

“He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else”- Benjamin Franklin

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ParmaObserver

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

Seven Hills Looks Ahead

by Tony Biasiotta

As we enter the month of March one can't help but reflect on the last 12 months. March 2020 was the time COVID became front and center of our daily lives and the beginning of a long chain events that have been very trying on all of us. Heading into spring I hope the healing process soon begins on all fronts. After witnessing our community come together so many times, in spite of so many challenges, I have no doubt this will once again be the case.

To start 2020 we experienced a 100-year rainfall. This past summer, a very rare microburst hit the center of the Seven Hills. To wrap up 2020 we were hit with the largest 24-hour snowfall in over 50 years. Seven Hills, so far, has weathered the COVID storm as well. We have managed to keep all essential City services operating safely throughout the year. Further, we have been able to completely offset the financial hardships that were brought upon us from the pandemic. We finished the year with over \$1.4 million in surplus general fund revenue and cash reserves over \$7 million!

Looking ahead to Spring/Summer 2021, you will see robust infrastructure activity, economic development and not only the return, but also the addition of, new community events (as soon as it safe to do so).

The 2020 challenges did not slow our Partnerships and Progress goals down, in fact the uncertain economic environment has made the partnerships even more important. Below are just a few examples of what to expect:

Resurfacing of Chestnut Road is partly due to us being approved for funds through the County 50/50 program. The City will get the maximum \$250,000 allowed under the program towards this project.

We continue to work with the NEORS to restore the natural floodplain in the Donna Rae / Forest Overlook area. You can expect a few



Seven Hills Mayor
Tony Biasiotta

more homes to be cleared this spring as part of this project.

In addition, we won the competitive county supplement grant for a gazebo to be built on Hillside and Broadview. We expect the new gazebo to be ready to serve the community this coming Memorial Weekend.

Further we have applied for two more county grants. The first is a block grant for \$150,000 towards new bathrooms, concessions and storage at Calvin park (by the ball fields). The other is a supplemental grant for \$50,000 towards a new community bus (The current bus is 19 years old, in poor shape and is not handicapped accessible).

For 2021, we have expanded our partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Works for additional sewer maintenance, cleaning and repairs. This partnership has enabled the City to perform significantly more sewer cleaning that we have ever in past as we have the ability to utilize the County's Sewer Trucks (you may have noticed them working 2nd shift in your neighborhood) and our own in-house sewer team.

We will be receiving \$75,000 from the State Capital Budget towards new ADA compliant restrooms and a concession stand for Calvin Park.

Lastly, we utilized approximately \$92,000 of a NOPEC energy grant towards replace the old ballfield lights at Valleywood Park. The new LED lighting will create a safer playing field with significant

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“We Witnessed A Miracle”:

COVID-19 Survivor Goes Home After 76 Days

by CJ Sheppard

Carl Milano felt like a groom on the evening of his wedding day, anticipating the homecoming of his bride of 46 years. The Mayfield Village couple had survived COVID-19: he during a three-week bout at home, and Beverly during a marathon 76 days in two hospitals, including more than three weeks on a ventilator. They had missed Christmas and New Year's together, and on a snowy February afternoon just after Valentine's Day, he was taking his beloved home again. “We witnessed a miracle, and you all were a part of it,” said a tearful Carl, bowing in thanks to all the



Beverly Milano just before her discharge from Acute Rehab, with daughter Michelle Piper, who works at the hospital.

assembled caregivers cheering Beverly as she was discharged from University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

Beverly, 68, barely remem-

bers Thanksgiving, when one of her sons came to join her and her husband for dinner,

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Scholarships Available To Parma Scholars

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2021 award season. In its thirteenth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five schol-

arships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. The Scholarship is intended to pro-

vide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2021 – 2022 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service and

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Script Parma Picture of the Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by former Valley Forge High School student and teacher Gene Zayac. The photo includes his beloved granddaughter Reese. Mr. Zayac 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.

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



New Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Coyle Shuman and Parma City Council President Sean Brennan after she took the oath of office last month.

This month I want to introduce you to one of Parma's own who recently joined my colleagues and me on Parma City Council. Recently, Parma lost a fine leader, Councilman Brian Brochetti, who decided to resign his position on city council to spend more time with his beautiful, growing family. Happily, his replacement is a woman I have known for years who is approachable, positive, and full of energy with a work ethic to match. May I introduce you to Kammy Coyle Shuman – Parma's new ward seven councilwoman.

Councilwoman Coyle Shuman is one of eight children who grew up on Hollywood Drive. She loves the town she grew up and has raised a family in. In 2000, she married Tony Shuman at St. Charles Borromeo Church and they have two children. A graduate of Padua Franciscan High School, she

earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Baldwin Wallace University. She has been active in many organizations, including her children's grade school, St. Columbille, and high school, Padua. Her family owned Encompass the World Travel for many years. She taught fitness courses at Valley Forge, Tri-C, the Seven Hills Recreation Center, and many yoga studios. From 2013 to 2019, she was a recruiter at her alma mater, Padua. In 2020, she began working at Oak Tree Wealth Partners and is currently the operations manager. "I am extremely proud of my upbringing in Parma and plan to represent the constituents in ward seven with pride," our new councilwoman stated.

