

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine At Pleasantview Care Center In Parma on December 18.

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine came to Pleasantview Care Center in Parma on December 18 in order to preside over the roll out of the first Coronavirus vaccine, to be administered to health-care workers and residents there. Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter was there, safely distanced while watching outside on his I-Pad. Parma Fire Chief Michael Lasky was also in attendance. Both made comments in appreciation of the Governor choosing Parma as the place to recognize this extremely significant development in the production and distribution of a vaccine which couldn't come fast enough to our entire country, and represents finally a light at the end of the tunnel of what has been



Governor DeWine At Pleasantview Care Center In Parma On Dec. 18

one of the most trying years in the history of Planet Earth. Pleasantview Care Center is part of the Legacy Health Services family, based right here in Parma. they maintain approximately 160 nursing facility beds, with 100 assisted living beds as well. There are currently around 235 staff members employed at this

facility located at 7377 Ridge Road. It is good to see our Governor set foot in the 7th largest city in the State of Ohio in order to recognize one of our excellent senior care institutions available to our many vulnerable Seniors during this unprecedented time.

Rumpke Starts Waste And Recycling Services Feb. 1



Rumpke will be the new residential waste and recycling service for the City of Parma starting Feb. 1.

by Carolyn Kovach

Rumpke Waste & Recycling will be the new waste and recycling service provider for the City of Parma beginning Feb. 1, 2021 and over the next five years. Under the new service agreement, Rumpke will provide weekly trash, recycling and bulk-waste collection for residents, including the use of Rumpke trash and recycling carts. The company is delivering around 60,000 new carts

starting Jan. 4, 2021. Residents should not use the new carts, however, until Feb. 1. Rumpke is mailing instructional information to residents prior to its service beginning. “The current garbage provider, Republic Services, will be collecting rubbish throughout January,” said Service Department Director Brian Higgins. “In order to make this transition as seamless as possible, we are asking residents to use only the Republic Services

carts in January. Although they will already have their Rumpke carts, they should not begin to use those carts until February.” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said he is confident residents will be pleased with the new service. “With this new contract, residents are not required to separate yard waste and will have weekly bulk pickup — a convenience they have wanted,

continued on page 6

Happy New Year From The Parma City School District!

by Charles Smialek

Zoom! Screencastify! Peardeck! Google Meet! Please mute your microphone! Um, you're muted, can you turn on your microphone? Please go to your learning space! Could we have ever imagined last New Year's that these phrases would become a part of our regular discourse? 2020 has presented many challenges to all of us as we navigated truly once-in-a-lifetime circumstances.

Though we miss seeing our students in person, we are also proud of and thankful for the work of our teachers and support staff to ensure that we have still been able to provide meaningful, engaging lessons. And, perhaps most importantly, we are grateful for the resilience of our students and the endless support of our parents, grandparents, and family members who have served as invaluable “co-teachers” for such long stretches of our pandemic.

We hope that this holiday season allows you to create as many memories in as safe of a manner as possible. We all miss the many holiday concerts, classroom parties, and other festivities that become a part of our schools' cultures and excitedly look forward to a healthier 2021!

In the first months of 2021, we will again commit to our second district goal: Increase



Charles Smialek, Ph.D.
Superintendent of the Parma City School District

transparency throughout our communities. To this end, we will hold five virtual Town Hall meetings in which we share information about a specific topic of interest within our district then take questions and comments from all participants. All meetings will occur on Zoom at 6:00 P on the following dates:

January 12 and 26: The truth about our finances

February 9: Our unparalleled Career Technical Education programs

February 23: Enriching STEM opportunities

March 9: Innovative programs: Parma Virtual Learning Academy, Kindergarten Launch, and A.C.E.S. Center for Education

Please register to attend these sessions on our website www.parmacityschools.org. We look forward to engaging with many of you!



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Jackie Wojtkiewicz. Pictured is Elf Peyton Wojtkiewicz. Jackie 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Parma has been home to many famous Americans, including the likes of John D. Rockefeller, automobile pioneer Ransom Olds, Hector “Chef Boyardee” Boiardi, astronaut James Lovell, musician Benjamin Orr, and wrestler Mike “The Miz” Mizanin, among others. This month I want you spotlight an American hero in our midst that I have found few know of, but all should be aware of. His name is Frank Herda.

