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

# Parma Observer Is 11 Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Few of those alive today will not agree that 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging, frustrating and surprising years in any memory, we all most fervently hope. Lots of changes have occurred this year that may very well stay with us and become part of our way of living from now on. During these turbulent and unsettling times, The Parma Observer has been able to continue publishing thanks to all of our community partners

who make that possible, from our advertisers, staff members, and all of the fabulous people who do one extraordinary thing after another as they add their own love, efforts and magic to the mix.

Our community is experiencing an unprecedented set of circumstances during the pandemic, as are communities all around our county, state, nation, and indeed the rest of the planet. No one planned for what has turned out to be a long haul of enduring the

economic impact, the stress of social distancing, and the political upheaval brought on by the rapid spread of a virus 100 times smaller than a bacteria. We've learned, the hard way unfortunately, that preparing for the future means a whole lot more than we may have thought before all of this occurred.

I firmly believe that in the times ahead, once the shock subsides sufficiently, we will have the ability to realize new priorities as communities make plans and devise procedural strategy when it comes to wisely navigating the path of wellness, safety and operational functions. I also am convinced that strongly needed guidance and competent leadership will come to the forefront and be supported by citizens for what will prove to be best solutions for

continued on page 12



# of our community partners a long haul of enduring the priorities as communities

# **Vote Yes On Seven Hills Issue 41**

by Bob Wrobel

Issue 41 will ask Seven Hills voters to approve, or not, a proposed 1.4 mil "additional tax" for the purpose of parks and recreation. This tax will provide a continuing revenue stream essential for the operations, upkeep, and improvements to our six parks and our Community Recreation Center, as well as for recreational programs.

When I was chairman of City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee I saw the need for such a dedicated revenue stream. While the Community Recreation Cen-

Per S100,000 valuation	Expiring Recreation Center Bond Levy	Issue 41 - Parks & Recreation Levy	% Reduction
Millage	1.65	1.40	
Annual Tax	\$57.75	\$49.00	(15.2%)
Less Homestead Exemption (if applicable)	12.5%	0%	
Annual Tax (Less Homestead Exemption)	\$50.53	\$49.00	(3.0%)

ter generated revenue from memberships, fees, and rentals, its expenses were still appropriated from the General Fund. As for our six parks, budgets usually only allowed for only basic maintenance, with money again appropriated from the General Fund.

Here are some things I'd

like you to know about Issue 41:

The term "additional tax" may be confusing for some of you. The proposed millage is actually a new tax since there is currently no tax specifically for the purpose of parks and recreation.

continuedon page 14

# **Script Parma October**



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Dylan Forbes who will receive a gift card courtesy of Rookies Sports Bar and Grill, as well as a free car wash courtesy of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@msn.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

# **Issue 73:** Our Students. Our Communities. Our Time.

by Charles Smialek

We have welcomed our students back to school through both distance and in-person learning as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. We hope that our communities continue to become healthier so that we can return to the closest version of "normal" that we will be able to create as we emerge from our COVID era!

Issue 73 Builds New Schools and Community Center for Residents

We are also excited to present Issue 73 to our community. Passage of Issue 73 will allow us to consolidate our secondary campuses from six to two, right-sizing the district for generations to come. If the communities support Issue 73, we will:

Build two new secondary



campuses at the Normandy and Valley Forge sites, each with one school for grades 6-8 and one for 9-12

Transform Parma Senior High School into a Community Educational and Wellness Center with recreational and arts facilities open for community use

Expand our existing partnerships with Cuyahoga

Community College, for construction of a STEM lab, and University Hospitals, for a wellness hub

Save over \$1 Million in operating costs per year through consolidation of our campuses

Take advantage of a \$69 million Ohio Facilities Construction Commission contribution You Spoke. We Listened.

We formed our Master Plan through 24 community meetings during 2019 and we are now hopeful for voter support. Our youngest operating school, Normandy, opened during the Lyndon Johnson administration. Maintenance of our aging facilities increases every year; we have spent \$5.4 million since 2015 alone simply to keep our schools warm, safe and dry. In recent years, the state has invested \$12.1 billion in the construction of new

schools, none of it in Parma. It's our time to reinvest in our students, providing the same new technology and updated environments that their peers in neighboring communities enjoy. It's our time to invest in our communities, keeping them desirable places to start and raise families. And, it's our time to claim our share of the OFCC funding that has gone elsewhere for decades. We hope you will consider Issue 73 on November 3, 2020!

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

As of this writing over 203,000 Americans have died due to complications from corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Sadly, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 53,402 American soldiers died in World War I, 33,739 in the Korean War, 47,434 in the Vietnam War, 148 in the Persian Gulf War, 3,528 in Iraq between 2003 and 2011, and 1,833 in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014. Further, 2,605 Americans died on September 11, 2001. Thus far, over 7,000,000 cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the U.S., including friends of mine. Recently, I interviewed one of those friends on the condition of anonymity about his experience for this story.

A seasonal allergy sufferer, my friend's COVID journey began with the dry throat and cough he gets a couple of times a year. "However, my cough soon turned into a constant hack with a lot of phlegm. On the third night I awoke at 3:00 am like a hammer had hit me," he explained. "The splitting headache, queasiness, and loss of taste and smell, convinced me that I had COVID," he added. After several frustrating days of seeking a test and awaiting the results, it was confirmed. His doctor suggested



rest, staying hydrated, and Tylenol, which he did for eight days in July.

"It was the worst illness I have ever had. At times it got so bad I honestly thought I might die. Taking a shower and getting out was a chore I was so weak, I went from hot sweats to cold chills, and, at times, I had feelings of confusion. It was relentless, it was scary, it was a monster that would not let up," my friend shared.

Luckily, he recovered, albeit slowly and ten pounds lighter. However, he still complains that his smell is not 100% and he gets strange tastes in his mouth on How to wear a face mask correctly



occasion. His advice? "Take this seriously. Wear a mask. Stop politicizing it. I have had the flu - this is not 'the flu'," he said emphatically.

As we wrapped up our talk, we both came to the same conclusion: wearing a mask is a simple, noninvasive thing we can all do to show that we care about one another. Further, not wearing a mask is simply not worth the risk of passing COVID to others. If we want to get back to normal, we all need to do our part. Compared to the sacrifices made during many wars throughout our nation's history, wearing a mask is a very small gesture. God forbid one us have the virus and not know it, then pass it to another who becomes ill or worse. In short, it cannot hurt and may be helping.

To find the facts about COVID-19 visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www. cdc.gov and the Ohio Department of Health at odh.ohio.gov. I am praying for your health and safety Parma. Don't forget to fall back an hour on Sunday, November 1 and vote on Tuesday, November 3. The polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm.



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# **Cash Mob Ends**

by Kathryn Mabin

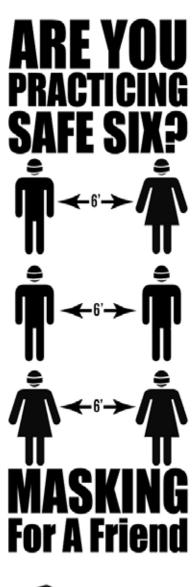
By the time you read this article Polish Village's Covid-19 Cash Mob will have ended. If you didn't participate you'll be sorry you didn't. During the three month long promotion of businesses participating, nineteen prizes were awarded to customers, eighteen prizes ranging in value from \$100 to \$250 a month for the three months, plus the grand prize valued at \$500. Wow! A \$10 purchase got you an entry ticket. Lots of great prizes!

