

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on" - Robert Frost

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ParmaObserver

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



Former Rite Aid drugstore building that has remained empty for many years now, right in the middle of the busiest intersection in Parma, on the very spot where Parma itself was born. Many people, including myself, feel that this building, overlooking the entire neighborhood, would be the perfect place for a brand new Arts District to be born now.

Is Parma Ready For An Arts District?

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Most people are probably aware of how cities have used Arts districts as re-development tools to breathe new life into local spaces, re-imagine areas that lag in foot traffic, and ultimately attract atten-

tion. Many may also be aware that Arts districts enhance the quality of life, and a community can successfully create an atmosphere of creative culture that will ultimately attract new businesses, visitors and new residents. Fortunately, we don't have

City Of Parma And Vitalant Work Together To Foster Blood Donation

by Peter Sokol

Vitalant and the City of Parma are partnering to host a virtual blood donation effort. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic blood donations nationwide have decreased and the national blood supply has reached critical levels at several points. Between the dates of Monday, November 30th and Sunday, December 13th Vitalant is encouraging all eligible blood donors to attend a mobile blood drive or fixed site donation center to donate blood on behalf of the City of Parma. All donors are asked to provide the group code "4834" during the pre-screening process at the time of donation so your donation will be counted in City of Parma drive.

During this donation period Vitalant will be sponsoring drives at the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center and the University Hospitals

Parma Education Center as well as many other drives in and around the Parma area, including fixed sites in Middleburg Hts and Elyria. Appointments are recommended to help socially distance at all blood drive. To make an appointment or search by zip code for a drive please visit www.Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal.

All successful blood donors will receive free COVID-19 antibody testing. This is in an effort to identify potential convalescent plasma donors who may be able to use future donations to help treat COVID-19 patients.

Please help us give the gift of life by donating blood with Vitalant. With any questions please call 1-877-25-VITAL or email psokol@vitalant.org.



Parma City Council Recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Carolyn Kovach

Mayor Tim DeGeeter signed a resolution recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a particularly touching moment for Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban, who sponsored the resolution. Saban lost her Aunt Kathy Samanich to breast cancer earlier this year. According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, an estimated 42,170 women will die from breast cancer in the United States this year. One in eight American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

Although rare, men get breast cancer, too. In 2020, an estimated 2,620 men will



Left to right- Jamie Vanek, Rick Vanek, Jim Vanek, Jean Paul

be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States and an estimated 520 will die. Early detection is the key to survival, which is why the American Cancer Society encourages

monthly self-examinations and yearly mammograms for women ages 45 to 54. Women 55 and older can switch to mammograms every two years.

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Mary Ford. The photo includes her neighbor Alexander Bearer upon his 2020 high school graduation. Mary 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.

to look very far from Parma to see neighborhoods that have enjoyed success by fostering the Arts in their communities. Gordon Square Arts District has been recognized nationally among other things for their innovative approach of combining the resources of 3 non-profits in order to accelerate the development of the entire neighborhood. It's quite a gem now, but I can tell you that 35 years ago when I worked in the rent-to-own industry and the West 65th and Detroit Ave. area was my territory, this was most definitely not the case, as this historic section of Cleveland had deteriorated tremendously. Houses were selling there for \$10,000 cash in some instances. Not long ago, in a housing development not far from Gordon Square, their first \$800,000 house was sold. This would not have occurred if the thriving Arts Community

continued on page 11



5900 Rousseau Drive has become one of the top Halloween displays in Ohio. We take a look. Parma Proud

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

It was a brisk Sunday afternoon in Parma on October 25, but that did not stop a group of about 50 Parma advocates from showing up, socially distanced and wearing masks, to witness the unveiling the newest piece of public art in Parma – the Welcome to Parma mural.

I am always on the lookout for new ways of inspiring pride and beauty in our community and to show off Parma's charm and amenities to our visitors. For instance, last year's addition of the script Parma sign has become our newest community landmark. The Welcome to Parma mural is an idea I have had in the back of my mind for a couple of years, but when I saw the Welcome to Tremont and Greetings from Cleveland murals, I was moved to begin the work of raising the funds from private donors, just like the script sign.

I soon came in contact with



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan with artist Vic Savage and Graffiti HeArt founder Stamy Paul.

Stamy Paul. Stamy is a Valley Forge graduate and founder of Graffiti HeArt, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that develops opportunities for graffiti and street artists to create art installations with donors looking to bolster community beauty and pride, while funding educational opportunities for under served youth. The organization's projects generate commissions for talented aspiring and accomplished artists, as well as fund art education scholarships. When I explained my vision to Stamy, she excitedly got to work on the creative aspect of the project as I initiated the fundraising.

