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# ParmaObserver

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## Message From Mayor DeGeeter

by Timothy J. DeGeeter  
Mayor of Parma

There is no playbook for mayors to guide us through a global pandemic and state-wide Stay at Home order. Over the past three weeks, information has changed daily, sometimes hourly, but that is to be expected when federal, state and local governments are dealing with a crisis. The city motto is ‘Progress Through Partnerships,’ and that could not be more evident than now as I observe Parma residents and businesses working together. Parma Area Chamber of Commerce is assisting area small businesses. Some non-profits are providing groceries to residents who are suddenly unemployed. Council members are staying connected with residents in their wards and running errands for elderly neighbors. I have also witnessed neighbors helping neighbors throughout the city. Additionally, council members and I are promoting a new social media campaign, #SupportParmaTakeout, to help sustain our locally owned restaurants. Many of these restaurant owners had to quickly pivot so they could provide takeout or curbside service.



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter

We were proactive when we closed our Donna Smallwood Activities Center on March 12, more than a week before the governor ordered senior centers closed. We have continued our meal deliverable program to the seniors who are registered with us. We also arranged for transportation for seniors who need to be driven to important medical appointments. We also made adjustments before the city tax deadline was extended to July 15. Treasurer Tom Mastroianni and our elected officials were concerned about people waiting in long lines in City Hall during tax season, so the Tax Department promoted its new e-filing system and told

people to mail in their tax documents for preparation. Auditor Brian Day, who oversees Vital Statistics, arranged for his staff to handle requests for birth and death certificates through phone calls, email and mail to avoid in-person interaction.

Although City Hall is now closed to public access, we are following CDC guidelines, rigorously cleaning rooms and hallways, and protecting our staff while still providing essential city services. For example, we are holding daily morning briefings in the council chamber, which gives staff plenty of room to spread out.

Finally, Fire Chief Mike Lasky, who is overseeing emergency operations, is well prepared for this situation. Our fire department has had a robust infectious disease control policy for years. The department, however, made some alterations to the plan and enhanced the training for our firefighters because we are dealing with a novel virus. Our firefighters and police are also provided necessary personal protective equipment.

Every day I’m talking to other mayors throughout the state, county health professionals and state leaders, including Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. John Husted. We’re all working together, and I’m confident we’ll get through this. Again, there is no chapter in a manual for what we are facing.



## UH Among First In Nation To Test Investigational Antiviral Drug Against COVID-19

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals has secured two clinical trials that will provide the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir to hospitalized adults with a pneumonia due to the novel coronavirus. One trial will focus on COVID-19 patients with moderate illness. The second will focus on patients with more severe illness who may require care in the intensive care unit (ICU).

The two UH COVID-19 clinical trials are open at UH Cleveland Medical Center and UH Parma Medical Center. UH also is hoping to open the trials at UH Ahuja and St. John medical centers.

“This is some promising news in the midst of this COVID-19 situation,” said Daniel Simon, MD, Chief Clinical & Scientific Officer and President, UH Cleveland Medical. “Our UH research team has worked closely with the manufacturer, Gilead, in recent days to secure the studies. We are grateful to be one of the first sites in the U.S. to participate in these clinical trials. Both trials are now approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and our Institutional Review Board, and we are expecting shipment of the experimental drug remdesivir in the next couple of days.”

The studies will be conducted by the UH Clinical Research Center, under the leadership of Grace McComsey, MD, Vice President of Research and Associate Chief Scientific Officer at UH.

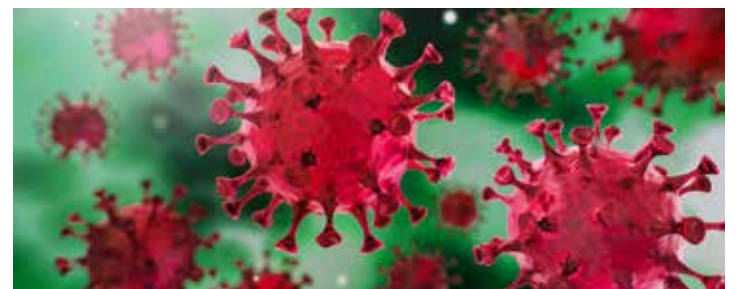
“The need for rigorous, professionally conducted research – activity that goes on every day in our UH Clinical Research Center -- is critical in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. McComsey. “There is no established treatment for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The trials we are preparing to conduct are especially significant because they test an active antiviral treatment, rather than just supportive care.”

The primary goal of the first trial is to evaluate the efficacy of two different remdesivir regimens, compared to the standard of care, measured by

the proportion of participants discharged on or before day 14 of their hospitalization. The primary goal of the second trial is to evaluate the efficacy of two different remdesivir regimens and their ability to normalize patients’ temperature and oxygen saturation, through day 14. ClinicalTrials.gov has more details for the trial for patients with moderate illness, and for the trial in patients with more severe illness.

Remdesivir has demonstrated activity against COVID-19 infection in animal studies. In addition, it’s been

continued on page 3



## The Coronavirus Crisis Continues

by Rick Haase

It seems that our world has been turned inside out, doesn’t it? Residents of Parma Heights, like every other community, are feeling the effects. But hopefully you’ll find this information helpful as we all continue to adjust to our new normal of working at home and social distancing.

