

“Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful.” - Hazrat Inayat Khan

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ParmaObserver

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

Pearl Road Becomes A Boulevard In Parma Heights Residential Section

by Mike Byrne
Mayor of Parma Heights

“Are there going to be trees in the middle of Pearl Road?” “The most beautiful crosswalks in Ohio.” “Love the new signs.” With all the great comments we are hearing at city hall, it’s clear that people are buzzing about Parma Heights! There are a lot of physical changes taking place on Pearl Road but before I get into a summary, let me answer that first question.

Yes, there are going to be trees in the middle of Pearl Road! In the area that used to be marked with diagonal yellow lines designating no left turns, we are creating a boulevard by installing a median filled with trees and plants. With the Ohio Department of Transportation



Construction area in what will be a boulevard on the residential portion of Pearl Rd. in Parma Heights.

(ODOT) project, we seized the opportunity to beautify the city by bridging five lanes of traffic to connect neighborhoods on both sides of our community while offering a safe median haven for pedestrians that will feature the installation of a HAWK signal: a pedestrian-activated traffic control device.

The 830 foot-long median will be beautiful and simple with only two plant species; red creeping thyme ground cover crowned with 18 Mushashino Japaese Zelkova trees selected for their beautiful columnar form and that fact that they do exceptionally well in tough

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City of Seven Hills Seven Hills Economic Development

by Tony Biasiotta
Mayor of Seven Hills

Over the last few months, I have shared with you updates on how Seven Hills has prepared to move forward after the COVID dominated year of 2020. Specifics were shared about our finances, streets, sewers, grant activity, the purchase of land for a future nature preserve, and how we are developing a master plan to upgrade all our parks. As promised, this article will focus on economic development, but first I want to share with you the big picture.

We have accomplished this stellar growth through sound fiscal management,



Seven Hill Mayor Anthony D. Biasiotta, CNB President & CEO Joe Bower, ErieBank Regional President Wesley Gillespie, ErieBank President Dave Zimmer and Cushman & Wakefield

maintaining our GF expenses while increasing GF revenue. For instance, with our Q1 2021 financials, GF revenue is up 14% and our GF expenses are flat compared to Q1 2020. Hav-

ing an adequate general fund balance is critical to a municipality’s financial health. It provides liquidity in the event of an emergency (pandemic shutdown etc.). It allows us to take on additional capital projects such as sewer upgrades (Last year we transferred \$902,000 from this balance into our capital improvement fund).It allows us to maintain service levels in the event of an economic slowdown. This balance is basically an insurance policy for every city operation.

One of the major factors in achieving these results has been our economic development efforts. Last year we welcomed Konica Minolta and

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Parma Trash Crawl



Some of the wonderful people that came out to help keep Parma clean at the 2021 Parma Trash Crawl. See story on page 2.



The Warrior Fitness Course will be installed at James Day Park early this summer.

Extreme Exercise Course Coming To Parma's James Day Park

by Carolyn Kovach

Exercise enthusiasts and athletes searching for a free rigorous outdoor fitness experience will like the new Warrior Fitness Course, expected to be installed in the southwest corner of James Day Park early this summer. The \$169,000 exercise course is 45 feet wide and 120 feet long, has 10 workout stations and includes a 40-yard sprinting path. “It is a serious workout. Athletes, fitness instructors and exercise enthusiasts will like it,” said Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi. “I could see residents using it for training because each station focuses on different muscle groups. It is similar to a Ninja course. As far as I know, we’re the first in the

area to have something like this.”

To pay for the course, the city used \$50,000 from an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant, \$69,000 from the Recreation Department’s budget and a generous donation from the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation. State Representative Jeff Crossman and State Senator Nickie Antonio helped the city get the funding. “We appreciate their assistance because they arranged our meeting with the former Senate president to pitch this new recreational concept,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. “Because of the pandemic, people have been using the parks more, and this course gives residents an outdoor workout option.”

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Robert Gademer on behalf of St. Charles Borromeo Parish's Boy Scout Troop 221. He 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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Child Care Center Earns Top Quality Rating From State

by CJ Sheppard

A child has fewer than 2,000 days from birth to beginning Kindergarten to develop the social, emotional and educational skills for an impactful start in life. University Hospitals Parma Medical Center's Child Care Center has been awarded Five Stars in state rankings for providing the highest possible advantage to the 170 children under its care.

Step Up To Quality, administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, recognizes programs that exceed licensing and safety regulations for early childhood care and education. Program ratings, based on national research for improved outcomes, range from one to five stars. UH Parma's program – which has cared for the children and grandchildren of employees for nearly 40 years and expanded to serve the general public in 2007 – received Five Stars.

Five-Star programs are distinguished by:

- Lower staff/child ratios.
- Lead teachers with degrees or related education certificates
- Intentional and purposeful lesson plans aligned to Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards
- Educational portfolios for each child and regular developmental assessments
- Ongoing staff training and professional development
- Community involvement and parent engagement



The teachers at UH Parma's Child Care Center have a great deal of experience and longevity, with some now taking care of the children of former students. Maria Armeni, pictured here, has taught at the Center for 30 years.

