

“In every tragedy there is a bit of the ridiculous” - Phil Ochs

Parma Still Rising

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Westcreek Watershed Stewardship Center in the Metroparks Westcreek Reservation in Parma was a perfect setting for the State of the City address given by Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter on 2-25-20. Places in Parma like this superb community asset are something the speech specifically focused on as he shared information about the direction of Parma. Calling attention to the humble beginnings of what eventually became West Creek Conservancy, he made it clear that the partnership between this group, the City of Parma and Metroparks has grown into an institution that we all have reason to be proud of. Other groups have emerged that are adding to the fabric of the community. We Are Parma Proud, Young Professionals of Parma, Ukrainian Village, Polish Village, Quarry District; all kinds of new organizations, ideas, and people. This kind of activity has served to make Parma and the surrounding area a magnet for people to visit and hopefully choose Parma as a place to buy a home.

Speaking of homes, what the Mayor had to say was certainly noteworthy when it comes to our neighborhoods and housing stock. Parma's housing prices are indeed rising- since 2011, the median



sale price of a Parma home has increased by 60 percent, from \$79,000 to \$126,315, a jump of more than \$47,000. In just one year, we saw median sales prices spike by 4.8 percent between 2018 and 2019. Sellers received 98.2 percent of their asking prices. He also declared that it is definitely a seller's market here; if someone is looking to buy a home in Parma, the Mayor advises that they act fast- available home inventory for sale is down 14.1 percent from 2018.

The Seventh largest city in Ohio will always have challenges and issues, and the Mayor addressed some of them in his speech. He mentioned July 5, 2019 as being one of the most difficult moments as mayor, when 6 inches of rain fell in just one hour, flooding countless basements of homes and severely damaging businesses. The city was forced to

close 13 different streets. He assured Parma residents that the city is working with our partners at Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to constantly monitor situations and find ways to mitigate flooding. Roads are also a major priority, and in 8 years we've invested nearly \$45 million in our streets. A host of projects are slated for 2020, including resurfacing Ridge Rd. from south of Pleasant Valley Rd. to Pearl Rd.

Mayor DeGeeter saluted all of those who contribute so much to the quality of life in Parma. The Police Department, Fire Department, Service Department Workers, Senior Center Management

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First Federal Of Lakewood Has New Location In Parma



The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce joined the staff of First Federal of Lakewood in cutting the ribbon to celebrate their brand new location at 5659 Broadview Rd.

Parma Schools: Issue 31 - Not A New Tax

by Charles Smialek

The 2020 portion of this school year has begun on an extremely positive note as the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently informed us that we no longer require their oversight and are now released from Fiscal Caution status. We must continue to be very diligent in reinforcing the importance of fiscal responsibility throughout our district, but we are also excited that ODE has a renewed sense of confidence in our ability to manage our finances.

We owe gratitude to many parties for this accomplishment. First, our Board of Education set a clear tone that lingering in Fiscal Caution was not acceptable; their strong leadership set a better direction for us all.

Second, PCSD Treasurer Sean Nuccio and his department have implemented stringent policies and procedures to ensure accurate reporting of revenue and expenses and better guidelines to regulate spending.

Finally, our union leaders have collaborated with us to reach collective bargaining agreements that recognize the financial parameters within which we must continue to



Dr. Charles Smialek, PCSD Superintendent

operate. Our employees are largely paid lower than their similarly qualified and experienced peers in neighboring districts. However, our labor leaders consistently operate with a "best for the district" mentality, even when this perspective means personal and professional sacrifices on behalf of our dedicated staff members.

While we are excited to emerge from "Fiscal Caution" status, we must maintain our revenue levels at their current state. To this end, we will ask our community to consider Issue 31 on March 17, the last "new money" operating levy that we passed. This renewal is not a new tax; it simply main-

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Pinzone's Earned January Business Of The Month

by Carolyn Kovach

Family-owned Pinzone's Market Fresh Meats was named Business of the Month in January. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech presented Tony Pinzone with a proclamation at last month's council meeting.

Pinzone's has been at the historic West Side Market for decades, providing the best cuts of beef and pork while creating a large and loyal customer base. In 1995, Pinzone's expanded when it opened a butcher shop at 6046 Broadview Road, Parma and increased its product line to include poultry, seafood, deli and bakery.

Owners Tony and Nancy



(L to R): Son-in-law Paul Russo, daughter Maria Pinzone Russo, Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech, Tony Pinzone, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Tony's grandsons Mason and Logan.

Pinzone have been Parma residents for 40 years. In addition to running a suc-

cessful business, they also raised two children and are now proud grandparents.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

I have had many residents in recent weeks ask me questions about the presidential election process. Therefore, I have been moved to explain the basics in how we select the president of the United States in this month's column. The first major step in the presidential election process is the one in which we are currently in the midst: primary elections and caucuses. When we vote in the primaries and caucuses throughout the nation, we are actually voting for delegates who are pledged for the candidate we choose. If a candidate receives a certain percentage of the popular vote in a state, they win delegates who will attend the party's national nominating convention in the summer.

The Democrats will hold their national convention from July 13 - 16, in Milwaukee, while the Republicans will hold theirs from August 24- 27, in Charlotte. Delegates from around the nation will converge on each city for their respective convention, where they will vote on and approve the party's platform, as well as their nominee for president. It is obvious that President Trump will nail the Republican nomination and, as of this writing,



it is predicted that Senator Bernie Sanders will win enough Democratic delegates to the convention to seal his nomination.

