

“Behind every beautiful thing, there’s some kind of pain”- Bob Dylan

June, 2020  
Vol, 12, Is. 6

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Message From Mayor Biasiotta-

## Seven Hills Summer 2020 Update

by Tony Biasiotta

Many have reached out stating how terrible it must be that in very my first few months of becoming Mayor of Seven Hills, I have had to deal with a global pandemic and the resulting economic disruption. While I’m deeply saddened that so many are suffering and it is stressful dealing with budget tightening, I tell them fret not. Adversity does not build character it reveals it. I was put into this role at time this for a reason. We are all getting a trial by fire that nobody could have predicted. As Mayor, my focus has pivoted toward protecting our residents and employees from COVID-19. Back in March, I instituted numerous emergency measures to help the City navigate these uncharted waters. As we head into June, some of the emergency measures have been lifted; our recreation center has been reopened with the staff working diligently to create a safe environment for our residents and members.

Seven Hills, like all other



Seven Hills Mayor Tony Biasiotta

Cities, has been impacted financially by the resulting economic disruption. We are now forecasting \$1.2 million less income tax than budgeted. However, we have been able to quickly adjust and have identified approximately \$300,000 in un-budgeted revenue and approximately \$650,000 in general fund savings. Perhaps most important we, as a City, were able to significantly increase cash reserves over the last couple of years. Having these reserves will help us weather the storm without any service disruption to residents. With that being said, our fire and police

protection have remained at FULL operational strength during this crisis.

Even in trying times, my motto of “Partnerships and Progress” continues to be a bright light for our City.

I am pleased to share with you that we welcomed a new substantial employer to Seven Hills in Konica Minolta. We are excited to have them call our City home!

This spring we watched the razing of the old K-Mart to make way for our new Meijer store. The demolition is now complete and I am proud to announce the project is still on schedule for a spring 2021 opening!

We were notified that the Cuyahoga County Council has approved the City of Seven Hills for a Community Development Supplemental Grant of \$50,000. Winning this grant will allow us to build a large gazebo on the empty lot at the corner of Hillside and Broadview Rd. for all to enjoy.

This month, at NO COST TO SEVEN HILLS, our Fire-fighters will take delivery of \$125,000 of new state-of-the-art portable radios. This was made possible by a grant from Cuyahoga County for \$42,136 and \$82,864 from the Federal Government. I would like to thank Parma Fire Chief Mike Lasky for his partnership during the grant process.

Lastly, as we head into summer and activities increase and businesses begin to open, please remember to do your part in making our community more secure from the coronavirus, by practicing recommended safety measures whenever possible. Stay strong. We got this!



Mayor Tony Biasiotta, Councilman Pat Elliott and Phil Kiriazis welcome Konica Minolta to Seven Hills.



Former KMART site on Broadview Rd. in Seven Hills.

## Holy Name High School Class of 2020



Graduates of Holy Name High School 2020 staged a procession on Snow Rd. in Parma Heights in lieu of normal proceedings during this unprecedented time in their lives. Good luck Grads- you are living through history.

## City Of Parma Strives To Mitigate Flooding With Storm-Water Projects And Requests For Funds

by Carolyn Kovach

Two downpours since March 29 have frayed the nerves of Parma residents and frustrated city leaders as they deal with the ongoing dilemma of regional flooding. “Fixing a city’s infrastructure requires research and money. Flooding is a complex regional issue because all the municipal sewer systems are interconnected, which means a problem in one city contributes to issues in another community. We have been working with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) and West Creek Conservancy to find solutions,” said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

Meanwhile, the city continues making major infrastructure improvements to help mitigate flooding. In April, the basin at Veterans Memorial Park was drained to collect storm-water. It will remain dry until it and the basin at Anthony Zielinski Park can be modified to increase capacity.

In May, City Council approved storm-water management projects that the city’s Community Cost Share dollars will cover. The funds are tied to 25 percent of the total annual storm-water fee NEORS collects from each community.

The biggest project is the continued repair and replacement of catch basins. Parma Service Director Brian Higgins said the city has fixed 450



of the more than 5,000 catch basins in the past three years. This year, the city will repair another 150 catch basins. Some of these basins will require a new grate and box, while others will need rebuilding. Work is expected to start in early June and finish by the end of 2020.

NEORS funds will also be used for catch basin and headwall repairs for a \$127,000 project on Lourdes Drive. “Currently, this project is in the bidding phase. Construction could start in August and be completed in fall 2020,” said Parma Assistant City Engineer Hasmukh Patel.

The Lourdes Drive project is the city’s second phase of headwall replacements, which started in 2016 after the city was awarded federal dollars to help support five projects.

The city is planning a future \$600,000 project on Meadow Lane, as well as replacing two headwalls and upgrading a \$100,000 storm-water basin on Hickory Hill Lane. The city is also looking at Fenway Drive, Green Acres Drive and Krueger Avenue.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COVID-19 Survivor Advises:  
'Do Yourself A Favor, Wear The Mask'

by CJ Sheppard

A COVID-19 survivor who spent 57 days in the hospital had a strong lesson before his recent discharge from University Hospitals Parma Medical Center: "Wear the mask and stay six feet apart. I'm telling you, this disease can kill you." Jerry Gustin, 74, of Parma left UH Parma Medical Center on May 27 following intensive rehabilitation in UH Parma Medical Center's Acute Rehabilitation Unit. He underwent at least three hours of occupational and physical therapy every day to regain his strength to walk and care for himself again. The nurses, therapists and physicians became a second family to him, as no visitors are currently allowed in hospitals due to the pandemic. Jerry began every morning with a call to his wife, Linda, and received extensive support from his four children and eight grandchildren, who called and sent signs to motivate him.

