

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome"- Anne Bradstreet.

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# Parma Observer

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

## Parma Modifies Photo Enforcement To Keep Students Safe In School Zones

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma City Schools returned to a five-day, in-person schedule as private schools are continuing their full schedules. With all students back to full days, their safety remains a top priority. The City of Parma has operated a school zone photo enforcement program since 2009. With students' full return to classes, photo enforcement will resume in six city school zones. The zones have cameras mounted on poles about 12 feet above ground level that record vehicles traveling both directions. The cameras are for speed enforcement in the 20 mph posted school zones only. Photo



enforcement tickets will be issued during designated times when schools are in session and school zone lights are flashing.

According to Ohio law,

the ticket is a civil violation, resulting in a fine and court costs but no points against a driver's record. In comparison, a traffic ticket may result in a fine, court costs and points.

A driver speeding in a school zone will receive a Notice of Liability letter in the mail from Parma's Automated School Zone Speed Enforcement program. The letter will explain the violation and three options available to address the violation: pay the ticket, contest the ticket or provide the driver's identity if the recipient of the letter was not the driver at the time of the violation.

The fines levied for speeding in school zones are \$100 plus court costs of \$20 for driv-

**continued on page 4**

## Seven Hills To Acquire Radio Tower Property To Create A Nature Preserve

by Tony Biasiotta

We are very excited to announce that The City of Seven Hills, together with Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), recently agreed to terms for the purchase of 20 acres of land currently owned by OSWIGI, Inc. adjacent to the City's North Park off Rockside Road. The proposed preserve area contains 20 acres of meadow habitat with forested patches and 1,900 linear feet of West Creek headwater tributaries.

As with many projects in Seven Hills we have emphasized partnerships as a way of moving ahead. Therefore, I want to acknowledge the wonderful partnerships that made this nature preserve possible for Seven Hills residents to enjoy for decades to come: Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC), whose scoring of our project led to us winning the Clean Ohio funds, Western Reserve Land Conservancy whose expertise in these matters was mission critical, Tom Embrescia, on behalf of OSWIGI, Inc. who agreed to the sale of the property for much less than he could have received by developing the parcel, my great staff that brought it all together, and last but not



Radio tower property to be acquired

least, our residents for passing issue 41. I also want to acknowledge the efforts of my Chief of Staff Kristin Saban. Her ability to work with cross functioning agencies was difference maker.

The appraised price of the proposed preserve area is \$920,000. The sellers have agreed to a bargain sale of \$880,000. Sixty-two percent (62%) will be provided from Clean Ohio, which includes hard costs. Seven Hills' thirty-eight percent (38%) contribution to the funds was made possible by the passage of the Issue 41 Parks and Recreation Levy.

The project safeguards natural areas and open space, as well as habitat for nine species listed as endangered, of concern, or of interest, by the State

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## Issue 10 - Worth It!

by Charles Smialek

Our school district has reached a tipping point and our actions in the near future will shape our communities for generations to come. We are no longer a three high school district. Very soon, we need to choose the path we will follow to consolidation. Here, though, is where we face a critical fork in our road, formed by the meeting of two very different trails.

The first, "Patch and Paint Path", will require us to spend \$167 million to do nothing more than keep our current schools warm, safe and dry. We will not spend this all at once, of course, but the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission explains that this is the sum we will have to dedicate to basic



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

necessities like roofs, plumbing structures, and HVAC systems to keep our schools functioning. "Patch and Paint Path" brings no new amenities to our students or communities; instead, it imposes a \$167 million price tag just to keep getting by.

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## Parma Residents To Receive NOPEC Enrollment Letters

by Mary Ripley

The City of Parma has joined NOPEC's electric aggregation program. Residents and small businesses will be able to take advantage of electric supply rates negotiated exclusively for NOPEC customers beginning with their May 2021 meter read date. The City of Parma has enjoyed excellent NOPEC natural gas aggregation prices and customer service for over a decade. NOPEC will now be providing the same level of service for electricity.

Eligible customers will be receiving an enrollment letter that explains NOPEC's electric program options and rates, along with providing customers the option to opt-out of the aggregation program. NOPEC is required by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to send these enrollment letters to all eligible residential and small business electric customers in NOPEC member communities.

To enroll, you do not need to take any action. Your account will automatically be enrolled into NOPEC's Standard Program Price option. There will be no disruption

of service during this switch. The Illuminating Company is still the utility responsible for delivering electricity to homes and businesses, reading meters, sending bills and restoring power after an outage.

NOPEC also offers a Monthly Variable Price program that is always a discounted rate below the utility's Price to Compare. Enrollment in this program is limited and

subject to availability. Additional program choices include 12- and 24-month fixed term and 100% renewable programs. For more information on program choices, go to NOPEC.org or call NOPEC's Customer Care Center at 855-667-3201 (855-NOPEC01) to enroll.

Once enrolled into the electric aggregation program, NOPEC/NextEra Energy Ser-

**continued on page 4**

## Script Parma Picture of the Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Julie Miller. The photo includes Ron, Chris, Laura, Julie and Rich in their Brown's regalia. Julie 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

Lace up your running or walking shoes for the 10th Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, sponsored by Perla's Pierogies, former Mayor Dean DePiero, and First Federal of Lakewood. The now famous event will take place on Saturday, July 3 at 7:30 am at Cuyahoga Community College's western campus. Those who know me know that running is my passion. So, ten years ago I combined my love for running, pierogies, and giving back to the community by creating what has become one of our city's signature summer events.

Participants may either run or walk the 5k (3.1 miles) or walk the one-mile course. Pre-registration is only \$25 (\$15 for ages 11 and under) and may be completed online at [runsignup.com/Race/OH/Parma/runwalkforpierogies](https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Parma/runwalkforpierogies). Day of event registration is \$30. You can also e-mail us at [pierogie5k@gmail.com](mailto:pierogie5k@gmail.com) or call me at (440) 885-8091 for a mail-in registration form or for sponsorship opportunities.