"I love Parma for the many cultures it represents. I love that we have different cities, within the city. I love that we have churches, of all denom-

inations, on each corner. I have so many memories at so many locations in the city. I grew up skating on the ice at Forestwood Ice Rink, I remember seeing the Nutcrackers at Parmatown Mall, I made my first communion at St. Charles Church, and connected with the man who would become my husband at the Parma Café. All in all, this city raised me. It formed me into the strong woman I am,” she pointed out.

“My goal as councilwoman is to actively participate in the betterment of our community. I want to work for the good of all. It is important that we come together as a city and make decisions that will make us stronger. I will respect and respond to the needs of the constituents in my ward,” Councilwoman Coyle Shuman explained.

She continued, “I would love the residents to know that my decisions will be made based on what is right. I like to get to know people, read them, understand what is important to them and advocate on their behalf, based on this. I will listen and discuss issues with them, and try my best to stay grounded in my beliefs while working on behalf of them.”

Councilwoman Coyle Shuman will be serving on the following committees of city council: finance, public housing, appointment scanning, public safety, and public service.

Let me be among the first to welcome our new ward seven councilwoman Kammy Coyle Shuman. I very much look forward to working with her. Councilwoman Coyle Shuman may be reached at 440-885-8091 or kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov.



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Actively Seeking!

by Kathryn Mabin

Polish Village Parma is a volunteer group of people who formed a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Their mission is to facilitate the development and revitalization of the Polish Village community (Ward 2) by uniting and empowering residents, businesses, and the city with plans and initiatives focused on enhancing the area's business climate and long-term economic viability. They bring you events such as the Polish Constitution Day Parade and After Party, Ward 2 Wide Garage Sale, International Taste of Polish Village, which is a sampling of all the flavors the Polish Village businesses district offers,

Adopt-A-Pot, those lovely large flower pots along Ridge Road, and the very popular Treat & Greet, which occurs the Saturday before Halloween, and in 2020 the Covid-19 Cash Mob which helped support small businesses in Ward 2. Sadly the pandemic has squashed several of these annual events for the time being, but, slightly different, additional family fun events are planned for 2021 and forward.

These events can't happen without the participation of volunteers. Polish Village Parma is actively seeking volunteers. You can become involved in the planning of existing or new events, or volunteer for one specific event or two. It

doesn't need to involve a lot of your time, or any money, and you'll have a fun time, learn about your community, meet new people, and make a difference.

This volunteer group is supported by Ward 2's Councilwoman Debbie Lime who acts as an adviser and liaison between the nonprofit and the City of Parma in order to bring these events to you. Over the last few years, Councilwoman Lime has assisted in bringing together local residents and interested business owners to make Ward 2, Polish Village, a great community to live in. Her motto is Good Neighbors, Make Great Neighborhoods.

For more information on Polish Village Parma, or how to become involved email Kathy at kathryn-mabin@att.net or Councilwoman Lime at limeward2@gmail.com. You can also follow Polish Village on Facebook.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Wedded To Success: Bride Loses More Than 140 Pounds With Bariatric Surgery

by CJ Sheppard

Ailene Zaebs walked down the aisle at her wedding more than 140 pounds lighter from bariatric surgery, completing a weight-loss journey that began 18 months earlier at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. Her beloved, Adam, waited for her at the altar. But her unseen partners in this journey were an entire team of specialists at UH Parma, supporting her in positive changes to last a lifetime. Initially, Ailene was inspired by her Aunt Patty, who had pledged to lose 50 pounds before her 50th birthday and ultimately dropped more than 150 pounds. Losing 30 pounds before her 30th birthday should be quite achievable, she figured. Ailene met with Dietitian Dina Corrao, who put her on a 1,500 calorie per day diet and urged her to ramp up her exercise. She lost 40 pounds before she underwent surgery in September 2019 – and she’s lost 100 pounds more since. The pre-surgery routines have been critical in ensuring long-term life changes. “Ailene has been a true example of success,” says Anna Hazinakis, BS, RN, CBN, the clinical coordinator and assistant nurse manager of the Nutritional Health & Bariatric Surgery Center at UH Parma, who has been recognized as a Distinguished Bariatric Nurse by the American Society for Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, which accredits the



Ailene Zaebs, pictured here with husband Adam, lost more than 140 pounds before her wedding thanks to bariatric surgery at UH Parma Medical Center.

program. “Ailene committed from day one to this journey and has been an inspiration to many around her.” This clinical nurse partner in a physician practice spends her days caring for the needs of patients. After suffering the loss of her baby niece who was born with a genetic disease, Ailene was depressed and turned to comfort food and a full work schedule for solace. She gained 50 pounds in six months and realized her weight was getting out of control. She weighed 360 pounds when she came to her first appointment at the Bariatric Center.

