

“For it’s a long while from May to December, but the days grow short when you reach September” - Maxwell Anderson

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ParmaObserver

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

A Message From
The PCSD Superintendent

by Charles Smialek

We are excited to present to our voters this November a ballot issue that has the potential to dramatically renew the education we provide to our students and, in a larger sense, revitalize our three communities. If voters approve our construction bond issue, we will build two new secondary campuses (Grades 6-12) on the current sites of Normandy and Valley Forge and transform Parma Senior High School into a Community Educational and Wellness Center, in partnership with University Hospitals. The state of Ohio, through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), will contribute \$69 million toward the cost of these projects and the homeowners will contribute \$18.08 per month per \$100,000 of their property value.

We are building our informational efforts around three very critical entities. First, “Our Students.” Our students deserve the best possible learning environments and our current facilities do not provide the 21st century experience they deserve. Our new campuses will feature STEM learning labs that we will build in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College. Classrooms will be flexible learning spaces with the most up-to-date technology and Career Technology facilities will be upgraded to ensure that our students have the best tools to prepare them for entry into the workforce upon graduation.

Next, “Our Communities” and ALL residents will benefit from this investment. We all know that strong schools lead to strong communities and we have to be competitive with our neighboring districts who compete for the same young families that we want to attract as residents. Beyond this investment of property values, though, we are committed to using all of our new facilities as 18-hour, “Community Campuses.” The pool, gym, an elevated walking track, and the auditoriums at Parma Senior High School, specifically, will be open during the school day



for residents from our three communities. The east and west campuses will have evening hours for walking, just as we have already started in our current schools.

Finally, this is “Our Time.” Our youngest operating school opened during the Lyndon B Johnson administration. Our repair costs alone have tallied over \$5 million just in the last five years. Despite these best efforts, our facilities are not competitive with many in neighboring districts. The state of Ohio has invested over \$11 billion in new construction just since 2012; none of this has come to our three communities. The OFCC is committed to a \$69 million contribution to our project; this money will eventually go somewhere else if we do not seize this opportunity.

On November 3, our voters will have the opportunity to energize and rebuild our schools. Our Students deserve the best we can offer them, and Our Communities will benefit in many ways. It is Our Time!

Script Parma Picture Of The Month Contest



by Sean Brennan

Starting in September, I will be commencing the “Script Parma Picture of the Month Contest.” I lead the effort to bring the script Parma sign to our community in hopes of boosting com-

Seven Hills Creates Water Management Task Force

by Tony Biasiotta

Earlier this year my administration put together a Water Management Task Force. We felt that it was time to bring relevant people into one room to address, what in some cases, has been a decades long problem. This approach is consistent with how we have addressed important issues over the last few years; perform due diligence to identify the root issues and bring in subject matter experts to provide guidance.

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.

The committee was comprised of myself and the following members: Councilman John Kulju, Chief of Staff Kristin Saban, Service Director Jack Johnson, City Engineer Daniel Col-

lins, Assistant City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Scott Belz (Engineering consultant from AECOM) and Sewer Department representatives Sue Oyster and Mike Vano. West

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**Nathan Hale Retention Basin For Flood Remediation
One Step Closer To Construction**

by Mike Byrne

Parma Heights is now one step closer to the construction of a retention basin at Nathan Hale Park to help alleviate the flooding problem residents have been experiencing primarily in the area south of Pearl Road and west of York Road. After a long and complicated process that began in 2017 and involved administration, residents and community partners, the city has filed and

is awaiting approval of a comprehensive application required by the National Park Service before construction can begin. Funding for the project is in place by way of a \$1 million Community Infrastructure Grant from the Northeast Ohio Sewer District (NEORS).

The plan to build the basin has been a subject of negotiation between the National Park Service and the city over the past year. The park land

was deeded to the city in 1971 by the federal government for recreational purposes per a Program of Utilization (POU) which was submitted by the city at that time. The application is the final paperwork required to address the concerns the National Park Service has expressed with regard to the need to maintain the property for recreational activities while at the same time emphasizing the city’s need to address local flooding issues.

To prepare the extensive application, (which can be viewed on the city website www.parmaheightsoh.gov) the city retained the services of CT Consultants who reported that conditions have changed significantly since 1970 when Parma Heights originally submitted the POU for the park land. Examples of the changes include the fact that the city population never reached the 35,000 residents estimated in the original application and, because of changing interests over the years, participation in the city’s baseball program has decreased from 1,700 in

continued on page 2

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Medical Center Opens First Phase Of \$27.7 Million Surgery Renova-

by CJ Sheppard

Phase One of the largest construction project at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center in more than 30 years has been completed. A large modern addition to the front of the hospital and extensive renovation in existing space now houses the expansion of the Surgery Department. This phase includes five new operating rooms, three endoscopy suites and 30 private bays for pre-operative and post-operative care. The new section also has an expanded waiting room and a new discharge elevator for outpatients to bypass the hospital’s main lobby to exit the building.