The Run-Walk takes place on the beautiful CCC-West campus, which



makes for a very flat course. Those who place in the top three spots in several age groups win our signature pierogie necklace award. The first 600 participants who pre-register are guaranteed to receive our famous Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies t-shirt, so register early. When you have completed the event, David and Daniel Serban from Parma's own Perla's Pierogies will generously provide participants with



a certificate for a half-dozen of their award-winning pierogies.

This year we will include several social distancing safety protocols that I have learned from successful races that I have run over the past several months. For instance, we will offer day before packet pickup, bottled water, staggered start times, hand sanitizer, use of masks prior to running and walking, etc.

Proceeds raised by the Run-Walk will, once again, benefit local charities and community projects. Please follow and like us on Facebook and Twitter @pierogie5k.

**O-B-S-E-R-V-E-R**  
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## New Wheels Help Deliver Meals To Seniors

by Carolyn Kovach

In January, Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Parma Office on Aging purchased a white 2021 Buick Encore from Axelrod Buick GMC with grant funds from Cuyahoga County. That Encore and a 2010 silver GMC Terrain that the Axelrod family donated in 2020 are helping staff drive prepared meals to its eligible senior members. Since March 2020, nearly 25,000 homebound and community meals have been delivered.

Additionally, Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) has awarded the city a grant for an 11-passenger lightweight transit vehicle, which will be purchased this summer. "I want to thank County Councilman Scott Tuma, County Executive Armond Budish and the Axelrod family for helping us with these vehicles. They were needed and have already been an asset to our Activities Center," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.



To help with meal deliveries, the Axelrod family donated a 2010 silver GMC Terrain last year to the Donna Smallwood Activities Center.

The demand for the Center's two meal programs doubled last year and has remained high. "We need these vehicles to help us feed our homebound seniors," said Activities Center Director JoAnn Mason. "We might also use the vehicles to help transport members to medical appointments when our center reopens." The Center



The Donna Smallwood Activities Center purchased a 2021 Buick Encore from Axelrod Buick GMC with grant funds from Cuyahoga County.

has remained closed throughout the pandemic. Mason does not know when the center will reopen. Meanwhile, she and her staff help seniors remain connected through the Tuesday Support Group. "We went from meeting weekly in person to conference calls and now Zoom meetings. We brought technology to our seniors," she said.

## Fresh Produce For Households With Limited Incomes In 2021

by John Visnauskas

Baba's Yard, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, gave away 150 tons of fresh produce in 2019 and 2020, and is organizing a collaboration of community partners for a third season. The mission of Baba's Yard is to reduce epidemic diseases, by increasing fresh produce consumption. Consuming a variety of plant based nutrients is essential to maintaining healthy immunity, and is effective in preventing and managing diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cancer and more.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are available to any households with limited income, at no charge to recipients. There are no preregistration or residence requirements. Clients are asked to not arrive before the distributions

begin at 3:30 pm and to remain in their vehicles. Social distancing and mask use are required. No clients are admitted after 5:30.

1st Tuesdays are at Parma-Snow Library, 2121 Snow, Parma 44134.

4th Tuesdays are at St. Elias, 8023 Memphis, Brooklyn 44144.

Beyond Cuyahoga County Library and Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church, Baba's Yard is honored to work in alliance with the cities of Parma and Brooklyn, especially Parma Police Auxiliary and the Brooklyn P.D., who graciously assist in our traffic management. Elected officials and city employees from both towns are dependable volunteers at these twice monthly events. Some other Baba's Yard volunteers drive a distance from

their northeastern Ohio homes to serve our clients from the southwest suburbs. Baba's Yard is especially thankful for our partnership with Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Please follow Baba's Yard on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

For more info please email: [babasyard@gmail.com](mailto:babasyard@gmail.com)



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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### UH Parma's New Pain Center Helps Patients With Chronic Pain

by CJ Sheppard

Patients suffering from chronic pain will find many more options at University Hospitals Comprehensive Pain Center. UH is debuting the first of its centers at UH Parma Medical Center, with its proven interventional pain management program making it the ideal location for the new Center. The UH Comprehensive Pain Center builds on existing treatments for management of chronic pain (such as injections, spinal cord stimulators, and infusion therapy) with the addition of the UH Connor Integrative Health Network, offering chiropractic care, lifestyle and integrative health medical consults, massage therapy and guided meditation to complement its integrated approach to pain management. Additionally, the multi-disciplinary Center also offers physical and occupational therapy, behavioral health and addiction services. "Our dedicated team of physicians and clinicians are already

experienced in helping patients struggling with pain," says Brian Monter, Chief Operating Officer of UH's West Market, which includes UH Parma Medical Center. "To enhance our care offerings, we recently recruited new physicians with decades of experience in treating patients with pain. I am confident that their expertise, combined with the multi-disciplinary slate of clinical practitioners available through the Center, will provide our community with an unmatched program that's desperately needed."

This Center will enhance access to comprehensive care for chronic pain so that multiple avenues can easily be explored, with the goals of reducing pain, improving functioning, and decreasing reliance on opioid medications. UH Parma Medical Center also served as one of the first launch sites for Thrive ED, a peer support program linking ED patients to substance abuse treatments. "Opioids still serve as a



Kutaiba Tabbaa, MD, an established pain specialist with decades of experience in Northeast Ohio, is the Medical Director of the Comprehensive Pain Center at UH Parma Medical Center.

necessary pain management option in some cases, but we need to ensure other options are explored which is why we are addressing the crisis holistically and creating this compassionate care model," says Jeanne Lackamp, MD, Director of the UH Pain Management Institute and Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry, UH Cleveland Medical Center. "Creating our first Comprehensive Pain Center at UH Parma gives us the chance to demonstrate innovation in partnership with an existing group of renowned providers."

Kutaiba Tabbaa, MD, Medical Director of the Comprehensive Pain Center at UH Parma, notes that the interdisciplinary program blends the

latest technologies and therapies and thoughtful medical management and behavioral health to help chronic pain patients. "Pain management is not only a pill, an injection, surgery, therapy or an implant," says Dr. Tabbaa. "Pain management is an art tailored to each individual by their trusted pain specialist to preserve, regain and improve quality of life, accompanied by total patient involvement and empowerment."

