

“Fake friends believe in rumors. Real friends believe in you.” - Yolonda Hadid

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Parma City School District Focuses On A Safe Start To School, Plan For Future

by Charles Smialek

A Message from PCSD Superintendent Charles Smialek, Ph.D.

The beginning of the 2020-21 school year is unlike any we have ever experienced! However, we are working hard to ensure a safe opening for our students and staff and are very grateful for the flexibility and patience that all of our students, families and staff members have displayed as we formed our plans. We encourage you to visit www.parmacityschools.org for updates as we progress through our first few weeks of classes.

While we are striving to have a successful opening to this

once-in-a-lifetime school year, we must also turn our attention and efforts to helping our communities understand the importance of our Strategic Consolidation plan. We worked extremely hard throughout 2019 to gain input into building this model for the future of our district and anticipate placing a bond issue to fund new con-

struction on this November's ballot. It has been sometime since we have spoken formally about the plan that emerged from our public meetings last year, so it is important to review its contents.

We seek to create:

Two secondary campuses (grades 6-12), each with a middle and high school that serve as separate entities but share one roof, on the sites of Normandy and Valley Forge.

One wellness and educational campus at Parma Senior High School, home to our Board Office, ACES (formerly known as the Opportunity Center for students with autism), and community assets open to our residents including gymnasiums, a pool, and the iconic PSH Auditorium.

Six elementary campuses

(Grades Pre-K through 5). (Second phase)

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) remains excited at the potential to partner with us, a collaboration which will save our district \$69 million of the current cost of construction. We will ask district tax payers to consider a 6.5 mill bond issue to fund the new construction.

We wanted to share our plan in person throughout our three communities this summer to allow you to ask questions and learn more from the informal conversations that are so critical to building understanding. These opportunities are clearly limited now. We will communicate, instead, through written and social media so that you can learn more about the exciting possibilities that we continue to pursue.

Seven Hills - Pandemic and Progress

by Tony Biasiotta

Happy Summer! I hope this summer season you have been able to take a break from the challenges 2020 has presented us and focus on all of the wonderful things that come with the season. When I took the oath of office about seven months ago our plans for 2020 were quite different. On one hand the time has passed in a blink of an eye yet at times it seems it was an eternity ago. I am sure my experience this year is not unique.

As we continue into the summer months some of the emergency measures that were instituted back in March have been slowly lifting. Our Recreation Staff has done a tremendous job working diligently to ensure the safety of our members. We have also welcomed back our summer campers and other programs. If you haven't checked our recreation center offerings recently please do. Beginning July 2nd, we welcomed back our Annual Farmer's Market. The farmers market is held every Thursday 4pm -7pm at the corner of Hillside and Broadview.



Mayor Tony Biasiotta

This spring, with a heavy heart, we announced the passing of former Councilman Robert J. Leech, 74 "Councilman Bob". "Councilman Bob" passed from COVID-19 and his family has asked me to remind everyone to continue to take precautions that will help prevent the spread of this terrible virus.

Our long-standing Home Days tradition was cancelled for this summer. This was a difficult decision. However, under the current guidelines and increasing vendor cancellations it was becoming evident that we could not present a quality event. The administration quickly went to work on a creative alternative with our

Seven Hills "Stay-At-Home" Days. This event will hopefully honor the tradition and will consist of a car parade and virtual activities.

Seven Hills, like all cities, has continued to be impacted financially by the economic disruption brought on by COVID-19. However, we have been quick to adjust and froze most spending in March. As of our June YTD financials our general fund expenses are \$1,300,000 LESS than last year. Moreover, our Safety Forces have remained and WILL remain at FULL operational strength.

Meijer remains on schedule. If you have driven by lately you will have noticed that the walls to the store have gone vertical!

I'm proud to announce Erie Bank has made a pre-application to our planning commission with the intent of moving their district headquarters to Seven Hills. Further, their office and branch are slated for new construction along Rockside Rd.!

Earlier this year we formed a Water Management Task Force. On July 21, 2020 the task force presented their findings to Council. The mission of the Task Force was to develop short and long-term plans to remediate water related issues, identify and prioritize specific projects that will lead to the rehabilitation of the sewer systems and other control measures to minimize flooding.

In addition, the task force worked with experts from

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Ohio House Speaker's Alleged Criminal Enterprise Hurt Us All

by Jeffrey Crossman

On Tuesday July 21st, news broke that the Speaker of the Ohio House, Larry Householder (Republican, Glenford), had been arrested and arraigned on criminal charges stemming from his work to get House Bill 6 passed in 2019. This is now the second Ohio House Speaker in the past three years that will leave under the cloud of an FBI investigation (although as of this writing the Speaker has not resigned, it is expected that he will). Cliff Rosenberger's resignation under similar circumstances in 2018 opened the door for Householder seize the Speaker's gavel.

For those who are unaware, HB6 was the controversial "nuclear bailout" bill that, once passed and signed by the Governor last year, added a fee to electric bills to help subsidize the operation of two nuclear reactor facilities located in Lake and Ottawa counties. First Energy claimed

that it needed this massive taxpayer funded subsidy (over \$1B) or the two reactors would need to close.

This deal stunk from the start. The proponents of the bill fought hard to eliminate any transparency requirements from the bill, refused to impose caps on the amount of the subsidy that would ultimately be provided, and eliminated energy efficiency standards that had saved Ohio consumers millions of dollars since their implementation. In short, HB6 appeared to be a blank check to a corporation funded by consumers---a bad deal for Ohioans. This is why I voted "No" on its passage the two times it came to us for a vote (the Ohio Senate passed the bill with changes which required a second House vote). What we did not know at the time is that this bill might also be tainted by corruption.