So, why did the nonprofit Polish Village Parma do this? Their belief is when the small neighborhood businesses thrive so does the neighborhood. During the health crisis these small local businesses were forced to shut down. They lost more than a fourth of their annual income. The reopening of businesses with restrictions in place, social distancing and the additional cost of sanitizing, continues to effect their business. Cash Mob was a unique way to welcome back existing customers and aquatint new ones to Parma Ward 2/Polish Village's small businesses

This unique initiative was funded by a grant and a donation received by the nonprofit Polish Village Parma, Inc. It cost the businesses nothing to participate. Quotes from businesses that participated were all positive. "It was a Godsend!" "Brilliant!" and "Thank you for all you do!" Many are still struggling, but they feel more confident now that they will survive. It was a win win situation for both customers and businesses alike.

This nonprofit consists of residents and interested parties working together with local businesses and Councilwoman Debbie Lime to create a better neighborhood to live and raise a family. It's a real grass roots group. The nonprofit hopes to bring more innovative initiatives to the neighborhood in the upcoming months. If you are interested in assisting with upcoming events contact them through Facebook for details. Follow Polish Village on Facebook.







### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

UH Parma Medical Center's Newly Renovated Surgery Department

# Welcomes Arrival Of The Da Vinci Xi Robot

by CJ Sheppard

A high-tech robot is the latest complement to the \$27.5 million renovation of the Surgery Department at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, providing surgeons in various specialties an exciting opportunity to utilize the latest-generation surgical technology for superior patient outcomes.

"I am so pleased that we have brought the latest daVinci robot to UH Parma Medical Center," says President Brian Monter. "Along with the ongoing \$27.5 million renovation of our Surgery Department, robotic surgery enhances our capabilities and ensures that our surgeons have the most modern, cutting-edge equipment and facilities to provide world- class care to our patients."

The da Vinci Xi® surgical system enhances surgical performance by creating a natural extension of the surgeon's eyes and hands. Previously in laparoscopic surgery, the surgeon would view the case on a monitor while manipulating the surgical instruments with his hands standing at the operating table. In robotic surgery, the arms of the robot are positioned over the patient, and the surgeon controls the robot's arms while sitting at a control console. This advanced surgical system can be used for a minimally invasive surgical approach to complex diseases and conditions in urology, thoracic,



cardiac, colorectal, gynecology and general surgery.

General surgeon Richard Ungvarsky, MD, who has extensive experience with robotic surgery, performed the first operation this month on the latest generation of the daVinci system. The

full articulation of the controls allows the surgeon to move the instruments not only up and down, as in traditional laparoscopic surgery, but to move them sideways and completely rotate them, reaching tight spaces in the abdomen.

Bariatric surgeon Mujjahid

Abbas, MD, FACS, FASMBS, will perform bariatric weight loss surgery and anti-reflux procedures utilizing this modern technology, which provides broader anatomical access. He says he's excited to offer his patients the latest in 3D HD. The three dimensional image allows better visualization and helps the surgeon perform the operations with greater precision.

Thoracic surgeon Christopher Towe, MD, notes that surgery performed with the robot is associated with shorter hospital stays and improved patient experience.

"The robotic platform will offer an exciting opportunity for minimally invasive surgery to patients at UH Parma," says Dr. Towe, who will utilize

continued on page 6

# **COVID-19 Testing At Tri-C Western Campus On Oct. 8**

by John Horton

Drive-thru and walk-up COVID-19 testing will be offered Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) through a partnership with Care Alliance Health Center.

Testing will take place 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is available to Tri-C students, faculty and staff, as well as community residents. Testing will rotate between Tri-C campuses every Thursday

through Nov. 19.

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. Testing will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma.

Visit tri-c.edu/covidtest or call

216-317-1250 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

The Power of Education:

### **The Illuminating Company Hires Local Graduates Of Power Systems Institute At Tri-C**

by John Horton

Four residents of Parma and Seven Hills have been hired by The Illuminating Company after graduating from its utility worker training program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-

The new hires include Ryan Juszczyk, Adam Polivka and Anthony Thielman of Parma; and Gino Barsotti of Seven Hills.

They were among 24 graduates in the fourth class since FirstEnergy Corp. reinstituted the award-winning Power Systems Institute (PSI) training program at Tri-C in 2014. The Illuminating Company is a subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

The two-year program combines hands-on utility skills training at an Illuminating Company facility in Brooklyn with technical coursework taught in Tri-C classrooms. Graduates earn an Associate of Technical Studies degree with a focus on electric power utility technology.

The program is a partnership between the College and The Illuminating Company that reflects the utility's ongoing efforts to enhance service reliability for Northeast Ohio customers.

"Our PSI program develops topquality, well-educated men and women for the electric utility industry," said Mark A. Jones, regional president of

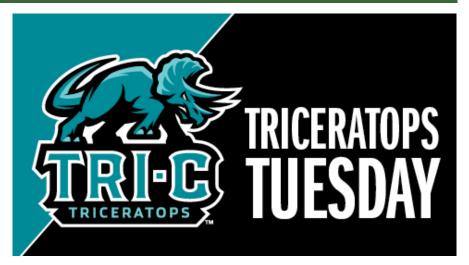


The Illuminating Company. "We look forward to these graduates joining our workforce to help continue providing safe and reliable electric service for our customers."

FirstEnergy introduced the PSI in 2000 to prepare the company's next generation of utility line and substation workers. Programs were established at colleges throughout the company's sixstate service area, including Tri-C.

Since the program's inception, FirstEnergy has hired more than 2,000 line and substation personnel who completed PSI programs in Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

For information on the program, visit firstenergycorp.com/psi or call 800-829-6801.



# **Tri-C Western Campus** Hosts 'Triceratops Tuesday' Enrollment Event

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will extend hours during a special enrollment event Oct. 13 at Western Campus to help students register for an upcoming eightweek session of fall classes.

Triceratops Tuesday will take place from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. that day at the Parma campus. The sessions offer opportunities to meet with academic counselors and visit enrollment and financial aid offices to solidify a class schedule. Campus bookstores also will be open.

Fall semester's second eightweek session begins Oct. 19.

Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Other Tri-C locations hosting Triceratops Tuesday include:

Brunswick University Center, 3605 Center Road in Brunswick

Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills

Metropolitan Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland

Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake

Visit tri-c.edu/triceratopstuesday or call 216-987-6000 for more information.

Can't make it to campus? Take advantage of Tri-C's virtual services to enroll or get answers to your questions. Visit tri-c.edu/livechat to start a conversation.



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**#PCSDProud** 

### PCSD Career and Technical Education Programs Excel on State Report Card



It's no secret that Parma City School District has high-quality educational opportunities and top-notch programs to help every student achieve their academic and career goals.

PCSD's Career and Technical Education programs continue to excel in preparing students for success and received high marks on the Ohio Department of Education State Report Card in 2020.

