

Parma Mayor Will Give State Of The City At Watershed Stewardship Center

by Carolyn Kovach

Mayor Parma Tim DeGeeter will give his 2020 State of the City address at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25. The presentation is open to the public, and parking is free. Continuing the trend started when he entered office in 2012, the mayor will highlight a community partner by taking his address outside of Parma City Hall. This year, the address will be delivered at Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Center in West Creek Reservation, 2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma. The presentation will be in the



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter

multipurpose room.

"The Watershed Stewardship Center is dedicated to

Paramedic Looks Out For His Neighbors

scientific research and promoting sustainable action. Its science-based programs encourage teachers, students, professionals and the public to learn about storm-water management methods," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "In addition to educating the public, the center is enhancing and protecting our urban watersheds through innovative community programming, as well as encouraging regional participation in watershed issues. Its key partners include the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and West Creek Conservancy. Both of those

organizations work closely with our city," DeGeeter added.

Past State of the City speeches were held at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, Sheet Metals Workers Local 33, Parma's General Motors plant, University Hospital's Parma Medical Center

by Kathie Zipp

The Young Professionals

of Parma (YPOP), in conjunc-

tion with the cities of Parma,

Parma Heights and Seven

Hills, hosted the Parma area's

second-annual pizza bake off

last month. More than 600

guests attended the event at the

city's UAW hall enjoying pizza

from a variety of local pizza

shops and bars. A portion of

proceeds benefited the Parma

and Cuyahoga County Public Library. "Our administration's approach has always been to combine common sense and hard work to produce real results," DeGeeter said. "We're proud to share some of our positive results at this year's State of the City address."

Parma's Second Annual Pizza Bake Off A Huge Success



by Carolyn Kovach

Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime and Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter recognized Dennis Gerlich as Citizen of the Month at a January council meeting. Lime nominated Gerlich because she said he is always looking out for his neighbors.

In 2019, Gerlich trimmed street curb weeds in his neighborhood on Dorothy Avenue, starting from Ridge Road and ending at Chestnut Hills Drive, which added up to nearly 100 lawns. He then painted the faded street addresses along the curb at each home to make it easier for emergency workers to find addresses at night. A current paramedic with Physicians Ambulance, Gerlich said he knows firsthand how much easier it is to find a house address at night if it appears on the curb.

"Several of his neighbors didn't realize Dennis had done this work because he quietly went about the task. Dennis embodies the true spirit of a good neighbor," DeGeeter said.

Gerlich often stands by for emergencies at special exhibitions, sporting events and area rock concerts, including the annual June Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's Rib 'N Rock Music Festival & BBQ Cookoff. He has volunteered on Parma CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) since its inception and has served as a public information officer, certified trainer, website content manager and fundraiser.

For all his volunteerism throughout the years, Gerlich is a former Parma Area Chamber of Commerce Pride Award recipient.

Proud of Parma

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Animal Shelter.

A panel of celebrity judges recognized State Road Pizza as the Best Overall Winner, PJay's Pizza for Best Sauce and Wagon Wheel for Best Crust. In addition, attendees had a chance to vote for their favorite pizza in the People's Choice award which went to Master's Pizza.

In light of an unexpected large turnout and feedback from last year's event, The Young Professionals of Parma implemented a committee which met frequently throughout the summer and fall to implement changes to improve the event and ensure it ran smoothly this year. Colored plates and punch cards helped ease the tasting and voting process and expanded space in the UAW hall provided plenty of room for hundreds of guests. Event coordinators are thankful for everyone who volunteered, the Baker's Basement for providing music, Company Car and Limousine for providing a parking shuttle, Burning River Entertainment for their photo booth and uplighting, Zap Entertainment for providing a magician and balloon artist, The Little Birdie Wine Nest for serving wine, Fat Heads for serving beer and donating a beer tower as



Dennis Gerlich's grandchildren join him for a photo in the council chamber with Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Councilwoman Debbie Lime.



Amanda Boyd is a proud Parma resident who serves on the city's Board of Building Appeals. She just had to visit our city's namesake when she visited Italy last fall.

continued on page 2

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

"Representatives . . . shall be apportioned among the several states which shall be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers. . .The actual enumeration shall be made . . .within every subsequent Term of ten years." This quote from Article I of the U.S. Constitution set up our decennial census in 1790 and we have been counting up the population every ten years since.

The importance of the census cannot be underestimated, as it determines the number of representatives each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives and how the federal government distributes hundreds of millions of dollars to local communities, like Parma. The census data is also used by local governments, businesses, and a variety of other organizations to make decisions about where to locate hospitals, open new restaurants, where to draw boundaries for



school enrollment, etc.

Everyone living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) is required by law to be counted

Sirl's Automotive Earns Trust Award

by Laura Oravec

Robert Oravec from Sirl's Automotive of Parma, received the American Towman Trust Award in Atlantic City on December 6th, 2019 at the world's largest trade show for towing professionals, the American Towman Exposition. A towing company that receives the award was nominated by a third party organization in the towing trade who has a working relationship with that towing company and the towing company also scored high on customer reviews on the internet (Google, Yelp). The Trust Award is presented by American Towman Magazine, the towing industry's premier trade publication.

