

“And the lonely voice of youth cries “What is truth?”- Johnny Cash

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# Parma Observer

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

## Parma Observer Is 10 Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy

A decade is an important milestone for anything or anyone. I will be the first to admit that it just doesn't feel like 10 years have gone by. It was only yesterday, it seems, that I was holding the very first Parma Observer in my hands, the headline reading "Building A Virtual Public Square For Parma", with a wonderful letter from then Mayor Dean DePiero, and an endorsement from Congressman Dennis Kucinich. When viewing that first front page I am struck by how much has changed since October of 2009, in the world, in Ohio, and most certainly in the Parma area. Our community has gone through a fair amount of change in the past 10 years. We passed through the recession and had to adjust to a certain amount of turbu-

lence, but mostly we've learned to understand what it takes to survive in the 21st Century, although there are still substantial challenges to meet and major obstacles to overcome. From what I have heard and witnessed over the past decade after attending countless meetings in both the public and private sector, the people in leadership roles in Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills are aware of what their responsibility is and welcome more involvement from citizens concerned with the future of the Tri-City Area. There is absolutely nothing wrong with admitting that we need things which will improve our cities, and identifying exactly what these things are is the first step in making the crucial choices that will lead to a successful future for all. The Parma

Observer is best thought of as a river, through which essential information can flow.

Publishing the journalistic efforts of average citizens has been a very rewarding experience, and hearing from readers about what they feel after having read the paper is most gratifying, but what I've probably enjoyed most about being Publisher of the Parma Observer is being able to meet so many different people from all walks of life in our community that I most likely would never have had the chance to meet otherwise. I have come to realize, as I'm sure that countless others have, that our community has a giant untapped potential based on the quality of so many individuals residing here that have talent in a wide variety of areas,

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Three federal grants will enable the Parma Fire Department to hire eight firefighters this fall and purchase some new equipment.

## Parma Fire Department Awarded Nearly \$1.7 Million In Federal Funding

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Fire Chief Mike Lasky recently announced that the Parma Fire Department will be awarded nearly \$1.7 million in federal grant money to hire eight new firefighters and purchase 103 portable radios, three station exhaust capture systems and one filling station. The more than \$1 million to hire eight firefighters was awarded through the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. The SAFER grant is a 90/10 cost-share. The fire department will spend \$147,000 annually over the next two years to help cover salaries. "We need

a fully staffed fire department to keep pace with the safety demands of a city our size," DeGeeter said. "This grant provides us with critical funding to help us replace firefighters who retired or transferred to other departments. This will reduce overtime and allow us to continue to provide the quality service our residents have come to expect and deserve. I appreciate the support we received from our U.S. representatives and our U.S. senators to help us secure this grant money. Our fire, police and engineering departments, as well as our Grants Coordinator Shelley Cullins, are proactive at applying for grants."

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

## Parma Heights Just Got Safer

by Rick Haase

The city just got safer. Parma Heights has been awarded \$538,350 in federal funding over a three-year period in a cost-sharing grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant, known as the Safer Grant, will provide funding to hire three additional firefighters for the city's fire department. "It's a great opportunity for us (the city) to get up to the proper staffing levels (in the fire department)," said Katie Iaconis, the city's new Director of Finance and Personnel. According to Iaconis, the grant monies will not only boost the employee ranks by an additional three firefighters, but will also help the city "drastically reduce its overtime costs within the department." "What this really does is provide additional safety and security for the residents of Parma Heights," Iaconis said. "Congratulations to the fire department for being so diligent (in working with us to pursue this funding)." The city was notified of the grant award on September 10.

Working with the current Civil Service List, the process of hiring three new firefighters will take place within the next six months, in accordance with terms of the grant, Iaconis said. The purpose of the SAFER grant program is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

**COFFEE WITH A COP --** P.A.C.T., also known as Police and Citizens Together, is hosting a special program at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 22 called "Coffee with a Cop." It will take place at the Parma Heights Senior Center, 9275 North Church Drive. The Senior Center is located on the main floor of the Educator Apartment complex. This is an opportunity to talk with our police and find out some new exciting things that are happening in Parma Heights. Come and join in the dialogue.

**ARE YOU OKAY? --** The city provides a free and confidential program called Are You Okay? A computer service calls you at the same time every day (you choose the time) to make sure you are all right. Applications for the program are available in the Senior Center office. If you have any additional questions, please call the Parma Heights Police Department at 440.884.1234.

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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, Coaches and members of the Parma Hockey Association showing their Parma pride.

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

Recently, Parma City Council approved and Mayor Timothy DeGeeter signed Resolution 108-19: "A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING AND REPAIR OF THE CITY OF PARMA'S STREETS, ROADS AND BRIDGES, AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE TAX TO THE ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019, ELECTION." This resolution will appear as Issue 53 on your November ballot. If the issue passes, the owner of a \$100,000 home will contribute about \$53 per year – less than \$4.50 per month – for street improvements in our city. The 1.5 mil, 5-year renewable levy would raise about \$2.2 million dollars per year, which must be used exclusively on streets.