“It’s so beautiful and spacious – I love it,” says one employee of \$27.5 million renovation and expansion of the Surgery Department. “It breathes life back into surgical services.” Added another: “The bays are perfect for the patients and provide privacy we never had before. The art work is beautiful and relaxing. I look forward to coming to my job.”

The \$27.5 million renovation and expansion of the Surgery Department was announced in early 2019 and is expected to be completed next year. Phase Two, which involves the complete renovation of half of the remaining operating rooms, has begun. In approximately six months, Phase Three to finish renovation of the

remaining old ORs will begin. The new operating rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art video integration and can accommodate the new robotic surgery program returning to UH Parma.

“This is a very complex project involving internal renovation and new construction, made even more complicated by the pandemic health crisis,” says Kathi O’Connor, Director of Operations at UH Parma, who oversees the project. “Our physicians and staff never missed a beat during this phase of construction. We are pleased to provide these fresh, modern and state of the art facilities for our patients and staff.”

A growing number of surgeons are coming to UH Parma Medical Center from numerous UH service lines and institutes. In addition to the general surgeons and gastroenterologists who will use these suites, the ORs experienced staff will work with surgeons in the Sports Medicine and Spine institutes for orthopedic surgeries, UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute for vascular and thoracic surgeries, UH Digestive Health Institute for bariatric surgeries, UH Eye Institute for eye procedures and UH Urology Institute urological cases.

In announcing the project early last year in his first week leading the 332-bed hospital, UH Parma President Brian Monter said: “This massive expansion and renovation of our entire

surgery department positions UH Parma Medical Center for long-term growth. We are determined to be a hospital that provides high-quality care, a hospital where doctors want to practice, patients want



to come and employees want to work.”UH Parma began construction in spring 2019 on a \$27.5 million expansion

Tri-C Western Campus Sets COVID-19 Testing Dates

by John Horton

Drive-thru and walk-up COVID-19 testing will be offered at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) during fall semester through a partnership with Care Alliance Health Center.

Testing will take place on three Thursdays — Sept. 10, Oct. 8 and Nov. 5 — for Tri-C students, faculty and staff, as well as community residents. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The program offers testing to individuals regardless of their symptom status, insurance status or ability to pay. Individuals will not be charged for the test.

No appointment is necessary, though individuals are asked to call 216-317-1250 to get pre-screened to expedite the process. Testing will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

Western Campus is located at



11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Testing will also be offered at three other Tri-C campuses — Eastern Campus in Highland Hills, Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland and Westshore Campus in Westlake. Visit tri-c.edu/covidtest for more information.

Individuals can also call to schedule testing appointments at the Care Alliance Central Clinic, located at 2916 Central Ave. in Cleveland.

Care Alliance is a nonprofit, federally qualified community health center providing comprehensive primary and preventative medical services to residents regardless of their ability to pay. It serves more than 16,000 Clevelanders each year.

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EDUCATION

Academic Awards: Parma, Seven Hills Students Receive Tri-C Honors Program Fellowships

by John Horton

Six high-achieving students from Parma Observer communities have been selected for Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Honors Program Fellowships, which offer scholarships to cover tuition, fees and books on the journey toward graduation.

Scholarship recipients include Emily Imars, David Martin, Brian Rossman and Zoe Staley of Parma and Logan Graham and Cassidy Zepernick of Seven Hills.

The students signed commitment letters with the College during a recent virtual ceremony. Each scholarship — funded by donors to the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation — is



valued at up to \$5,120 per academic year. The College’s seventh fellowship class features 54 students with at least a 3.5 GPA and outstanding ACT/SAT scores. By entering the scholarship pro-

gram, they commit to being full-time students, maintaining a high GPA and earning a degree from Tri-C within two years. This is the largest fellowship class

since Tri-C began the program. The previous high was 46 students in 2018.

“These gifted students chose to come here because they understand the power of a Tri-C education,” said Karen Miller, the College’s provost and chief academic officer. “I look forward to celebrating their success at Spring Commencement in 2022.”

The honors fellowship places special emphasis on academic planning, mentoring and portfolio building to reflect student work. Smaller honors class sizes also ensure specialized attention for students.

The program is designed to support eventual transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a bachelor’s and other advanced degrees. Previous Honors Program Fellows amassed numerous academic honors on their way to earning associate degrees from the College.

For information on the Honors Program Fellowship, including eligibility requirements, contact Rebecca Stolzman at 216-987-4713 or rebecca.stolzman@tri-c.edu.