Thanks to the following donors, we met our goal:

Mo and Abe Dayem, Donna Koler of Koler Financial, Padua Franciscan High School, the Young Professionals of Parma, Harry and Stamy Paul, acclaimed artist Maggie Denk-Leigh



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan with generous Parma businessmen Mo and Abe Dayem.

of the Cleveland Institute of Art (my sister-in-law), Daniel and David Serban of Perla Pierogies, former Mayor Dean DePiero, Bill and Carol Mason, Snider Recreation, Dr. Jennifer Mentessi of Distinctive Eyewear, Rudy Stralka, David and Pam Neuzil of Dairy Queen on Ridge Road, Fran and Joe Leisz, Julane Tubbesing, Stefan and Oksana Stefaniuk, Ilah Adkins Attorney at Law, Bethany Yackin-Miller, Daniel McCarthy of the Parma Observer, Eugene and Karen Lovasy, Frank and Lisa Mahnic, Leo Samokieszyn, the Glibe family, the Jubly family, the Spies family, Daniel Fedeli, Plumber's Local 55, IBEW Local 38, Baker's Local 19, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, Parma Auditor Brian Day, Parma Treasurer Tom Mastroianni, Parma Councilman Mark Cassellbery, Parma Councilman Al Divis, Parma Councilman Brian Brochetti, Parma Councilwoman Debbie Lime, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Cynthia and Lloyd Bratz, Raj Sandhu, Rich Pilat of Pilat Insurance, Maria Asher, Benton Brigdier, Deena/Patrick/Colleen Brennan, the runners/walkers/sponsors of the annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, several anonymous donors, as well as matching funds from a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Special thanks to Mo and Abe Dayem, the owners of Planet of the Vapes who also supported the project by donating the use of their building at the corner of Ridge and Pearl Roads. "We are fortunate to call Parma our home, and we are excited when the opportunity arises to get involved in an amazing project like this one. One of the best ways for a business to show its commitment and responsibility to a community is by simply giving back," Mo said.

Artists Vic Savage and Alan Giberson provided their amazing talents to bring the mural to life. To watch them in action creating the mural visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgWc2tdyTSk>. Special thanks to Eduardo Olmeda for producing the video.

Ward One Councilman Vito DiPierro, whose ward the mural is located, stated, "Thank you to Council President Brennan for bringing his vision of the Welcome to Parma mural to the city. It will be an excellent addition to ward one."

Although the mural is bought and paid for, please consider supporting Graffiti HeArt's mission by making a donation at their website at graffiti-heart.org or mail it to 2452 West 7th Street, Cleveland, 44113. Welcome to Parma!



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Free Gun Locks To Bolster Safety

by Sean Brennan

As we all know, there is a problem in our nation with guns getting into the wrong hands. In fact, all too often we hear about children getting ahold of guns and preventable tragedies occurring – even in our own community. That is why I worked with Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck and Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis to bring a free gun lock program to Parma a couple of years ago.

I have always been an advocate of responsible gun ownership and, as a father, elected official, and school-teacher, I never want a tragedy involving a gun to take place on my watch. That is why I am a huge supporter of gun locks. A gun lock is a device that makes a gun inoperable when it is utilized. Recently, we have partnered with the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Project Childsafe, whose mission is to promote



firearms safety and education, to offer free metal cable-style gun locks to residents who would like them. The goal is to get them in the hands of every gun owner in our community who would like them.

Each kit contains a safety curriculum and a cable-style gun lock, which fits on most types of handguns, rifles and shotguns. If you are interested, please call me at city hall at 440-885-8091 or email me at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov. Thank you for doing your part to bolster the safety of our community.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

University Hospitals Named

One Of The World's Most Ethical Companies

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals has been recognized by Ethisphere, a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices, as one of the 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies. This is the eighth year University Hospitals has received this recognition since 2012 and is one of only five honorees in the health care providers' category. In 2020, 132 honorees were recognized spanning 21 countries and 51 industries. The award underscores an ongoing institutional commitment to lead with integrity and prioritize ethical business practices. "The 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies award is a tribute to the integrity of our caregivers at University Hospitals," said Thomas F. Zenty III, Chief Executive Officer of UH. "We strive to maintain high professional and ethical standards as we deliver the highest-quality care to our patients by living according to our core values: Excellence. Diversity. Integrity. Compassion. Teamwork."

UH highlighted several programs to Ethisphere to demonstrate its commitment to integrity and social responsibility. At its core, UH promotes a culture based on values and ethics. That culture is supported by a robust compliance and ethics program committed to continuous improvement. In the recent past, UH has enhanced its

enterprise risk management program, improved management of relationships of interest, and increased compliance counseling services. Further, UH continues to foster a Speak-Up Culture by reinforcing the message that every caregiver in every role is empowered to make a difference.

"UH's intent to make a difference directly impacts the communities we serve," said Valda Clark Christian, UH's Chief Compliance Officer. "The UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children recently partnered with an adjacent grocery to launch hands-on cooking and nutrition classes. The classes offer targeted programming for new moms, diabetics, those managing hypertension or high cholesterol and many more. The UH Otis Moss Jr. Health Center Food for Life Market and Healthy Harvest programs provide free, fresh, healthy food and dietitian consults to individuals suffering from food insecurity or dietary needs. UH also sponsors community-focused programming addressing infant mortality, job training, health screenings, as well as screening and support services for those at risk of opioid use disorders.

"UH is honored to receive Ethisphere recognition as one of the 2020 World's Most Ethical Companies," said Christian. "Such recognition is the product of a system-wide commitment to upholding our ethical standards and

practicing our values daily. In times of change and challenge, those commitments and practices guide us in our quest to be the most trusted health care provider for our community."