Parma has over 500 miles of streets and the city finding it challenging to maintain them properly due to state funding cuts over the past decade that have taken tens of millions of dollars from our budget. Although we have



been able to pass balanced budgets each year and have received excellent audits from the state auditor, we are lucky if we can pave two streets per year per ward. In fact, our streets program has been supplemented largely by borrowing. We are at the point where it would not be prudent to take on further debt for streets. This levy would supplement our efforts to address our aging and increasing infrastructure needs, especially in light of the rising costs of construction and the failure of Congress to pass a comprehensive infrastructure bill to assist cities like Parma.

For less than the cost of one visit to the coffee shop per month, the streets levy would translate into benefits to all residents, including improved property values, quality of life, driving conditions, and safety. Further, a study of property taxes for the typical homeowner throughout Cuyahoga County revealed that Parma ranks 59th out of 72 communities – among the lowest. Furthermore, the City of Parma receives only about 8.5% of our property taxes,

## U.S. Bank Opens New Branch In Parma's Quarry District



by Carolyn Kovach

U.S. Bank opened a new branch in the former Eat'n Park building at 2075 Snow Road. In April, U.S. Bank closed its nearby branch at 5659 Broadview Road so it could double its space at the new Snow Road location, which has 3,600 square feet. U.S. Bank senior executives said the new branch also offers customers more convenience with services such as wealth management, business banking and home mortgage loans all located in one branch. One feature the new branch offers that Branch Manager Sabrina Hinton takes great pride in highlighting is the conference room. "Any community or nonprofit group can use our conference room," Hinton said.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dave Nedrich participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony and business networking event on Sept. 19. During the ceremony, the branch

donated funds to the Parma City School District Foundation, Parma Police Association, American Legion Post 572 and all Parma first responders.

On Sept. 21, the branch held a grand opening party. The unseasonably hot day did not deter the crowd that enjoyed food and beverages, giveaways and a free live concert from the local cover band, The Spazmatics. Parma police and fire departments took part in the bank's Touch-a-Truck portion of the celebration, which attracted many families with young children.

Mission BBQ provided food and beverages at both events.

"We're pleased U.S. Bank and their employees are staying in Parma," DeGeeter said. "Having a major American bank repurpose this former restaurant for a branch has a positive impact on our local economy. Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech and I are both thankful for U.S. Bank's continued investment in Parma".

## City Of Parma Scholarship Applications Available

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2020 award season. In its twelfth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. Applications may also be obtained at Parma City Hall, any of the Parma Cuyahoga County Public Library branches or any high school located within the Parma City School District. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2020 – 2021 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is April 1, 2020. For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact Parma City Council President and Board of Trustees Member Sean Brennan at [sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov) or 440-885-8091.

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while the lion's share goes to the libraries, Metroparks, schools, county, etc. This is an unsustainable funding formula if we want to ensure quality infrastructure in our community.

My wife Deena and I decided to raise our family in Parma because of the excellent services, safety, comparatively low taxes, law-abiding and caring residents, and excellent location. We recently celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and have never once regretted the decision we made. As your President of Council, I fight every day to fulfill my oath to you – to always do what I believe in my heart and mind is in our city's best long-term interests. It is an honor to serve you. Please join me in voting "YES" on Issue 53 on November 5. Best wishes for a wonderful fall season.

**Parma Observer**  
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Orthopedic surgeons of The Center of Orthopedic Surgery, based at UH Parma Medical Center.

Longer-Lasting Hip Replacements Restore Patients To Active Lifestyles

by CJ Sheppard

On the first evening following surgery, an astounded Bill Roberts was standing, pain-free, bearing weight on his new hip. “It was the first time in well over a year that I stood up and I had no pain,” says Bill Roberts of Seville in Medina County. “They want you mobile again as soon as possible.” The retired Boy Scouts executive, who moved to Ohio from California three years ago, is used to an active lifestyle. The 71-year-old chose an orthopedic surgeon – Michael LoPresti, MD, with the Center of Orthopedic Surgery – with the same mindset.

University Hospitals’ orthopaedic specialists are leaders in advancing

orthopaedic and musculoskeletal care, combining clinical excellence, innovative scientific research and personalized attention to provide the best possible outcomes.

For more than a year, a torn labrum in his left hip socket was making his walking alarmingly unsteady. He never knew when his hip might give out on him. Cortisone injections only gave him temporary relief. Dr. LoPresti notes that orthopedic surgeons generally offer conservative treatments before recommending joint replacement. Bill had modified his activities, taken oral anti-inflammatory medi-

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EDUCATION

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

Asset Corner #118

by Gene Lovasy

October’s Asset Category: SUPPORT. Supportive, healthy relationships make a big difference

Many studies over the years confirm that caring, supportive relationships with adults are critical for raising young people who are healthy and resilient. Support means freely giving young people love, affirmation, and acceptance; surrounding young people with caring families, guardians, friends, teachers, neighbors, and other adults; and helping young people know they belong, are not alone, and are both loved and lovable. Recognizing its importance, Search Institute has focused recent research on identifying a framework of **DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**. It identifies five relationship strategies that help kids feel motivated and do their best. These include Express Care, Challenge Growth, Provide Support, Share Power and Expand Possibilities. More

information can be found at [www.parentfurther.com/content/power-relationships](http://www.parentfurther.com/content/power-relationships)