Now we are off to the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November, which is historically when all of the states hold their general election. This year it will take place on November 3. Like in the primary election, we vote indirectly for the candidate of our choosing. In fact, we are voting for electors who are pledged to our candidate. Each state is given a number of electors equal to the number of

U.S. Senators and Representatives it has in Congress. Thus, Ohio has 18 electors, due to our having two Senators (like all states) and 16 members of the U.S. House. Each candidate will select a slate of 18 electors who are pledged to vote for him or her should they win the popular vote in their state. These individuals are typically loyalists who assisted in some large way with their campaign, such as raising a lot of money.

The outcome of the popular vote in the general election determines who wins the electoral votes for that state. In most states, like Ohio, it is a winner-takes-all system. Thus, if you win the popular vote in Ohio even by a single vote, you win all 18 electoral votes. There are a total of 538 electoral votes in all – 435 representing the number of members of the U.S. House, 100 for the Senate, and 3 for Washington, D.C. The winner is the candidate who achieves 270 or more electoral votes.

In early December, the electors travel to their state capitals and cast their ballots for the candidate who won the popular vote in their state. These votes are sealed, then sent to the President of the U.S. Senate who happens to also be the Vice President. Then, in early January in a

joint session of Congress the Vice President opens the envelopes, proceeds to count the electoral votes from around the nation, and announces the next president and vice president.

Of course, the electoral vote process is more of a formality, as we typically know the outcome of the election very soon after the polls close. However, the electoral vote is constitutionally required.

Finally, January 20 arrives – Inauguration Day - where the president-elect will swear the oath that every president has sworn since George Washington did so at Federal Hall in New York City in 1789.

There are many other details to the presidential election process, but I hope this provides a helpful primer or reminder of the basic process. I also hope that you will choose to uphold your civic responsibility and right to vote this year. If you need to register to vote or wish to vote by mail, feel free to contact me at 440-885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@msn.com. God bless America.

Teddy Bears And The Worlds' Largest Double Deck Gun Range Joined Forces To Send A Valentine To Parma Police K9 Heroes

by Rob Euerle


Parma Armory Shooting Center showed its love and respect for all law enforcement officers over the Valentine's Day weekend, by hosting over 100 participants in their Target-a-Teddy fun event. Benefactors, who purchased the Teddy Bears onsite, found them to be an interesting alternative to shooting at typical paper targets. On February 25, 2020, \$1095 raised at this event was donated to the Parma Police Department K9 Unit, which has a crucial role in the safety of the entire Parma community. The money will be used to help support and enhance the quality of life for our four-legged police officers. Tar-



get-a-Teddy is only one example of ways Parma Armory Shooting Center has contributed to the welfare of our city. As a life-long resident of Parma, and a former Auxiliary for the Parma Police Department, my goal is to give back to the community that gave me so much in my youth. That includes providing a

recreational facility stressing gun safety education for CCW carriers and home defense gun owners; 'demystification' gun training for non-shooters who need not fire a shot to turn their gun-fear into knowledge of what guns themselves can and cannot do, and how Parma residents can, as parents and grandparents, make children safer around guns they might encounter anywhere.

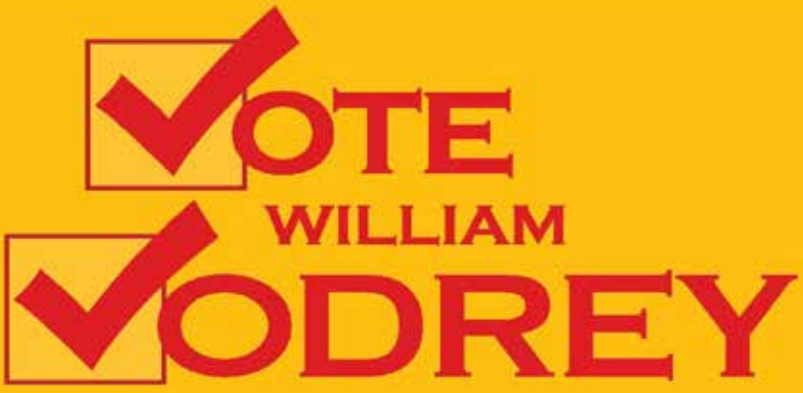
Whether local businesses or organizations need a meeting room or classroom; or want to raise funds through pistol, rifle, or archery events; indoor or outdoor flea/art/antique/auto shows and markets, Parma Armory Shooting Center welcomes local businesses and organizations to inquire about opportunities that exist for Parma Armory Shooting Center to help them improve their own commitment to the residents of Parma. To check available resources at Parma Armory Shooting Center, call Robert Euerle at 216-242-6717.



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Parma Still Rising

continued from page 1

and Staff, Recreation Department- all play a vital role through excellent job performances in making our community a safe and desirable place to live.

Our Parma businesses, the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, and other institutions provide a stable base for progress. GM Parma Metal Center, UH Parma Medical Center, Pitt Ohio, Metrohealth, Shoppes at Parma, to name a few, serves as an example to other cities when they see how Parma managed to emerge from the Great Recession with new growth and an attitude that is contagious.



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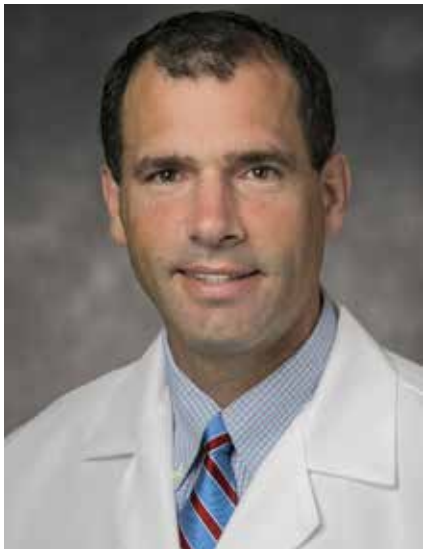
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Facing A Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis? Get A Virtual Second Opinion

by CJ Sheppard

Patients grappling with a challenging diagnosis of pancreatic cancer can access a nationally recognized University Hospitals expert for a face-to-face virtual consult in less than 48 hours. Second opinions are available by video and telephone with Jordan Winter, MD, Chief of Surgical Oncology at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center and a nationally renowned pancreatic cancer expert. Dr. Winter will talk with patients to discuss diagnosis, treatment options and potential clinical trials for those with localized pancreatic cancer or similar lesions. "The data are clear that pancreatic surgery is best performed at high-volume centers to receive the best possible outcome," Dr. Winter says. "However, many patients don't have the resources, connections or geographic proximity to find a specialist. We believe that pancreatic cancer is not only a medical urgency, but a psychologic and emotional emergency. Patients need access to a specialist quickly to get their questions answered and expedite evaluation and treatment."

