles and fights only help the opposition. I am reminded of a video posted recently on Facebook of two impalas locking horns in a fight when the herd suddenly flees. Those impalas are so involved in their own fight that they fail to see the lion in the bushes until the lion is right on them and one of them becomes the lion's dinner.

Another sure fire way to lose this

election is to go as far out in left field as the Republican party is in right field. This election will be much like the others and won or lost in the heartland, not on the coasts. I am deeply disturbed by the turn toward socialism by some of the leading candidates for President in 2020. Bernie Sanders is the most honest and he calls himself a socialist. But his key policy of a "Medicare for All" that eliminates private health insurance, covers everything including dental and vision and has no deductibles or copayments is a recipe for disaster as well as electoral defeat.

While that might sound great, the cost would be enormous. In those countries that have such a single payer health insurance system, especially the Scandinavian countries, their taxes are more than 50% of their gross income for working people. Americans just will

not tolerate such a high rate of taxation.

Then there is the fact that the vast majority of Americans with health insurance receive their coverage through a private health insurance company. Many current Medicare beneficiaries like myself receive their coverage through a Medicare Advantage plan where the benefits are paid through a private health insurance company that is contracted with the government and receives their funding from the government. In addition, many working people receive their health insurance coverage through private health insurance companies through their employer. The vast majority of those insured through those plans are very satisfied with their coverage. A government single payer health insurance plan as proposed by Bernie Sanders and other Democratic presidential candidates would take all that coverage away from those people. No matter what, I believe that most working and insured Americans don't want to lose health insurance that they like and have half their income going to pay taxes necessary to support such a health insurance system.

The Clinton Foundation: Questions Remain In Haiti..

by Davidione Pearl

The Republic of Haiti, once regarded for her riches as the "Pearl of the Antilles," has been in no uncertain terms, a scarred landscape fraught with imperial quests of fortune, and a people that have been historically subjected to seismic transitions in power and resources to which the country remains embroiled today. The island nation was the first ever of its kind to step onto the world stage - an independent black republic by way of a successful coordinated thirteen year armed insurrection against the Napoleonic French that culminated in liberation January 1st 1804. This had never before occurred in a slave colony; such a development in the New World sent shock waves that reverberated deep into the core of western superpowers, as it became a fundamental matter of national security that information surrounding the overthrow remained contained from reaching outlying slave plantation-states. As centuries and time progressed, their land resources continued to primarily remain slanted in favor of unrelenting outside interests and private-sector exploits.

The Republic of Haiti has endured what has culminated into a perfect poverty storm of intra-political malfeasance from a brutal parade of oligarchs, and unregulated special interests watching from afar to seize upon the resulting carrion. Special interests of which have historically included American corporate pursuits, and may now include the non-profit Clinton Foundation.

On Tuesday, January 12th 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake tore through the nation of Haiti claiming as many as 316,000 lives, injuring 300,000 more, and impacting another 5 million that were forced to relocate to displacement camps - arguably making it the fifth deadliest natural disaster in human history. The aftermath of the catastrophe was a country even further in ruin than it had ever been before. With critical infrastructure, communications, water, medicine, and food accessibility at a destructive halt, the global community responded immediately and banded together in support to provide donor aid and contract bids.

To coordinate the magnitude of proposals and financials streaming

in, then President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton outsourced management of donor funds and private contracts to former President Bill Clinton to head up through The Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative. By general measures and standards society places on others, such a decision would have understandably been questioned as a conflict of interest worthy of discussion. What has since been uncovered through the Clinton Foundation WikiLeaks emails, is that a sizeable segment of contractors previously associated with the foundation, and those that had recently donated to the foundation at that time, did not undergo routine vetting protocols as determined by relevant U.S. government agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), and the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI).

One WikiLeaks email early into the Haitian aid campaign speaks to this:

"Need you to flag when people are friends of WJC... Most I can probably ID but not all."

-Caitlin Klevorick (FMR State Dept. Official under Secretary Clinton)
-written to Clinton Foundation Director of Foreign Policy Amitabh Desai three days after cataclysmic event...

The above email references William Jefferson Clinton (Bill Clinton), and could initially in earnest be perceived to illustrate that the State Dept. was in fact exercising due diligence in attempting to intercept and address contractor bids that could otherwise be viewed as conflicts of interest if not properly vetted. The subsequent results however determined something largely different. In a follow-up email to Desai, Klevorick directly inquires if a newly engaged proposal is "FOB", stating: "If not, she should go to cidi.org" - the Center for International Disaster Information - the general bidding platform...FOB is later evidenced

There is a much better way to address the problem with health insurance without socialistic ideas. The Affordable Care Act will be ten years old next spring. For the most part, it has been working very well and has insured many Americans who would be uninsured without the ACA. At the present time, the ACA has become very popular with most Americans.