Frank Herda attended Parma Senior High School, graduating in 1966. Soon after high school, at the tender age of 20, he served his country in Vietnam attaining the rank of U.S. Army Specialist Fourth Class. While serving in the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, he became an American hero and, subsequently was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 29, 1968 – our nation’s highest award for valor. He attended a White House ceremony on May 14, 1970, where President Richard Nixon conferred the award. For accuracy, here is the full citation:

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Herda (then Pfc.) distinguished himself while serving as a grenadier with Company A. Company A was part of a battalion-size night



defensive perimeter when a large enemy force initiated an attack on the friendly units. While other enemy elements provided diversionary fire and indirect weapons fire to the west, a sapper force of approximately 30 men armed with hand grenades and small charges attacked Company A’s perimeter from the east. As the sappers were

making a last, violent assault, five of them charged the position defended by Sp4c. Herda and two comrades, one of whom was wounded and lay helpless in the bottom of the foxhole. Sp4c. Herda fired at the aggressors until they were within 10 feet of his position and one of their grenades landed in the foxhole. He fired one last round from his grenade launcher, hitting one of the enemy soldiers in the head, and then, with no concern for his safety, Sp4c. Herda immediately covered the blast of the grenade with his body. The explosion wounded him grievously, but his selfless action prevented his two comrades from being seriously injured or killed and enabled the remaining defender to kill the other sappers. By his gallantry at the risk of his life in the highest traditions of the military service, Sp4c. Herda has reflected great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.”

Following his service, Sp4c. Herda attended Cuyahoga Community College’s western campus, then served a 33-year career as a systems analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense in Cleveland. He currently resides in Parma Heights.

2021 will mark the 53rd anniversary of Sp4c. Herda receiving the Medal of Honor. It is fitting that the community find an appropriate way to laude and show our appreciation for his service and heroism. I am currently working on this project, so stay tuned. Happy New Year! Let’s pray 2021 yields a return to normalcy.



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2021
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AARP Tax Aide Announcement

by Stephen Donovan

We regret to announce that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program will not be offered in the Southwest Cuyahoga County District this coming tax season. This will affect our usual sites at Brook Park United Methodist Church, Parma Snow Road County Library, Parma Library, Brecksville Human Services Department, Broadview Heights Human Services Department, North Royalton County Library, Middleburg Heights County Library, and the Strongsville Senior Center. The facilities at those locations will not be available to prepare tax returns on site. We also do not have leaders and volunteers necessary to implement virtual tax preparation methods developed by AARP Foundation, which use only preparer-taxpayer contact over the internet. Once developed, information concerning alternate tax preparation may be forth coming.

 **Crime Tip Line (440) 887-7340**
crimetips@parmajustice.net
www.cityofparmapolice.com

Emergency – 911
Non Emergency - (440) 885-1234

We work for you

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Medical Center Begins Vaccinating Caregivers Against COVID-19

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals is proud to have been the first health system clinical trials site in Northeast Ohio for COVID-19 vaccines. Now, we're seeing the positive results of participating in those trials.

On December 23, University Hospitals began vaccinating caregivers with its first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine from Moderna. UH is working with ODH, CDC and others and is following regulatory guidelines for vaccine distribution. UH caregivers, regardless of their role, with the greatest risks of exposure to COVID-19 positive patients, are among the first groups to receive the vaccination. More than 16,000 healthcare

givers have filled out a survey requesting the vaccine, and we will be working to vaccinate all of these UH caregivers as vaccine doses become available.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, UH has leveraged the strength of our 19-hospital system to provide the best care possible for all of our patients. We are proud of our caregivers in clinical and nonclinical positions for their dedication to patients during this critical time. Now that we have received vaccines and begun distribution, we are doing the work to bring this pandemic to an end.



COVID-19 Testing On Jan. 28 At Tri-C Western Campus

by John Horton

Drive-thru COVID-19 testing will be offered Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) through a partnership with Care Alliance Health Center.

Testing begins at 11 a.m. Individuals seeking tests must be in line by 2 p.m. Testing will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment is necessary.

The testing service is available to Tri-C students, faculty and staff, as well as community residents. The program offers testing to individuals regardless of their symptom status, insurance sta-

tus or ability to pay. Individuals will not be charged for the test.

A government-issued ID with name and address is required for testing. Those with health coverage are asked to bring their insurance card.

Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Testing will take place at the circular drive fronting the theater off Pleasant Valley Road.