Huntington Learning Center Launches New Program To Support Families With Virtual Schooling

by Barbra Estrada

The upcoming academic year looks very different for students and families from previous years, and Huntington Learning Center has developed additional resources to support families as they navigate the uncertain start to school this fall. Regardless of the environment and learning track parents choose for their children, Huntington is proud to offer a variety of programs and resources that will set students up for success, including its newly launched Huntington Study Hall program.

“At Huntington, we are working hard in real-time to evolve and elevate our programs to support students who have experienced a disruption in learning due to the pandemic,” said Anne Huntington, President of Huntington Learning Center. “As we have done for over 40 years, Huntington will continue to provide students with the best education possible no matter what situation comes our way.”

Today, Huntington is pleased to announce an exciting addition to our remote and in-person learning capabilities: Huntington Study Hall, a new

resource that offers students the opportunity to attend their virtual schools at an accredited Huntington Learning Center in a structured environment that is quiet and clean, with certified teachers on-hand to help with their studies throughout the day. Huntington Study Hall is also available online with certified teachers. Because each school district may require different formats, Huntington will offer flexible scheduling options to accommodate the needs of each student. Individualized tutoring and test prep programs are also available to complement Hun-

tington Study Hall.

Huntington offers skill building programs, subject-specific tutoring, test prep for the SAT, ACT, and state and standardized tests, Homework Help and Huntington Advantage programs,

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

A photograph of two elderly women with white hair, smiling and embracing each other. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored top, and the woman on the right is wearing a white top.

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PCSD Nutrition Services Kept Families Healthy this Spring, Summer



The Parma City School District Nutrition Services Department helped hundreds of families make sure food was on their tables this spring and summer.

When the coronavirus abruptly closed schools, Nutrition Services Supervisor Bob Gorman and his team stepped up to the challenge of making sure students didn't go hungry.

Each week since the middle of March, the Nutrition Services Department provided 1,450 children a week with seven breakfasts and seven lunches, or over 20,000 meals a week.

"By the time we start school on September 8, Nutrition Services will have served a half a million meals to the Parma community since the start of COVID-19 back in March," Gorman shared.

Any child ages 1 - 18 was eligible for the PCSD Emergency Feeding Program, which was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, or USDA.

Gorman made sure children received nutritious meals filled with fruit and vegetables and continued to partner with farmers and food producers to provide fresh, local foods in each pickup.

Fresh peaches from Quarry Hill Orchards, asparagus from Spice Headquarters, sweet corn from McMaster Farms, locally-made pierogies from Perla Pierogies and pizza kits from Dough Go's in Canton were just a few of the highlights.

PCSD also partnered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to offer families extra dairy and produce boxes during their pickups, with between 25 - 35 pounds of food in addition to the 14 meals per child.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank hosted two additional food distributions at Parma Senior High School in July and August. These distributions helped almost 2,000 Parma families!

There will be two more distributions from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank open to anyone!

Wednesday, October 7, 2020
2 PM - 4 PM
Parma Senior High School Back Bus Loop
6285 W 54th St, Parma, OH 44129

Wednesday, November 4, 2020
2 PM - 4 PM
Parma Senior High School Back Bus Loop
6285 W 54th St, Parma, OH 44129

Registration is required for Greater Cleveland Food Bank events. Please visit <http://register.clevelandfoodbank.org/> for more information.

The community support didn't end here. State Farm, GBU Financial and the Parma City Schools Foundation, Inc. made very generous donations to the program. Rookies Bar and Grill also helped support the cause.

The Kid's Book Bank Cleveland distributed over 2,000 age-appropriate books to all those who picked up food one week during the summer, as well.

"To me, the greatest thing that has come out of COVID-19 is how our local community has come together to help each other out," Gorman expressed. "We had over 75 volunteers that assisted us and put in countless hours of hard work in the extreme heat, rain and snow."

"I am so proud of my team to be able to come together and serve our community in this time of great need," he added. "Unfortunately, food insecurity is a real thing, even in Parma. Although it's been a lot of work, it has been an honor to work alongside the best staff in the state while serving the great community of Parma."

PCSD Students Ready for School Thanks to Successful 'Stuff The Bus'



Parma City School District's Transportation Department and Mario's Barber Shop came together once again to 'Stuff The Bus' with school supplies!

On August 5, 6 and 7, the community dropped off supplies to buses at Byers Field on Day Drive and Mario's Barber Shop at the corner of Broadview and Pleasant Valley.

Generous donations of backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, paper, scissors, glue, calculators and more filled up the seats of the buses to help students get ready for a great school year. In total, almost one whole bus was filled with supplies!