However, the ACA is far from perfect and there are some very serious flaws with the act as it currently stands. Rather than go off the rails into left field with pie in the sky socialistic ideas that won't work, why not address some of the problems with the ACA that could much more easily be fixed. Despite several attempts by Republicans over the past decade to either "repeal and replace" the ACA as well as undermine it; the ACA or Obamacare still is working and remains popular.

In next month's column, I will outline several ways that the ACA can be improved to work for every American without breaking the bank and even could, over time actually reduce our deficit. Stay tuned.



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continued on page 9

IMPRESSIONS

The Clinton Foundation: Questions Remain In Haiti..

continued from page 8

to be “Friend of Bill’s”, an inquiry of which should fundamentally bear no question on an equal playing field in a competitive bidding process.

What we now know of the operation is that American taxpayers and worldwide donations to the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative for post-earthquake relief efforts in Haiti totaled over 14.3 billion dollars, yet to this date, just over 2 percent of the 14.3 billion actually made its way into the country. That is to say, only

286 million dollars in relief funds were ultimately utilized in the aftermath of the catastrophe, an alleged 98 percent operations cost that ultimately did not fulfill the promises made to worldwide contributors, and more importantly, the Haitian people themselves. A considerable figure of [98 percent] operations costs regarding logistics to serve a nation not on the other side of the globe, but right here in our back yard.

It further appears that a significant segment of monies allocated to contractors were awarded to those directly associated with the Clinton family. Contractors of which to date, began projects and pulled out short of full capacity completion, as was the case in the construction of the Caracol Industrial Park, of which 60 thousand jobs were promised, but contractors ended just short of reaching 4 thousand jobs at the time.

The industrial Park was built on farmland; the farmers and their families were displaced to parts unknown.

Sae-A Trading Co. Ltd. – South Korea’s foremost garment producer and anchor tenant within the industrial park, contributed donations both to The Clinton Foundation and Black-Ivy Group, a consulting firm owned by Hillary Clinton’s former Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills, who played an integral role in bringing Sae-A to Haiti..

A final point of distinction, Anthony Rodham, Hillary Clinton’s younger brother, now sits on the board of Delaware-based VCS Mining, a company that has recently secured

gold mining rights in Haiti. Admittedly, Rodham received his most recent placement after a meeting with the VCS Chief Executive Officer at a Clinton Global Initiative networking event.

The rest of this story is online at: parmaobserver.com

All Saints Celebrates Pantry's Fifth Anniversary

by Jeffrey Fowler

All Saints Episcopal Church on W. Ridgewood Drive in Parma will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of its Pantry at All Saints series of monthly events on September 21, 2019. Every month 40-50 volunteers gather together at the parish campus to operate a soup kitchen and distribute food and clothing to struggling families in Parma and nearby communities. To date, this group of dedicated people has provided food for more than 300,000 meals.

In 2017, Rise in Love, another local agency, started attending All Saints'

events, adding thousands of pounds of non-perishable and frozen foods, as well as household supplies, to the fresh fruits and vegetables distributed by the church.

In the long term, the Pantry at All Saints continues is developing employment and education programs to help low-income families become more self-reliant. Partners Rise in Love and Aspire Greater Cleveland are integral players in these efforts.

After the September event, volunteers will gather for a photograph at the Parma script sign in Anthony Zielinski Park.

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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 To learn more about this issue & network with local experts in law enforcement, our health systems, advocacy & victim service organizations, consider attending the 2019 Annual Luncheon: CLE Unites to End Human Trafficking, Thursday, Sept 26th at Windows on the River. The Keynote Speaker will be Kendis Paris, Exec. Director & Co-Founder of Truckers Against Trafficking, (<https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/>) Go here <https://www.collabtoendht.org/> & scroll down the page for additional detail & to register your attendance.

From the Ohio Dept of Education (ODE): It's important for parents and caregivers to understand and spot warning signs for teen sex trafficking. Keep children safe by explaining the warning signs and the manipulative ways traffickers use to recruit victims. Go here to learn more about having that conversation: <https://tinyurl.com/ht-warningsigns>.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The Parma Heights PACT (Police & Community Together) Youth Group:
With the start of school, the

group's regular meeting schedule – 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month - will resume in September. If you have a son/daughter between the ages of 12 – 17 who you think may be interested stop by & discuss the program w/our police officer facilitators. While there, ask to purchase a PACT t-shirt. Proceeds are used to help defray programming cost.
For announcements & detailed information visit the PACT Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parma-heights.police; email: pactunit@gmail.com; ph: 440.884.1235.