Report cards look a little different this year, as there are no letter grades, but Career Tech increased in four major components as compared to last year.

In Technical Skill Attainment, 92.9% of 2020 graduates in CTE programs

passed their certification and web exams. These assessments measure the skills and knowledge students learned in their career tech program. PCSD had a 99.2% participation rate of 2020 students who took these assessments. Last year, 88.1% of 2019 graduates passed their certifications and exams.

Post Program Placement measures students from career tech programs who are employed, in an apprenticeship, joined the military or enrolled in post-secondary education six months after leaving high school. 97.7% of the Class of 2019 CTE graduates fall into one of these categories, compared to 97.4% of the Class of 2018 CTE graduates.

Both four-year and five-year career tech graduation rates increased in the PCSD. CTE received 97.4% four-year graduation rate and 96.1% five-year graduation rate. On last year's report card, the four-year graduation rate was at 90.3% and the five-year graduation rate was at 95.7%.

For Career and Post-Secondary Readiness, which measures how well career tech students are prepared for higher education or career after graduation, CTE received 83.7% on this year's report card, as compared to 73.9% last year.

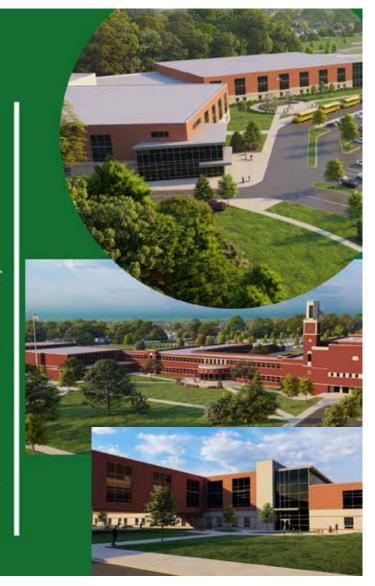
"I am really proud of our results this year," expressed Kristen Plageman, PCSD's Director of Strategic Initiatives, which includes Career and Technical Education. "We increased in all measurements from 2019 to the 2020 report card, despite having a crazy fourth quarter last school year."

"Even with the challenges last school year, we were still able to provide every CTE student with a chance to earn certifications," she added. "Technical Skill Attainment is something I always look at and we went up over four percentage points. We are always setting the bar high and our students and teachers exceeded expectations. We have very dedicated teachers and the students were very determined to succeed."

# **ISSUE 73**

### **Fast Facts**

- New construction bond issue
- If passed, PCSD will construct two new secondary campuses at the current Normandy and Valley Forge sites and a community educational and wellness center at Parma Senior High
- Each campus will be two separate schools, a middle school and a high school (Grades 6 - 12), under one roof
- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) will contribute \$69 million to this project
- Issue 73 will cost homeowners \$18.96 per month per \$100,000 of property value
- The newest building in the PCSD opened during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration (1968)



PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# Inspiration



#### # Meet Me In Parma:

### **City Visitor's Guide Moving Forward**

by Chris Leo

As Cleveland's largest suburb, Parma has so much to appreciate and enjoy. Knowing this, last year, City Treasurer Tom Mastroianni suggested that We Are Parma Proud produce a Visitor's Guide that would showcase the very best that the city has to offer. This resource would show the world beyond our city limits why Parma is so appealing, and it could become our premier promotional piece year after year after year.

With the NFL Draft (hopefully) coming to Cleveland in the spring, and the NBA All-Star Game arriving in 2022, we recognize a perfect opportunity to truly put Parma "on the map." And so, earlier this year, we began working on # Meet Me in Parma: A Visitor's Guide for Cleveland's Largest Suburb. This guide--which will boast both a hard-copy booklet and an interactive, digital platform--aims to become the first, best, and most comprehensive resource that visitors will use when looking for attractions and

planning a trip to Parma.

We have partnered with the award-winning, Akron-based firm Lunar Cow (https://lunarcow.com/) and we're especially excited about the digital component of this project. Not only will it feature links to websites and Facebook pages, but it will also include the patented iMap: a mobile, interactive guide and trip planner customized to highlight specific interest points.

With the chance to reach an untold number of people throughout the next year, many business and organizational leaders have already seen the value in making sure that their names and brands appear in this guide. After all, exposure in a "hard copy" booklet and in an online vehicle that will exist for a full year is an amazing opportunity for our Parma establishments.

If you're interested in learning more about the guide, visit the website (https://bit.ly/32VUq8d) or check out our Facebook page. We're looking forward to seeing how everything comes together the next few months!

# The Da Vinci Xi Robot

#### continued from page 3

the daVinci Xi® robot for lung resections, removal of chest tumors and esophageal surgery. "This is an excellent opportunity for patients who live on Cleveland's West side to receive the very best care closer to home."

Having the best technology in the industry in the operating suite is a major draw for surgeons like Michael Zell, MD, a urologist new to UH Parma's medical staff who trained at the Mayo Clinic. He will perform robotic surgery of the kidney, ureter, bladder and prostate, with nearly all of his patients targeted for discharge the day after surgery.

"Patients will benefit from minimally invasive procedures with less morbidity, decreased post-operative pain, and shorter hospitalization," says Dr. Zell. "Robotic surgery allows patients to recover quicker and get back to their normal life faster."

Added urologist David Turk, MD, who has performed thousands of robotic surgeries: "I truly believe robotic surgery has been a game changer, and the patient has become the true beneficiary of this remarkable technology. UH Parma has some of the best surgeons in Northeast Ohio, offering state-of-the-art care right in your own backyard."



### **I Believe**

by Daniel Taddeo

Acknowledge and delight in God's present and future promise. Anxiety about "looks" begins at a very early age. Parents should do their best to minimize this. Being a slave to the opinions of others makes for a less than desirable existence. Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Contentment is an internal matter that is not at the mercy of external circumstances. Each of us will give an account of himself or herself to God.

Fill up the crevices of time with the things that matter most. Forgiving ourselves is just as important as forgiving others. Friendship with the world (doing anything that conflicts with God's Word) is hatred toward God. God has a record of everything. God is first and He is last! We are gathered up in between, as in great arms of an eternal, loving kindness. God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. Grace means God accepts us just as we are.

The longer we have been exposed to a particular blessing, the more

likely we are to take it for granted. The more we seek to become satisfied as consumers, the emptier we can become. The "owe me" attitude or belief that someone or some group owes us destroys gratitude. The power of habit causes us to express the negative and ignore the positive.

The strongest self-worth develops in children who perceive unconditional love from their parents. This too shall pass away.

What comes out of our mouths is a reflection of our inner thoughts. What we dwell on becomes increasingly prominent in our minds and determines our actions. What we sow in thought, either useful or useless, manifests itself in our behavior. When people with different values "hang out" together, somebody ultimately changes. When we change our focus, we change our life.

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?

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# Neighborhoods

# New UH Parma ENT Sees Patients Of All Ages

by CJ Sheppard

Clevelanders are familiar with the seasonal onslaught of allergens, which are typically trees in spring, grasses in summer and weeds in fall. Now they can count year-round on an ENT physician to handle these concerns and more for patients of all ages.