This column’s focus will be on..... Asset #3 – Other Adult Relationships

When times get tough, kids need adults they can trust

Who did you turn to for advice, comfort, and understanding when you were young? Was there an adult you trusted and enjoyed talking with? If you had an adult outside your family who was there for you during tough times and good times, you probably understand how important a relationship like that is for a young person. Now you can be that adult friend. Whether you’re a neighbor, teacher, tutor, coach, aunt, older cousin, or coffee shop worker—you can be a good friend to a young person. Young people want adults besides their parents to count on. Problem is, we live in a society that doesn’t always encourage adults and youth to spend time together. But the

effort is worthwhile.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who have three or more caring adults (besides parents or guardians) who support them feel happier and more hopeful, do better in school, and are less likely to rely on drinking, smoking, or drugs to feel good or fit in. About 43 percent of young people, ages 11–18, have three or more nonparent adults in their lives, according to Search Institute surveys. Caring adults are important to the development of young people, especially if those adults are open to discussing tough questions and know how to listen without judging.

Tips for building this asset

Build relationships. Connect with young people outside your own family and make an effort to interact regularly. They need caring adults to bounce ideas off, ask questions of, laugh with,

and help sort through sticky situations. If you’re a parent, encourage other caring adults to develop a friendship with your children.

Also try this

**In your home and family:** Think about your child’s strengths, talents, and interests. Do you know any adults who share those same qualities? Invite one of them to get to know your child better by coming to a school activity or getting together for dessert or a movie.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Consider becoming a mentor to one or more young people in your community.

**In your school or youth program:** Tell young people about an adult who supported you when you were young. Ask them to think about someone they counted on during a tough time. Have the young people pair up and brainstorm ways they could initiate more friendships with other caring adults and what they’d want to get from these relationships.

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



Fall Visit Days At Tri-C’s Western Campus

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host Fall Visit Days at Western Campus in October to introduce prospective students to academic and career opportunities. The hour-long sessions provide a chance to learn about enrollment, financial aid and scholarships; discover the variety of student services available; and explore the buildings.

Western’s Fall Visit Days will take

place at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 11, and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16. Registration is requested. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Fall Visit Days will also be offered at Eastern Campus in Highland Hills, Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland and Westshore Campus in Westlake.

For more information, or to register, visit [www.tri-c.edu/visit](http://www.tri-c.edu/visit) or call 216-987-6000.

Foster Parent Pre-Service Training

by Liz Fach

In the last twelve months, Pathway received 2,400 referrals for Northeast Ohio children of all ages needing to be placed in a safe and nurturing home. Today, Cuyahoga County represents over 60% of our foster care referrals. There are children in our own community, who sit next to your child in school, who have been abused and neglected and are in need of a foster family.

You can make a difference. The time is now to be a foster parent. Foster parents are ordinary people who are genuinely concerned about the children and families in our commu-


nity and believe that they can impact a child’s life in a positive way. Pathway staff provide all the training and support you, as the foster parent, will need to provide love, guidance, discipline, and stability for the children you welcome into your home.

Pre-service training is 43 hours of hands on learning, equipping you to provide informed care for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. New classes will begin Wednesday, October 9th in Pathway’s Brook Park Office. Please contact Pathway at 1-800-838-7284 or visit [www.pathwaycfc.org](http://www.pathwaycfc.org) to learn more.

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

Polish Village Treat & Greet

by Kathryn Mabin

Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Ridge Road in Polish Village will be teeming with young trick-or-treaters and their parents for the 9th Annual Treat & Greet. This much anticipated family oriented annual event has grown by leaps and bounds over the years.

Polish Village is the business district located on Ridge Road, from Ridge and Pearl to Ridge and Thornton. Polish Village Parma, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization brought this event to the area as a creative way to introduce small businesses to the community, and a great family oriented event. Participating businesses pass out candy donated by Polish Village

Parma Volunteers. Approximately 60,000 to 100,000 pieces of candy are distributed during this event. Many businesses also supplement with giveaways of their own.

On Saturday you will see swarms of costumed children, accompanied with an adult walking down Ridge Road, stopping in at 40 plus locations. In addition there will be adult costumed characters strolling Ridge, like the popular Ghost Busters, and Sparky the Dog, as well as others. Safety is always first on the mind of Parma residents, so Parma Police and Fire will also be present.

This event also offers something for the adults. One passport per family is distributed to the adult accompanied by children. The passport is stamped at each

location visited and must be turned into Headquarters, at 5734 Ridge Road, no later than 2:15 PM. Adults are given raffle tickets based on the number of stamps on the passport, which gives them the opportunity to win one of the many baskets, or gift certificates available.

Residency is not a requirement to participate. Families come from all the surrounding communities. Photos of the event will be posted on the Polish Village Facebook page for all to enjoy. See you there!

