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

vision for the future develop-

ment of a particular area, in

this case the plan specifically

addresses the area south of W.

Ridgewood Dr., north of Stea-

rns Farm, and bordered by City

Hall/UH Parma on the east

side, and the Shoppes of Parma

to the west. The City of Parma

Planning Commission and City

Council will use the Master

Plan to make decisions regard-

ing proposals that are presented

before them. This Plan is used

by citizens and neighborhood

groups to understand the City's

long-range plans and proposals

for the area and to encourage

received a grant from the

Cuyahoga County Planning

Commission to create a Town Center Master Plan in 2017. A

steering committee composed of many of the same members as

the task force was formed to work

with the staff at County Planning.

The City applied for and

plan implementation.

Cuyahoga Planning Commission Unveils Town Center Master Plan

by Timothy J. DeGeeter

The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission presented an overview of the draft Town Center Master Plan to City Council on Monday, October 21, 2019. This draft master plan is a direct result of a Town Center Task Force that was created in 2014 and composed of stakeholders in the area surrounding the new Shoppes of

Parma. The report from the task force recommended the formulation of a master plan that would reflect the vision defined by the members. The task force was composed of residents, West Creek Conservancy, UH Parma Medical Center, RTA, Parma City Schools, Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and others.

A master plan is an overall

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



Several members of the Parma Early Childhood P.T.A. showing their Parma pride!

Police Don Pink Patches And Grow Beards For A Cause

by Carolyn Kovach

From vibrant pink patches on their uniforms to trendy beards, police officers are making a fashion statement this fall. In October, many of the officers donned vibrant pink police patches on their sleeves in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They also collaborated with University Hospital's Seidman Cancer Center to bring awareness about breast cancer detection during Polish Village's Treat & Greet, passing

out literature at the event with UH staff. Furthermore, they raised money through City of Parma dress-down Fridays to help cover transportation costs for cancer patients traveling to and from treatments. The money was donated to the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery transportation program.

Throughout November, many officers will be growing beards for their third annual No-Shave WishVember. Three years ago, Patrol Officer Jason

City Engineers Meet With U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers To Address Flooding

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma engineers met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Buffalo, N.Y., late this summer. They were seeking section 205 program funds to address surface-flooding concerns. The meeting stemmed from the city's 2018 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers application regarding targeted flooding areas: Antoinette Drive, Thoreau Drive and Rousseau Drive; Regency Drive and Ridge

Road; West Ridgewood Drive; and York Road and Pleasant Valley Drive. City engineers also discussed other areas that experienced flooding during a July 5 downpour: Bonnie Banks and Stormes Drive. Any awarded funds would be a 65/35 split with all the neighborhoods. "We keep pushing for these critical funds. We'll do whatever they ask us on our end to seek these federal dollars for our city," said Parma **continued on page 3**

Piazza contacted A Special Wish Foundation Cleveland Chapter, a charity that fulfills the wishes of children with

continued on page 3



Many Parma police officers wore pink patches on their sleeves in October in support of Breast Cancer Awareness

Old Midtown Plaza Gets New Name And ILook

by Carolyn Kovach

LRC Realty is in the midst of an \$8.5 million overhaul of Midtown Plaza, giving the shopping center a modern look and a new name, Quarry Square. The project includes

continued on page 10

Three different public meetings were held at the Parma branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library so that public input could be received. Additionally, several on-line surveys were made available to anyone wishing to comment as the plan was developed. All of the comments were included in the draft Master Plan and most were incorporated into the final version.

The next step is a formal adoption of the plan by Parma City Council, which should happen by year end. The plan includes goals and recommendations delineated by the expected length of time to accomplish each so that after the Council approval the City

can begin the work toward achieving the goals in an orderly manner. The Plan also includes possible funding sources including grants that may be available to further the desired outcomes. An adopted Master Plan also helps bolster grant applications.

This plan is a blueprint for future development and redevelopment of a very vital and energized area of Parma. The City administration looks forward to continuing our partnerships with the stakeholders in the area and the public with the intention of creating a vibrant and identifiable town center. A link to the actual plan document will be available on the City's website www.cityofparma-oh.gov.

Message From Parma Law Director

Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck occasionally publishes Law Director Advisories to alert and educate residents of Parma on a variety of issues. Some examples of recent Law Director's Advisories are the effect of the First Energy Solutions' bankruptcy on the residents of Parma, how to avoid falling for the Publisher's Clearinghouse scam, the effect of a Medicare snafu which may have resulted in a loss of medical insurance for some seniors and how to avoid a variety of current scams taking place in Parma. These advisories are published on the City of Parma website and may be found at http://cityofparmaoh.gov/en-US/Law.aspx. There are also archives of past Law Director's Advisories from the past four or five years.

In October, Mr. Dobeck published a Law Director's Advisory regarding the legal implications of residents who use video security cameras in residential areas that can capture video and/or audio recordings of neighbors. The following is a Frequently Asked Questions synopsis of this topic from Law Director Dobeck.

Q: May I use a video camera to record activities on my own property.

A: Absolutely. There is no

legal prohibition to videotaping one's own property.

Q: What happens if my camera captures video of my neighbor's property?

A: Generally, there is no legal prohibition to videotaping public places or private property where the property owner does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. So, if your camera captures your neighbor's front yard or unfenced-in back yard, there should be no legal implications. However, if your camera is pointed toward the inside of your neighbor's home, or your neighbor's fenced-in back yard, you may be violating civil and criminal laws.

Q: May I use a camera that has audio recording capabilities so I can record my neighbor's conversations?

A: Ohio law makes it illegal to capture conversations of others—oral conversations, phone conversations, or even electronic communications—unless one party to the conversation consents to it. Therefore, if your video security camera captures a conversation between your neighbor and his wife, for instance, without their consent, you may have violated the state criminal wiretapping laws.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

I am contacted often by senior and disabled residents in our community who are seeking financial and other assistance. I find that, all too often, they are not aware of the programs offered by the local, state and federal governments or non-governmental organizations. That is why I recently reached out to Stacey Boycik, Manager of the Parma-Snow branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library,

to ask if she and her staff would consider partnering to put together a Senior Benefits Fair. Always willing to sponsor programs that benefit the community, she excitedly agreed.