As the recently published criminal complaint alleges,

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E. Sprague Resurfaced

Interested In Writing For The Observer? - Join Us At Our Public Meeting At Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd.) Every Tuesday 7 PM

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Last month I unveiled the Welcome to Parma mural project. This month I thought I would bring you up to date on where we are with the project. I am happy to report that it is coming together, as planned. In case you were not aware, let me bring you up to speed on the project. Earlier this year, I contacted Stamy Paul, a Valley Forge High School graduate and founder of Graffiti HeArt, to commission a Welcome to Parma mural. I was so pleased that Stamy, whose name rhymes with Tommy, loved the idea and agreed to partner on it.

Graffiti HeArt is a 501(c)3 non-profit that develops opportunities for graffiti and street artists to create art installations with donors looking to bolster community beauty and pride. The organization's projects generate commissions for talented aspiring and accomplished artists, as well as fund art education scholarships.

Being an educator and lover of the arts, I was inspired by the fine work of Graffiti HeArt. I have been



particularly moved by their Welcome to Tremont and the Greetings from Cleveland murals, among others. That is why I contacted Stamy to bring a Welcome to Parma mural to a wall on one of the entranceways into our community. As you may 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.

The estimated cost of the grass-



This is a current draft of the Welcome to Parma mural.

roots 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. I am happy to report that the fundraising effort has been a great success, thus far. In fact, in the first few weeks of fundraising, we have already raised over \$5,700. Special thanks to Donna Koler, owner of Koler Financial Services, who also supported Script Parma, as well as Ilah Adkins, each of whom have donated \$1,000. Other donors include my wife and I, Friends of Sean Brennan, Harry (Stamy's dad who still lives in Parma) Paul, Maggie Denk-Leigh (my sister-in-law and Cleveland Institute of Art professor), Bethany Yackin-Miller, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, former County Prosecutor, Parma Law Director, and Councilman Bill Mason and wife Carol, former mayor Dean DePiero, and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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 and mailed to Graffiti HeArt c/o Welcome to Parma, 2452 West 7th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. You may also donate securely online at 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 or 440-885-8091. Also, please check out Graffiti HeArt's website at graffitiheart.org to find out more about this fine organization. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Eagle Scout Badge

by Beth Bowman

The community members at Vista Springs, Ravinia in Independence have learned what it takes to earn a Boy Scout Eagle Badge; ingenuity, hard work and accepting assistance from family and friends! Nick Finn, 17, from Brooklyn, Ohio took on quite a challenge when he agreed to build a compost tumbler for the community members at Vista Springs, Ravinia. Nick, currently a hard working manager at Dairy Queen at South Park Mall, has been involved with the Boy Scouts since he was five years old! As a student and parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Nick started as a Cub Scout with Pack 73 and 12 years later is working toward achieving his Eagle Badge as a member of Boy Scout Troop 221 under the guidance and leadership of Mr. Grademes. "When Nick phoned last summer, he was interested in doing a community based project at our Assisted Living property. I thought, this is GREAT! We can have an intergenerational connection, where our community members and youth can watch an idea grow!" exclaimed Allie Zabrosky, Director of Life Experiences at Vista Springs Ravinia. "He initially participated in our first ever Flag raising and our folks fell in love with Nick! He has a special sweetness and genuine nature that instantly endeared him to our hearts. When I suggested a compost tumbler for his project, Nick didn't miss a beat.

Nick researched compost tumblers, came up with a viable plan which was approved by the city and started to work. Months later the tumbler was installed! Nick credits



his mom for her help and support; from helping to look up material on line to providing cooling drinks during a warm weather install for Nick and his fellow scouts. This project would not have happened without the talent and assistance of his cousin and oversight from his uncle during construction.

Although building the compost tumbler is more challenging than many Eagle Badge projects, Nick is glad he stuck with it. "It was difficult to create holes large enough in the tumbler so the barrel would spin." Measuring and cutting the boards for the frame was a skill Nick had to learn.

Once the final documentation is approved by the Boy Scout council, Nick will be the proud recipient of his Eagle Badge! Nick wants to thank his scout leader Mr. Grademes, his mom, his Uncle David Finn, his cousin Alex Finn, his fellow troop 221 scouts and his sponsors, Lawn Enforcement Landscaping.

Observer

Parma

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Leaders Promoted In Western Region

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals has announced expanded roles for three leaders at UH Parma Medical Center. This operating model aims to deliver the highest value health care for the West Market communities from Parma to Ashland and Westlake to Elyria, including affiliated UH health centers and other patient access points in the western region of Northeast Ohio.

UH Parma Medical Center President Brian Monter, MSN, RN, MBA, also will serve as Chief Operating Officer for the West Market region. Hospital presidents at UH Elyria, Samaritan and St. John medical centers will report to him. Monter began his career as a cardiac nurse and came to UH in 2016 to serve as President of UH Bedford and Richmond medical centers, campuses of UH Regional Hospitals. He transitioned to lead UH Parma Medical Center early last year.

The senior physician leaders at UH Parma Medical Center, both of whom are residents of Independence, have both been promoted.

Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD, Chief Medical Officer for UH Parma, assumes the role of Associate System Chief Medical Officer (CMO), West Region. She will support UH's West Market CMOs and UH goals for value-focused care and integrated delivery. Dr. Togliatti-Trickett, a practicing physical medicine and rehabilitation/internal medicine physician, has provided strong clinical and



UH Parma Medical Center President Brian Monter, center, has been promoted to a dual role as Chief Operating Officer for the West Market region of UH. Presidents at three other hospitals - Elyria, St. John and Samaritan - will report to him. UH Parma's Chief Medical Officer Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD, left, is ascending to Associate System CMO for the West Region. James Hill, MD, has become the Chief Medical Officer of UH Parma Medical Center.

administrative leadership for the UH Parma medical community for nearly two decades. Dr. Trickett will report to the system Chief Medical Officer, Willie Brien, MD.