"Allergies or environmental irritants can affect patients in so many ways; causing cough, ear complaints, as well as nasal issues," says W. Colby Brown, MD, who trained at UH, completed his fellowship at one of the nation's premier programs and is now based on the West-side at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

In addition to treating seasonal allergies, Dr. Brown also treats a wide range of more common ENT conditions, such as inflammatory diseases of the sinuses, including allergic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, and nasal polyps. He handles many procedures, such as

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tympanostomies (ear tubes), tonsillectomies, and septoplasties.

"Dr. Brown brings to UH Parma a patient-centered focus with expertise in all aspects of pediatric and adult general ENT," said Nicole Maronian, MD, Director of the UH Ear Nose and Throat Institute. "His full-time presence will allow for improved ENT care in a consistent manner for the greater Parma area. He has particular expertise in nasal and sinus disease, chronic sinusitis and polyposis, and allergy."

Dr. Maronian also noted that Dr. Brown pursued sub-specialty training at the top rhinology and anterior skull base fellowship training program in the country at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed his fellowship in advanced sinus surgery and skull-base surgery, including treating rare tumors such as juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibromas and nasal squamous cell

carcinomas. He attended Case Western Reserve University for medical school after graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University.

Dr. Brown sees patients three days each week in his clinic in Medical Arts Center 1 on the UH Parma campus, and has two days dedicated to surgery in UH Parma's newly renovated Surgery Department.

"Everyone has been very friendly, supportive and appreciative," says Dr. Brown. "This is a very collaborative environment here at UH Parma."

Dr. Brown joins ENT Nurse Practitioner Melissa Partyka NP, who also treats all general ENT, with additional expertise in hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance issues, as well as Shawn Li, MD, who has expertise in head and neck cancer, thyroid disease, and neck masses.

Dr. Brown's office is located at 6681 Ridge Road, Parma. Patients can make an appointment by calling 440-743-8111.



Just in time for Halloween, "Images of Haunted Ohio" opens on October 23 at Prama. Read more about this on page 11.





# **PERSPECTIVE**

# Calm Competence Versus Bombastic Incompetence

by Lee Kamps

The election this year is one of the most important elections in our nation's history. Since our country's founding 244 years ago, there have been divisions among Americans. In 1776, the divisions were between loyalists who wanted to remain subject to England and rebels who wanted independence. Even after the constitution was ratified, there were divisions about its interpretation and the power of the federal government.

But now the country is divided along cultural and ideological lines that haven't been seen in fifty years. I remember when the nation was divided in the late 1960s and early 1970s over the Vietnam War. But the roots of the divisions now can be traced back to that era.

The country has united previously. Usually it was a threat from abroad that united the nation. The Japanese attack on Peral Harbor united the nation to war. The terrorist attacks on September 11 2001 also united the nation. But we have become a nation severely divided. This election poses a choice on whether we want to stoke the divisions or heal them

Donald Trump, ever since the day he descended the escalator in Trump Tower, has exploited and stoked the divisions in the country. Listening to his rhetoric, he makes no attempt to understand some of the issues that have caused protests in the streets of some of our cities. Instead, his rhetoric is inflammatory and exacerbates the situation.

I witnessed what can happen when a public official uses inflammatory rhetoric to stoke divisions and it ended tragically. That was fifty years ago on my college campus at Kent State University. Following the rioting that burned the campus ROTC building, the governor tore up an order closing the university for one week to allow things to calm down. Instead he called the students, most who were not involved in the burning of the ROTC building, "the worst elements in our country today, worse than the brownshirts". He then said that everything would go on as normal the following day Monday May 4, including a planned demonstration protesting the presence of National Guard troops on campus. The rest is history.

We are at such a crossroad right now in the United States. Our current president would like us to believe that only he could fix things. But he has been president almost a full term. Has he really "fixed" anything? Donald Trump has a record of failed businesses and stiffed contractors. He hasn't fixed anything. Instead he has made things worse. No doubt he will go down in history as perhaps the most incompetent president in history.

His opponent Joe Biden is a long time fixture in Washington. He served in the Senate for 36 years and then eight years as Vice President under President Obama. Rather than make wild promises and saying that "only he can fix it"; he offers a calm and reassuring voice that shows empathy, a quality

that Donald Trump cannot show. He understands how government works and has worked "across the aisle" earning the respect of political opponents.

He knows that politics is not a war between the two political parties. Opponents are not the enemy. In the United States we can have political differences and work together to hammer out solutions to the nation's problems. Joe Biden has been a centrist all his career. But now the Republican party has moved so far to the right that the center is to their left. Good government happens when both parties work together for the benefit of the people, not to please their campaign donors.

This is what is at stake in this election. Do we want to continue down the same path that the nation has taken over the past four years or do we want to somehow come together and actually solve the problems facing the nation? This year, the United States has faced a pandemic, the likes we haven't experienced in more than a century. As of this writing, it has killed over 200,000 Americans and sickened more than six million.

It didn't have to be that way. Other nations have successfully dealt with this pandemic. But Donald Trump has completely mismanaged this pandemic from the start. He has ignored science and the medical experts while attempting to cast the blame elsewhere. If, for no other reason, this is why the voters should end this "long national nightmare" and vote next month as if our lives and nation depended on it (which it does) and elect Joe Biden for President. Our nation desperately needs quiet competence, not more bombastic incompetence.

#### Final Plea:

# November 2020 And The Eleventh Hour

by Davidione Pearl

By now, if you've followed my work this far, you have long-since decided two things about me as a writer over the last four years, as I have placed great focus on the tri-city area to a significant extent, of which I will delve further into later.

You have determined that, while you may not fully agree with me as a nonpartisan figure on the many political issues I have covered, regarding the very clear and present turmoil that has increasingly plagued America since the last election, there is something that has nonetheless been gained between us over this lengthy span of time, through my words, and your open mind - your deeper mind of reason, wisdom and understanding which has brought you to reading the words contained in this article today.

Together over time, beyond Oval Office politics, we have related on the slow debilitating loss of my mother's mental faculties through the throes of dementia, the heaviness and pain it was to witness, and ultimately, the final loss of her warm physical form to never embrace me or my family ever again.

You journeyed with me as I traveled the world doing what work(s) I could for the betterment of humanity, accountability, and truth – from articles written on El Salvador, Colombia, Cuba and Haiti, to those from my missions in Morocco, Israel, Iceland, Europe, Ukraine and Turkey.

All with the following in mind: to provide earnest reflections of our oneness as a human race and our collective cultural triumphs, and additionally, the sobering destructive darker shadows of global economics, as they invariably tie into the very nature of American policy, both foreign and domestic.

The bridge of understanding where we now meet, where you and I have found ourselves standing together at this very moment, is the bridge of our higher conscience – of compassion, empathy and reason, not of misguided anger and corrosive venomous resentments dictated to you by brutish divisive leadership.

This bridge of understanding, of your heavenly truth, has ushered you countless times these last few years to an unspoken place in your mind of which only you know, when you felt driven to speak up against what moved you as wrong or In fundamental contradiction to your more giving values, values you quietly hold dear through the teachings of scripture, and in the fullness of your heart, but for your surroundings you remained stilled in your thoughts to not risk disdain from those closest to you.