"The Parma-Snow Library is proud to host and co-sponsor the Benefits Fair," Boycik explained. "My staff and I are confident that those in attendance will each find out about many helpful programs available to them from our collaborating agencies who will be in attendance, as well as find out more about what our national award-winning library system has to offer," she added.

The Benefits Fair is intended to be a one-stop shop for folks to find out what money-saving programs they are eligible for. In fact, several organizations will be in attendance, including the Parma Police Department, the Parma Fire Department, the office of Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, the Parma Community Services Department, the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, Cuyahoga Community College's Encore Program, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services, University Hospitals, the U.S. Census Bureau, the Parma Senior Center, and others.

The event will take place on Saturday, November 9 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Parma-Snow Library located at 2121 Snow Road. There is no need to register, the program is completely free, and refreshments will be provided. Feel free to contact me for more information at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@msn.com.



by Stephen Donovan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers to assist taxpayers in southwestern Cuyahoga County. We have 2 tax preparation sites in Parma and additional sites in the neighboring cities of Middleburg Heights, Brook Park, Broadview Heights, North Royalton, and Strongsville. We also have sites Brooklyn, and Brooklyn Heights, and the Old Brooklyn and Puritas-Longmead neighborhoods of the city of Cleveland that are part of another Tax-Aide district. Volunteers do not have to be retired or members of AARP.

All of our sites are electronic filing sites. Volunteers are expected to work at a site for at least 6 hours per week on weekdays during the tax season, which runs from the first week in February through the 15th of April. Each volunteer must have an email address and computer experience is preferred for tax return preparers. Volunteers do not need previous income tax experience. We provide a free two-week course for tax return preparers during January. We are also looking for greeters and provide them with a free one-day

Tax-Aide is a very rewarding IRS-supported program offered by the AARP Foundation providing free assistance to taxpayers with special attention given to senior citizens with low to moderate incomes. It is a great way for volunteers to become involved in their communities and learn about the preparation of the 1040 tax form. Our recruitment of volunteers is on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

For more information please call Tax-Aide District Coordinator Steve Donovan at 440-237-7348, call AARP's toll-free number at 888-687-2277, or visit Tax-Aide's web site at https:// www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_ taxaide/



Honoring Those Who Served:

Tri-C Sets Veterans Day Observance At Western Campus

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will honor the courageous men and women who served in the nation's military during a Veterans Day observance at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at Western Campus. The remembrance will take place at the Veterans Memorial Garden and Galleria. "Veterans Day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have defended this nation," said Rick DeChant, executive director of the College's Veterans Initiative. "The peace we enjoy is because of those who served."

The program will include presentations by Tony Kessler, commander of American Legion Post 572 in Parma, and Tri-C's James Banks, director of the Crile Archive Center for History Education at Western Campus. Banks will talk about the legacy of George Crile, a Cleveland surgeon who led a Northeast Ohio medical team that treated wounded soldiers in France during World War I.



The archives serve as a repository of materials about Crile and artifacts detailing the experiences of veterans on the battlefield and at home. It focuses on the health and healing of veterans. Tours of the archives and the College's Crile Veterans Center will follow the Veterans Day observance. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Free parking is available.

Tri-C serves thousands of Northeast Ohio veterans every year through its Veterans Initiative. For more information on programs and services, visit www.tri-c.edu/veterans.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

City Engineers Meet With U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers To Address Flooding

continued from page 1

Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "We continue to look at different areas that got hit hard. We have had meetings with West Creek Conservancy and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District searching for solutions to our storm water management challenges."

DeGeeter acknowledges that basement flooding is frustrating for residents. "There's almost nothing worse for a resident than coming home to a flooded basement," he said. "We're continuing to work hard to try to alleviate these problems. It's not just an issue in Parma. It's a regional problem, which is why we are collaborating with our partners and neighboring cities." Meanwhile, the city is waiting for a response from the Army Corps to learn which projects will receive a feasibility study. "The study will then determine whether or not the projects that made the first cut after the letter of intent review will be eligible for federal funding from the Army Corps and in what amount," said Parma City Assistant Engineer Jim Mihelich.



John Andrefsky, MD, is the Medical Director of the Sleep Center at UH Parma Medical Center.

How's Your Sleep?

Learn About The Sleep Center At UH Parma Medical Center

BY CJ Sheppard

More than 70 million Americans suffer from sleep problems. If you have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, or are fatigued during the day, a sleep study at UH Parma Medical Center's Sleep Center can help you determine why. Find out if you suffer from a sleep disorder and learn treatment options.

Neurologist John Andrefsky, MD, Medical Director of UH Parma's Sleep Center, presents "How's Your Sleep?" on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Auditorum at UH Parma. Register by calling 440-743-4932.

The Sleep Center that opened

last year at UH Parma Medical Center is modern and comfortable, with the patient experience paramount in its design. Located on the ground floor of Medical Arts Center 4 in a newly renovated suite, it is comprised of spacious private bedrooms with queen-sized beds, recliners and flat-screen LCD televisions with DVD players. The board-registered technician who monitors the study speaks to patients by intercom to maintain privacy. In the morning before leaving, patients have access to a walk-in shower to prepare for their day.