“I needed permanent tools that would hold me accountable,” said Ailene, whose previous weight loss efforts had failed. “I want to live a really, really long life, and enjoy my life. I knew something had to give.” Mujjahid Abbas, MD, a surgeon at UH Parma who specializes in bariatric surgery, told Ailene for all the energy and time she gives to her patients and loved ones, she needed to finally take care of herself. Through careful consultation with the team, Ailene chose a sleeve gastrectomy, in which two-thirds of the stomach is removed laparoscopi-

cally or robotically, leaving a stomach the size of banana. This surgery is less complex than gastric bypass, in which the intestines are rerouted. Six months later, a few months before that milestone birthday, Ailene checked in to UH Parma for the minimally invasive procedure. She spent one night in the hospital and then a few weeks recovering at home. She had the steady support of a large family, longtime friends and her UH Parma team. Three months after recovering from surgery, Ailene was engaged to her boyfriend of three years. Shopping for her wedding dress, after slimming down from a size 26 to a 16, was fun. Going out to dinner was more enjoyable when she didn’t have to worry about squeezing into a cozy booth. “Those little things have been huge,” she says. The couple were married in the autumn in an intimate outdoor ceremony in Medina’s public square. A few of her childhood friends, who have stood by her since her first struggles with weight in adolescence, flanked her in the small wedding party, celebrating her truly new life. Inspired by her father, a runner for the past three decades, Ailene started running in the past year and met her goal of finishing a 5k in under 30 minutes. She is now training for her first half-marathon. Her family, including a new niece

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

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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA



Interesting tree on Wellington Ave. in Parma- completely covered in some sort of ivy. Very unusual appearance as you are approaching.

Southwest Italian American Club Drive Thru Fish Fry

by George Mastrobuono

SWIAC Members, Every Friday during Lent we're having a FISH FRY on the following dates, Feb 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2nd from 4:30 pm–7:30 pm at SWIAC Clubhouse. Pease call 216 308-0345 (our club; new number) to place an order; upon arrival at the club, call again for curbside delivery. Only members and spouses are permitted to enter the

clubhouse, note: No more than 25 are permitted in the building. We ask that members call before entering to ensure adequate space is available.
Menu:
Fish Dinner \$10.00
One large piece of fish, pierogi, French fries, coleslaw
Cabbage and noodles (side) . . \$3.00
Cannoli \$3.00
Cash only please



One resident of the Metroparks that doesn't seem to really mind at all the generous amount of snowfall in February.




Cleveland Custom Homes is planning on building 12 ranch style homes on Stumph Rd. just south of Snow Rd. in Parma Heights. The American Dream Series of homes at Lincoln Village, from \$229,900.00 will occupy a space that has long been a vacant field after new homes were constructed on a portion more than a decade ago. Stay tuned.

2021

SLSV COALITION

ADVISORY BOARD



Sebastian Canales
Student, Cuyahoga Community College

Tri-C Student Named To National Advisory Board Focused On Student Voting

by John Horton

A Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) student from Parma will continue his nationally recognized work on election participation with the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition. Sebastian Canales has been selected to serve on the 2021 Advisory Board for the coalition, a nonpartisan network dedicated to increasing college student voter participation in the United States. The 15-member board includes students and faculty members from campuses across the country. They will look to build on efforts that led to historic highs in young voter turnout during 2020 elections. “The 2021 Advisory Board and Executive Committee will help us continue this work as we move closer to a more equitable democracy,” said Clarissa Unger, director of the coalition.

Motivating students to vote is woven into the college experience at Tri-C. Aside from being a partner in the coalition, the College has been recognized as a “Voter Friendly Campus” and selected for a lead role in the “Ask Every Student” project. Canales served as a 2020 Democracy Fellow at Tri-C with the Fair Election Center’s Campus Vote Project. His work helped the College gain national attention in the area of student civic engagement. He also serves on the executive committee of the Mid-East Honors Association, which represents honors programs at colleges and universities in a six-state region. Canales is a Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Scholar at Tri-C. He is scheduled to graduate from the College this year with two degrees — an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science.

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February was CTE Month! The Parma City School District is proud to offer unparalleled career and technical education pathway programs and elective courses for our students in grades 8 - 12 at all three high schools. Visit www.parmacityschools.org/careertech for more information.

PCSD Bond Issue Fast Facts: May 2021

- New construction bond issue for the Parma City School District will be on the ballot May 4, 2021.
- If passed, PCSD will cut the number of high school and middle school buildings from six to two.
- The two new school buildings will each house Grades 6-12 with a middle and high school sharing one roof but featuring their own entrances, administration and classroom spaces.
- The new buildings will be built on the current sites of Normandy and Valley Forge High Schools.
- The 6.3-mill bond issue will cost taxpayers \$18.38 per month per \$100,000 of their home value. The term of the bond issue is 37 years.
- Bond issue can only be used for construction of buildings, not operating expenses.
- The state will pay \$69 million of the cost of new construction. The state will not provide any funding to renovate.



Rendering of Parma East Campus from GPD



Rendering of Parma West Campus from GPD

Sword and Shield Presents:
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Delights!



