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Challenging Past Year Gives Way To Summer Optimism

by Parma Mayor

Timothy J. DeGeeter

It was a challenging past 14 months as we heeded the warnings of health officials, faced uncertainty and adjusted to many changes. Like other mayors throughout the country, I worried about the economic impact, as well as the public health of our community throughout the pandemic. Despite a year like no other, Parma residents pulled together. They helped their neighbors through food drives, they ordered takeout from their favorite restaurants, and they showed their support for healthcare workers and our first responders. Residents



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter

were also understanding of our decisions to cancel parades, events and several recreational activities last summer.

I am happy to announce that this summer we are

reopening our pools, as well as the Splash Pad. Our golf course clubhouse is open and following state health department safety protocols. In early spring, our nine-hole miniature golf courses at Veterans Memorial Park and James Day Park were set up. We have returned to the regular summer schedule for baseball and softball, and we are bringing back traditional events such as Parma Night, the Summer Band Concert Series and Movie Night, which is now five nights in July at Byers Field under the direction of the Parma City School District. We will also unveil the Warrior Fitness Course at James Day Park this month.

Also on the calendar this summer are ward safety meetings and the city's traditional Independence Day Parade on Ridge Road, scheduled this year at 10 a.m., July 3 because the holiday lands on a Sunday. I remain optimistic that this big holiday parade and other community activities will be part of our summer celebration as we return to a normal schedule of events. To see what's on deck this summer, read the sidebar: Parma Summer Events Return.

Despite the pandemic, we saw critical investments in our city last year and continue to see growth. We negotiated with Prince & Izant to keep 100 jobs here and bring another 20 to Parma through a 30,000-foot expansion that will be completed this year. General Motors announced a \$6 million investment at the Parma Metal Center. Pitt Ohio finally opened its LEED-certified trucking terminal, bringing new jobs to the city. And, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center completed the first phase of a \$27.5 million investment to the facility. The health system expects to complete its final two phases of the project this year.

On the retail front, we had the long-awaited opening of Chick-fil-A, as well as

the openings of other businesses such as Ace Hardware, The Current Year vinyl record store and, this spring, CLEAn Express Auto Wash. Robin Keenan, owner of Little Birdie Wine Nest, launched her new concept, Birdie Nest Social Sanctuary, which will overlook the West Creek Reservation. The 8,500-square-foot venue at 6338 Broadview Road will

nearly triple the size of the current location.

We have also seen a robust housing market, with sellers getting multiple offers above their asking prices. Our city has attracted more young buyers looking to purchase their first homes, and current homeowners are seeing their

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Seven Hills Farmers Market Continues Its Success

by Kathy Holland

The 2021 Seven Hills Farmers Market, sponsored by Taleris Credit Union, Inc. Vince Hrobat Insurance Agency, Inc. and United Healthcare, will open for its seventh season on Thursday, July 1st, 4:00 – 7:00 PM. A weekly open-air market featuring local farmers and artisans who offer fresh produce, food items and products, the Market is located at 7221 Broadview Road, Seven Hills, Ohio (adjacent to Fire Station #1).

2020 tested us all, and with the support of many, the Seven Hills Farmers Market was able to adapt, creatively finding ways to serve their residents, vendors, and customers. With Gov. Mike DeWine amending the state's mask order to match the CDC guidelines that ends the face-covering requirement for fully vaccinated people to be lifted in full on June 2, along with most remaining COVID-19 health orders, the Market will return to its previous "no-yellow-caution-tape" look.

The Market will continue their Thursday food truck tradition with the following: July 1-Barrio Tacos, July 8-Slymans Tavern, July 15-Cedar Grill, July 22-Flamingo Jack's, July 29-Southern Thangs,



August 5-Cheezylicious, August 12-Hatfield's Goode Grub, August 19-Barrio Tacos, August 26-Off the GRIDdle, September 2-Cheezylicious, September 9-Slyman's Tavern, September 16-Smash Time, September 23-Flamingo Jack's, September 30-Barrio Tacos.

Excited about the coming market season and the opportunities it will bring, the Seven Hills Farmers Market personnel are sincere about providing access to fresh local food and the part it plays in growing healthy communities. By shopping at the Seven Hills Farmers Market, local residents and neighbors are directly helping over 20 local businesses (no middleman!) keeping buying power close to home, which benefits the Northeast Ohio economy.

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West Creek Conservancy Announces \$120,000 Grant From James M. Cox Foundation For Greenway Expansion

by Jeff Lavery

Cox Communications and the West Creek Conservancy (WCC) are pleased to announce that the James M. Cox Foundation has awarded WCC a \$120,000 grant to support the acquisition and reclamation of two parcels of land to expand the West Creek Reservation and create greater connectedness between community residents and the greenspaces West Creek preserves and protects.