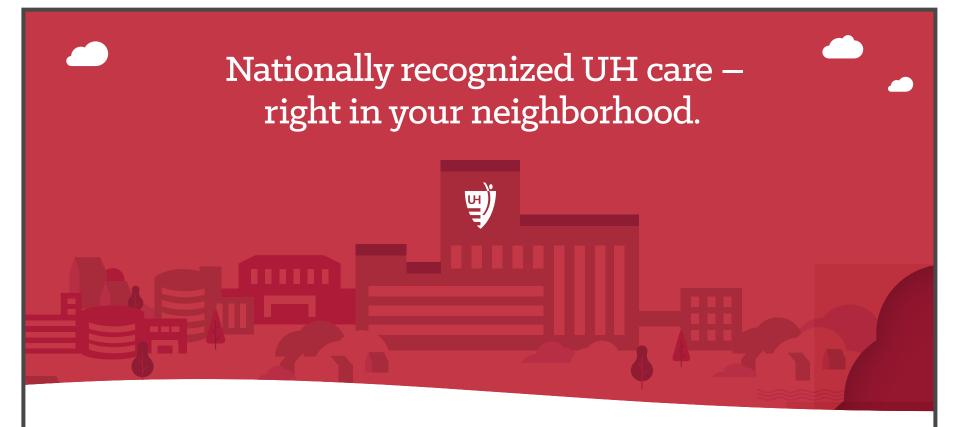
Police Don Pink Patches And Grow Beards For A Cause

continued from page 1

life-threatening illnesses across greater Cleveland. "We connected with A Special Wish leaders to start a no-shave fundraiser. We wanted to identify a specific wish child to help grant his or her wish and name it, "No-Shave WishVember," Piazza said. "The first year, we raised enough money to grant a little girl's wish to swim with the dolphins in Orlando."

Spearheaded by Piazza, the fundraiser grew last year to include Independence, Chagrin Falls, Pepper Pike, Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights police departments. Collectively, the departments raised more than \$16,000 to help grant numerous wishes, including sending Maxine and her family on her wish trip to Hawaii. "These officers have created deserving memories for these children battling life-threatening illnesses that their families will never forget," said Eileen Lane, executive director of A Special Wish Foundation Cleveland Chapter.

For more details about No-Shave WishVember, visit www.Police-4Wishes.org.



University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has always provided high-quality, expert and personalized care to our community. We're proud to say it's also some of the highest quality care in the nation.

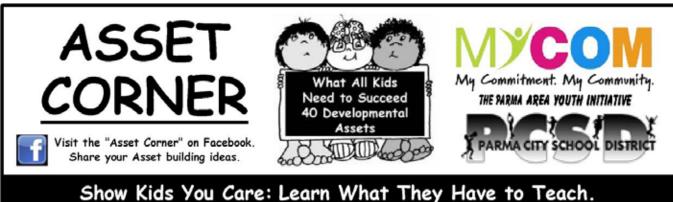
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EDUCATION



Asset Corner #119

by Gene Lovasy

October's Asset Category: Empowerment. Young people are empowered when they feel valued, valuable and safe. They need to believe that adults like and respect them. Finally, they need plenty of opportunities to contribute to their communities through volunteering, working in paid jobs and sharing their ideas, knowledge and creativity. One of these days, the young people in your home, school, neighborhood and workplace will be in charge – in charge of their own lives and in charge of the world. You can help young people get ready for their future role by empowering them now. This month's column will focus on Asset #10 - Safety: Combating fear, and growing up safe in an unsafe world

Young people who feel threatened, unsafe, or scared often spend a lot of time trapped in fear or in their attempts to protect themselves. They're less likely to venture forth and take some healthy risks. On the other hand, young people who feel safe are more likely to feel secure enough to try new things. That's why safety is an important part of feeling empowered. Fear, both imaginary and real, is a normal part of growing up. The key is learning to overcome it.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who feel safe in their surroundings are more likely to make positive contributions. About 51 percent of young people, ages 11-18, say they feel safe at home, at school, and in their neighborhood, according to Search Institute surveys. The key to safety is to create and maintain an environment that minimizes fear and maximizes opportunities to take healthy risks.

Tips for building this asset

Media reports fuel reality-based fears, such as crimes and accidents. You may inadvertently add to young people's insecurity by feeling anxious yourself and believing the world is

Parma Mayor And City Council Members Recognize Standout Citizens

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma mayor and council members honored an exceptional business, coach and citizen during the month of October.

Ward 3 Councilman Mark Casselberry and Mayor Tim DeGeeter named A Better Truck Cap & Hitch as the October Business of the Month. The business, located at 5311 Brookpark Road, has served Parma residents for more than 30 years and provides excellent customer service.

Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech and the mayor recognized Josh Merold as the 2019 Coach of the Year - Youth Soccer, for his hard work and dedication to Parma recreation sports. Merold

Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

received the honor during an October Monday night council meeting.

Finally, Casselberry and DeGeeter honored Cleveland Institute of Art student Chi (Irena) Wong for the colorful mural she painted at the entrance of the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink. The painting features ice hockey and figure skating. A junior majoring in visual arts, Wong participates in an internship program called Creativity Works. The internship required Wong to make connections with community partners and develop a self-initiated project with a business plan and budget. She began the project this past August and recently completed it.

Coffee House & Hookah Cafe 6285 Pearl Road • 440.886.6648 PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130 Daily Promos From 1p.m. to 5p.m. Monday- Buy 1 Pastry- Get Medium Coffee FREE **Tuesday-** Noon-6PM \$6.00 Hookah w/Bev. Purchase **Wednesday-** Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off **Thursday-** Ladies Night- 50% off any drinks w/ad Friday- \$4.00 Hookah All Day **Saturday-** 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM

dangerous. Young people pick up on adults' attitudes and beliefs even if they don't tell children how they're feeling. Be aware of your behavior, body language, and words—and those coming from others. When you talk to young people about particularly upsetting or frightening events, remind them such occurrences aren't common. Point out the many ways people take care of one

Also try this

another to be safe.

In your home and family: Discuss with your child suggestions for how to remain safe in certain circumstances,

and role-play situations. For example, create—and practice—an escape plan in case of a fire in your home. Identify a neighbor your child can go to in an emergency.

In your neighborhood and community: Donate your time, materials, or other resources to a local community center where children can safely play. If there isn't a community center near you, work to establish one or create other safe activities for young people in your neighborhood.