The Sword and Shield culinary students are excited to present St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Delights! The sale will feature reuben sandwiches, beer cheese soup and cupcakes. The deadline to order is March 8, 2021 or until the maximum for orders has been reached. Cash or check only. Pick up will be at Normandy High School on March 17, 2021 from 3 - 6 p.m. Visit www.parmacityschools.org for more information and to order!

Join Our Town Hall Meeting

Our last Superintendent Town Hall Meeting will be on March 9, 2021 at 6 p.m. and will discuss our innovative programs: Parma Virtual Learning Academy, Kindergarten Launch and A.C.E.S. Center! Please register to attend these sessions on our website at www.parmacityschools.org. We look forward to engaging with many of you!

PCSD Easter Egg Hunt this March

Attend our FREE Easter Egg Hunt at Byers Field on March 27, 2021 at 10 a.m.! Open to all children ages 12 and under of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills. Register on our website at www.parmacityschools.org!



PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A frog tried to look as big as an elephant and burst. A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. A good life fears not life or death. A little lie is like a little pregnancy; it does not take long before everybody knows. A man there was and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had. Acceptance and tolerance do not necessarily imply agreement and/or approval. All wrongs will be righted and truth will come to light.

Attitudes are more important than facts.

Despite one's own best efforts, things can and do go wrong. Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death. Give people a fish and they eat for a day. Teach them to fish and they feed themselves for life. Give the gift of your absence to those who do not appreciate you. If uncertain about your priorities, talk to someone who has an incurable disease. If you do a favor, forget it; if you

receive one, remember it. If you want to remember to take something with you, place your car keys there. It is better to be first with an ugly woman than the hundredth with a beauty. It is easier to ridicule than to commend. It is very comforting to know and believe that we do not have to be like everybody else.

Learn to appreciate what you have before time makes you appreciate what you had. Learn to paddle your own canoe.

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Let your past be your springboard, not your quicksand. Live with no excuses and love with no regrets. Never spend your money before you have it. Nothing is to be had for nothing. Our character is essentially the sum of our habits. Parents are the most influential teachers a child will ever have.

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?

Make Your Spring Garden Better & Deer Resistant!

by Emery Pinter

We're all looking to a warm and sunny Spring. Those first warm breezes refresh both the gardener and the garden, but many of us have a love-hate relationship with deer. No plant is impervious to deer browsing but the least damaged by deer have one or more traits that deer dislike. In general, ornamental grasses make a great deer resistant plant, because of their thin tough, sharp edged foliage. Pastel colors, such as pink, lavender and white create a classic Spring look. These soft colors are easy to mix and match, but swap out the tulips (deer love the petals) for daffodils and irises which deer shy away from. Hyacinths are one of the very few bulbs that can legitimately be called deer proof. The bulbs are poisonous to deer and squirrels. Typically, deer tend to stay away from eating peonies due to the strong flavor. Other plants deer tend to avoid include crocus, Glory-of-the-snow, Snowdrops, and Grape Hyacinths.

Spring blooming plants come in all shapes and sizes, from large flowering shrubs to tiny bulbs. So as one can see, one can have a great Spring garden and



Blue Iris

enjoy the deer. But I've only scratched the surface of what makes Spring gardens so special. For more ideas that will aid your Spring Garden, check out the local group "Dig, Plant and Grow" on Facebook with 300 novice and seasoned gardeners.

In Need Of Utility Assistance?

by Kevin Harrison

Are you struggling to pay your sewer bills? Help is here.

We, at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, understand that times are challenging for many of our customers. With new rates having gone into effect on January 1st, we want to ensure that our customers are aware of the financial assistance options available to them.

Request a payment plan by contacting the Cleveland Division of Water at (216) 664-3130 to make satisfactory payment arrangements.

Contact our Customer Service department at (216) 881-8247 or askus@neorsd.org or visit neorsd.org/

save to discuss whether you qualify for one of our cost-savings programs.

Inquire about CARES Act funding available for utility assistance during this COVID-19 crisis from CHN Housing Partners at (216) 574-7100 or the Council for Economic Opportunity in Greater Cleveland at (216) 696-9077.

Pauletta Hubbard, Manager of Customer Service, emphasized that "The District's Customer Service team is committed to assisting & offering support to its customers during these times of uncertainty & beyond. Help is only one phone call, email or web inquiry away."

Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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
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www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church
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www.Stbridgetparma.com
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Neighborhoods

“We Witnessed A Miracle”: COVID-19 Survivor Goes Home After 76 Days

continued from page 1

but her other children – two of whom work at UH – stayed away to avoid gatherings. She was upset initially, but she barely remembers that. When her daughter-in-law checked on her the following week, she was clearly ill and they called 9-1-1. Medics found her oxygen saturation was only 59 percent, when it should be 95 to 100 percent. Yet she was sitting up and talking, unaware. Beverly was taken to another Cleveland-area hospital, where she spent more than three weeks in the ICU. Once she was out of the ICU, she experienced some other health complications related to her kidneys and liver. When she was strong enough to leave the hospital, her family secured a spot at UH Parma’s Acute Rehabilitation Center for intensive physical and occupational therapy.