The James M. Cox Foundation is the charitable arm of Cox Enterprises, the parent company of Cox Communica-



tions. The Foundation provides philanthropic support for nonprofit organizations in communities where Cox Enterprises does business. Seeing the

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Lisa Hupfer. Taken pre-COVID, it includes her beloved group of long-time friends. She will receive a gift card courtesy of Rookies Sports Bar and Grill, as well as a free car wash courtesy of Sgt.

Clean's Car Wash. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@msn.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

COMMUNITY NEWS



The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Recently, I had the honor of riding along with a couple of Parma's finest. On Friday, May 14 from 8:00 pm until around 3:00 am the next day, I spent the evening and wee morning hours observing what Officers Rick Morgan and Marshall Gallo and their colleagues deal with on a daily basis. Needless to say, I came away even more impressed with the finest police department in northeast Ohio. The professionalism, patience, empathy, and knowledge of law and best practices of our officers is second to none.

The evening began with a call to a home of a woman who, according to her husband, was having a bad reaction to her medications. She was stabilized and taken to the hospital. We then spent time cruising the streets on traffic control. One individual was pulled over on Day Drive for speeding pretty excessively. There were a couple issues on side streets that occurred, as well.

It was a relatively quiet Friday night, from what I was told. However, around midnight that all changed. We responded to a home where a neighbor had called about loud music. The officers kindly told the homeowner to take it inside. After arguing with the officer about how it was not too loud



(PS-It was too loud for midnight, in my opinion.), she did so and we were on our way. Luckily, we did not get called back.

Next, we were called to one of the bars on State Road. What I saw next was very disturbing. A woman was slouched in a chair outside where she was administered Narcan. According to her, she had purchased cocaine from a man in the bar, then proceeded to the restroom to ingest it. It is believed that it was laced in fentanyl. After stabilizing her, we followed the ambulance to U.H. Parma Medical Center, where she was looked at by a physician, then

questioned by our officers. I have to admit that I was surprised how lucid she was after taking cocaine and having a bunch of drinks. Apparently, Narcan has that effect. She is very lucky to be alive and owes a debt of gratitude to our police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical service workers.

Later, we were called to Parma Heights for an incident in a parking lot. We have a mutual aid agreement with all of our surrounding cities. When we arrived, I felt like I was in a small battle zone with a lot full of people seemingly in chaos, surrounded by many police vehicles and fire apparatus and well as officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians. I was very impressed with how they took charge and brought order to a chaotic situation very quickly. I soon learned that there was a shooting and at least two people were wounded. As you can imagine, I stayed out of the way and out of sight.

I want to commend Officers Morgan and Gallo and all of their colleagues for their fine service to our city. Unfortunately, the media has given many a very jaded view of police officers. However, I sleep well knowing that my family and our entire community is under the watch of the Parma Police Department.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Parma Police Department, including taking part in a ride along, I encourage you to join the Citizens Police Academy. To find out when the next class will be meeting contact Captain Thomas Siedlecki at tom.siedlecki@parmajustice.net or (440) 887-7329.

If you are interested in law enforcement and serving our fine city, may I suggest looking into joining the volunteer Parma Police Auxiliary Unit. Commander George Balasko is

always looking for new recruits for his excellent program. Auxiliary Police Officers are trained and required to work a minimum of 135 hours per year. There are set details such as at monthly church traffic details. There are also variable details scheduled as needs arise. To find out more visit www.cityofparmaauxpolice.com.

Please consider saying thank you the next time you see one of Parma's first responders. Best wishes to you and yours for a safe, healthy, happy summer.

Parma And Parma Heights Bring Back The Music With Summer Band Concert Series

by Carolyn Kovach

The pandemic prevented live outdoor concerts last summer, but this summer will start on a higher note as many communities, including Parma and Parma Heights, bring back the music. As in the past, both cities are collaborating on the Summer Band Concert Series. The free concerts start at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday beginning June 13. The Parma concerts will be at Anthony Zielinski Park, and the Parma Heights concerts will be held at Greenbriar Commons. Residents should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Concerts will be canceled if there is rain. "Parma has hosted outdoor concerts for more than 30 years," said Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi. "I am happy to bring back an outdoor event for our seniors. It's also a fun activity for families to enjoy."

Those who attend the July 11 concert to hear Paradise Sunset perform summer favorites will also be treated to ice cream, courtesy of Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter's Annual Ice Cream Social. "Because of the increased number of people vaccinated, residents are anticipating the return of many



traditional summer events. With the concerts being outdoors, people can easily social distance," DeGeeter said. "Of course, we will continue to follow state health guidelines, but right now those guidelines indicate outdoor gatherings can safely resume."