In your school or youth program: Discuss with young people what it means to be safe at school or in your program. Encourage them to tell you—or other caring adults—if their safety ever feels threatened.

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.

Add A Redwood To Parma

by William Subjoc

Perhaps you are a Parma homeowner looking to add a large, unique tree specimen not only for your own sake, but for your neighbors and future generations alike. The Dawn Redwood, with the scientific name Metasequioa glyptostroboides, could fill that void along with including a unique historical perspective. I have not noticed any in Parma but have seen some in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

The Dawn Redwood was believed to have gone extinct millions of years ago and was known only by fossil records. These fossils show the Dawn Redwood was located across North America and Asia. For this reason this tree is sometimes referred to as a dinosaur tree. Surprisingly, a few living specimens were discovered in 1943 during WWII in the Sichuan province of south central China. Following WWII seeds were brought to North America and Europe for propagation.

One of these locations is the Secrest Arboretum located within the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio. The OARDC is part of Ohio State University and any students interested in an agricultural career should certainly research this facility. Within the Secrest Arboretum is a grove of Dawn Redwoods planted in the early 1950's. Visit 'https://bygl. osu.edu/node/601' where you can find out much, much more about Dawn Redwoods and the OARDC research facility. You may even drive through



A pair of Dawn Redwoods at about 20 years old. (Photo courtesy of West Holmes Arboretum.)

and walk the grounds without an appointment. The link contains Dawn Redwood photos to provide an idea of the mature tree appearance.

The Dawn Redwood eventually grows to a very large size so be sure to have enough space. The tree may grow to a height of 70 - 100 feet and a diameter of about 25 feet. Dawn Redwoods may even grow to 160 feet in the perfect environment. While it is a conifer it is also deciduous turning orange-brown and dropping its leaves and small cones every fall. So, for not only a unique tree in your personal landscape you can also include a very unique historical aspect known to few people.



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Four PCSD schools earn PTA School of Excellence Distinction



by Amy Popik

PTAs throughout the Parma City School District are making a big impact on the lives of students, staff and families.

So much so, four buildings received the National PTA School of Excellence Distinction for 2019 – 2021.

Green Valley Elementary School, Hillside Middle School, Parma Senior High School and Pleasant Valley Elementary School were recognized for their "commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming school-community where all families contribute to enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for all students," according to information from National PTA.

Impressively, PCSD represented a quarter of the schools from Ohio who received this designation for the 2019 – 2021 cycle. Each school will receive a banner to proudly display at their building.

"Parma City Schools have a tradition of having strong PTAs," Parma Council of PTAs President Heather Ekechi shared. "I feel this program finally gives the building PTA units recognition on the national level."

This isn't the first time PCSD schools have received this recognition. In fact, Parma Park Elementary School received this honor last year for the 2018-2020 cycle, and many other schools have been recognized in the past.

"I am proud of the units who received this recognition this year, along with those in the past," Ekechi expressed. "All of the units that received this recognition also earned it a few years ago, which shows they are continuing to keep up the good work."

Ekechi said becoming a National PTA School of Excellence is done in partnership with PTA building units and building administration.

"The PTA and school administrators participate by making a year-long commitment to identifying and implementing an action plan for school improvement based on PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and Family Engagement," she explained.

Along with survey data and creating improvement goals, school PTAs follow a "Roadmap to Excellence" created by National PTA for their building. This roadmap offers strategies in enhancing family engagement and improving family partnerships.

"PTA creates the village that helps to raise our kids and strengthen our community," Ekechi described. "PTA links families to important school and community information. Most of our PTAs host educational programs and assemblies along with providing engaging events for our families. All PTAs also raise money to support the programs, assemblies and events along with other specific needs of their school."

All are welcome to join the PTA and contribute their talents to making a difference in the schools.

"The number one reason to join the Parent Teacher Association is to benefit your child," Ekechi shared. "PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind."

"Regardless of what your exact interests are, you can be certain that your participation will be welcomed in any of our school's parent-teacher organization," she added. "Most schools have membership information in their office. Even if you don't have much time, attending your school's PTA or PTSA meetings is an excellent way to stay on top of what's happening at the school."

For more information about PTA, please visit www.parmacityschools.org/pta.

We Want to Hear From You! Upcoming Strategic Consolidation Meetings

by Amy Popik

Please join us for the second round of public meetings in Fall 2019 as we continue to discuss Master Planning for Strategic Consolidation.

These meetings will discuss data from last year's meetings and community survey results from this summer. There will also be specific options of campus plans presented in which the community can provide more targeted impact and feedback on the future of our facilities.

The specific campus options include: Elementary Schools (Pre-K through 5th

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

"We were very excited to review our communities' input this summer and grateful that so many of our stakeholders took the time to participate in our meetings or survey last school year," expressed Parma City School District Superintendent Charles Smialek, Ph.D. "We are even more excited to enter our next phase of this critical process as our families, staff members

and the community will be able to protheir feedback about specific options our architects have devised for us. Ba upon this second phase of feedback, we form a clear recommendation to the Bo of Education by the end of this calen year."

GPD Group are the architects who work closely with the school district on project and will be present at each pu meeting to answer questions and conce from the public.

The following are scheduled Ma Planning for Strategic Consolidation P lic Meetings for Fall 2019:

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 10:00 Al 11:30 AM at Parma Branch Library (Pov Blvd.)

Monday, November 4, 2019, 6:30 PM 8:00 PM at Shiloh Middle School Monday, November 18, 2019, 6:30 PM 8:00 PM at Valley Forge High School - I dia Center

Saturday, November 23, 2019, 10:00 A. 11:30 AM Parma Branch Library (Pov Blvd.)

Monday, November 25, 2019, 6:30 PM 8:00 PM at Normandy High School Monday, December 2, 2019, 6:30 PM 8:00 PM at Parma Senior High School

Meetings are open to all and the comnity is encouraged to provide their valuinput during this important process will shape the future of our district!

