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## UH Parma Medical Center Requires Masking, Screening Of All Visitors



All visitors to UH Parma Medical Center will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and must be wearing a mask to enter the hospital.

by CJ Sheppard

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has made the safety of patients and caregivers its top priority. The hospital has adjusted its visitation policies effective June 23. “Allowing visitors into the hospital is a welcomed transition to partner with friends and families, focusing on the care and well-being of our patients,” says Chief Medical Officer Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD. “But masking is important for the safety of all.”

Every person – patients, visitors and staff – at any UH facility must wear a mask. Visitors who cannot wear a cloth mask at all times or refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to enter the facility. All who enter the building, including patients, visitors and staff, are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and a temperature under 100.0 degrees F (37.8 C). Symptoms of COVID-19 may include new or worsened cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills/body aches, new loss of taste or smell, nausea/vomiting and runny nose/congestion.

Each patient is allowed a single visitor per day, and visitors are encouraged to go directly to the patient’s room and not to linger in lobbies or the cafeteria. Visitors should come in through the main

entrance from 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. “We know that visitors and loved ones play an essential role as partners in healing and wellness,” says Chief Nursing Officer Kim Monaco, BSN, RN. “Limiting and screening visitors are very important ways to limit the risk of possible exposure to COVID-19. And we really appreciate when people enter wearing their mask from home – and remember to keep it on the entire time they are in the hospital.”

The Emergency Department is not permitting visitors. Exceptions will only be made for patients under 18 or those 18 years of age or older who have screened COVID-negative and are clinically unable to actively participate in their care.

No patients with confirmed COVID-19 will be allowed visitors. The only exceptions will be made for end-of-life care by special approval from the Chief Nursing Officer or Chief Medical Officer.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, UH hospitals will continue to adapt to the changing situation,” says Dr. Togliatti-Trickett. “Your understanding and support during this pandemic are appreciated. Our highest priority is the safety of our patients and families.”



## Welcome To Parma

by Sean Brennan

If you are reading this article, then you probably love Parma as much as I do and are willing to do your part to make it even better. Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a damper on 2020. In fact, normally I would be devoting much of my time recently to planning the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies. It was very

saddening to have to cancel this fun summer event. However, I have diverted the time I typically spend on the Run-Walk to a new, exciting project for Parma.

Graffiti HeArt is a 501(c)3 non-profit Founded by Stamy Paul – a Valley Forge High School graduate - that develops opportunities for graffiti and street artists to create

art installations with donors looking to bolster community beauty and pride, while funding educational opportunities for under served youth. The organization’s projects generate commissions for talented aspiring and accomplished artists, as well as fund art education scholarships.

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## Hello Summer In North East Ohio

by Kathy Holland

Hello Summer in North East Ohio! Farmers Markets are identified as an essential business that may be open with the required safety and social distancing guidelines in place. Although many traditional summer events in our corner of Ohio have been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Seven Hills residents and neighbors can still look forward to getting their fresh, locally grown produce and other products at the Seven Hills Farmers Market. The Seven Hills Farmers Market will be opening Thursday, July 2 at 4:00 pm and continuing every Thursday until October 1, 2020.

In 2020, the Seven Hills Farmers Market will be celebrating its six-year anniversary, and we are thankful for the community support that got the Market to this point. We are thankful for our farmers that are still planting crops, tending to livestock, repairing machinery, pruning orchards, tapping trees and more, rain or shine, virus or not, to bring food to our table. We appreciate our vendors that are even

now planning for the market and the special items they will be creating for us to enjoy. We love all the time and energy our weekly food trucks put into their specialty menus. We are indebted to our customers that support the market through their weekly purchases, sharing a post, or telling a friend about us. And we acknowledge the foresight of our sponsors who believed in our mission and have provided the funds for advertising and upgrades and continue to do so for 2020! Thank you Taleris Credit Union, Inc. and Vince Hrobat Insurance Company, Inc.!

To ensure the safety of all (vendors, staff and customers) the Seven Hills Farmers Market will implement the following modifications recommended by CDC guidelines:

Mask/cloth face covering will be required for all vendors and staff

Vendor stands spaced six-feet apart

Relentlessly cleaned display tables

Hyper-vigilant vendors and staff

Six-foot distancing

between people

Only whole, uncut produce and prepackaged items will be sold

No sampling of any food will be permitted

Hand sanitizer will be available at the information booth

No touching of products, vendors will bag all items

No reusable bags

No live music

Please know, your backing in 2020 will be needed more than ever. The Seven Hills Farmers Market is committed to its mission. We offer a direct-to-customer marketplace opportunity to our residents and neighbors as well as providing support our local farmers and small businesses. We fill a vital role in our community. We thank you for your understanding as we adapt to these rapidly changing conditions and thank you for your continued support. We are all in this together and we will overcome the challenges we are currently facing. Hope to see you this summer at the Seven Hills Farmers Market! Stay Healthy



COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

When I first joined Parma City Council, one of my goals was to create a city of Parma scholarship to assist our young residents with college costs. Those of you who read this column regularly know my story. My single mother simply could not afford to assist me financially with college costs. So, I had to work – often two jobs – and apply for scholarships so that I could attend. I knew that attending college would go a long way in pulling myself up the socioeconomic ladder. With the help of, then mayor, Dean DePiero and Law Director Tim Dobeck, we created the Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



The Foundation raises private funds from generous donors and has given out about \$7,500 to college-bound Parma residents each year for well over a decade. The Foundation was named in honor of Andrew Boyko who devoted his professional life to serving Parma as law director,



judge and in many other capacities. I am happy to say that two of Mr. Bokyo's sons continue to serve on the Board with myself, Mayor DePiero, and Law Director Dobeck. They include renowned attorney Timothy Boyko and Dr. Jeffrey Boyko.

I am happy to report our winners for 2020, who were rated by our selection committee in a blind fashion, using criteria such as financial need and community involvement. First, Joshua Matheis, who recently graduated from St. Ignatius High School was awarded \$1,500. Mr. Matheis will be attending my alma mater, the University of Dayton, this fall.

Next, Kelly Boddy was awarded \$1,500 to assist with her tuition to either The Ohio State University, the University of Notre Dame, or Vanderbilt University. She is a graduate of Magnificat High School and plans to major in pre-med and Spanish.

A graduate of Holy Name High School, Savannah Dawson plans to attend Ohio University in the fall. She will use her \$2,000 award to assist with her tuition as she pursues a major in music education.

Finally, Justin Swanberg, who plans to attend either the University of Toledo or Bethany College as an environment studies major, was awarded \$2,500. Mr. Swanberg is a proud graduate of my wife's alma mater, Valley Forge High School.

Congratulations to all of our winners, who will be presented with their checks at an upcoming meeting of Parma City Council. As you can imagine, it has been challenging raising funds for the scholarship fund this year. Therefore, if you can find it in your heart and means, I encourage you to please consider a donation of any amount. You may send your check to The City of Parma Scholarship Foundation, 7335 Ridge Road,

Parma, Ohio, 44129. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [councilmanbrennan@msn.com](mailto:councilmanbrennan@msn.com) or call 440-885-8091. Best wishes as we celebrate our nation's 244th birthday! Please wear your mask and social distance as our nation fights the pandemic. This is a great way to come together as a nation and show how much we care for one another.

## St. Charles Carnival Cancelled, But Raffle Continues



by Sean Brennan

Recently, Fr. John Carlin, Pastor of my Parish, St. Charles Borromeo, informed me that our summer carnival was being canceled due to the pandemic. In fact, the only other time the carnival has been canceled since 1932 was during World War II! Although this is sad news for our Parish and the community at large, it was the right thing to do to keep people safe. The St. Charles carnival is one of Parma's premier family events and raises needed funds for the Parish. As a result, the carnival raffle will continue this summer.

tinue this summer.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please stop by the Parish office at 5891 Ridge Road or call 440-884-3030. Tickets cost \$5.00 apiece. The grand prize is a 2020 GMC Terrain courtesy of Parma's own Axelrod GMC-Buick. Second prize is a \$4,500 roof from Second to None Roofing. Finally, third prize is \$3,500 in gift cards of your choice or cash. The drawing will take place Sunday, August 16. To learn more visit [stcharlesonline.org/carnival](http://stcharlesonline.org/carnival).



Parma

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Window To The World Of Speech Therapy

by CJ Sheppard

Grateful patients adapt their homemade masks for speech therapy patients. Many people may be frustrated by masks that conceal facial expressions. But there is one group of patients that are overjoyed to see their caregivers in face masks now. These fortunate patients are those with outpatient speech therapy appointments at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. A grateful physical therapy patient who has sewn hundreds of cloth masks for neighbors, friends and family chose to help out her UH Parma friends by modifying her pattern to add a vinyl window that allows patients to see the therapist's mouth.

Now a child learning to enunciate sounds and understand social cues can watch the way her therapist's mouth moves and respond to her smile. A stroke survivor with impaired hearing can visualize how they should be shaped



Lukas Alsip of Seven Hills is delighted that he can now see the face of his speech therapist, Mindy Siefker, at UH Parma Medical Center.

ing sounds and provides visual aids not possible with traditional masks. "Many of my adults feel that it is helpful for them to see other's mouths and are beyond thrilled to be able to have this support from their therapists," says Mindy Siefker MS CCC/SLP, a speech language pathologist at UH Parma. "The children that I see are excited to be able to see someone smile at them, especially as many of them are still learning social cues and cannot 'read' a smile from eyes alone."