Concert Lineup

- Parma, Anthony Zielinski Park
- June 13 – Mike Jacobs & The Highlighters
- Big band sound
- June 20 – Dave Michaels & Gemini
- '50s, '60s, '70s, Elvis and country
- June 27 – Brian Dorr

Great American Songbook selections

- July 4 – NorthCoast Mix
- Diversity in musical styles
- July 11 – Paradise Sunset
- Summer party favorites
- Mayor Tim DeGeeter's Ice Cream Social

Parma Heights, Greenbriar Commons

- Aug. 8 – Don Disantis
- Music from the Rat Pack era
- Aug. 15 – Akron Symphonic Winds
- Professional wind ensemble
- Aug. 22 – Alley Katz with Logan Wells
- Variety music

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Forget Dr. Google: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Answers Pressing Questions

by CJ Sheppard

Women often ask the most pressing questions as they're leaving their health care provider's office. Call them hand-on-the-doorknob moments. That's what Lindsay Brown, a UH women's health nurse practitioner who works with OB/Gyn Steven Galun, refers to them as, and she gets them often. In this past year of pandemic isolation, where many women have been physically and emotionally distanced from their sisters and friends, the connection to one's health care professionals is most vital. "Women ask their most pressing questions when they feel most comfortable," says Lindsay. "During the exam and consult, they're still getting to know you and build a rapport. But when they're getting ready to leave, and they're feeling more comfortable and relaxed, they ask the questions they've been holding inside. There is a level of trust there."

Questions run the gamut, from sexual health and relationships to hormonal matters and mental health. Like men, women often are concerned about low libido and decreased sexual desire, which can stem from complex myriad of physical, emotional, or relationship issues as underlying causes. Some women experience painful intercourse as a result of vaginal dryness, pelvic muscular or skin disorders, or exasperating menopausal hot flashes and night sweats. They may even ask about their husband's testoster-



Lindsay Brown is a nurse practitioner at UH Parma Medical Center specializing in women's health for all ages.

one levels. Other women are worried about relationships, struggling with concerns about their partner's fidelity and fretting about sexually transmitted diseases. Or they are having trouble getting pregnant and just don't know what to try next. And then there are mood matters like anxiety and depression. "When patients don't know you ahead of time, they're trying to make a connection and feel comfortable and may be uncertain of how to bring up their burning questions," says Lindsay. "They want to be reassured their voice matters, their concerns are important and that you will listen." When so many people are turning to "Dr. Google," Lindsay is a friendly

face and a comforting human alternative, a health care professional with decades of experience who can discuss your most pressing questions in person. Lindsay has bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and is board-certified as a women's health nurse practitioner. She can provide care for women of all ages, from first-time gynecological exams and contraception counseling to obstetric care and well woman exams. While UH Parma Medical Center no longer offers labor and delivery services, expectant mothers can receive all their care through Lindsay's office and deliver at UH Macdonald Women's Hospital downtown. Lindsay also sees woman struggling with a myriad of post-partum issues, from changes in their bodies after childbirth to post-partum depression. And when their bodies change

during menopause, they turn to their girlfriends or the internet. "Checking Google is not always the best resource for health information," says Lindsay. "For those who make an appointment, I will take the time to really listen and address their concerns. Many situations are complicated and difficult to figure out through researching online or just talking to your girlfriends. These are matters that involve complex relationships, and not just one person. Often we see smiles of relief at the end of the appointment." Lindsay sees patients in locations on both west and east sides. Call 440-743-8140 to make an appointment with Lindsay on the UH Parma Medical Center campus in Medical Arts Center 4, 6115 Powers Blvd., Suite 306, or at the UH Solon Health Center. 34055 Solon Rd, Suite 204.

Cleveland Water's 2020 Water Quality Report Now Available

by John Goersmeyer

At Cleveland Water, we know our drinking water is essential to the quality of life of more than 1.4 million people in 80 communities. That's why we are committed to providing our customers with safe, high-quality, drinking water that is available at the turn of a tap any hour of the day. Our water is constantly monitored and tested. In fact, Cleveland Water

consistently exceeds the most stringent water quality standards mandated by Federal and State water regulations, and last year was no exception. It is with pleasure that we announce Cleveland Water's 2020 Water Quality Report. This annual report provides an overview of our water quality during the past year. In it, we discuss the

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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA



Senator Antonio speaking on the floor of the Ohio Senate.

Senator Antonio Commends Passage Of Transportation Budget

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, the state’s transportation budget, House Bill 74, was passed unanimously by the Ohio Senate and concurred by the Ohio House of Representatives. As the highest ranking Democrat on the Transportation Committee, I am pleased to have participated in this bipartisan process that will fix Ohio’s roads and bridges, keep public transit as a priority and move Ohio into the 21st Century with regard to electric vehicle supports.