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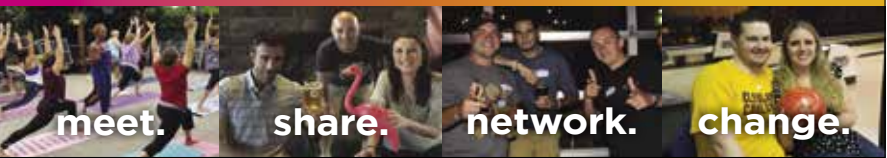
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Coming Soon! Frosty's Fest!

by Kathryn Mabin

We Are Parma Proud, the newly created 501(c)3 nonprofit, will be hosting the inaugural Frosty's Fest at the Ridgewood Golf Course, located in the heart of Parma, at 6505 Ridge Road, on December 8, 2019, immediately following the Christmas Parade. The parade begins this year at 2:00 PM and marches north on Ridge Road to Ridgewood Golf Course. Frosty's Fest promises to be a nice ending to

the annual parade and includes family oriented planned events such as snow tubing, tree ceremony, kids craft, games, refreshments, Parma Cookie Walk, adult Ugly Sweater Contest, and of course Santa!

This event is looking for sponsors from area businesses, cookie vendors, and volunteers who would like to join in on all the fun. For more information email We Are Parma Proud at parmaproud1@gmail.com.



Get Fired Up For Tri-C's Autumn Blaze 5K At Western Campus

by John Horton

Feel the burn at the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Autumn Blaze 5K while running past a blazing fire simulator on a course highlighting the KeyBank Public Safety Training Center at Western Campus. Proceeds from the one-of-a-kind race benefit Greater Cleveland Community Shares, the United Negro College Fund and United Way of Greater Cleveland. Tri-C launched the event in 2015 as part of its annual giving campaign to benefit the community. Last year's race raised \$10,000 for the nonprofit agencies.

Tri-C's fifth annual Autumn Blaze 5K and one-mile fun walk begins at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, at Western Campus in Parma. The fast and flat course winds through a fire station and next to a flaming fire simulator on the campus grounds at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road. The route also curls through Simulation Village, a soon-to-open mock town that will allow for training drills that closely reflect real-life settings faced by police, firefighters and rescue workers.

Online registration is available

at [www.tri-c.edu/autumnblaze5k](http://www.tri-c.edu/autumnblaze5k) through 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 11. Pre-registration is \$20 for community members or \$15 for Tri-C students. All preregistered runners and walkers will receive a knit winter beanie hat featuring Tri-C's new mascot, Stomp the Triceratops. On-site registration will also be available beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the event at a cost of \$25 for community members or \$20 for Tri-C students. Hats for day-of registrants will be available as quantities allow.

Awards in the 5K will be given to the top three overall male and female runners and the top three finishers in the following age groups: 11 and younger; 12-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; and 65 and older.

Post-race refreshments will be available at the finish line, which nearly 300 runners and walkers crossed at last year's race. The race will be timed by Hermes Road Racing.

For more information, contact Tri-C's John Horton at 216-987-4281 or [john.horton@tri-c.edu](mailto:john.horton@tri-c.edu).

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continued from page 3

cations and received intra-articular injections, all of which had limited success in treating his condition. An MRI showed arthritis that was more advanced than X-rays revealed. Good bone quality allowed Dr. LoPresti to replace the joint with-

out cement, also known as a press fit. Advancements in anesthesia for joint replacement, such as peripheral blocks and spinal anesthesia, allow the patient to use fewer narcotics and awaken sooner after surgery, avoiding many of the complications associated with anesthesia, such as nausea, constipation and change in mental status.

“Other than his hip, Bill was younger than 71,” Dr. LoPresti said. “His arthritic hip was causing him to lead the life of an older person. Good bone quality allowed us to offer him a solution that we would typically offer someone in their 50s or 60s.” Preparation through Joint Camp Once Bill decided to proceed with a hip replacement, he attended Joint Camp, a two-hour session with physical and occupational therapists that thoroughly explained what to expect immediately after surgery and upon return home. His wife joined him for the session so she knew what to expect to support him. “You had all your questions answered, and you knew what to expect,” Bill said. “Joint Camp really puts everyone at ease.” Bill was standing and moving with a walker before he left University Hospitals Parma Medical Center less than 36 hours after surgery. The attentive nurses also ensured he had physical therapy appointments scheduled to ensure a safe return to full mobility. By the second week, he only needed a cane for support – and by his five-week follow-up appointment with Dr. LoPresti, he didn’t even need that. He strolled in without any assistive devices and free of any pain medication. “I thought he would be amazed to see how well I was walking, not even favoring that hip,” Bill said.

Back on the saddle Bill appreciated the convenience of multiple UH locations. Physical therapists through UH Home Care came to his Medina County home four times. He then attended outpatient physical therapy sessions at UH Fairlawn Health Center on Route 18. And when he needed to follow up with Dr. LoPresti at the Center of Orthopedic Surgery’s Parma office, he was just 20 minutes away. Dr. LoPresti also recently opened a new office in UH Broadview Heights Health Center, just off I-77 at Route 82, which will be even closer to Medina. “It made no sense to go anywhere else,” Bill said.



Bill Roberts back to fishing.

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PERSPECTIVE



Left to Right: Councilman Roy Jech, Councilwoman Kristin Saban, State Rep. Jeff Crossman

Council Members And State Rep. Sponsor Successful Quarry District Picnic

by Mallory DeTota

For the third year in a row, elected officials representing Parma’s Quarry District area, roughly the intersection of Snow and Broadview roads in Council Wards 4 and 9, held a free community picnic for residents living in the wards. The event was paid for and sponsored by Council members Kristin Saban (Ward 4), Roy Jech (Ward 9), and State Representative Jeff Crossman.