For more information, please visit w parmacityschools.org/superintendent.

Taste of the Towns 2019



by Amy Popik

Students in Normandy High School's Culinary Program help serve at the eighth annual Taste of the Towns hosted by The Parma City Schools Foundation, Inc.

The event raised over \$25,000, which will benefit each school and all students in the

district. The funds over the years have b used for classroom supplies, technology, programs for students and f trips.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/fo dation to learn more.

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INSPIRATION

I'm Ready For HAPPY ~ How About You?

by Susan Banks - Yurik

I usually gasp upon entering stores in early October ~ November when what to my wondering eyes do appear, decorations for Christmas right into the New Year.With universal news of political, educational, economic disdain, and truly much worldly concern, I have decided, "I choose HAPPY"!

I am awakened by the early morning sunrise and as my toes touch the chilly floor, the crisp cool air has me reaching for my woolen sweater. A bit of a chill reminding me, a change is coming and it is just around the corner. As I take my morning walk, leaves of ruby red, amber and gold decorate my path with sounds of rustling and crackling beneath my feet. Flowers

displaying brightest colors of cherry red, purples and sunburst orange are celebrating their last hurrah of the season. As I continue on my way, ghosts and goblins hang from trees and pumpkins yet to find their faces. Christmas lights await their glowing debut.

Soon the warmth of home and hearth, and new television pilots to review, gives one time to snuggle in for the long winters night. I am reminded of many blessings as Thanksgiving will soon arrive with hopes of a first snowfall as off to grandmother's house we go. The aroma of turkey roasting in the oven filling the house with fragrances of thyme, garlic and cloves along with warm apple pies made with apples so sweet and tart, juices laced with

brown sugar sweetness, cinnamon and spice brings back childhood memories... anticipating memories yet to be made.

As you prepare for the winter season and holidays, look to blessings and joy. Take a moment to hold someone's hand, give a gentle hug, smile into the eyes of a child or perhaps just a nod hello. Share a moment or two of happiness in a world so desperately in need.



I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Believers are not to be selfish or proud but followers of Jesus: humble, obedient, and servants. Celebrate every day, not just holidays, because every day is special. Christmas is strictly about Jesus, the real reason for the season. Doing something "just this once," knowing it is wrong, can lead to terrible consequences. God does not abandon us in our distress; He sticks with us through thick and thin.

God sees everything, hears everything, and knows everything. God shows no partiality and welcomes everyone.

God wants each of us to reflect His light by loving others the way He loves each of us. If we keep our eyes on God, we won't lose sight of life's purpose. It is not all about getting recognition for utilizing our gifts; it is for God's glory. It takes both partners for their marriage to thrive; each is responsible for enhancing it. It takes time and effort to build healthy relationships.

Love for others demonstrates God's presence in our lives. Many peo-

ple are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges in their relationships. More law abiding results in less crime, violence, and destruction. More learning can evolve from mourning than rejoicing. Our love for Christ is only as real as our love for our neighbors.

People are responsible for planting good seed and not responsible for how others respond; that is God's job. The sensible thing to do is to celebrate what we presently have. Those who have God's peace within them can thrive within strife. We are not defined by what happens to us, but by how we respond to what happens to us. We need public outcry and political rage over violence in America to fix our depraved culture. We usually reproduce what we come from. When our behavior limits covetousness, contentment abounds. When we help bear someone's burden, we will fulfill God's plan for us.

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

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NEIGHBORHOODS

As The U.S. Healthcare System Hangs In The Balance Ohio Lawmakers Take Action

by Mallory DeTota

Other than perhaps the promise to "build that wall," nothing is more emblematic pf President Trump's 2016 campaign than his promise to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Although thus far the effort to repeal and replace the popular healthcare plan has been unsuccessful, Trump may soon get his wish as a Federal Appeals Court in Texas considers legal arguments in a case involving the constitutionality of the ACA. Meanwhile, two members of the Ohio House of Representatives have proposed adopting protections from the ACA into Ohio law to preserve certain protections for patients with preexisting condition should the court undo the law. Legal experts predict a decision in Texas v. U.S. any day and also predict that this case is likely to be resolved in the U.S. Supreme Court next year.

State Representatives Jeff Crossman (D-Parma) and Randi Clites (D-Ravenna) teamed up to introduce legislation at an October 23rd press conference. According to Rep. Crossman the proposed legislation, if passed, would incorporate protections from the ACA into Ohio law. "It's a good bill and there's no reason why my Republican colleagues should not want to join us in getting this passed." Rep. Crossman noted that Gov. DeWine and Attorney General Yost have both publicly sup-



Rep. Crossman (D- Parma) & Rep. Clites (D-Ravenna)

ported the idea of protecting persons with preexisting conditions. "Gov. DeWine promised to address this issue 'if something happened to the ACA' but I don't think it makes sense to wait." said Crossman. "We shouldn't wait for a calamity to occur. We should act now."

The Crossman-Clites bill proposes to prohibit insurance policies from excluding coverage for preexisting conditions and places limits on the premiums that insurance companies could charge. The bill also contains provisions that would ban lifetimes caps on care and would require Ohio insurance policies to cover what the ACA describes as "essential health" benefits. According to Rep. Crossman, if the lawsuit succeeds and these protections are not adopted by

Ohio, it "will likely return us to the 'bad old days' when persons suffering from common conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or high blood pressure may once again need to worry about lifetime caps or coverage refusals by their insurance company---not to mention high-risk pools for cancer survivors or persons with a chronic illness like multiple sclerosis."

According to a recent study, nearly 2 million Ohioans currently have medical conditions that might prevent them from securing health care coverage should the Texas lawsuit succeed. "We cannot go back [to] when hardworking Ohioans would go bankrupt because they couldn't get access to the healthcare they needed—when they

needed it most." said Rep. Clites who also pointed out that this time of the year was often very difficult for her family because of the stress involved in choosing an affordable health plan when you have family members with serious chronic diseases like her son's hemophilia. "[Before the ACA] parents had a hard time locating affordable health care for their children's special health needs." said Rep. Clites.