Sirl's Automotive received the exclusive American Towman Trust Pin at the Trusted Towers ceremony held in the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel. The ceremony included a cameo performance from songwriter Mike Corbin playing the guitar and singing a new original song, "Trust", in honor of the tow companies receiving the pin.

A towing service receives a high percentage of first-time callers. The Trust award signifies a company that has a track record of trustworthiness, thus the award has great value for its recipient.

Parma's Second Annual Pizza Bake Off A Huge Successcontinued from page 1Plus, it's becoming an event that peo

a raffle prize, and CLE Cookie Dough Co. for serving dessert. Also, a variety of sponsors made the event possible including Michelle Green Professionals Group of HER Realtors and Nick Battilana of State Farm. "The Parma Pizza Bake Off is such a big and fun event, it makes so much sense for businesses to participate," said Battilana. "I get to interact with so many locals who may never have heard of me or my office.

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2020census.gov

in the 2020 Census. In fact, participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and our community.

Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail in early March with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask you for your Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, or your bank or credit card account numbers. If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate.

Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes. Your responses are compiled with information from other homes to produce statistics, which never identify

Plus, it's becoming an event that people in Parma look forward to and I love being able to support the Parma community."

Young Professionals of Parma president Jackie Baraona was excited to put on the second annual event and is pleased with the turnout and flow. She appreciates the support of city officials and the interest from pizza vendors and attendees. She looks forward to the opportunity to host this community event in the future. "I want the public, especially existing residents and young people considering potentially buying homes and raising families in Parma, to think 'Wow, it's really cool that Parma puts on these kinds of events; this is a city I want to be part of."" your home or any person in your home. Further, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way.

The Census Bureau is still in need of many census workers. The pay is in the \$20 an hour range for both office and census taker positions. Authorized expenses, such as mileage, are reimbursed for employees doing field work. Temporary positions for the 2020 Census feature flexible hours—a perfect fit if you are looking to earn extra money, even if you already have other commitments. This is your chance to play a role in history by taking part in the momentous task of counting our nation's population.

Please join my family and fill out and return your census survey as soon as you receive it. You, too, can inspire others. Tell everyone – your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers – that you will complete the census, and tell them why it's important that they respond. To find out more about the 2020 U.S. census visit www.2020census.gov.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Nurse Navigator Eases The Cancer Journey For Patients

by CJ Sheppard

A nurse navigator can be the invaluable guide in the complicated and unpredictable journey of a cancer patient. This is the critical role at UH Seidman Cancer Center for a nurse like Susan Lawrence, BSN, RN, at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. She can help a man with multiple myeloma, under the care of a hematologist at University Hospitals' main campus, arrange regular infusions close to home as he prepares for a bone marrow transplant. She can schedule more convenient chemotherapy appointments for a woman with breast cancer, whose surgeon is based on the east side. And for patients whose specialist is only at UH main campus for a rare kind of cancer, she can ensure that thrice-weekly bloodwork is at least obtained at UH Parma, preventing a trip downtown.

Nurse navigators stay with patients from diagnosis through survivorship, bringing their experience full circle. They ensure breast biopsy patients receive their results and radiation therapy and chemotherapy appointments are scheduled. They also direct patients toward financial counseling and coordinating helpful services from partner agencies such as the American Cancer Society. "We're here to



Susan Lawrence, UH Seidman Cancer Center's Nurse Navigator at UH Parma Medical Center, helps coordinate scheduling and accessing services for oncology patients.

help," says Susan, whose calming demeanor puts patients at ease. Like her counterparts at other Seidman locations, she teaches a chemo class to help patients understand what to expect during chemotherapy and how to handle side effects. "Being able to see someone fearful, and put his or her mind at ease, is rewarding," Susan says. "I can show them that cancer is manageable, that they are stronger than they think, and guide them along the path."



Dr. Farshad Forouzandeh, MD, PhD, FACC, will explain the benefits of coronary calcium scoring in detecting heart disease in a Feb. 13 program at UH Parma Medical Center.

Protect Your Heart, Manage Diabetes And Prevent Falls With Advice From UH Parma Medical Center Experts

by CJ Sheppard

Heart Disease & Calcium Scoring Thursday, February 13 | 5 p.m. Farshad Forouzandeh, MD, PhD, FACC

Learn about coronary calcium scoring and its advantage in early diagnosis of coronary artery disease and schedule a calcium scoring test for a future date. UH Parma

Medical Center Auditorium, 7007 Powers Blvd. Light refreshments provided.

Diabetes Management Group Wednesday, February 19 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Learn how diet affects diabetes. You will be able to schedule a private consultation with a dietitian. UH Parma Medical Center Cafeteria, 7007 Powers Blvd. Physicianreferral required. The Program may be billable through your insurance.

Balance and Fall Prevention Tuesday, February 25 | 5 p.m Therese Lord | Doctor of Physical Therapy

UH Parma Medical Center Hear about prevention and treatment and learn a few basic exercises to help maintain balance and avoid falls.