All supplies collected will directly benefit families in the Parma City School District. Mikael Price, Administrative Specialist for Community and Family Connections, said that all donated supplies will be sorted and delivered to each school. Schools can then distribute school supplies to students in need.

"This event is important because it helps our students and families eliminate any barriers that they could face when returning to school," Price explained. "This is a very vulnerable time, so anything that we can do as a district to help our families is something we will continue to do."

Stuff the Bus was made possible by the volunteers from the Transportation Department and Mario Barber Shop, and the support of our wonderful communities. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!

"The event turned out great," Price expressed. "We are so grateful to have such a supporting community who truly cares about our students and schools."

PCSD Dedicated to a Safe Start to School

The 2020-2021 school year is off to an unprecedented start. While PCSD students, teachers and staff are completely online, distance learning for the first 3 weeks, the district is working tirelessly to get the buildings ready for a safe start to in-person learning.

There will be large containers of hand sanitizer in each classroom of every school building as well as all common areas. In the hallways, there are hand sanitizing stations.

Cleaning and sanitizing supplies are available in every building. Every day is cleaning day and we are committed to making the building as clean and sanitized each day as possible.

In addition, the district received grant money to purchase Clorox Total 360 electrostatic disinfecting equipment. These machines spray an electrostatically-charged mist onto surfaces and objects. A specialized solution is atomized by an electrode inside the sprayer, so the positively-charged solution clings and coats to any surface that it is sprayed on. It will evenly coat surfaces and disinfect hard to reach places. These machines kills 99.9% of bacteria in 5 seconds and kills cold and flu viruses, MRSA and norovirus in 2 minutes or less, according to the Clorox website.

PCSD purchased disposable and reusable face masks for every student and staff member. We will require every student, K-12, to wear a face mask while on the bus and in the school building.

Students with medical excuses will not be required to wear a mask.

Schools will have no-contact thermometers to help check symptoms. PCSD encourages families to also monitor and check symptoms of their children before they come to school.

School clinics have been modified to include isolation rooms for students who do show symptoms as well as upgraded air filters.

The buildings will have floor and wall signs to promote social distancing and classrooms will also focus on social distancing. The district purchased extra individual desks and removed shared tables from rooms.

We can't wait to welcome our students and staff back to our buildings!



PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Inspiration

Parma Man Survives Pulmonary Embolisms Due To Daughter's Quick Action On Father's Day

by CJ Sheppard

Sudden loss of energy and shortness of breath set off alarm bells for Dale Kline. The Parma man, who works extremely long days as an award-winning food salesman, was used a busy life. He spent 38 years coaching basketball, soccer and baseball in Parma. But since the pandemic hit, the 60-year-old was spending more time sedentary as the vast majority of his business with party centers, restaurants and schools stalled. He noticed that he was getting winded doing yardwork. Though he smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, he could previously complete yardwork with no problem. In mid-June, Kline went to an urgent care and learned he was on the verge of pneumonia. He returned home to recover but was feeling increasingly worse. Wracked with chills and with a grayish pallor, he was shaky on his feet and had difficulty standing and walking. On Father's Day, his daughter insisted on bringing him to the Emergency Department at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. His daughter's insistence – and



Dale Kline of Parma, pictured here with two grandchildren, is grateful his daughter acted quickly and rushed him to UH Parma Medical Center. He survived pulmonary embolisms thanks to the expertise of UH Parma's critical care specialists.

his physician's expertise - saved his life. Kline was in the early stages of shock with extensive bilateral pulmonary embolisms when he arrived in the ED. A large clot, nearly two inches in diameter, was crossing the right atrium of his heart and was headed into his right ventricle and his lungs. Accord-

ing to CDC statistics, one-quarter of people with pulmonary embolisms die suddenly, without ever reaching the hospital. "If he was late even a few hours coming to the hospital, he would have been dead," says Abdulah AlGhamdi, MD, a critical care physician who also serves as Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit. "If

that intra-cardiac clot had moved, it would have killed him." Dr. AlGhamdi administered clot-busting TPA intravenously. Further tests found Kline also had extensive deep vein thrombosis (DVTs) in his left lower leg too. Kline was admitted to the ICU in a critical condition with a low blood pressure. He was on 100 percent high-flow oxygen to maintain his oxygen levels within a normal range until his clots dissolved. Before discharge, Dr. AlGhamdi made Kline promise he would continue to take his blood thinner the rest of his life. "Pulmonary embolism symptoms can be very subtle and can often be presumed to be something else," Dr. AlGhamdi said. Kline is grateful to have survived this medical ordeal and happy to be back to work with Sysco, where he recently celebrated 30 years as a top salesman. He has a message for anyone else who might have a pulmonary embolism lurking in their body. "If you were an active person, and due to COVID you've become sedentary, go get checked out," he said.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Anything parents can do to minimize procrastination in the children will reap great dividends in their later years. As the family weakens, so does the vertical transmission of family values. This promotes the horizontal transmission of values of the culture. Blamers point the finger at someone else or thing for their own problems. It is so popular because it temporarily liberates them but does not get to the root of the problem. Exercise will keep our energy level high, strengthen our immunity, improve our mood, and reduce the effects of negative stress, to name a few benefits. I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. If we would use the power that God gives us to see ourselves as others see us, it would free us from many a blunder and foolish notion. Investing our minds and our interests as we would our money in worthwhile activities will generate long-term divi-