Here’s a list of Parma Heights restaurants that are open for carry-out service:

**Don Ramone Mexican Restaurant**, 6278 Pearl Road

**The Whip**, 6406 Pearl Rd  
**The Clubhouse**, 6365 Pearl Road

**Harry Buffalo**, 6425 Pearl Rd  
**Flyer’s Bar and Grill**, 6298 Pearl Road

**Nipa Hut**, 6775 W. 130th St  
**Cuisine of India**, 6857 W. 130th Street

**Baker’s Square**, 7011 W. 130th Street

**Dragon Gate**, 6681 W. 130th St  
**Yorktown Service Plaza**, 6177 Pearl Rd

**The Golden Lily Chinese**  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Let me begin by saying that I am praying for your safety and health as our world is turned upside down due to COVID-19. Like you, I use reading as an escape from the world's problems. This month, after a long hiatus, I return to my series on Parma's places of worship. Weeks ago I visited Father Ray Sutter at St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church at 1200 West Sprague Road, located literally on Parma's far southeast corner. In fact, I owe him a big apology for not writing this sooner, but other stories got ahead of me.

Fr. Ray grew up in Fairview Park and attended St. Angela Merici Parish and school. He then went on to study at Borromeo Seminary for high school and college, eventually attaining a Bachelor of Arts in history. Quite the scholar, Fr. Ray attended St. Mary Seminary School of Theology and was awarded a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry. He was then ordained in 1973. Since his ordination, Fr. Ray has served St. Luke's Parish in Lakewood, where he also served as chaplain of Lakewood Hospital, and St. Justin Martyr in Eastlake. He has been serving at St. Matthias since Bishop Anthony Pilla called there in June, 1992.

When I asked Fr. Ray what brought him to the priesthood, he said his brother. "When I was seven years old, I wanted to do what my big brother, who was in the seminary, did," he explained. "My parents, as well as



many influential nuns and priests, played a big role in helping me to hear God's call," he added. According to Fr. Ray – "Pad-Ray" as some like to call him – St. Matthias is the sister church of St. Columbkille (Parma), St. Michaels Parish (Independence), and Assumption Church (Broadview Heights). The small parish was founded in 1980. "Coming to St. Matthias was one of the best things that has happened in my life," Fr. Ray said. He cites the warm, welcoming congregation where everyone knows one another by name as the biggest asset of the parish.

A big goal of St. Matthias Parish is social action and outreach. In fact, they have a close relationship with Brookside Food Center and St. Malachi



St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church at 1200 West Sprague Road

Parish. Parishioners provide donations of money and food, as well as assist with preparation of meals for the needy and homeless. They also have a connection to Food for the Poor, which is a national charity whose mission is to help the needy in Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, in recent years the Parish has donated over \$27,000 to dig wells in Guatemala, as well as \$40,000 to build seven homes in Haiti. "Our Parishioners are very giving of their time and treasure, as Christ calls us to do," Fr. Ray pointed out.

St. Matthias also has an active Knights of Columbus group which does a lot of charitable work. They also have a Stephen Ministry which, according to their website is a "one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations to equip and empower lay caregivers – called Stephen Ministers – to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting." The parish offers several other programs for both young and old. Masses are held on Saturday at 4:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:30 am.

Fr. Ray wanted me to add that during the COVID-19 pandemic, every evening at 8:00, parishioners have been asked to stop and pray for just a few minutes for those afflicted by this virus. Using his iPad, he "goes live" almost every evening to stay connected. "We've had sessions where we just chat with each other. One evening we did a scriptural rosary. Monday we did a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at the end. We have had, I estimate, as many as 300 people joining us (including the mayor a few times). I do it through my personal Facebook page. We also are live streaming Sunday Mass at 10:00 am. We are also planning on live streaming Holy Week services," Fr. Ray explained.

On June 26, St. Matthias will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. Plans are still in the works, but rumor has it that the diocesan Bishop will be in attendance. I, for one, am looking forward to being there. To find out more about St. Matthias Parish visit their website at [stmatthiaschurch.org](http://stmatthiaschurch.org) or call (440) 888-8220. Stay well and

please consider donating a little more to your favorite charity or faith organization, as COVID-19 has not been good to them.



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## Wipes Clog Pipes

by Kevin Harrison

Only flush the "3 Ps!" – pee, poop and (toilet) paper

You find yourself at the supermarket standing in the toilet paper aisle, but there isn't a package of TP in sight. You hastily look around for an alternative and find a package of "flushable wipes." Voilà, problem solved! Only one issue, those "flushable" wipes aren't actually flushable.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is reminding customers and other residents of Northeast Ohio that these items should not be flushed, even if the packaging says "flushable." You may witness them go down the drain, but they won't break down like toilet paper. Your next phone call? The plumber.

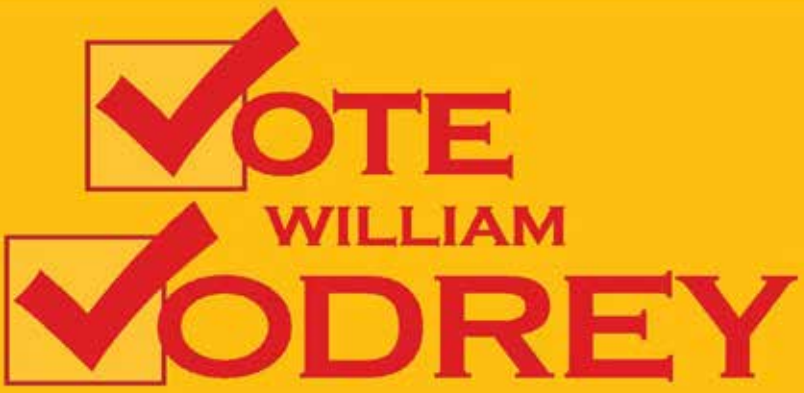
The Sewer District's three large wastewater treatment plants are better-equipped to remove wipes and other



Wipes on bar racks at Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant

debris early-on in the treatment process, but smaller treatment plants, septic systems, local sewers and the plumbing in your house may not be so fortunate. To make matters worse, wipes can combine with fats, oils and grease to create massive clogs known as "fatbergs." Other products that should be thrown in the trash include paper towels, tissues and disinfecting wipes. Respect your 3 Ps, your drains will thank you.