While it was on the opposite side of town from their homes, it was worth the drive, says daughter-in-law Maria Milano, a UH research nurse focusing on leukemia and lymphoma. During nearly a month of therapy, Beverly advanced from needing two to three people assisting her to stand and ambulate to getting out of bed on her final day all by herself, says Bernice Eldridge, occupational therapist. “This rehab facility is a hidden gem, I would

highly recommend it,” says Maria. “Everyone was so nice. And being able to have a visitor was a deciding factor for us.” Added Beverly, who missed the holidays with her family while isolated in the ICU: “I don’t think I would have done as good if I didn’t have any visitors. This is a wonderful place.”

UH ensured that Beverly would go home to enjoy more holidays with her family, including daughter Michelle Piper, Executive Assistant to West Market Chief Operating Officer Brian Monter, based at UH Parma. While

Beverly doesn’t remember last Christmas or New Year’s Day, she’s not about to forget the past month at UH Parma. And she’s happy to be home with her husband of 46 years. “She knocked on heaven’s door twice,” Michelle says of her mother’s 76-day ordeal. “We got her back. I’m very proud to call this woman my mother, and I’m incredibly proud that our UH caregivers brought her back to health. We have so many reasons to celebrate.”



COVID-19 survivor Beverly Milano was overwhelmed by the cheers of caregivers and family celebrating her discharge from UH Parma Medical Center’s Acute Rehabilitation Center following 2 ½ months in the hospital.

Local Barber Who Has Helped So Many Now Enduring Intense Challenges Of His Own



Mario Innocenzi with Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter at one of his many fundraising drives.

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Parma barber Mario Innocenzi is known throughout our region for organizing charitable drives collecting everything from food to clothing to school supplies, and then getting them where they help people in desperate need. Hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters, Mario has himself driven trucks to stricken areas, as well as helping those who need assistance all over our local community. Recently Mario suddenly found himself facing serious challenges when he suffered a medical emergency that left him with-

out the use of his lower extremities. Happily, after successful surgery at UH Hospitals, He is recovering nicely, faces a lot of physical therapy, and will miss a great deal of work while he recovers- up to 10 weeks. There has been a Go Fund Me account created- <http://gofund.me/2f1d0fd7>. Many people have already responded with donations, and hopefully many more will also, since a person like Mario who has helped so many certainly deserves a return of the many favors he has sent our way for all of these years.

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PERSPECTIVE

The Biggest SNAFU In History

by Lee Kamps

My father introduced me to many old expressions from his days. One of them was an old Army expression from the Second World War. It was SNAFU; which was short for “situation normal, all fouled up”. That expression from a bygone era clearly describes how our federal government has fouled up everything related to this pandemic.

In 2003, then President George W Bush read a book about how a pandemic could easily spread around the world in the 21st century with international air travel and a global economy. He became concerned when the SARS epidemic broke out in Asia and organized a Pandemic Task Force through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prepare the United States should a new virus arrive in

our country.

That “pandemic play book” was handed down to the Obama administration when George W Bush left office. Following the Ebola outbreak, President Obama placed the Pandemic Response Unit on the National Security Council. That was handed down to the Trump administration when he became President in 2017. In 2018, President Trump disbanded the Pandemic Response Unit.

Then, in December 2019; the World Health Organization gave a warning of a highly infectious virus that was sickening people in China and could easily spread around the world. That warning was made to the heads of all the member countries to prepare for a possible pandemic. But Donald Trump chose to ignore that warn-

ing. After all, that was on the other side of the world.

We all know what happened since then. Now, the deaths from COVID 10 are rapidly approaching 500,000 in the United States and there are vaccines available to end this pandemic. By Easter, deaths from COVID 19 could be close to the estimated deaths from the civil war.

It was a great accomplishment to get those vaccines available in such record time. That is a credit to the pharmaceutical companies and the incentive to end this pandemic. But despite getting the vaccines ready in record time; the big failure has been to get those vaccines out to the people. It is inexcusable that such an incompetent administration did not, as soon as “operation warp speed” was announced, do anything to come up with a system to have those vaccines manufactured in mass quantities; then to have the logistics to distribute those vaccines to where they were needed.

Instead, like everything else in this pandemic; the federal government under the Trump administration chose to have everything handled by each state’s governor and local communities. There has been absolutely no leadership from the President or his administration. This was gross incompetence.

As a result, we have vaccines, but not enough. Getting an appointment to get the COVID vaccine has become an exercise in frustration as it seems that there are no appointments available. I became eligible for a COVID shot

on February 1. I have been told that I must “play the game” of constantly logging on to web sites at all hours searching for appointments. But the only game I like to play involves a little white ball. I became eligible for a COVID shot on February 1. Some people I know who have close family members working at pharmacies or in health care have had no trouble scheduling appointments. But for the rest of us, we must “play the game”.