Telehealth is taking UH beyond the system's 16-county region for inpatient and outpatient care. Virtual Consult brings physicians directly to the patient, as with telepsychiatry, travel medicine and



Jordan Winter, MD, is the Chief of Surgical Oncology at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center and a nationally renowned pancreatic cancer expert.

post-operative follow-up. "We want to give patients near and far the opportunity to receive the best care possible with incredible access to our specialty providers – the best of a superb multi-disciplinary team of experts, treating patients with an extreme level of compassion and concern," Dr. Winter says. "For this disease in particular, patients deserve that level of access and attention."

Dr. Winter can be reached at Jordan.Winter@UHhospitals.org.



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PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #123

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: VISIT THEIR SCHOOLS. March's Asset Category: Social Competencies Making personal choices and building interpersonal skills

Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they're even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life. This

month's column will focus on Asset #34 Cultural Competence:

Teach young people to appreciate differences

Although most people gravitate toward people who are similar to themselves, it's important to expose young people to a variety of cultures and people. People from different cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds can learn many things from one another. Being culturally competent doesn't mean that you have to like others who are different from you, but rather be able to treat one another with respect, tolerance, and equality. It means making an effort to learn about and understand people of other cul-

tural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who have knowledge of and feel comfortable with people of different cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds feel good about themselves, are less lonely, can solve problems well, and do better in school. About 43 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report having knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, according to Search Institute surveys. Cultural competence builds strong, capable, and interesting young people.

Tips for building this asset

Think about your family, ethnic background, or cultural heritage and what makes you proud and gives you comfort. Then explore other cultures' or countries' people, art, sayings,

food, songs and traditions. Help young people learn about the backgrounds of others and create a more understanding world by appreciating differences.

Also try this:

In your home and family: Explain to your child how and why her or his name was chosen. Talk about any connections the name has with your family's roots and culture—old or new.

In your neighborhood and community: Get to know people who are from a different country or have a different cultural heritage from you. Ask them about their family traditions, celebrations, and other unique aspects of their backgrounds.

In your school or youth program: Seated in a circle, ask students or participants to talk about their ethnic or family backgrounds and their favorite celebrations, foods, music, and traditions. Then have them complete this sentence: "If I could share one thing about my cultural heritage, my gift to you would be . . ."

Visit www2.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.

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by Qadriyyah Sultan

MyCom Highlights:

This month the MyCom coordinator has been extremely involved with meeting and engaging with the Parma youth. Late January MyCom invited Parma youth along with other youth in the city of Cleveland to an Advocacy Day field trip in March 2020 to the State house in Columbus Ohio. There were three Parma youth and one chaperone selected to attend the field trip. The youth and chaperone joined forces with other youth and chaperones from other neighborhoods who attended the West side Advocacy Day training January 23rd at Parma Snow library. They were provided with dinner and short workshops to prepare them for the State house.

The MyCom Coordinator attends

LOGOS, where youth K-12 receive free Bible study, worship skills, dinner, recreation play and family time. The youth and herself enjoyed the jungle themed family night. The kids worked together in small groups to think of animals that started with each letter of the alphabet and there was group prayer for identified prayer request after having their dinner.

The coordinator has attended two human trafficking conferences, one at Notre Dame College and another at Akron Summit County Public library in the month of January. Wanting to inform herself of the topic so that she can assist with bringing awareness to the Parma area.

There has been two Parma

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

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#PCSDProud

PCSD students sent lots of love to troops, veterans this February



by Amy Popik

Students from across Parma City School District are sending our troops some love this Valentine's Day.

Parma City Council's "Cards for the Troops" initiative encouraged anyone to drop off homemade cards, store-bought cards, letters and cut-out hearts to Parma City Hall this January. United Service Organizations, or USO, would then mail the cards out to our troops.

Dentzler, Green Valley, John Muir, Parma Park and Pleasant Valley Elementary Schools all had students and staff submit Valentine's Day cards. Boxes of hand-crafted cards from the Parma Schools were dropped off to Parma City Hall.

"At Green Valley, we have a warm and caring community and wanted to extend that to our troops," expressed Jacqueline Marconi, Principal at Green Valley. "Our students and staff wanted to share Valentine's messages to let our men and women in service know we support and miss them. A cute note and 'heart-felt' message from our students will hopefully bring a smile to our service members."

Dentzler Principal Renee Dzurnak said that an important part of a student's education is teaching them what service to others means.

"We have great respect and admiration for veterans and the sacrifices they have made for us," she shared. "We work to find ways to show our appreciation, so when we had the opportunity to make cards and share our thoughts, we were excited to participate. It is a small way to say thank you for a job well done."

Kristin Saban, Ward 4 Councilwoman for the City of Parma, said this could become a new tradition for the community.

"This was such a well-received community event for our troops," she expressed. "My hope is that our troops enjoy receiving homemade Valentine cards made by the very talented students of our district. It has been truly exciting to see such an outpouring within the community."