While services will primarily be provided at UH Parma Medical Center, some services will be offered at the North Royalton Family YMCA as well as virtually. Appointments can be made by calling the UH Comprehensive Pain Center at (440) 743-4333.



# UH Parma Medical Center

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# GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA

## Parma Modifies Photo Enforcement To Keep Students Safe In School Zones

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ing 28 mph to 29 mph, and \$200 plus court costs of \$20 for driving 30 mph or faster.

If a driver enters a school zone right before the designated time that lights are scheduled to flash but exits when the lights turn on, the photo enforcement program allows for that lag time, and a violation will not be issued.

“Children’s safety must be a critical priority for all our residents. We are grateful to the City of Parma for recognizing this importance and taking proactive steps to ensure our students can travel to and from school without incident,” said Parma City School District Superintendent Charles Smialek.

Over the past few weeks, warnings have been given to drivers speeding

through the posted 20 mph school zones to get them reacquainted with slowing down before entering these zones.

“It is easier to suddenly stop a moving vehicle at 20 mph than at greater speeds. It takes the average driver 1.5 seconds to react to a situation,” said Police Lt. Dean Leon, adding that every mile per hour equals 1.46 feet traveled per second. At 28 miles per hour, a driver travels 41 feet per second. “The program’s goal is to make long-term changes in drivers’ behavior that reduces accidents in our school zones.”

Signs are posted within 300 feet of school zones with photo enforcement equipment, stating: “Traffic Laws Photo Enforced.” **There are also three other indicators:**

1. Flashing signs to catch drivers’ attention before entering an active school zone
2. Warning signs before school zones and at the end
3. Painted markings on the pavement warning drivers entering a school zone

### Six School Zones And Times Of Speed Enforcement

**Constellation Schools** 3400 block of Snow Road (east and west)

7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Thoreau Park Elementary** 5400 block of West 54th Street (north and south)

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. – 1:35 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Bethany Lutheran School** 6000 block of Ridge Road (north and south)

8 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. and 2:50 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Normandy High School and Green Valley Elementary**

2500 block of West Pleasant Valley Road (east and west)

7 a.m. to 8 a.m., 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 1:25 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Padua High School and St. Anthony Elementary School**

6700 block of State Road (north and south)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**Holy Family School** 7400 block of York Road (north and south)

7:10 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.

## Issue 10 - Worth It!

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The second road, “Worth It Way” is quite different. At the end of “Worth It Way” are two new secondary campuses, ready to welcome our students and communities to all of the advantages of 21st century facilities. Facilities that can adapt to and accommodate new technolo-

gies, career and technical education updates, science laboratories that are compatible with modern equipment used in relevant fields, and flexible learning spaces that can adjust to changing class sizes and learning structures are just a few of the advantages that come from choosing “Worth It Way.” The campus

environments will create a synergy between our middle and high school students, allowing them to benefit from the presence of each other for functions like mentoring, shadowing and tutoring.

Choosing “Worth it Way” requires passage of Issue 10 and will cost residents \$18.38 per month per \$100,000 of their home value. The total price tag of two new secondary campuses is \$300.5 million, but the state of Ohio will pay \$69 million of this cost.

Consolidation will soon occur. Will we have to continue to replace the yellowing, moisture-stained ceiling tiles that are inherent to our travel down “Patch and Paint Path”? Or, can we realize the better opportunities for all residents of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills that come from investing into new schools? We believe that our children, and our communities present myriad reasons to choose “Worth It Way.”

**Election day is May 4, 2021. Thank you for considering Issue 10!**

## Parma Residents To Receive NOPEC Enrollment Letters

continued from page 1

vices should begin appearing as the new electric supplier on customers’ June 2021 utility bills.

If you would like to opt-out of NOPEC’s electric program and choose your own supplier, fill out and return the opt-out form included with your enrollment letter by April 13, 2021.

If you have additional questions about the enrollment process or NOPEC’s electric program, please contact NOPEC’s Customer Care Center at 855-667-3201 (855-NOPEC01).

NOPEC’s customer service team is available 24 hours, 7 days a week to answer your questions.

About NOPEC: NOPEC is a non-profit group of 240 communities that negotiates lower utility rates. As Ohio’s largest governmental energy aggregator, NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk to help lower your utility bills. Since 2001, NOPEC has saved Ohio consumers hundreds of millions of dollars on their energy costs.

For more information about NOPEC, visit [nopec.org](http://nopec.org).