“Earning 5 stars with Step Up To Quality, the highest rating available in Ohio, is a tremendous accomplishment,” says Manager Leah Anastasakis, M.Ed. “To be able to achieve that during a pandemic is a true testament of

our staff's dedication to providing a quality program. Every single teacher stayed focused on the needs of their students and families throughout the pandemic, a remarkable team meeting an unprecedented period with grace

Green Grass And Why Too Much Is A Problem

by Jim Wohl

Did you ever look down the street, and what do you see? Yard after yard of green grasses and yellow dandelions. You might think that this is a pretty sight, but if your a native bird like a chickadee and you're looking to raise a nest of three babies there is nothing here for you to feed your babies. The chickadee used to have lots of food for its nest but these days the cities are planting non-native trees and there is

not a true native tree anywhere in sight. So the day is coming that you will just be another extinct native bird. A chickadee needs 6,000 to 9,000+ caterpillars to successfully raise its three babies, and this is a 1/3 of an ounce bird. The oak tree would be a dream come true, but those are in short supply in my city, where no one wants a tree in their yard. You know, they might have to do some work. We all live in this environment. Yes, you and me too. If we continue to

and compassion.”

Participants in UH Parma's Child Care Center range in age from 6 weeks to pre-Kindergarten, with school-age children up to 12 attending during school breaks. All lead teachers have education degrees or related certificates. Children are grouped in classroom settings for younger and older infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Staff-child ratios were adjusted when the pandemic began to continue providing child care for essential workers.

UH Parma's Child Care Center utilizes the Creative Curriculum, widely regarded as a forward-thinking, comprehensive, rigorously researched curriculum approach that honors creativity and respects the role that teachers play in making learning exciting and relevant for every child. The Creative Curriculum strives to create a high-quality learning environment that enables every child to become a creative, confident thinker.



not care about the insects of our world, humans will also become extinct. But then we did it to ourselves and only have ourselves to blame!

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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA

Pearl Road Becomes A Boulevard In Parma Heights Residential Section

continued from page 1

urban conditions, especially in parkways.

These and the other amazing changes you see taking place on our Main Street are coming after years of study, planning, and the accumulation of grant funding all focused around two big issues: 1.) how can we define our community and let people know when they are in Parma Heights, and 2.) how do we redefine Pearl Road, our Main Street, to reflect today's lifestyle and work better for our community.

When I took office in 2010, one of my goals was to highlight our beautiful parks and further "green" the community. Residents came forward to restart the Garden Club revitalizing our Community Garden in the Greenbrier Commons and, in cooperation with local businesses, creating our "Daffodil Project".

On the administrative side, we began researching the latest municipal trends. As a result, back in 2013 Parma Heights was one of the first communities to be awarded a grant from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission's brand-new Transportation for Livable Communities (TLCI) program. Our project, the "Pearl Road Complete and Green Streets Initiative" was the starting point that has brought us to where we are today.

Led by a team of experts, through a process of consideration using public meetings and cooperating stakeholders - like ODOT - we came to the conclusion that our community's portion of Pearl Road could be divided into three segments: Residential, Town Center, and Commercial. Then the work began to find ways to enhance each segment while physically connecting them into one homogenous entity. A tall order but we wanted to show the positive results that can be achieved when an urban inner-core community adapts, incorporates new ideas, and reinvents itself.

After deciding on the transformational boulevard concept for the Residential section, we turned our attention to the Town Center area realizing immediately that we needed to add wayfinding to address concerns like: "Where is Nathan Hale park?" Next we looked at the heart of our community with citizen input through additional public meetings and a survey available online and on paper to see what the

community needed and wanted.

With Complete Streets in mind, we were aware of the Northeast Ohio Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) Regional Bicycle Plan so we looked at that issue as well. A traffic study determined that given the width of Pearl Road and the number of vehicles traversing it, we could not reduce the lanes of traffic. However, we could add bike lanes in the Residential section and in the area northeast of the Commons to guide bikers into and out of the Commons area.

Finally, we looked at the Commercial District, and among other issues, realized the need for updated, visible, attractive crosswalks to link our community not just in this District but along the entire Pearl Road corridor. We decided to add pocket parks on the northbound side of the street; one across from Wendy's with another by the cemetery. We also recognized the need to clearly mark the southwestern gateway into the city at W. 130th Street. In addition to our new logo featured in the signage at the Speedway station, our first public mural will be installed this summer enlivening the side of the Party Décor building at 6708 Pearl, courtesy of the building's owners Alina and Tony Saini and a Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture grant secured by the Parma Heights Historical Society in a joint project with the city.

Once the TCLI was completed, over the years we pushed on with a Cuyahoga County Master Plan Update, a Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) for a Branding & Wayfinding Master Plan that resulted in our new logo and tag line "Community Grows Here", four implementation grants and then negotiated to secure the sites for the pocket parks. (Links for the TCLI, Master Plan Update and Branding & Wayfinding Master Plan can be found on the Economic Development page of our city website www.parmaheightsoh.gov.)