H. B. 74 includes almost \$6 billion over the biennium to fix Ohio’s roads and bridges, adds an additional \$70 million per year over the Governor’s budget for public transportation as well as \$8 million for Electric Vehicle

charging stations.

It also requires the Ohio Department of Transportation to have a policy to make the purchase and replacement of rail lines used for public passenger transportation eligible for funding, subject to approval by the Transportation Review Advisory Council, which will benefit RTA.

The bill also modernizes and expands the possibilities for Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), something in the works for years.

I want to thank the advocates, businesses and organizations who worked closely with my office throughout the past few months to create a promising state transportation budget. H.B. 74 now awaits Governor DeWine’s signature.



Bird of prey in Parma. What appears to be a hawk perches on a post in a Parma backyard just seconds before swooping down on an unsuspecting prey.

Cuyahoga County Resource Box Available Provides Much-Needed Information For Area Families

by Lorilynn Wolf

With quarantine mandating time away from the classroom and usual activities, many children have struggled over the past year. Connecting for Kids aims to help local families find resources for a child who may have regressed socially, emotionally, academically or physically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The free Cuyahoga County Resource Box is packed with information about local adapted summer camps, social skills programs, tutors, therapists and other services in Cuyahoga and surrounding counties for families of children ages birth – 12 years who are concerned about their child.

Resource Boxes are available for pick up at a number of area libraries from Saturday, May 1 – Saturday, May 8 (during regular library hours). Families must register for a box and indicate which library location they will use for pick up, by visiting www.connectingforkids.org/cuyahoga-resource-box, or call/text: 440-570-5908 (para español, 440-907-9130).

Pick-up locations include:

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library
Lee Road Branch

Cleveland Public Library
Brooklyn Branch
Collinwood Branch
E. 131st St. Branch
Cuyahoga County Public Library
Garfield Heights Branch
Middleburg Heights Branch
Solon Branch
Euclid Public Library Lakewood Public Library
Madison Branch
Main Library



Cuyahoga County Resource Box

Rocky River Public Library Shaker Heights Public Library
Bertram Woods Branch
Main Library
Westlake Porter Public Library

Informational fliers in the box include:

Adapted recreation programs and camps
Alternative schools
Counselors and mental health providers
Educational advocates
Grant/financial aid providers
Music therapy programs
Occupational and physical therapists
Speech-language pathologists
Social skills programs
Tutors and learning disability programs

Presenting sponsors of the Cuyahoga County Resource Box are Connecting for Kids, Galvin Therapy Center and Julie Billiart Schools. Platinum sponsors are Community Fund Ohio, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Seeds of Learning, LLC, State Support Team 3, The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake and Westlake Porter Public Library.

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Inspiration



Parma's Newest Centenarian

by Sean Brennan

As you may have read, in recent weeks my colleagues and I on Parma City Council have had the honor of meeting several residents who have

Challenging Past Year Gives Way To Summer Optimism

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property values increase.

As more Ohioans get the vaccine and the number of COVID-19 cases continue to decline, I see the return of our bustling streets and more vehicles pulling into the parking lots of small businesses, local restaurants and our largest retail and restaurant center, The Shoppes at Parma.

It is a better summer this year as graduating seniors enjoy outdoor graduation ceremonies, their graduation parties and summer break. I am confident we all join the Class of 2021's enthusiasm as we return to doing more this summer. . . much more.

attained the impressive age of 100. Personally, I think this is testament to our community whose residents are hearty, law-abiding, hard-working folks who live clean and value family, friends, and neighbors. For example, recently, I had the honor of meeting Sue Peterchalk at her home, along with several of her family members. Mrs. Peterchalk has seen and experienced much during her very productive life. She was one of eight born to Eastern European immigrants. Her father began his career as a coal miner in central Pennsylvania. When the Great Depression set in, he bought a farm to feed his family. Mrs. Peterchalk spent her formative years growing up on the farm in Portage, Pennsylvania, where she slept in a hay bed with her five sisters. She and her sisters made their way to Cleveland for the post-war years where she eventually settled in Parma in 1976. "I grew up in Pennsylvania, but Parma is my home," Mrs. Peterchalk emphatically told me. Before I left, after our hour-long talk, I told her I cannot wait to be there for her 101st.

What's In A Name? Lots If You're A LOIS

by Lois Osborne

The Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Lois Club (NEOLOis Club) had its first meeting on November 14, 2003, at the Olive Garden Restaurant at Parma Town. The first hostesses for the event included Lois Knafllich, who headed up the group for 15+ years, until passing in 2021 at the age of 95. There were 11 women named Lois at this first event. Since then, the group has grown to its current membership of just under 50 members!