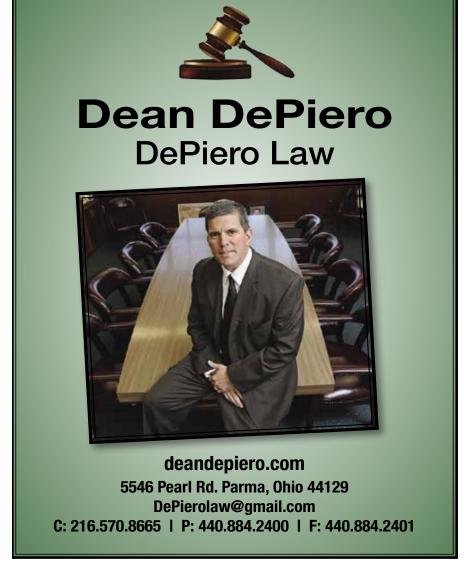
This conflict has left you undecided, and it is this very conflict that is your calling to ensure the work of your deeper values.

We have reached the eleventh hour in what has become an America we can all agree is at the precipice of spiraling further out of control to the point of unrecognition.

I imagine we can also agree that if the owner of a company where we

continued on page 11





### **PERSPECTIVE**

# In Favor of Keeping The Parma Senior High School "Redman" Mascot

by Gil Fritzsche

Greetings, I am a Parma Redman by virtue of having graduated from Parma Senior High School with the Class of 1965. I will always be a Parma Redman. I understand we live now in an era of political correctness in which there is a crusade to remove and replace any name, nickname, symbol, monument, or mascot that in any way, shape, or form is found to be offensive to some party. In light of the sensitivity of this issue, it is difficult to perceive any symbol or mascot that would not irritate someone's sensibilities.

The origin and history of how and

why Parma High School adopted the name "Redman" in honor of a visiting Indian Chief dates back to 1936 and has been explained by others, so I will narrow the focus of my appeal to retain the Redman logo to a few key points:

1.) Staff, students and supporters of Parma Senior High School have never ridiculed, exploited, disparaged, or demeaned the culture of Native Americans. In every cheer, chant, or artistic rendering, Native Americans have been portrayed with honor, dignity and respect.

**2.**) Native American culture is steeped in spirituality, love of nature, family values, teamwork, honor, brav-

ery, and respect for elders. Admirable qualities for students to emulate.

3.) Honoring the Native American culture keeps it alive, prominent, and vibrant in the landscape of America. Erasing the image of Native Americans only serves to diminish the existence and relevance of that segment of the American population, past and present.

**4.)** The term "Redman" is controversial only if one opts to disregard the intention to honor our Native American heritage in favor of seeking a negative connotation.

5.) One can find something offensive about virtually every mascot, if inclined to do so. For example, should we rename the Valley Forge Patriots because people of British heritage might be offended by the American colonists committing treasonous acts against the King of England?

Should we rename the Normandy

Invaders because of the violence inherent in the term "Invader"?

A bit of a stretch? Perhaps,

but if we acquiesce to every perceived slight, where will it end? It is easy to apply this test of "enlightened sensitivity" to virtually any and all mascots.

I do not want the proud history and traditions of the Parma Redmen to crumble in the face of challenge and fall prey to a political movement. Rather,

I would prefer to see the Parma City School District take a courageous stand as our noble Native Americans would do and proudly defend and uphold our right to identify with a culture that worshiped the bounty and beauty of this great continent.

It was a tremendous honor and privilege for me to return to my Alma Mater as Principal of Parma Senior High School from 2000 through 2005 after a hiatus of thirty-five years. I do not know how many of those entrusted to make the final determination in this matter are Parma Senior High School Alumni, but, I hope the spirit that burns in the hearts of those who know what it means to be a Parma Redman will shine brightly enough to allow the eighty-four year tradition and history to prevail. After all, Once a Redman, Always a Redman.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

### **Parma Auxiliary Police Turn 70**



arma Police Auxiliary officers in Parma Council Chambers on 9/21/20 with Mayor DeGeeter and Ward 2 Councilwoman Lime.

by Carolyn Kovach

They show up at parades, football games, funerals, concerts, teen dances and city council meetings. From directing church carnival traffic to PTA meetings, Parma Auxiliary Police handle security and traffic control at citywide public events. They also help write winter parking ban warnings, handle special attention details and

assist at sobriety checkpoints. When Parma police need additional support, these officers come to their assistance.

At the Sept. 21 city council meeting, Public Safety Chairwoman and Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council recognized Parma Auxiliary Police for their 70 years of service to the city.

Training to become an auxiliary police officer is not simple. Before serv-

ing, new auxiliary police officers complete a three-phase training regimen, which includes basic training, firearms qualifications, cruiser tire safety, car searches, fingerprinting, defensive driving and other requirements.

In 2019, auxiliary police officers collectively logged 5,744 hours. This year, they are still racking up hours, including time spent assisting with COVID-19 protocols. Operating as a nonprofit, the department accepts donations and occasionally charges for its services to supplement its city budget. The auxiliary officers, however, volunteer their time.



# VOTE FOR RICHARD A. BELL FOR JUDGE OF COMMON PLEAS COURT

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"He is a great trial lawyer and will make an excellent Judge"
TIM DOBECK

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### **OBSERVER**

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

by Gene Lovasy

From Futures without Violence: Responding to the today's pressures on families & potentially their children F. w/o V. has developed several new unique programs to a) help prevent & address trauma at ChangingMindsNow, and b) build healthy bonds, and break intergenerational cycles of violence and trauma at Thriving Families, Safer Children,

From The Renee Jones Empowerment Center...Visit their web site at http://rjecempower.org/ & click on the TRUTH graphic to virtually tour the "....survivor-created, interactive art exhibit invokes an honest and raw look into understanding the underworld of human trafficking and sexual assaults with the lasting impact on its victims."

From The Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center....Consider participating in this upcoming webinar at noon on Oct 16th: LGBT+ Survivors. Learn more and/or register visit https://www.dvcac.org.

From Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in Greater Cleveland: Go here https://www.collabtoendht.org/resource-guide.html to download a copy of their extensive Resource Guide listing available programs & services in Cuyahoga & surrounding counties.

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

From Achievement Center for Children/Camp Cheerful....Thurs-

day, Nov. 12th at noon will be the kick-off of their 80th Anniversary Celebration virtual event commemorating 80 years of service to children & adults w/disabilities and their families. Subsequent unique, fun events are scheduled daily, culminating w/ the main event on Sunday at 7:00 pm. Learn more & register to participate at https://achievementcenters.org/give/events/celebration/

From Connecting For Kids: Visit their web site athttps://connecting-forkids.org/ or follow them on FB at https://www.facebook.com/ConnectingforKids/to learn more about their extensive menu of programs, events & services.

From National Public Radio (NPR)....Survivor Corps - a NFP support group, begun in April & now w/> 100K members survivors of COVID-19. This grassroots movement focuses on educating and mobilizing COVID-19 survivors and connecting them with the medical, scientific and academic research community, to among other things, help "long haulers", those survivors experiencing on-going symptoms long after discharge. Info at www.SurvivorCorps.com or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/COVID19survivorcorps/

A cause to support....Stillbirth is the number one cause of death for children ages 5 and younger. Read this article from the 9/13/20 issue of the CPD and check out "Count the Kicks" a national NFP focusing attention to the problem. Help pass the word.