At Hillside Middle School and also at Dentzler Elementary, students are sending their Valentine's message to one veteran in particular. Retired Major Bill White is a 104-year-old veteran of the Marines, who served in World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart for his actions in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Students from across the nation are sending messages to this special veteran as part of "Operation Valentine". White has promised to keep the messages and scrapbook them, one of his favorite hobbies.

Ridge-Brook PTA secures \$3,000 to help students be healthy, safe



Ridge-Brook Principal Steve Perry talks about healthy drinking habits at a school-wide event.

by Amy Popik

Ridge-Brook Elementary School PTA has brought in \$3,000 in grants to support healthy habits among students and families.

Amanda Rouse, Ridge-Brook Elementary School PTA President, said the school has received three grants so far, with possibly more grant funds on the way.

"The first grant was through Action for Healthy Kids," she shared. "There were many different options, but what I was approved for was to help increase healthy drinking habits."

This is a \$1,000 grant and was sponsored in part by ALDI Grocery Stores. Parma Park Elementary School also received a \$1,000 grant through Action for Healthy Kids.

Going along with staying healthy and hydrated, the school also received through National PTA and Nestle a \$1,000 grant to do an infused water tasting.

"I would love for the whole school to sign a pledge and hang them up in the cafeteria that shows that everyone is pledging to drink more

water," Rouse expressed. "I would also like to maybe have a sticker that says 'I tried fruit water today'. The goal is to help students make healthy choices and informed decisions."

Finally, Ridge-Brook PTA received a \$1,000 grant for internet safety through Google's Be Internet Awesome initiative.

Parma Council of PTAs received a \$5,000 grant for internet safety from Google to do a district-wide training in March.

Ridge-Brook PTA is also in the running for a \$1,000 grant through MyCOM Cleveland. If awarded this grant, the PTA would like to put positive messages in the bathrooms and teacher's lounge as well as create a sensory path on the floor in the building.

"I'm very excited that PTA has taken the initiative to promote healthy choices for our students," expressed Steve Perry, Principal at Ridge-Brook. "PTA does a fantastic job of always reaching out to outside resources to enhance the learning process for our students."

Read the full story at
www.parmacityschools.org/monitor/

What's Happening in the Parma City School District

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 not a new tax and will maintain current funding levels.** This levy was first passed in 2011 and represents 10.6% of our general fund budget, or \$15.6 million per year. The re will continue to fund day-to-day operations including high-quality classroom instr and important support services. This is separate from the facilities Master Plan and you on the operating renewal levy will not lead to closing current schools or building new Remember Issue 31 on March 17 - Not A New Tax!

Upcoming Kindergarten Registration Events

Your story begins in PCSD! Parma City School District provides residents of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills access to unparalleled opportunities. PCSD is thrilled to welcome the Parma School District Class of 2033 beginning in March, as we kick-off Kindergarten Registration. Get your little one ready for school next year by attending one of our Kindergarten Registration events held at Parma City School District's Administrative Offices, 5311 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. The completion of the online registration will act as a "ticket" to any one of the five Kindergarten Registration events. Please register at www.parmacityschools.org/registration. For more information call 440-885-8334.

PCSD is Now Hiring

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On Wednesday, January 22, the Normandy choral program performed the National Anthem at the start of the Cleveland Monsters game versus the Rochester Americans. The game was held at Rocket Mortgage Field House in Cleveland. Normandy's choirs have been performing at the game for the last four years. This year the group numbered about 45 students.



For the second year, Dentzler Elementary School has partnered with Project Love and Duct Brand for the "Stick Together" anti-bullying program. Students in grades 2-4 were involved in grade-level assemblies on Friday, January 24 to discuss kindness and "sticking together" to a bullying. This year, each student and staff put their names on a piece of duct tape to form a kin chain that will be displayed through the hallways.

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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INSPIRATION

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Cause-and-effect discipline with children really works. Children learn what they live! Children who grow up without responsibilities learn to live a lazy life. Death is the beginning and not

the end of our journey. Divorce can be more devastating to family members than death. If children do not learn to obey their parets, chances are they will not obey any other authority. If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to practice love in the world.

It is physical and mental health that is the real wealth in our lives. It is not what we gather but what we scatter that reflects what kind of lives we have lived. Jesus assures us that He is the truth and this truth sets us free. More parents need to have sound, well-thought-out rules regarding childrearing and stick to them. Nothing comes close to positively impacting every aspect of life as Jesus. Our kids are becoming us!

People want to know how much we care, not how much we know. Personal circumstances must be resolved to the best

of our ability because we cannot run away from them. Say all the things that we want our loved ones to remember. The only thing we take with us to eternity is our character. The poor tend to be rich in faith and the rich tend to be poor in faith. The winner is always part of the answer; the loser is always part of the problem. We should focus on those things in life that will enhance our lives the most. Whatever we hope

to accomplish in life, we should do it as soon as possible.

Young people can really benefit by capitalizing on the experience of more mature individuals.