The ladies decided to continue with these luncheons on the same schedule at the National clubs, as there are several across the country, including Canada, which is on the 5th Tuesday of the month. Generally, there are 4 such days in each year, and occasionally there are 5. There are Lois Club groups on Facebook too! An annual convention is scheduled in different locations throughout the states that presents an opportunity to travel, sightsee, and meet others who share the name of Lois.

At our August 30, 2005 picnic in the park, we were visited by a writer from a local paper who was interested in the

club and wrote an article about the NEO Lois Club. At the following luncheon, there were 68 women named Lois in attendance! Prior to the pandemic, luncheons were held at restaurants in the Cleveland/Southwest area of town. The group hopes to return to indoor dining as more people are vaccinated and CDC guidelines allow.

Presently, the NEO Lois Club is operating by committee consisting of long-time members, sharing responsibilities. For more information you can email us at NEOLOisclub@gmail.com. Annual 2021 dues are \$5.00 per person and with that you will receive the Newsletter which will be mailed a month before each luncheon. New members are welcome.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 12:30 PM, at the Harriet Kellor Pavilion in the Brecksville MetroPark Reservation off Chippewa Road, Brecksville. We will collect non-perishable food donations at this event that will be donated to a local food pantry.

All gals with the name of Lois are welcome (first name, middle name, or other). Feel free to bring a guest.

Faith Community Directory

- All Faiths Pantry
- P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329
allfaithspantry.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- 7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- Divinity Lutheran Church
- 11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
www.divinitylutheran.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland
- 6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church
- 6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360
www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church
- 5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434
www.Stbridgetparma.com
- Holy Family Catholic Church
- 7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533
www.holyfamparma.org
- Parma Christian Church
- 7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614
www.parmachristianchurch.org

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Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM

Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

Neighborhoods

Great News For Polish Village And Ukrainian Village!

by Kathryn Mabin

The City of Parma has received grant funding for streetscaping in Polish Village and Ukrainian Village. The funding comes from a 2021 Federal Community Development Block Grant for \$175,000 and a Community Development Supplemental Grant in the amount of \$50,000 from Cuyahoga County. This is the third year of a five year plan to improve and beautify the two districts.

Romeo's Local Pizza Champions Donate Pizza To Non-Profit Organizations In Parma

by Maria Nagel

Romeo's Pizza, the award-winning pizza franchise with 47 operating locations is proud of our Local Pizza Champions in Parma, Ohio who have donated pizzas to the Pleasantview Care Center and Parma Early Childhood PTA.

Pleasantview Care Center has over 250 residents, all of which they consider family. To continue that feeling of family, Romeo's has committed to donate pizzas for the residents to celebrate this week's Italian party theme on May 13th.

Parma Early Childhood PTA is kicking off their monthly outings

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



So what is streetscaping? It's a term used to describe the visual design quality, or appearance and character of a street. It can include sidewalks, curbs, brickwork, trees and open spaces. Both districts are unique and contain numerous small businesses. These districts are also unique as they offer neighborhood walkable shopping. You can walk to the barber, or hair salon, shop for bakery, stop at a deli, and lunch all within a short walk from the neighborhood. Walkability is what makes these Parma neighborhoods so unique. Streetscaping helps to improve the quality of life for the residents and small businesses alike. The City of Parma, being the seventh largest city in the State of Ohio is proud of their unique small business communities with the eclectic mix of cultural shops. A committee is meeting to plan what will be accomplished this year. Items on the agenda are sidewalk repair (safety as well as beauty), tree removal and new planting (additions to the declining tree canopy), removal of concrete in tree lawns to help with storm water control and other upgrades. Watch for these improvements this summer.

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PERSPECTIVE

Profiles In Courage; Profiles In Cowardice

by Lee Kamps

In 1955, a young Senator from Massachusetts, John F Kennedy, wrote a book while recovering from surgery on his back about Senators who exemplified courage to either speak out against injustice or bad policy. The book was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1956 and became a best seller. A few years later the author was elected the 35th President of the United States.

One of the Senators profiled in the book was Edmund G. Ross from Kansas who bucked his Republican party to vote against convicting President Andrew Johnson in the impeachment trial in May 1868. As it turned out his vote was the seventh Republican vote to acquit the President of violating the

Tenure of Office Act that forbade the President from dismissing any cabinet official without approval from Congress. Ross believed that the act was an unconstitutional restriction of the presidential authority and gave Congress too much power.