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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## UH Among First In Nation To Test Investigational Antiviral Drug Against COVID-19

continued from page 1

shown to be safe and tolerable, with a safety database of more than 500 people who have received remdesivir in Ebola and early phase studies to date. All study participants in both studies

will be given active remdesivir intravenously, but will be randomized to either five days or 10 days of treatment.

“The goal, as always, is to ensure access to the most novel treatments for our UH patients and the communities we serve,” said Dr. Simon.

## NASA Update: Artemis/Orion Passes All Tests



The Artemis/Orion spacecraft sits in its testing cradle at NASA's Plum Brook Station. by Jim O'Byran

Observer readers will remember back to early last November when we went down to MANSfield Airport to welcome the Super Guppy, and the Artemis/Orion spacecraft in.

This is the spacecraft that is

scheduled to take the first woman to the Moon then on to Mars. With so many NASA employees living in Parma it is always great to see the great work and achievements of our fellow residents and Americans.

## University Hospitals Working With Volunteers To Sew Surgical Masks

by CJ Sheppard

The COVID-19 pandemic has created shortages of personal protective equipment worldwide. University Hospitals is working diligently and innovatively to assure we have the supplies necessary to continue to safely and effectively care for our patients, while protecting our caregivers.

Anticipating the short supply of surgical masks, UH has designed a uniform mask prototype that can be sewn by volunteers. This is a

proactive way to assure the protection of our caregivers and patients under the most extreme situations. UH Parma Medical Center will be a drop-off point for these masks.

UH will continue to follow CDC guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment. Masks sewn by volunteers are not intended for direct use with patients who have or are suspected of having COVID-19. It's important for volunteers to follow the UH-specific design.

## UH Suspends Programming Due to Coronavirus Concerns

by CJ Sheppard

UH is committed to helping our community understand and manage their health and wellbeing. However, given the rapidly evolving situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), including the newly confirmed cases in Ohio, we are taking proactive preventive precautions to protect our community.

As such, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to postpone UH community events.

We know these wellness events are important to celebrate and inspire your health so we will look to reschedule as soon as we know it's safe to do so.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we take reasonable and responsible actions for the safety of our patients and our communities. Once we have a firm rescheduled date, we will reach out to you to let you know.

If you have any questions concerning the event postponement, please contact [CommunityEvents@UHhospitals.org](mailto:CommunityEvents@UHhospitals.org).

In the meantime, we have tools to assist you on [UHhospitals.org](http://UHhospitals.org).

For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit the UH Coronavirus webpage.



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# EDUCATION

## ASSET CORNER

Visit the "Asset Corner" on Facebook. Share your Asset building ideas.

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

## Asset Corner #124 by Gene Lovasy

**Show Kids You Care: Help Them Learn Something New. April's Asset Category: Empowerment.**

Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected. As a parent, you are already one of your child's key asset builders. Letting your kids be responsible for their own outcomes (even if they're not necessarily what you want) is challenging, but remember that empowerment is important.

**This month's column will focus on: Asset 7: Community Values Youth** Listening to diverse opinions can help everyone move ahead. As young people grow older, they quickly sense where they are wanted and where they aren't.

Do the young people around you have opportunities to participate, serve, lead, and make decisions within the community? Do these same young people feel the community supports children and youth? If the answer to these questions is "not always" or "not enough," it may be time to make some changes. After all, remember how you felt when you were young and the adults around you didn't listen or give you credit for your opinions? Everyone deserves a voice!

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people who perceive that adults in the community value young people are more likely to grow up healthy, exhibit leadership,

value diversity, and succeed in school. Only 22 percent of young people, ages 11-18, perceive that adults in the community value their opinions and input, according to Search Institute surveys. Set a goal to create an environment in which you and other adults take time to listen to young people, spend time with them, and give credit to their opinions.

**Tips for building this asset**

Young people's perceptions can tell you a lot about your community and what needs to happen so they feel the community values them. Ask young people what they think. Acknowledge their opinions, even if you don't agree. Work together to turn your community into a place that values its young people.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Ask your child's opinion about something in the news. Listen carefully, without interrupting. Discuss the topic (agreeing to disagree, if necessary).

In your neighborhood and community: Serve on a community committee and seek out young people's feedback about specific issues. Let them know you greatly appreciate their presence and participation. Encourage civic groups to include young people in critical conversations.

In your school or youth program: Engage the young people in your school or program as leaders and decision makers. Get their input on school board or program directors' decisions. Invite them to discuss their experiences with the school board or program directors.

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

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## DEA Museum Exhibit Ribbon Cutting

by Linda Kohar

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, February 21st at the Snow Road Cuyahoga County Public Library to celebrate the opening of the DEA Museum and Visitors Center. Mayor Tim DeGeeter of Parma performed the ribbon cutting surrounded by elected officials from DEA, Parma and Ohio.

This amazing and educational exhibit portrays, in stunning fashion, the history of illegal drugs in America. "From opium dens in the mid-1800's to the international drug mafias of present day, Illegal Drugs in America: A

Modern History, traces the impact that drugs have had on American society and the effort by federal law enforcement to combat this devastating and growing scourge on our community".