Rep. Crossman and Rep. Clites were joined by three women who provided personal testimony regarding their concerns about the pending lawsuit and its likely impact on their ability to secure healthcare for them and their family, including breast cancer survivor Susan Hyde who discussed her daughter's difficulty in securing healthcare 18 years after her daughter beat leukemia. "My daughter is completely protected with the ACA [because] it gives her equal access to affordable healthcare." According to Reps. Crossman and Clites, they chose to introduce the legislation on that day because of an action day planned by breast cancer survivors during October's breast cancer awareness month. Rep. Crossman also noted that it was one week away from the beginning of open enrollment which runs from November 1 through December 15 2019. For more information about the ACA or open enrollment visit: www.healthcare.gov

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PERSPECTIVE

Loyalty, Courage And Cowardice

by Lee Kamps

One of the points in the Boy Scout law is that a scout is loyal. Loyalty is a key virtue and essential for the success of any business and the nation. However blind loyalty can be a danger as well as false loyalty. It is expected that employees of a company or elected official will be loyal and support the organization. However, it is important to realize that loyalty is also a two way street. If an employee or partner is loyal to one person; the other person should be loyal in return. That means that an employee should be free to disagree with their supervisor or manager in a civil manner without fear of retaliation. At the same time, it should be expected that a loyal employee should also report wrongdoing or any violation of ethics without retaliation as well. This keeps a company and government running in an honest and efficient manner.

However, when any manager or superior views disagreement or pointing out ethical problems as disloyalty; there is something wrong. Blind loyalty becomes dangerous and often leads to problems. The same applies to supervisors and managers who fire or retaliate against subordinates who they feel are "disloyal" by reporting wrongdoing or disagreeing with the superior.

It takes courage to stand up for one's beliefs and honesty in the face of corruption and dishonesty. Very often people who speak out or do something when there is corruption or dishonesty become heroes for their courage. In fact, John F. Kennedy wrote a best selling book before he became President while he was recovering from back surgery titled Profiles in Courage. That book highlighted several people who dared to speak out against injustice or corruption or just what did the right thing and suffered severe consequences.

But all too often many people just ignore or dismiss corruption, dishonesty or wrongdoing in fear of consequences. Remaining silent in the face of corruption or dishonesty is nothing but cowardice. Call it blind loyalty to a bad leader, whether it is the President of the nation or CEO of a company, it is cowardice.

Right now, the United States is faced with perhaps the most corrupt and incompetent President in its history. A few brave people, such as the whistleblower who exposed the call between Donald Trump and the President of Ukraine to assist in the 2020 election campaign. It took real courage to expose this blatantly illegal action by the President.

At the same time, members of congress in the party of the President have either been silent about this latest event or are taking the line of the President that nothing was wrong. Such blind loyalty is cowardice. Whether or not there is enough evidence to impeach the President is up to the House of Representatives to discover and determine. It is a constitutional process that carries risks for both sides. But to call such a process illegal or unconstitutional is also cowardice.

No matter how this scenario works out; eventually those we have elected to represent us in the congress will have to decide whether to remain blindly loyal to the President and in fear of his supporters or to speak out for the truth. It is fine to be skeptical since until and unless the truth is discovered one way or the other following an investigation; no one can be certain. But for elected officials, eventually they will have to answer to the voters. In the end, cowardice is seldom rewarded.

As Yogi Berra once said; "it's déjà vu all over again". This is history repeating itself. I am old enough to remember a very similar situation back in 1973 and 1974 when the Watergate scandal broke and dominated the news. Since then the source of the information that led to the exposure of the scandal, "deep throat" who later was revealed many years later, was remembered as a hero. While those who failed to speak out or expose the corruption were remembered as cowards. Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it. Or if you flunk history, you have to repeat the course.



Cranksgiving -A Food Drive On Two Wheels

by Jessica Cola

Cleveland's cycling community is once again gathering food for disadvantaged families and senior citizens this holiday season! Bike Cleveland and Bike Parma are hosting Cleveland's seventhannual Cranksgiving, a food drive by bicycle that begins and ends at the Parma Hunger Center. There is no cost to join the event, but cyclists usually spend about \$15 (or however much you can) on food and supplies for others. Last year the event raised over \$2000 worth of food and supplies for the Euclid Hunger Shelter and we are hoping to crush that goal this year. This event has historically been the largest single-day donation of the year for all of the food banks involved and Bike Parma is honored to be co-hosting this year.

How does Cranksgiving work? Riders of all ages and skill levels receive a map of nearby grocery stores and are challenged to ride their bikes - regardless of weather - to about four of the stores to purchase one or more food items specified for each. Everything purchased must be hauled by bicycle, either in a bag, pannier, rack, or trailer. You will return to donate the food you collected to benefit the Parma Hunger Center. You can ride anywhere from a few miles to 15 during the event.

Want to contribute even more? Clean out your pantry and bring nonperishable food items to the event. Organize a mini-food drive at your work or in your neighborhood. Or, if you cannot attend, you can make a donation to Bike Cleveland or Bike Parma (specifying that it is for Cranksgiving) and a Bike Cleveland or Bike Parma board member will fetch groceries on your behalf.

Here's the timeline for the event: **Event Date:**

Saturday, November 23rd 2019

Event Home Base:

Parma Hunger Center 5280 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134

10:30AM – Registration, plus coffee and donuts

11:00AM - Brief program and

1:00-1:15PM - Return to Parma Hunger Center and donate food

1:30PM - Closing program and traditional group photo

Visit the Bike Parma or Bike Cleveland facebook pages or www. BikeCleveland.org for more information.

Pre-registration is not required. Riders are expected to wear helmets and obey all laws.