James Hill, MD, MBA, CPE, Associate Chief Medical Officer for UH Parma, will assume the Chief Medical Officer position at UH Parma as Dr. Togliatti-Trickett and Monter take on their expanded responsibilities. Dr. Hill came to UH in 2015 as Chief of Trauma Anesthesiology and played a key role in developing UH Cleveland Medical Center's Level 1 trauma center. He was named system Medical

Director in 2016 and led all aspects of UH blood management operations. At UH Parma, he has been a driver of improvements in quality and patient experience. He will continue to report to Dr. Togliatti-Trickett.

"These appointments establish strength in leadership for the West Market," said Eric Beck, DO, MPH, UH System Chief Operating Officer. "They enable a more unified approach and enhance our ongoing efforts to further integrate the delivery of care and evolve our health system for success as a value-based organization."

UH Parma Opens Pain Clinic In North Royalton YMCA

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center has expanded its comprehensive pain management program to a new location in the North Royalton YMCA, further enhancing its already robust presence at 11409 State Road.


UH Parma Medical Center has maintained 7,000 square feet of space, including physical and aquatic therapy services, in the North Royalton YMCA since its 2012 opening. UH Parma's Pain Management program will provide office consults, joints injection and other treatments for pain, helping patients return to healthy, active lifestyles. Providers in this location include Harpreet Singh, MD, and Kutaiba Tabbaa, MD, both experienced physicians who joined UH Parma earlier this year.

"We look forward to utilizing innovative pain management techniques to decrease our patients' dependency on medication and improve their outcomes," says Dr. Tabbaa, the Medical Director who came to UH from MetroHealth, where he led their pain management program for decades and instructed generations of medical students, residents and fellows. He has experience

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UH Parma Medical Center

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University Hospitals

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EDUCATION

Cox Communications Offers Two Months Of Free Internet Service To New Qualifying Families In Time For Back-to-School

by Jeff Lavery

As back-to-school fast approaches, Cox has announced new customers that qualify will receive Connect2Compete, the company’s low-cost internet, for two months at no cost. New customers must sign up between July 21 and September 30 for free service, which also includes free technical support.

“Distance learning is the new normal, and we’re focused on removing barriers so all kids can advance in this environment,” said Pat Esser, president and chief executive officer of Cox Communications. “The internet levels the playing field and there are kids that need us now more than ever.”

Parma Charitable Fund Awarded Grant

by Sean Brennan

The Parma Charitable Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that I started with family and friends about ten years ago. The mission of the Fund is to serve as a community booster by supporting other non-profits and community projects. Over the years, we have raised thousands of dollars primarily from the annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled this year. In that time, the monies raised have been donated to many charities, including local Boy and Girl Scout troops, All Faiths Pantry, the Parma Senior High School hockey program, the American Cancer Society, the American Liver Foundation, Tri-C Scholarships, among several others. The Fund also raised the monies for the Script Parma sign, which was, subsequently, donated to the City of Parma. We are currently assisting with raising funds for the Welcome to Parma mural.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to assist the community in some meaningful way. It is saddening to hear about how those who were already financially at-risk in our community, are now even worse off. However, with the cancellation of the race, our funds are running low. Thanks to my new

Computers are part of virtual learning and Cox continues to partner with local, regional and national organizations including PCs for People and Computers to Kids San Diego, who provide discounted, refurbished laptops and accessories to families that qualify for the Connect2Compete program.

A summary of enhancements and benefits of Cox’s Connect2Compete program include:

2 months of free Connect2Compete service and remote desktop and phone support through Cox Complete Care for eligible new customers who apply between July 21 and September

friend Dawn Arrington, an impressively devoted community organizer, I found out about the Neighbor Up program. Neighborhood Up’s vision is, “A united Cleveland, supported by thousands of engaged residents . . . , where bridges are built across lines of difference, and where authentic relationships lead to a new culture of trust, and a more just, equitable and inclusive community.” That led me to applying for Neighborhood Up’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant.

The Grant program is “intended to enable civic groups to be responsive to emergency and basic need requests.” So, I requested the maximum \$5,000 to assist primarily single parents and disabled residents whom have been struggling financially due to COVID-19. Needless to say, I was elated to find out that we were awarded the grant, which is funded by the Cleveland Foundation. The plan is to purchase gift cards to provide to those who apply for assistance. I am happy to report that Giant Eagle on Day Drive has agreed to partner with us on the project and has generously agreed to donate even more gift cards to our program. Special thanks to store manager Christopher Gibson for his support. We are looking forward to helping as many folks as we can.

30, \$9.95/month thereafter

Easy referral for discounted, refurbished equipment through PCs for People

Student and family access to the Cox Digital Academy, which provides computer literacy training and educational resources for students

Free WiFi modem rental

Access to over 3M+ Cox Hotspots nationwide

This summer, Cox announced a new digital learning platform available to Connect2Compete customers to keep kids engaged in academics this summer. MyFuture is The Boys & Girls Club of America’s digital platform that empowers children and teens to learn new skills, share accomplishments and earn recognition and rewards via gamification in a safe and fun online environment. Customers can easily access this tool in Cox’s Digital Academy, an online learning platform full of computer literacy tips, educational videos, tutorials and interactive games.

The Cox Connect2Compete program is available to families who:

have at least one child that is a K-12 student at home
participate in one of these gov-



ernment subsidies programs: The National School Lunch Program, SNAP, TANF, Head Start, WIC, LIHEAP, or Public Housing

Families can qualify for Connect2Compete easily from anywhere whether on their mobile device or desktop by visiting www.cox.com/c2c.

To help parents help their children learn from home, Cox has provided several tips and resources available on the company’s content hub Converge. Click here to learn more.

For more information on Cox’s coronavirus relief efforts, visit cox.com.