A bookshelf near the exhibit affords the visitor the opportunity to check out books with more information on this topic. The exhibit will be at the Parma Snow Road Library through June 20th. Hours for the exhibit are Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The exhibit is closed on Sunday. This is a must see exhibit for all those concerned about this urgent and growing problem.

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## Valley Forge senior earns recognition from U.S. Figure Skating

by Amy Popik

Julia Ventura has been ice skating for pretty much as long as she can remember.

"I was four years old when I started," she shared. "My older sister skated, so I got into it when she was doing it. My sister and I always did it together. My mom skated, too, when she was younger."

With almost 15 years of practice, this senior at Valley Forge High School recently achieved recognition by U.S. Figure Skating.

Ventura successfully completed the requirements of the senior moves in the field test.

The senior moves in the field test is the highest level that a skater can achieve in the U.S. Figure Skating moves in the field testing structure. In 2018, only 62% of those who took the test in the United States passed. In November 2019, Ventura passed on the first try.

"It was such an accomplishment to pass on the first try," she expressed. "That was always my goal, to get recognition on the gold test for move in the field. I pushed myself and worked so hard to get it!"

She explained that moves-in-the-field is a lot of edge work and evaluates a skater's different motions across the ice.

"It took a lot of practice," Ventura shared. "It took about eight months to master it. It's really important to have good edges because you can always incorporate that into free skate."

She said she is still working on her jumps and spins, sharing that she is testing at the intermediate level soon in free skate.

Ventura competes individually as well as in groups, and has even competed in a national competition for theatrical group skating. She



Julie Ventura is all smiles after passing the senior moves in the field test!

skates all year round and has grown to love the sport.

"I like how it's different," she expressed. "Not a lot of people do it, but I just got really into it. I really get to express myself, because it's like dancing on ice, basically. It's really fun to show what you can do individually, but also be with a group skating together."

While Ventura will be heading off to college next year, most likely attending Notre Dame College of Ohio, she still plans to keep skating and would love to coach after college.

Ventura is currently in the Cosmetology Career and Technical Education program as well as a football and basketball cheerleader at Valley Forge. She is undecided as to what she might study in college, she is thinking about a career in education.

Read the full story at [www.parmacityschoos.org](http://www.parmacityschoos.org).

## Dentzler Elementary celebrates 2019 Momentum Award



Dentzler 4th Grade Teachers and Principal Renee Dzurnak receive recognition from Superintendent Dr. Charles Smialek and the Board of Education at a recent regular Board of Education meeting.

by Amy Popik

Dentzler Elementary School received the 2019 Momentum Award from the Ohio Board of Education this school year.

The Momentum Award recognizes schools that received 'A's on value-added measures on the 2019 Ohio State Report Card.

All public districts and schools with at least two of three graded value-added subgroups, including gifted students, students in the lowest 20% in achievement and students with disabilities, were eligible for this recognition, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

Dentzler received 'A's in Lowest 20% and Students with Disabilities, as well as an overall grade of 'A' in the value-added measure. Gifted was not measured.

Earning an 'A' means there was significant evidence that the school's students made more progress than the growth standard.

"Our entire staff works very hard and celebrates the hard work and success of our students," shared Renee Dzurnak, principal at Dentzler Elementary School. "Our students are very diligent and work consistently to achieve their goals. This recognition allows us to take a moment and realize that hard work pays off, that teamwork leads to success and that our efforts do not go unnoticed."

Value-added is just one part of several components that make up the state report card but helps to show the progress students are making in a year.

"Every teacher, at every level, works with our students to meet and exceed grade-level standards," she expressed. "The entire staff realizes that we are all in this together and it takes everyone to do their part to achieve success."

Dentzler not only credits staff but also parents and students for this recognition because it is truly a team effort. The building has several practices in place to continue building on this good 'momentum' for school years to come.

Dzurnak described a few of those practices that have led to success.

"We stay consistent with our schedule and preserve our instructional time with minimal interruptions," she shared. "We continue making sure our parents are part of our educational team and that they support the school by working on areas that need improvement. We continue working as a team and supporting each other with research-based instructional strategies and interventions that work. We work hard to build a positive school culture where all students believe they can achieve and grow in their understanding of content material."

For the future, she added that the building will keep extending student learning at all levels and will always support student success every day.

"We want our students to feel that they are part of the Dentzler family and know that we care about their academic, social and emotional learning," Dzurnak further expressed.

## Internet safety is an important message sent to students at Hillside



Hillside Middle School 5th Graders listen to a presentation about internet safety presented by Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in February.

by Amy Popik

Hillside Middle School students received an important lesson in internet safety this winter.

Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, or ICAC, presented to each grade and discussed important topics like sharing too much personal information, posting inappropriate images, and cyber-bullying.

The presentation showed how one message or one photo can spread quickly as well as the warning signs of strangers pretending to be someone they aren't.

Students were asked to think about their privacy settings on their accounts and only accept friend requests or followers from people they know. They also learned how to get help if they are being bullied online and/or experiencing harassment.

The goal was to provide tips and tools for students on how to stay safe when using popular apps, playing video games and posting information on the internet.

Christopher Clute, Dean of Students at Hill-

side Middle School, said the school wanted to have this presentation because administration and counselors felt it would be beneficial to the safety and wellbeing of all students.

"As an administrator, social media, cell phones and internet choices represent situations that come up daily," he expressed. "Many of the issues that come up in the office have already happened and we are being reactive, but we want to be more proactive. Our hope was that this presentation would reinforce and reteach those crucial internet and social media skills for all of our students."