Important reminders for your clients, employees, coworkers, friends

& neighbors: If you have not yet registered to vote, click on this link https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/ or click on this link https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/en-US/vote-by-mail.aspx if you would like to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot application. Voters can also check their "registration readiness" by searching for their name in the Secretary of State's database of inactive voters.

### From OCALI's Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness:

September was National Deaf Awareness month. To view related free resources check out the Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness.

OCALI's Lifespan Transitions Center has a free webinar series called The Journey designed to help with that process.

From Parma Council of PTA: Calendars for the 2020 – 2021 school year featuring artwork by PCSD students are available for sale at https://calendar.cheddarup.com . Proceeds benefit the PTA Scholarship program. Please help pass the word.

#### O From Parma City Schools:

Visit the District's web site & scroll down for the most current re-opening information.

**Re:** PCSD Parent Academy....Go here to learn more about this program & take a moment to view several of the videos from previous sessions.

**Re:** Parma Virtual Learning Academy....Reservation have closed. To learn more about this unique program go here.

**Go here** for up-to-date information related to COVID-19 & more.

From Channel 5 & the Education Service Ctr of NE Ohio (ESCNEO).... "START SMART. STAY SMART. Updated regularly, follow along for the latest news, tips, and resources for families and students as they navigate this new normal and what returning to school looks like this." Connect to the program by clicking here. If you have any question call 216.910.HELP (4357).

From PCSD Workforce Development (www.pcsdconnects.org) ....Focusing on career & college readiness, three new virtual program opportunities are now available. Click on the respective links below for details.

**Virtual workshops:** on resume writing & interviewing; for students grades 9-12;

**21st Century Skills:** one each month through April of '21 to include communication; critical thinking, digital fluency, empathy & more; for students K - 12;

Young entrepreneur Pitch Challenges: create short videos presenting a business idea, an elevator speech introducing yourself, etc.; for students K-12.

### From Southwest Community Based Services (SWCBS):

For girls in grades 5 through 8, learn about healthy & unhealthy relationships in this Girl Power: Building Healthy Relationships program. It'll be conducted virtually every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm via ZOOM beginning Oct 6th & ending on Nov 24th. For more information and/or to register call 216.456.0906 or email rdixon@universitysettlement.net

University Settlement has partnered with LegalWorks to provide free or low-cost legal services every Tuesday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Services will include: foreclosure avoidance, obtaining driving privileges, sealing of criminal records and more. Go here & click on the LegalWorks graphic for details.

Don't hesitate calling SWCBS at 440.887.4873 w/questions re: among other things, COVID-19 related housing and utility assistance. Check (Follow) their FB page for updates.

## From CCPL & Parma Area MyCom:

Video resources for parents/care-givers trying to plan a virtual schooling experience for their very young children, especially those with first time Kindergarteners. Give these Kindergarten Club videos a try at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm975oBbLQHaPh8vHicVaoXjklLnuFwZ7

Find out what's new at www. mycomcle.org, sign up for their e-newsletter, join in their Windom for Wednesday weekly Zoom get-togethers and/or visit their FAQ page to learn more about the organization.

# More updates from the County Library:

Check out their new video (https://youtu.be/Pew\_49lhRGI) highlighting the profound, positive impact library

continued on page 11

Strengthening the community of Parma through networking, activism, and local pride.

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### PARMA ART SCENE

Welcome Fall:

# Decorate Your Parma Home!

by Kathryn Mabin

As a follow-up to the wildly successful Parma Patriotic Pride photo initiative this past July 4th, the nonprofit We Are Parma Proud is encouraging all Parma residents to decorate and photograph their homes to celebrate the arrival of autumn and Halloween. This initiative ends October 31st. Residents

who submit their photos will have them published on the We Are Parma Proud Facebook page and will also be entered in a random drawing to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Please send your photos to parmaproudphotos@gmail. com by 11:59 p.m. for a chance to win. Follow and share the hashtag #WelcomeFallParma to spread the word.



#### Final Plea:

# November 2020 And The Eleventh Hour

#### continued from page 8

worked, or the principal of a school where our children attended, kept quiet about a carbon monoxide problem in the building that quickly killed hundreds - and that leader was eventually outed as knowing the deadliness of the problem long before but never made mention of it to avoid a panic, we would unanimously agree that the leader was unfit to lead, and warranted charges, indictment, and conviction to the fullest extent of the law.

You heard the Woodward tapes. Our leader knew.

I believe strongly that your reasonable mind does not wish to live with the internal ghosts of this existential hypocrisy.

Tens of millions of Republicans understand what is at stake, and are voting their conscience this November by doing what needs to be done for the good of the country, above party politics.

]They too do not desire to live with the internal ghosts of hypocrisy.

They understand more than ever, that the time is now to make abundantly clear, that we the people do not wish to descend further into the chaos, panic and blistering division that has been and continues to be fomented by of all people, the leader of the free world.

The tri-city area is the seventh largest municipality in the commonwealth of Ohio, traditionally a conservative bastion in the center of progressive Cuyahoga County.

No modern president with the exception of John F. Kennedy, has won the presidency without our great state.

It is my hope, in this final monthly publication before the most important and ambulatory election of our lives, that we will reveal the greatness of our collective conscience, humanity and reason, to do what we know in our hearts to be right in order to save our nation, and our democracy—if merely in quiet protest at the polls, where only the ballot, and our conscience, will know of our innermost truth for change.

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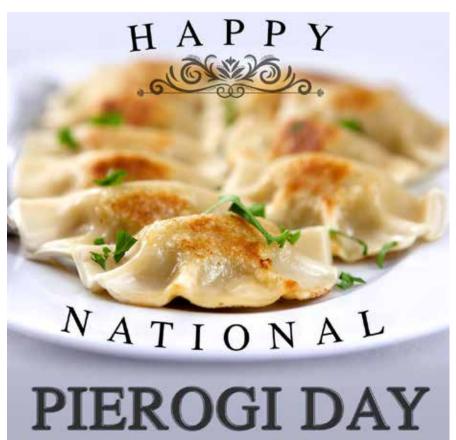
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# A Pierogi Party

by Kathryn Mabin

October 8th is National Pierogi Day and what better place to start the celebration but Rudy's Strudel at 5580 Ridge Road, with Lidia the Parma Pierogi Princess. From 11 to 7 P.M. drive up/pick up pierogi, live D.J., pierogi eating contest, and giveaways. All following social distancing safety

Save your Rudy's receipt and stop at Prama Artspace Gallery, 5411 Pearl Road, and receive a discount upon purchase from the gallery or the boutique.

And the party continues with Food Truck Friday all weekend long, stop at the numerous food trucks stationed throughout Polish Village and celebrate National Pierogi Day.

Grand Opening! The Current Year Vinyl, 5580 Ridge Road, adjacent to Rudy's. Vinyl specialties including psych rock, classic rock, jazz lounge and exotica vinyl.

It's a Polish Village weekend long Pierogi Party! Join in!