I wonder about those people who are not internet savvy or don’t have internet access. How are they going to get their COVID vaccination?

I am old enough to remember when the polio vaccines came out in 1955 and again in 1962. It seemed to be well organized and coordinated with leadership from the top. There was no internet in those days. But somehow, we managed to get just about everyone vaccinated against polio and eventually polio has been eradicated in most countries.

It seems that the new President Biden is doing what should have been done almost a year ago. He is taking leadership and putting in place a system to get more Americans vaccinated. Had something like this been done months ago, I am sure that most of us would already be vaccinated. We knew what to do; but this entire pandemic was a massive SNAFU from the beginning. Like it or not, that will be Trump’s enduring legacy as President.



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PERSPECTIVE



Parma side of Snow Rd. Yes, there is sidewalk somewhere under that foot of snow.



Parma Hts. side of Snow Rd. Freshly plowed sidewalk no sooner than the snowfall ended. Night and day- much safer and convenient.

A Tale Of Two Cities:
One Does It Better

by Dale Powell

A guy like me, who can't drive and doesn't even own a car, really notices where it is safe and easy to walk and where it isn't. Since moving back to Parma I've noticed a huge difference between the Parma side of Snow Rd. and the Parma Hts. side. Only a few property owners on the Parma side clear the snow from their sidewalks, and that includes the shopping center at the corner of Chevrolet Blvd. This makes trying to walk in the neighborhood a dangerous, sometime impossible thing. Many people who have no choice, including children, take to walking in the street - even more dangerous.

Compare that to the Parma Hts.

side- their city uses a machine to plow the snow off of their sidewalks, so that citizens can walk easily and safely. I've been told that Parma Hts. has been doing this as long as anyone can remember. Bottom line- it is a real pleasure to walk in Parma Hts. during the winter, and a real drag trying to do the same thing across the street in Parma. It doesn't have to be this way. Parma should consider simple quality of life issues like this when they are considering marketing the city to new residents they would do well to attract. Hearing about bike lanes coming to Parma Hts., pocket parks, etc., I have to wonder what other issues and needs Parma Hts. might be addressing better than Parma is?



Senator Antonio at her new Minority Whip office with her wife, Jean.

Senator Antonio Shares
Budget Priorities

by Nickie Antonio

As we embark on the new 134th General Assembly, I look forward to all that can be accomplished over the next two years. The first item on the agenda is the biennial state budget. Totalling nearly \$70 billion, the state budget makes two-year appropriations for healthcare, early child through higher education, workforce development, local government, and more. During this process, I plan to prioritize funding programs which promote Ohioan's health, education, and job security.

Advocating for the health and safety of all Ohioans has always been a priority of mine, however, this became more essential given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Our state budget needs to include increased funds for PPE, testing, and vaccines, in order to expand access and quantities throughout our communities. Simultaneously, funding public education programs regarding the virus and vaccination process will be necessary in mitigating the continued impact of Covid-19. Another dangerous side effect of the pandemic was the surge in domestic violence cases due to stay-at-home orders across the United States. Providing funding to support domestic violence survivors' services is critical, especially now.

While many Democratic legislators have been working to correct the inequalities in our education system, Covid-19's virtual schooling has further highlighted these inequities. Throughout the pandemic, students with poor internet access struggled, and so increasing broadband support across the state is a budget priority this year. We must also establish a fair funding formula to better support our public education. And finally, teach-

ers are the backbone of our education system, so we must guarantee a livable wage for all, including early childhood educators.

Over the past year, my office has connected dozens of constituents to unemployment benefits assistance as the pandemic continues to affect Ohioans economically as well. Commitment to the economic success of Ohio's workers will continue to be a priority for me. This includes increased funding resources for our small businesses and women-owned businesses in the state's budget.

As we begin working on the state budget, I will be meeting with mayors, city council members, constituents, and stakeholders in the following weeks to work on these budget priorities. Email me with your budget priorities at Antonio@ohiosenate.gov to be a part of the conversation. I look forward to working for you and with you to do all that we can for Ohioans, and specifically, Ohio's 23rd Senate District.



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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From CWRU School of Law, Human Trafficking Project....Learn more about how these folks help victims of sex & labor exploitation. Click here:<http://bit.ly/3tfEFW2> If your organization needs a speaker for your next virtual meeting consider giving these folks a call.

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

An Ambassador Training Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Register Today

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in Greater Cleveland:

Will be presenting....Human Trafficking 101 - The Basics, Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. (ET). Learn more about the realities of Sex and Labor Trafficking and how you can get involved.



Learn about upcoming programs and more about the organization by clicking here: <https://www.collabto-endht.org/>

From Buckeye Health Plan.... If you have clients, friends or family that are Medicaid & MyCare members they should know that they can get up to five free round trips to food pantries, farmers' markets, health related education classes, parenting classes & more. Buckeye members can arrange transportation by calling 866-531-0615 at

least 48 hours in advance. For questions about member benefits or services, call Member Services at 866-246-4358.