Kathy Crowl, another outpatient speech therapist, first used the new mask with a 5-year-old girl who was having trouble making the "th" sound because she couldn't see how Kathy formed the sound with her mouth. When Kathy put on the purple mask with the see-through window, she was extremely excited. "The masks are a big hit with our patients!" Kathy said. "The adults find it helpful as many have reduced hearing. They can see our lips and it makes it easier to determine what we are saying."

An invaluable gift The masks were a gift from Lynn and Tim Maltry of Seven Hills, who have both known the benefit of physical therapy through UH Parma.

When the pandemic hit, Lynn pulled out her old Singer sewing machine, viewed the UH-approved pattern and started making masks from leftover material from a Star Wars quilt she had made for her grandson.



Lynn and Tim Maltry of Seven Hills, grateful patients of UH Parma Medical Center, made homemade masks with a vinyl window for the hospital's speech therapists.

They made them for everyone they knew, they started marketing them on the neighborhood outreach app NextDoor to reach more neighbors. Over time, she made more than 400 masks.

Then Darla Costa, their physical therapist, gave Lynn the idea of a very special kind of mask that could be a huge help to her friends in speech therapy. Lynn consulted with the department, viewed a video on how to make masks with vinyl windows, offered a few prototypes, and proceeded to make a mask for each speech therapist in the department.

Giving back to their caregivers

"We think the world of that department, and Darla is a wonderful woman," says Lynn, whose husband went to PT at the UH Independence Health Center for a sports injury. Lynn was so impressed with Darla that she chose to see her for PT when she was recovering from a melanoma biopsy. While therapy appointments were temporarily suspended this spring during the initial pandemic restrictions, they have both since returned to PT, following Darla to her current location in Medical Arts Center 1 near

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EDUCATION

From The Literacy Cooperative Of Greater Cleveland

by Gene Lovasy

Free books for children from birth to age 5 are available in our community from The Literacy Cooperative and the Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library! Did you know that “the single most important factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home before starting school”? (National Commission on Reading). As a parent or caregiver, snuggling up and reading daily with your child is one of the most important actions you can take to help set them up for future success.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library mails a free, brand new, high quality, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth until five years old, instilling a love of books and family reading from an early age. The Literacy Cooperative manages the program in Cuyahoga County and Wickliffe where it is available to every young child under age 5; the program is also available in other Ohio counties (check online at [www.ohioimaginationlibrary.com](http://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.com) for availability). There are no income restrictions. In Cuyahoga County, more than 23,000 children are cur-

rently enrolled. While this number may seem large, we know that tens of thousands of children are missing out. Help us build stronger brains and promote a love of books and reading among children in our community by spreading the word about this wonderful program. To enroll, parents of children age 4 ½ years old and younger can enroll online at [www.literacycooperative.org](http://www.literacycooperative.org). Books arrive eight to ten weeks after registering.

Research confirms that this program can improve outcomes for children. Reaching a child in infancy provides literacy enrichment during the critical window of opportunity for language development and sets a strong foundation for success in school and life. Forty-one independent studies have shown that Imagination Library has a positive and significant impact on family literacy habits, kindergarten readiness and supporting grade level reading by third grade.

A fall, 2019 survey of Imagination Library families in Cuyahoga County showed that, overwhelmingly, parents are reading more frequently with their children, and children are asking their parents to read with them more often since receiving the books in the

mail. Books in the home are one of the best predictors of a child’s success in school. In addition to free children’s books, families enrolled in Imagination Library receive regular emails from The Literacy Cooperative that share useful parenting tips and valu-

able resources in the community.

There is no cost or obligation to the child’s family. It truly is a free gift. For more information, to enroll a child, donate or volunteer, visit The Literacy Cooperative’s website at [www.literacycooperative.org](http://www.literacycooperative.org).



Parma’s Splash Park will be opening soon. Please be safe!

Welcome To Parma

continued from page 1

Being an educator and lover of the arts, I was inspired by the fine work of Graffiti HeArt. I have been particularly moved by the Welcome to Tremont and the Greetings from Cleveland murals, both made possible by Graffiti HeArt. That is why I recently contacted Stamy to bring a Welcome to Parma mural to a wall on one of the entranceways into our community. As you know, I led the effort to bring Script Parma to our community, which has brought so much excitement to Parma, and I am just as excited about this project. I am so pleased to say that Stamy is equally excited about this project and has agreed to partner on it.