Visit tri-c.edu/covidtest or call 216-317-1250 for more information. Testing will rotate between College sites every Thursday through April 29. Testing will move to Westshore Campus in Westlake on Thursday, Feb. 4.

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

Test results are communicated to individuals by phone within approximately one week. Reporting could take longer during periods of high-volume testing.

Care Alliance is a nonprofit community health center providing critical primary and preventative medical services to residents regardless of their ability to pay. It serves the unique needs of patients at two downtown health centers and a mobile unit, as well as through outreach programming.

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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA



n December Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech and his wife Maureen held a 3 day food drive where they appeared as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. People were urged to donate food items or Giant Eagle gift cards, which were donated to needy residents and families.



A special candy delivery by Santa took place at UH Parma Medical Center on 12/23, along with members of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce

GM Plans To Invest \$6 Million In Parma Plant



On 12/19 Parma City Council President Sean Brennan completed his 100th marathon by running in Parma. The proceeds raised from this event were donated to All Faiths Pantry.

by Carolyn Kovach

General Motors Co. plans to invest more than \$6 million in the Parma metal stamping plant. The Parma investment will be used to construct four new metal assembly cells to support increased truck production of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra. “GM continues to invest to strengthen our core business and respond to growing customer demand for our full-size pickups,” said Phil Kienle, GM vice president of North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations. He added that the company's investment reflects its confidence in the Parma plant. "This is great news for our GM stamping plant, UAW Local 1005 employees and plant management. GM is one of largest employers in Parma. This

investment shows the hard work that is being done at the plant and its continued long-term growth," Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

The Parma Metal Center processes more than 800 tons of steel per day. It services and supports about 35 customers, including the majority of GM North America's vehicles. The plant has more than 750 total dies and is capable of producing up to 100 million parts per year. The manufacturing processes include small, medium and large transfer press lines, high-speed progressive presses and a cut-to-length shear, as well as GM North America's largest multi-cell resistance and laser welding metal assembly operation. Parma employs about 1,000 employees.

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New, Warm Coats Distributed to Families this Winter



Over 300 students throughout the Parma City School District are staying warm this winter in brand-new winter coats!

Thanks to the CARES Act funding through the State of Ohio, the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio provided \$28,755 to the PCSD to purchase essential items for families.

“We originally thought about purchasing personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and other supplies like that for families, but we felt like the bigger need was for coats,” explained Mikael Price, Administrative Specialist for Community and Family Connections.

With permission from the ESC, Parma Schools purchased coats, hats and gloves along with cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and hand soap for families throughout the district in need.

“I worked with the home liaisons and counselors at each building to help gather sizes and favorite colors so we could get a special coat for the students,” he shared. “We didn’t want all the students receiving these coats to have the same color and same style. We did the best we could to

give them a new coat they would be excited to wear.”

Coats from Lands End and Amazon in a multitude of colors were piled up ready to be delivered to families in early December just in time for the winter months ahead. It was important to make sure coats were brand new, especially to keep everyone safe during the pandemic.

“The aspect of being able to make sure kids in our district who might not have a winter coat, now get a warm winter coat is amazing,” Price expressed. “It’s important for us, as a district, to eliminate any barriers our students and families may have. Schools are a safe place, and we can help connect our families to the resources that they may need.”

“I have seen a bigger need this year,” he added. “There are a lot of families who have reached out who have lost their jobs or are going through some hardships. I think this is really going to help them out, and I love doing this. I’m all for making the community better.”

Visit www.parmacityschools.org to read more!



Renwood Elementary School staff spread holiday cheer this winter with the 1st Annual Stuffed Stocking Decorating Contest!

Several colorful stockings adorned with bows, glitter, inspiring messages, and other holiday scenes were generously donated. Each one was filled to the brim with treats and necessities for the senior citizens of the community.

Donations will also be split among three facilities in Parma – Pleasantview Care Facility, Pleasant Lake Villa and Broadview Multi-care.

“I really wanted a way for us to connect to our community and pay it forward,” Terry Caskey, second grade teacher at Renwood, shared. “We know that this is a really difficult time for everyone, so this is our way of reaching out. I just like to hear stories about people giving back, and I try to spread that message to my students, too.”