As a result of Ross' vote, the President escaped removal from office which infuriated Republicans. Ross was a first term Senator and he lost his bid for re-election two years later in 1870. But he is profiled in this book because he put his political career on the line because he believed in the constitutional system of checks and balances. The Tenure of Office Act was repealed in 1887 and a similar act was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1926.

Another Senator profiled in JFK's book was Senator Sam Houston from Texas. He spoke out against the Kansas – Nebraska Bill in 1854 calling for those two territories to decide by popular vote whether to be admitted as free or slave states. He believed that it violated the Missouri Compromise. As a result, he lost his seat in the Senate. But he gained enough support to become the governor of Texas.

Later he refused to be inaugurated as governor after Texas voted for secession and joined the confederacy, as he was opposed to secession. He spent his last years ostracized by the state he helped form. But the city bearing his name is now the nation's fourth largest city.

Throughout our nation's history Americans have had to make a choice to stand up for their principles against popular opinion and belief at great risk to their careers or lives. That is what inspired John F Kennedy to write that book in 1955.

However, in the present day it seems that courage in politics is a quality that is lacking in our elected officials. This is especially true in the congress where it seems that bucking the party line is political suicide. Ohio's junior Senator Rob Portman comes to mind. He is no doubt a very competent person and nice guy who actually cares about the nation and the people of Ohio. Yet when he has to choose whether to follow the party line or his conscience; he almost always follows the party line.

Recently Senator Portman decided not to run for a third term in the Senate in 2022. Perhaps the conflict between his conscience and the realities of going against the party line in the Senate was too much. It was obvious that during Donald Trump's presidency that Senator Portman was uncomfortable with the direction his Republican party was going. But rather than speaking out as a voice of moderation, he chose to give up his seat in the Senate.

We admire those who exhibit courage on the battlefield or in the cause of democracy and justice and build monuments to those people. They live in our history from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King Jr; people who put their life on the line for what they believed was right.

Very often the easy way out is the coward's way out. But cowards are seldom remembered and often reviled in history. But it was the courage of those men on July 4 1776 who put their lives, liberty and sacred honor on the line when they signed that document knowing full well that if the fight for independence failed that they would certainly be hanged as traitors. It is because of the courage of those men as well as countless other men and women throughout our history who showed courage when it was needed despite the risk to their lives and career that the rest of us can celebrate the 245th anniversary of our independence next month.

Crosswalks Should Be Safe Spaces For Pedestrians

by Emery Pinter

A crosswalk is a kind of promise. When we step into the street, we believe that drivers will stop. The white lines are a promise that we will be safe. Parma Heights takes care to re-paint the lines every year or so. The crosswalks ask us to trust one another. But having a solo pedestrian crosswalk on a busy State route is useless, or even worse, an actual hazard.

Will the redesign of State Route 42/ Pearl Road make it safer for pedestrians with a pedestrian activated crosswalk going across this busy street? Why couldn't this crosswalk have been put at the closest next street which would have been Notobene Drive? Ohio law says motorists must yield to any pedestrian who is "within" a crosswalk, marked or unmarked. But pedestrians can't count on motorists in all lanes knowing the law; one might stop, but will the others? Motorists who do stop can't count on the driver behind them stopping; do the right thing, and you can end up getting rear-ended.

Technology, such as signals that flash when pedestrians approach a mid-block crosswalk may help. One understands that pedestrians have as much right to the road as vehicles. But



motorists are the ones inside a ton or two of steel capable of killing a person. The cars should yield, but pedestrians need to remember that they might not. The crosswalk is located within an area that has high traffic density, and multiple lanes, and a few drivers do more than the speed limit.

Drivers and pedestrians have a duty to reasonably prevent accidents. City governments have a duty to maintain safe intersections, roads, and crosswalks. Yet no matter how many safety measures are taken, the old rule still applies. Don't cross unless you can look the driver in the eyes first!



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PERSPECTIVE

America: Violent Culture And The 2nd Amendment

by Davidione Pearl

It has been said that while serving abroad as the United States Minister to France, Thomas Jefferson had shipped over five-hundred letters and books referencing democracy to members of the burgeoning American government leading up to the adoption of the new constitution. He had been inspired by the historic roles that Greece and the early Roman Republic had played in the conceptualization and development of the idea itself: Democracy - greek - demos (whole citizen), and kratos (power/rule) - a fundamental belief in shared power.

A shared power of represented citizens that was to become the first long-standing democracy since the early Roman Republic (509 B.C - 27 B.C, at which point it then became an Empire under Emperor rule). This is to say in no uncertain terms, that the attempt at American democracy had been the first of its kind at that point in nearly two-thousand years, in a world of superpowers, provinces, territories and prefectures run exclusively by monarchical dynasties. We would have effectively been on our own but for our developing common wealth in trade, the trade of slaves and tobacco in particular, during a time when even Great Britain had long-since begun the process of banning the slave trade, leading up to the full abolition of their slave trade across the Americas in 1804.