Being an eight-time honoree underscores UH's commitment to leading ethical business standards and practices ensuring long-term value to key stakeholders including patients, caregivers and suppliers.

"Congratulations to everyone at University Hospitals for earning this recognition," said Ethisphere's Chief Executive Officer, Timothy Erlich. "This is a moment to acknowledge the leaders working to advance corporate cultures defined by integrity and affirm those companies contributing to broader societal imperatives and the greater good."



One of the new signs installed all around Parma Heights, this one on Ackley Blvd. Very colorful and helpful to those travelling through the city.

UH Parma Medical Center

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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA



Construction of the new 24 hour Meijer store on Broadview Rd. In Seven Hills has gone well, and it won't be long until residents in our area are experiencing this new retail destination.



A ribbon cutting For Dick & Alice Sausage & Pierogi Haus took place in October. 12859 Brookpark Rd. in Parma, connected to the Roll House Bowling Lanes. Fantastic selection of comfort food and ethnic delights. Well worth visiting.



A new business in Parma Heights, held a ribbon cutting event with the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce on October 14. ATL Total Car Care offers a wide array of services for your vehicles. They are located at 6709 Pearl Rd.



erious accident on Pearl Road in Parma Heights in front of the cemetery on October 29th involving two vehicles which required shutting down the road for a time. At the time of printing, not sure if there were any injuries- hope not.



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#PCSDProud

PCSD opens A.C.E.S. Center for Education this school year



Accept. Champion. Educate. Support.

These are the four core values to A.C.E.S. Center for Education, the new school for autism established by the Parma City School District.

The school is starting out serving students K – 5 but will expand and grow to serve students K – 12 who are medically and educationally diagnosed with autism and require a different type of programming to access and learn curriculum.

Located inside Parma Senior High School, A.C.E.S. Center for Education is a separate school that has been completely renovated to meet the needs and provide high-quality, 21st-century instruction for students.

“We are a developmental model and we focus on the therapeutic and educational aspect,” Caitlin Sabo, Director of

A.C.E.S. Center for Education, described. “Our classrooms are six students with one intervention specialist, and depending on the need of the classroom, one to two special education assistants as well. Our classrooms are strictly instructional.”

The school has three rooms that are specifically tied to a student’s sensory needs including a ‘volcano room’ for students who are having large emotions, a sensory room to help regulate and calm students, and a sensory motor gym designed for a child’s nervous system.

Other support services, like speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, are included as the school will follow each child’s IEP.

There are currently eight students at the school, five in one classroom, and three in another. Originally classes were going to be divided by grade, but instead, staff evaluated the needs of the students and split the classes accordingly. The vision is to have 6-8 grade programming next year.

It’s not very common for other public schools to have a separate school dedicated to students with autism. However, the district recognized the need and made the concept become a reality.

“Oftentimes students go from a self-contained classroom, which is the most restrictive you can get in public schools, to private outplacement,” Sabo shared. “So, for Parma Schools to recognize that there is a middle option for families and

IEP teams to consider, is a testament to our leadership and doing what is best for all students.”

With only a few weeks into the school’s opening, Sabo said there has been amazing progress.

“The rapport and relationships our staff is building with students are outstanding,” she expressed. “You hear laughter, you hear the excitement, you see the smiles, and these are just going to continue as the year goes on. We have a truly phenomenal staff and the success of the program is going to be because of them.”

“My goal is for our kids to feel like they have a place in the world,” she further shared. “I want them to come to school, feel supported, and even reach achievements that they never thought they could. I want our families to feel supported and I want our community to have a better understanding of our students.”

With a background in school psychology, Sabo has a strong passion for A.C.E.S. Center for Education and the programming being developed for students.

“I have always said I wanted to change the world one kid at a time,” she shared. “I want to give our kids as many opportunities I can regardless of their circumstances. I want to make a small imprint on the world, change it, and leave it a little bit better than when I started.”

Read the full story at www.parmacityschools.org

PCSF hosts Chevy Trax Raffle!

The Parma City Schools Foundation, Inc. is once again giving away a new car!

Serpentini Chevrolet of Strongsville has generously sponsored a 2020 Chevy Trax that will be awarded to one lucky winner on December 10, 2020!*

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at any school building and the District’s Administrative Offices.

Cash or check will be accepted. Please make checks payable to Parma City Schools Foundation.

Second place prize is \$500 and third place prize is \$250.

All proceeds from this car raffle will benefit students and student organizations of the Parma City School District.

*Winner need not be present to win. Car must be titled to a person 18 years or older. Car pick-up is the responsibility of the winner and possession must be taken by December 31, 2020. All prizes must be claimed within 30 days. Sales and income taxes are the responsibility of the winners.