About Cox Communications

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through broadband applications and services. The largest private telecom company in America, we proudly serve six million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that makes each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

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August 2020

RETURN TO LEARN



SCHOOL OPTIONS

- 1.Traditional School Building
 - a. (in-person)
- 2.Parma Virtual Learning Academy (PVLA)
 - a.100% online



WHAT ARE COHORTS?

- 1.Green: Last name begins with letters A-K
- 2.White: Last name begins with letters L-Z

*Green and White Cohorts only apply to students enrolled in the traditional (in-person) school building.



WHEN DOES SCHOOL START?

September 8: Green Cohort students that are entering **KG/ 5th Grade/ 8th Grade ONLY & ALL PVLA Students**

September 9: ALL Green Cohort Students

September 10: White Cohort students that are entering **KG/ 5th Grade/ 8th Grade ONLY**

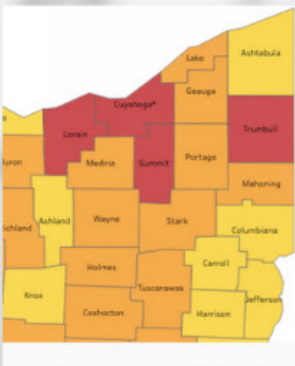
September 11: ALL White Cohort
*The first two weeks of school (September 8-18) will be hybrid regardless of county risk level.

September 15 & 16:Green Cohort will attend
September 17 & 18: White Cohort will attend



HOW WILL YOU KEEP EVERYONE SAFE?

- 1.Social distancing
 - 2.Frequent hand washing/ sanitizing
 - 3.Disinfecting surfaces
 - 4.Face coverings
 - 5.Symptom checks
- EVERY DAY is Cleaning Day!



| Cuyahoga County Designation | PCSD Status |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Level 1 | Traditional |
| Level 2 | Traditional |
| Level 3 | 1/2/2 Hybrid Green: Letters A-K, Attend T/W White: Letters L-Z, Attend TH/F |
| Level 4 | Fully Distance |

• Status for each week determined on the preceding Thursday with designation announcement at coronavirus.ohio.gov.



WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL SCHEDULE BE?

The traditional school building schedule will follow the same hours as normal.

Elementary 9:15 AM-3:30 PM
Middle: 8:05 AM-2:55 PM
High: 7:50 AM-2:30 PM

Students in traditional school will attend classes in-person based on the Cuyahoga County Risk Level Designation (color) see chart above. For Levels 1 & 2, students will attend all five days of the week. For Level 3, students will attend in a hybrid format (Green and White Cohorts). For Level 4, students will have fully distant learning.



WHAT IF A STUDENT OR STAFF TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

- We will employ our 3C model:
- 1.Call the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to determine most appropriate next steps.
 - 2.Clean (again) all areas through which the infected person traveled.
 - 3.Communicate to relevant families all information within legal parameters.

For all Return to Learn Parma information, including school supply lists, transportation, nutrition services and more, please visit our website www.parmacityschools.org.

5311 Longwood Avenue | Parma, Ohio 44134 | 440.842.5300 | www.parmacityschools.org



Inspiration



ictured: State Senator Nickie J. Antonio with Cathy Zakowski and friends, Nina and Ashley.

Senator Antonio Celebrates ADA’s Anniversary

by Nickie Antonio

July 26th marked the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a federal law prohibiting discrimination based on disability, both mental and physical. It also requires reasonable accommodations be provided to employees with disabilities and creates accessibility requirements for public places. This legislation continues to be an important step in creating a more equitable society and guaranteeing that every American can reach their fullest potential.

Since Covid-19, this goal has become more difficult to achieve, especially for our students with disabilities. I recently attended a Children’s Caucus webinar to learn more about Ohio’s plans to reopen schools, post-pandemic, and was particularly stunned to hear about the impacts Covid-19 has had on the academic success of students with behavioral and developmental disabilities. Due to the pandemic, behavioral support decreased exponentially and many of these students were unable to do the work alone. Families faced a difficult decision, determining whether

to focus on their child’s academic or behavioral needs. As a former special education teacher and advocate for the disability community, we must identify ways to ensure our students with disabilities are not limited, pandemic or not.

Last year, I had the pleasure of launching Ohio’s first Developmental Disabilities Caucus to explore new and innovative ways to provide support and improve the quality of life for Ohioans living with disabilities. Through this bipartisan, bicameral initiative, we have been able to connect the Developmental Disabilities community with state legislators in the hopes of replicating programs across Ohio. One example being Ohio State University’s Nisonger Center which provides child, adolescent, and adult services to promote educational opportunities for all ages of the community.

People who make up the disability community are an important part of the fabric of our society and we as legislators should do everything we can to work together for shared goals.\

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A prescription for joyful living includes something to hope for, something to do, and someone to love. Being slow to criticize and quick to forgive is a good way to go. Everything we really need, we already have.

Faithfulness is our guide to salvation and an anchor for eternity. God forbids favoritism of any kind except His word.

God is the one who defines sin (disobeying His Word). He will make the ultimate judgment. God loves each one of us equally.

Having a child to improve the marriage relationship is a poor reason to embark upon parenthood. How we perceive ourselves marks the ceiling for what God can do for us. In God’s eyes, none of us is a failure without hope. In our world of plenty, it seems easier than ever to lose sight of what is truly important. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into it.

It is possible, if we focus on it, to find fault with just about anything or everyone. It seems that a majority of people today ignore to whom they owe allegiance regarding life. Life is like an onion: we peel it off one layer at a time. Love is why, when, where, and

how much we give. Most of the greatest good in the world has been done by the fewest people.