We were a 'democracy', if one can even truly call it that, of pro-slavery enthusiasts, and one of great expansion westward; an expansion that gave rise to gun making and sales to everyday citizens the likes of which had never been seen before, with a singular goal in mind, to conquer the west and all indigenous peoples by any means necessary. In essence, paving the bloody road to consolidated white superiority and dominion over black and brown lives from sea to sea, a feat that in no way shape or form could have been done without gun power, mass murder, and the very real tearing apart of lives.

Now here we are, in a land rife with more 'registered' guns than living people as a result - a land with citizens more numb and accepting of gun vio-



lence like no other developed nation in the world, and with no end in sight to the continued devastation and carnage resulting from remarkably inadequate regulations. The acceptance of gun violence has become our 'normal', yet we have the power bestowed by the framers to amend amendments, a thing of which they invariably have encouraged us to do, and would likely call into question our very own sanity and ability to reason in this age, if they were witnessing the deplorable conditions that continue to make violent gun ram-

pages so widespread today.

Not one of the framers ever mentioned that amendments should never be amended. Not one. None. That is a fallacy created by those in the position to have reaped reward and gain by seizing upon the fears of those unwilling to think for themselves. Amendment by definition is: "a minor change or addition designed to improve a text or piece of legislation - something which is added to soil to improve its texture or fertility" By its very definition it embodies continual growth, development and change, and were designed as such as a template, not an end all be all, for the advancement and betterment of our nation.

To not see this is your own doing, blinded by a passion not even supported by the nation's founders, but instead by latter day hijackers of the document to suit their own needs, no matter how many children die in our schools, or their parents in shopping plaza parking lots, or our fellow workmates just punching in for a shift. The founders wanted us to be better, and to update amendments accordingly as we have in many instances since their first constitutional summits following the war of independence.

We have passed an additional twenty-seven amendments to the constitution since 1791. Should we not have amended slavery and allowed it to this very day? Should we not have changed the original Articles of Confederation at all and left ourselves subject to the rigidity of its confines? Certainly not, as the framers believed as well - reason being, they were keenly aware of a creed they referred to as the, "lessons of experience." They meant for us to live by this creed as well.

We are long overdue for amending the second amendment, even the constitutional framers would agree, going as far as ensuring a mechanism was in place to do so within the sacred document itself, lest we continue the disparaging egoic hands-off legacy of corrupting the very meaning of the word 'amendment' to reflect the worst of us, at the tragic expense of all of our lives, one murder spree after the next every other week in America, the most violent nation in the developed world.

10th Annual Parma
Run-Walk for Pierogies

5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, July 3, 2021 - 7:30 am

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First 600 pre-registered are guaranteed a t-shirt, as well as a certificate for pierogies from Perla's.

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Mail entries must be received by Wed., June 30.

Make checks payable to: Hermes Sports & Events
2425 W. 11th Street Suite 2, Cleveland, OH 44113

Register online at: www.hermescleveland.com
Online registration closes Friday, July 2 at 9:00 am.

Race Director: Parma City Council President Sean Brennan: 440-885-8091 pierogie5k@gmail.com

*Pre-Registration \$25

*Day of Registration \$30

*Ages 11 and Under: \$15

On-Site Registration/Check-In:
7:00 am - 8:15 am

Bring non-perishable food donations to benefit the CCC student foodbank for raffle entries.
Proceeds benefit local charities. Sponsorship opportunities available!

Run/Walk for Pierogies

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Race Day Age: _____; Gender: M F

Date of Birth: _____

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City: _____

State and Zip: _____

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E-Mail: _____

Signature (Parent/Guardian, if under 18): _____

Shirt Size: YS YM YL S M L XL XXL XXXL Circle One: 5K Run, 5K Walk or 1 Mile Walk

I hereby understand that upon my entry into the Pierogies 5K race/walk or 1 mile fun walk, I waive any and all claims for damages that I may have against University Hospitals, Cuyahoga Community College, Perla Pierogies, the City of Parma, the Parma Charitable Fund, Hermes Sports & Events, promoters, sponsors or anyone involved in the production of this race, regarding any and all injuries suffered by me while running, traveling to and from, or participation in this event, for myself, my heirs and/or assignors. I also understand that refunds will not be available for entry fees. Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be serving food at the event this year.