dends. It is inborn for people to appeal to a standard of behavior, which they expect from others who also understand and follow. Most people are unaware of the connection between their state of mind and their circumstances that eventually causes them to settle for far less than their God-given best. The only way to eliminate negative or counter-productive thoughts is to replace them with positive, empowering thoughts. Treat people as they are and they will remain that way. Treat them as they could be and they may become as they could be. We should not allow other people or things to determine our frame of mind. Each person is personally responsible for this. We will gradually adopt the habits, attitudes, and mannerisms of the people with whom we spend a lot of time. 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
www.holyfamparma.org
- Parma Christian Church**
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Neighborhoods

Caldwell Earns Basketball Coach Of The Year

by Carolyn Kovach

Rich Caldwell had to patiently wait for Parma City Council and the Mayor to honor him with the 2019-2020 Youth Basketball Coach of the Year. He would have received the award in early spring, but when Gov. Mike DeWine shut down Ohio, public attendance at council meetings stopped and so did recognition for outstanding coaches and citizens. Fast forward to Aug. 3, and Coach Caldwell finally got his moment during a Parma City Council Monday evening meeting. It wasn't quite the same as it would have been back in March. Everyone was wearing masks. Council representatives and a small group of citizens, including Caldwell's family members and some of the players he coached this past winter, were spread throughout the chamber. But for the Dartmouth Drive resident, whose eyes beamed with enthusiasm over a mask that concealed a smile, he did not seem to mind



Parma Clerk of Council Ken Ramser presents Coach Rich Caldwell with a proclamation and resolution



Coach Rich Caldwell holds up the signed T-shirt his Rockets players gifted him.

the change in protocol. Caldwell received the recognition for being a role model to the "Rockets" 5th and 6th grade leagues he coached for the Parma Recreation Department's Youth Basketball. He provided posi-

tive encouragement and feedback for his teams, rotated players on the court so they would learn new positions and scheduled fun team gatherings for the players and their families. He was also well organized and kept parents and players regularly informed about schedule changes. He moved to Parma from the West Coast after meeting his wife, Stephanie. They are busy parents with four children: Tori, 24; Kyra, 15; Mason, 11; and Jared, 9. Caldwell works at GES AGM, a local graphite manufacturer that occupies the former GrafTech building.

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PERSPECTIVE

The Great American Road Trip

by Lee Kamps

As the summer winds down into autumn and the political season heats up toward the November election; this year has brought back an iconic American tradition, the road trip. Whether it is just a day trip locally, a weekend trip or a longer excursion to some place in another part of the country, the road trip is an American institution that has gained favor in this year of the COVID pandemic.

I come from a family where road trips were taken all the time. It must be in my genes. I remember my grandparents taking a road trip from Cleveland to Yellowstone National Park in a 1955 Chevy back around 1955. I also remember my parents taking the family on road trips to Niagara Falls and across Ohio to Cincinnati back in the 1950s when I was a child.

Travelling then was primitive compared to today. There were no interstate highways, no air-conditioned cars and only an AM radio. It was just as hot in the summer then as

it is now, but we managed. Motels were also bare bones, few had air conditioning and the rooms were crowded. Our entire family would be in a small room with two double beds. My parents would sleep in one bed and I would share the other bed with my brother. My sister got a roll away bed that we managed to squeeze into the room. We had one bathroom and had to take our turns in it. But we all managed. Every summer, my father would pack up the family car and head out for a vacation.

In the summer or 1965, when I was in high school, my family took the ultimate road trip. We took a three-and-a-half-week trip to the Rocky Mountains from Parma. We had a 1965 Chevy station wagon and my father built a car top carrier. That car was a behemoth. My father believed that power steering and power brakes were for women as well as automatic transmission. I learned how to drive on that car and a friend of my father told me that when I passed my driver's test in that car, I could get a job as a truck driver.