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EDUCATION



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

Asset Corner #122 by Gene Lovasy

February's Asset Category: Positive Values. You are what you believe. Values shape young people's relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends.Search Institutehas identified these six assets in the Positive Value category that are crucial for helping young people:

This month's column will focus on Asset #29 Honesty:

Honesty is the best policy

Honest people are trustworthy, sincere, and genuine. They display dignity and earn respect from peers and others in the community. Although telling the truth is not always easy, teaching young people the value of honesty, is important. Without it, dishonest habits, such as lying and cheating, can become a big problem. Honesty is crucial for success in all areas of life, including relationships, school, and jobs.



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VISTA SPRINGS

Research shows that young people are more likely to grow up healthy when they tell the truth, even when it's not easy. Honesty leads to less violence and reliance on alcohol and other drugs. About 66 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they tell the truth even when it's not easy, according to Search Institute surveys. People who are honest value diversity, good health, and success in school. They also make effective leaders.

Tips for building this asset

To instill the value of honesty, adults need to talk about it, model it, and explain why it's important. Work with your family, school, and community to come up with rules about honesty and the consequences for dishonesty. Encourage the young people you know to make a personal commitment to tell the truth—and you do the same. Honestly admit to your own successes and mistakes.

Also try this

In your home and family: Don't overreact or be accusatory if you suspect that your child is lying to you. Instead, give her or him the opportunity to tell the truth by asking questions, such as "Do you think I may be struggling with believing you right now?"

In your neighborhood and community: Model honest behavior. For example, return extra change if you receive too much from a store clerk.

In your school or youth program: Discuss what it means to be honest. Ask whether there are situations in which it's better to tell a "little white lie."

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/ character or 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.

Cassidy Theatre, Inc. Board Has New Leader In Michael Caraffi

by Rick Haase

As he indicated he intended to do more than 18 months ago, Bob Stoesser has now formally stepped down from his leadership role as Board President at the Cassidy Theatre, Inc., having held that position for 10 years. New at the helm is President Michael "Mike" Caraffi, who works for PNC Bank and has an extensive background as a business analyst. He has been a longtime volunteer actor, performer and director at our local community theatre gem. Caraffi is a good choice for heading up the theatre's Board. The Cassidy, which has struggled to fill seats for years since the decision to privatize it. The municipality still owns the building, but no longer has the responsibility for its day-to-day operation. Caraffi, an accomplished pianist and performer, knows both sides of the theatrical and business equation - something that will come in handy as he works to chart a new course for our local community theatre, founded by the late Parma Heights Mayor Paul W. Cassidy for his wife, Elise, a former actress, in 1974.

Rounding out the Theatre Board for 2020 are Vice President Georgia Petrucci Muttillo; Secretary Katie Flanigan; and Treasurer Sarah Durham, along with Board members Steve DeLuca, Mike Larochelle, Sharon Mlecik and Dan Tomon, the latter being the city's longtime Recreation Department Supervisor.

YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS – The Cassidy Youth Theatre spring classes and workshops begin February 15 and continue through April 11, and will run Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The classes and workshops are for youth ages 4-17. No previous theatrical experience is necessary.

For more information, visit www.cassidytheatre.com or call 440.842.4600.

ON STAGE – What do you get when you mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, with a dash of Monty Python-esque humor thrown in

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for good measure?

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What's Happening in the

Ohio Department of Education removes PCSD from Fiscal Caution

by Dan Rajkovich

Recently, the Parma City School District received some good news from the Ohio Department of Education.

At the January 6, 2020 PCSD Board of Education meeting, Sean Nuccio informed the community that the PCSD had been removed from Fiscal Caution status by the Ohio Department of Education. The PCSD was originally put in Fiscal Caution by ODE on August 1, 2016.

As a result of being placed in Fiscal Caution status, the PCSD worked with ODE to regularly review district finances and compare five-year forecasts.

"The Ohio Department of Education monitored our monthly transactions and our monthly reports," PCSD Treasurer Sean Nuccio explained. "We spoke a couple of times a month and we talked about things that we were concerned about. They also attended some of our finance committee meetings. And we both did five-year forecasts and we talked and compared them. So it was monthly monitoring,"

Beginning in 2016, the district also began reducing expenditures in the general fund budget and enhancing revenues through approved fiscal recovery plans. The continuation of those reductions is just one reason the district finds itself in a more financially stable position.

"We've turned our finances around,"Nuccio added. "We can forecast our financial stability and the state doesn't feel like we need their help to maintain financial stability."

"This is a very important step to regaining the trust of our community," said PCSD Superintendent Charles Smialek, Ph.D. in a statement. "Our treasurer's office, under the leadership of Sean Nuccio, obviously deserves a tremendous amount of credit for their diligence in leading the processes that have delivered us to a more stable financial outlook. However, we also owe our gratitude to all of our staff members who have sacrificed much over the years in learning to 'do more with less' for the greater good of our students and district."

Public school districts in Ohio are required to have financial audits completed each year. Recently, Rea & Associates, an independent Certified Public Accounting firm, completed their financial audit of the PCSD for the last fiscal year. Their report has beensubmitted to the Ohio Auditor for review and public release.

Nuccio stressed a strong financial outlook will require continued fiscal responsibility and close monitoring of district finances.

"We need to continue to be fiscally responsible even being out of Fiscal Caution and the oversight by ODE," Nuccio expressed. "We can't just go and spend the money frivolously. We will continue to maintain that close oversight of our finances and we will continue to make sound financial choices as we move forward."