“We love doing this event” said Councilwoman Saban, “it’s about building community and promoting the idea of the Quarry District.” According to Saban, the city designated the area as the “Quarry District” several years ago and planning is underway to create a tangible and distinct des-

tinuation district in Parma. “The former Midtown Plaza is undergoing redevelopment as we speak and will be renamed Quarry Square. We are also looking at more additions for the Quarry District over the long term” Saban said, including possible bike trails that would connect residential neighborhoods to West Creek park and the Quarry District. State Representative Crossman who, along with Councilwoman Saban, held the first event in 2016 when he was a Councilman said “we want to encourage this [Quarry District] project because it would create connectivity to the area by more than just vehicle traffic. Ultimately, we want a District that is more than just a pass-through but a destination with amenities that people could enjoy.” According to Saban, the event held at West Creek’s Keystone pavilion was well attended with over 100 families that came to enjoy the summer weather with their neighbors, listen to live music provided by “Hoop and Company” and enjoy the food provided by Saban, Jech, and Crossman. “Representative Crossman grilled the hotdogs and we had games for the families. This is a nice event for our community—one we hope to continue” said Councilman Jech.

Councilwoman Saban said that next year’s event is already scheduled so mark your calendars now for next year’s 4th annual Quarry District picnic on Sunday, September 13, 2020.

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PSO Halloween Theme Concert 10/13/19

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a Halloween Themed Concert on Sunday, October 13 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights performing: Dia de Los Muertos, Evil Eye and the Hideous Heart, Pit and the Pendulum, Dvorak -The Noon-Day Witch Overture accompanied by Valley Forge High School String Students. Also featuring: Soloist Roma Bandza performing Mozart Piano Concerto No. 12.

The orchestra, in its 51st season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site [www.parmasympphony.org](http://www.parmasympphony.org) or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Parma YPs Invite All To Enjoy Pints And Pierogies At West Creek Oct. 18

by Kathie Zipp

The Young Professionals of Parma along with West Creek Conservancy will hold a Pints and Pierogies in the Park event at West Creek Reservation's Watershed Stewardship Center on Friday, October 18 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. All are invited to come and enjoy food from Rudy's Strudel and Bakery and State Meats, as well as beer from Great Lakes.

Celebrate fall in Parma in the beautiful Cleveland Metroparks with yard games, music from the Baker's Basement and a big game of Heads or Tails with a \$500 prize. Tickets may be purchased online for \$30 on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) (search Pints and Pierogies in the Park). Each admission includes six pierogies, one piece of kielbasa and beer. Tickets are anticipated to sell out so reserve online today!

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Parma Observer Is 10 Years Old

continued from page 1


all which represent unlimited progress. Opportunity, growth and excitement-that's what I feel the next decade is going to bring for the Tri-City Area. All of the signs are there. What is needed now is for people to, in the words of the old Bing Crosby song, "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, don't mess with Mr. in between".

It is impossible to list all of those who have my gratitude for helping in endless ways as we have made our way through this first decade of publishing the Parma Observer. Of course our Editor in Chief Stefan P. Stefa-

niuk deserves unlimited praise, as well as all past Editors. The design work from Graphic Artist Jim O'Bryan is unequalled. To our writers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sacrificing your valuable time and adding your voices to the public discussion. For our readers, a special thanks for your support and valuable input. How could any of this have been possible without the generous sponsorship of our wonderful advertisers, the single source of our entire budget? I hope that the next 10 years will be as eventful, and I have made a personal commitment to slow down, "savor the flavor", and enjoy what the Parma Observer has grown into since 2009. Thank you all.

"Congratulations on your many years of success!"

You are an asset to our community and we wish you many more years to follow!



VOTE JEFFREY  
Crossman  
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE



# INSPIRATIONS

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A person needs to acknowledge his or her sinful nature before coming to Christ for salvation. Because time goes by so fast is all the more reason to enjoy the present moment. Character is everything. Christians can rejoice in tribulation because they have eternity's values in view. Each of us is expected to be a servant in one capacity or another.

Essentials should not take a back seat to incidentals. Every child has his or her own bent. It is best not to compare them. For those who love God, all things work together for good. God sends His message through His servants.

He who sows sparingly shall reap sparingly; he who sows bountifully shall reap bountifully. It is better not to prejudge people. The ground at the cross is level. It is more blessed to give than to receive, one of the least practiced virtues in the Bible.

It is so easy to say what we would do, as opposed to what another person did. Kind words are never wasted. Like scattered seeds, they spring up in unexpected places. Love is giving an outgoing concern for the welfare

of others without expecting anything in return. Love sought is good, but given unsought is better. Many people wonder if the wisdom of this world has done more good or more harm.

Opening our hearts helps us extend a genuine welcome to all we meet. Patience is a skill we can learn. Relationships thrive with caring, encouragement, and praise. Sin destroys willpower. It saps our strength to live righteously.