My father had discovered the joys of family camping and had a huge tent that could sleep the entire family. It weighed about 75 pounds dry and more when wet. It had six side poles, two center poles and a three-piece ridge pole, plenty of stakes and rope to put it up. But we knew how to put it up and take it down. When we would pull into a campground, it would only take 15 minutes or so for my father, brother and me to put up the tent. While us men were putting up the tent, my mother and sister were getting the camp kitchen set up. On that road trip, we stayed in motels and camped.

My father was a sergeant during the Second World War and that came in handy on our trips. He would have us pack the car on a Friday night so we could get rolling bright and early on Saturday morning. Then as soon as the sun rose, he was banging pots and pans ordering us to get out of bed and get rolling. He wanted to get going early before it heated up too much. In the car my parents sat up front and us children sat in the back seat. My brother and I got the window seats and my sister, who was the youngest, sat in the middle. Even though I was 16 years old, my father insisted on doing all the driving on that trip.

We passed through several states on the way. The first day we got as far as 40 miles east of St. Louis. We drove through the Missouri Ozarks and into Oklahoma where my father wanted to show us where he spent most of the war at Enid Air Force Base. Then he met up with an old war buddy in Oklahoma City. From there we headed west across the panhandle and through Amarillo Texas into New Mexico.



A picture of me on that trip in 1965. I was 16 at the time.

That is where on a lonely road in the middle of nowhere we had a flat tire. Between my father, my brother and myself, we quickly changed the tire. But to do that we had to unload the car and put everything back in again. Then we visited the “original” Las Vegas in New Mexico to have the tire repaired.

Then it was on to our destination; the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimmaron New Mexico where we spent the next week. My brother and I went joined a group of other boys and spent seven days and seven nights backpacking in the Rocky Mountains. After we came down, I got to ride in a rodeo there. It wasn't anything fancy, just some riding and roping.

After that we toured through the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico and Colorado for another two weeks before coming home through Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

Abby & Jay Boutique Offers French Inspired Fashion In Parma



Abby & Jay Boutique (5957 State Road)

by Kathie Zipp

Abigail Kennedy has had a passion for fashion for her entire life. Originally from Southern France, Kennedy always attended fashion shows that inspired her to start an online business. When she moved to Parma in 2018, she decided to open a boutique.

“I wanted to bring a fun boutique to Parma where people can come shop and talk fashion,” she says.

Kennedy says Abby & Jay Boutique (5957 State Road) provides quality, unique pieces that you can't find anywhere else.

“I bring my sense of style to my boutique,” she says. “We try to offer something for everyone, not only women's clothing but also home goods, vintage clothing and items, accessories and jewelry.”

Kennedy says the Parma community has been very supportive of her business.

“Most of our shoppers are referrals,” she says. “The community has been incredible.”

Abby & Jay also offers online shopping at abbyandjayboutique.com.

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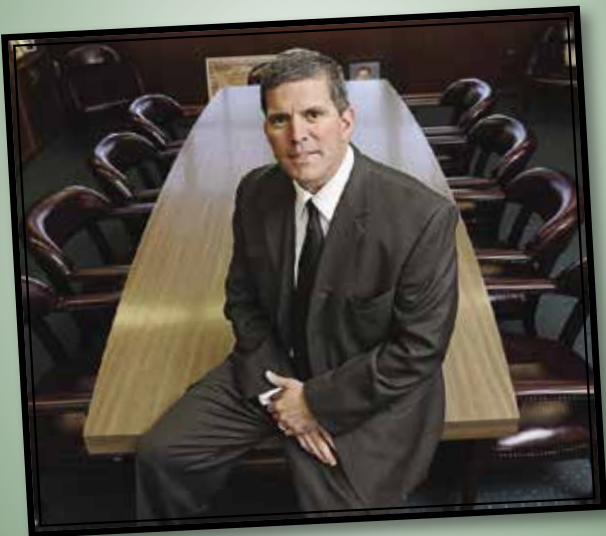
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PERSPECTIVE

Two New Restaurants Open In Parma



Parma residents can enjoy Sugar Shack Creamery's tropical and unusual combo flavors of ice cream, Dole Whip and shaved ice.
by Carolyn Kovach

Two new restaurants opened in Parma this summer, offering assuring news for the local restaurant market. “Seeing two new restaurants open in Parma this summer is positive news as our local economy slowly rebounds. It is a good sign,” said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. “From Philly cheesesteaks to tropical-inspired treats, we’re seeing more variety and flavors in our food offerings, and I’m confident Parma residents will enjoy these additions.”