"One of our three main district goals is continuing to practice fiscal responsibility," Smialek added in the statement. "As we move forward, we will continue to closely monitor our finances, make sound financial decisions, and practice fiscal responsibility to provide the best possible educational experience for our students."

Learn more at www.parmacityschools.org.

Parma City School District in a ar the ry construct PCSD Renewal Levy - Issue 31 is Not a New Tax Parma City School District will have a renewal levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot. Issue 31 is no

a new tax and will maintain current funding levels. Learn more at *www.parmacityschools.org*.

Upcoming Kindergarten Registration Events

Your story begins in PCSD! Parma City School District provides residents of Parma, Parm Heights, and Seven Hills access to unparalleled opportunities. PCSD is thrilled to welcome th Parma City School District Class of 2033 beginning in March, as we kick-off Kindergarten Registration 2020! Get your little one ready for school next year by attending one of our Kin dergarten Registration events held at Parma City School District's Administrative Offices, 531 Longwood Ave., Parma.

- Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 3, 2020 from 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 3 8 p.m.
- Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 12, 2020 from 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 3 8 p.m.
- Monday, July 6, 2020 from 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 3 8 p.m.

All parents must complete the online registration prior to attending a registration event. Th completion of the online registration will act as a "ticket" to any one of the five Kindergarter Registration events. Please register at *www.parmacityschools.org/registration*. For more information call 440-885-8334.

PCSD is Now Hiring

Find your next rewarding career at the Parma City School District! View current open position and apply today at *www.parmacityschools.org/jobs*.

Snow Tubing Event February 16

Join The Parma City Schools Foundation, Inc. at Polar Blast for a day of snow tubing at Brandywine Ski Resort on Sunday, February 16, 2020 from 1-4 p.m. Each tubing ticket costs \$2: and is valid for 3 hours. Register today at *www.parmacityschools.org/foundation*.

Stay Fit this Winter with Communty Walking and Swimming Programs



(L-R) Peyton Giaimo, Cheyenne Nowak, and Dinella Messina ask people how they are doing at the 2019 PCSD Opening Kick-Off.

by Amy Popik

Always love your selfie. This is the simple message three middle school students have for their peers and the community. are doing. They also made signs with inspirational quotes, spread awarness at PCSD's Opening Kick-Off, visited Cornerstone of Hope and participated in the NAMI (National Get out of the cold this winter and join the Parma City School District for community walkir and swimming programs from now through mid-April!

Community walking is available at all three high schools every Monday and Thursday night rom 6 – 8 p.m. *Please Note: There will be no community walking when school is closed for any*

Middle school students spread simple message of help, hope to others

Cheyenne Nowak, Hillside Middle School seventh-grader, Dinella Messina, Greenbriar Middle School seventh-grader, and Peyton Giaimo, Holy Family Catholic School eighthgrader are cadette members of Girl Scout Troop 71658 in Parma. For their Silver Award Project, which is the highest award a cadette can earn, these passionate students focused on anxiety, depression and suicide awareness among teens.

"The project was about suicide and how we can prevent that from happening because when kids are in depression, have anxiety or are broken down in their self-esteem, they tend to want to hurt themselves or even commit suicide," Nowak explained.

Students made posters for their middle schools to help start the conversation about mental health among teens, asking how they Alliance on Mental Illness) walk.

The girls worked tirelessly on this project and successfully completed all the requirements by the first semester of this school year.

This is a 50-hour community service project and the main goal was to identify a need in the community and work on a solution to help make their community a better place.

"This project was important to me because I had an uncle who committed suicide almost 10 years ago," Messina said. Nowak and Giaimo shared that they have been personally impacted by this topic, as well.

"I just want people to remember that there is always someone out there that can help you," Nowak shared.

"And there is always someone who cares," Giaimo added.

Read the full story at www.parmacityschools.org/monitor. reason, including breaks and calamity days.

Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills residents are required to sign in at specific building entrances to participate in the program:

- Normandy High School 2500 W Pleasant Valley Rd Front, main entrance of the building
- Parma Senior High School 6285 West 54th St Back bus loop entrance, off of Longwood Ave.
- Valley Forge High School 9999 Independence Blvd Auditorium entrance, off of Independence Blvd

Community swimming is available on Tuesday nights from 6 – 8 p.m. at Valley Forge High School and Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at Parma Senior High School. *Please Note: There will be no swimming on March 10 and March 24 at Valley Forge.* All Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills residents are welcome to participate. Proof of residency is required. Community swimming ends April 22, 2020.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org/community for more information.

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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INSPIRATION

Give Them Bread And Circus...

by Davidione Pearl

America, At this time in history the best way we can honor our nation's only King, Dr. Martin Luther King, is not in recurring platitudes and vapid utterances of momentary pride on his given holiday - returning as usual shortly after to a collective state of social dismissal and spiritual decay; on the contrary, it is to raise high your ballots in the voting booth with at minimum the same gusto and zeal we choose to exhibit in the fanaticism of sport, and three hour lines in eager anticipation of a new fried chicken sandwich, neither of which support a future consistent with the mechanisms necessary to fundamentally advance our most sacred investment, each other ...