Gustin arrived in the Emergency Department by ambulance on April 1, feverish, breathless and unable to walk. "I felt like my chest was closing in on me," he said. He was admitted to a special COVID unit and later transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, where he spent 23 days. While he was never intubated, Gustin needed a good deal of oxygen and slowly began to regain strength.

"I looked up and I started praying to God, please help me through



Parma resident Jerry Gustin was cheered by a huge crowd of caregivers at UH Parma Medical Center, including President Brian Monter, Associate Chief Medical Officer Jim Hill, MD, and Chief Medical Officer Kim Togliatti-Trickett, who oversees the Acute Rehab Unit where Gustin regained his functionality to return home.

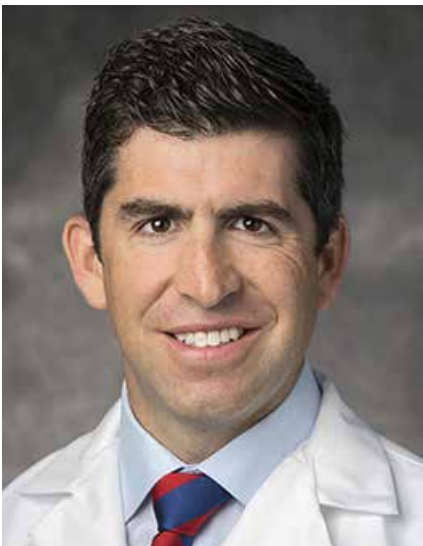
this," recalled Gustin. He had a stint at Regency Hospital before returning, now COVID-negative, to the Acute Rehabilitation Unit for intensive therapy. Gustin made mental lists of what he needed to accomplish to move forward each day: walk again, climb stairs, shower.

Allison Evans, Program Director for the Acute Rehabilitation Unit, said Gustin initially needed the maximum amount of assistance for dressing, bathing, walking and other activities of daily living. But his positive attitude, as

well as the motivation he received from his family by phone and his second family of caregivers in the unit, helped him through this ordeal.

"I conquered everything that was expected of me," said Gustin, sporting a T-shirt with gold lettering proclaiming 2020 Pandemic Survivor - We Battled. I Won. "I totally respect the people who got me through this, and I really want these people that are going out and having fun to know: Please do yourself a favor - wear the mask and stay six feet apart.

"We can all survive this together."



Urologist Aram Loeb, MD, presents a June 2 webinar on Men's Sexual Playbook.

UH Physician Talks Go Virtual

by CJ Sheppard

Thousands of Patients Connect with Health Experts through Webinars From the convenience of your living room, now you can talk to the experts. University Hospitals has transformed its popular health seminars, which previously took place in person at the hospital and at community locations, into a virtual format. Patients can now sign up quickly online and watch free physician talks, with an opportunity to ask questions. Thousands of patients can access these webinars, offered on Zoom and reaching far more people than was possible in the previous format.

continued on page 7

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EDUCATION

ASSET CORNER

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What All Kids Need to Succeed 40 Developmental Assets

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PGSD PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Asset Corner #126

by Gene Lovasy

June's Asset Category:  
**BOUNDARIES & EXPECTATIONS**

Support and empowerment (Assets 1 through 10) need to be balanced with clear, consistent attention to boundaries and boundary reinforcement. Important here are clear messages about what is in-bounds (for example, respect for people and property) and what is out-of-bounds (including violent resolution of conflict and substance use). By the same token, caring adults who expect young people to do their best help them to learn good judgment. Every day young people face many options and choices. Boundaries and expectations provide young people with the support they need to choose wisely.

This column's focus will be on.....  
**Asset #15 – Positive Peer Influence**

**The power to be positive**  
Too often, people jam the words peer and pressure together and think

of it as a bad thing. Truth is, that's only part of the story. Sure, peers have power. But this pressure is only negative when young people feel they're pushed to do something they know is too risky. Peers can also help young people become more independent by encouraging and supporting healthy choices. Peers can invite one another to join teams or clubs, help with homework, or simply listen. You can help young people choose the kind of peer power they want in their lives and what kind of friends they want to be. If young people and their peers are responsible, positive, and supportive, they are more likely to succeed.

**Here are the facts**  
Research shows that young people whose closest friends behave responsibly do better in school, get into less trouble, and choose activities that give them the best chance of future success. It makes sense for young people to surround themselves with people

who bring out their best qualities. In return, they can multiply the benefits by being friends who are also positive influences. About 63 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say their best friends model responsible behavior, according to Search Institute surveys.

**Tips for building this asset**  
Peer pressure is especially strong in school. When you notice trouble brewing or young people who are about to make a poor choice—in school or elsewhere—remind them that they have the power to say no—even to a peer or a friend.

**Also try this**  
In your home and family: Identify people, stories or images that exemplify the positive power of peers. Use these examples to help your child make a collage of inspiring quotes and images for

a friend.  
In your neighborhood and community: Talk with young people in your neighborhood about the qualities you admire in each of them. Encourage them to be a positive influence in the lives of their friends and peers.

In your school or youth program: Pair off students and participants. Have them take turns discussing a time when they positively influenced a friend or peer. After each story, talk about how it felt to use positive peer pressure.

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.

Virtual Resource Fair Allows Area Families To View Summer Options And Interact With Providers

by Lorilynn Wolf  
With school buildings closed, activities canceled and distance learning in place over these last few months, many local families are concerned about skill regression and are seeking academic, social and/or emotional support for their child this summer.