Society is increasingly drifting away from God's Word. The only way through grief is to grieve. We must work through the pain of whatever the circumstances. The world needs to be prepared for the return of Jesus in person. There is a big difference in hoping for something and hoping in someone like God. Unity prevails where God's presence prevails. We should strive to make God's priorities our priorities and try our best to think as He does on every issue.

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?

## CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCATES of Cuyahoga County

### You Can "Change A Child's Story"

by Michele Blazina

You can "Change a Child's Story" on Oct. 24th at the annual CFACC GALA to help support children in foster care. Did you know that more than 3,000 children in Cuyahoga County live in foster care or are in supervised custody because it is not safe for them at home? Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County (CFACC), a Northeast Ohio nonprofit organization serving abused and neglected children involved with the Juvenile Court, invites you to learn how you can "Change a Child's Story" at their annual GALA benefit set for Thursday, Oct. 24 at Sausalito on Ninth in downtown Cleveland. Change a Child's Story will take place from 5:30-9:00 PM and will feature a buffet dinner, live entertainment, the chance to bid on dozens of unique auction and

raffle packages, and a 50+ bottle wine pull. Tickets are \$50 each; \$40 for guests who bring a child's toy, book(s) or winter clothing item worth \$10 or more. Valet parking is included in the ticket price. All proceeds benefit the child-centered intervention programs offered by CFACC. Advance tickets available online: <https://conta.cc/2Kb7opn>.

Sponsorships for "Change a Child's Story" begin at \$250 and will help to provide trained volunteer and legal advocates for some of the most vulnerable children in Cuyahoga County. For more information or to sponsor the GALA event, or to learn how you can become a volunteer or legal advocate with at-risk children, visit CFACC online: [cfadvocates.org](http://cfadvocates.org) or follow @CFAdvocates on social media.



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter speaks to the congregation of Ridgewood United Methodist Church on September 22 as they gather to celebrate 150 years, with Senior Pastor Reverend Karen Wolcott looking on.

## Parma Church Celebrates 150 Years

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter presented a proclamation in September to Pastor Karen Wolcott to recognize Ridgewood United Methodist Church's 150th anniversary. "I congratulate the church on reaching this milestone year," DeGeeter said.

The mayor, along with the city and schools, have partnered with the church three times to promote summer youth Workcamps. The camps

attract teens from around the country who volunteer their time to assist senior citizens and disabled residents with various homeowner projects such as painting homes, erecting wheelchair ramps, sprucing up yards and repairing porches and roofs.

"This is a wonderful community service the church helps provide our residents who can no longer do this physical labor themselves," DeGeeter said.

## Faith Community Directory

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PERSPECTIVE

Fixing And Improving  
The ACA Is A Winning Strategy

by Lee Kamps

The Affordable Care Act or Obamacare will be ten years old next spring. Since the act was signed into law on March 23 2010, millions of Americans have become insured who would have previously been uninsured. But the act has been controversial and the Republican party has made repealing and replacing the ACA its top priority. But despite more than 60 votes in the House of Representatives to repeal the act and even with the election of Donald Trump on a promise to “repeal and replace” the act, it still stands.

However, despite all the attempts to repeal the ACA, it has become much more popular and the American public has adapted to the law. Despite Republican attempts to undermine the act, it is still working and insuring millions. But this is not to say that the ACA needs some improvement as well as a major overhaul to achieve its objective of insuring most Americans and reining in the high cost of health care.

In last month’s column, I said that embracing the idea of a government run single payer health insurance system covering everyone and everything would be a losing strategy for the Democratic party. Now I am saying that improving the ACA to make it work better would be a winning strategy. Here are some ways to improve the ACA that would lower premiums and cover more people.

Allow people between the ages of 55 and 64 to “buy into” Medicare. The amount of the “buy in” would depend on how many quarters of coverage paid into social security. But this would allow early retirees as well as older workers who are self employed or not covered through employer

health insurance to get into Medicare. In addition this would improve the risk pool for the ACA exchanges since it would remove the oldest age group from the exchange risk pool. The result would be lower premiums for policies through the exchanges. This idea was on the 2016 Democratic party platform, but was lost in all the rhetoric of the campaign.

Establish the “public option” and make it the default selection for the exchanges. The idea of a “public option” health insurance plan supported by the government was originally in the initial draft of the ACA in 2009 but was taken out to gain more Republican support. However this idea has merit since it would offer an exchange plan available in every state and county in the country. Since many individuals refuse or just don’t voluntarily enroll in health insurance, mostly because they are young and healthy and do not see the need for health insurance; the “public option” would be the default choice and people who fail to make an election on their own would be placed in the public option by default and their premiums collected as a tax.

Fully fund the risk corridors. This is a little technical. But when the ACA exchanges were established and pre existing exclusions were eliminated, it was anticipated that more sick people would enroll than healthy people. This has happened and resulted in a high degree of “adverse selection” in the exchange plans. The risk corridors were a government plan and funds that would compensate the health insurance companies for higher than expected claims due to adverse selection. Congress has consistently failed

to fund these risk corridors. The result has been many large companies exiting the exchanges and higher premiums for policies through the exchanges.

Reinstate the penalty and increase the penalty so being uninsured cost more than getting covered. Repealing the penalty or individual mandate that penalized individuals who refused to get covered even though eligible for health insurance through the exchanges was irresponsible politics at its worst. Now with no penalty, it is cheaper to be uninsured than to get covered. It has also increased the amount of adverse selection since most of the people who chose not to enroll were young and healthy who

are needed to offset the older and sick. It has resulted in higher premiums for exchange policies.