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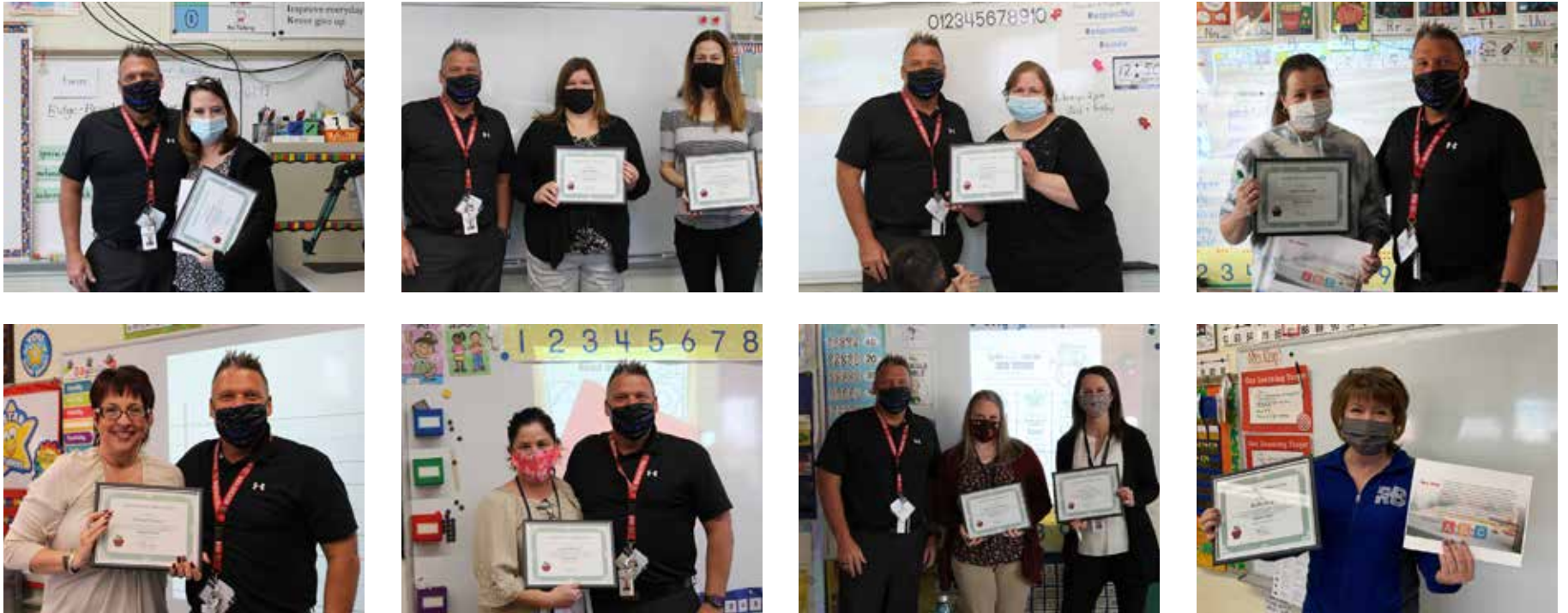
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## Ridge-Brook Elementary School Celebrates Teachers!



Ridge-Brook Elementary School asked families to recognize the awesome teachers at their school building! Here are the teachers who got a special shout out in March!  
 Maureen Verhosek - Kindergarten, Carrie Kavulic - Kindergarten, Kelly Hovan - Kindergarten PVLA, Cheryl Trainer - Kindergarten PVLA, Jacquie Conway - Intervention Specialist K/1, Shelley King - 1st grade, Audra Oswald - 1st grade, Cindy Pesta - 2nd grade, Denise Prosiniski - 2nd grade PVLA, Teresa Esser - Intervention Specialist 4th grade, Rashelle Porter - PVLA Administrator, Amy Kessler - 3rd grade, and Kim Merker - 4th grade.

## Issue 10 Fast Facts

- This is a **new construction bond issue** which means the money can only be used for new construction. It cannot be used for operating expenses or salaries.
- The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) will contribute **\$69 million to this project**. The total cost of the project is **\$300.5 million dollars**.
- Issue 10 will cost homeowners **\$18.38 per month** per \$100,000 of property value.
- The newest building in our district opened during the **Lyndon B. Johnson administration (1968)**.
- The length of the bond is **37 years**.
- Issue 10 will build two new secondary campuses. Each campus will house a middle school (6-8) and a high school (9-12). The East Campus will be on the site of Normandy, and the West Campus will be on the site of Valley Forge.
- The OFCC estimates that **necessary repairs and updates to our secondary schools will cost \$167 million** and they will **NOT fund these renovations**.
- The OFCC has deemed **our buildings, including the necessary infrastructure to support new technology and labs, to be obsolete**.
- "School construction raises test scores, public school enrollment, and home prices," according to a study conducted by Neilson and Zimmermann (2014).



Rendering of Parma East Campus from GPD



Rendering of Parma West Campus from GPD

## Celebrating PCSD's 100th Graduating Class

This year, we celebrate 100 years of graduates from Parma City Schools!



Since the Class of 1922, four girls and two boys, the Parma Schools has now graduated 86,187 students.

To commemorate this occasion, a medallion has been designed by Valley Forge High School Visual Communications Teacher Kim Weber.

This medallion will be embossed on each student's diploma of our three high schools: Normandy High School, Parma Senior High School, and Valley Forge High School.

Congratulations to the more than 800 graduates in the Class of 2021 who are the 100th graduating class and will join the great traditions and enduring legacy of Parma City School District!

## PTA 69th Geranium Sale Happening Now!

The Parma Council of PTAs 69th Annual Geranium Sale is here!

The sale will run from March 19 through April 16 this year. All are welcome to place an order. Orders and payments can be submitted online or by mail. Please make checks payable to Parma Council Scholarship Fund.

All profits will benefit the PCPTAs Scholarship Fund, which will give scholarships to high school seniors!

The entire Dean's greenhouse, including a variety of flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets, are available for purchase!

Pick-up will be on May 1, 2021 at the Parma Senior High School back parking lot!

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/geraniums](http://www.parmacityschools.org/geraniums) for more information and to place your order!



**PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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 Facebook: Parma City School District | Twitter: @ParmaSchools | Instagram: @ParmaSchools

# Inspiration

## God-incidence OR Co-incidence

by Susan Banks - Yurik

As I was examining my thoughts, words and deeds in preparation for this Lenten season, I continued having one-sided conversations with God regarding my "time to clean the soul" with many a grumblings.

According to those who celebrate Passover, they too find themselves kvetching and groaning over preparations. In some ways, this is exactly how one is supposed to feel at this time of year. There is much to consider in taking responsibility for yourself, the community, and the world.

For Christians, Lenten season is a time for fasting, praying and reconciling with the Lord and a time to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ. I confess, my stumbling stone is fasting as my thoughts keep drifting to the aroma of cabbage, beets and



icons, I celebrate Christ as the "joyful light" asking for God's guidance and spiritual illumination. I thought of all the angels and saints who stand with us as I find myself humming "Let my prayer ascend to you like incense.."

It can take a lifetime to come to appreciate all the levels of symbolism. It is in delighting our senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch, that they provide us with an experience of the divine which complements the message of our prayers and hymns.

Spring cleaning was completed not only in my home, but within my soul as well. It was an Easter Sunday morning, I reached for my bar of hand soap when I noticed something was etched on the flat side of the bar which rests on the grooves of the soap dish. Thinking logically and realistically, I concluded perhaps the soap had dried and just happened to crack in the manner in which it did.