What area providers are offering programs? Which camps will be open? Where can you find a social skills group or tutor for your child this summer?

At the Connecting for Kids Summer 2020 Virtual Resource Fair (VRF), Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Facebook, more than 100 local providers will interact live with families to provide information on what they will be offering during these unprecedented times.

Families can participate by requesting to join the CFK Summer 2020 Virtual Resource Fair Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VRF2020/>. Note: The request to join can be made at any time, but the group will not open until Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 pm.

To easily navigate the VRF, families can use keywords to search for the programs and resources that best fit their needs. Each provider participating in the Fair will have a post that includes a list of services and locations. Families can use the comments section to ask questions and correspond with



provider representatives.  
Because things are changing so rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFK Summer 2020 Virtual Resource Fair Facebook Group will remain active through Thursday, September 3, 2020. As providers add programs or need to make cancellations, they will update their information.

Families not on Facebook or unfamiliar with how to use the site, can contact a Connecting for Kids Family Resource Specialist via phone/text at 440-570-5908 (440-907-9130 para espanol) or via email at [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org).

Diamond Sponsors for the Virtual Resource Fair are Galvin Therapy Center and Hickman & Lowder Co., LPA.

Platinum Sponsors include Abilities First, LLC, BlueSprig Pediatrics, Elite Family Chiropractic, Jay Berk, Ph.D. & Associates, Kenneth A. DeLuca, Ph.D. & Associates, Inc., McGuire Law and Advocacy, LLC, Meghan Barlow and Associates, Murray Ridge Center and Spectrum Resource Center.

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# Inspiration

## Parma Heights Summer Programs Cancelled

Citing health, safety, and financial concerns related to COVID-19, Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne joined other mayors across NE Ohio in announcing the cancellation of recreational programs and events for the summer of 2020. “I decided to issue the cancellation order after thoroughly discussing all available options and, most importantly, considering the safety and well-being of our participants and employees,” Byrne said.

Referring to Governor DeWine’s “The Path Forward to Restart”, the mayor explained the recommended public health measures such as frequent sanitization of common areas, daily health assessments, as well as social distancing, would be difficult to meet. Mayor Byrne also expressed concern about the potential difficulties lifeguards and recreation employees might have while encouraging safe social distancing were also a factor, explaining that “this was by no means an easy or a quick



decision”. Included in the closure announcement are the city’s pool/waterpark, baseball leagues, tennis courts/lessons, Kids in the Commons, Big Creek Handmade Fest event, Yoga in the Park, Ohio Flags of Honor, and outdoor movies. The Outdoor Summer Concert Series, held in conjunction with the City of Parma, has also been cancelled.

On a positive note, with nearly every resident within a half-mile of a park, the mayor encouraged residents to enjoy the city’s extensive park system and the Parma Heights -Big Creek Connector Trail to the Cleveland Metroparks. Links to free exercise and movement classes can be found on the Recreation Department page of our city website.

Mayor Byrne also noted that although the Theatre and Community Center remain closed, a new live series “Cassidy Theatre and Company” can be viewed Sundays at 3 p.m. on the Cassidy Theatre’s YouTube page.

“Let’s not allow this pandemic to stop us from being creative or growing together as a community,” stated Mayor Byrne.

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

As relentlessly as we may try, we cannot think one thing and experience something else. Everyone that sincerely loves others is borne of God. If the wind will not serve, take to the oars. If there is disagreement between what the secular world says and what God says, there is no contest. It is better not to live than not to love. It is not easy to understand what people might become. Let our conversation be without covetousness; be content with such things as we have.

Life is not a holiday but an education. Life is the gift of God and enjoyed most by those who obey God’s commandments. Love is the universal language that is understood by all.

No worse fate can befall a person in this world than to live and grow old

alone, unloving, and unloved. One of the greatest things we can do in this world is to be kind to someone. Right thinking is the choice we have to make for ourselves for the rest of our life. Showing favoritism with people on any basis is a sinful act. Sincerity is the greatest secret of personal influence. The four prerequisites for unity are humility, love, spirit, and mercy.

The greatest thing in the world is LOVE. The only journey is the journey within. Think not of others’ faults; look for what is good. We can avoid reality, but we cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality.

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?

## Faith Community Directory

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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  
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www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church  
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www.Stbridgetparma.com
- Holy Family Catholic Church  
7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533  
www.holyfamparma.org
- Parma Christian Church  
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www.parmachristianchurch.org