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

Incarnate Word Academy Fourth Graders Learn From Ethan Holmes, CEO Of Holmes Mouthwatering Applesauce, What It Takes To Be An Entrepreneur!

by Anne Hribar

At the young age of 15, Ethan Holmes, Shaker Heights native, decided to pursue an entrepreneurial dream. Along with the mentorship and skill set of his grandfather, he attempted to innovate an applesauce recipe and after implementing the design process along with a lot of persistence. Ethan is now the CEO of Holmes Mouthwatering Applesauce! Holmes Mouthwatering Applesauce can be found in stores all across Northeast Ohio! Teaching the students the core values of his company: quality, nutrition, social responsibility, customer service, teamwork and entrepreneurship, Ethan explained that being an entrepreneur is more than being a business person. The desire to innovate, solve a problem, and serve a need are all a component in the journey, one he says does not end once the product or service is launched. It is ongoing.

The fourth graders were able to interact via this live, virtual session discussing branding, the importance of failure as a necessary means to securing success, and the power of collaboration with the community you serve. This opportunity for this program was sponsored by the Young Entrepreneur Institute and our school community could not be more grateful. Our fourth graders will next participate in their own innovative idea in an entrepreneurial unit!

To learn more about Holmes Mouthwatering Applesauce, visit <https://holmesapplesauce.com/>. To learn more about the Young Entrepreneur Institute, visit <https://www.youngentrepreneurinstitute.org/>. And to learn more about Incarnate Word Academy, visit <https://www.incarnate-wordacademy.org/>.



More photos from 5900 Rousseau Drive. The neighbors all work together and their attention to detail and artistic talent is amazing. Parma Proud!

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another as I have loved you.” Each of us is called to follow the example of Jesus. Beauty in our culture is in major transition. It is moving from an internal, invisible beauty, such as heart-felt concern, mannerly conduct, and spiritually directed, to a physical, visible, and external beauty, such as extreme body decorations, indiscreet dress, and arrogant presentation. This “beauty-battle” rages between self-centeredness and God-centeredness. Because of the culture, a small minority of us consider ourselves as beautiful or handsome. The large majority of us are considered plain, unattractive, or ugly. God views us all as being beautiful and handsome.

Each day we live is a priceless gift of God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new and to gain fresh insight. Either people believe in Jesus for salvation or they do not. There is no middle ground between heaven and hell. Five major warnings from God’s Word are the following: do not be deceived by culture proclamations; believers will suffer persecution of some kind; be aware of false prophets; do not believe those who say when Christ will return; and

avoid becoming overly occupied with the cares of the world. No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.

There is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out in the open. We would not invite a thief into our house, so why would we allow thoughts that steal our joy to make them at home in our house. Where we have been, what we have done, and where we are now matters far less than where we are headed. With God’s help we have the power to encourage or discourage, to motivate or deflate, to generate joy or repel it. These are very realistic possibilities. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes (acceptable in good taste but not required); instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

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

Eat, Shop, Play - Pearl Road Businesses

by Emery Pinter

Small businesses have an uphill battle to flourish with the challenges in front of them. First, Covid and ongoing street projects. Pearl Road in Parma Heights is lined with shops that offer gifts you can't buy anywhere else. Explore storefront shops where merchants welcome you with "indie" finds and personalized service. An added benefit is not getting stampeded by a crowd of shoppers lunging for a \$300 plasma TV.

So this year, I'm going to Eat, Shop, and Play Pearl Road. First stop...

Samosky's Home Bakery, 6379 Pearl Road. We could all use a little extra sweetness in our lives right now. Thankfully, this bakery always puts a smile on my face with their cupcakes and kolaches.

Andy's Hardware, 6658 Pearl Road. (440) 885-0118 Andy's Hardware gives us the kind of knowledgeable help we can trust when we most need it and they've been helping neighbors with their home projects for generations.

Village Cards & Gifts 6643 Pearl



Village Cards & Gifts

Road (440) 884-2331 is a cheerful, trendy, family-owned shop. This is where to go for a unique gift for the hard-to-shop-for person on your list. From clothes to accessories to jewelry,

Ty products and inspirational items, you can find a ton here. I especially love its selection of humorous gifts, like greeting cards and silly socks by Two Left Feet.

Rogue's Den, 6277 Pearl Road-- has classic board games, party games and role-playing games for people of all ages.

Yorktown Lanes, 6218 Pearl Rd (440) 886-5300 You don't have to belong to a league to enjoy a night of bowling with friends here. And it's a great way to strike up new ways to have a good time with your family and friends.

Quality of life in a community like Parma Heights is closely tied to the local economy, Pledge to buy all your holiday gifts from local shops. Just as we acknowledge the importance of voting in this election, remember that we vote every day when we pull out our wallets. Go out of your way to support the small businesses that make up the fabric of this city. Follow your favorite small businesses on social media and re-post their messages. Even if the news they're sharing may be irrelevant to you, it may be relevant to someone in your circle. There's no better time to get out of our comfort zones and explore new shops that we may have otherwise ignored. Eat, Shop, and Play Pearl Road and let them know they matter to you!



Another photo from 5900 Rousseau Drive one of the many amazing display this past Halloween.

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PERSPECTIVE

The Crisis In Child Care

by Lee Kamps

Most of my baby boom generation grew up in a double parent, single income family where the father went off to work and the mother stayed home to take care of the children. That was back in the 1950s and into the 1960s. It was a "Leave it to Beaver" type of family life as portrayed on numerous television shows of that era.