Most of what we worry about never comes to pass, but most of us still worry. Mourning in the night becomes joy in the morning. One way to serve those in need is through day-to-day charitable giving. Our self-concept is our impression of ourselves – we are what we think. Our self-image determines how we use our time, talent, knowledge, skills, and experiences. Partial obedience is not considered obedience. Quitting is not an option for “believers.” Scripture informs us repeatedly that true and everlasting joy does not result from material wealth. “Soul-winning” (in one’s own way) should be the main pursuit of every believer. Stand up for what is biblically right. Suppressed anger is often at the root of depression.

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**
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Neighborhoods

Parma Document Shredding & Food Drive Scheduled Aug. 8

by Carolyn Kovach

For those who want to safely dispose of confidential documents, the City of Parma is hosting a Document Shredding & Food Drive, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 8 at 6285 West 54th St., Parma Senior High School, rear parking lot. Residents should enter the lot from Longwood Avenue.

Participants will be asked to show proof of residency. A driver's license, gas bill or electric bill are acceptable forms of identification. There will be no limit on the amount of documents shredded, but residents are being asked to make a donation to All Faiths Pantry. Monetary donations are preferred because the Pantry can receive food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at a discounted rate.

"A \$20 donation provides almost two grocery bags towards the 450 households we serve each month," explained Felicia Martinez, executive director of the Parma-based All Faiths Pantry.

Those who prefer to donate items are asked to bring products from the following list: paper towels, facial tissues, toilet paper, paper napkins, cleaning supplies, bar soap, hand soap or hand sanitizer.

"Paper products, soap and



cleaning products are the most sought-after items. Many senior citizens who need assistance and aren't comfortable shopping in the stores during this pandemic are asking for these products," Martinez said. The Pantry provides monthly free groceries to the homes of low-income senior citizens and those with limited mobility who need assistance.

All Faiths Pantry volunteers will be at the shred event to collect donations. For everyone's safety, the process of dropping off donations, as well as documents, will operate similar to a drive-through service. After showing proof of residency to a volunteer worker, Parma residents should drop off documents to be shredded and then exit the parking lot. Two trucks from Stericycle will be on site to quickly shred all docu-

ments.

Residents should make sure their documents are not bound with rubber bands, paper clips or binders. Also, no plastic folders or plastic sleeves can be included because plastic, rubber bands and clips can jam the shredding machine.

"A grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is covering the cost of this

event, which is why the shredding service is free to our residents," said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "Many residents have asked us since the reopening if we could reschedule this event, which normally occurs in May. We are glad we can safely offer this service again and combine it with a food drive for All Faiths Pantry, which is assisting our senior citizens during this pandemic."

Residents are not required to register, and the event will not be postponed or canceled if it rains. This shredding service is available to Parma residents and not businesses.

Seven Hills - Pandemic and Progress

continued from page 1

agencies such as the NEORSD, West Creek Conservancy, Cuyahoga County Public Works and others, to plan public education platforms, identify potential partnerships, research funding options and economic assistance programs that will be essential in carrying out this mission.

Our service department took possession of a brand new 10-ton truck. This truck arrived just in time to help with the clean-up of debris left behind from a microburst that recently hit Seven Hills. This truck's primary purpose will be snow removal. However, it

came with a second equipment package that included a chipper.

Last but not least I'm pleased to report the long-awaited resurfacing of E. Sprague Rd is complete (note: small punch lists items continue). This project was made possible through a partnership with Cuyahoga County and Broadview Hts., with the County paying 80% of the cost and Seven Hills and Broadview Hts. contributing 10% each.

In summary, in spite of the pandemic the residents of Seven Hills continue to see progress on many fronts.

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PERSPECTIVE

An Epidemic Of Stupidity Across America

by Lee Kamps

The hit movie Forrest Gump with Tom Hanks playing the central character gave the world a great expression; “Stupid is as stupid does”. That well known expression perfectly describes the condition of the United States in the summer of 2020. There has been a pandemic raging across the country and it has killed more Americans than all the wars since 1945 combined. Yet it seems that many people are behaving as if they are invincible or are just plain stupid.

A few weeks ago, I took a Sunday drive to Geneva on the lake with a couple of friends. What we saw there was like “party like it is 2019”. The parking lots were full and people were crowded everywhere; crowding into bars, res-

taurants and shops with no one wearing face masks and no one maintaining social distancing. There were family groups with children, young adults and gray haired bikers all pretending that the pandemic didn’t exist. We just drove down the main drag and never got out of the car.

Later, on July 4, I was in Sandusky with some friends and met up with my daughters. It was suggested that we meet at a popular summer restaurant on the bay that had outdoor seating. Fine, until we got there. There was a very long line of mostly under 40 adults queued up waiting for take out food. No one was wearing a face mask and no

one was maintaining proper social distancing. We decided to go elsewhere.

Then a week later my daughter posted a piece from the Sandusky newspaper that the restaurant was being closed indefinitely because some employees tested positive for COVID. Why am I not surprised?

Then there were the images of a local school board meeting in Utah where people crowded into the meeting room, ignoring social distancing and no one wearing face masks. The people there were asking that schools be opened as “normal” and protesting rules requiring face mask wearing. The members of the school board promptly adjourned the meeting.

Then there is the governor of Georgia issuing an order preventing local mayors and authorities from issuing mask mandates in Georgia. It was a direct slap at the mayor of Atlanta who issued a mandatory face mask order in Atlanta to control the spread of COVID.

There have been people in Cleveland and throughout Ohio protesting the wearing of face masks as well as people getting violent when asked to wear a face mask.

I get it. I don’t like wearing a face mask either. It is uncomfortable and suffocating. But I do put one on when I enter a store or when I am indoors in public or outdoors among a crowd of people. But instead of acting like responsible adults, Americans are acting like spoiled children.

The experts have been telling us that wearing a face mask is the best means of preventing and controlling the spread of COVID. These doctors and other officials have spent years studying disease transmission and

know what they are talking about. Yet why do so many people in the United States refuse to listen to them?