Thank You From Parma Schools Foundation

Greetings PCSD Community,

The Parma City Schools Foundation hopes you are well and sends you holiday greetings! Our Chevy Trax Car Raffle just wrapped up and we are excited to announce that we sold over 1,800 tickets and raised over \$18,000.00. All of these funds will support the education of our students! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your wonderful participation and support!

We are excited to announce the winners of our raffle:

- 1st place:** Chevy Trax – John Bokoch – a teacher at Valley Forge High School!
- 2nd place:** \$500.00 – Tom Metyk – a member of the community and the spouse of a proud PCSD retired teacher!
- 3rd place:** \$250.00 – Cheryl Trainer – a teacher at Ridge-Brook Elementary School!

We are also pleased to announce our top sellers:

- Individual:** Jim Bartel, a member of our community and graduate of Parma Senior High School!
- School:** Shiloh Middle School!
- Organizations:** Normandy High School Music Boosters, PTA Past Gavelers, and Valley Forge High School Band Boosters!

We also want to express our thanks and deep gratitude to many individuals and groups:

- To anyone who bought a Car Raffle ticket!
- To all of the PCSD Certificated Staff, Classified Staff, and Administrators for their wonderful support!
- To the office staff in our schools for selling and collecting tickets and for being so kind to our Foundation volunteers!

- To the staff, students, parents, and members of the community who either sold or bought tickets!
- To the Music Boosters who always support our Car Raffle!
- To the Athletic Departments for working with us this year and supporting the Car Raffle!
- To the Trustees and Advisory Board of the Foundation for their leadership and support!
- To anyone we forgot to mention (our apologies – the omission was not intentional)!

Please mark your calendar for **Wednesday, September 22, 2021, for our 9th Taste of the Towns!** It will be held from 6:00-8:30 PM at the Woodside Event Center at St. Michael’s. Hopefully, we will be able to breathe a sigh of relief that this pandemic is finally behind us.

It is the privilege of the Parma City Schools Foundation to support all of the endeavors of the Parma City School District! Thanks again for your wonderful help and support! Best wishes for good health and happiness, and Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all of you!

Sincerely,
The Parma City Schools Foundation



Congratulations John and Courtney Bokoch!



Welcome New PCSD Board Member, Cyndee Bratz!

On December 3, 2020, Cyndee Bratz was appointed to the Parma City School District Board of Education and was sworn in by City of Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter.

Bratz will serve on the school board through December 31, 2021, filling Karen S. Dendorfer’s seat. Dendorfer resigned after almost 32 years of service and dedication to PCSD on November 5.

Join Us for 2021 Town Hall Meetings!

In the first months of 2021, we will hold five virtual Town Hall meetings in which we share information about a specific topic of interest within our district and then take questions and comments from all participants. All meetings will occur on Zoom at 6:00 PM on the following dates:

- January 12 and 26:** The truth about our finances
- February 9:** Our unparalleled Career Technical Education programs
- February 23:** Enriching STEM opportunities
- March 9:** Innovative programs: Parma Virtual Learning Academy, Kindergarten Launch and ACES Center

Please register to attend these sessions on our website www.parmacityschools.org. We look forward to engaging with many of you!

PCSD

Parma City School District

TOWN HALL SERIES 2021

January 12, 2021 : The Truth about PCSD Finances

January 26, 2021: The Truth about PCSD Finances

February 9, 2021: Career Technical Education

February 23, 2021: STEM Education

March 9, 2021: Parma Virtual Learning Academy, Kindergarten Launch Academy & A.C.E.S. Center

ALL EVENTS WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 6 PM.

REGISTER TO ATTEND BY COMPLETING THE FORM.

Zoom link will be sent to all who register.

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Inspiration



Mother Teresa in the snow. A statue outside of St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Now and then, it is good to distinguish between our needs and our wants. Needs are food, water, shelter, and clothing. Once we realize we do not have to make ourselves wrong to deliver an apology, we will experience a new power. Parents who do not allow their children to experience failure or sadness give them a false view of the world and do not prepare them for the harsh realities of the adult life. Relationships have a good chance of improving when both partners are willing to look at themselves and make some adjustments or changes.