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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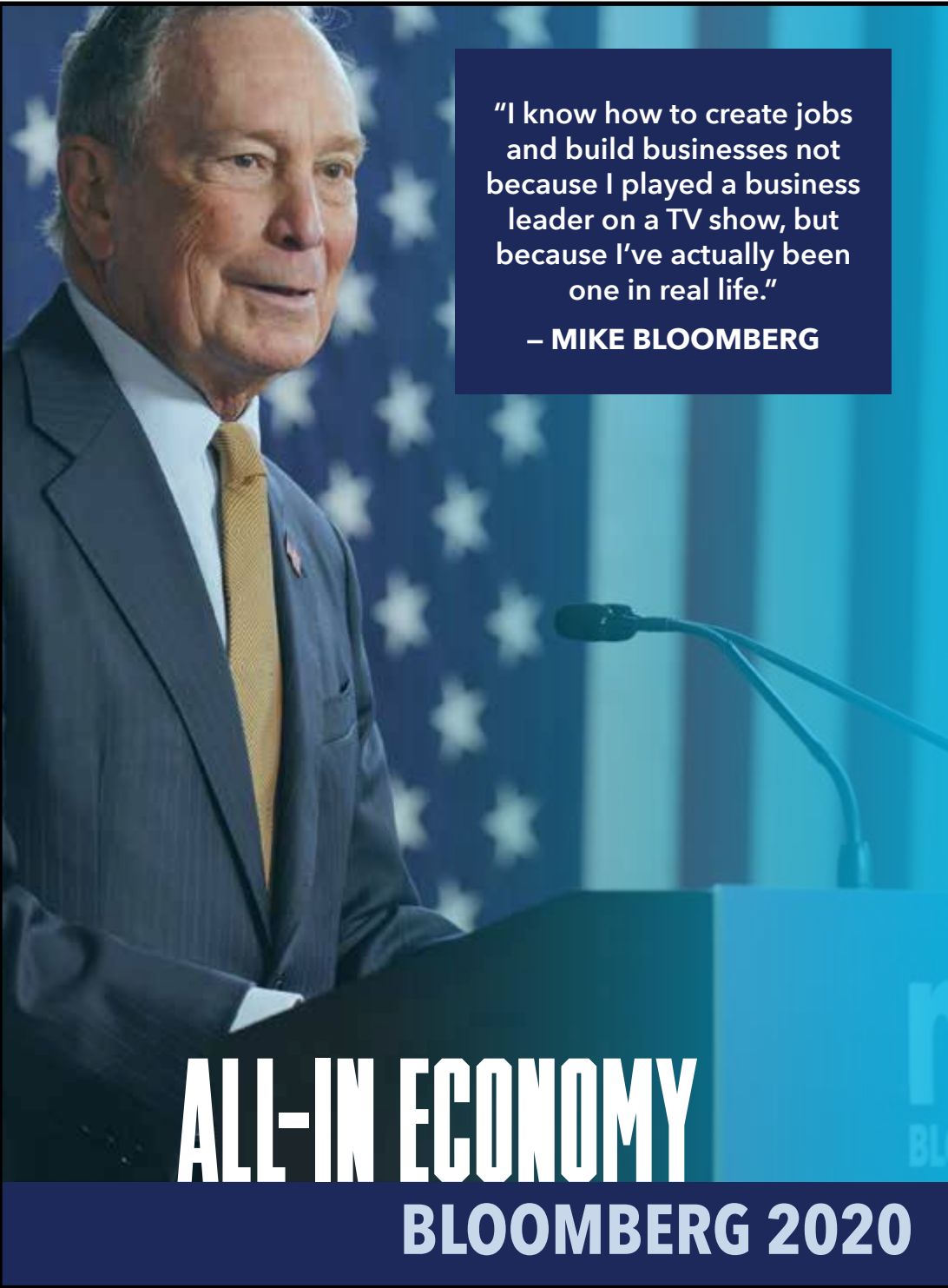


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2020

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Election Day in Ohio is Tuesday, March 17th.



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Gillingham Ford's Cleveland Auto Show Wrap-Up

Hopefully you had a chance to head over to the IX Center last month and visit the Cleveland Auto Show. For an entire week all the major automotive companies showcased what is new and exciting in the industry for 2020 and beyond. It gave attendees the chance to touch, feel, and in some cases even drive the newest models from all over the world.

The Ford display was no exception! Gillingham Ford was well represented too as several of our employees worked the floor, showing visitors who inquired, anything they wanted to know about Ford's lineup of vehicles. Highlighting the Ford display this year was the new Mustang Mach E, the newly announced high-performance, all electric, crossover version of Ford's signature sports car. A Mach E prototype is due in stores later this year, with retail deliveries beginning in early 2021.



Ford's 2020 lineup is diverse and was on display front and center on the convention center floor. The shift to the popular crossover and SUV style is on. Ford has 5 different SUV and crossovers to choose from, each with available all-wheel drive. The compact EcoSport is the smallest while the Escape, Edge, Explorer, and full-sized Expedition give any consumer in the market for a new SUV, a wide range of size and trim level options. Did you know that Ford has been the leader in the light truck market for over 42 years? That's right the F-150 has been the best-selling pick-up truck for nearly a half century. You can thank Ford's commitment to keeping it as the technological and engineering standard in the pick-up market for its commercial success. Gillingham Ford has over forty F-150s to choose from. Customers considering a pick-up truck should also take a look at the Ranger, reintroduced in 2019, it is the younger sibling of the F-150. A truck to consider for those that like what a pick-up offers but do not need the size or power of a larger truck. Maybe a truck or SUV is

not your jam. Ford has announced that it will continue to produce its mid-size sedan, the Ford Fusion, through 2020. The Fusion can be built in an array of packages: S, SE, SEL, and Titanium. With gas, hybrid and a plug-in hybrid electric "Energi" as engine options.

For those of you that used the Cleveland Auto Show to begin your search for a new car, truck or SUV, Gillingham Ford is ready for you! They are confident that you'll see the value that Ford offers and know that when it comes to Ford Dealers the experience you will get as a customer at Gillingham cannot be beat. As Parma's only Ford Dealership, the Gillinghams have served Greater Cleveland for nearly 63 years! Auto Show season is one of the best times of year to buy, so Go Gillingham Ford for your next automotive need whether it's a new or used car/truck/suv, service or parts.