Research shows that community murals offer many cultural, economic, and social benefits. We are confident that the Welcome to Parma mural will surely do so. Therefore, our goals include the following benefits to the community: enhancing pride in Parma, quality of life for residents, youth development, the vibrancy and aesthetics of our community, positive mental health, and feelings of attachment, identity, and belonging, more public art breaks down socioeconomic

disparities (no costs, like going to a museum), expressing a welcoming spirit to visitors which has economic and many other benefits, a community that expresses care is a safer community, and you can be a part of all of this and help make it happen.

The estimated cost of the grassroots project is \$15,000. Like the Script Parma sign, our plan is to bring the project to life with private donations – not using taxpayer dollars. We hope that you might consider helping in any way that you can to help us reach our goal. Your donation is tax deductible. Checks can be made out to Graffiti HeArt and can be mailed to Graffiti HeArt c/o Welcome to Parma, 2452 West 7th Street, Cleveland OH 44113. You may also donate securely online at [ioby.org/project/welcome-parma-mural](http://ioby.org/project/welcome-parma-mural). In fact, our project is eligible for matching funds from the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture program, so your donation will be doubled!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [councilmanbrennan@msn.com](mailto:councilmanbrennan@msn.com) or 440-885-8091. Also, please check out Graffiti HeArt’s website at [graffitiheart.org](http://graffitiheart.org) to find out more about this fine organization. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

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## PCSD employees awarded by PEA for dedication and service to district

by Amy Popik

It's no secret that the Parma City School District has exceptional teachers and staff who go above and beyond for their students.

Every year, the Parma Education Association honors three PCSD employees for their dedication, passion and service by naming Educator of the Year, Special Educator of the Year and Helping Hand Award winners.

The 2020 Educator of the Year is Justin Wilhelm, a Kindergarten Teacher at Dentzler Elementary School.

"I am very surprised," Wilhelm shared. "This is an award I didn't expect. I am very honored. Parma is full of amazing teachers who are deserving of this award."

Wilhelm has been with the district for nine years, having taught kindergarten, second grade and Title I reading. Prior to coming to Parma, he taught third grade and kindergarten in Medina and has 17 total years teaching.

"I love being able to be a role model for the students," he expressed. "I love being able to start them off on their educational path. I work very hard to make them love school right from the start so they will know that education is not a bad thing. Not all students have a positive male role model in their life, and I am happy that I am able to provide that for students."

Wilhelm's favorite part of being an educator is seeing the growth in his kindergartners from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

"They come to school and have a hard time sitting and listening for the first week," he described. "By the end of the year, they are great listeners and they are great learners. When you see them first start to learn to read the simplest of words it is so great. They light up with excitement when they read words. Then, after the holiday break in December and January, they slowly become readers. One day you look at them and they are reading books. It is so magical."

Wilhelm said he looks forward to helping every new class become the best students they can be and furthering his skills as a teacher. "One of my continued goals is to try and continue to evolve with the technology and still hold onto the child development that I think is so important to the Kindergarten students' success," he shared.

The 2020 Special Educator of the Year is Dawn Carvaines, Special Education Teacher at Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

"It feels really great to be recognized and humbled," Carvaines expressed. "I see how hard my colleagues work and I know that I do not deserve this any more than they do."

Carvaines has been with the district for over 15 years and has taught at Greenbriar Middle School, Hillside Middle School and Pleasant Valley.

"I love connecting with my kids," she shared. "It feels amazing to know that I am helping them in any way, whether academically or social-emotionally. I love getting to know my students and their families. I love the collaboration with my colleagues. I learn so much from those around me."

Carvaines said it's a team effort to help students learn and grow and she's very thankful to work with an amazing team.

"I'm very lucky to work with a likeminded team who just wants to help kids to learn, become better, but above all feel safe, connected and full of self-worth," She further expressed. "The team starts with the assistants who work in my classroom, because I couldn't do my job without them, and extends to the teachers and other school staff that support us each day."

The 2020 Helping Hand Award Winner is Chad Toth, Head Custodian at Parma Park Elementary School.

Toth has been with the Parma Schools for



2020 PEA Educator of the Year Justin Wilhelm.



2020 PEA Special Educator of the Year Dawn Carvaines.



2020 PEA Helping Hand Award Winner Chad Toth.

seven years. He started out as a bus driver and moved his way up to head custodian.

"It was a surprise and made me feel good," he expressed. "I want to thank everyone who nominated me. I feel honored to have been selected."

Toth shared that the best part of his job is working with the students and staff each day at Parma Park.

"We have a great group of people at Parma Park," he said. "I enjoy being around the kids and watching them learn and grow. I miss the interaction and noise of a busy day. The kids keep me on my toes."

Congratulations to all 2020 PEA award recipients! #PCSDProud

## PCSD focuses on mental health for middle school students



Middle school students from around the district came together to discuss mental health topics at the PCSD Mental Health Summit this school year.

by Amy Popik

Middle school students from across the district came together this school year to discuss mental health issues and topics at the PCSD Mental Health Summit.