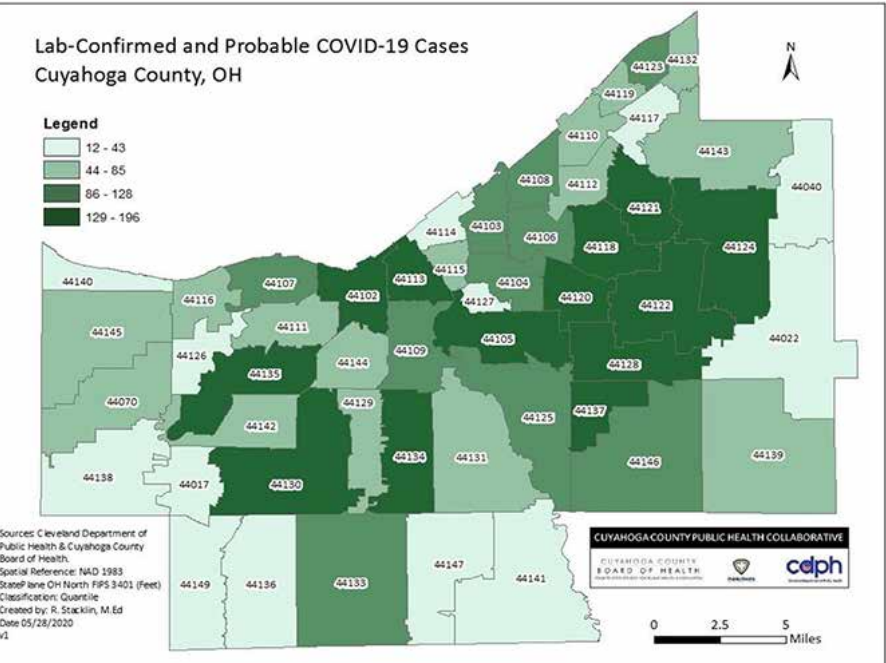


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# Neighborhoods

## Smallwood Center Staff Stays Connected To Its Members During COVID Crisis

by Carolyn Kovach

Randy Hayne, 68, meticulously packs and then folds the tops of 30 brown paper lunch bags in the nearly empty dining hall of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located behind Parma City Hall. Retired from his Borden Dairy supervisor job one year ago, the Parma resident started working at the Smallwood Center in January, pre-COVID and before it shuttered in early March. The West Ridgewood Drive multipurpose center, which serves Parma area seniors, closed before the governor’s directive, a proactive move to protect its vulnerable 6,000 members. Two other workers, whose faces are partially hidden with face masks, physically distance themselves as they pack lunches with gloved hands. In the kitchen, three staff members fill and then seal food trays for hot meal deliveries. After all the meals are packaged, half the staff members stay to clean the kitchen, while the other three leave to deliver meals.

Hayne is one of the drivers who places the packaged food into huge



In the Smallwood Center kitchen, staff package hot ready-to-eat meals.

fabric thermal containers. He grabs a clipboard of papers listing clients’ names and addresses and heads out. For the next few hours, he will drive through Parma neighborhoods, knocking on doors, dropping off meals and making sure

recipients respond with a corresponding knock, wave or holler. Sometimes a driver must repeat a trip to a house if he doesn’t get a response the first time. The lack of face-to-face communication protects the meal recipients and delivery drivers, who are also senior citizens. All meal delivery times are recorded to make certain no one on the list misses a meal.

5,000 meals and counting

Since the pandemic began, Hayne and staff members have prepared each weekday 100 homebound and community meals for a total of more than 5,000 meals.

Smallwood Center Director JoAnn Mason explains that the homebound meals are for registered residents over age 60 who are frail, live alone and cannot cook. The community delivered meals are for those who have a slightly more expendable income. “Both programs have more than doubled over the past few months. When they are full, we start a wait list. Thanks to our funding source, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, waiting has been miniscule,” she says.

In addition to the weekday morning Cleveland Food Bank deliveries to Smallwood Center, Colozza’s Bakery has donated bakery. “Angelo, his wife Joan and his father John have always been generous to the Parma community,” Mason says.

“It’s a wonderful program. It saves the day for me. I am grateful with a capital G!” says Joyce, 79, a meal recipient.

“This is something that they need because they can’t do what they used to do when they were younger,” says Hayne, who commits to delivering rain or shine. “I might be the only person they hear from all day. It makes me feel good to provide this service.”

Meal deliveries is not the only way the Smallwood Center has helped its members. Mason reached out to Senior Transportation Connection to help 50 registered members get to their critical medical appointments over the past two months.

The staff has also maintained a relationship with members through phone calls. “Drivers, office staff, the case manager and I have made calls almost daily to registered members. Our members have left such a positive impression on us. There is no way we would forget them,” Mason says.

Pat, 77, praises the staff for everything they have done. “The meals, the drivers and the entire Center are wonderful. The Center is a beautiful place with a wonderful staff who are always there to help,” she says.

## City Of Parma Strives To Mitigate Flooding With Storm-Water Projects And Requests For Funds

continued from page 1

To prevent more storm-water drainage problems, the Parma Engineering Department, Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and NEORSD all review construction plans to be sure new construction does not negatively impact the current drainage system. On major construction projects, Cuyahoga County Soil and Water District also participate in the review process.

In addition to partnering with the county, DeGeeter said city engineers have sought federal support to pay for storm-water management projects. “Sometimes we are denied funding. Keep in mind, we are not the only city asking for funds. Nevertheless, we keep

applying. It is an ongoing project for our city engineers,” he said.

**Residents can ask Public Works to check lines**

The City of Parma contracts with Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works to maintain the city’s sewer system. The city does not snake sewer lines. Residents should call Public Works at 216-443-8201, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., if they want their lines checked. If needed, county workers will then jet lateral storm lines.

For more information about how Public Works collaborates with the city, visit [www.cityofparma-oh.gov/en-US/Service-Dept.aspx](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/en-US/Service-Dept.aspx) to read Public Works annual reports for the City of Parma from 2013 to 2019.

## UH Physician Talks Go Virtual

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Those who register will get an email reminder right before the event with a link to click that will launch the talk. For a full list of talks, from COPD and Asthma: An Update on Treatment Options to Men’s Sexual Playbook with UH Parma urologist Aram Loeb, MD, and Nannan Thirumavalavan, MD, go to [www.uhhospitals.org/health-talks](http://www.uhhospitals.org/health-talks).