Jim Mataich, who previously owned a jewelry business in Parma, recently opened the Sugar Shack Creamery at the former Dunkin’ Donuts on the corner of Pearl and Snow

roads. The creamery sells 34 flavors of hard ice cream, 40 flavors of Hawaiian shaved ice and various flavors of non-dairy Dole Whip – originally a Dole pineapple creamy soft-serve made famous at Disney theme parks. From the hard ice cream side of the menu, Mataich favors Perry’s Ice Cream and the Chocolate Factory. He does not shy away from unusual combo-flavors and quirky names such as Heaps of Love, Sticks & Stones and Kitty Kitty Bang Bang. Sugar Shack offers takeout and outdoor seating. Mataich reports that he has been busy since day one and is opening a second creamery in Gordon Square, Cleveland, that will also serve coffee.



Charleys Philly Steaks & Wings' new employees hold cards that list the restaurant's mission and vision statements, as well as the company's seven employment promises.

On Aug. 26, Charleys Philly Steaks & Wings opened a restaurant in the former pizza shop that is located next to Starbucks on the corner of Ridge Road and Day Drive. “We’re excited to expand further into the Cleveland Metro area with this new location, particularly due to Ohio being our brand’s home state,” Franchise Owner George Shenouda said.

Founded in Columbus, the fast-casual restaurant has been serving chicken and beef Philly cheesesteak sandwiches served with fresh grilled-to-order toppings since 1986. The

restaurant is also known for its loaded fries and real-fruit lemonades. In 2017, Charleys expanded its menu to include traditional and boneless chicken wings served with 10 flavors ranging from Angry Ghost and Nashville Hot to milder options such as Zesty Lemon-Lime Rub and Sweet Teriyaki. In addition to in-store dining, the restaurant is offering online ordering and third-party delivery, as well as its newly launched mobile app and rewards program. Charleys boasts 600 locations in 47 states and 16 countries.

Ace Hardware Coming To The Shoppes At Parma

by Carolyn Kovach

Ace of Parma, “the helpful place hardware store,” is scheduled to open in the former A.C. Moore store location at The Shoppes at Parma in December

2020. The store at the West Ridgewood Drive shopping development will span 18,000 square feet and stock numerous product lines for the home and garden. This is the first Ace franchise in Parma. “Ace is committed to providing home maintenance solutions, neighborly advice and resources to Parma residents,” said David Mott, who is managing the Mott family-owned Ace of Parma. “We’re excited to be part of the community, and we look forward to making a positive impact for many years to come.”

Erik Tollerup, Parma community services director, said, “A hardware store has been the second most-requested business for the city to attract. We’re excited to have those requests now answered.”



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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in Greater Cleveland:

For information re the current status of HT, check out the following.... Trafficking in Persons 2020 Report, www.state.gov to access the report itself and <https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-06-29/us-report-shows-big-strides-human-trafficking-advocates-say-message-misleading> , one of several commentaries about the validity of ratings.

And this report by the Polaris Project Resources “Crisis in Human Trafficking During the Pandemic: A Snapshot: April 2020” at <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Crisis-in-Human-Trafficking-During-the-Pandemic.pdf>. This PDF presents an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on human trafficking and suggests policy recommendations.

From Cleveland Rape Crises Center: Interested in helping survivors of sexual abuse? Consider registering for one of their free, virtual Ambassador Training workshops being scheduled this month and next. Go here for details.

Time is getting short. 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. Your donation, up to \$500 will be matched if you go there now.

Connecting For Kids: Just recently became aware of this organization. Would STRONGLY recommend a visit to its web site.“Our mission is to provide education and support to families in Northeast Ohio who have concerns about their child. We serve all families, including those children with and without formal diagnoses. Our families: a) have a child younger than 13 years of age, b) live in Cuyahoga or Lorain County, and c) have a concern about their child. Resources are available for concerns including anxiety, attention issues, developmental delays, epilepsy, and sensory issues. Help is also available for families whose children are having difficulty making friends, struggling academically or facing a major life change such as parents divorcing. No concern is too big or too small.”

From Islamic Center of Cleveland (6055 W. 130th St., Parma):

Monthly Food Pantry (normally held 10:30 to 12:30 pm the 1st Saturday of each month)....Due to Labor Day weekend the Cleveland Food Bank will not be delivering in September. We will be back to our normal schedule of the first Saturday in October (10/03/2020). We have been also trying our best to add on staple items like oil, sugar, condiments whenever we have the funds. As a reminder, the pantry is for low income families. Federal income guidelines apply. Please bring ID & your own bags/carts. If you would like to help as a volunteer, call Sr. Ameena at 440.552.2190.

Ibn Sina Free Health Clinic...The clinic has been providing telemedicine for the past 5 months. However, they have reopened as of Saturday, August 15 for patients visits adhering to strict COVID-19 protocol to deliver quality care. Telemedicine will continue to be available for patients. Their number is (440) 644-0511 for anyone who would like to make an appointment.