However odd, the grooves in the dish ran horizontal to the vertical markings on the soap. Perhaps in today's busy world, God finds the simplest of ways to communicate with us ~ God-incidence or co-incidence, I'll let you decide.

~ A Most Blessed Lenten and Spring Season ~



cucumber salads, Pascha breads, paprikash, kielbasi, sausages and kraut.

I forge ahead spring cleaning throughout my house thinking about the many symbols of the Lenten celebrations. As I dust the candles and

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

As humans, we have the potential to reflect God's personality traits, such as love, justice, and wisdom. Biblical truth protects us from false worship. Eliminate negative talk and introduce joy talk. Enjoy the peace of a clear conscience. Giving thanks helps us feel closer in our relationships and increases our happiness. It does not make any difference who gets the praise as long as God gets the glory. Negative expressions convey "stinkin' thinkin'." Never let an old wound fester due to excessive attention.

Our behavior can encourage or discourage unbelievers to seek God's way of living. Our sins (immoral behavior) hurt others and diminish us, and our lives

bear the scars. Our YES should mean YES and our NO should mean NO.

Parents should help their child think about the character traits for which he or she would like to be known. Parents who do not discipline their children do not love them. Praise your children openly; reprove them secretly. Remember that the mind grows by what it takes in; the heart grows by what it gives out. Sandwich every bit of criticism between two layers of praise. Seeking approval from others interferes with our potential for joy.

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?

## Celebrate National Library Week April 4-10, 2021

by Emery Pinter

During the week of April 4-10, we join libraries in communities nationwide in celebrating National Library Week, a time to highlight the value of libraries, librarians and library workers.

Libraries have stayed true to their mission during the coronavirus pandemic, and illustrate how today's libraries are at the heart of our communities, providing critical resources, programs and expertise. Our libraries are more than book repositories and a movie for movie night. They also provide a public space where the public, regardless of age, culture or income

level, can come together to connect and learn. Elected officials, small business owners, students, and the public at large depend upon libraries and the resources they offer to meet the needs of their communities. By providing resources such as eBooks, technology courses, Zoom Rooms, English as a Second Language (ESL) materials, job development programs or safe spaces, libraries and librarians are leaders in their communities.

It's also a perfect moment to re-evaluate to ensure libraries best serve their patrons. My hope among library

**continued on page 10**

## Faith Community Directory

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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

7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614  
www.parmachristianchurch.org

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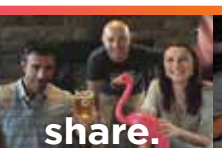

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**Wednesday-** Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off  
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**Saturday-** 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM  
**Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio

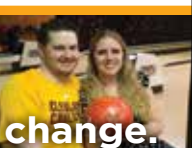


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# Neighborhoods

## Seven Hills Takes Action Towards Water Goals

by Tony Biasiotta

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

The goal of the Task Force was to develop short and long-term plans to remediate water-related issues, identify and prioritize specific projects that will lead to the rehabilitation of the sewer systems and other control measures to minimize flooding.

Just as important as identifying plans to improve water management, is determining how to pay for it!

I'm pleased to report we have accomplished many of these goals and are working on many more. From a revenue and expense point of view we closed 2020 by increasing our Capital Fund from a zero balance to \$902,000. Our overall cash reserves increased \$ 4 million since Dec. 21, 2017 and now are at approximately \$7.2 million.

**What does this all mean?**

1. Seven Hills has continued to carefully manage tax dollars from one administration to the next



2. We are well positioned to safely take on necessary sewer projects.

3. We have protected sufficient reserves in the event COVID impacts continue or any other risk arises to our revenue streams.

Since the inception of Task Force we have completed \$691,000 in additional (above our annual in-house sewer program) maintenance and repairs to our sewers and water control devices. Further we have targeted another additional \$1.9 million in maintenance and repairs for 2021.

The task force concluded that our program has a few major components. 1. Preventive maintenance of the City's storm and sanitary sewers 2. Rehabilitation of the City's storm water control measures and 3. improve / repair the City's existing storm and sanitary sewers

Below are just a few examples of how we addressed / are addressing these components.


From a preventive perspective we have expanded our partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Works for additional sewer maintenance, cleaning, and repairs. The partnership has enabled the City to perform significantly more sewer cleaning than we have ever in past, as we now have the ability to utilize the County's sewer trucks (you may have noticed them working 2nd shift).

From a water control perspective we have dredged the Waxberry Detention Basin, cleaned the City Hall bioswales and recreation center retention basin. On deck we plan to add a new water control device to the

Hickory/Cresthill/Jasmine Area and drainage, stream and detention basin improvements at Calvin Park.

Lastly, from a rehabilitation perspective we have completed line repair on John Glenn, Rangeview and Graydon. Improved the Skyview Storm sewer outfall and added 2 double basins on Donna Rae. Already under contract for 2021 is the complete restoration of Cheryl Ann Culvert and the installation of a new pipe-liner into the existing mainline 8-inch sanitary sewers on Primrose Drive, Panorama Drive, Firethorn Drive, Bayberry Drive, Bittersweet Drive and Tanglewood Lane.

We are off to a great start, but much more is required and over the next few years more is on the way. Stay tuned my friends.



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## PERSPECTIVE

# The Time Has Come To Eliminate The Filibuster

by Lee Kamps

I am sure that many of us have seen the classic 1939 movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. It was a movie about a naïve young man appointed to fill a vacancy in the Senate. The lead character, Jefferson Smith is played by Jimmy Stewart and the movie was directed by Frank Capra. There is a climactic scene at the end of the movie where Mr. Smith conducts a filibuster on the floor of the Senate in support of a bill authorizing the government to buy some land in his state for a boy's camp. But a corrupt political machine had already rigged the vote against the project because they wanted the land for their own purposes. I won't spoil the movie, but this movie is a classic "feel good" movie.