But that nostalgic version of a family is gone with tail fins on cars. Today's family is more like a single parent, working and taking care of the children or a dual income family with both parents having careers and working full time. As far as my family; my mother went back to her career as a nurse when I was in the seventh grade in 1961. My younger siblings were both in school and we could manage for ourselves at home. I learned how to do my own laundry and we learned to fix

our dinners if mother had to work a late shift at the hospital.

Later as a father myself; I had it both ways, as a dual career family and with a stay at home mother. Fortunately, when my daughters were infants and toddlers, my income was sufficient to meet our needs; but left us with nothing to save. Then, after my divorce; the mother was a single parent working full time. For ten months a year I lived as a bachelor as my children lived 700 miles away. Then in the summer, I was a single daddy taking care of two little girls. Somehow we managed all this and now our daughters are self sufficient grown women with their own careers.

But the pandemic has turned the child care situation and business on its end. Most child care facilities are privately operated and usually are local small businesses. There are a few large chains or businesses with several loca-

tions. But for the most part, child care for pre school and after school care is a local small business operating on a string. The pandemic has caused many child care facilities to close and many working parents are now working out of their homes instead of some office downtown or in a suburban business park. As a result, many child care facilities are struggling to stay in business.

In addition child care is a highly regulated business. About forty years ago we were considering turning a small two bedroom rental unit into a child care center and operate it as a business. However when I checked the regulations and requirements; the costs of refitting that rental unit as well as the requirements as to how many children we could care for made it too costly to proceed. I have known several people through the years who operated small child care centers. They obviously loved

their job and business. However the business of a child care facility operates on a razor thin profit margin.

But since that time when my daughters were toddlers; not much has changed with child care. It is still operated as a small local business with a razor thin profit margin. Very often the people who staff the child care facilities are college educated with degrees in early childhood education. But for their level of education, they are grossly underpaid. Staff turnover can be high as workers seek higher paying jobs.

Once this pandemic is in the rear view mirror, there could very well be a massive crisis in child care as many child care facilities may not be in business or the costs of placing a child in a child care facility may be prohibitive for many families and single parents. This has been a problem that our government; local, state and federal have long overlooked.

The pandemic has exacerbated what has been a brewing crisis in child care. For many working single parents, child care is the only thing that allows a mother to work and remain off welfare. For dual income families, just keeping afloat requires that both parents are working so child care is a necessity.

Other countries offer subsidies for child care and even have government sponsored child care centers available for working parents. Whoever becomes the next president and the congress should examine these potential solutions for a problem that have been vexing families for generations and is now approaching a real crisis. As one columnist wrote recently; "there can be no recovery until the problem of child care is solved".

The Story Of Krispy Kreme Donuts

by Bob Stilwell

Krispy Kreme opened their doors on July 13, 1937. Vernon Rudolph bought a secret yeast-raised doughnut recipe from a New Orleans French chef, rented a building in what is now historic Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC, and began selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts to local grocery stores. The delicious scent of cooking doughnuts drifted into the streets, and passers-by stopped to ask if they could buy hot doughnuts. So, he cut a hole in an outside wall and



started selling hot Original Glazed doughnuts directly to customers on the sidewalk. After the war, a showcase was designed for this space. The

top served as the counter. Since cake doughnuts and cake sticks were made as well as yeast doughnuts, an attractive display could be made of the variety. The display case is a feature you cannot miss when entering the stores today. Hand production was a thing of the past when automation took over in 1963. I just passed the red neon Krispy Kreme sign. This is their signal, enter the store and they will give you a free donut right off the conveyor. I just saw the red sign. See you later it's time to get a donut.



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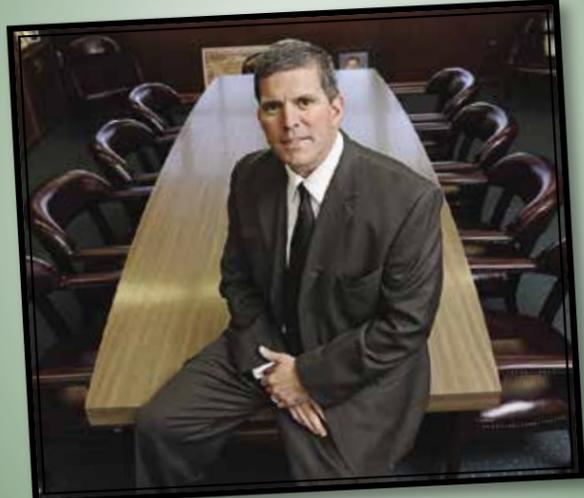
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PERSPECTIVE

Senator Antonio Commemorates Women's Suffrage By Voting

by Nickie Antonio

Election Day 2020 is only a few days away, but with early and mail-in voting, you can submit your ballot today. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is open for early in-person voting now through Monday, November 2nd at 2:00 p.m. You can also request your absentee ballot up until three days before the election. Once you have received and completed your ballot, it must be postmarked and sent to the BOE or placed in the ballot drop box prior to election day; however, voters should submit or send their ballots as soon as possible.