These four points could strengthen the ACA and make it work better. There are more, but space makes it impossible to outline them here. Suffice to say, these could have the greatest impact on the ACA. It could lower premiums as well as deductibles and make health insurance more affordable for most Americans. Unlike a single payer plan as espoused by several Democratic presidential candidates, the ACA is still the law of the land and it is popular. Make it work better. We can do it!

Cleveland Photo Fest

by Kathryn Mabin

One day in late 2018, I sat and spoke with Laura D’Alessandro at an art exhibition at Prama Artspace Gallery, in Parma. We talked about lots of things, art, our families, and what we wanted to do with the rest of our lives. Laura told me she dreamed of bringing to Cleveland a photography festival similar to, PhotoNOLA, an event she participated in while living in New Orleans. Laura is a Cleveland born fine art photographer, writer and educator, who has returned home to Cleveland. Her dream, the 1st Annual Cleveland Photo Fest was realized this year and it is a huge success. Events like this one, usually start small and grow, but not this one. Through lots of hard work, very little sleep, and the help of friends, Laura, Herbert Ascherman Jr., founder and director of Cleveland Photographic Workshop and Jim Szudy, freelance photographer and founder of Gemini Developers, have attracted the attention of a great many, and not only local, national and international photog-

raphers. Cleveland Photo Fest was recognized by Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Ohio Representative Jeffrey Crossman - District 15, Representative Juanita O. Brent - District 12, and Representative Larry Householder - District 72, and the General Assembly of The State of Ohio. The festival has received acclaim within the art community, in print in many locations and in social media.

This festival includes 13 galleries and art spaces, and runs through the end of 2019 and just into 2020. It includes the works of about 100 photographers. In addition to exhibits, there are lectures and workshops. Parma’s Prama Artspace & Gallery is a participant. Their slogan is Unity Through Photography. Their mission is to strengthen the appreciation of photography as a major force in today’s visually driven culture. For more information on Cleveland Photo Fest go to [www.clevelandphotofest.org](http://www.clevelandphotofest.org), or follow them on Facebook.

Parma Heights Just Got Safer

continued from page 1

**A SPECIAL PROGRAM -- The Parma Heights Library** is hosting an adult program titled, "The Shawshank Redemption Revealed" on Tuesday, October 1 at 7 pm. Enjoy a fascinating presentation by author Mark Dawidziak, based on his new book, "The Shawshank Redemption Revealed", highlighting the 25th anniversary of the film adaptation. For further details, call the library at 440.884.2313.

**IN CONCERT – The Parma Symphony Orchestra** will perform in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 13 in the auditorium of Valley Forge High School, 9999 Independence Boulevard. Music by Mozart will be featured.

**ONSTAGE AT THE CASSIDY THEATRE – The musical Footloose**, with book by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie, Music by Tom Snow and Jim Steinman, and Lyrics by Dean

Pitchford, will be presented October 11 – 27. Footloose is the story of Ren McCormack, a teenage boy from Chicago. He and his mother move to the small town of Bomont after his father abandons them. Upon arriving, Ren finds himself at odds with most of the town, including the Reverend Bomont. The Reverend has convinced the town to outlaw dancing, which Ren finds unbelievable. With the help of the Ariel (the Reverend’s daughter) and Willard (a country hick who becomes his best friend), Ren convinces the Reverend to let the teenagers dance, and in the process helps the town to heal from a tragedy that affected them all.

For more information or tickets, call the theatre box office at 440.842.4600. The theatre is located at 6200 Pearl Road in the Greenbrier Commons complex.

**WANT YOUR INFORMATION FEATURED HERE? -- Send column items to [rick.haase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick.haase@sbcglobal.net)**

News You Can Use  
(And Where To Find It)

continued from page 4

**Art Experiences—** Grades K – 8; Fridays at 4:00 p.m., Sept 27th to Dec. 13th (no program Nov 29th). Engage your imaginative self with open-ended art explorations. Examine the works of art masters and explore various mediums such as paint, pastels and clay. All materials are included. Register at: <http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/2722519>

**From the Parma Hts. Branch Library:**

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

Fall Storytimes at the Library: For Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Families; Tues., 9/3 – Sat., 11/30 .. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and more. Please call 440.884.2313 for more information.



AREA WIDE EVENTS

## Tri-C Western Campus Hosts Annual Conference Examining Solutions For Student Poverty

by John Horton

More than half of community college students across the nation wonder whether they'll have enough money for their next meal. Nearly one in five don't know where they'll sleep night to night. These statistics serve as a starting point for discussions at the upcoming Conference on Confronting Poverty Among College Students, held at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). The third annual conference will take place 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday,

Oct. 25, in the Western Campus Health Careers and Sciences building. The event is hosted by the College's Institute for Poverty and Urban Education.

The conference will feature presentations and workshops led by researchers and organizers of community and educational programs working to address the poverty issue. "It's difficult for a student to succeed academically if they're worried about basic needs, such as food and housing," said Tri-C's Julia Krevans, an associate psychology professor

who serves as director of the institute. "We hope to raise awareness and identify practices that ensure all students achieve their ambitions."