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OBSERVER

New You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

More Re: Human Trafficking/ Abuse
From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

The next free Ambassador Training Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar....For the International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Virtual Conference presented by the University of Toledo, Sept 22 – 24, 2021. Details and FAQ's can be found by clicking here: <https://www.traffickingconference.com/>

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

Highlighting GRACEHAVEN one of over 60 GCCR2HT partner organizations: Gracehaven provides comprehensive Community Case Management for youth ages 11-19 who are victims, survivors or at-risk of sex trafficking. Case managers are based in Cleveland, Toledo, and Columbus and serve youth throughout Ohio. Additionally, Gracehaven operates a Therapeutic Group Home for survivors and facilitates Human Trafficking Prevention Education for youth and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Intervention Training for professionals. The local contact is Hannah Shaub, Cell: 216.446.0506; Email: hshaub@gracehaven.org. Visit their web site at: www.gracehaven.me While there scroll down & consider registering for the next Human Trafficking 101 class on June 2nd, or one of their Specialty Education programs, i.e.: "Understanding the Trauma of Human Trafficking" scheduled for July 28th at 7:00 pm.

From Parma Area Chamber of Commerce....The June 12th Food Truck Festival is fast approaching and planning is going well. If you haven't

heard, in addition to a pre-order option and in-car service, there will be a paid, drive-in entertainment section where you can listen to LIVE MUSIC for the duration of your stay. The event will need the support of a number of volunteers. If you're interested, please call or email the Chamber at 440.886.1700 or chamber@parmaareachamber.org. For more details, check their FB page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Parma.Area.Chamber.Of.Commerce>

From Center For Community Solutions....The most current issue of "Five Things You Need To Know" brought some clarity to several issues I thought important to share:

An Opportunity For Ohio To Knock Out Child Hunger This Summer;

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence Located at Case Western Reserve University;

The Incentives That Might Make Landlords Take Section 8 Tenants.

From Tri-C - Women in Transition....Their next session will begin the week of June 1, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting July 20. To learn more join this evening's information session at 6:00 pm here: <https://tri-c.webex.com/tri-c/j.php?MTID=m0568ca8ec5187c6be2a99d2f80083a9c> . General information about this program can be found by clicking here: <https://www.tri-c.edu/women-in-transition/>

From Achievement Center for Children/Camp Cheerful:

Their annual "Most Excellent Race" will take place both virtually & in-person on June 27th at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville. Proceeds from the 10K & 5K runs, & 5K & 1 mile walks support recreational programs for children & adults w/disabilities. Go here

for more details & to register: <https://achievementcenters.org/events/a-most-excellent-race/>

Checkout <https://bit.ly/2HnnCeh> for available summer employment opportunities.

From UH/Parma Medical Center:

Save a life by registering to give blood during their blood drive scheduled for Monday, June 7th from 3 to 6 pm at the Health Education Center ,7300 State Rd. (just North of Pleasant Valley). As an added benefit, they'll also let you know if you have the antibodies to help patients battling COVID-19. You can schedule your appointment

at www.vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal using Group Code: 4831 or by calling 1-877.258.4825. Please eat something before you arrive, bring a photo ID & a list of any medications you might be taking.

With our warm Spring & Summer fast approaching, I thought this article might prove helpful:

Do Sports Drinks and Foods Improve Athletic Performance for Kids?

This year's UH/Parma Health Care Foundation's signature fund-raising "Golf Classic" event will be coming up on Monday, August 30th at Columbia Hills Golf & Swim Club. Presented by Legacy Health Services, this event will benefit UH Connor Integrated Health Network programs at UH Parma Medical Center.

From The Center for Aging in the Digital World (<https://empowerse-niors.org/>)"Physically distancing but not socially distancing" is this year's theme of their FREE and virtual 5th Annual Living in the Digital World Senior Expo which will be live streamed this Thursday, May 27th from 9:00 am. Visit their web site (noted above) for more information or go here to register for the event: [https://us02web.](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u7AJj-LtHQumdG5pwo3l8SQ)

[zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u7AJj-LtHQumdG5pwo3l8SQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u7AJj-LtHQumdG5pwo3l8SQ)

Run For The Pierogis....The 10 Anniversary of this area's signature run is scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd. at Tri-C's Western Campus.

From Parma City Schools – JUNE 4TH IS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Congratulations to all the graduates of our three high schools & to the 100+ students honored w/nearly \$90,000 worth of scholarships presented by the Parma Council of PTA's. Thank you, PTA!

Discover post-secondary options, explore majors, visit w/representatives of area colleges/universities by attending PCSD's Future Fair this Thursday, May 27th for 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Byers Field.

Go here to learn more about PCSD's 2021 Secondary Summer Learning Academy, starting June 22 – August 6, 2021.

Visit www.parmacityschools.org for the most current information regarding all things District related. While there take a moment to view the MONITOR NL and/or current week's "PCSD IN :60".

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

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