But the reality of the filibuster is radically different than in the movie. The idea of the filibuster was to prevent a "tyranny of the majority" to slow down legislation. It was to allow more consideration before finally voting on the measure. Under the old Senate rules, those participating in the filibuster had to "hold the floor" continuously and the Senate had to remain in session with the leadership in attendance. There were no recesses allowed since a recess would end the filibuster. Often a filibuster ended when Senators just gave in to exhaustion and boredom.

Now, just the threat of a filibuster is enough to stop the Senate in its tracks or to sidetrack the proposed legislation and allow it to die without ever bringing

it up for a vote. It takes a supermajority of 60 votes to stop a filibuster and allow a vote on the proposed legislation. Now days, just the threat of a filibuster is enough to kill proposed legislation.

Since 2009 when Barack Obama was elected President the filibuster has been "weaponized" to kill much needed legislation or to prevent the confirmation of federal judges which are appointed by the President. During the eight years of the Obama presidency, the filibuster was used more times than in all the previous years beginning in 1789. The Senate had to change their rules so that important budget bills could be approved with only a majority vote in the Senate. That also includes bills cutting taxes.

In 2015 Senate rules were changed so federal judges could be confirmed with only a simple majority vote because of the large number of vacancies on the federal bench. Supreme Court nominees could still be filibustered. Then, in 2017 when Donald Trump became President, the Senate rules were changed again to prevent filibusters for Supreme Court nominees.

For all practical purposes, the filibuster has been abused to the point where it has prevented the congress from enacting much needed legislation. Because it takes a super majority of 60 votes to end a filibuster, it discourages a minority party from working with the majority party on important legislation and makes compromises near impossible.

As a result, there is seldom any meaningful debate on a bill before the Senate where the minority party can offer amendments or input their ideas into any proposed legislation. Now, largely because of the abuse of the filibuster, important or popular legislation cannot be passed. This creates the hyper partisanship that has divided the country.

No political party has ever had a permanent majority in the congress, and it is very likely that party control of congress will be changing more frequently in the future. Therefore, it is important that the parties work together to get bipartisan support and not adopt such rigid positions on proposed legislation.

As far as I am concerned the filibuster has outlived its usefulness and should be eliminated or at least require that the Senators participating in a filibuster be present and talking continuously while the Senate is in constant session without any recesses. Maybe they will make their point or come to some compromise and get something passed besides gas.

Because of the abuse of the filibuster, our government has become dysfunctional and resembles the government of a banana republic more than a world superpower. There are many important things that our government needs to address and we must fix this broken part of our government. The time has come to eliminate the filibuster. The Senate shouldn't become a graveyard for legislation.

## Local Nonprofit Distributes Sensory Awareness Kits In Parma And Surrounding Suburbs

by Lorilynn Wolf

Connecting for Kids distributed more than 2,000 Sensory Awareness Kits to more than 50 preschools, day-care and community centers in Berea, Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Brook Park, Independence, Middleburg Heights, North Royalton, Parma, Parma Heights, and Strongsville during the month of February. The goal of these kits is to help area families identify sensory issues early. These kits have been generously donated by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, Church of the Resurrection and the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Featuring an Ollie the Octopus doll, each kit also contains a card with "sensory red flags" that describe in easy-to-understand terms how families can identify if their child might be at risk.

According to research statistics found on the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder website, "1



in every 6 children experiences sensory symptoms that may be significant enough to affect aspects of everyday life functions."

Often, these children are "labeled" as behavior problems, impulsive, overactive or shy. But in reality, sometimes these behaviors can be attributed to sensory processing issues where the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses. The phenomenon may also explain some behaviors such as refusing to wear certain clothing, being bothered by noises or avoiding foods with unusual

textures. Once families learn the root cause of these behaviors and know how to address them, they are given hope.

### About Connecting for Kids

Connecting for Kids (CFK) provides education and support to families with concerns about their child. We serve all families, including those children with and without formal diagnoses. CFK offers educational programs, support groups, a Parent Match Program and numerous resources.

For more information about Connecting for Kids, visit: [www.connectingforkids.org](http://www.connectingforkids.org), email: [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org) or call: 440-570-5908.

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**PERSPECTIVE**

# UH Parma ICU Nurses Hold Memorial Service For Patients Who Died Of COVID-19

by CJ Sheppard

ICU nurses from UH Parma Medical Center led caregivers in Lighting the Darkness, a March 25 memorial service for families who lost loved ones to COVID-19 over the past year. These are the nurses who held the hands of the dying when families were not allowed to visit, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus. Hundreds of family members and nurses, respiratory therapists and physicians from the extended hospital family joined together to remember those who had died. Family members clutched candles and cards, and finally connected with the nurses who were with their loved ones in their final days and moments – and whom they had never met in person. "I want to assure each and every one of you that's here tonight with us that we cared for your loved ones as one of ours, and our hearts broke as well when they were no longer with us," said Lindsey Wells, RN, one of the nurses who planned the moving memorial service. Lindsey and ICU colleagues Kayla Rinaldi and Samantha Rhoades personally called each family of COVID-19 patients who passed away in ICU.

In a 30-minute program before families gathered around luminaries of a giant heart in the hospital's main parking lot, Tim Boyko, Chairman



A rainbow appeared in the sky just before UH Parma Medical Center's memorial service honoring the lives of those lost to COVID-19 in the past year of the pandemic. Caregivers greeted members of the families as they arrived. Luminaries were placed in the shape of a heart so they could be seen from above, including by staff working in the ICU and other patient care floors in the hospital tower.

of UH Parma's Board of Directors, noted that the community cannot thank these selfless caregivers enough. EMS leaders from the community attended the service, and UH Airmed performed a helicopter flyover. "At our peak, entire floors of our hospital were devoted to providing individualized care to patients with COVID 19," said UH Parma's Chief Medical Officer & Chief Operating Officer James

Hill, MD, a critical care physician who cared for many COVID-19 patients in the ICU. He noted that patients at this community hospital had access to the same clinical trials as academic medical centers, receiving the very best care. "Some of our patients also had family in the hospital. Some were our family. All felt like our family."