The frailty and brevity of human life can be represented by the twin metaphors of withering grass and fading flowers, but the Word of God stands forever. The Godly have so many true riches to enjoy: glory, goodness, grace,

knowledge, mercy, and wisdom. It is so sad when so many try so desperately to acquire the uncertain riches of this world. The less people know, the more they think they know; the more people know, the less they think they know. The prevailing spirit of today's society includes self-indulgence, lust, greed, materialism, excess, cheating, and pride. All are sinful and transgress God's law. We must not be swayed by the perverse reasoning of the "politically correct world." We must allow God's Word to guide us. Youngsters and the inexperienced (ignorant) would do well to seek the advice of older people; chances are they have been there.

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?

Rumpke Starts Waste And Recycling Services Feb. 1

continued from page 1

and we are happy to now deliver." Regarding bulk waste, Rumpke will collect items such as appliances, sofas, chairs, mattresses, box springs and other large items. Upholstered furniture and mattresses must be wrapped in sealable plastic. "We are looking forward to serving Parma residents," said Paul Marker, Rumpke regional vice president. "We will continue to work collaboratively with the city to ensure the best service for the whole community."

One of the nation's largest privately owned residential and commercial waste and recycling firms, Rumpke serves neighborhoods throughout Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. The family-owned business has been around since 1932. The company has 11 recycling facilities, including major material recovery facilities in Cincinnati and Columbus, as well as a glass processing facility in Dayton, Ohio.

Recycle Right

Place your recycling items loose in

your Rumpke recycling cart.

Do not bag recyclables.

Rumpke's acceptable recycling items include:

- Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, fruit and yogurt cups (empty and then reattach lids)
- Cartons with caps and straws removed (no egg or ice cream cartons permitted)
- Any color of glass bottles and jars (reattach lids or caps)
- Metal cans (non-hazardous and nonflammable)
- Paperboard (cereal boxes, 12-pack containers, etc.)
- Cardboard (flattened and should fit inside the cart)
- A variety of paper products:

Office papers, Newspapers, Magazines, Junk mail, Envelopes, Telephone books, Paper grocery bags

Rumpke keeps a list of recyclables on its website: www.rumpke.com.

Reaching Rumpke

1-800-828-8171

centralohio.market@rumpke.com
www.rumpke.com

Service begins Feb. 1, 2021.

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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- Wednesday-** Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off
- Thursday-** Ladies Night- 50% off any drinks w/ad
- Friday-** \$4.00 Hookah All Day
- Saturday-** 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
- Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio

Neighborhoods

Seven Hills Recreation Center Introduces New Programs And Mental Health Services

by Spencer Abbott

As we welcome in the New Year, we at the Seven Hills Recreation Center hope to bring in a happier and healthier year. We look forward to bringing the community back to our community recreation center. If your goals align with ours please see all that we have to offer.

The Seven Hills Recreation Center reopened in late May with protocols in place to help keep patrons and staff safe. Programs are still being offered on a daily basis with much smaller class sizes. Social distancing is in place by having machines in the fitness area rotated in and out of use each day and masks are required while moving throughout the building and at any time one is not being physically active. The maximum capacity has been reduced to maintain social distancing in the common areas.

We hope to get back to normal as quickly as possible, becoming a place not just to swim and work on physical fitness, but also a gathering place for those in the community to come together. In order to get a little bit of that normalcy back, we are offering a new program called “Friday Lunch-Bunch” each Friday at 12:15 PM. Stop in for a \$5 lunch prepared in-house by



Seven Hills Recreation Center

Jo Ann Rencz. Social distancing will be in place, but safe socialization is encouraged!

Some newer programs are Beginner's Yoga and an All Levels Power Class on Monday evenings at 5:30 PM and 7 PM, respectively. Both classes take place in the Aerobics Studio with punch cards and drop-in rates available!

Your favorite classes are still being

offered such as Jo Ann's morning Yoga classes, Tanya's morning Stress Relief Yoga, Pilates, and Trim and Tone classes, all of our SilverSneakers/Senior classes, Fit Happens with Debbie on Tuesday evenings, Zumba on Wednesday evenings, Learn-To-Swim, and several Water Aerobics classes as well. Schedules for all of our programs can be found on our website: www.sevenhillsohio.org

We recognize that ‘healthy’ does not just refer to the body, but to the mind as well. As such, the City of Seven Hills would like to introduce our new Mental Health Liaison Services to all community members at no cost. Jackie Corrigan, Clinical Mental Health CT, is able to provide a variety of services. Community members may request support directly or on behalf of an individual who may be struggling with identified or suspected mental health needs. Services are voluntary and do require consent in most cases. Services are available in-person or via live video conferencing and include individual sessions for purposes of screening, guidance, resources, intervention, support, crisis intervention, collaboration with outside professionals, coordination of services, linkage, and/or referrals. Ms. Corrigan is available at (440) 720-4541 or CorriganJackie21@gmail.com

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PERSPECTIVE

It's Déjà Vu All Over Again

by Lee Kamps

As I am writing this, the year 2020 is closing out with two weeks left until we put up the calendar for 2021. To say that this year has been one that few will long remember is an understatement. A year ago everyone knew that the election would be contentious and it sure was that. But no one could have predicted a year ago the kind of year that 2020 would become.