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AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center:

It's now offering their extensive list of prevention/education programs to schools, student groups & community members via CRCC Virtual Classrooms. Platforms include, but are not limited to: Zoom, MS Teams, Google Hangouts, Google Meet, Go To, etc. Go here <https://clevelandrapecrisis.org/prevention-education/request-an-education-program/> to view programs offered & to complete the online presentation request form.

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)

From All Faiths Pantry....

Considered an essential service, AFP continues to respond to the increased need for home delivery of groceries to low-income seniors and those with mobility challenges. Requests for services have increased significantly and additional volunteers are needed to expedite deliveries. Call 216.496.4329 or go to [www.allfaithspantry.org](http://www.allfaithspantry.org) to learn more about the program & how you can help.

From OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence - <https://www.ocali.org/>):

For parents as well as professionals, visit their web site where you'll find a whole host of resources addressing issues related to working w/youth on the autistic spectrum and for folks who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired.

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED....** Click on the "#HearToHelp" link on the home page, scroll down to the "Connected" section & click on the "Inspiring Change Podcast". Here you

can listen to any one of, currently, 10 episodes of folks sharing their experiences during this lockdown period. Number 10, in particular, was fascinating to listen to.

**From Ibn Sina Free Clinic** (6055 W. 130th St, Parma; <http://clevelandibnsina.com> )....If you're not already aware, ISFC is now set up to handle virtual appointments "...so patients can continue to see their physicians, get medications refilled, obtain referrals & get any sort of pharmacist assistance they may need." To schedule an appointment call 440.644.0511.

From Parma Council of PTA's....

Despite the significant challenges brought about by the COVID-19 virus the PTA w/much effort managed to personally present 98 students, 107 scholarships with a value of close to \$90,000. Watch for the release of a video coming soon that celebrates the recipients. In addition, they also played a significant role in planning/coordinating the graduate parades for graduating seniors at our 3 high schools. Should you be looking to join a creative, active organization, the PTA is certainly one to consider.

From University Hospital:

For employers & businesses in the process of re-opening, make sure its done safely by downloading the free UH Healthy Restart Playbook. Click here to learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/UH-Restart-Playbook>

From Parma City Schools....

Saturday, August 22nd is currently the date set for what has now become the Annual PCSD Opening Kick-off to take place at Byers Field from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Find details at [www.parmacityschools.org/kickoff](http://www.parmacityschools.org/kickoff)

Progress is being made in developing the "ACES Center for Education" for children w/Autism. Go here to read all about it: <https://www.cleveland.com/community/2020/05/parma-city-schools-seeking-bids-for-new-aces-center-for-education.html>

Go here for up-to-date information related to COVID-19 & school district programming to include Distance Learning Assignments, Emergency Food Distribution, Class of 2020 Info & Upcoming Events, links to Monday Monitor E-newsletter, etc.

DID YOU HEAR ?

The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Museum JOY RIDE VAN will make an appearance at UH/Parma Medical Center on Thursday, May 28th starting at 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

**From Islamic Center of Cleveland** (6055 W. 130th St., Parma)....Has reinstituted its fresh produce food pantry for low income families. It takes place the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The next one is coming up on Saturday, June 6th. Federal income guidelines apply. Please bring ID & your own bags/carts. If you would like to help as a volunteer, call Sr. Ameena at 440.552.2190.

From Pathway Caring for Children

PCFC now offers counseling & support services through telephone & video, accessible through your smartphone, tablet , laptop or computer. These services, which include webinars & online, ZOOM-based support programming for families are open to any child/parent, regardless of agency or if the child is in foster care or not. Programs change frequently so visit their web site often. Click here <https://www.pathwaycfc.org/> for details.

From Southwest Community Based Services:

(Formally known as the Parma Area Family Collaborative} continues to work withcommunity partners to provide resources-food, school supplies, hygiene, etc. Call 44.887.4873 w/questions & check out the attached flyer for more detail.

A ZOOM-based Kinship support group will be starting up on June 1st for those providing care for children

that are not their own. Contact Kristi Forsyth, Program Mgr 440-842-7040, or email at [kforsyth@universitysettlement.net](mailto:kforsyth@universitysettlement.net) to register or for more info.

From MyCom & Starting Point....

Go here <https://mycomcle.org/covid-19-community-resources-stay-healthy-engaged-safe/> for an exhaustive list of "...Covid-19 Community Resources to help you and your family get through this unprecedented time." A lot of new stuff here – worth a visit.

From the Education Service Center of NE Ohio....

The Student Wellness Dept, has developed a web page focusing on resources related to impacts of the virus on the mental well-being of students, families and staff. Check it out by going here: <http://www.escneo.org/COVID-19.aspx>. It's well worth a visit.


An update from the County Library:

Get a Library Card (Previously only patrons 18 years of age or older could apply for an online card. Now patrons of all ages can apply online for a card.) : <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Borrow/Get-a-Library-Card.aspx>

Cuyahoga County Public Library will begin offering drive-through window and curbside service at 13 locations beginning June 1. Visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) for details.