The keynote speaker at the conference will be Cia Verschelden, author of *Bandwidth Recovery: Helping Students Reclaim Cognitive Resources Lost to Poverty, Racism and Social Marginalization*. Her book — published in 2017 — examines how to create environments that help students overcome the societal obstacles that can stand



## Meet The New Director Of Finance And Personnel For The City Of Parma Heights

by Rick Haase

The city has a new Director of Finance and Personnel. Katie Iaconis says she looks forward to working with the administration and Parma Heights residents in her new role. She replaces veteran Finance Director Terry Hickey, who retired this summer after 51 years with the city. "It's exciting," she said. "I really enjoy projects. There's a lot of ways for us (the city) to save money and be more efficient."

Iaconis most recently served as the Fiscal Officer for the Village of Walton Hills, where she also assisted the Mayor there in Economic Development. Iaconis is a graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati, where she earned a Bachelor

of Science Degree in Business Administration focusing on Entrepreneurial Studies in 2003. She also has expertise working as a research coordinator for CBRE, Inc., a commercial real estate leader, and was also previously the Chief Financial Officer for a family-owned contracting firm in Cleveland.

Iaconis said she loves a challenge and thinks she can implement some changes long term that could save the city a substantive amount of money. "I've already put into place some minor changes that will save us about \$60,000 a year," she said. "We have a lot of work to do." A native of Walton Hills, she resides there with her husband, Alex, a regional office



Katie Iaconis

manager for an HVAC distributor, and their daughter, Clara, 7. She's already hard at work on the city's next budget. "The budget is always a challenge," she said.

between them and graduation.

The conference also features a kick-off speaker, Nireata Seals of LaGuardia Community College in New York — an institution that has become a national leader in lifting students from poverty into jobs where they earn good wages. Cost of the conference is \$30. To register, visit [www.tri-c.edu/povertyconference19](http://www.tri-c.edu/povertyconference19). Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Students can attend for free by emailing Krevans at [julia.krevans@tri-c.edu](mailto:julia.krevans@tri-c.edu).

Tri-C launched the Institute for Poverty and Urban Education in 2017. The research center is dedicated to resolving economic inequities that create obstacles for students working toward careers and financial stability.

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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

**Pre-Holiday Arts & Craft Show – October 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Drive. Start your holiday shopping early, shop for unique one of a kind items at this sale. Free admission. Net proceeds benefit Parma Area Fine Arts Council’s free or reduced art classes offered to the community throughout the year.

**Sun Print Workshop – Saturday, October 19, 2019, 1:00 p.m.** at Prama Artspace Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd. Instructors are fine art photographers Samantha Bias & Laura D’Alessandro. Family

friendly. Cost \$20. Stop in during business hours (Saturday, Sunday & Monday 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) for details or to register.

**Watercolor or Acrylic Painting Classes –** Ongoing classes, Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. in Parma. Learn to paint in a relaxing atmosphere, meet new friends. Stop in and watch a class, meet the instructor, and learn what supplies you’ll need, or call 440-888-4514 to register. \$10 for a two hour session. Discount for Parma Area Fine Art Council members.

Craig Lindsley, creator

of Nightingale Indie Comics, Parma Area Fine Arts Board Member, and instructor, will be appearing at Yo-ICE (Youngstown Indie Comics Expo) 2019, located at the Westside Bowl, 2617 Mahoning Ave. in Youngstown, Ohio, October 15, 2019 from 1:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Craft Show season is in full swing, and Michelle Behal, wood burner, acrylics instructor, and President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council is one busy lady. Look for her Bear Tracks Art stocking stuffers, door hangers, ornaments, and custom signs at Brookpark United Methodist Church, Saturday October 5th, Donna Smallwood Center, Saturday October 12th, Chatham Apple Butter Festival Sunday October 13th, and at Church of Assumption on October 26th. For more on Michelle and her commissioned work, visit [www.beartracksart.com](http://www.beartracksart.com).

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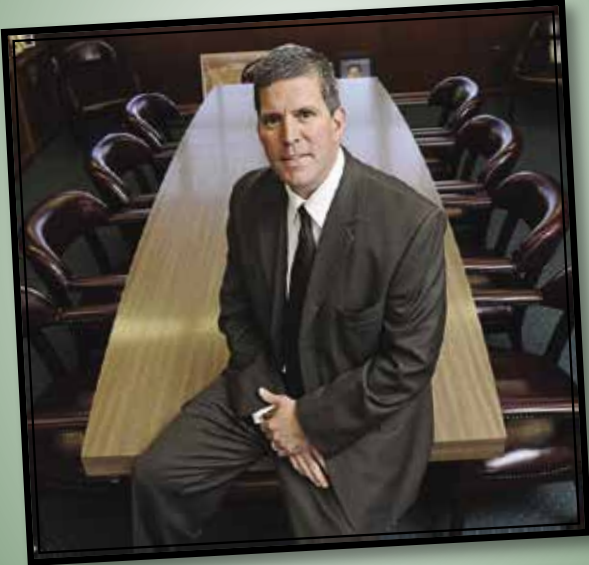


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