Don’t give me that “freedom” argument. Free speech doesn’t give anyone the right to shout FIRE! in a crowded building when there is no fire. You are required to be buckled in a seat belt when you are riding in a car. You cannot smoke inside any building not your residence. Nor can you walk down the street drinking beer. There are rules we must obey. That is called civilization.

Many other developed nations in the world were also hit hard by this pandemic. Yet they have managed to bring the infections under control. The nations of the European Union were hit very hard earlier this spring. But they have brought infections way down and are reopening their economies. Yet here in the United States, cases are out of control and we have become an international embarrassment.

There is an epidemic of stupidity throughout the United States as well as the coronavirus. This stupidity epidemic permeates throughout the country and is much more deadly than the virus. It seems to have infected more people than the virus.

Let’s be smart, not stupid. Exercise caution, wear a face mask indoors in public and outdoors among crowds. Avoid large crowds whenever possible and if you don’t feel well, stay home. That doesn’t mean that we cannot travel or dine in a restaurant. It just requires that we should act like responsible adults, not immature spoiled children.

Cash Mob Invades Parma!

by Kathryn Mabin

The Covid-19 Cash Mob has invaded small businesses in Parma’s Polish Village, located in Ward 2, along sections of Ridge Rd., and Pearl Rd. in Parma. For every \$10 purchased at a participating business you receive an entry to win multiple prizes. Drawings held monthly, with a grand prize in October. Covid-19 Cash Mob runs now through the end of September. To see a list of participating businesses follow Polish Village on Facebook, or look for the signs in participating businesses. Don’t miss out on your opportunity to win!



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Improve Kindergarten Readiness And Family Reading Habits

by Gene Lovasy

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ful book gifting program that mails free, new, age appropriate, high quality books to registered children’s homes from birth to age 5.

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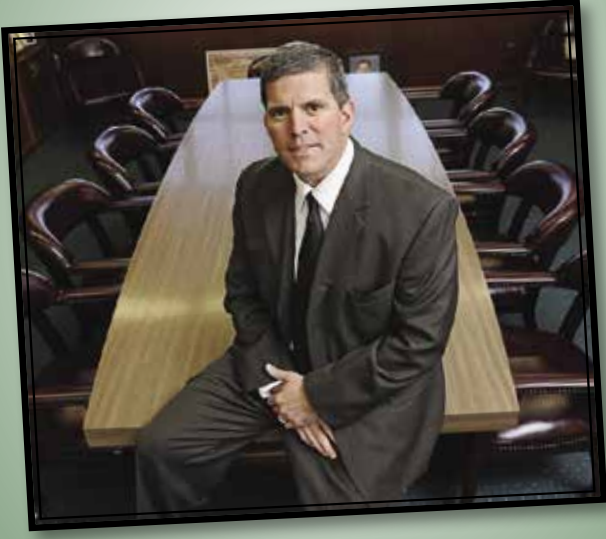
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PERSPECTIVE

Qanon: Deadly Game Of Fallacy And Fiction

by Davidione Pearl

The ancient Latins referred to it as religare, “to bind together,” and colere, “to worship” - what today we refer to as religion and culture. Be that as it may, what we now see steadily rising out of the collapsed ashes and decay of objectivity, democracy and reason itself, is the burgeoning hysteria of Qanon, a populist occultist right-wing caliph group of knee-jerk conspiracy theorists that hail an anonymous supreme leader known only as, “Q”.

They impart a destructive pro-Trump agenda geared only at devastating the names and reputations of democrat elites, liberal Hollywood celebrities and the media through rumor spreading steeped in unfounded accusations of ritualistic pedophilia, cannibalism and a fantastical cabal of worldwide domination.

The movement first emerged out of fallout surrounding the 2016 “Pizzagate” scandal in Washington, D.C, when Wikileaks released former White House Chief of Staff and then chair of Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign John Podesta’s emails referencing “pizza” and “pasta” on several occasions to northwest Washington D.C- based Comet Ping Pong restaurant owner and democrat donor James Alefantis.

Comet Ping Pong was and remains a well-established family friendly pizzeria that has faithfully served the public since 2006, however far right trolling of the Podesta emails eventually led to the spread of insidious rumors that the words “pizza” and “pasta” were cryptic code that referred to “little girls” and “little boys”, and that the woefully accused secretly abducted and practiced heinous rituals against children in the basement of the restaurant, incredulously, all under the oversight of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The restaurant has no basement, nor did it play any role whatsoever in the warped and deranged accusations of the saber rattling Pizzagate trolls, but that didn’t stop Edgar Maddison Welch, who took it upon himself on December 4th 2016 to load his AR-15 and various assortments of other weapons to drive across several state lines to the restaurant for a date with infamy, believing the rumors to be true.

That Sunday afternoon he entered the restaurant at 3pm strapped with weapons to kill, terrifying families who scattered out to the street in a rush of panic and tears, but once he shot his way through the door he thought housed abducted children and worse, the only thing he found was an old computer storage closet, that and four years in prison for another senseless crime against victims of slander.

No one died in the incident, but a little more of America certainly has, through these macabre developments continuing to spiral out of control.

Pizzagate understandably began to fade soon after, as did the underground online image board platform it used to disseminate the devastating hate speech against democrats, but a year later it re-emerged as Qanon on a separate online image board, spewing the same hateful rhetoric against anything and everything democrat, further suggesting their original hall-mark dog-whistles of cabal, pedophilia, and cannibalism among the likes of Clinton, Obama, Ellen Degeneres, and actors Tom Hanks and Bradley Cooper among scores of other victims of their unrelenting slander, all steered on by cryptic evangelic riddles out of the depraved mind of their omnipotent leader Q, from a second incarnation platform that the FBI has now classified as a domestic terror threat in an internal memo (2019).