According to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals age 10-34, 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, and 50% of all lifetime mental health illness begins by age 14.

With these concerning statistics, Parma City School District continues to place a focus on not just academic success for all students, but also the social and emotional needs of every child.

Hillside Middle School Guidance Counselor, Don Armstrong, said this was the first year they offered a Mental Health Summit for middle school students. The district held one last year for high school students but felt it was important to expand this to younger ages.

"Mental health awareness, in general, is important, but this really ties in with the district's initiative of building resilient learners," he described. "Being a resilient learner is being able to overcome obstacles, know

how to access support and being able to solve problems. This isn't just for high school students. The earlier students have these the better off they will be."

Breakout sessions included mindfulness and yoga, NAMI game room, stress anxiety lesson and a mental health roundtable. Students also received buttons that say they are now Mental Health Ambassadors then made buttons for others in their class with words of encouragement.

"What it means to be a Mental Health Ambassador is to be the eyes and ears of the school," Armstrong described. "We are aware of the symptoms in yourself and others, and how you can help yourself or someone you know. You also know how to get resources and you know when to talk to an adult or counselor about mental health issues."

Armstrong hopes students had a positive and educational experience and will share what they have learned to help others.

"We all know someone who has faced mental health issues," he expressed. "So, this event brought about mental health awareness as well as the tools to recognize those warning signs of mental health problems and get the help needed."

Cox Communications recently ran a media campaign honoring K-12 educators that demonstrated excellence while creating virtual instruction.

Dentzler's own Jennifer Schweitzer, one of six selected to be a "Hero of Learning." With this honor, came a grant for a virtual classroom makeover.

Schweitzer was honored with this award on May 18 during a surprise Zoom meeting. She was beyond excited with the news. She was the only teacher to be nominated twice out of the teachers that were recognized.

Schweitzer is looking forward to using the grant award to obtain additional equipment and resources that can be utilized within her physical classroom.



The Parma City School District can't wait to meet our incoming kindergartners and their families next school year!

We are proud to continue expanding our efforts to meet the needs of all learners by offering four options for incoming Kindergarten students beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

The four offerings include Kindergarten Launch Academy, Traditional Kindergarten, STEM Project-Based Learning Kindergarten and Early Entrance Testing.

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/registration](http://www.parmacityschools.org/registration) to learn more about each program and register your child today!





# Inspiration



State Senator Nickie J. Antonio provides sponsor testimony on S.B. 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

## Senator Antonio Named Small Business Advocate Of The Year

by Nickie Antonio

We all know that small businesses are the foundation of economic vitality in our communities and critical to our state’s financial success. Last week, I was honored to receive the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award from the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) and the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE). Along with Lt. Governor John Husted, we received the award that honors elected officials whose initiatives have promoted the success of small businesses. This year, I was selected for the award due to my work on Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

The Fairness Act works toward leveling the playing field for all because we know that our communities are stronger when everyone has a fair shot at achieving the American Dream. Earlier this year, more than 230 people testified

in support of S.B. 11, during the hearings, the Bill has also received support from almost 1,000 businesses throughout the state.

In an effort to make the American Dream even more achievable, I have also been working to advance women owned businesses as we seek to find support and resources during these challenging times. While we can improve the status of small businesses through individualized purchasing power, legislation that keeps our businesses diverse and protects our workers is also vital.

As we work to re-energize our economy in the era of Covid-19, it is important to further support and lift up our small businesses as much as we can. So order take-out, purchase online for a store-front pick-up or make an appointment to visit your local hairdresser or barber— goodness knows we can all use a visit!

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All are blessed when we express our joy. Any new behavior feels a bit unnatural until we grow accustomed to it. Avoid any person or relationship that would slowly prod you down the wrong path. Be generous with praise. Be cautious with criticism and overcome it with goodness. Be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

For many, life is what happens when not watching TV. Forgiveness frees and heals the forgiver as well as the forgiven.

Gratitude is a conviction, a practice, and a discipline that benefits everyone. Happiness is a state of mind that depends entirely on the individual involved. Heed not the worst in a person, but seek and love what is best in him or her. Hope lights a candle instead of cursing the darkness. Hurting others and being hurt by them is a two-way street. It is far easier to be pulled down than lifted up. Most of us do not aim too high and miss. We aim too low and hit. Our actions should attract rather than drive others away.

Parents must be heads of the household while ruling with love.

Parents need to encourage their children to learn from their mistakes and then forget them. Patient people make the most of trying times and circumstances. People need to maintain proven moral standards to make good choices. People who judge others often do it to make themselves look better at the expense of others.