Davidione Pearl

Faith Community Directory

All Faiths Pantry

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

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

Divinity Lutheran Church

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

The Islamic Center of Cleveland

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

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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

St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

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

Holy Family Catholic Church

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

Parma Christian Church

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

VOTE FOR **RICHARD A. BELL** FOR JUDGE OF COMMON PLEAS COURT



I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

According to the Bible, marriage is an institution put in place by God, in which two adults of different gender choose to share an intimate, personal, and lasting relationship. Doing otherwise does not change this. As a society, we are moving in the direction of doing-away-with morality from our way of life. This has resulted in an increase of senseless acts of violence. Matters can only become worse with each succeeding generation. Godly living involves our service to others via the use of our time, talents, abilities, and material possessions.

God's law points out what is right, good, and true, and we are to live accordingly. Because of

our sinful nature, however, we all fall short and our works cannot save us. This directs us to our need for grace. It is God's grace that makes salvation a reality for each faithful believer. Jesus promised that they who hear His Word and believe in Him who sent Him will have everlasting life, and they shall not come into condemnation but shall pass from death into life.

Life is a foursided affair: physical, mental, social and spiritual. It is a four-fold opportunity to grow. It helps us to touch life at all angles, absorb strength from all contacts, and pour out power on all fronts. The more we pour out, the more we find to pour. The driving population needs to be more serious regarding distractions while driving, such as texting. They need to understand the risks to themselves and other people. The surest way to guarantee ourselves a miserable existence is to live only for self and not consider the good of others. We are to speak our truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant. They, too, have their story.

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

What A Year It Was, Part Two

by Lee Kamps

Last month I wrote a column with a trip back to a pivotal year in history, exactly 100 years ago. After a break, let's go to Sherman and Peabody's "way back" machine again to 1920. I believe that I was mentioning the world of sports in 1920 when we left. Here we go.

The result of the eight Chicago White Sox players being thrown out of baseball for life took the White Sox out of the chase for the American League pennant. But another team in the pennant race were the revitalized New York Yankees who had benefitted from the biggest off season deal of all time.

The Boston Red Sox sold their best player to the Yankees for cash after the 1919 season so the owner could recoup his losses after backing a Broadway play that flopped. The sale of Babe Ruth made the Yankees contenders. He had led baseball in home runs in 1919 by hitting 29 home runs. In 1920, a new tighter wound ball was introduced and Babe Ruth hit 54 home runs that season, more than any other team did that year. The Boston Red Sox had won the 1918 World Series, but it would be another 86 years before the Red Sox would win another World Series.

The Cleveland Indians also made history in 1920 as well. In August, their star shortstop, Ray Chapman died one day after being hit in the head by a pitched ball while batting. The loss of Ray Chapman devastated the team. But their player manager and future Hall of Fame outfielder Tris Speaker rallied the team and the Cleveland Indians went on to win the 1920 American League pennant. Ray Chapman is the only player in Major League Baseball history to be killed while playing the game.

The 1920 World Series became one of the best world series to date. It featured the first grand slam home run in world series history as well as the only unassisted triple play in a World Series and the first home run by a pitcher. In the World Series, the Cleveland Indians defeated the Brooklyn Robins (later renamed the Trolley Dodgers, shortened to Dodgers) five wins to two in a best of nine series.

The old League Park baseball field where that 1920 World Series was played has been restored. It is at the corner of East 66th and Lexington in the Hough neighborhood.

The election of 1920 also made history. The Republican candidate, Warren Harding, conducted a "front porch campaign" from his house in Marion Oho. There was no cross country railroad tour that year. It was just the media coming from all over the nation to hear Harding give speeches from his front porch with the reporters and crowd in front of his house. A garage behind the house was converted to a media room where national media could prepare their stories about the candidate.

The election was a landslide victory for Warren Harding and the Republican party. Harding promised a "return to normalcy" and that resonated with the voters who were tired of the United States trying to fix the troubles of the world. In 1920 the congress, controlled by Republicans, rejected the Treaty of Versailles with its League of Nations. This marked a significant shift from Woodrow Wilson's focus on world events to a return to American isolationism. Another interesting fact about the 1920 presidential election was that the election returns were broadcast over a new medium for the first time, radio, on a station out of Pittsburgh.

In 1920, a young Italian who immigrated to the United States as a young child from Sicily was sent from New York to Chicago because things were "getting too hot" for him in New York. He was sent to Chicago to be under the protection of their mob boss Johnny Torrio. That young man, Alphonse Capone, found prohibition and Chicago to be a wide open city. By the middle of the decade, he would control most of the illegal "hooch" in Chicago.

Another thing "invented" in 1920 was from another Italian immigrant named Carlo Ponzi who had discovered a new way to get rich quick through a chain letter. "Investors" would pass it on to others and receive interest on their investment. Of course, that "interest" was paid by deposits from later "investors". Eventually the scheme collapsed, but for many Carlo Ponzi was a hero who showed them that anyone could become rich. That form of scheme is now called a "Ponzi scheme" after Carlo Ponzi.

Well that concludes our brief visit to 1920. We all know what happened after that year and how Prohibition worked out. But in 1920, all that was in the future. It was an exciting year.