When the Pearl Road Reconstruction project is finished, everyone will know when they are on our Main Street within the boundaries of our wonderful community; not only because of the signage, not only because of the decorative crosswalks, not only because of the beautiful new median turning the residential section of Pearl Road into a boulevard - but because all of these things reflect the fact that this is Parma Heights and "Community Grows Here".

A Message From The PCSD Superintendent

by Charles Smialek

Happy Spring! We hope that our warmer months have started well for you and your family and that you are looking forward to creating many memories this summer! By the time you read this, Issue 10 will have been decided through the May 4 Election. If the verdict was positive, we will have already begun outlining our planning process, which will include continued opportunities for community input. If, on the other hand, our voters rejected our request, we will have started to contemplate our next steps which would include consolidation into existing schools in our near future. Regardless of the outcome of Issue 10, and despite the many difficulties that COVID presented to us this year, we have much to be proud of and many reasons to be excited about our district's future.

First, we continue to excel in our district goal of practicing fiscal responsibility. Rea and Associates, a private accounting firm recently completed a comprehensive audit of our practices and ledgers and issued, literally, a flawless report. Most districts receive both a listing of substantive findings, major areas to correct, and a "management letter", which suggests improvements. We received neither on our last audit, a feat similar to receiving all straight A+!

Second, we have continued to find innovative means of improving student achievement. Even in this COVID-stained year when the most simple of functions became harder, we introduced Kindergarten Launch Academy, A.C.E.S. Center for Education for our students with Autism, and Parma Virtual Learning Academy, innovative programs that help us better address unique student needs. All three of these additions to our port-



Charles Smialek
Superintendent Parma Schools

folio are built to last and will help us continue to be a "one-stop shop" for all of our families.

Third, we continue to better connect to our community. This spring we held an Egg Hunt at Byers Field that attracted over 1,000 children. Though this was only one event, it symbolizes our commitment to opening our facilities to our residents so that all taxpayers can experience the value of their financial contribution. We will build upon the momentum created by this gathering and hold movie nights at Byers in July, again inviting our community to participate.

We are proud of the resilience of our staff members and students during the 2020-2021 school year. For too many negative reasons, this will be a year none of us will forget. But, despite the adversity we faced, we continued to build upon the progress we had made prior to the pandemic and look forward to the next school year, proud to be a pillar of our community!

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Culinary Arts Celebrates Three First-Place Finishes at State Competition



Three seniors in PCSD’s Culinary Arts Career and Technical Education Program, (L-R) Alicia Golden, Zoey Massey and Nina Nedeljkovic, received first place finishes at the Ohio ProStart Virtual Competition. These students earned top honors for their delectable dishes, with Zoey winning the Burger Battle, Alicia creating the best appetizer and Nina creating the best entree! The three winners came away with awards and scholarships from the competition. We are so excited to see what the future holds for these talented individuals!

First Step Preschool Promotes Week of the Young Child



Parma City School District’s First Step Preschool held a special, week-long celebration for Week of the Young Child. The Week of the Young Child is an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association. The school celebrated everything early childhood, the children, staff, bus drivers, caregivers, families and community, and had special themed days that encouraged age-appropriate creative activities during the school day! In partnership with First Step Preschool PTA, the school had Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday the week of April 12.

ISSUE 10 *Worth It!*

- Issue 10 can only be used for new construction.
- The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission has deemed our buildings, including the necessary infrastructure to support new technology and labs, to be obsolete.
- The OFCC estimates that necessary repairs and updates to our secondary schools will cost \$167 million and they will NOT fund these renovations.
- 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 will contribute \$69 million to this project.
- Issue 10 will cost homeowners \$18.38 per month per \$100,000 of property value.
- The newest building in the PCSD opened during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration (1968).

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Inspiration



Parma Veteran Turns 100

by Carolyn Kovach

In early April, Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis gave Walter Pasela, an Army World War II veteran, a framed certificate from Parma City Council in recognition of Walter's 100th birthday. The City of Parma Police Department provided an escort for a 100-car parade that honored Walter at Vista Springs Greenbriar Assisted Living on Day Drive, where he celebrated his monumental birthday. His children organized the parade.

Walter was raised in Cleveland with his three brothers and four sisters. He graduated from Lincoln High School and then served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946. During W.W. II, he was assigned to the 33rd Infantry Division as a tech sergeant and photo

interpreter in the Southwest Pacific. After returning to the states, he married Mary Koteles in 1952. Three years later, the couple moved from Cleveland to Parma where they bought a new bungalow on North Avenue to raise their two sons.

A steelworker, Walter was employed 40-plus years working various jobs for U.S. Steel, Cuyahoga Works and Newburgh/Cuyahoga Heights before retiring in 1983. He and Mary celebrated 60 years of marriage before her death in 2012. He stayed in their North Avenue bungalow until 2019 before moving to Vista Springs. He is a member of St. Leo the Great Parish in Cleveland and the American Legion in Parma.