However, I remember a similar year in my lifetime that was just as dramatic as this past year has been. So, let me take the readers on a trip back in time to a year not long ago that was perhaps just as disruptive as the one just past. That year was 1968, just 52 years ago. I was a 19 year old college student when the year began, but no one could have predicted what would unfold during the next twelve months. The country had become torn apart at the seams and just as divided as it is now. In 1968 the issue

was the Vietnam war. At the end of January 1968 the Viet Cong launched their Tet offensive. Militarily it was a defeat for the North Vietnamese, but it achieved its objective that was to convince the Americans that they were not defeated and could still fight.

President Lyndon Johnson who won the 1964 election in a landslide was eligible to run for another term as President. But in the New Hampshire primary, a little known Senator from Minnesota almost defeated him in the first Democratic primary. That prompted Robert Kennedy, JFK's brother, to declare his candidacy for President. Then in a surprise announcement on a Sunday night in March, President Johnson declared that he would not be a candidate for President in 1968.

Then just four days following that bombshell announcement from the president, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr was killed on a

motel balcony in Memphis Tennessee. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King, riots broke out throughout the nation and persisted for weeks.

Then just two months after Martin Luther King's assassination; Robert Kennedy was assassinated just after addressing his supporters upon winning the California primary election.

To say that the election of 1968 was contentious was also an understatement. Muddying the waters was the third party candidacy of George Wallace the former segregationist governor of Alabama. He was running as an independent candidate and if you watch a video of one of his rallies, they bear a striking resemblance to Donald Trump's rallies of 2020.

Richard Nixon came back from exile and in a remarkable recovery became the Republican candidate for President. Vice President Hubert Humphrey managed to win the Democratic nomination for President. But the Democratic convention in Chicago was marred by demonstrations inside and outside of the convention hall. Perhaps the worst which was described later as a "police riot"; Chicago police beat protesters in view of national television cameras while the odor of tear gas wafted into the convention hotel.

The protesters shouted "the whole world is watching" as the Chicago police beat unarmed protesters. Yes, the whole world was watching. At the time I was in Quebec Canada with my family on a vacation. The reactions of the Canadians I met were of shock

and disbelief at what was happening in the United States. At that moment it seemed that the country was splitting apart.

The year 1968 was the deadliest year of the Vietnam War as over 14,000 Americans were killed in Vietnam that year. At the end of 1968, there were over 500,000 combat troops deployed in Vietnam. The war was fought mostly by young men drafted into service and draft calls in 1968 reached their peak as well.

The election of 1968 was a close one with Nixon defeating Humphrey and Wallace by a slim margin. George Wallace became the last third party candidate to win any electoral votes as he won five states in the deep south.

Then at the closing of the year, on Christmas Eve, the nation and the world saw the first pictures of the earth from space as Apollo 8 was orbiting the moon. The astronauts read a portion from the Bible as well as The Night Before Christmas as the world paused to gaze in wonder of the earth from the moon. Seven months later, there would be men walking on the moon.

The country was very badly divided in 1968, just as we are in 2020. But we managed to get through those troubled times, as I am sure that the country will get through these times. Just as in 1968, we got a preview of good things to come; so now the promise of a vaccine against COVID that could end this pandemic gives us hope for a much better year in 2021.

Cracking Down On Big Banks That Enable Drug And Human Trafficking

by Sherrod Brown

Last month, we announced a historic, bipartisan overhaul of anti-money laundering laws that we helped secure in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, known as NDAA. As the top Democrat on the Senate Banking and Housing Committee, this is something we've been working on for years with members of both parties. We know criminals abuse the U.S. financial system to launder money from drug trafficking, organized crime, Medicare and Medicaid fraud, weapons sales, and human trafficking. And much of this dirty money is then laundered through anonymous shell corporations.