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PERSPECTIVE

State Rep. Jeffrey Crossman Asks You To Support This Years Census.

by Mallory DeTota

Welcome to 2020-- a new decade begins and, with that, the U.S. Constitution requires the government conduct another count of all of its citizens. The efforts to complete this extremely important count are now underway and each time the Census occurs there are always questions. We answer the most common questions related to the count below and we strongly encourage everyone to support the Census this year so we can maximize the investment we receive in our community!

What You Need to know what is the Census?

The Census is conducted every ten years pursuant to Article 1, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The Census measures population demographics across the country and every household



State Representative Jeffrey A. Crossman

is required to respond. Respondents will answer based on the makeup of

Parma Dad Running For US House Of Representatives

by Lucy Alverez

A few weeks ago a woman knocked on my door for the "Karpus for Congress" campaign, it was freezing, so she stepped inside. Standing in my foyer she began telling me about Ronald Karpus III a congressional candidate. She told me he was born and raised in Parma, a graduate of Parma Senior High School, and that he was a husband and they had 6 kids. My mouth about hit the floor as I repeated "did you say 6 kids?" the woman laughed and nodded. She further explained he was a member of the Democratic party and a blue collar worker.

At this point I expected her to ask for my support or a donation... instead she said "We're out canvassing today to find out \what issues are keeping voters in the district awake at night?". I explained that I was on a fixed income and my monthly medications were more than my mortgage payment ever was. She took some notes, we chatted for a few more moments then asked me if Ron or his wife could give me a call. I of course said yes and she wrote down my phone number.

Two days later my phone rang, that voice on the other end introduced herself, and that a volunteer for her husband's campaign had brought them a message about my situation. She listened intently, only asking questions when I paused after a thought. She asked me "What would make your healthcare coverage work better?", as in what specific changes could help make my life just a little easier. I explained the drug costs have continued to increase, and that when the pharmacist tells me to download an app to compare prices, I'm ashamed to tell her I don't know how. We talked for a little while longer, only ending the conversation when the sound of kids filled continued on page 9



their household as of April 1st, 2020 (children that split time between parental households are counted in the household where they are residing on that date). After the count is completed, statehouse and congressional districts will be re-drawn and financial resources will be distributed based on population. The federal government estimates that it will distribute over \$286 billion to states through approximately 300 federal agencies. Therefore, an accurate count here is essential to ensure Ohioans receive a fair distribution of these critical federal resources.

How do you respond?

The census questionnaire will be sent via U.S. Mail starting in March 2020, complete with notices and instructions and details on how to respond. Respondents will be able to choose whether to respond by phone, mail, or online. If a household does not re-respond through any of these three methods voluntarily, a census worker will sent to your household to collect the needed responses.

What will the Census ask?

The census survey is short and will take approximately ten minutes to complete and will include questions such as:

How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1st, 2020?

Is the home owned or rented? What is the sex of each person in

the home?

What are the ages of each person in the home?

What is the race of each person in the home?

Is anyone in the home Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?

What are the relationships between the people living in the home? The census will NOT ask you for: Social Security numbers Money/donations Anything on behalf of a political party

Bank/credit card numbers

Why is this important?

As noted above, the Census data helps determine how millions of dollars in federal money is distributed to schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and programs such as the National School Lunch Program, special education, and "food stamp" programs like SNAP and CHIP. It also determines the number of seats in the U.S House of Representatives given to each state, and how new district lines will be drawn in federal, state, and local elections.

What happens to my information? Will it be shared?

The Census data cannot be shared with any other agency. In fact, it is illegal for anyone's personal census data to be shared to anyone, including law enforcement agencies like the FBI or ICE. Doing so can result in a fine up to \$250,000, five years in prison, or both.

If you have any further questions regarding the Census please to reach out to my office at (614) 466-3485 and we will be happy to assist.





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My family and I have deep ties to Parma that span the past half century. Our family law practice, Russo, Rosalina & Co. LPA, opened 41 years ago across the street from City Hall, and my grandparents lived in Parma for 50 years.

As a mother of four, a small-business owner and a personal attorney, I have dedicated my career to working with families, seniors and hard-working employees. I'd like to bring a more balanced perspective to the Court.

Our family law practice, Russo, Rosalina & Co., handles a wide range of

matters that have a pro- found impact on the lives of people – not corporations. We have helped over 150,000 people in the past four decades – mostly residents from Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills.

Due to my dedication to hard working people, I am endorsed by Laborers Local 860, TEAMSTERS OHO D.R.I.V.E., Laborers Local 310, North Shore AFL-CIO, Municipal Foreman and Laborers Local 1099, and Ohio State Council of Machinists Labor Union.

Please VOTE FOR ONE OF YOUR OWN on the Court of Appeals on March 17th.

PERSPECTIVE

Tri-C Western Campus Program Examines Media Bias And The Information Ecosystem

by John Horton

Learn how to look past sensationalized headlines and determine the legitimacy of news sources during an upcoming discussion at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). The free program — "The Media Bias Chart: The Importance of Rating News Sources for Reliability and Bias" — will take place from 12:30-1:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at Tri-C's Western Campus Theatre in Parma.

Vanessa Otero, who created the

Parma Dad Running For US House Of Representatives continued from page 8 and said "Gram, this is your guy?".

continued from page 8 the background Lassum

the background, I assume after coming home from school. Before hanging up, I asked her why she was asking, and she told me "Ron knows what the big problem is, but the only way to fix it in congress is to understand what parts specifically are failing Ohioans."