"The one big take away that I hope students learned from this presentation is that there are so many great and positive things out there in the world, but all of them require safe and smart choices," Clute added. "My hope is that each student heard at least one story or piece of advice from our speaker that will help them to make safer choices on the internet and social media."

Read the full story at [www.parmacityschoos.org](http://www.parmacityschoos.org).



On February 26, PCSD students and their families were invited to PTA Reflections Night, held at Parma Senior High School.

Each year, students in the PCSD are recognized through the Parma Council of PTAs as part of the National PTA Reflections program.

Reflections helps students explore their artistic ability through a variety of different artistic mediums, including film production, literature, photography and visual arts.

Students submit their works of art for consideration to be placed at the National PTA conference planned in May.

Learn more at [www.parmacityschoos.org](http://www.parmacityschoos.org)/PTA.

On March 7, 2020, 22 students participated in the second annual Young Entrepreneur's Day at Normandy High School.

Open to students in grades 3-6, young business innovators showed off their new product and service ideas to judges for prizes.

Students created tri-fold boards to display their ideas, as well as how they would design, budget and market their invention.

The program was organized by Parma City School District's Workforce Development program and sponsored by John Carroll University's Entrepreneurship Program and Kwik Car Wash.



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## OBSERVER

## Fifty Years Ago This Month A Movement Was Begun That Changed The World

by Lee Kamps

I was a 21 year old student majoring in biology at Kent State University in the fall of 1969 when one of my professors mentioned a new event the following spring. He was talking about the first Earth Day scheduled nationwide on April 22 1970 that was to focus attention to the degradation of our planet's environment. The Apollo moon landings focused attention to our own planet and what mankind was doing to it.

I was Vice President of the biology honorary and one of my duties was community relations with the biology department among the students. He suggested that I take the lead in making the

campus aware of this event. We formed a steering committee and got the university to devote an entire week to the issue. The highlight of that week was that Ralph Nader agreed to speak at the university.

The first event coming up were hearings in downtown Cleveland on air quality standards in early January 1970. It was decided that our group would charter a bus from the campus bus service and transport interested students to observe the hearings. I, along with the professors, were amazed when enough students signed up that we ended up taking three bus loads to the hearings in Cleveland.

If anyone remembers what it was

like fifty years ago loving in northeastern Ohio; it wasn't very good. There was often an orange haze over the industrial valley from the factories there. Very often in late summer and fall, air pollution advisories were issued because of the polluted air.

The previous summer, in June 1969 the Cuyahoga River caught fire and brought national attention to our polluted city. There were no fish living in the Cuyahoga River and one wouldn't dare eat any fish caught in Lake Erie. In fact, Lake Erie's pollution became a national joke on Saturday Night Live later in the 1970s.

American Bald Eagles, our national symbol, once plentiful along Lake Erie were rare. In addition, other raptors (birds of prey) were going the way of dinosaurs. Hawks, vultures and falcons were also scarce. The problem was due to nesting failure caused by the insecticide DDT which built up in the food chain and caused eggshells of raptors to become thin and the eggs often broke or failed to hatch.

Later during the winter of 1970, I stepped down from the leadership of the group coordinating Earth Day at Kent State University. I wasn't going to be on campus in the spring since I was student teaching at Berea High School in the

spring, then graduating in June 1970.

Attendance at those first Earth Day events in 1970 was beyond anyone's expectations. In fact, this morphed into a national movement across the nation and even into other countries. It became worldwide. These events caught the attention of the political figures of the day, even President Richard Nixon who said that it was about time we cleaned up our planet.

Unfortunately, the success of our first Earth Day celebration at Kent State were overshadowed by events that happened less than two weeks later. But that it the topic of another column.

But the movement that began fifty years ago in April 1970 continued and still continues today. In 1972, three key issues and bills that addressed the most pressing issues of pollution were passed by Congress with strong bipartisan majorities and signed into law by President Nixon. Those were the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the bill establishing the Environmental Protection Agency with the authority to write regulations on pollution of our air and water and to enforce those regulations.

So, if you notice that our air in Cleveland is cleaner now than it was fifty years ago; if you like swimming in Lake Erie on a hot summer day, if you like to eat Lake Erie perch or walleye, or if you like fishing on Lake Erie and like seeing hawks perched on telephone poles and even eagles flying; then thank one of those environmentalists who participated in the first Earth Day fifty years ago.

## The Coronavirus Crisis Continues

Restaurant, 6253 Pearl Road

**Pounders Bar & Grill**, 6370 York Rd  
**Luna's Deli**, 6380 York Road.

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES CONTINUE** – Essential city services, namely Police and Fire services will continue as normal.

**CITY HALL** – City Hall operations have been modified. New hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. with limited access. If you are seeking permits, applications, or returning tax forms, you can use the drop box located in the rear of the building to the right of the entrance doors. City Hall is located at 6281 Pearl Road.

**READYNOTIFY**– In these times of crisis you might consider registering with the county's emergency notification program, ReadyNotify. The program sends emergency alerts any way you choose to receive them, be that via text message, telephone call and/or email.

Residents can register online, and must have an email address in order to do so.

To register, visit: <http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Ready/Notify.aspx>. There is also a link on the city web site – [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) – if you prefer.

ALL CANCELLED UNTIL FUR-

**OTHER NOTICE** – All public meetings, all recreation programs, Parma Heights Mayors Court, activities at the Cassidy Theatre, Parma Heights Senior Center and Senior Center Transportation, the overnight parking ban, Police Citizen's Academy and any city special events.