The bipartisan Anti-Money Laundering Act and the Corporate Transparency Act will update and reform the tools we have to crack down on these shell companies and on big banks that enable criminals. Money laundering is not a victimless crime. The Sinaloa cartel actors and fentanyl traffickers who have destroyed thousands of Ohio families use money laundering to get their drug trade money in and out of the country. Human traffickers who prey on runaways in truck stops along major interstate highways in Ohio and across

the country use the financial system to launder their profits.

I've heard from Ohio law enforcement that they need new, modern tools to stop these criminals and root out these companies. We know that criminals are constantly adjusting their tactics to get around our current laws. This bill will help us get ahead of them – and stay ahead of them. These reforms will finally require comprehensive reporting by U.S. companies of their actual owners. No more hiding these abuses in anonymous shell companies. We're also cracking down on big banks that look the other way or actively aid money laundering. If you're helping drug traders hide their illegal fentanyl profits, you deserve more than a slap on the wrist.

These bills are just some of the important wins for Ohio we were able to secure in NDAA – along with investment for our military installations, and finally expanding the list of medical conditions for veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

NDAA is a critical, bipartisan package that passes every year, and is vital to our national security and to our state's economy. I hope the president will sign it into law, so we can get law enforcement the tools they need.

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PERSPECTIVE

A Congratulations To Parma For Helping Pass Issue 70

by Jeremy Jusek

I was really rooting for Parma’s education bill to pass. The schools have desperately needed the funding ever since ex-Superintendent Jeffrey Graham bankrupted the district and fled to Lorain, who then had the audacity to turn around and sue our school system in 2019 for telling the truth: our school district’s money troubles were

the direct result of his leadership. I mention this so you, dear fellow Parma resident, may consider this point in future school levies.

However, there is a very bright light that came out of the 2020 election that all residents of Parma—and the rest of Cleveland—should celebrate. This is the passage of Issue 70, which provides extra funding for the

Cuyahoga County Public Library.

What the Bill Does

According to WKYC, this levy is the first of its kind in over a decade, generates \$18 million for the library system annually, and costs Cuyahoga County residents less than \$3 per month (per \$100,000 home value). It prevents budget cuts, slashed services, and reduced hours. More importantly, according to the library’s website, the levy directly provides the following benefits:

Continue to operate CCPL’s 27 branches.

Maintain virtual services, which have been critical during the pandemic.

Preserve evening and weekend hours for students and residents who need access to computers and a reliable Internet connection.

Make necessary safety and security updates.

Sustain a robust materials collection.

Maintain critical services, like after-school homework help and training for job seekers.

Why it Matters

Many people don’t seem to know this, but we have the best library system in the country. No, really. The CCPL has been rated by the Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Services, an independent review body that in 2019 compared a total of 6,333 U.S. public libraries, as the best library in the nation for ten years in a row. According to their rating system across

six categories which measures things like book and DVD circulation to program attendance, it isn’t even close. The CCPL scored 19% better than the second-place library system.

Our library system—and it is indeed ours—does more than rent out books, movies, and e-books. It provides help applying for jobs and constructing resumes. It gives internet access to those who don’t have it. Our libraries provide career advice, hosts speakers, and offers hundreds of different programs for people of all ages, ranging from storytime activities for toddlers to 3D printing classes for anyone interested. It even supports those willing to offer their expertise to the public. Since 2015, I have run a poetry workshop at the Powers Blvd location. While my personal connection to the CCPL is small, I can attest that the staff and administration is kind, motivated, and knowledgeable.

More than any other library system, the CCPL has remained reflexive and innovative over the last couple of decades, and successfully shifted its services to stay relevant in the internet age. This year, while the pandemic raged, the library found temporary digital solutions to continue programming until the CCPL can safely re-continue the full gamut of its resources.

We should never take for granted the excellent library institution that Cleveland, with Parma’s help, has built. It is one of our city’s finest achievements. And by the looks of this year’s vote, it seems our residents know this. Let’s not forget!



(Left to right) Lt. Kaszar, FF. Kost, FF. Mason

Parma Heights Heart Attack Survivor Says "Thank You"

by Matt Bernard

This story is related to Andrew “Andy” Novak, 51, a retired forklift driver from Parma, OH, he began experiencing shortness of breath and severe chest pain on January 20, 2018. Moments after telling his wife he may need to go to the hospital, she found him unresponsive on the couch. Andy’s wife and daughter began CPR while they called 911. The Parma Heights Fire Department arrived at the home four minutes later and quickly transported him to UH Parma Medical Center.