My granddaughter was over this weekend and she was asking who I was voting for. She wanted to talk presidential races, but I wanted her to help me find out more about the dad from Parma. I had already found his website, but I wanted to see if there was more information I couldn't find. She pulled up a video of a bald man giving an interview on a radio station ney's infographic chart debuted in 2016 and went viral as people sought ways to make sense of the media landscape. Visit www.tri-c.edu/mediabias to reserve a seat at the free event. There will be a reception after the presentation. *Call 216-987-5508 for more infor*-

Media Bias Chart to provide a system

for rating news legitimacy, will lead the

discussion. The Colorado patent attor-

mation. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

and said "Gram, this is your guy?". We watched the video together, and I was struck by two things, his ideas always came full circle. By that I mean, he knew he needed buy in from both sides of the aisle to move his policies along. The second was that he corrected the host and wanted to inform the listeners that he had a primary opponent. What novel ideas I thought! His interview was comprehensive, he answered questions from Healthcare, to Social Security and even immigration.

This man is a dad from a working class suburb that truly grasps the gravity of where our country is headed if we don't intervene. My granddaughter helped me with this, because I wanted

Ninth Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive Most Successful Yet

by Felicia Martinez

Nine years ago when Parma City Council President Sean Brennan wanted to do something special for the holiday season, he came upon the idea for a peanut butter drive. After all, peanut butter is a staple for many households – rich and poor. It's also a nutritious food that is high in protein. The benefactor of the drive, from its very beginning, has been All Faiths Pantry, a non-profit organization that delivers groceries at no cost to low income seniors over 60 in the Parma, Parma Hts. and surrounding communities.

This year, collection boxes were stationed at the Dollar Bank Branch at Brookpark and Pearl, both Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma branches, UH Parma Medical Center, Office Depot at the Quarry and Middleburg Hts,, Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and in the lobby at City Hall.

The final totals for the ninth annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive are: 2,241 pounds of peanut butter and \$1,781 in monetary donations, both surpassed last year's drive.

"I want to thank all of the residents who gave generously to help the

people to know that one of our neighbors is fighting to make our lives better, and to me that matters.

neediest among us," Brennan said. "I also wish to thank our sponsors and to the volunteers at All Faiths Pantry for their time and selfless efforts."

As All Faiths Pantry Executive Director, I was overjoyed with the results. The community support and effort has provided at least a 5 month supply of peanut butter for our clients, worth thousands of dollars.

"Although the drive has been successful since its inception nine years ago," Brennan said, "our new sponsors this year – Dollar Bank, Office Max/Office Depot and others – really brought it to a new level. I can't thank them enough."

With federal cutbacks on the monthly food stamps across Cuyahoga County looming, any supplemental source of food is essential to people who stand to be affected starting in April.

"We remain committed to helping our clients," said All Faiths Pantry Program Manager Mark Holan, "and we thank everyone who contributed to the ninth annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive."

To learn more about All Faiths Pantry, 501(C)3 organization or to donate online visit www.allfaithspantry.org. Contact us at (216) 496-4329 or info@allfaithspantry.org.

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Page 10

AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

More re: Human Trafficking

From The Polaris Project (https://polarisproject.org)

>> Understanding the federal law Action-Means-Purpose (AMP) Model:

Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, (the trafficker), takes an Action, and then employs the Means of force, fraud or coercion for the Purpose of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services. At a minimum, one element from each category must be present to establish a potential situation of human trafficking.

Action = Induce, Recruits, Harbors, Transport, Provides, or Obtains

Means^{**} = Force, Fraud, or Coercion

Purpose = Commercial Sex (Sex Trafficking) or Labor/Service (Labor Trafficking

**Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims - regardless if force, fraud or coercion is present.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

• The group's next bi-weekly meeting is scheduled for 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb 4th, at Cassidy Theater. The meeting's discussion topic will be today's "Vaping".

• All 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 the Literacy Cooperative-Imagination Library....As recently featured in the Plain Dealer, children from birth to 5 years of age, living in Cuyahoga County can now receive

a brand new, age appropriate book, mailed directly to them each month. Funded by sponsors, organizations & individual donors the program is designed to instill a love of books & to facilitate/encourage family reading from an early age. Go here to register your child, learn more and/or to donate: https://www.literacycooperative.org/imagination-library/

From Parma Early Childhood PTA (PECPTA)....If you're looking for a Preschool for your child than plan on attending their open-to-the public Preschool Showcase on Tuesday, February 18th at Shiloh M.S., 2303 Grantwood Dr., beginning at 7:00 pm. Visit www. pecpta.org for more information.

From the Parma Education Foundation....Save The Date - Sunday, February 16th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm for tubing fun at Polar Blast in Northfield (Brandywine Ski Center). All proceeds to benefit Parma City Schools. The discounted cost is \$23 for the 3 hour session and you must register at https:// tinyurl.com/ParmaTubing . Call Nancy Fedak at 440.655.8224 or Rick Meeks at 440.897.4113 with questions.