In 2018 the FBI intercepted a California man who had planned a large-scale Qanon attack on Springfield, Illinois, the state’s capital. That same year a Qanon activist armed with a rifle in a homemade armored truck blocked traffic at Nevada’s immense Hoover Dam, demanding the release of the Inspector General’s report on Hillary Clinton’s emails to avoid damage to the area.

In this second incarnation of fanciful Qanon subversive behavior, their current online platform is shared with a multitude of white supremacist ideologues, championing battle cries such as “blood in the streets”

and calls for the assassination of current and former democrat leaders and celebrities, even going as far as to ludicrously proclaim President Obama as having direct ancestry to Adolf Hitler, cannibalism, and rapine rituals with infants. It is an assemblage of highly unhinged and very dangerous assertions that entice the lonely and those with a deep need to find value and purpose in their lives, as it amounts to deadly live-action role play in a veritable constellation of right-wing partisan fallacies designed for one purpose and one purpose only, conning those that

are easily lost and manipulated into the tragic bidding of a pseudo-evangelic mysterious figure that is paving the way for many to capitalize off of its financial gain through amassing online subscribers and the peddling of Qanon merchandise, while distastefully destroying lives and reputations.

What may be most tragic of all, however, is the very clear evidence that there are political figures at the congressional level that are openly supporting Qanon, and worst yet, hundreds of Qanon retweets by the leader of the free world himself...

Ohio House Speaker’s Alleged Criminal Enterprise Hurt Us All

continued from page 1

Householde, along with lobbyists, created a fictitious entity to receive political contributions secretly and with the identities of the contributors concealed. These contributions were then used to help elect candidates that would support Householder’s election as Speaker and then the passage of HB6 in 2019. According to the complaint, Householder also personally benefited with payoffs in the \$61 Million scheme to buy statehouse seats, get HB6 passed, and survive a referendum to repeal the bill once passed. The indictment also alleges that, after the bill passed, Householder and others schemed to offer illegal bribes to help stop the effort to get the referendum on the ballot to repeal HB6. Now that these allegations have come to light, Ohio House members will be taking steps to repeal HB6 as soon as possible and will hopefully embark upon an honest and transparent discussion

about Ohio’s energy future.

Ohio needs an energy policy that promotes job growth across many sectors.
Read the rest of this article online at:

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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From the July 2020 issue of the IdeaStream e-newsletter:

Human Trafficking in Northeast Ohio – A Modern Day Form of Slavery. This piece was one of six stories/programs recognized by The Lower Great Lakes Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & honored w/an Emmy at last year’s Annual Emmy® Awards ceremony. Click here to read the report.

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

Check out the attached document summarizing the status of active HT related legislation under consideration in Columbus. You might be surprised by the number of bills being reviewed. Note also HJR-4 – This proposal, if approved, will finally amend Section 6 of Article I of the State’s Constitution prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude in Ohio for the punishment of crime.

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, July 29, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. or Wednesday, August 19, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Go here <https://ioby.org/project/welcome-parma-mural> to learn more about and to support a “Welcome to

Parma” mural to a wall on one of the entranceways into the city of Parma..

From UH/Parma Medical Center... If you’re not already aware, UH/PMC is participating in the Kids Summer Food Program which continues 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 Ohio Dept of Health - Coverage for Asthma Related Services in Ohio In 2019...

The Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program (ODHAP)distributed a survey to Medicaid managed care plans and one private insurance provider to help understand asthma related services that they cover. Their responses are captured in a table format & can be viewed by going here & clicking on the “ATTACHMENT DOWNLOAD” button on the right-hand side of the screen. If this is an issue for you or your organization, it’s well worth a visit.

From Search Institute: Search Institute’s research is demonstrating that when young people experience developmental relationships with parents, educators, youth program staff, and other adults their outcomes are better, their risk behaviors are lower, and they are more likely to be on the path to thrive in life. See how you’re doing during this restrictive period caused the COVID pandemic. Click this link to download their “Relationships Check” list: <https://www.search-institute.org/relationships-check>.

tionships-check.

To learn more about S.I.’s Developmental Relationship initiative visit www.keepconnected.info, their companion website focusing on tips, tricks, tools & techniques for parents, families & youth serving organizations.

From “The Kids Free Book Bank”: Learn how your organization can provide free books for kids in our community! Keep kids reading by giving away free books. Books come pre-boxed by reading level. Mixed reading level boxes are available by request. Order books online at: www.kidsbookbank.org/request. Questions? Delivery needed? Call us 216-417-1803 or email: info@kidsbooksbanks.org. They are located at 3635 Perkins Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114

From Parma City Schools: PCSD 2020 -2021 Re-opening Plan and related detail information. Note

that the first day for students has been changed to Tuesday, September 8th. If you’d like you can read Governor DeWine’s “Reset and Restart Education Planning Guide for Schools and Districts.

“Embrace All” inclusivity initiative planning for which began in October but has gain greater importance w/the killing of George Floyd.

Parma Virtual Academy...For those families not yet comfortable sending their kids back to school. “...The Parma Virtual Academy will have the same curriculum, it will have our teachers and it will have a director who serves as a principal. The difference will really only be the location of the learning.” Go here for a list of FAQ’s.

By this time you should be aware of interest in potentially changing the Redmen mascot & logo for Parma

UH Parma Opens Pain Clinic In North Royalton YMCA

continued from page 3

with a vast variety of interventional pain therapies including advanced spinal injections, joint injections, radiofrequency ablation, kyphoplasties, implantable therapies like spinal cord stimulators and intrathecal pumps, and even an IV infusion therapy treatment that relieves central neuropathic and fibromyalgia pain and decrease reliance on opioid narcotics.