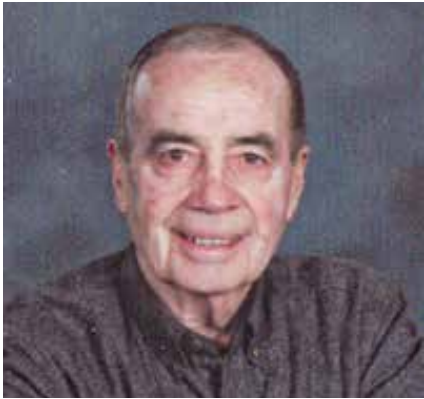
A Fond Farewell To Daniel Taddeo

by Daniel P. McCarthy

These days it is hard to expect people to do the right thing. Not so with Daniel Taddeo. Of all the people I've ever met, whether I agreed with him or not, Dan was the most sincere and resolute man that I ever had the pleasure of knowing. It is with profound sadness that we learned of his passing on April 6. Dan has been featured in these pages for more than 10 years now, and luckily we still have several columns yet unprinted that were preserved. It's hard to imagine a world without Dan Taddeo. Many great conversations we've had over the years, much wise advice.

Dan was 91 years old, and what a long blessed life he enjoyed, never stopped exclaiming that fact all of the way until the end, as I'm told. He was the youngest of 8, growing up in Center Twp., PA on the family farm. He graduated from Aliquippa High School in 1948, then joined the US Army in 1949. By 1957 he was in the Cleveland Area, graduating from Kent State University. He then began a 30 year career serving as a guidance counselor, first at Greenbriar Middle School in Parma, where many people remember him from that time. He was a good father to his own family of children and a wonderful husband to Linda, his wife of 27 years.

Throughout that period and since retiring in the early 1990's, Dan was involved in so many aspects of our community. He was the author of 9 books, was an active member of Divin-



ity Lutheran Church in Parma Heights, and had a real passion for Bridge. He taught Beginner's Bridge classes at Cuyahoga Community College. His long running column in the Parma Observer, I Believe, was enjoyed by many readers, and we often received letters and calls from people wishing to express their agreement and appreciation of his work. He often told me that if just one person was touched in any way by reading his writing then he considered it more than worth it.

People like Daniel Taddeo are a genuine treasure for any community, and the pages of our paper certainly benefitted beyond measure since he began writing. If you were lucky enough to know him or spend time with him, then you know just what kind of a special guy he was. Dan is survived by his 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 9 great grand children, and his very close companion Barb Skerl. Life will go on, but never quite the same without the one and only Daniel Taddeo.

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www.divinitylutheran.com

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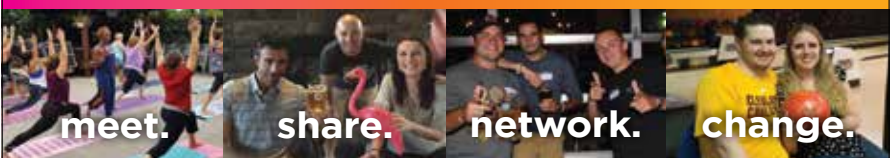
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Neighborhoods

Safety Fair And Shred Event Moved To Later Months; Plans Underway

by Carolyn Kovach

The Parma Safety Fair and Shred Event will be split into two events this year and moved to late summer and early fall, due to the pandemic. Both events will be free, and no registration will be required. State Health Department guidelines permitting, the Safety Fair will run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd. The Shred Event will run 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 25 in the rear parking lot at Parma Senior High School, 6285 West 54th St.

At the late summer Safety Fair, safety experts will offer advice and safety giveaways. Activities under consideration include fire extinguisher and grease fire demonstrations; drone demonstrations; free fingerprinting for children; tours of the police station, firing range and jail; and visits with the K9 Unit, bomb squad and SWAT team. Children will be able to climb into fire trucks and see police cars and motorcycles up close. Firefighters will provide assistance to new parents who want to learn proper installation of child safety restraints in their vehicles. “After missing a year, it is terrific to bring back the Safety Fair and have our police and firefighters safely interact with our residents. It is a fun event the whole family can enjoy,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.



Children get a close-up view of emergency vehicles and equipment during the Safety Fair.

At the early fall Shred Event, a resident will need to show proof of residency with a driver’s license, gas bill or electric bill. There will be no limit on the amount of documents shredded. Residents will not be required to stay while their confidential documents are being shredded, but they will need to secure their documents in a tied bag or covered box if they leave. Paper documents cannot be bound with rubber bands, paper clips or binders, and no plastic folders or sleeves will be allowed. These materials can jam the shredding machine. A Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District grant will cover the shredding costs.

For future details about both events, call Parma City Hall at 440-885-8000 or follow @CityofParmaOhio on Facebook.



by Kathryn Mabin


The non-profit, We Are Parma Proud, has been working hard behind the scenes to bring this project to life. The idea for a visitors guide came from Parma City Treasurer Thomas Mastroianni, during the first community meeting of We Are Parma Proud, back in June of 2019. It was one of several ideas put forth when the public was asked, “What would you like to see in our city?”