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PERSPECTIVE



Some 2019 Baba's Yard volunteers in Brooklyn's Veterans Memorial Park

Fresh Produce For Households With Limited Incomes

by John Visnauskas

Baba's Yard, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, distributed 86 tons of fresh produce at no cost to hundreds of low income Greater Parma household in its premier 2019 season of programing, in partnership with Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the City of Parma and the Parma Board of Education, distributions in Parma were on the parking lot that previously served State Road Elementary School. This year the Parma giveaways have moved to the parking lot of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, at 2121 Snow Road, 44134. Neighbors in need are invited to the Parma Snow library branch between 3:30 and 5:30, on the first Tuesday of each month in 2020, from April through October.

Baba's Yard will also return to Vet-

erans Memorial Park, behind Brooklyn City Hall, 7619 Memphis Avenue, 44144, on 4th Tuesdays in 2020, April through October, from 3:30 to 5:30.

Clients need only bring a government issued photo ID and shopping bags. For example, single person households are currently limited to \$2,023 total monthly income, and for a two person household it's now \$2,743. There are no residency restrictions.

Baba's Yard enjoys volunteer support from a number of elected officials and a dedicated core of friends united in the spirit of selfless service. Our mission is to reduce epidemic diseases by increasing fresh produce consumption. We advocate food as medicine and plant based nutrition. More information is available from info@babasyard.org

Parma Schools:
Issue 31 - Not A New Tax

continued from page 1

tains collection rates as they currently stand. This 7.2 mill operating levy costs the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$21 per month. The revenue we collect from this specific levy comprises approximately 10% of our general fund. Failure to pass the renewal will lead us to reduce programming and opportunities for our students.

Importantly, the operating levy renewal on March 17's ballot is separate from the facilities Master Plan that our Board of Education recently adopted. Your vote on the operating renewal will not lead to closing current schools or building new ones. Later this spring, we will provide more information about our efforts to consolidate

our district's current 15 schools into 10 new facilities, taking advantage of a 34% contribution from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

Thank you for your interest in our school district! Please feel free fo contact me at smialekc@parmacityschools.org if you have any questions or comments. The best is yet to come!

Issue 31 Quick Facts

- Not a new tax
- Funds day-to-day operations including high-quality classroom instruction and important support services
- Represents 10.6% of general fund budget, or \$15.6 million per year
- Renewal, this levy was first passed in May 2011

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PERSPECTIVE

Snatching Defeat From The Jaws Of Victory

by Lee Kamps

The Democratic party is great at shooting themselves in the foot. This year they are on verge of blowing an election that was theirs to win. President Donald Trump has never polled above 50% approval since he took office and many voters are fed up with his antics. Yet the Democratic party is blowing a great opportunity by rushing to nominate Bernie Sanders as their presidential candidate.

Bernie Sanders first isn't even a Democrat. He is an independent Senator from Vermont who caucuses with the Democrats. But what is most disturbing are his political beliefs and the proposals he is advocating. He calls himself a socialist and is advocating "Medicare for All" with no deductibles, no copayments, no premiums and eliminating all private health insurance companies. He also wants to forgive all existing student loan debt and make tuition free at all public colleges and universities. All of this would be paid for by increasing taxes on billionaires in a great "redistribution of wealth" in the United States.

This, along with other ideas, were outlined in his book Our Revolution which has made Bernie Sanders a millionaire through royalties on the book.

But if you think that you have heard all this before, perhaps you have since this is from the same playbook of Lenin that

he was advocating 100 years ago in Russia. Of course Lenin won and established a socialist state in Russia that became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In case anyone remembers, the USSR collapsed in 1991 as this experiment in a large socialist state failed. The problem was that there just were not enough billionaires around to completely fund the programs and in the end everyone became poor as a result.

But that may be ancient history for many young people in 2020. During most of the 1990s Venezuela was the wealthiest country in South America. Venezuela's oil exports had made that nation very wealthy, but the wealth was unevenly distributed. So, in 1998 Venezuela elected a socialist President, Hugo Chavez who promised to "redistribute the wealth" and impose heavy taxes on the wealthy to finance social programs. The oil industry was nationalized.

Almost immediately foreign investment in Venezuela dried up. The oil exports that had made the nation wealthy also dried up. Their banking system collapsed. President Hugo Chavez sought aid from China, but was rebuffed. Now, twenty two years later, Hugo Chavez is dead and Venezuela is an economic basket case that cannot provide enough food to feed its citizens. Crime is rampant as wealth has left the country.

But none of this registers with Bernie Sanders or his followers. It is easy to campaign offering "free stuff"; but another matter paying for it.

Bernie Sanders has a long association with socialism and the old Soviet Union. In 1988, as the Soviet Union was on the verge of collapse, Bernie Sanders and his new wife took their honeymoon in the Soviet Union. A year later as the west was "winning" the cold war, Bernie Sanders was supporting the Soviet Union.

As Mayor of Burlington Vermont in the 1980s; Bernie Sanders advocated for the elimination of private charities and to have the government be in charge of all charitable giving. That is the same thing that Lenin did once his party took control of Russia in 1917.

If all this is news to you now, should Bernie Sanders become the Democratic candidate for President, all this and more will be well known

to the world. No doubt Donald Trump is salivating at the prospect of Bernie Sanders being the Democratic nominee for President. If you are a Democrat and intend to vote in the primary this month; remember that a vote for Bernie Sanders in March may as well be a vote for Donald Trump in November.

Mark my words; if it appears that Bernie Sanders will become the Democratic nominee, I wouldn't be surprised if Michael Bloomberg doesn't decide to run as a third party independent candidate for President. He has the money to mount a credible independent campaign nationally, just as Ross Perot did in 1992. Michael Bloomberg could pull away enough moderate Democrats who don't like Bernie Sanders socialism and enough Republicans fed up with Trump's antics to win. If there is a three way race; Bernie Sanders would finish third and might get the three electoral votes from Vermont.