From Partners In Education.... Will once again be hosting the Annual Pierogi Dinner on Friday, March 5th. The event is takeout only and tickets may be purchased by clicking here: <https://piepierogidinnermarch2021.rsvpify.com/>.

From Ohio Dept of Education: February is Career & Technical Education Month. Click here to check out this series of Health Science & Construction videos that may help students explore what it takes to work in these fields.

From Achievement Centers for Children – Camp Cheerful.... Registration for their weekly homeschool/preschool Pony Pals program for typically developing children ages 4 & up is NOW OPEN. Each hour long class includes a 30 minute beginner horseback riding lesson<https://acc.campbrainregistration.com/> Each hour long class includes a 30 minute beginner horseback riding lesson and a 30 minute hands-on ground lesson. Classes are held on Mondays from 9:30a-10:30a OR Wednesdays from 10:45a-11:45a at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. Sessions start March 1 and run through June 30. Each 6 week session is \$180.00 and is limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

From County Board of Develomental Disabilities.... Is offeringmonthly educational forums on topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities, family members and others who provide care and support. These forums are open to the general public and are free of charge. All forums are held the second Tuesday of each month (March - October) from 6:30-8:30 PM via Zoom.

From Parma Area Chamber of Commerce:

SAVE - THE - DATE - Assuming all goes well, the 30th Annual Rib n Rock has been tentatively scheduled for June 10 – 13 at Tri-C. Check the Chamber's web site for updates: <https://parmaareachamber.org/rib-n-rock/>

Best of Parma 2021.... The opportunity to vote for your favorite/s will soon be coming to an end; winners will be announced on

March 5th. Go here to register your vote: <https://allofherdesign.com/best-of-parma>

From Child and Family Advocates Center of Cuyahoga County (CFACC): Looking for a different kind of volunteer opportunity? Help provide a voice for children who have been abused and neglected by becoming a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer.

From Educational Svc Ctr. of NE Ohio.... Will be hosting a virtual fair for high school students focused on Education & Training (March 16th), Employment (March 23rd), and Enlistment & Service Careers (March 30th.) Each day begins with a parent overview session from noon – 12:30 pm.

From Parma City Schools:

From Normandy's Sword & Shield Restaurant.... Quantities are limited so don't delay submitting you order.

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

>> For any student interested in Data Science as a career, sign up for this FREE Bootcamp being hosted by GreyCampus. Go here to learn more & to sign up: <https://www.greycampus.com/data-science-foundation-program/>

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

Don't hesitate calling SWCBS at 440.887.4873 w/questions re: the Clothing Center & among other things, COVID-19 related housing and utility assistance. Check (Follow) their FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/Southwest-Community-Based-Services-408375042558677/> for updates.

From Cuyahoga County Public Library....

Kindergarten Club: Is your child heading to Kindergarten this fall? Give him/her a leg up by enrolling in "Kindergarten Club". Many MORE families are now eligible. This program is for children and families who have NOT had a classroom based preschool experience this year, but who are moving to Kindergarten in Sept. This would include children who were virtual only this year, homeschooled kids, kids with

home based babysitters and children who are cared for by a family member, parent, grandparent, neighbor etc. Get more detail here: <https://cuyahogalibrary.org/LP/Kindergarten-Readiness.aspx> . Should you have any specific questions/concerns contact Emily Stupica, Ed.S., at Emily.Kindergarten-club@gmail.com or 216-215-5262. See additional reference below.

Public computer access is available at all Cuyahoga County Public Library branches during regular library hours. The reach of their WiFi service has been extended to make it easier for customers to access the internet from their parking lots. Learn more here: <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Services/Computers-Wi-Fi.aspx>

Computer Classes.... Over 15 virtual computer classes have been scheduled for the month of March. Go here for details: <https://cuyahogalibrary.org/Events/Computer-Classes/Virtual-Classes.aspx> .

If you are a home educator or teacher consider signing up for "HOMEROOM" CCPL's new monthly newsletter for K-12 teachers and home school educators. Each issue shares the latest upcoming events, services, research databases, learning opportunities and other resources specifically for teachers and their students. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-Homeroom> .

New this spring and worth checking out....more than 50 virtual programs for adults on topics that include health and wellness, hobbies and personal finance.

Also new and worth a visit.... The Small Engine Repair Reference Center is now available with your library card. The database offers detailed yet user-friendly repair guides for all-terrain vehicles, marine/boat motors, motorcycles, outdoor power equipment, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, tractors, generators and other small engines.

Ancestry access until March 31.... Ancestry Library Edition has expanded at-home access until March 31. Research your family's history with searchable Census, immigration and court records. Start researching.

Learn how to hold a conversation in more than 70 languages. Go here; <https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/LP/Language-Learning.aspx> to try out MANGO.