**STAY-AT-HOME ORDER** – As a reminder, Governor DeWine's recently announced stay-at-home order allows you to perform the following essential functions:

**For your health:** to see your doctor, get prescriptions, visit and emergency clinic, etc.

**For necessary supplies and services:** YOU CAN GO SHOPPING for groceries, to pick up food from take out, to get supplies for your home, your pet or your car.

**For outdoor activity:** to walk, hike, bike, and run but please note that playgrounds are closed

**For work:** essential jobs that provide products and services.

**To take care of others:** to care for or transport family members, friends, or pets. Includes being able to attend a wedding or funeral.

Stay safe, remain healthy, and wash your hands frequently.

**WANT TO SEE YOUR INFORMATION FEATURED HERE?** -- Email information to [rick.haase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick.haase@sbcglobal.net).

## State Lawmakers Propose Relief Bills To Help Ohioans

by Mallory DeTota

Since the start of the Coronavirus crisis here in the United States, Ohio's state legislators have been hard at work crafting solutions to problems created by the public health crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. As the number of infected patients have grown, members of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, including Parma's Rep. Jeff Crossman, have been proposing legislation to help every day Ohioans through this crisis. Legislators plan on taking up this legislation when the Ohio General

Assembly returns to Columbus.

First on the agenda is to complete the March 17th primary election which was suspended after the Ohio's Director of Health ordered the in-person polling locations closed the day prior to the election. While the Ohio Secretary of State has recommended in-person voting resume on June 2nd, legislators have instead proposed switching to mail voting only and extending that

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

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# INSPIRATION

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

As people advance in years, many wish they had not done certain negative things; instead, they wished they had done more positive things when the opportunity arose. Compromise has become the order of the day. God's people are choosing to conform to the ways of the world and hold on to God and His principles at the same time. This cannot be done. In time, the consequences will bear this out. Jesus has granted to the believer forgiveness, spiritual blessings, and salvation, and He has paid the debt to deliver us from this sinful world into the eternal world to come.

Old age eventually comes to everyone who survives youth and middle age, but that does not mean it is time to quit. Our culture has abandoned the gold standard, moving from gold to silver, to bronze, to iron, to clay, and to mud. The last promise in the Bible is that Jesus

would return to earth again quickly. It seems evident that "quickly" must be understood in the sense of "suddenly."

There are some things that cannot be learned in books but only by experience, and obedience is surely one of those things. We become disciples of Jesus when we learn and do the things He commands us to do to the best of our ability. Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it; but small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Young people yearn to be older, older people yearn to be younger, and many of those in-between are not sure one way or the other. The question becomes, "How much time remains to live contented lives?"

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?



Photo by Tomasz Kaccki

## Councilwoman Lime Recognized

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma Councilwoman Debbie Lime, Ward 2, Polish Village, was one of six, honored by the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, Knights and Grand Ladies, on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at a banquet held at Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma. She was awarded for her accomplishments to promote Polish culture and ideals through her commitment to support the Polish Constitution Day Parade and After Party, which takes place in Polish Village Parma annually in May. Also honored for their accomplishments were, Andrew Bajda, Jacqueline Jaros, Agnieszka Kotlarsic, Cara Florence Milcinovic, and Fr. Robert Ramser.

The Polish Constitution Day celebrates Poland's May 3, 1791 adoption of the first constitution of its type in Europe which was a milestone in Poland's legal history, and in the history of democracy. It was the first constitution to follow the 1788 ratifica-

tion of the United States Constitution and showed notable similarities in the approach to and design of our political system. Events honoring the signing of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791 have been celebrated by the Polish American Congress in our area since the group formed in 1948. The parade and events surrounding the celebration originally were held in Cleveland. In 2010 the Polish American Congress began searching for a new location due to lagging attendance and community support. They finally settled on the suburb of Parma which boasts an 18% population of residents of Polish ancestry. Over the last 10 years, the Polish American Congress has worked with Councilwoman Lime, the City of Parma, and the Polish Village Parma volunteers to bring this parade and after party to the community.

The parade has been welcomed in Parma and is usually the first Parma parade of the year, occurring in early May. Unfortunately the May parade will be rescheduled to later in the year due to our current health crisis. In addition to the parade, and who doesn't love a parade, the after party offers a celebration of the sights, sounds and smells of Poland, through the beautifully colored Polish costumes, the strains of a lively polka band, and the delicious pierogi, kielbasa, stuffed cabbage and pastries served at the after party. As well as the opportunity to meet your neighbors.

Congratulations to Councilwoman Lime and the five other honorees for their accomplishments!

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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  
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# AREA WIDE EVENTS

## News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

**From the "Cleveland Rape Crises Center":** Sexual violence doesn't stop during times of crisis, and the most vulnerable among us are facing even greater challenges to meet their needs. The Center's offices will remain closed until further notice, but staff members are working remotely and continuing to provide critical services during this time: for assistance and/or to make an appointment for any service, contact the hotline 24/7: *Call or Text (216) 619-6192 or (440) 423-2020, or chat online at [www.clevelandrapecrisis.org/chat](http://www.clevelandrapecrisis.org/chat).*

go here <https://tinyurl.com/>

CRCC-Counseling for remote counseling via video conference or phone.

go here <https://tinyurl.com/CRCC-VicAsst> to display services for survivors as they report to law enforcement, or consider legal options, are available to survivors by phone.

**From "Futures Without Violence"...** has developed an extensive resource page for DV survivors, their communities, and for domestic and sexual violence advocacy providers/programs. Check it out here <https://tinyurl.com/FWVOV-CrisisInfo> and share those that you find helpful with your networks.