From Parma City Schools:
If you haven't lately, give the district's redesigned web site a visit: www.parmacityschools.org There's a lot of information but it's organization is much improved & things are easy to find.
The superintendent will be hosting the first of a number of Strategic Consolidation meetings on Tuesday, Sept 3rd, beginning at 6:30 pm at Green Valley Elem. (on Pleasant Valley across from Normandy H.S.). Subsequent meetings scheduled for September include: 6:30 pm on Monday, Sept 16th at Pleasant Valley Elem.

and 6:30 pm on Monday, Sept 30th at Thoreau Park Elem.
Mark your calendars & plan on attending the first of four Town Hall meetings on Tuesday, October 8th, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Seven Hills Recreation Center, 7777 Summit Dr.
Information re. schedules & topics for both the Town Hall & Consolidation meetings can be found here: www.parmacityschools.org/superintendent

From PCSD Connects (formerly CBS Connects):
Visit the completely redesigned web site of this growing workplace development initiative of the Parma City Schools..... <http://pcsdconnects.org/> . Support and resources are available to parents looking for college admission/scholarship assistance for their child, students struggling w/ making career choices or looking for shadowing/mentoring opportunities and for business owners interested and/

or willing to host/employ a student or otherwise partner up w/a school.
From the Parma Area Family Collab:
Collab staff is beginning to settle into their new home at Parkview Elementary, 5210 Loya Pkwy. (immediately south of Parma Sr. H.S. on W.54th St.), ph: 440.887.4873. Keep in mind that since they share the building w/the Catholic Charities Early Learning Head Start program, access and space for on-site meetings, events/activities is somewhat restricted.
Regarding the annual distribution of backpacks/school supplies.... upwards of 1,100 stuffed backpacks were distributed to families at community events over past the month or so. It's an effort that would be impossible without the participation of a

See the entire list at:
parmaobserver.com

Cleveland Photo Fest

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma's only art gallery, Prama Artspace Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd., is one of the over 30 galleries and art spaces participating in the 1st annual Cleveland Photo Fest. TAKE A GOOD LOOK, an exhibition of creative personal photographs by 20 Brush High School Students, curated by their instructor Hadley Conner, opened on August 24th. This exhibit explores a wide range of subject matter, includ-

ing underwater works, macro photos, and street photography. This is a very interesting and creative exhibit. It runs through September 18th.
Following at Prama, will be BEYOND THE CAMERA – MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHY which opens September 20th through October 24th.
The Cleveland Photo Fest, a non-profit, was established in 2019 as an annual event for the benefit of the Greater Clevelanders who support

photography as a fine art. It's directors are 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. Cleveland Photo Fest showcases both professional and beginner photography from photographers local, national and international.
For more information on the Cleveland Photo Fest, or locations of the other exhibitions visit www.cleveland-photofest.org.

Pasta Dinner

by Kathryn Mabin

Friday, September 13th, just may be your lucky day! Polish Village Parma, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is sponsoring a Pasta Dinner at the Southwest Italian American Club, located at 7510 Snow Rd, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Your \$15 gets you a complete Italian pasta dinner, pasta, meat, salad, roll, bakery, and coffee/water. Other beverages will be available for an additional cost. These meals are prepared by the chefs at the Southwest

Italian American Club, and boy are the tasty! For those of you who don't know, the Southwest Italian American Club is housed in the historic Fire House on Snow Rd., near Ridge Rd. This is your opportunity to see the remodel and enjoy a fabulous meal. Seating is limited, but To-Go dinners are also available. For tickets and more information call Linda Cross at 440-885-8093. Proceeds benefit Polish Village and are used exclusively within the community.




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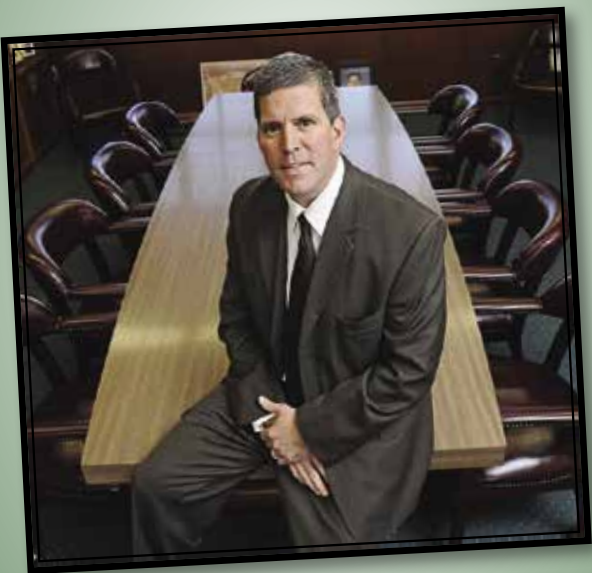


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PARMA ART SCENE

Dan Mihuta - The Art Maker

by Kathryn Mabin

Many of you may remember Dan Mihuta who retired from the Parma City Schools in 1978 after 31 years teaching art education. Or you may remember watching his televised art instruction classes, titled, Art Chest, Art Maker and Return of the Art Maker on WVIZ and other PBS stations.