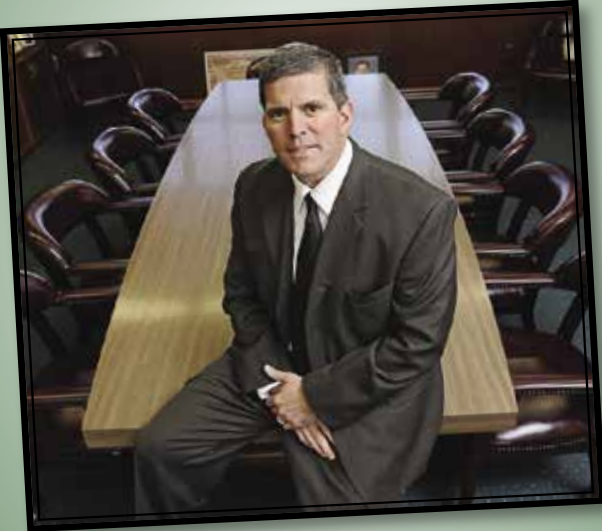
While there get on their mailing list to receive periodic notices of upcoming events & services. In the current issue I learned that a) w/my library card I have free access to all the latest Consumer Reports and b) just recently announced is the Kindergarten Club video series, 12 videos designed to help parents prepare their children for a successful transition to kindergarten from home.

Given your library card allows access to a "...robust digital collection of eBooks , eAudiobooks , movies , music and online learning platforms. Our What to Read LIVE program on Facebook offers rapid-fire reading recommendations from our expert librarians every Wednesday from 8:00 - 9:00 PM. Our Ask Us Online service is available on the Library's website to provide you with: Library account help, Digital collection support, Answers to your reference questions & Live homework help via Tutor.com ...."



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PERSPECTIVE

# Note To The Graduating Class Of 2020

by Lee Kamps

On the evening of Thursday May 21, I was jolted out of my sofa by a police siren followed by the loud horn of a fire engine. Something was going on, so I went outside to look. What I saw was amazing. The police car and fire engine were followed by a long parade of cars decorated up with the Valley Forge High School graduating class of 2020. Unlike previous graduating classes, the class of 2020 could not have their traditional graduation ceremony or a senior prom.

I can feel their pain since I had a similar experience fifty year ago

this spring. In the spring of 1970 I was a senior at Kent State University planning on graduating in June. Then suddenly on May 4 1970, Ohio National Guard soldiers shot 13 students at Kent State, killing four and wounding nine. Following the shooting, the campus was closed for what turned out to be the remainder of the spring quarter. Students living on campus had until 500 PM that afternoon to be off campus or face being arrested. They had to stuff as much of their belongings into suitcases or duffel bags and find a way off campus.

No one then knew when or if

classes would resume. There was talk that us seniors would not be able to graduate in June as expected since no one knew how they would complete their courses for the spring term. I wasn't affected by that as much as others since I was staying at my parent's house in Parma while I was student teaching at Berea High School that spring. But my younger brother was living in a dorm on campus and he had to come back home. A friend of his who lived in Queens New York came back with him since he couldn't go back home right away.

My father was furious about the possibility that I might not get

to graduate in June as planned. He said that he paid for four years of my college education and he expected to see me graduate. He wasn't alone. Many other parents of June graduates flooded the university offices as well as the governor's office. I remember attending a meeting held at Case Western Reserve University on Friday May 8 for graduating seniors at Kent State that almost broke out into a riot when the university official said they we might not graduate.

After that meeting, the university decided to make arrangements to continue the spring quarter remotely. There was no internet in 1970 so everyone had to rely on postal mail and telephone calls with professors and instructors. The university scheduled the graduation ceremonies as originally planned on Saturday June 13. Somehow everyone got through all right. When students had to leave the campus immediately on May 4, most left their textbooks behind, so any distance learning had to happen without textbooks.

Kent State wasn't the only college campus that closed in the spring of 1970. Both Ohio University in Athens and Ohio State University in Columbus also closed following student riots after the Kent State shootings. Many other college campuses across the country closed for the remainder of the spring term in 1970.

That is what it was like fifty years ago for many college students and especially for the class of 1970. We got through it all right as will the graduates of 2020. Like me, you will carry those memories with you for life.

We cannot choose the world or the times in which we grow up. However, we have the power to change the times after we go out into the world. When I graduated from college in 1970, the war in Vietnam was still raging with many Americans dying. There also was a military draft in 1970 and upon my graduation from college, I would lose my college student deferment from the draft and be subject to being drafted into military service.

The specter of the war in Vietnam as well as the distinct possibility that I might get drafted into military service clouded my immediate future as well as the futures of every young man who graduated in 1970. But eventually we moved on from the Vietnam war as we will move on from the coronavirus pandemic.

Hopefully we will learn important lessons from that experience. Your experience will shape how you will make the world of the future. As far as my generation, we have much more yesterdays than tomorrows. But you and your generation have lots of tomorrows in which to make a better world. As an old sailing adage goes; "we cannot control the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

# Wisdom, Conscience, And Patriotism

by Davidione Pearl

We can be apologists for only so long, before we become excusists. Whether you realize, choose to, or not, your deeper wisdom matters more significantly right now than you could ever imagine; not merely in the many ways you intend to impart a favorable life and legacy unto your family, community, and conscience, but moreover in how we honor what we know to be morally right and just, lest we reside in the thin sticky film of our very own grimy hypocrisies.

America today has become more desperate for mutual understanding among her citizens than ever before in our lives; or some could argue, since at least the Johnson era. Over the last twenty years we have collectively allowed ourselves to be slowly seduced by the ever-patient insidious assailant of prejudice and pride. It has methodically gnawed at and worn down our sense of reason and understanding, to a pocked battlefield of volatility and rampant fearful misperception against the next.

We have allowed ourselves to become overrun by an infestation of power lust that continues to maintain colossal degrees of indecency and ineptitude towards all, regardless of party affiliation, and in all the ways that would justify removal in the workplace if these were behavioral complexes exhibited by a rogue colleague. We would unequivocally reproach and pro-

test that the colleague be removed at best, or at minimum, would amply support repercussions against anyone that incessantly wreaked havoc between co-workers at our places of work.