This year has been momentous for numerous reasons, but one significant milestone worth



Senator Antonio puts her ballot in the dropbox at Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

commemorating is the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution which gave women the right to vote. This allowed women to make their voices heard and represented one ballot at a time. In 1920, only about 36 percent of eligible women voters cast their ballot, compared to 68 percent of men. Now, women voters outnumber men at the polls 63 percent to 59.

I am extremely proud of our very own Parma community for its contribution to women's rights and commitment to equality, civic duty which continue today. This dedication is evident in Parma's female city council members, Deborah Lime, Kristin Saban and Linda

Kohar; and, because of this community's support, I am the first woman to represent Ohio's 23rd Senate District.

While we commemorate the success of the women's suffrage movement, we must also acknowledge that this right was not extended to all women. Due to state and local laws, loopholes, poll taxes, literacy tests, and violence, women of color were not guaranteed the right to vote. In fact, Black women and Native American women were not fully enfranchised voters until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Even now, voter suppression tactics seek to disenfranchise people of color and low income communities.

Despite these challenges and those associated with the pandemic, I am hopeful that women voters will turn out in droves to vote this year. This election is so important and women remain an essential part of our electorate. In this year of uncertainty, voters, especially women voters, should feel confident and more empowered than ever in asserting their voices at the ballot box.

AARP Tax Aide Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers to assist taxpayers in southwestern Cuyahoga County. We plan 2 tax preparation sites in Parma and additional sites in the neighboring cities of Middleburg Heights, Brook Park, Broadview Heights, North Royalton, and Strongsville. We also plan sites in Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, and the Old Brooklyn and Puritas-Longmead neighborhoods of the city of Cleveland that are part of another Tax-Aide district. Volunteers do not have to be retired or members of AARP.

All of our sites are electronic filing sites. Volunteers are expected to

work for at least 5 hours per week on weekdays during the tax season, which runs from the first week in February through the 15th of April. In light of the pandemic, our operational processes are still to be determined. Each volunteer must have an email address and computer experience is preferred for tax return preparers. Volunteers do not need previous income tax experience. We provide a free two-week virtual course for tax return preparers during January. We are also looking for greeters and provide them with a free one-day virtual course.

Tax-Aide is a very rewarding IRS-supported program offered by the AARP Foundation providing free assistance to taxpayers with special attention given to senior citizens with low to moderate incomes. It is a great way for volunteers to become involved in their communities and learn about the preparation of the 1040 tax form. Our recruitment of volunteers is on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

For more information please call Tax-Aide District Coordinator Steve Donovan at 440-237-7348, call AARP's toll-free number at 888-687-2277, or visit Tax-Aide's web site at https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/



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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....

Go here <https://www.collabtoendht.org/resource-guide.html> to download a copy of their Resource Guide listing available programs & service 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 The Literacy Cooperative:

If you haven't yet, visit <https://www.literacycooperative.org/> to sign up your age B – 5 year old child to receive their own free, age appropriate book mailed to him/her each month.

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

Thursday, Nov. 12th at noon is 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, try your luck at Barnyard Bingo & register to participate in all the festivities at <https://AchievementCenters.org/celebration>.

From Cuyahoga County Waste District :

Click on this link https://cuyahogarecycles.org/how_to_recycle to learn everything you need to know about recycling. Clicking here: https://cuyahogarecycles.org/what_do_i_do_with will let you know what to do w/more unusual items; this page: https://cuyahogarecycles.org/pass_it_on_book lists organization willing to accept your donation/s for re-use.

From The Ohio Dept of Education (ODE):

Has developed a video series that documents student career exploration and success: The Finding Your Pathway: Career Exploration video series is an excellent introduction to the many paths available for Ohio's students to reach their career goals. Each video in the series profiles a different Ohio student as he or she prepares for success after high school. Definitely worth a visit.

From Parma City Schools:

Visit the District's web site & scroll down to view the district's COVID-19 Dashboard & information/links re: current programs, services & upcoming events. While there check out the Facts & Figures videos to learn details related to the proposed consolidation.

From Parma Area MyCom, Southwest Community Based Svcs/Univ. Settlement:

Project Lift: Project LIFT Services is a prevention and social justice agency providing behavioral health

services, targeting the needs of Black teens and fathers most at-risk for homelessness, economic instability, and incarceration who live within Cuyahoga County. Visit <https://www.projectliftservices.org/supportive-housing> for information about their Lifted Men Fatherhood program. Participants in good standing may apply for short term financial assistance.

ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland, a MyCom network partner, is a free program run by local design and construction professionals with the goal of inspiring high school students to pursue careers in the architecture, construction, and engineering industries. During the Coronavirus pandemic, all ACE Mentor sessions will be VIRTUAL. This fall, we've planned a series of skill-building workshops, taught by our volunteer mentors. Sessions will be held virtually Wednesdays at 10:00 am and at 2:00 pm. Students only need to attend one weekly session. A minimum of 6 sessions will be required for scholarship qualification for the fall semester. Go here to learn more: <https://www.acementor.org/affiliates/ohio/cleveland/about-us/>

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. And/or find out what's new with MyCom 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.