Upon arrival in the catheterization lab, Dr. Paul Poomimpanit identified a totally occluded LAD and quickly

opened the blockage and placed a stent. However, Andy was in cardiogenic shock with an ejection fraction below 10%. Dr. Poomimpanit then inserted the Impella CP heart pump to support Andy’s weak heart and allow it to rest. He remained sedated and after six days of support, the Impella was weaned and explanted. Though he had a long road to recovery, including dialysis and rehabilitation, Andy has now returned to a normal quality of life. Today he appreciates every moment with his wife, two daughters, and two sons. He also enjoys tending to nearly five acres of land at his second home.



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OBSERVER

Cox Communications Temporarily Doubles Speed Of Service For Connect2Compete Customers

by Jeff Lavery

Cox Communications today announced it will temporarily double the download speed of service for its low-income internet service Connect2Compete through the end of the 2020-21 school year. This increase will be effective Friday, December 11, 2020 through Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

As many schools across the country continue to operate virtually, this increased speed will provide families and students peace of mind to complete schoolwork, communicate with teachers, and have the same opportunities to access information as their classmates.

“Connect2Compete was created to augment the classroom and it has now transformed to power the entire classroom for many students,” said Robert Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications Northeast. “We’ll continue to support students throughout this time of virtual



learning.”
The Connect2Compete program is available to families with at least one K-12 student at home and who participate in government subsidy programs. Visit Cox.com/C2C to learn more about the program.
“As schools return to distance learning – many for the second or third time – our students and families need additional support, and that includes reliable internet service,” said Dr. Jim Lloyd, superintendent, Olmsted Falls City School District. “Cox has been instrumental in working with Olmsted schools

and families to ensure students get affordable access to quality internet service. The added speed to Cox Connect2Compete internet service shows that Cox is committed to our students’ success.”
In addition to offering affordable internet options, Cox continues to partner with local, regional, and national organizations including PCs for People, which provides discounted, refurbished laptops and accessories to families that qualify for the Connect2Compete program.
Cox also is continuing to offer free access to outdoor Wifi hotspots nationwide through the end of the school year. These free access points make it easy for students to connect to the internet wherever needed.

Additive to the internet and device offerings, Cox has partnered with The Boys & Girls Club on their digital learning platform in order to keep Connect2Compete students engaged while remote. MyFuture is The Boys & Girls Club of America’s digital platform that empowers children and teens to learn new skills, share accomplishments and earn recognition and rewards via gamification in a safe and fun online environment. Connect2Compete customers can easily access this tool in Cox’s Digital Academy, an online learning platform full of computer literacy tips, educational videos,

tutorials and interactive games.
Families can qualify for Connect2Compete by visiting cox.com/c2c.
Parents looking for tips and advice on how to transition from parent to teacher can learn more here.
For more information on Cox’s coronavirus relief efforts, visit cox.com.

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

Tri-C Western Campus Hosts ‘Super Saturday’ Enrollment Events In January

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will host a pair of Super Saturday enrollment events at Western Campus in January to help students register for spring classes and apply for financial aid.
The Super Saturday events will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 16 and Jan. 30. The sessions offer opportunities to meet with academic

counselors and visit enrollment and financial aid offices to solidify a class schedule for spring semester.
Spring classes begin Jan. 19, with additional academic sessions starting Feb. 1 (14 weeks) and March 15 (second eight weeks).
Western Campus is located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Other Tri-C locations hosting concurrent Super Saturday events 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/supersaturday 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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PARMA ART SCENE

The Little Art Gallery With A Big Heart

by Dale Powell

During this pandemic, the worst thing is that we don't have much to do or places to go. I'm thankful for Prama Artspace and Gallery at 5411 Pearl Rd. in Parma for maintaining safe, socially distanced shows. The holiday themed show in December was a delightful display of familiar images mixed with some unusual visions as well. Proprietor Sean Mabin understands how to pack as much offerings into this little space as possible, and always produces interesting and thoughtful results. Easily accessed, in the most walkable section of Parma. A fine asset in a neighborhood that many people believe will be Parma's first and badly needed Arts District. Happy New Year 2021!



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