If a similar behavior profile was a problem teacher at our children's school, we would demand that administrative action be taken against them, insisting up to and including removal from the school system itself, and possible revocation of their license. And I further imagine we would agree, that a lurking behavioral archetype with a well-documented reputation and propensity for being severely ill-mannered and inconsiderate to people in their own homes, would not be particularly welcome in yours.

Yet we follow the wilding whistles of a leader of the 'free' world that once stated he could shoot a person in the middle of Fifth Avenue and not lose any supporters? Is that you? Would following such an unlawful proclamation be an indicator of our intelligence and strength? Will we in fact live up to this notion and continue to excuse the words and behavior of such woeful leadership, while insisting to our children in equal breath that they set good examples and not exhibit the very same traits he does at any given time of day? If so, where does that leave your conscience? Encumbered?

This is not the suggestive criminal language of a respectable free world leader, such speech emits from a dictator mind; a deviant mind that knows nuances well, whistling trigger words like "liberate" and "second amendment" in the middle of an unprecedented pandemic, baiting droves of militia men out onto capital steps armed with assault rifles. Is this what we choose to be a part of as 'just' and 'right'? Can we say with certainty that the extent of our deeper wisdom has truly been led to a good place? One that The Savior would fervidly cherish as a job well done? Or are we beginning to see beyond the looking glass, to the formation of something new, a party of reason and accountability, no different than the accountability we seek in every other aspect of our lives, from our children, to our co-workers, and

even ourselves.

Our international credibility has all but been shaken beyond measure to the point of fault and fissure. There is constant war against the media, our governors, and public institutions; even questioning the administration at all it appears is now fundamentally hazardous, therefore reason and empathy itself is being habitually jeopardized and assaulted in ways that absolutely beg reconsideration of what it is we have chosen to allow run rampant, and has steadily done so in no uncertain terms.

A paradigm shift is upon us, we can choose to unsee the deeper wisdom we know to be true, that is to say, how we wish to see reflected our own common decencies. Or we can continue to relocate the goal posts of our own subjective morality, pushing our inner agendas whenever and wherever convenient, roped into the frenzied fear of what we pretend to emphatically support, while knowing deep in our bones that we would widely condemn the very same behavioral archetypes in the actions of our young - rebuking divisiveness, and teaching them to be fair, inclusive, and just.

Yet here we are, in a thriving land where people with assault weapons show up to pandemic rallies, placing blame as designed on everyone but the source of their angst, while feverishly disputing their rights against a temporary health and safety mandate with loaded rifles. The solvency of our nation is expiring in a slow waning death.

If ever there was a 'Life' movement needed to resuscitate her back to a semblance of something undeniably great for all, that time is now, and must be understood together as one, beyond particular party lines, as we are all being systematically corrupted by what is at play, and are feeding into it from both sides because it is simpler and easier to do so. We are however wiser than this.

The subtle voice of our conscience has been patiently knocking at the door of reason for a long time; the only question that remains, is who will answer the call, open that door, and quietly follow their deeper wisdom and conscience into the halls of November, if only this one time. For the good of country.

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OBSERVER

Ohio Nears Passing Bill Promoting Brain Cancer Awareness

by Jeffrey Crossman

Hundreds of Ohioans every year are diagnosed with brain cancer and, for the vast majority of brain cancer patients, this disease is unfortunately a death sentence. Few that are diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor survive beyond 16 months and the survival rate after five years is even more grim—only 5% live to see the five-year anniversary of their diagnosis. We can and must do more to fight back against this terrible disease. This is the reason why I support “Going Gray in May” to support Brain Cancer Awareness Month and this is why last year I proposed formally recognizing the month of May as Brain Cancer Awareness Month in Ohio with House Bill 230.

We are closer than ever to passing this bill. In December, the Ohio House passed the bill without opposition and the bill has recently had hearings in the Ohio Senate. There is good reason to hope that this bill will be passed and signed into law shortly and it cannot come any sooner. Every year over 86,000 new adult patients will be diagnosed with brain tumors nationwide with 26,170 (roughly 30%) considered malignant. In addition, 3,720 children will be diagnosed with primary brain tumors and today, brain cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths in children, exceeding leukemia.

Our family first encountered brain cancer in 1986 when my paternal grandfather received his brain cancer diagnosis and thirty years later, my mother received the same diagnosis.



State Rep. Jeff Crossman

In learning about brain cancer, one thing that stood out was, despite the advances in modern medicine, including improvements in neuroimaging, neurosurgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy techniques, the outcomes for brain cancer patients has changed little. My mother did not survive any longer than my grandfather, despite the tremendous progress we have made against other forms of cancer during that 30 year span. Nevertheless, it is the progress made with diseases like breast cancer and leukemia that provide hope for brain cancer patients.

In the 1970’s a leukemia diagnosis was a virtual death sentence. Now, due to the efforts of the many people who have sought to raise awareness and raise money for research, patients with leukemia have far more hope at recovery. Without the aid of groups like the Susan Komen Foundation, we

may have never made strides in breast cancer treatments that we have today.

Awareness months give hope to the people diagnosed with a serious illness like brain cancer. Raising awareness means educating people on symptoms that might lead to an earlier diagnosis and better long-term outcomes and it means informing people about the challenges and obstacles faced by the people dealing with brain cancer. Raising awareness signifies to the patients and their families that we support them as they wage their fight against this terrible disease. Finally and equally important; raising awareness means promoting efforts to raise additional funding for more research into treatments that will lead to better outcomes and, dare we hope, a cure.