In 1964 he and other teachers were approached by then-Superintendent Paul Briggs to study the use of television in the classroom. As a result, Parma became the first school system in the U.S. to receive its broadcasting license. The first studio was located at the board office. When construction was completed at Normandy High School it housed a television studio/station. These televised classes were in language, math and science. Dan Mihuta did all the artwork for those programs and had vocational students working with him. One day due to a snow storm the regularly scheduled televised class could not go on air. Dan Mihuta went on air instead with an art program. Several people called and wanted more art classes. It was a success.

In 1979 he went to work for Western Instructional TV where he became "The Art Maker". He launched his on-camera career in 1980. His fame grew and his programs were seen all over the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong,



Singapore, Africa and more. You can view some of his televised classes on YouTube, or lessons can be ordered on Amazon.

He has won numerous, prestigious awards, such as, Baldwin-Wallace Alumni Merit Award, Jennings Foundation Master Teacher Award, 1976 PAFAC Artist of The Year, Ohio Art Teacher of The Year, SPEBSQSA Barber-shopper of the Year, Baldwin-Wallace Outstanding Educator 2005.

Sadly, Dan Mihuta passed away on August 10, 2019, at the age of 96. A Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hillard Blvd. In Rocky River.

At the August meeting of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, we pulled out the old photo album and found several photos of Dan. One of the long time members remembered that Dan would sing and perform with his Barber Shop Quartet at several of the Parma Fine Art functions. He was remembered as a warm friendly person. She fondly remembered his lesson using string

and glue with paint. The obituary was also posted to several art related Facebook pages. Many children grew up to appreciate and love the art of creating thanks to his instruction. One local artist stated that growing up Dan Mihuta was her art idol and taught her the basic fundamentals. She truly enjoyed his simple and fun colored crayon art, sketches and creativity.

Thank you Dan Mihuta for being the children's Bob Ross.



New Exhibit Opening At Tri-C Gallery West
Features Artists Justin Brennan and Dana Depew

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) will showcase the work of two evocative Northeast Ohio artists — Justin Brennan and Dana Depew — during a month long exhibit at Western Campus.

The exhibit opens Monday, Sept. 9, and will be on view through Oct. 10 at Gallery West, located on the second floor of the campus library. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

An opening reception will take

place 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Brennan is a contemporary abstract painter and mixed media artist. He says his work reflects day-to-day interactions and relationships, expressing raw emotion via spontaneous creativity. Pieces by the self-taught artist can be found in private collections throughout the country.

Depew's work in a wide variety of styles and mediums has made him one of Cleveland's most prolific artists. He often resurrects cast-offs and found objects, "upcycling" them into wholly new and unique objects.

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Calling all local Art and Craft Vendors

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council is seeking vendors to sell items for a Pre-Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale to be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. in Parma, Ohio. Cost for space with table is \$35, or \$25 without table. Admission day of the event is free. No applications will be accepted after October 6, 2019. To download an application, or for additional information go to www.parmafinearts.org.

Michelle Bihal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts, won Best In Show, at the Cuyahoga County Fair for her wood-burning. She also won 1st place in the professional drawing division for her pen and ink wash, and 1st and 2nd place in the wood-burning division. Congratulations Michelle!

Robert Pohm, Board Member at Parma Area Fine Arts, pitched his tent and sold three paintings at the Big Creek Handmade Fest in Parma Hts., on Saturday, August 10, 2019. His very colorful glass plate took 2nd place at the Independence Art Guild Home Days show, end of July.

Emery Bogardy, resident watercolorist and Board Member at Parma Area Fine Arts, appeared at the Hungarian Festival at St. Emerics Church on Saturday, August 17, 2019, and the 64th Hungarian Festival on September 1, 2019 at German Central.

Gary Nass, new Parma Fine Arts Board Member, judged the Independence Art Guild Home Days show in late July.

Tony DeMarcoexhibited at the Farnam Manor at 4223 Brecksville Rd. in Richfield Ohio on August 3rd and 4th. The event was put on by the Richfield Historical Society and the Richfield-Hinkley Art Group.



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

– Maddie G.
Stanley's CAREGiver



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