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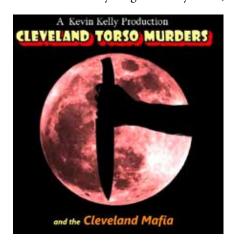
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PERSPECTIVE

Parma's Own Video Producer

by Kevin Kelly

My name is Kevin Kelly and I am a local video producer who resides in the City of Parma with my wife, Clarice. I am the founder of Shocker Enterprises (ShockerEnterprises.com), which is an independent film company that produces documentaries on local and national subject matter. I've also been the videographer for the local festivals such as the "Cuyahoga County Fair",



"The Cleveland Ribfest" and "The Oktoberfest" for the last 6 years. My work can be seen yearly in the television commercial advertisements for the festivals. My documentaries are showing on several government and private stations around the United States. This includes Cox Cable Channel 45 in Parma, and Cleveland Channel 20. I use my knowledge of films, combined

with my art education which I received from the Cleveland Institute of Art, to produce interesting films on unique subjects.

My first video project was the "Cleveland Tornado" which was produced in 2006. The story is about a horrific storm that produced several tornadoes in Ohio back in the year 1953. The last of these tornadoes formed near Cleveland Hopkins Airport. This particular twister proceeded through Linndale and slammed into the intersection of Bellaire and West 117th Street in Cleveland. The tornado then continued through Cleveland's west-side neighborhoods before crossing over the Cuyahoga River and into the city's downtown area. It finally dissipated out over Lake Erie, sparing much of the east side.

For the video's special effects, I built several miniature sets of the Cleveland neighborhoods, including one of downtown Cleveland. These models were destroyed with a large blower to simulate the devastation caused by the twister. I guess the special effects were so convincing that some who saw the video on TV were bewildered on how I was able to actually get my hands on real film footage of the tornado destroying the city back in 1953. Other local documentaries I have produced are "Legend of the Lake Erie Monster", "Cleveland Animal



Kevin Kelly

Attacks in 1904", and the "Cleveland Torso Murders". I was honored with a Clapper Award for my film "Cleveland Torso Murders" from WCTV in Wadsworth, Ohio.

I have been producing local documentaries since 2006 and have since expanded the subject matter to more worldwide interests. Through extensive research and interviews of experts and witnesses, I've attempted to bring forth the most accurate information possible to the audience. My latest documentary, "Rabies", has received great appreciation from viewers around the country. Many people, after watching the documentary, were surprised to learn that much of the information they were originally told about the virus was false. I was even shocked when I began

researching the subject of rabies. At first, I wasn't sure that I wanted to do a video on such a depressing subject. However, after talking to some experts on the subject, they convinced me that it was an important subject that the public needed to be informed about.

I grew up in the city of Cleveland but has lived and worked in Parma, Ohio for the last 25 years, and I wouldn't want to live any place else. Parma has a little bit of everything: parks, city life, and festivals, which can be a goldmine for a videographer. Growing up in Cleveland back in the early 70's, the only place I knew about Parma was Snow Road, which to me seemed like a pretty rural area at that time; I never believed I would be living here one day.

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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**

From the Human Trafficking Hotline - https://humantraffickinghotline.org/

Myths & Facts:

Myth: People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will.

Reality: That is sometimes the case. More often, however, people in trafficking situations stay for reasons that are more complicated. Some lack the basic necessities to physically get out - such as transportation or a safe place to live. Some are afraid for their safety. Some have been so effectively manipulated that they do not identify at that point as being under the control of another person.

Myth: Labor trafficking is only or primarily a problem in developing

Reality: Labor trafficking occurs in the United States and in other developed countries but is reported at lower rates than sex trafficking.

Myth: Traffickers target victims they don't know

Reality: Many survivors have been trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents

Watch for more information re Human Trafficking in the next issue.

Compliments of the Imagine Foundation.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Alternating between an activity



(soccer, kickball, etc.) and a discussion topic (social media, bullying, college vs Career Tech, eic.), the group continues to meet every other Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Cassidy Theater (unless otherwise announced.). Area students ages 12 -17 are welcome to join.

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

From Parma City Schools:

If you have, or know of, a prospective eighth grader NOT enrolled in PCSD consider registering for Shadow Day. This new program gives a prospective eighth grader the opportunity to experience an entire school day to include regular classes, Career Tech programs, athletics & clubs. For more information visit this page: https:// tinyurl.com/PCSD-ShadowDay contact Audrey Holtzman, Admin Specialist for Enrollment & Recruitment at 440.885.8334; email: holtzmana@parmacityschools.org.Shadow Days are scheduled for Nov 1st & 8th so sign up

Parma Parent University.... PCSD & Tri-C have teamed up to offer free, informative & entertaining workshops for parents w/students in the district who wish to learn more about a variety of subjects & challenges which affect children today. Go here to learn more & to register for the next session: https://tinyurl. com/2019ParmaParentUniversity

Take advantage of "Donuts wth Dr. Smialek", a once-a-month opportunity for a donut, coffee & an informal conversation with the Superintendent. Sessions run from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at local Dunkin' Donut locations as follows: Mon., 11/04/19, 7422 Broadview Rd. and Mon., 12/02/19, 5759 State Rd.

Re: Strategic Consolidation....All community members are being offered the opportunity through November 8th to complete a short survey regarding Master Planning for Strategic Consolidation options. The survey can be found clicking on the Strategic Consolidation link on the Superintendent's web page www.parmacityschools.org/ superintendent.

Three of the five Strategic Consolidation meetings taking place in Novemebr are as follows: Saturday, 11/2/19, from 10:00 am to 11:30 at Parma Branch Library (Powers Blvd.), Monday, 11/4/19, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Shiloh Middle School & Monday, 11/18/19, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Valley Forge High School - Media Center Tours of 21st Century Schools are scheduled Nov 9 & Nov 16. For details on these and up-to-date information re: up-coming Strategic Consolidation meetings Visit www.parmacityschools. org/superintendent.

The second of four Town Hall meetings is schedule for Wednesday, Nov. 20th at Parma Library (Rm A) beginning at 6:30 pm.