### **Parma Art Scene**

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma Craft Garage Sale, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 1, 2, & 3. Go to City of Parma Facebook for a list of participating addresses. The Parma City Garage Sale event was such a popular event in August that home businesses and crafters decided to jump in on the trend. Due to the health crisis craft shows have been canceled and postponed until next year, leaving these small home-based businesses with limited outlets to show their wares. So, start your holiday shopping early and support your local creatives.

Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd, opened "Ghost Opera" featuring the work of Cecelia Ivy Price and Linda Mayer on Friday, September 25th. Linda Mayer has been obsessed of late creating her theater box assemblages. These assemblages are created from salvaged, found objects, and hand made items, assembled to create imaginary stage sets. Linda is a local high school art educator and artist. Cecelia Ivy Price is displaying an assortment of figurative paintings, some large, most smaller painted on sheet music. 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. Both have been featured in regional and national exhibits and have won numerous awards. This exhibit

runs through October 18th.

Just in time for Halloween, "Images of Haunted Ohio" opens on October 23 at Prama. This hauntingly beautiful photography exhibit includes the images of several artists. For a sneak peak, go to www.pramaartspace. com to view a very spooky video.

Prama asks that you wear a mask and practice social distancing. They also have an outdoor waiting area for your convenience. In addition to the gallery they have a small boutique stocked with small inexpensive items. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram.

Parma resident, Lena Simovic of Lena Atomika Photography, and Laura D'Alessandro, Co-Curator of Prama Artspace & Gallery, artist and photographer, and catalyst for the 2019 Cleveland Photo Fest, were part of the all female exhibit at Worthington Yards Art Gallery, 725 Johnson Court in Cleveland. The exhibit titled "Women Picturing Cleveland" featured women who have shaped Cleveland's photography scene. Exhibit ends October 3.

Cleveland Photofest 2020 had to be canceled due to the health crisis. The directors are in the planning for 2021. One of the most exciting is an attempt for the world record for the largest photography show ever sponsored, sanctioned by the Guinness Book Of World Records. Looking forward to 2021!

### **OBSERVER**

# Our Democracy Is Threatened By A Lawless President

by Jeremy Jusek

Yesterday the President of the United States told his supporters to commit voter fraud. He did so on camera. It was not a joke. It was not ironic. The president called for his supporters to game the system:

"Send it in early and then go and vote. You can't let them take your vote away, these people are playing dirty politics. So if you have an absentee ballot—you send it in, but I'd check it, follow it and go vote."

Trump is only concerned with his re-election. So let us review his words and actions to see where he is going with this:

Point #1 - Trump has claimed dozens of times on camera and via Twitter that mail-in votes are fraudulent. A commission created by Trump and designed to explore the extent of mail-in voter fraud was ultimately disbanded in 2018 for uncovering zero evidence, but let's stick to the point: Trump claims it

is fraudulent.

Point #2 - Trump appoints Louis DeJoy to the position of Postmaster, who immediately begins dismantling USPS sorting machines and intentionally delaying the mail. For the record, DeJoy has more than \$70 million invested in private competitors to the US Postal Service – a conflict of interest that should have, under any other administration, tanked his candidacy. Nevermind that hundreds of small businesses and tens of thousands of elderly rely on the Post Office's timely deliveries to run businesses or, you know, live.

Point #3 - Trump admits, also on camera (specifically Fox Business on August 13th), that he has ordered the Postmaster to stall the USPS to prevent American votes from being tallied. He said: "If we don't make a deal, that means they don't get the money. That means they can't have

universal mail-in voting; they just can't have it."

Point #4 - Trump tells his voters to drink bleach to help combat Covid-19. Despite the obvious lunacy (not to mention the lack of medical expertise) of this statement, more than a hundred people were hospitalized since he made his claim, and poison control centers across the country have fielded thousands of calls asking if this is a safe remedy for the Coronavirus.

Conclusion - Trump appointed a man committed to slowing mail with the expressed purpose of discounting voters. Then he told his supporters to vote twice, hoping that in the post-election mess some of their votes might be counted more than once, despite him repeatedly attacking mail-in voting as fraudulent. If we know that he has supporters willing to drink bleach at his encouragement, you can bet that thousands are willing to attempt voter fraud.

In light of this, is time for us to collectively reconsider our stance on how our Democratic Republic should be run. Are we okay with abolishing some of the most important aspects of the Bill of Rights and instituting authoritarian rule? If so, then undermining the average citizen's ability to vote and dismantling beloved government services (and all those employed by the USPS) for political reasons is right for you.

But if you plan on preserving our Republic and the last levers of power afforded to average citizens like you and me, it's time to take charge. Call your lawmakers and express your disapproval of Trump's statements and actions. Vote this fall (and double-check your state registration!). Above all else, remember that Trump is attempting to pervert our elections. If we are to have elected politicians, those elections must be conducted in good faith. It is up to us to demand accountability because his political party has refused to bother. Thanks Susan Collins—it seems Trump has really "learned his lesson."



"Tech Boosts" Program From

# **Cox Communications Seeks Nominations For \$30K In Grants To Local Nonprofits**

by Jeff Lavery

Despite the important work nonprofits and community organizations do in the communities they serve, many are lacking the modern technology tools needed to perform their missions to the fullest. To bridge this technology gap, Cox Communications today announced the call for nominations for its "Tech Boosts" program, which awards grants to nonprofit groups committed to investing in technology equipment for the betterment of its patrons and mission.

This marks the fourth year of the Cox Communications Tech Boosts

program, and the goal remains the same: to help nonprofits invest in technology equipment and services that enrich the lives of community members while fulfilling their missions to the fullest. Three grants valued at \$10,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations across the company's northeast footprint.

This technology grant is awarded to organizations who reinforce intellectual prosperity and are committed to improving humanity. The nonprofit must demonstrate how the organization will positively impact one of four categories with its Tech Boost award. These include: Environment and Conservation; Health; Early Childhood Education; and Empowering Families and Individuals for Success. Organizations interested in applying should visit the link to apply.

"We are once ask our community partners in need of a technology "boost" to apply to the Cox Communications Tech Boosts program," said Rob Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications. "Now, more than ever, technology is playing a fundamental role in keeping us connected to our work, our schooling, and our loved ones. For nonprofit organizations, strengthening their mission through technology is of critical importance, and we at Cox are eager to award the 2021 Tech Boost grants."

For more information on the Tech Boost program, visit: https://www.coxcharitiesne.org/tech-boosts

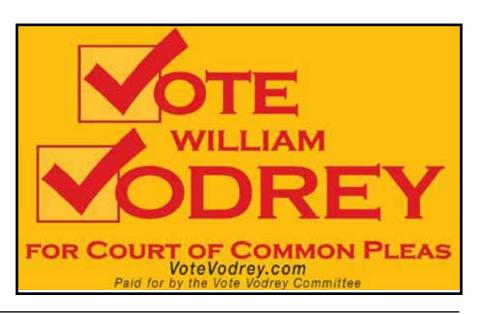
# Parma Observer Is 11 Years Old

#### continued from page 1

the common good. Our children are watching what we do; they are living through this time and they ultimately hold the key to what is after all their future.