From The Ohio Dept of Insurance July E-newsletter....With open enrollment for health insurance coming up in a few months I thought that perhaps this excerpt w/reference links would be of value to you and/or the clients many of you serve. “When choosing a health plan, it's important to consider the differences between options. Some plans

provide more generous coverage, while others could leave a person responsible for high medical bills. The NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) provides many tools to assist you in learning which health plans best meet your needs. They include Questions to Ask and the NAIC Health Insurance Shopping tool.”

From Parma City Schools:

Visit the District’s web site for current re-opening information to include: Distance Learning & Schedules, Device Pickup Info & Athletics Info.

Re: PCSD Parent Academy.... Each Tuesday, for the four weeks lead-
Read the rest of this article online at: prmaobserver.com

Seven Hills Creates Water Management Task Force

continued from page 1

Creek Conservancy’s Pete Bode contributed as a technical adviser.

We synergized our efforts with other agencies, such as the NEORSD, West Creek Conservancy, Cuyahoga County Public Works and others.

The committee has made recommendations on the following major components of the City’s 55+ year old sewer and drainage system.

Preventive maintenance of the City’s storm and sanitary sewers

Rehabilitation of the City’s storm water control measures

Improve / repair the City’s existing storm and sanitary sewers

Address public and private property infiltration and outflow (I/I, cross-connection) issues

Included in our overall plan is Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s (NEORSD) Hemlock Creek Bank Stabilization Project. This \$4

million project is designed to improve stream function and create a natural floodplain that will help divert water flow during large rain events. {insert picture}.

Additionally, the committee created the framework for public education platforms, potential partnerships and researched funding / economic assistance programs that will be essential in carrying out our mission.

The full list of the committee’s findings to date and a video of the committee presenting our finding to Seven Hills Council’s Public Works Committee can be found at:

<http://www.sevenhillsohio.org/en-US/water-management-task-force-2020.aspx>

The presentation is just the start of what will be our on-going efforts to remediate this long-standing issue. That said, I believe we have established a good blueprint to follow going forward.





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PARMA ART SCENE

Prama Artspace & Gallery

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery located at 5411 Pearl Road.- Now through September 19th – George Kocar, well known Cleveland based artist is on exhibit. 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 showing.

September 25th is the opening of the Cecelia Ivy Price & Linda Mayer Exhibit. Both have been featured in regional and national exhibits and won numerous awards. Cecelia is a Buffalo, N.Y. native, former art teacher and therapist, now in the process of obtaining her masters degree Art Education at Case Western Reserve University. Linda is a local high school art educator and artist.

Just in time for Halloween, the Images of Haunted Ohio Exhibit opens October 23 and will feature photographs from around haunted locations in Ohio.

This 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.

Masks are required, and capacity is limited. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 2 PM to 7 PM.

Lena Simovic, of Lena Atomika Photography, and a Parma resident is exhibiting at Worthington Yards Art Gallery, 725 Johnson Court, in Cleveland. “Women Picturing Cleveland” is an all-female exhibit opening September 12th (12-4:00), and by appointment only. Contact Liz Maugans, Director at yardsproject@gmail.com or call 216-570-0324. For more information go to www.yardsproject.com.

Mary Ford, Parma resident, answered the international call for artists for the MvVO Ad show in New York City. September 2020: MvVO ART once again brings contemporary art to the monumental screens at the Oculus at the Westfield World Trade Center. The art will be displayed on the monumental screens and online on September 1st. through September 30th. The virtual opening will be hosted by Project Runway’s Brandon Maxwell and is sponsored by NBCUniversal. Twelve of Mary’s pieces were juried/selected, into this event that features 135 contemporary artists works. The winning artist will receive a creative day at NBCUniversal, expert art consultation, and a specialty Clio Award.



By Linda Mayer

=Laura D’Alessandro, Co-Curator of Prama Artspace & Gallery, artist and photographer, catylast for 2019 Cleveland Photo Fest, is currently exhibiting her work in a solo exhibition titled “Creatures in Quarantine”at Doubting Thomas Gallery, 856 Jefferson Ave. in Tremont, featuring magical and intense moments from her experiences during the pandemic. In addition she will be in the “Women Picturing Cleveland” opening September 12, 2020 at Worthington Yards Gallery, 725 John-

son Court in Cleveland.

Michelle Behal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, and is the owner and operator of Bear Tracks Art. You will find her items at Ohio Artisan Collective at Aurora Farms grand opening August 28 through September 30. Bear Tracks Art can also be found at The Rift Shop in Olmsted Falls. Her works include pyrography (wood burning), acrylic painting, pen & ink, and calligraphy. To view her work go to www.beartracksart.com.



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