The future is only a dream and the past no longer exists. The present moment is the only reality. The greatest discovery of any generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitude. The most acceptable service we render God is service to His children. We need to be more sensitive of others and not offend them, judge them, or cause them to stumble. We need to think about, ask questions about, and take responsibility for our actions.

What a person believes has everything to do with what a person becomes. When we walk with a crutch, we learn to limp.

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

### All Faiths Pantry

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

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

### Divinity Lutheran Church

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

### The Islamic Center of Cleveland

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

### Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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

### St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

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

### Holy Family Catholic Church

7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533  
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### Parma Christian Church

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PERSPECTIVE

Confederate Flags In Ohio

by Lee Kamps

In Ohio the Confederate flag is the flag of the enemy. It is the flag of the armies Ohio soldiers defeated. Waving or displaying the Confederate flag in Ohio is waving or displaying the flag of the enemy. If your father, grandfather or great grandfather fought in the Second World War against fascism, I am sure you would be offended by someone flying the flag of Nazi Germany or Imperial Japan.

To make a claim that the Confederate flag is a historical flag in Ohio is ingenuous. Many men from Ohio fought against that flag and what it

stood for, and many Ohio men died fighting against what that flag represented. Only Pennsylvania and New York, states much more populous than Ohio, sent more men to war during the civil war. Today many Ohio residents, including myself, have ancestors who fought against that flag.

Slavery was banned in Ohio from the beginning. When the Northwest territory was formally organized in 1787, slavery was prohibited in the territory. The Northwest territory comprised the land north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River to the Canadian border. The Northwest

territory organization act specified that the territory should be developed into five states. Today those states are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Ohio was the first state created out of that Northwest territory when it became a state in 1803.

Ohio has a long history against slavery. Many Ohio residents risked arrest for deliberately violating the Fugitive Slave Act by helping slaves escape to Canada on the Underground Railroad. Throughout Ohio there are houses that hid runaway slaves. Many are still standing, even here in Cleveland. Cities like Cleveland along Lake Erie were often the final stop on the Underground Railroad where a boat could take them across the lake to freedom in Canada.

Ohio contributed several officers and many generals that fought against the Confederate flag. Famous generals who were keys to victory in the civil war such as Ulysses Grant, William Sherman, Phillip Sheridan, George Custer and James McPherson all were born and raised in Ohio. Five presidents from Ohio fought in the civil war against the Confederate flag. They were Ulysses Grant, James Garfield, Rutherford Hayes, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley.

The only place in Ohio where a confederate flag should be displayed is in a museum or outdoor re-enactment where the history of the civil war is explained and displayed. Once the civil war was over, the southern states were welcomed back into the union and the stars and stripes has been the only flag representing our nation.

It wasn't until long after the civil war that the confederate battle flag

became associated with the "lost cause" of the south. It was used by the night riders of the Ku Klux Klan in robes that were supposed to be the ghosts of the men killed fighting the "lost cause". The confederate flag became the flag and symbol of segregation and white supremacy. It was used to intimidate black people and keep them as second class citizens.

Slavery has been a stain on our country's history. Although the 13th amendment abolished slavery 155 years ago, the lingering effects of slavery are still evident. In many parts of this country people of color are still treated differently by police. A black boy growing up in many sections of the United States is 10 times more likely to go to prison than to go to college.

Here it is in 2020, 155 years after the end of the civil war, 56 years after the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, 55 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law and 150 years after the 15th amendment was ratified guaranteeing the right to vote for any man "regardless of color or previous condition of servitude" and some people are using the battle flag of a defeated army as a symbol for bigotry.

There is no reason or logic for anyone to display the Confederate flag in Ohio. Displaying the Confederate flag is an affront to any person in Ohio who had an ancestor who fought in the civil war against that flag as well as anyone who stands for decency and equality. Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant and even Robert E Lee would be disgusted when people in the United States are using the confederate flag as a symbol of racism and hate.

UH Parma Medical Center Wins Award For Environmental Excellence

by CJ Sheppard

The pandemic prompted the environmentally minded staff at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center to begin making masks out of sterile wrap used for surgical instruments. Organized by nurses and fueled by volunteers sewing them, this effort that yielded more than 300 masks was not just resourceful but environmentally sound.

UH Parma and Cleveland medical centers were among the hospitals across the country hailed as Partners for Change by Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care. Both hospitals are being celebrated for their ongoing commitment to substantially reducing their environmental impact.

The Partner for Change Award recognizes health care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon programs to eliminate mercury, reduce and recycle waste, source products sustainably and more. Winning facilities must demonstrate that they are recycling at least 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are on track to eliminate mercury, and have developed successful sustainability programs in many areas.