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



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PARMA ART SCENE

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique is honored to have the works of Raymond Swyers, a modern abstract artist, on exhibit this month. The exhibit has a “fluid energy”, is very colorful and has a celestial feeling. The show opened on February 26th and runs through March 21st. Raymond is a Cleveland Heights native, currently living in New York with French Canadian roots. He attended the Cleveland Institute of Art and graduated from Cleveland State University in 1996 with a B.F.A. He is contemplating a move to Europe where there is a growing market for his work. Please wear your mask, if you forget yours, they are available to purchase on site. Social distance please while in the gallery. Private appointments are also available upon request. Prama is located at 5411 Pearl Rd. in Parma. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram, or view the website www.pramaartspace.com.

Join FREE LIVESTREAM on Facebook, broadcasting at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique a virtual celebration of the record release of “And You Will Know Us By Our Avatar” by Duo Decibel System, on March 6th. View on Duo Decibel System’s page. They are a newly formed group with Cleveland’s Miss Melvis and John Scully. The sound

Parma Art Scene



is “Equal parts analog noise and electric ambiance layered over a jazz, punk and pop base conjures a post-rock elixir for broken hearts and ruffled minds.”

FREE VIRTUAL OPENING, “The Female Soul”, on March 6th at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique’s web page, www.pramaartspace.com, in support of Women’s History Month.

Coming soon, James Burnett, Holy Name High School Grad, Cleveland Institute of Art Grad, Abstract Artist will be on display March 26, 2021

at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique.

Lena Simovic, of Lena Atomika Photography is on exhibit at the SPACES' Season Pass Members' show, located at 2900 Detroit Rd., through March 19th. She also has pieces available for purchase at the BAYarts store in Bay Village.

Call For Entries: Cleveland State University (The Cleveland Memory Project) and Cleveland Photographic Workshop are collaborating to form a collection and archive of documentary photographs of North East Ohio. They are looking for submissions of photos of person, place, thing or event, not manipulated photos, from daily life of significance to the photographer. For more information email to csucp-fproject@gmail.com. Free to submit! Deadline is December 31, 2021.

Photo Submissions Wanted: Cleveland Photo Fest’s Photathon 2021 has opened entries for three exhibits. Sponsored by the Bostwick Design Art Initiative. For Women Only, Dear Diary: Show us your secrets. An opportunity to delve into your imagination and express yourself. Furtography, Another Show for Dogs. Show us your noblest, most elegant, memorable, humorous and lasting images. Deja Nude, Not another nude show! An exhibition of upbeat, enlightened and just plain fun nudity. Go to www.clevelandphotofest.org to submit or for further information. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2021.

Anthony DeMarco, is currently working on the Parma Senior High Alumni Tradition’s 100th Anniversary issue which commemorates the 1921 opening of Parma High. He is a Parma High Alumni himself, and taught classes in enameling, jewelry, crafts, drawing, painting, humanities and photography at Parma High for 31 years.

Laura D’Alessandro, co-curator Prama Gallery, founder and Director of Cleveland Photo Fest, has photos in the 31st edition of Hand Magazine. She is also on exhibit at the SPACES Seasons Pass Member Exhibit, 2900 Detroit Rd., which runs through March 19th. You’ll also find her work “The Female Soul” on March 6th at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique’s virtual opening.

Seven Hills Looks Ahead

continued from page 1

maintenance and energy savings going forward. The City contribution was approximately \$38,000 clearly showing how partnership can bring great value to the table. The new lighting is expected to be ready for the 2021 baseball season.

Please stay in touch. In upcoming articles for the Parma Observer I intend to share exciting news related to street program, park improvements, sewer upgrades and economic development.

Till then Happy St. Patrick's Day! (Aren't we all Irish on this day).

Remember Woody

by Daniel P. McCarthy

We often don't really consider the place someone has filled in our lives until they are gone. So true that is for Wayne "Woody" Mesker, who passed away on February 1. A decade ago when I first met him, Woody was fronting Worldstock Entertainment his group dedicated to using Rock n' Roll to promote a variety of worthy causes and ideas. We discovered that he was quite a singer, and was always performing on stage somewhere. Up until the time of his passing, when he was the community Outreach Director for the Alive Inside Foundation and the Founder of Rock Against Dementia, Woody was always busy bringing attention to things that he felt needed to be front and center. Whether any particular endeavor was hugely successful or not did not matter to him; he charged ahead with the same exuberance and sense of optimism that only he could display. We will miss his enthusiasm and vision, always needed



Wayne "Woody" Mesker

in the Greater Parma Area.

The Parma Observer over many years has benefited from the writing style of Mr. Mesker, and his words will live in perpetuity on our pages. His son Bill Mesker says that he intends to honor his Father by carrying on his legacy, and I believe him. Parma needs a state of unlimited coolness to continue indefinitely.

Scholarships Available To Parma Scholars

continued from page 1

accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline has been extended to May 14, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information or to

donate to the Foundation please contact Parma City Council President and Board of Trustees Member Sean Brennan at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov or 440-885-8091.



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- Medical model assisted living
- Housekeeping, personal laundry and linen services
- Barber shop and beauty salon services
- Complimentary in-house cable television and in-suite internet and phone service
- Aromatherapy/gentle massage. The use of essential oils and lotions helps reduce stress for the resident
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- Gardening, cooking and arts and crafts

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