Community Conversation:

Surviving Back to School – From the Parma Heights Library: Tuesday, November 10th / 7:00-8:15pm. Families have survived the first 9 weeks of this unique school year. Consider joining other parents on Zoom for a conversation to share ideas, tips and tricks in supporting your children with all the changes in returning to school, no matter what that may look like. Click [HERE](#) to register. Registration and an email address are required to receive the link to participate.

More updates from the County Library:

All three of our local branches (Parma, Parma Hts, Parma-Snow) are offering Kids Café, afterschool lunch Monday – Friday for kids 18 and under. Here's the link for more information. Parma Heights is a new site. <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/LP/Kids-Cafe.aspx>

Weekly "Take & Make" crafts for children ages 4-10. Bags containing small pieces, ages 3+. To know what the next craft is follow the City of Parma Heights on Facebook or stop in for a visit.

Parma Hts now has its own StoryWalk, an outdoor, interactive story found around the building. The first title is Maggie and Michael Get Dressed by Denise Fleming is up and ready for adventure. Follow the story from station to station and try the interactive activities as the story goes on.

Video resources for parents/caregivers 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>

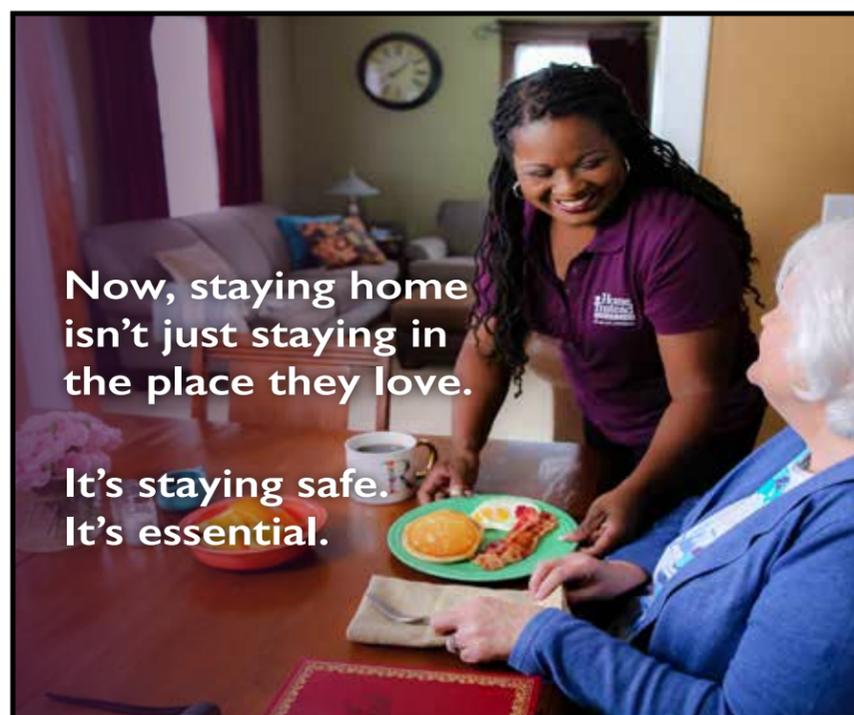
>> Beginning Monday October 19th through Sunday November 22nd, for ages birth – 35 months with parent/caregiver, BOOST YOUR BABY'S BRAIN THROUGH PLAY! Learn more and register for the Virtual Play, Learn & Grow Baby Club at <https://tinyurl.com/BabyClubFall20>

Go here to view their current list of free computer classes and training for adults ages 18 and up.

Need help with remote learning issues? Go here for remote learning tech support for parents, students as well as educators: <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Kids-Teens/Back-to-School.aspx>

Go here to learn more about the Job & Career Services program offered by CCPL. Learn job search strategies for the "Virtual Age".

To receive current, detailed information about these services plus upcoming events & more, consider registering for their e-newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-Newsletter>



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PARMA ART SCENE

Is Parma Ready For An Arts District?

established there had not happened first. Tremont is but another example of how a distressed area over time thanks to the positive effects of an Arts Community can be transformed into a destination for investment and development, with people eager to live in the midst of the creative changes grown there.

Not every neighborhood in every city is necessarily the best place for an Arts District to bloom. In our city, we are fortunate to have older neighborhoods in the north part of Parma that when built were reminiscent of the urban neighborhoods in nearby Cleveland. These walkable areas are a perfect fit. One such place is in fact the birthplace of Parma- it says so on an Ohio Historical plaque situated at the intersection of Ridge and Pearl Rds., where the Fay family were the first settlers in this area. On the site of their inn eventually stood an historic building which housed the Parma Home Bakery. Over a decade ago it was razed in order to build a Rite-Aid drugstore. Unfortunately it wasn't many years later that the store closed, sitting there empty since then- a vacant building for many years now on one of the busiest intersections in the city. I look at that empty shell which obviously will never be a drugstore again, and I see a golden opportunity for this space to be transformed into a community Arts Center that serves as a hub of what will be a vibrant, bustling Parma Arts District.