After 11 years of publishing the Parma Observer, there is one thing that I've learned, and it is that the people of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills love their cities, care about things that are important to them in their daily lives, select good leadership, expect favorable results, and are realistic when it comes to existing conditions. We are facing profound challenges in this unequaled era, and many feel that things could get worse before they get better. Only time will tell just

how we fared and what transpired during this turbulent period, but I have the upmost faith that our community will emerge a better place, part of a "more perfect union" that the vision of the USA has always been. We have the best place, the right people, and most importantly the essential wherewithal required to turn problems into opportunities. I am most positive that future generations will examine this moment and be proud that the citizens today made the right choices and ensured that our community traveled in the right direction when we came to the crossroads and needed to choose wisely.



### **OBSERVER**

# Gov. DeWine Signs Crossman Cancer Awareness Bill

by Jeffrey Crossman

In August of 2016 our family received the terrible news that my mother had been diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor. These types of tumors are extremely aggressive and most people diagnosed with this type of cancer succumb to the disease within 16 months. This is obviously devastating news for any family to receive and our family received this twice. First in 1986 with my grandfather and my mother's 30 years later.

What I was most surprised to learn about this disease is that, in that 30 year span between the respective cancer diagnoses, how little science had progressed in treating brain cancers. Medical science has improved in so many areas—but, despite the introduction of new medicines or treatment techniques, brain cancer survival rates remain stubbornly low.

have made significant advances with other cancers. Childhood leukemia is no longer the number one cancer killer in children (it's now juvenile brain cancer) and the number of women that have died from breast cancer has dropped 40% in the past 25 years according to the American Cancer Society. This is tangible evidence that dedicated efforts to raise awareness and increase funding for research can have long-term, positive effects. While there have been a number of high profile deaths from brain cancer

from former Cleveland Browns owner Al Lerner to, more recently, Senators Ted Kennedy and John McCain, brain cancer is not a frequently discussed cancer, which is why I was pleased to propose House Bill 230 which, now that it has been signed into law by the Governor (on August 25, 2020), all of Ohio will recognize the month of May as "Brain Cancer Awareness" month starting in May 2021.

It is my hope that, by dedicating a month to Brain Cancer Awareness, we can begin to turn the tide on this disease. Perhaps by raising awareness, we can help people understand the symptoms that may lead to an earlier diagnoses and better outcomes. Raising awareness will also help raise funds for additional research which is badly needed since the overwhelming majority of new medications and treatments have failed to stem the tide of brain cancer deaths across the country. Regardless, it is my hope that formally recognizing a Brain Cancer Awareness month is one step forward to help other families across Ohio feel supported in knowing that others out there understand their experience and are working toward a brighter future when it comes to eliminating brain cancer. State Representative Crossman lives in Parma and can be reached at home at 216-373-6926. Follow him on facebook at /crossmanforohio

# Vote Yes On Seven Hills Issue 41

continued from page 1

Expiring this year is a 1.65 mil bond issue for the Community Recreation Center. The revenue from it was only allowed to be used to pay down the debt incurred for the cost of the facility's original construction.

With the passage of Issue 41, you will see a slight decrease in property taxes. Here's how that works:

As noted above the 1.65 mil levy for the bond issue expires this year. In other words the mortgage on the Community Recreation Center will be paid off. This results in 1.65 mils coming off your 2021 tax duplicates.

At 1.65 mills you pay \$57.75 per \$100, 000 of valuation (\$50.53 with the

Homestead Exemption). The new levy is for 1.4 mils. Should it pass you would pay \$49.00 per \$100,000.

In addition, the new levy is designed to raise a specific amount of revenue, estimated at \$490,240 per year. This means that the 1.4 mils will be adjusted downward should your property valuation increase due to inflation.

The revenue raised by this levy can only be used for expenses related to the operation, maintenance and improvements to the Recreation Center and Seven Hills' six parks, as well as recreational programs. Without this revenue stream these expenses would have to come out of the General Fund, effectively decreasing funding for other City projects.

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Emergency – 911

Non Emergency - (440) 885-1234



Senator Antonio provides sponsor testimony on S.B. 59 in the House health committee

# Senator Antonio's S.B. 59 Amended Into H.B. 341

by Nickie Antonio

Ohioans have made substantial contributions to mitigating the effects of the Opioid crisis throughout the state. From state initiatives to community support, we have been able to save many lives. In fact, since its inception, 15,000 people have sought help from the RecoveryOhio Crisis Text Line. Despite these significant efforts, there was a disconnect in the education surrounding the life-saving antidote, naloxone.

In Ohio, a 2015 law allowed pharmacists to dispense this medication to customers without a prescription, the only problem was, many pharmacists were unaware of this change. According to a survey completed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of 275 Northeast Ohio pharmacies, a large number of pharmacies did not know that naloxone can be dispensed without a prescription. [1] In fact, 20 percent of the pharmacies surveyed incorrectly stated that customers would need a prescription for naloxone. Consequently, many pharmacies did not even have naloxone in stock.

That is why I introduced Senate Bill 59, the Naloxone without Prescription Training Bill, to require all pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy interns be trained to become

The City could also see the City's bond rating go up. This would make it easier and less expensive for the City to borrow the money needed for major projects.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the Mayor and City Council determined that the timing was right to put this issue on the ballot this fall.

Amenities like parks and recreation facilities and programs often get short shrift in city budgets. However, they contribute to the vibrancy, quality-of-life and attractiveness of a city, including Seven Hills, with a resulting impact on property values.

With proper financing, our six parks, Community Recreation Center and recreation programs can be the first-rate amenities we'd all like them to be. Please join me in voting "Yes" on Issue 41!

knowledgeable that naloxone can be dispensed without a prescription and would also require those professionals that dispense the drug to maintain an adequate supply of it. This legislation passed unanimously out of the Senate earlier this year. It then moved over to the House where it passed out of the House Health Committee unanimously.

I am proud to announce that in September, during National Recovery Month, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 341 into law, which contained S.B. 59 as an amendment. With this law in effect, we will be able to save more lives and work towards overcoming the opioid epidemic in Ohio. The passage of this legislation is even more significant given the increased loss of life due to opioid usage this year. In August alone, Cuyahoga County witnessed at least 47 fatal cases due to heroin/fentanyl/analogs, and at least 293 victims over the course of this year. We must continue to raise awareness and pass meaningful legislation to better help our families, friends, and neighbors who are silently battling addiction.

[1] https://www.cleveland.com/ healthfit/index.ssf/2018/04/life-saving\_overdose\_antidote.html



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Sean Patrick

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President of Parma City Council

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Follow Sean on Twitter @BrennanForParma councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net

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Parma City
Councilman Ward 5

Here's To
Another
11 Years Of
Printing
The Parma
Observer.
Keep It Up
Please!

# **PARMA OBSERVER**

Happy 11th Anniversary Parma Observer!

"Keep up the good work



City of Seven Hills Mayor Tony Biasiotta

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from Parma Auditor **Brian Day** 

A Dedicated DAY for Parma

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Roy Jech Parma City Councilman for Ward 9

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Keep up
the great work!



Kenneth A. Ramser Clerk of Council City of Parma

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Tom Mastroianni

Treasurer
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Parma Observer
On 11 Years
Of Serving
Our Community



Deborah Lime Parma City Councilwoman for Ward 2

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many more
decades.



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