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GOVERNMENT

Rep. Crossman Introduces Bill To Give Local Citizens Voice In Location Of Residential Treatment Facilities

by Mallory DeTota

Bill strengthens home rule in Ohio communities. For most people, their house is their single largest investment. Beyond that, your house is a home where you go to find respite at the end of each day. You want your family to feel safe and secure in their home each day. As a City Councilman, Rep. Crossman heard from residents that had their daily lives disrupted when treatment centers opened in their residential neighborhood without any local input. Rep. Crossman aims to change that with House Bill 505 filed on February 12th.

HB 505 filed jointly with Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) from Clermont County is bipartisan legislation that strengthens home rule; by restoring local communities' ability to approve zoning for residential treatment facilities, commonly known as "halfway houses." Under current Ohio law, treatment facilities that intend to house five or fewer residents do not require any local input before opening, and are frequently opened in areas that upset local neighbors who have no say whether the facility is appropriate for their neighborhood—this is an occurring issue across the state of Ohio.

"At the end of the day, we're a home rule state and this bill strengthens our commitment to letting local residents decide what's best for their communities as we continue to look for ways to treat addiction and combat our state's opioid crisis," said Rep. Crossman. "The current law prohibits local input and we want to give local residents a voice in the matter." Rep. Becker has heard from constituents in his community, as well, who demanded more say in where these facilities are located. "No one questions the important work being done to help rehabilitate people across Ohio," Becker said. "But there needs to be some common sense about where halfway houses can operate. We need to give residents a say before a



halfway house opens in their neighborhood."

HB 505 would standardize the zoning process, and give local residents the opportunity to weigh in on all proposed changes; something Rep. Crossman says is critical as the state continues to look for ways to combat its near worst-in-the-nation opioid crisis. "We need to work as a community to solve this terrible opioid crisis but to do so, we all need a voice."

Now that this legislation has been introduced, it has been referred to the Ohio House's Health committee which will hear from interested parties, and decide whether to advance the bill to the floor of the Ohio House.

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Partner, Russo, Rosalina & Co., L.P.A. Law Firm

I'm **Gabriella Rosalina**, and I'm running for **judge** in the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

My family and I have deep ties to Parma that span the past half century. Our family law practice opened 41 years ago across the street from City Hall. My grandparents lived in Parma for 50 years, first on Southington and later on Bruening.

There, they raised six children, and we spent every Sunday and holiday at their home for family gatherings. My mother attended Parma schools and graduated from Valley Forge High School. My parents were married at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

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 women and men.** 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 profound 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 have been endorsed by:

- Laborers Local 860
- Laborers Local 310
- Teamsters Ohio D.R.I.V.E.
- Ohio AFL-CIO
- North Shore AFL-CIO
- Municipal Foreman and Laborers Local 1099
- Ohio State Council of Machinists Labor Union

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

Paid for by Friends of Gabriella Rosalina

BUSINESS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

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

The group continues to meet every other Tuesday from 6 – to 7:30 pm at Cassidy Theater, alternating between a group activity and discussion meeting agenda.

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 OCALI (Ohio Center for

Autism and Low Incidence) & PAVE (Partnership for Action, Voices for Empowerment)....Families with disability concerns take extra care when planning for emergencies. Go here <https://tinyurl.com/DisasterPrepHelp> for links links to the Red Cross disaster preparedness for families w/disabilities page, another from FEMA, and a very specific planning tool kit from Virginia Commonwealth University.

From the Literacy Cooperative-Imagination Library....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 Achievement Center for Children's Camp Cheerful....Plan on attending their OPEN HOUSE, from 1 to 3:00 pm, Saturday, Mar 28th,

rain or shine. Learn about available Summer Camps, Adult Day Care offerings and their nationally accredited Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. Questions/info contact Alissa Piwinski, 440.228.6200 x-224; email: alissa.pawinski@achievementctrs.org. The Camp is located in Strongsville, on Royalton Rd, midway between W.130 & the I-71/Royalton Rd East exit.

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

Well Done, Good And Faithful Servant

by Rick Haase

Last weekend was a bittersweet one for the parishoners of Divinity Lutheran Church in Parma Heights. The reason?They said farewell to their longest serving clergy member.

Rev. Donald F. Hesterman, who served the congregation as Senior Pastor from February 7, 1954 until his retirement on December 31, 1987, and who now holds the title of Pastor Emeritus, has left the area for Pennsylvania, to be closer to his daughter, Rachel, a graduate of Valley Forge High School.

Hesterman, who will turn 98 on August 1 of this year, was feted with a luncheon in the church Fellowship Hall. He was instrumental in helping Divinity to grow as a church during the key time of the 1950's through the 1970s working alongside his beloved late wife, Arlo, who passed away in 2005. The pair raised four children and lived for many years on Commonwealth Boulevard in an unassuming bungalow directly behind the church that Pastor Don was

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

Walls Of Love



Office Max at Quarry Square hosted Walls of Love, a non-profit organization which helps needy people obtain essential items like hats, gloves, socks and other useful things that most people take for granted. Left to right; Chelsey Kovar and Dave Nedrich from the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, Holly Jackson, Founder and Director, and Gary Sikon, Store Office Max Store Manager.



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BUSINESS

Aldi Opens At Quarry Square

by Carolyn Kovach

There was a big turnout for the new Aldi grocery store at Quarry Square, formerly known as Midtown Plaza. Many people withstood cold temperatures Dec. 12, lining up outside the entrance before the doors opened. The first 100 shoppers each received a gift card in the amount of \$10, \$25 or \$100, and nearly all the shoppers were handed free reusable grocery bags and keychains. There were also food samples and a chance to win free produce for a year.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban and Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's Chelsey Kovar welcomed the popular grocery store, which remained busy throughout the holiday season.