From the Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

Go here: https://tinyurl.com/ ODE-Disabilities-Plan to check out the results of a year-long effort to improve learning experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities.

Go here: https://tinyurl.com/ ODE-SEL-Resources Go here to learn more about Social - Emotional Learning (SEL) and the wealth of resources available. Clicking on the "Family & Community" section of the graphic will display a whole list of options to include posters, guides of various kinds, with embedded links to, among other things, cue cards to help address

specific situations.

From PCSD Connects (formally CBS Connects):

Go here: http://pcsdconnects.org/ for information regarding workforce development related services available to District students & links to connect directly w/school counselors. Click on the "Gear-up" graphic to learn about all the college admission/scholarship assistance services also are available for your child.

From Metro Health:

Project Dawn....Deaths avoided w/Naloxone - For individuals who use opioids & are at risk of death from opioid overdose, & for their family & friends. Learn how to recognize an overdose, how to respond to an overdose & how to administer naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose. Local venue: Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 5550 Venture Dr., Parma. For

Read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com

Old Midtown Plaza Gets New Name And ILook

continued from page 1

a 20,000-square-foot Aldi and a new Planet Fitness. The redevelopment will add energy-efficient LED lighting, improvements to the parking lot and an update to the façade.

The city is working with LRC to cover \$2.5 million of the project cost through a tax increment financing agreement that will re-invest the increase in property taxes - resulting from the redevelopment - back to the Quarry Square project. The deal doesn't include annual property taxes the Parma City School District receives.

"We want to invest in our city using this economic development tool that allows us to keep the schools whole," said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter. He added that the new Quarry Square will help attract additional retailers to the city's third-largest shopping plaza.

"The major facelift to the plaza, as well as its rebranding, gives the center a much-needed reboot that symbolizes real momentum for Quarry District," Parma Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban said. "It's been a longtime in the making for an important area of the city."



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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Anthony DeMarco, Parma High School Alumni, retired Parma High Art Teacher, and Board Member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, currently has his photographic work included in Cleveland Photo Fest, Altered Landscapes/Vision & Poetry Show, at Mac's Backs-Books on Coventry. The show opened on October 25th, with a poetry reading at 7 p.m. Local poets and photographers shared their physical and emotionally altered landscapes in a live presentation. Photographers Kat Cade, Mary Ford, Samantha Bias, Janet Century, Tim Lachina, Anthony DeMarco,

Todd Hoak, and Catherine McManus provided the visual stimulus through their surrealistic approach to internal and external landscapes. Eight poets performed their emotional reactions to the surrealistic photographs on display. Poets Krystal Sierra, Jim Szudy, Nicole Hennessy, Jimi Remick, Miguel Moor, John Burroughs, Siaarra Freeman and Doc Janning challenged the audience with their observations and perceptions. This show runs through November 30th.

Prama Artspace & Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd., held a Sun Print Workshop on Saturday, October 19th. The Sun Print (cyranotype) work-

Christmas Parade & Frosty's Fest

by Kathryn Mabin

Save the date, Sunday, December 8, 2019, Parma's Christmas Parade kicks off at 2:00 p.m. from Stearn's Farm and marches north on Ridge Road to the Ridgewood Golf Course.

This year, 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. Frosty's Fest promises to be a nice ending to

the annual parade and includes family oriented planned events such as snow tubing, a tree ceremony, kids craft, games, refreshments, a Parma Cookie Walk featuring goodies from local bakeries, an Adult Ugly Sweater Contest, and of course Santa!, and more.

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

shop was taught by award winning and nationally known photographers, Laura D'Alesandro and Samantha Bias. This workshop was family friendly. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and family were in attendance. I've heard the creations of Jack and Molly DeGeeter are now displayed in a prominent location in their home. Follow Prama on Facebook.

Michelle Behal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, acrylic painter and award winning pyrographic artist (wood burning) will be in Belleville, Ohio at Christmas In The Valley on November 9th, Columbiana, Ohio at St. Jude Christmas Craft Show on November 16th, Oberlin, Ohio at Oberlin Holiday Bazaar on November 17th, LaGrange, Ohio at LaGrange Holiday Show on November 23rd, and Huron, Ohio at Mulberry Creek Christmas Show on December 7th and 8th, with her unique creations. For more information on her custom made products, or details regarding the shows listed, visit www. beartracksart.com.

Katrina Lindsley, member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council and founder of Devotions, home made air fresheners and more, will be at Lake Catholic High School in Mentor on November 2nd, Grace Church in Middleburg Hts., on November 8th & 9th, Heritage Presbyterian Church in Amherst on November 16th, and North Royalton High School on November 23rd. Follow Devotions on Facebook.

Sean Mabin, member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, and owner of Prama Artspace Gallery has work in the Skull & Skelleton Show in The Gallery at Lakeland Community College. The artists reception, Boneyard Market, costume party and benefit auction was held Thursday, October 24th. The show runs through November 8th.





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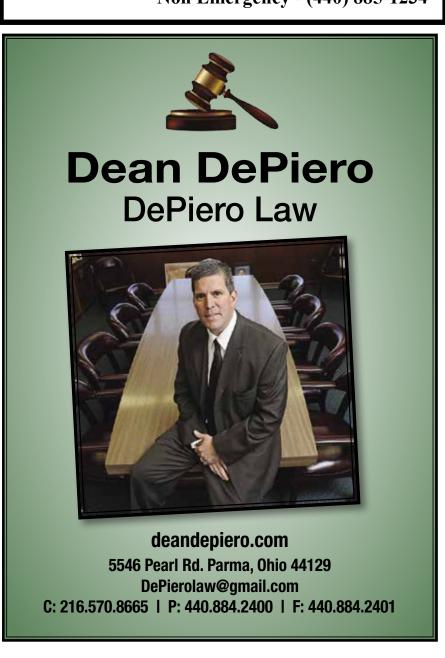
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