Once the vision was accomplished, a search began for a publisher. After several interviews, Lunar Cow Publishing out of Akron was chosen. Lunar Cow not only offered a print version but a Go

Meet Me In Parma - A Guide

Guide which is a mobile interactive digital product. Through your phone you can connect to the Go Guide, scroll through the pages, and click on links to the various businesses in the guide. It also uses IMap to help you locate where you want to go.

What began as a visitors guide has grown into a guide that can be used by residents and visitors alike. The guide is not only a collection of places to go in Parma and nearby, but contains a brief history of Parma, and interesting articles about our city. The printed version will be available throughout the city. Follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook for updates. Here’s your link to the free guide <https://go.lunarcow.com/publication/?m=66267&l=1>.



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PERSPECTIVE

Investing In Infrastructure And People Are What Made America Great

by Lee Kamps

President Biden has introduced a massive two trillion dollar infrastructure bill that would not only repair our bridges and highways, but also bring broadband internet service to every corner of the country and increase renewable energy while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. This is a very big undertaking that has the potential to revolutionize our nation and keep the United States a world leader well into the 21st century. This bill is also called the American Jobs Plan and that much is true as the infrastructure projects will create thousands of well paying jobs throughout the country. It will also help reshape the nation for the remainder of this century.

The largest previous infrastructure bill was the Interstate Highway Act of 1956. This was a pet project of then Presi-

dent Eisenhower and in fact the Interstate Highway System is named after our 34th President. As a young army officer in the 1930s, Eisenhower took a cross country trip on our highways from California to New York. That trip took several weeks over highways that were already inadequate for the traffic of that day.

Later, as a General in charge of NATO forces after the end of the Second World War, he saw the German autobahns that Hitler built before the war. Those autobahns connected the nation with high speed highways that bypassed cities, yet offered access to those cities. As a General, Eisenhower saw how those autobahns allowed Hitler to move troops and equipment through the country. He saw how a similar system in the United States could help better defend the nation as well as spur commerce.

Later, as President, Eisenhower pushed congress to fund a similar system of high speed highways across the United States. The result was the Interstate Highway Act that passed in 1956.

It would be an understatement to say that the interstate highways have totally remade the nation. It encouraged the building of suburbs further out from the central city. It also spurred commerce and led to huge shopping malls and centers near interstate highways. The highways also drained the aging central cities of their people and made ghost towns of small towns bypassed by the highways. It led to the creation of super stores that destroyed many “mom and pop” small businesses. But there is no argument that for every job lost because of the interstate highways, many more were created.

Perhaps the largest investment in people by the federal government was the passage of the G.I. Bill in 1944. This idea was proposed by Franklin D Roosevelt. The G.I. Bill, officially called the American Servicemen’s Readjustment Act provided many things to the returning veterans of the Second World War. Quite literally that was the government’s “thank you” for giving up part of your life to fight the war.

There were several parts of that act. One provided low interest little or no down payment mortgages for veterans to buy houses. My father used the G.I. Bill to buy a house in Parma and moved there in December 1949 when I was a little over a year old. Like every other father on my block, my father was a war veteran. The

G.I. Bill literally built Parma as well as lots of other bedroom suburbs across the nation.

Another provision of the G. I. Bill was that it allocated money for returning veterans to use to pay college tuition and other educational costs. My father used the G. I. Bill to attend Western Reserve University to study marketing. He could leave his job at the Post Office and work in the world of marketing and advertising. His two brothers used the G. I. Bill to go to college and they became lawyers. Two uncles on my mother’s side of the family used the G.I. Bill to study engineering and both became engineers. My aunts and uncles also used the G. I. Bill to buy houses in Parma, Brooklyn Heights and Cincinnati.

Millions of other veterans took advantage of the G. I. Bill to go to college. Enrollments in colleges and universities across the nation surged after the Second World War. No doubt that the increased earnings generated by those people who used the G. I. Bill to attend college and buy a house created more jobs and the increased commerce and income generated also brought in more tax revenue.

With the new infrastructure bill being proposed by the president; we should not think of this as just another government expenditure or boondoggle, but as an investment in the nation’s future. Throughout history, great empires and civilizations have collapsed when they ignored their infrastructure and failed their people. We cannot allow this to happen to our country.

City of Seven Hills
Seven Hills Economic Development

continued from page 1

Vitalia Rockside to our city. So far in 2021, we announced the much-anticipated grand opening date (May 13th) of the first Meijer in Cuyahoga County, bringing 350 new jobs to Seven Hills.

We also celebrated the groundbreaking of the Regional Headquarters of Erie Bank. This will be the first new office building being built on the Rockside Corridor in over a decade. Construction is already underway. [insert Erie pic]

These new developments will add amenities to our community. But most importantly, they will add to our municipal income tax revenues through job creation, all without increasing taxes. (City of Seven Hills has not had tax increase since 2016, and none are currently planned).

In addition to the income tax generated, we were successful in creating economic development zones related to Vitalia Rockside and Meijer that together will generate \$6.8 million in new property taxes, over the next 15 years, that are 100% dedicated to

infrastructure projects only. Absent the economic development zones, most of these property taxes would have left Seven Hills and gone to other agencies instead, like the Port Authority, Library system and the Metroparks.