**From the Literacy Cooperative-Imagination Library...** Remember that any child from birth to 4 1/2 years of age, living in Cuyahoga County can now receive, completely free, a brand new, age appropriate book, mailed directly to them each month. Enroll that child on-line by going here: <https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a child's registration status, you can contact our local affiliate, Joan Spoerl, Coordinator at 216.577.7585 or email at [jspoerl@literacycooperative.org](mailto:jspoerl@literacycooperative.org).

**Free Educational Web Sites for Kids...** Doing a "Search" on that phrase generates a number of "hits". You can try this one as an example: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/best-free-educational-websites-for-kids-3129084>

**From NORA (Northern Ohio Recovery Resources)...** If you're working or know of someone dealing with addiction issues visit <http://norainc.org/> to learn more about the broad & expanded range of services they now offer.

**From ASPIRE Greater Cleveland** ([www.aspiregreatercleveland.org](http://www.aspiregreatercleveland.org)) : Has announced that all classes & orientations have been cancelled through April 3rd. Visit their FB page for any updates to this revised schedule.

**From TEAM NEO...** This is a hard time for many who have suddenly been laid off or will be soon. Multiple area businesses are still open and hiring now, i.e.: Amazon, Giant Eagle, Heinen's, Marc's, Discount Drug Mart, GOJO, Parisco, Other essential retail,

Healthcare. Visit these job resource sites prepared by the Greater Cleveland Partnership INGEAR (<https://tinyurl.com/GCPJobs>) & Cleveland 19 Job Alert (<https://tinyurl.com/CLE19JobAlert>).

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

*The group's bi-weekly meetings are canceled until further notice.*

All area students ages 12 -17 are welcome to join this group. For announcements & detailed information visit the PACT Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police](http://www.facebook.com/parmaheights.police); email: [pactunit@gmail.com](mailto:pactunit@gmail.com); ph: 440.884.1235.

**From Parma Council of PTA's:**

The PTA Geranium sale has been **continued on page 9**



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# PERSPECTIVE

## American Renewal: Red White And You

by Davidione Pearl

The president was pressured the third week of March to 'enable' the Defense Production Act - which commissions domestic manufacturers to ramp up productions of emergency items needed during wartime, like the automobile industry switching to building airplanes practically overnight during WW2. In our case now, mobile hospitals, ventilator beds, masks, and general PPE were the war effort. Further, DPA measures would have initiated the Army Core of Engi-

neers to full capacity - specifically designed for logistics needed now.

When asked why he only enabled the Act instead of giving the full green light to enact immediate operations, he stated "we are not shipping clerks, that is the Governor's responsibility right now".

In a crisis, especially one unprecedented as this, we all must wear many hats for our survival and the common good of our people; any responsible leader fundamentally understands this, let alone any decent patriot in the

Oval Office, yet his gross lack in sense of urgency is at immediate detriment to the nation, and will be at our peril.

In short, any truly effective president would be throwing everything we've got at this situation, backing the Governors up with any and all muscle available to protect our own.

This Loaded 45 has left our country more and more vulnerable to increased hate crimes by his hatetriot dog whistle nuances, confirmed and indicted Russian infiltration in our securities systems, and now this pandemic.

In 2018 he ordered the National Security Counsel's entire global health security unit of experienced leaders in the White House shut down, they were tasked with preparedness for pandemics and had recently gotten us through Ebola. He also gutted our leadership in the Dept. of Homeland Security.

This perfect storm has tragically reduced our response time today and is monumentally unacceptable.

**To add...**

Masks and ventilator beds on a national scale are on 6-18 month backlogs in current response measures, with infection and mortality numbers poised to go through the roof at present by the day. He absolutely must go.

**Pleading...**

Bernie supporters, Biden pledged, and Republicans alike, I'm begging you all on behalf of millions - we must be as one on this, let's please come together just once in our lives this November to get this abomination out for the sake of all our future...Our only way to truly rebuild is to first stop the hemorrhage. Please do not sit this one out and underestimate this, it's the most important one of our lives, and those to come will one day ask what we did to stop it. He's rolling out the red carpet to a very dark prophecy, yet we have the power to slow it. But only if we come together. We absolutely must come together...If only just this one time.

## News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

continued from page 8

extended through Thursday, April 16th. Order forms are available online. Anyone may place an order; items include a variety of flowers, vegetables & hanging baskets; order pickup is estimated to be around May 4th, depending upon how long the schools remain closed. Go here: [www.parmacityschools.org/geraniums](http://www.parmacityschools.org/geraniums) for details.

**The Annual Kalahari PTA Family Night & Fundraiser** – Has re-scheduled the Family Night to Sunday, June 21st. Reservations can be transferred to that day at \$139. Contact Kalahari after 3/13 to make changes.

From Parma City Schools:

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org](http://www.parmacityschools.org) for up-to-date information on school closures, student assignments, food distribution, distance-learning, district related COVID-19 information, meetings, etc. Links to most all the topic detail pages can be found on the Home Page.

**From the Parma Area Family Collab:** (Parkview Elem., 5210 Loya Pkwy – next to Parma Sr. H.S.)

- Follow their FB postings to learn when the Hunger Center of Greater Cleveland food deliveries may be available for those in need.

- The Collab is open and services continued to be offered. Call 440.887.4873 or check their at <https://familycollaborative.com/>

[familycollaborative.com/](https://familycollaborative.com/)

**From the MyCom Youth Development Initiative of Greater Cleveland... For Youth Serving Agencies/Organizations:** "We are presently working on ways to support your organizations to increase capacity, if needed, and provide the necessary support that may be needed in the event your agency, or your partners are willing and able to stay open during this period of school closure.