“University Hospitals is pleased to provide more services to the people of North Royalton and surrounding communities through our long-established relationship with the city and the YMCA,” says Brian Monter, President of UH Parma Medical Center. “Residents and YMCA members can benefit



Harpeet Singh, MD

greatly from the establishment of pain management and healing services in this convenient location. This move reinforces our commitment to the City of North Royalton, one of the hospital’s founding communities nearly 60 years ago.”

North Royalton Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz said he appreciated UH Parma’s commitment to the community.

“We have enjoyed a longstanding relationship with University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, which is committed to the health and wellbeing of our community,” said the mayor. “This is just another extension of that great partnership, and we are looking forward to a deeper collaboration and increased services.”



Kutaiba Tabbaa, MD



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PARMA ART SCENE

So What's Up With Parma And Flamingos?

by Kathryn Mabin

Often I'm asked what's this obsession Parma has with flamingos? You see them everywhere in Parma, plastic lawn ornaments and in logos for businesses and nonprofits. So here's the Parma flamingo story.

Don Featherstone was the artist who created the pink plastic flamingo in 1958 for Union Products, when the color pink was the popular color. He had never seen an actual flamingo and based his sculpture molds from photos in a National Geographic magazine. Parma was a fast growing middle class community during this time period. From 1950 to 1960 the population increased from 28,897 to 82,845. New homes with manicured lawns popped up all over Parma. The pink color certainly is appealing, and reminds us of summer. The pink lawn ornaments add a splash of color to the lawn. Don Featherstone, a fun lovin' character, died at the age of 79 in 2015.



Many families gathered around those small screen TV's with pizza for the start of a fun weekend.

Ghoulardi also targeted Parma, "Par-ma?!" or "Amrap", which is Parma spelled backwards, during his program. He unmercifully jeered Parma for being conservative, ethnic and working-class. He made fun of white socks, polka music, and lawns with pink flamingos and chrome balls, or lawn globes. He also aired skits titled "Parma Place" with ethnic characters modeling after Peyton Place, a then prime time soap opera, during breaks in the movie. "Parma Place" was well received by the public, not the mayor of Parma and other Parma politicians. (Some of these skits are still able to be seen on YouTube.) Eventually Ghoulardi was forced to stop "Parma Place". He pushed the boundaries of live TV



In 1961 WJW TV-8 hired an announcer and movie program host, Ernie Anderson. From 1963 to 1966 Ernie Anderson was the host of Shock Theater, a Friday night late-night program that featured horror movies. Anderson created a character called Ghoulardi, a hipster or beatnik type character, in a long lab coat, with a fake beard and mustache and weird wigs. During breaks in the movie he'd comment with phrases like, "Hey group!", "Cool it!", "Turn blue", "ova-dey". And "Stay sick, knif" (fink backwards). At the show's most popular period Shock Theater had captured 70 percent of the late-night audience, thanks to Ghoulardi's antics. Ghoulardi often made targets of local personalities, such as then Cleveland Mayor Ralph Locher, and news analyst Dorothy Fuldheim, whom he called "Dorothy Baby", as well as others. As a teen during this period I can attest to his popularity.

and was reined in. His antics included riding a motorcycle through the program director's office, and having a card printed with the program director's home phone number, televised, asking the audience to voice their complaints. Anderson left Cleveland in 1966 for L.A. Following Shock Theater came The Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show. You can find a Ghoulardi fan club on Facebook.

When I moved to Parma in the early 1970's, I had a Welcome to Parma Party. Complete with white socks, pink flamingos, bowling shirts, and kielbasa and kraut. It was a huge success. The popularity of pink flamingos is just like any other fad, it grows and fades. It's currently on the rise. You see flamingo designs in all sorts of products. Parma is now linked forever with the pink flamingo. So that's the story. To all my fellow Parma Peeps, embrace the flamingo. Thanks Ernie for the memories.



Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd is proud to feature Cleveland based artist George Kocar's paintings in an exhibition which runs August 15th through September 19th. His paintings are colorful, lively, humorous and frequently satirical. His illustrations have been featured in many publications, such as, Esquire, New York Times, Playboy, and The Washington Post to name a few. His recently published book, The Flying Banana: The Art of George Kocar is for sale on Amazon. Stop in and view this fantastic exhibit. Masks are required, capacity is limited to five (5) individuals. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 2 PM to 7 PM. The gallery also has a small boutique with items such as hand sewn masks, jewelry, and prints reasonably priced. Prama is a participating business in the Polish Village Cash Mob. For every \$10 spent you receive an entry to win prizes, now through the end of September. For more information on Prama, or to view previous exhibits, log onto www.pramaartspace.com, or follow on Facebook.

Mary Ford, Parma resident,

answered the international call for artists for the MVVO Ad show in New York City. The exhibit is being shown on big screens in The Oculus of the World Trade Center. A Clio Award, one of the most prestigious advertising awards, will be presented. This event was also featured in Time Magazine. Twelve of Mary's pieces were juried/selected, into this event. You can view this event at www.mvvoart.com.

Sean Mabin, owner/operator of Prama Artspace & Gallery, and Parma Alumni, is currently on exhibit at Toast Wine Bar, 1365 W. 65th St, in Gordon Square. This solo exhibit includes new work, old favorites of photography, and the Lotto series (drawings). Stop in, browse, enjoy a glass of wine.

Lena Simovic, of Lena Atomika Photography, and Parma resident is exhibiting at Worthington Yards Art Gallery, 725 Johnson Court, in Cleveland. The event is titled Art Made in the Shut Down. Admittance by appointment only, contact Liz Murgans, Director at yardsproject@gmail.com or call 216-570-0324. This exhibit runs through August 15, 2020. For more information go to www.yardsproject.com.

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Skilled Nursing · Rehabilitation · Long Term Care · Assisted Living



Five Star Overall Rating

by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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

Amenities and services:

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

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



Silver Recognition
Health Services Advisory Group



Eli Pick
Facility Leadership Award



Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

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