"At times as an ICU physician, I would look down the hall to see nearly every room filled with a patient affected by COVID 19. I remember holding the hand of the first patient with COVID that I placed on the ventilator, trying to reassure them that they would be okay. As a physician these are some of the


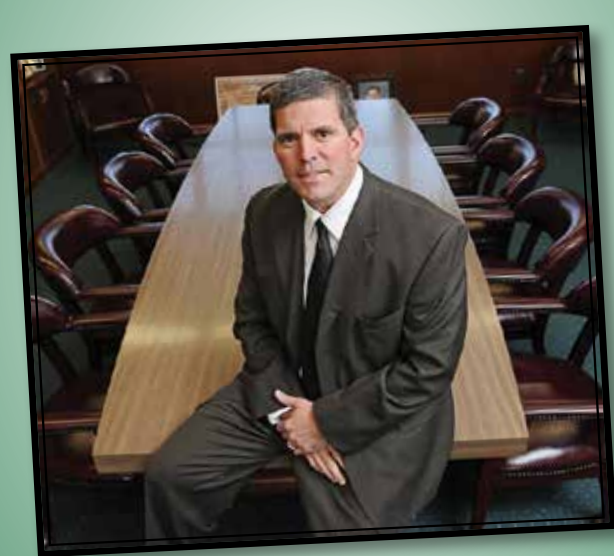
times I will remember my whole life."

Ed Cepsis, 65, a father of seven and the eldest of four, bid farewell to his 91-year-old father over a Zoom call. Nineteen family members were on the call as the doctor reassured him that they had done everything possible to save his father. For Karen Strejnowski of Seven Hills, who was cared for in the ICU within hours after her mother died of COVID-19 and while her father was being admitted to another floor with same virus, the memorial service extinguished some of the darkness of the past year. "I would do anything to have my Mom back," said Karen through tears. "But thanks to the staff at UH Parma, my Dad and I are still here. I know that an unimaginable number of people were lost to this virus, but please do not lose sight of how many of us you have saved. "From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication to fighting this virus, and for the continued healing we've received tonight as well."



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# OBSERVER

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

by Gene Lovasy

### From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

The next Ambassador Training Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Register today. Click here to learn more about their community outreach initiatives and prevention & educations program offerings.

### From The Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking (GCCR2HT):

The “Collaboration Success Story” describes a recent recommendation successfully implemented in almost 80 police departments in Cuyahoga County. Our own Parma Hts. Police Department is highlighted as an example in its use.

The next “Human Trafficking 101 - The Basics”, virtual & free presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 7:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. (ET). Learn more about the realities of Sex and Labor Trafficking and how you can get involved. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91012020000>

### From UH/Parma Medical Center:

**Age Well, Be Well....**a club for adults 55 & up offering virtual programs w/providers, online health talks & telehealth sessions.

This recently filmed, 5 minute video features the emotional AND hopeful experience of Parma Medical Center’s own Nancy Gallagher, BSN, RN, Manager of UH Parma’s Intensive Care Unit and the Heart Center. She and her team are on the front lines qui-

etly caring for our neighbors and the community at large. It’s well worth the watch.

**Save The Date** – Watch for details coming soon regarding Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation’s bi-annual signature golf outing scheduled for Monday, August 30th. Proceeds will be used to support UH Connor Institute programs right here at UH Parma Medical Center including pain management, music therapy, therapeutic massage & more.

### From Ohio Dept of Education:

**OhioMeansJobs K-12 web site**—Ohio’s no-cost career planning system that offers career exploration tools and resources specifically for students, teachers and school counselors—recently got a makeover. The Department is sharing tips for educators so they can easily explore the redesigned site’s many resources.

With more students learning in a virtual environment, student information has become more widely available, leaving children vulnerable to identity theft. This video from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office guides parents through the process of freezing their children’s credit reports to help protect them from this threat.

**From ODE’s Office of Exceptional Children & OCALI** – Go here to check out their InspirED virtual learning series designed specifically for professionals & families working with and/or helping educate learners w/special need.

**Best of Parma Winners....**The votes have been tabulated and the winners identified. Go here to see if your favorite is on the list: <https://allofherdesign.com/best-of-parma>

### From Parma Council of PTA’s:

“LOOSE CHANGE for SCHOL-

**A R S H I P S ” ...** <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/10349> to learn more about and/or make a direct donation to the PCPTA’s Scholarship Program.

In addition to a direct donation, the PTA’s Annual Geranium Sale is another great way to support their upcoming Annual Scholarship Award Program. The sale is now open & will run through April 16th. Orders (submitted either by paper or on-line) will be ready for pickup on May 1st. Go here to view/order selections or to download related paper documents: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/10349>

[www.parmacityschools.org](https://www.parmacityschools.org)

### From Parma City Schools:

Is your organization looking for a speaker? Is your neighborhood planning a block party? Consider giving the Superintendent’s office a call ((440) 885-8786) & invite Supt. Smialek. He’s looking forward to talking with you about Issue 10 that’ll be on May’s ballot & showing renderings of the proposed campuses. He’ll even bring along some refreshments.

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org](https://www.parmacityschools.org) for the most current information regarding for all things District related. While there take a moment to view the MONITOR NL and/or current week’s “PCSD IN :60”.

### From Parma Area MyCom, Southwest Community Based Svcs/ University Settlement:

If you have a client, or know a victim of, or someone who may be at risk of abuse or being trafficked, click here: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/safe-at-home/> to learn more about the state’s SAFE AT HOME program description.

**Connecting For Kids....** provides education and support to families with concerns about their child. CFK offers (currently virtually) educational programs, support groups, a Parent Match Program and numerous resources. Check out their web site or visit them on FB at <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectingforKids/>. And, for a different twist on a Resource Fair for families w/kids age B – 12 visit: <https://connectingforkids.org/cuyahoga-resource-box>. This local organization seems to be doing some great stuff. Well worth a visit.

Find out what’s new with MyCom at [www.mycomcle.org](http://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 (CCPL)....