Through these efforts, we might begin to overcome the fact that between 1998 and 2014, there were 78 investigational brain tumor drugs that entered the clinical trial evaluation process yet 75 failed. That represents a 25:1 failure ratio in developing new brain tumor treatments over a two decade period.

While raising awareness may seem like a small step, it’s a step in the right direction and a step that gives the many Ohioans who deal with cancer hope that we can eventually defeat this dreaded disease. For more information, contact Rep. Jeff Crossman via email at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov by telephone at (614) 466-3485. You can follow him on facebook/CrossmanForOhio and Twitter @jeffAcrossman



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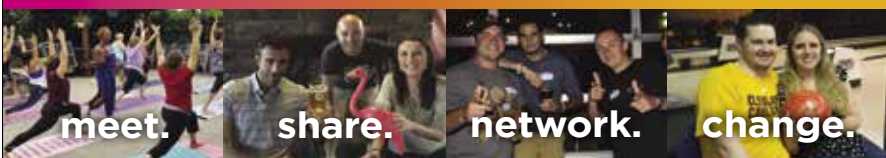
Smoke from two burning police cars block out the rest of the protest May 30, 2020 in Cleveland. The protest against police violence and for peace, went terribly wrong with troublemakers.



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PARMA ART SCENE

Operation Happy Pup

by Kathryn Mabin

Operation Happy Pups is the story of a little guy on a big mission. Lucas Woronischtsche’s story begins in October of 2018. To a 4 year old, Halloween is a very special time. It’s magical. You get to choose a costume, dressed up as whatever you want to be. It can be the latest super hero from the comics, or something funny, like a clown, or whatever you want to be when you grow up. Lucas chose his policeman costume with care.

Annually, the Saturday before Halloween, the Polish Village volunteers sponsor Treat & Greet. This has become a much anticipated event in the community. During the daytime hours you see hoards of costumed children, accompanied by their parents, trick-or-treating the participating businesses along the commercial district in Polish Village on Ridge Road. For several years now, the Parma Police and Fireman have also participated. It was there that 4 year old Lucas met Parma Policeman Jackson and Police K9 Dexter. I saw Lucas on that very important day in his young life. He was certainly adorable and rockin’ that uniform. This was the special day in Lucas’s life where he made an important decision. Lucas decided he not only wanted to be a policeman when he grew up but he wanted to do something NOW for the K9’s.



Six year old Lucas Woronischtsche

So for two years now, Lucas has saved his allowance, he’s sold hot chocolate and lemonade, using the proceeds to purchase gifts for the K9’s. He visits the police station frequently. He brings treats not only for the police dogs but his friends the policemen, like candy and snacks. He looks for ways in which he can make a difference in his community to help the K9 Unit, consisting of K9’s Beny, Coney, Dexter and Max. Christmas, Valentine’s Day, holidays, he recognizes the hard working K9’s with off duty toys and on duty reward tugs.

In January of 2019, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council awarded Lucas the Citizen of the Month. He is the youngest recipient of this award. Lucas loves Parma and calls Mayor DeGeeter, “my mayor”. A remark I’m sure will warm Mayor DeGeeter’s heart.

Recently Lucas was gifted a Parma K9 hoodie. When he wears it, he holds his head slightly higher and alludes the confidence and forbearance of one

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Road, will be reopening on June 1, 2020 with new hours. For dates and times check their website for details, at [www.pramaartspace.com](http://www.pramaartspace.com). Visual Hallucinations, the next exhibit, with open on June 26, 2020, featuring the works of Samantha Vickers of Intentions Studio, Jennifer Gleason and Shawn Sloburn. For details check the web page or follow Prama on Facebook. Prama also has a small boutique with unique numerous items at a reasonable cost. They have an assortment of face masks available in many patterns. During this health crisis, health and safety protocols are in place for your convenience.

Michelle Behal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, and owner of Bear Tracks Art, has her unique handmade items for sale at The Rift Shop, located at 8125 Columbia Road in Olmsted Falls. Michelle’s

talents include phyrography (wood burning), acrylic and oi painting, pen and ink, graphic design and calligraphy. She also does commissioned work, as an example, your pet, home or vehicle. For more information go to [www.beartracksart.com](http://www.beartracksart.com).

Katrina Lindsley, member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, and owner of Devotions, also has her hand-made smelly jelly crystals, sprays, gels, and cleaners, at The Rift Shop. You can also find Devotions on Facebook.

Parma resident Lena Simovic, Lena Atomica Photography, was the featured artist in a Yards Spotlight article, a publication by Liz Maugans, Director of Yards Project at Worthington Yards. Lena is also one of the artists in the Spaces Online Members which will go live on June 19th at [www.spacescle.org](http://www.spacescle.org). She’s also in the SeeMe’s Art Saves Humanity artist directory, and the London Shades of Green contest, where you are urged to log on to vote at <https://londonphoto-festival.submittable.com>.

belonging to a special unit.

As a mother and grandmother I want to commend Lucas’s parents for encouraging him to follow his passions. As a long time resident I want to say that I am proud to have Lucas and his family in my community.

And last but not least, it’s official, in May of this year, Operation Happy Pups was recognized by the IRS as a tax deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit. I would

imagine Lucas can now claim to be the youngest CEO of a nonprofit. By the way, you, the reader, can help support Lucas in his endeavors through Operation Happy Pups on Facebook and Instagram by purchasing shirts and challenge coins, or making donations.

Keep up your good works Lucas, as a community we are proud of you!

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