Many cities of our size (approximately 12,000 residents) have a Director of Economic Development and associated staff members. Seven Hills does not have such a position filled, nor do we staff several other executive roles, such as a grant writer and HR director, etc. etc. Therefore, these important functions must be filled by the Mayor. With that said, I write this month’s article with a certain amount of pride in knowing that these accomplishments will help generate some of the funds required to provide the services and infrastructure improvements our residents will need for decades to come! Our next update should be about our park plans. Stay tuned my friends. We are just getting started!



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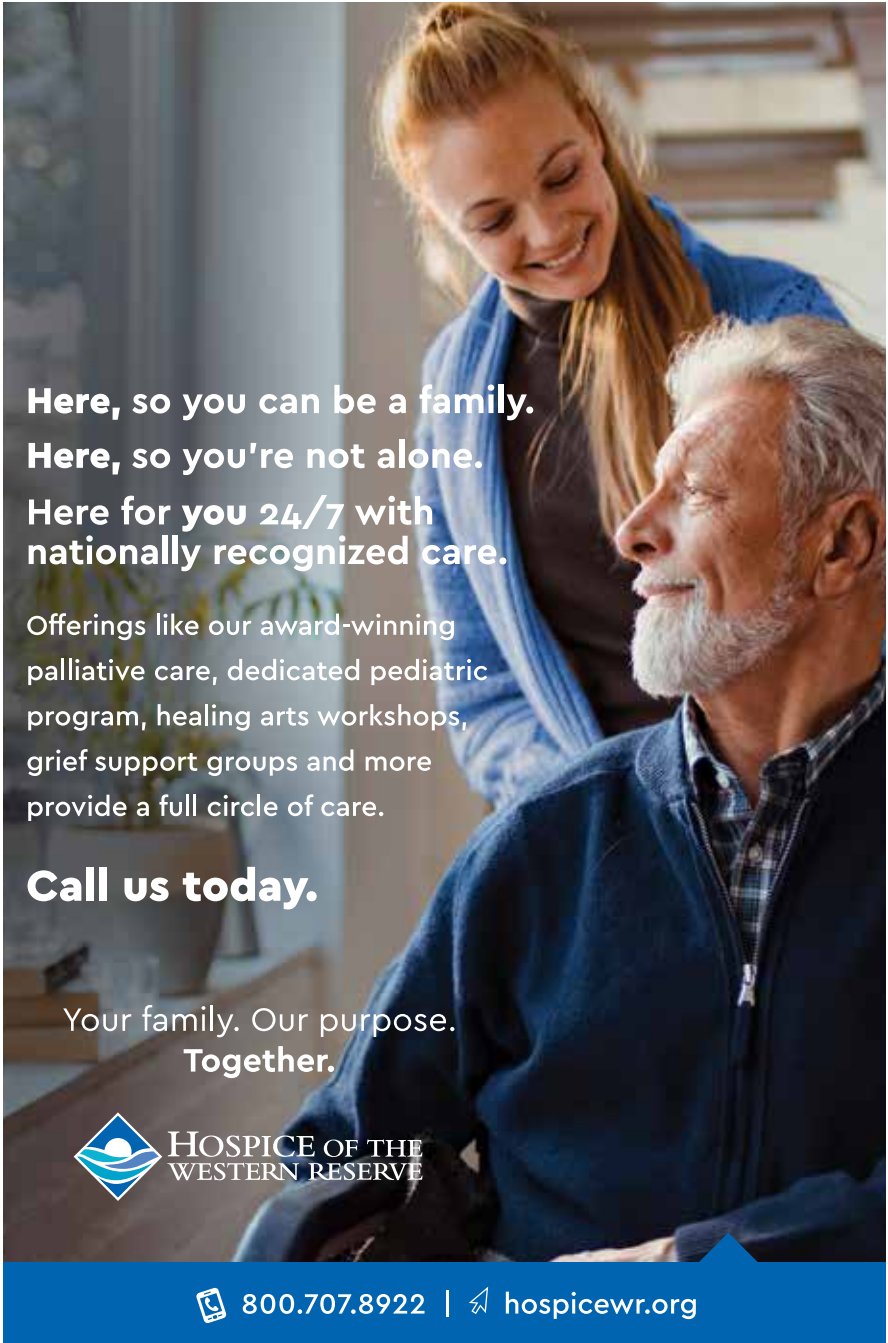
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PERSPECTIVE

Senator Antonio Shares American Rescue Plan Details

by Nickie Antonio

Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, lives have become upended as businesses, schools, and state and local governments have lost revenue for vital programs in our community. However, I am pleased to announce that as of March 11th, help is on the way thanks to the American Rescue Plan. I wanted to share the details of this legislation and what it means for Senate District 23.

First, the American rescue plan allocates over \$5.6 billion to the state of Ohio. These necessary funds will assist in vaccinations, Covid-19 testing, educa-

tion funding for schools to re-open, and the ability for the state to make up for lost revenue. The rescue plan will also provide over \$200 million in essential capital improvement projects throughout the state. Additionally, the plan prevents more than 300,000 workers from losing benefits like unemployment compensation and pandemic unemployment compensation (PUA). This protection of worker benefits helps weather the economic storm due to the pandemic, and I commend the administration's commitment to our social safety net.