At UH Parma Medical Center, 25 percent of food purchases are local and/or sustainable, and the hospital realized a 9 percent reduction in solid waste from the prior year. Contributing to the overall reduction in solid waste was a 32 percent reduction in paper use compared to 2017. The hospital's efforts to reduce energy consumption resulted in a 6 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.




Jay Loughner leads the Sustainability Committee at UH Parma Medical Center.

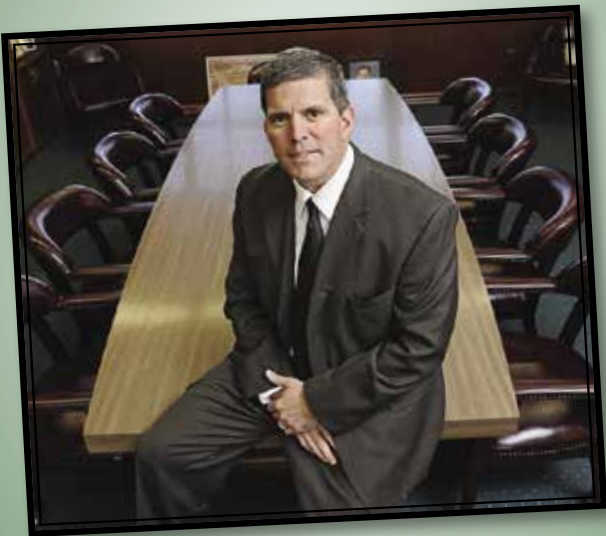
The mask-making effort brought on by the pandemic is yet another opportunity to recycle at the hospital. Last year, members of the Sustainability Committee sported red waste bags on a "Trashionistas tour" around the hospital to tout the importance of knowing where to throw waste and when to recycle.

"We are honored to achieve this recognition from Practice Greenhealth for the fourth year in a row," says Jay Loughner, Manager of UH Parma's Food & Nutrition Services, who leads the hospital's Sustainability Committee. "By focusing on initiatives that our staff can participate in, like encouraging local food choices and handling waste in a sustainable fashion, we have been able to make significant progress in achieving our environmental goals."

"The initiatives and efforts truly demonstrate commitment to our core values of excellence and teamwork."



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PERSPECTIVE

# Beit She'an Israel: Reflections In VolunTourism

by Davidione Pearl

In a world historically rife with tension and foray as a resulting effect of cultural, religious, socio-political, and geo-economic differences throughout the intricate landscape of humanity, there are beacons of hope that continue to rise far above the challenges of the past, and lend light to the promise of a new tomorrow.

Between the Jordan River Valley and Mount Gilboa, just south of the Sea of Galilee to the north of Jerusalem, one such beacon of creative and intentional life springs forth out of the high desert - the city of Beit She'an, sister city to Cleveland Ohio, by way of coordinated efforts imparted through the Jewish Federation of Cleveland in its decades long initiative to help bridge and narrow the gap between Israel and the Jewish diaspora.

Efi Mazor, Project Manager with The Jewish Agency for Israel in Beit She'an, was highly instrumental in coordinating all necessary logistical aspects on the ground that were vital for us to fulfill another successful mission between Cleveland and Beit She'an, including that of establishing the connection with my wonderful host family, of whom opened their door with open arms to a humbled gracious stranger from America.

Jewish Federation of Cleveland Director of Overseas Missions & Engagement Kelly Rubanenko and Managing Director, International Operations Ilanit Gerblisch Kalir entrusted me with a very unique volunteering opportunity to witness firsthand the wealth of



great creative development and social work that is currently culminating in two very distinct programs of impeccable substance within Beit She'an academia: The Music Centre, and the Youth Futures program at Tachkemoni Elementary School.

The Music Centre, headed up by esteemed Director Omer Gabay and his exceptional staff, is a remarkable reflection of a sincere, deeply rooted desire three years ago to resuscitate a field of dreams, a passion he held close to his heart and was determined beyond measure to see through to fruition – that dream, simply enough, was to exemplify the once struggling vision of a former unrealized glory to that of the full-fledged blossoming institution it has become today. A dynamic creative force of nature (Gabay) that took a quiet unassuming facility practically all but forgotten, and breathed an awe-inspiring zest of life into it once again,

dramatically turning the program around from a handful of students and one teacher, to a building abuzz with pulsating rhythms and melodies of not just the instruments alone, but the true miracle of renewed excitement and energy itself through the heightened vitality and clamorous merriment of the students and faculty themselves.

A short distance away is a profound measure of equal vitality, a symphony of melody in its own right – that of the Tachkemoni School, headed by Principal Yochi Nachmani, and their paramount work in harmonic partnership with Youth Futures Beit

Shean, Director Lital Golan-Gabay.