New Aldi at Quarry Square attracts a large crowd.



One lucky shopper nabbed a \$100 gift card and free Aldi reusable bag.



(Left) Mayor Tim DeGeeter and (right) Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban welcomed the new store managers to Parma.

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PARMA ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

PRAMA ARTSPACE GALLERY, located at 5411 Pearl Rd, latest show is titled *Gastronomy*. In celebration of Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras the food themed show is a feast for your eyes, including the works of several fine artists. The show opened Saturday, February 22nd with a celebration that included real Mardi Gras food choices and music by Floyd Unplugged, who also did a recitation from his new screenplay. Parma Fine Arts watercolorist and instructor Emery Bogardy, has several paintings in this exhibit, which closes on March 22nd. The following exhibit will open March 27th, featuring Shawn Sloburn, Jennifer Gleason and Samantha Vickers. Follow Prama on Facebook, or check out their new web page, www.pramaartspace.com for details on this show and future events.

CALL FOR ARTISTS - Parma Area Fine Arts will hold it's annual Medley of Arts Show & Sale on May 16, 2020, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center.. A total of \$550 in awards will be given throughout multiple categories. Go to www.parmafinearts.org for details, or to download the application.

Affordable ART CLASSES – Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 classes in acrylic/mixed media

and watercolor painting are held at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. Acrylic Instructor Michelle Behal (www.beartracksart.com) covers multiple techniques in her classes which are suitable for beginners. In Emery Bogardy's (www.bogardyart.com) watercolor class you will learn different techniques to create realistic paintings and bring out your creativity with watercolor. This class is also suitable for beginners. Cost is affordable at \$8 to \$10 a session. Stop in to visit to see if these classes are for you.

Congratulations to Parma resident **MARY FORD** who took third place in the Shades of Gray exhibit at Creative Space Avon.

SEAN MABIN, artist and Prama Gallery owner, was one of the exhibitors at Doubting Thomas Gallery in the Temple of Lost Love show in February, which was part of the Walkabout in Tremont.

LENA SIMOVIC, of Lena Atomika Photography, a Parma High Alumni and resident, is exhibiting at LIVE Publishing Gallery at Murray Hill School, along with Jim Szudy, Laura D'Alesandro, Emma Anderson, and Anderson Rush. Titled *New Faces in Portraiture*, it opened January 9th. This event is part of the Cleveland Photo Fest, which highlights photographic artists, locally, nationally and internationally.



Where Futures Began: Gallery West Exhibit Showcases Artists With Tri-C Roots

by John Horton

The talent of eight Northeast Ohio artists who built their skills at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) are being highlighted during a monthlong exhibit at Western Campus.

Where Futures Began will be on view through March 26 at Gallery West, located on the second floor of the campus library. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Featured artists include Yvonne Bakale (painting); Barbara Chira

(drawing); Susan Danko (painting); Shannon Hines (sculpture); Meg McNamara (painting); Carrie Meszaros (ceramics); Carrie Stinson (drawing/photography); and Justin Urban-Styles (photography).

The exhibit will include current work by the artists as well as pieces created during their time at the College.

Free parking for Gallery West visitors is available at Western Campus, located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. For more information, call 216-987-5322 or visit www.tri-c.edu/gallerywest.



Standing room only crowd at the event *Gastronomy* on opening night 2-15-20 enjoying Floyd Unplugged and taking in the interesting and provactive artwork featured all during the month of February and up until March 22.

Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert Sunday 3/8/2020

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a Classical Music Concert on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights performing: Massenet's - *Le Cid* Ballet Suite, Chabrier's - *Espana* and Tchaikovsky - *Symphony No. 4*

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

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

Parma Symphony Orchestra



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Democratic Candidate

JAMES W.
SATOLA

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Eighth District
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- The Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association.
- Mayors across the County including the cities of Bedford, Bentleyville, Brookpark, Brooklyn Heights, Glenwillow, Highland Hills, Middleburg Heights, North Olmsted, North Randall, Orange, Parma, Parma Heights, Solon and University Heights.
- Recommended for endorsement by the City and Ward Leaders of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

• **Primary Election, March 17, 2020** •

Elect Colleen Ann
Reali

For Common Pleas Judge
Domestic Relations Division

colleenannrealiforjudge@gmail.com
Paid for by Colleen Ann Reali for Judge



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

Maddie G.

— **Maddie G.**
Stanley's CAREGiver



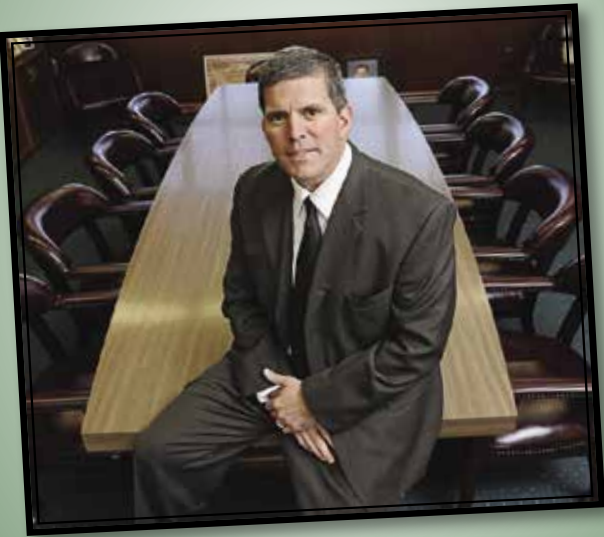
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