From the Educ Svc. Center of NE Ohio....The 22nd Annual Summer Camp & Beyond Fair for children & youth w/disabilities is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 15th from 10: am – 1:00 pm at Woodside Event Center, 5025 Mill Rd, Broadview Hts. This is a huge, expo style event popular with districts, families & students alike. Go to http:// www.esc-cc.org/, click on the event graphic & follow the links for more information.

From Parma Council of PTA's:.... Their popular \$30, 2 day Babysitter Training Course for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students of the Parma City School District is scheduled for Sat., March 7th & Sat., Mar. 14th, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Parma Sr. H.S



Visit https://my.cheddarup.com/c/ pcpta-babysitting-course for more information and to register.

>> The Annual Kalahari PTA Family Night & Fundraiser will be coming up on Thursday, Mar. 19th. The special rate for this event is \$139. Go here for details & booking information: https://tinyurl.com/ PTA-Kalahari

O From Aspire Greater Cleveland....offers FREE year-round classes for adults seeking GED® /HSE Test Preparation, Adult Basic Education, English Language/Civics Education, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). BEGINNING IN JANUARY they'll be offering a GED® /HSE class w/a Microsoft Office Certification component AT THE PARMA LIBRARY. For additional information call 1-833-ASPIRE2 or visit their website at www.aspiregreatercleveland. com.

O From "All of Her Design".... Nominations for the 3rd Annual Best of Parma closed on January 31st; the voting window opened on Feb 1st & ends March 1st. Winners will be announced on March 6th. Go here www.bestofparma.org to nominate/ vote for your favorite.

O From Parma Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC):

>> Will be hosting the Annual State of The Schools Luncheon on Thursday, Feb, 27th at the Parma Sr.H.S. Red Reese Room. Tickets are \$20; register at: www.parmaareachamber.org

>> Save-The-Date....Sat. March 14th. Plan on attending & recognizing local PRIDE award winners at this year's Roaring 20's Gala being held at the Metropark Zoo's Stillwater Place.

> O From Parma City Schools: >> Strategic Consolidation:



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 - Primary Election, March 17, 2020

Elect Colleen Ann

For Common Pleas Judge Domestic Relations Division colleenannrealiforjudge@gmail.com

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THE PARMA ART SCENE

by Kathryn Mabin

Great Lakes Wood Carvers is celebrating their 45th anniversary year. Congratulations to a great group! The carvers meet every Tuesday evening at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center for an open carve night. This group welcomes new members, if you are interested stop in and say hello.

Tremont's Doubting Thomas Gallery, 856 Jefferson Avenue, hosted an exhibition titled Perception, curated by Parma's Prama Artspace & Gallery owner, Sean Mabin. This exhibit included the works of Emma Anderson, Todd Hoak, Sean Mabin and Samantha Vickers.

Parma is well represented in the Winter Exhibition & Art Sale at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, 2131 Front Street in Cuyahoga Falls. Anthony DeMarco, Parma Fine Arts board member has two photo entries, Nicki Lanzi, Parma Fine Arts instructor, has a watercolor, Parma resident, Mary Ford, has two mixed media and one photo entered, and Adolph Krizmanich has three watercolors.

Lena Simovic, Lena Atomika Photography is a Parma resident who has over 25 years of photographic experience with bi-coastal exhibitions from LA to NYC, and all the way to Paris, France. She currently has four Cleveland Bridge photos on consignment at Architectural Justice in Strongsville. You'll also find her work at Live Publishing in Little Italy as part of the Cleveland Photo Fest's New Faces in Portraiture #1 Exhibit. Her self portrait is at Lakewood Art Studio in the This Is Us artist show. Last but not least, she's a participant in the Black & White exhibit at Stella Arts in Mentor. You can follow her on Facebook at Lena Atomika Photography, or visit www. clevelandartistsregistry.org/artists/ Lena-Atomika2, or www.RawArtists. com/LenaAtomika.

Parma residents, Steve & Barb Bloom began their hand crafted small business, Images In Bloom in 2010. They make handmade soaps, silk scarfs & pillows, wire crochet items, and earrings made from dyed silk cocoons. Their handcrafted products can be found at numerous locations throughout NE Ohio. They are currently offering classes in Japanese Bound Resist, and silk scarf painting on Saturdays in February & March at their studio, located in the Art Craft Building, 2530 Superior Ave. To learn more about their products, or register for classes, visit www.imagesinbloom.com.

The 2019 Cleveland Photo Fest had a very successful inaugural year. In addition to numerous photo exhibitions, and workshops throughout the Cleveland area, they participated in an International Photo Exchange Exhibition with PhotoMuse. PhotoMuse is India's first museum dedicated to photography, and is located in Kerala, India. Several photographers from NE Ohio participated in the exchange. Parma resident Mary Ford, and Parma Gallery owner Sean Mabin were selected to have their photos as part of a per-



The first morning I helped Stanley down the stairs, the third step creaked. That's when I found out his wife, Martha always told him to fix it. And now he's just glad he never did, because that's home. I love hearing Stanley's stories about home. And now I get to be a part of them. manent collection at PhotoMuse.

In addition to her participation in the Winter Exhibition & Art Sale, and her photos being selected for the permanent collection at PhotoMuse in India, you'll also find Mary Ford at Shades of Grey + exhibit at Creative Space Avon, and at Holistic Health and Healing and Elvolation in Avon Lake, healing centers.0



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