Youth Futures is a leading-edge youth at risk mentor program heavily supported by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. Youth Futures delicately discerns and identifies attentive ways for its mentors to judiciously observe and address qualifying markers of students exhibiting the call signs of risk, in an ongoing effort to listen more closely with intention to verbal and non-verbal expressed needs, and provide the compassion and empathy necessary to help steer those in the program towards more healthy outcome measures, and ultimately, recovery and healing.

Like the Israeli landscape itself, and the many combined efforts that have tirelessly gone into repurposing the once barren beginnings of the nation to the vitality it is today with abundant life, so too is the caretaking, growth, and development of the young - a spirit and purpose of which Youth Futures and The Music Centre keenly understands and incorporates into their mission(s).

What I gathered most from my time shared in Beit She'an, was the reminder that we all in some way enter into our own unique deserts of which we wander at various stages of life, and it takes bold bright initiatives from within to help guide each other through the wilderness to the promised land to come...

## Window To The World Of Speech Therapy

continued from page 3  
the hospital.

The couple continues to make cloth masks at no charge, accepting only occasional donations to cover

their supplies. With summer camps and day care facilities opening now for children, they are getting an increasing number of requests for child-sized masks. "We feel like we're on a mission to help people be able to navigate COVID with these masks," Tim said.

Added Mindy: "It has been imperative in the teaching of various speech sounds as we often use our mouth as a model when saying: 'See how I make this sound,' and helps children achieve their speech clarity goals in a more typical fashion. Overall, it has been a very bright spot in our therapy and has provided a more normal form of interaction where our patients can see our love and compassion for them and it brings them comfort and brings us closer together."



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## Small Business Apocalypse

continued from page 7

7.5% will be awarded this assistance. They've discovered that little, if any, of the small business economic relief funds have reached the small businesses in Polish Village. They've discovered that a few of these businesses will never reopen. Polish Village Parma, Inc. fears more closings are coming as these businesses are struggling to survive a 3 month loss of business, increased costs due to Covid-19 guidelines associated with the additional cleaning, sanitizing and the social distancing now required.

Polish Village Parma, Inc. continues to look for solutions or ways to offer assistance through this economic and health crisis.

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OBSERVER

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

by Gene Lovasy

**From the Greater Cleveland Collaborative to End Human Trafficking....**

Go here for a copy of “A Parent Guide to online Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking During COVID-19”. Some good stuff here especially near the end of the piece.

**From ECPAT-USA:** Go here for Online Safety Guides for Youth and Adults

**The Office on Trafficking in Persons and the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center** are offering a free 1.5-hour virtual SOAR to Health and Wellness training, which teaches providers how to identify and respond to human trafficking. Interested participants can register for one of the trainings below:

Wednesday, August 19, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**From Cleveland Foundation COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund....** Announced its 9th round of grants to support the Greater Cleveland non-profit community totaling \$928,000 to 18 organizations & groups serving Cuyahoga, Lake & Geauga counties. I’m pleased to see that this time there are several organizations that are recipients of this email & provide services to our area. If you’re a nonprofit incurring

costs related to the COVID-19 crises response email covid19response@clevefdn.org to learn more about the streamlined funding process & how you might qualify. Learn more here.

**From UH/Parma Medical Center....** Announced that they are once again participating in the Kids Summer Food Program. Starting June 4 through August 21, from 11 am to Noon, Monday thru Friday, children ages 1 – 18 are eligible to receive a free healthy bag lunch. Pick-up takes place at the drive through before you reach the main entrance.

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

Some items of interest picked up from their monthly newsletter:

Resources related to their Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement:

Systemic Racism Explained via ACT.TV

Black Deaf Culture Through the Lens of Black Deaf History

They Work For Us: A Self-Advocate’s Guide to Getting Through to your Elected Officials (Plain Language Edition)

Just two of a number of professional development opportunities for people with disabilities and those supporting them—families, educators, caregivers,

service providers, and others:

Promoting Access for People Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired. Try “The Center for the Young Child’s” new suite of resources

And for resources/support of all kinds go here: https://www.ocali.org/project/stay-safe-strong-and-supported

**From Aspire Greater Cleveland....**They’ve been successful at adapting to the new normal & have implemented an online learning

program featuring online classes, one-on-one tutoring & distance education work programs. Current offerings include: GED/HSE Test Prep, ESOL Classes, Citizenship Test Prep & Basis Reading classes for non-reading or low-level reading adults. Call 1.833. ASPIRE2 (1.833.277.4732) or you can complete a registration form at https://tinyurl.com/AGCOrientation .

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

## Come Join Koinonia - Now Hiring Direct Support Professionals!

by Michele Wagner

COME JOIN KOINONIA!

Koinonia is looking for heartwarming and caring people who are enthusiastic about the difference they can make in an individual's life. Koinonia is one of the largest non-profit organizations providing care and opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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