The changes have already started to occur. Two years ago Prama Artspace and Gallery, the first private art gallery in the seventh largest city in Ohio opened at 5411 Pearl (thanks to Parma's Art Hero Sean Mabin), and is literally

a stone's throw away from the former Rite Aid. Just recently on October 25th we celebrated the unveiling of an exciting Welcome to Parma mural created by Graffiti Heart on the side wall of the Planet of the Vapes building directly across the intersection from the same property. While at the ribbon cutting for this new piece of public art, I had several conversations with artists and area property owners who were also quite keen on the idea of turning this former drugstore overlooking this unique neighborhood into a community Arts Center. We agreed that this historic area where Parma was born would be the perfect place for an Arts District to also be born. Dreams and projects start that way- with some people talking, then sharing ideas, then coming to the realization that Can't lives on Won't Street; when you start thinking of how things can happen instead of why they can't, anything is possible.

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture is an organization that oversees the money raised from a special tax on cigarettes used to fund the Arts in Cuyahoga County. Until recent years, our city received almost no money from a fund that most certainly our numerous smokers contributed a great deal to. That has changed a little, as some non-profits in Parma have wisely utilized grants from this group, but the way I see it, we are long overdue for a major partnership with Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, which would involve procuring this property for the use of creating a Community Arts Center in the heart of the Birthplace of Parma. No one council person, mayor, or non-profit alone can get something like this done. As with most worthwhile endeavors, it takes a dedicated team effort, with everyone lending their special talents and working together to reach a shared goal. Let's re-invent this distressed property that we've driven by for years as it slowly deteriorates. Surely if the owners of the property realized that the community could benefit greatly if it were repurposed in such a useful manner, they may be agreeable.

Cities around the world have realized the benefits of developing Arts Districts in the fabric of their communities. The Cleveland Area has demonstrated from one end of the county to the other how the Arts brings progress in many forms when they are introduced and nurtured. Finally, the opportunity has come to our corner of the world. Are we going to meet this moment?

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd, opened the highly publicized photo exhibit, "Images of Haunted Ohio", on October 23rd. This exhibit includes photos from Franklin Castle, The House of Wills, Mansfield Reformatory, cemeteries in Ohio and more. This show is a peek at those haunted places through the eyes of local photographers, Markus Abdelmasih, Laura D'Alessandro, Jennifer Gleason, June Hund, Sean Mabin, Shawn Slowburn and Jim Szudy. It's a spooky show. Opening night featured the sounds of a noiseadelic set with Shawn Slowburn and Jim Szudy. This hauntingly beautiful exhibit closes November 22 so you have plenty of time to stop and visit.

Prama also has a Boutique with a variety of one of a kind handmade items priced affordably at \$1 and up. These items made great gifts and stocking stuffers, and include items such as t-shirts, key chains, all kinds of jewelry, face coverings, holiday ornaments, books and affordable prints, some not available elsewhere. Support your local small businesses, talented artists and makers. They are what makes a community unique.

During the last few weeks of October, Prama also ran a costume photo contest for all age groups with prizes. If you stopped in at the gallery in costume, your photo was taken and posted to Facebook and Instagram. The most liked photos received a prize within 3 age categories.

Prama asks that you wear a mask



and practice social distancing. They also have an outdoor waiting area for your convenience. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram, or visit their web page for more information or to preview the exhibits and boutique offerings.

Laura D'Alessandro, Co-Curator of Prama Artspace Gallery, is also on exhibit with "Memory and Resistance: 40th Anniversary of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Columbia". IRTF was formed in response to the deaths of four women, two from Cleveland, Jean Donovan and Ursuline Sister, Dorothy Kazel, two Sisters from Maryknoll, Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, along with thousands of Central American people, while working in solidarity with their communities in El Salvador during the Civil War in 1980. The artwork honoring the memories of past and present advocates. This exhibit can be viewed online.

PSO Plans Performances

by Joe Germana

During these difficult times the Parma Symphony is not performing in a live concert setting. They are preparing a virtual season until they can all perform again in a live venue. Their next virtual performance will broadcast on Cox Communication station 74 in collaboration with PACT-TV will be on December 6th at 3:00pm. It will feature members of the Parma Symphony Orchestra performing solos and small ensembles with Holiday Favorites and various classical pieces.

They look forward to the time when they can once again perform in person at Valley Forge High School. Future regulations, recommendations, and school policy decisions are being developed, monitored, and implemented so that they can return to the stage. Once these guidelines and safety standards are developed by medical and scientific groups regarding performing ensembles and they are able

to implement them, they plan return to live performances early next year. If a vaccine will be developed soon they plan to return as a full ensemble in March.

Stay tuned for more information. Please visit parmasymphony.org for additional concert information or Find us on Facebook and click the "Like" button to receive concert and news updates.

As they are experiencing no ticket income this year and are still incurring operating expenses they are seeking donations. Donations to the Parma Symphony Orchestra are tax deductible under section of 170 of the Internal Revenue code. Donations allow the Symphony to continue their tradition of performing outstanding music for our own community at a reasonable price. Please consider sending a donation payable to "Parma Symphony Orchestra" and mail to: PO BOX 29622, Parma, Ohio 44129

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