We are asking that if resources are needed to: provide food, provide childcare, provide safe spaces, increase capacity, etc. or anything else that will assist youth and families for the next

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

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# PARMA ART SCENE

## Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma Area Art Council, Inc., has suspended all art classes until further notice. Check the web page, [www.parmafinearts.org](http://www.parmafinearts.org) for updates or follow on Facebook.

Share your artwork. Parma Area Fine Arts Council encourages you to take photos of your work and post to their Facebook page.

Prama Artspace Galley, 5411 Pearl Rd's exhibit, Gastronomy show closed Saturday, March 21st. Due to the health crisis, the gallery is closed until

the crisis is over. Watch their web page, [www.PramaArtSpace.com](http://www.PramaArtSpace.com) for updates or follow on Facebook.

My recommendation: During these unsettling times I have little to share with you regarding upcoming events. Therefore I'd like to share with you ideas for what to do with your free time at home. In times of stress I've found that by sitting and drawing, or painting, or creating in any form has helped me to find some peace. I do this for me, not to sell, not because I'll be creating a masterpiece, but because it helps me to cope.

Creating art is for all ages, young and old. Everyone can learn how to

draw, it comes from practice. Usually you need an instructor to guide you, but, there are lots of videos on the internet that can act as your instructor. All you need is paper, pencil, your computer and time. A very inexpensive activity. You can paint. There are lots of videos online that will show you all the techniques and tricks. Remember Bob Ross and those happy little trees? Or you can color with markers, pencils or even crayons, in a coloring book, or print pages to color off your computer. There are a number of YouTube videos,

Google free coloring pages, for kids and adults, or Google art instruction, and for inspiration search for museum online tours.

Parents, spend time with your children, creating. Working adults, after a stressful day at work during these unusually stressful times creative arts will relax you. Seniors, creative activities keep your mind sharp.

Who knows, maybe there's an inner Grandma Moses, or a Picasso within you. Try it, you might like it!

## Support Our Local Businesses!

by Kathryn Mabin

Every year Parma actively supports Shop Small. Shop Small Saturday this year is November 28th. The City of Parma does this because they know how important these small businesses are to our community. One study found that for every \$100 spent at a local small business, \$68 of it stayed in the local economy. Whereas that same \$100 spent at a large business, only \$43 stayed local.

One of the most unique things about Parma is the volume of small businesses in our community. These small businesses bring not only local residents, but people from all over into our community. These small businesses pay local taxes. They spend their profits in our community. They support our local sports teams and our local nonprofits. Our

local unique small businesses are often the reason people purchase homes here.

Due to our health crisis these small businesses are suffering. They are the back bone of our community and they need our support. After this crisis is over, many small business owners may not survive, and you will miss them. Please remember to support local take-out. Please remember to support our local bakeries, our local butcher shops, our ethnic grocery stores and deli's. Often they have that item that is out of stock at your big box store. By shopping all our local small business you are supporting your community too.

Now more than ever it is imperative that we shop local now, not just on Shop Small Saturday.

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# PARMA OBSERVER



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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**Reali**

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[colleenannrealiforjudge@gmail.com](mailto:colleenannrealiforjudge@gmail.com)  
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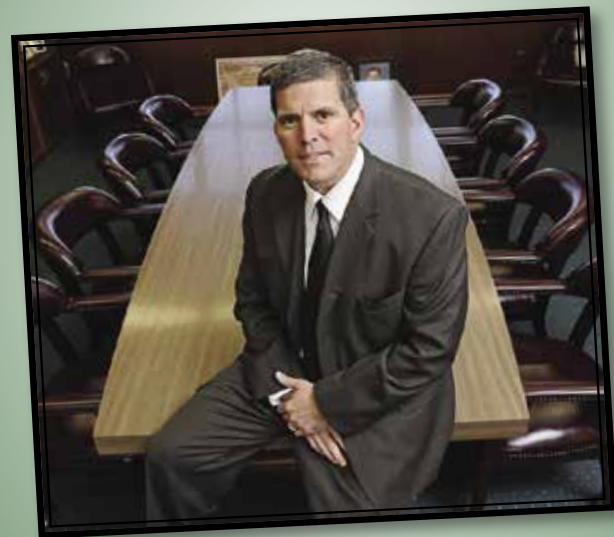
go to: [satolaforjudge.com](http://satolaforjudge.com)

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## Pleasant Lake Villa

Skilled Nursing · Rehabilitation · Long Term Care · Assisted Living



## Five Star Overall Rating

by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Come experience premier health care with all the touches of home – and more. Pleasant Lake Villa is a family run organization, and we make it our priority to provide you with high quality care, spacious accommodations and the comforts of home.

### Amenities and services:

- 60 private short term rehab suites with private bathroom and shower
- Medications administered by 24-hour nursing staff
- Visiting physicians, including dentist, optometrist and podiatrist
- 24-hour personal response system
- Beautiful, secure and private courtyard for residents to enjoy fresh air
- Non-Denominational chapel with on-site chaplain
- Medical model assisted living
- Housekeeping, personal laundry and linen services
- Barber shop and beauty salon services
- Complimentary in-house cable television and in-suite internet and phone service
- Aromatherapy/gentle massage. The use of essential oils and lotions helps reduce stress for the resident
- Music stimulation, which includes using instruments, provides an invigorating experience provoking improved memory and coordination
- Gardening, cooking and arts and crafts

For more information or a tour, call 440-842-2273



**Silver Recognition**  
Health Services Advisory Group



**Eli Pick**  
Facility Leadership Award



## Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

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