I am also very proud to announce

over \$87 million in direct aid to cities/ municipalities in our district. The relief for our local governments will help with infrastructure, city services, revenue offsetting and more. The breakdowns of these funds from the federal government are as follows.

- **Parma: \$24.25 million**
- **Parma Heights: \$3.88 million**

This funding does not include the \$239 million in direct assistance to the Cuyahoga County government in which will aid multiple housing and infrastructure projects. This federal funding is an important first step in Ohio's post-Covid road to recovery.

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- 1 Identifying your condition
- 2 How bad is it?
- 3 What are your treatment options?
- 4 What is Regenerative Medicine?
- 5 What conditions may be helped by Regenerative Medicine?

Consider this before surgery

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Very few reported minimal side effects	Complications, unsure outcome, addiction to pain medications
Minimal	Can be painful for months
Minimal downtime	Months or even years of recovery

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ANY OF THESE CONDITIONS?

- X Arthritis
- X Knee Pain
- X Cartilage Damage
- X Bone to Bone
- X Tendonitis
- X Bursitis
- X Crunching and Popping Sounds
- X Meniscus Tears

OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

The next free Ambassador Training Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Register Today. To learn more about their community outreach initiatives and prevention & educations program offerings, click here.

From The Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking (GCCRH2T):

Check out these 15 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking as assembled by the U.S. State Dept. Some good stuff here w/additional links to more. Well worth a visit.

Learn more about the HT Collaborative by clicking here: <https://www.collabtoendht.org/>. While there scroll down & consider registering for one of their Specialty Education programs, i.e.: “The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorder”.

From OCALI - Inspiring Change For People With Disabilities...Visit their expanded web site (www.ocali.org) for updated information re: trainings, resources and new program offerings. If you have a professional or personal interest in this topic I'd recommend scrolling to the bottom & signing up to receive a copy of their very informative e-Newsletter.

From Center for Community Solutions:

New Community Fact Sheets are available for Ohio counties, state Senate and House districts, federal Congressional districts, and select neighborhoods and local government districts in Greater Cleveland. Check them out here: <https://www.communitysolutions.com/resources/>

community-fact-sheets/?mc_cid=b4b5b25acd&mc_eid=045d3a471c And speaking of DATA...Visit <https://neocando.case.edu/> NEO-CANDO, Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing, is a suite of innovative, free data tools of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development (the Poverty Center), a research institute housed at Case Western Reserve University's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

From American Red Cross.... The local chapter has put out a call for volunteers to support blood drives, local disasters such as home fires and for military members and veterans in our area. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/volunteer or contact Melanie Collins, email: melanie.collins4@redcross.org; Ph: 330.204.6615. And, if there's an opportunity for a rep to speak at an upcoming meeting of your organization, they'd be more than willing to oblige.

From The Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities – Learning Aid Ohio...Supplemental learning support in the form of \$2,000 summer learning grants are available for students w/ disabilities. If your child had an IEP or a 504 Plan during this unique school year visit <https://www.learningohio.com/> for details & to see if you qualify.

From The Education Service Center of NE Ohio – Student Wellness Dept.: Check out these Parent Engagement sites:

Resources for Families and Programs During School Closures
2021 Summer and Beyond Online Directory
ADAHMS Board of Cuyahoga County - Provider Network Guide 2021
Ohio's Crisis Text Line: Throughout Ohio, you can text the keyword

“4hope” to 741 741 to be connected to a trained Crisis Counselor. Data usage while texting the Crisis Text Line is free and the number will not appear on a phone bill with the mobile service carrier. People of all ages can use Crisis Text Line (www.crisistextline.org).

From Ohio Dept of Education:

A new set of publications/resources countering underage drinking is now available from the Substance Abuse &

You can read the rest of this article online at: parmaobserver.com

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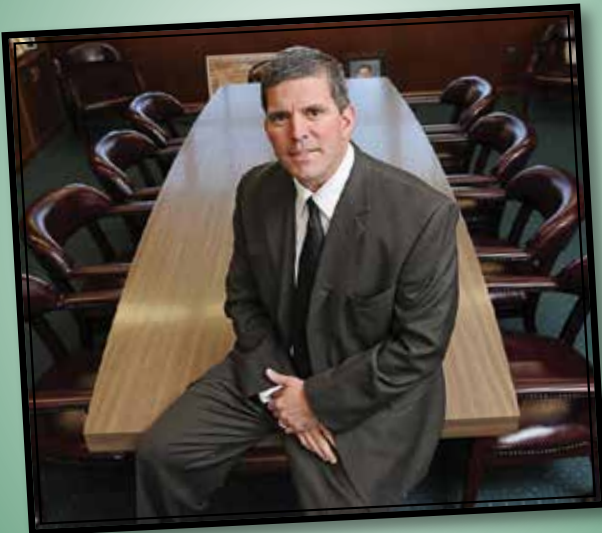


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PARMA ART SCENE

The Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Slain Nemo opened on Earth Day, April 22nd at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique, located at 5411 Pearl Rd. This amazing exhibit was enhanced by the musical sounds of Dee Deprator and a lazer and light show outdoors in the back courtyard. Slain Nemo's creations uses computer generated images, lazer burns, and oil paint on canvas. His very precise work shows no visible brush strokes. Words used to describe his artistic creations are sacred geometric forms, surrealistic, Sci-Fi, Shamanistic, and linear. This is a very exciting, high quality show. Exhibit runs through May 23rd.