**BABY CLUB is here....**This free, fun CCPL program supports families with infants and toddlers to set them on a path to lifelong learning. Everyone is welcome! The Parma Branch session begins virtually on April 12th. Link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/VirtualBabyClub>. Call 440-885-5362 if you have any questions. Additional detail may be found here.

**Aspire Greater Cleveland** helps adults gain the basic skills they need to be productive workers, family members and citizens. All GED/HSE, ESOL and citizenship classes and orientations are now online. If you are interested, call 1.833.ASPIRE2 for more information.

**The Cuyahoga Works** program is now offering a variety of virtual workshops providing job seekers with tips and strategies to help find success in the workplace. Workshops include: Key Steps to Returning to Work After an Extended Break, Tips for Job Seekers Over 40, Creating Winning Résumés and Cover Letters.

**Teen Maker Club** – Is now open at the Parma-Snow Branch....Grades 6th - 10th. Tuesday, March 23: 4:00pm - 5:15pm. Join us as we explore, innovate, and create. Each week we will have something new and different. Maker Club will be held virtually using Zoom (no download required).

**Computer Classes....**Virtual com-

Read the rest of this article online at: [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)

## Celebrate National Library Week April 4-10, 2021

tures in their neighborhoods.

Be sure to visit the Library during National Library Week and say thank you to the staff for the work they do.

Take advantage of the wonderful resources libraries offer during this challenging time! Happy National Library Week!

advocates is that the coronavirus closures will spark more awareness of the services they offer, the opportunity to increase collections at a few select libraries, and have a community’s desire to preserve and protect its past. Some have impressive architectural and historical significance and are fix-

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# PARMA ART SCENE

## THE James Burnett Show at Prama Artspace and Gallery

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Road, is excited to present a show of artwork by long-time Cleveland abstract artist James Burnett. James Burnett is an alumni of the Cleveland Institute of Art and Holy Name High School. His abstracts are bold, with strong defined painterly shapes. This show runs from March 26th to April 18th. "The Female Soul", celebrating Women's History Month is also on exhibit at Prama Artspace & Gallery until April 18th. This exhibit can also be viewed virtually and includes pieces created by Liz Maugans, Laura D'Alessandro, June Hund, Samantha Vickers, Emma Anderson, Grace Wen, Terri Simons, Kole Robinson Brooks and Joyce Morrow Jones. Regular hours are S,W,S 2-7 and M 10-3. Please wear a mask. Masks are also sold at the gallery, along with some great fun and unique boutique items. Recently they received some great new merchandise, mugs, and tees for the Dyngus Day crowd. Visit at [www.Pramaartspace.com](http://www.Pramaartspace.com), or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

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-project@gmail.com](mailto:csucp-project@gmail.com). Free to submit! Deadline is December 31, 2021.

Cleveland Photo Fest's Photothon 2021. At the Bostwick Design Center



at 2729 Prospect Ave. Shows runs May 1st to June 30th. 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.cleveland-photofest.org](http://www.cleveland-photofest.org) for further information.

Cleveland Photo Fest and BAYarts presents the Cleveland – Kerala Photo Exchange opens May 26, 2021. It's a photo exchange between 45 Cleveland Area photographers and 48 images of Kerala India. Of the 45 area photographers, several have a Parma connection. Mary Ford, Parma resident, Laura D'Alessandro, co-curator Prama Artspace Gallery, Sean Mabin,

owner/operator Prama Artspace Gallery, and Jim Szudy of 440 Photography, Director & Marketing Manager of Cleveland Photo Fest and founder of Gemini Developers. BAYarts is located at 28795 Lake Avenue in Bay Village.

Cleveland Arts Events: Trying to find something to do that's different? Log into [www.clevelandartsevents.com](http://www.clevelandartsevents.com). Brought to you by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. This site is easy to use for searching for entertainment events, online streaming, festivals, music, theater, dance, history and visual arts. You can narrow the search by city, family friendly or free. You can search for a specific organization, venue or artist. They even have a job posting site. Great tool for residents, or visitors alike. Thanks CAC for this great easy to use tool!

## Parma Brew & Trash Crawl

by Kathryn Mabin

In celebration of Earth Day meet up with your fellow Parma residents on Saturday, April 24th, to Spring Clean Parma, while stopping off to rest and supporting local establishments for a cold brew or other refreshment (not included).

Participants will gather at the Ridgewood Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse at 12:30 pm. The group will proceed south on Ridgewood Drive at 1:00 pm, with stops at Bleacher's Sports Grill, Fast Eddie's to the final destination of Legend's Sports Bar and Grill at 4:30 pm. Meet your neighbors, support local businesses, and clean up your city. Door prizes, loads of fun, and supplies will be provided. Register today at EventBrite or go to Facebook, We Are Parma Proud. Hosted by We Are Parma Proud, a 501(c)3 Parma non-profit.

Unable to attend and still want to do your part? After being cooped up all winter long, enjoy the Spring weather, get outdoors, bring family and friends, take a stroll, bring a bag,

glove up, and pick up the trash littering your neighborhood. The fresh air, the sunshine, the exercise, and taking pride in our community will put a smile on your face.



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## Tri-C Film Student From Parma Takes Second In Online Festival

by John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) film student Marissa Roesch made an award-winning directorial debut at The Exposure Film Fest. Her five-minute film, "My Body is My Home," took second place in the inaugural online film festival. The Parma resident wrote and directed the film in the fall as her final project in a class exploring the short film genre and techniques. "My Body is My Home" offers an emotional glimpse into a transgender journey. The story featuring two friends unfolds in layers of love, compassion, empathy and discovery. Roesch said a friend's experience inspired her to write the film. "I was really looking to do something meaningful with my project," said the 26-year-old, who shot the film in a single day with two actors and a crew member. "I'm very proud of what we were able to do." "My Body is My Home" also claimed an honorable mention award at the 2021 Short. Sweet. Film Fest.

Roesch expects to graduate from

Tri-C this summer with an Associate of Applied Business degree in film and media arts. She hopes to continue making films while building a career in commercial video production. Roesch currently serves in the Ohio Army National Guard with the 838th Military Police Company.





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