Holy Name High School Student Photography Exhibit will open May 28th at Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique. This event is sponsored by Cleveland Photofest. Photography teacher, Mrs. Julie Brannigan presents student works from Jamal Carter, Marissa Perciado, Luke DePi-



A Place to Hide, A Place to Rest by Anthony DeMarco

etro, Tommy DeJesus, Tyler Palmer, and Megan McElwain. This exhibit is an excellent opportunity for young photographers to experience at a professional level, and no doubt will be a memorable one. Support these young photographers by stopping in May 28th through June 20th.

Anthony DeMarco's photo titled "A Place to Hide, A Place To Rest" has been accepted into the permanent collection of Cleveland State University's Special Collection, The Cleveland Memory Project. The photo will be available to the general public for print and digitally.

Exciting news for Mary Ford. She's been accepted again this year into the Ad Art Show 2021, in New York City, Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center, May 1st through May 31st. In addition to her work being shown on the big screen her art will be featured on a separate screen as well. In it's fourth year, Ad Art Show contin-

ues to draw interest from all over the art world. Plus the possibility of winning a Cleo Award. Best of luck to our Parma home town girl. Also online at artsy.com. Locally you can view Mary's work at Creative Space Avon where she won Best Themed Award for her photograph titled "Step Up", through May 6th. Mary is also in Cleveland Photo Fest's Photothon 2021, in "I Identify As" and "Deja Nude" at Bostwick Design Art Initiative, 2729 Prospect Avenue. Additionally Mary will curate and host a spirit art show in North Olmsted at Emergence of Being, 288895 Lorain Avenue, Suite 103. Call for art now till May 31st. Spirit Night opens June 26th.

Sean Mabin is both a model and photographer in the "I Identify As" exhibit held at Bostwick Design Art Initiative, 2729 Prospect Avenue. Sean is also the owner/operator of Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique in Parma.

Cleveland Photofest's Photothon 2021 is now in full swing. Laura D'Alessandro, a founder of Cleveland Photofest is also co-curator of Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique. Photofest's motto is Unity Through



By Slain Nemo

Photography. This nonprofit's goal is to bring both amateurs and professional photographers together to further artistic expression through photography. Opening on May 1st at Bostwick Design Art Initiative, 2729 Prospect Avenue, are the following exhibits: "Furtography" Another Show For The Dogs, "Deja Nude" Not Another Nude Show, "Dear Diary" For women only – Show Us Your Secrets, "I Identify As", and coming soon "Speak With Images, See With Sounds". Plus additional events at satellite locations to be announced. Go to clevelandphotofest.org for details.

Does Parma Heights Have A Secret Pizza



A pizza from Parma Heights Secret Pizza Scene

by Emery Pinter

On the bubbly, cheesy surface, pizza is just dough, sauce, and toppings. How hard can it be to make, right? But for a small group of passionate pizzaaiolos in Parma Heights, pizza is a constant learning experience in search of perfection. For a long while, Parma Heights' pizza scene consisted mostly of national chains, where toppings, sauces, and dough were a sad lineup of sameness. But with a sense of camaraderie and an organic exchange of ideas, a few standouts are refreshing the once-boring Parma Heights pizza landscape.

There's pan, there's stuffed, and there's the Grand Deluxe at Godmother's Pizza (6508 York Road). A blend of Provolone cheese, pepperoni, sausage, mushrooms, green peppers and onions that gives the pizza a sharp and deep flavor profile unlike any other pizza! Stefano Romanelli, a self-taught pizza maker, says, "It comes down to people's passion", and his family is really committed to making great pizza. Dedication like this puts Stefano and his family in a club I refer to as the

Parma Heights Secret Pizza Scene.

Fratello's at 7021 W. 130th prides themselves in making each homemade pizza just the way you like. The simplicity of a Fratello's pizza demands the highest quality ingredients and that's where Fratello's excels. Crumbled sausage intermixed with gooey mozzarella cheese and those beautiful sweet, round peppers take their pie from good to great.

Paisano's Pizza, 6230 Stumph Rd., isn't lacking in selection or taste in the pie department. The most outrageous thing about their pizzas are how delicious they are. The three topping pizza has long chewy threads of cheese and the toppings all mingle together in a messy harmony.

Whether you fancy thin crust, deep dish, or just about everything in between, Parma Heights pizza artisans have you covered and then some. Every location has its own special qualities one should try. And this much is clear: the quality, creativity, and variety of these independent pizzerias is proof that Parma Heights' pizza scene is on an upward trajectory.



By Slain Nemo



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